the summer ubyssey

Taking out bigger and bigger student loans since 1982

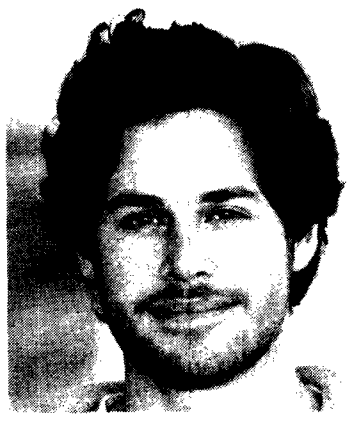
volume 12 issue 4 Thursday, August 3, 1995

Feds, Provinces Restructure Student Loans

by Janet Winters

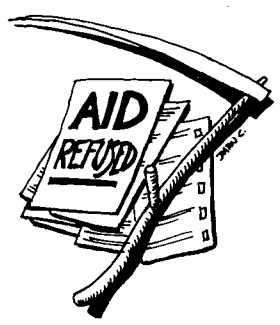
Students receiving financial aid will face significant changes to loan programs beginning this year, and more drastic changes are slated for 1996.

As of August 1, 1995, federal and provincial governments will no longer guarantee government loans to students. Under a new "risk-sharing" agreement, participating banks will assume full responsibility for loan collection and losses in exchange for a five per cent premium on all loans.



David Borins

In British Columbia, students will be require to negotiate their 1995-96 student loans with one of three participating institutions. CIBC will handle only federal loans, while the Royal Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia will process both federal and provincial. Students with existing loans at other institutions will be required to transfer their debt to one of these banks before negotiating 1995-96 loans.



Darin Clisby

UBC Assistant director of awards and financial aid Dan Worsley says the changes are no reason for students to worry, characterizing them as "heading towards a direction of improvement and clarification."

Concerned student leaders, however, say the changes may be leading in a decidely different direction.

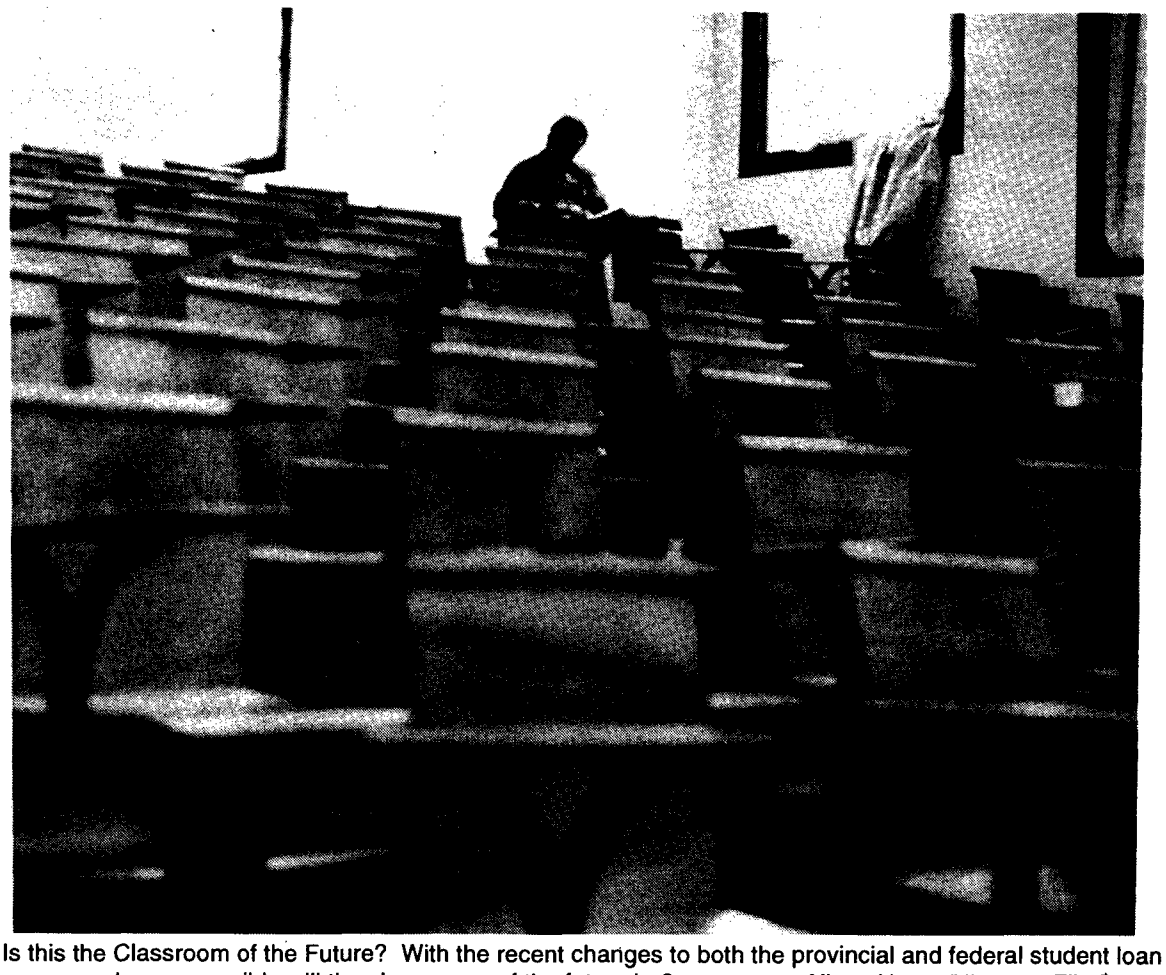
"My biggest concern is the direction the government is taking with reagrds to education," said AMS Vice President Namiko Kunimoto. "They are leaving more and more responsibility to the private sector while they wash their hands of it."

AMS Co-ordinator of External Affairs David Borins has said he doesn't forsee a cash-crunch for students this fall, but he does express concern over the long-term affects of placing student financial aid the hands of banks. "Who knows what kind of concessions the government will make when they [renegotiate] this contract down the road?" he said.

Board of Governors member Michael Hughes worries that the changes set a precedent for further privatisation in the future. "In other provinces, the privatisation [of student loans] has gone much further and given banks the power to decide who gets loans," Hughes accessibility."

Borins has also warned that students may face long line-ups and delays as the banks adjust to the new system, but Worsley says that loan-processing will continue at its usual pace.

"The loans will not be delayed while the transfer takes places" Worsley said. "However, there will be a delay for students making payments on dents are advised to immediately transfer their federal loans to the Royal Bank or Bank of Nova Scotia."



Is this the Classroom of the Future? With the recent changes to both the provincial and federal student loan programs, how accessible will the classrooms of the future be? Alison Hocus/Ubyssey File Photo

And more changes coming in 1996...

by Janet Winters

In 1996 students may be required to complete their studies within a fixed length of time in order to receive student loans, otherwise financial aid could be cut off.

"We've been told [this criteria] will go into effect in 1996," said UBC Assistant Director of Awards and Financial Aid Dan Worsely.

Some leeway will be given to students who have existing student loans, and students with disabilities will be exempt from the requirement.

AMS Coordinator of External Affairs David Borins said students are taking longer to complete their degrees because they can't afford tuition and want to get higher marks. "This is obviously a government attempt to get people to finish their degrees more quickly," Borins said. "I think we should lobby against that."

Student Board of Governors rep Michael Hughes said the change would potentially "hurt people coming here from college or doing part of their degree in a different province who might have some transferrability problems. And how about the people in engineering or co-op programs who need 5 years to complete their programs?"

Other significant changes to the loans program are also in the works. According to Worsely, the federal government is discussing special grant programs for women pursuing doctorate degrees and for students with disabilities. The possibility of loan remission for federal student loans is also being looked into, he said.

Legislation on Student Bankruptcies planned

REGINA (CUP)

The federal government is planning to make it harder for anyone with an outstanding student loan to declare bankruptcy.

A proposal recently sent to the cabinet for final approval would amend the Bankruptcy and Solvency Act so that debtors unable to repay their student loans would be ineligible to declare bankruptcy for a period of 5-10 years after finishing school.

The federal government claims to have lost $61.3 million dollars in defaulted student loans last year alone. In response they have put forward a proposal similar to legislation that currently exists in the United States. In the U.S.A. student loan debt is exempt from bankruptcy discharge for five years after a student leaves school.

Coreen Prince-St. Amad, a lawyer with Canada Student Loans, believes that a bill will be ready for first reading sometime in the late fall. The amendments to the act could be approved as early as January of 1996.

Canada Student Loan Program Changes Announced August 1st

As we went to press, the government officially unveiled the changes to the Canada Student Loan Program; among these are several changes not mentioned here, due to time constraints.

Further details will be forthcoming in future issues of *The Ubyssey*.

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AMS Update

Risk Sharing and Student Loans What you need to know

Changes have recently been made to the Canadian and British Columbia Student Loans. The most important change is that both the federal and provincial governments will no longer guarantee student loans. Instead, banks will assume full responsibility for loan collection and losses. In return for accepting this additional risk the federal and provincial governments will pay a five per cent premium to participating banks on all loans. This type of agreement, which is being used by both the federal government and provincial government, has become known as "risk sharing". Under the agreement, for both Canadian Student Loans and British Columbia Student Loans, it is the government who determines eligibility, amount of the loan, and issues certification for the loan. The new loan programs begin on August 1, 1995. The banks participating in the scheme for British Columbia Student Loans are The Royal Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia. For federal student loans The Royal Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Credit Union Central of Canada are participating.

More Information

The AMS will provide an update on this information. Because the new Canada Student Loans scheme was unveiled a day after this was written some of information about federal loans was not avaible when this advertisment went to press.

If you have questions about the new "risk sharing" agreement call

Daniel Worsley, Assistant Director, Awards & Financial Aid UBC	822-6279
The Bank of Nova Scotia	668-3720
The Royal Bank, B.C. Student Loan Centre	665-4029
David Borins, AMS Coordinator of External Affairs	822-2050
Jim Vanstone, Ministry of Skills Training and Labour	(604)387-3605
Tom Scribner, Ministry of Human Resources Development Canada,	(819) 994-5016

How Will "Risk Sharing" Affect Me?

It is difficult to say exactly what the affects of "risk sharing" will be on students. As said before, the governments will still decide who is eligible for a student loan and for what amount. The governments will also continue to make interest payments on loans while students are still in school and for a period of six months after graduation. The best I can do here is to present the advantages and disadvantages of the agreement for students.

Advantages

•1. Banks are obliged, under the terms of the contract, to advance the loan within seventy-two hours.

•2. Banks must treat student borrowers in at least as favourable a manner as it treats other consumer loans and customers in comparable circumstances.

•3. Because the bank must treat student loan customers in a manner that other consumer loan customers are treated, it is likely that students will have the opportunity to re-negotiate terms of the loans if he or she encounters difficulty in repayment. However, students should be aware that re-negotiation of a federal or provincial loan will occur only if the loan is co-signed by a qualifying guarantor.

Disadvantages

•1 Although the new agreement gives students the option of a floating interest rate or a fixed interest rate, the floating interest rate has increased from prime plus one per cent to prime plus two and a half per cent. The provincial government has promised to pay the one and a half percent difference between the old rate and the new rate, but says it will only do this for "students meeting their repayment obligations." This leaves it unclear as to what will happen to students who are unable to meet the demands of repaying their loans.
It is unclear at this point whether the federal government will make up the one and a half percent difference on Canada Student Loans.

•2. Another disadvantage is that all federal loans must be held at the same bank. This means that students will have to open an account with a participating bank, transfer all existing student loans and, potentially, face **long line-ups** and slow service as the banks try to cope with the demands of the new system. To avoid this scenario, it is recommended that students transfer their loans as soon as possible.

•3. Students who have commenced repayment of old federal student loans, are applying for a new federal student loan, and are in a situation in which the old loan must be transferred to a participating bank might be subject to delays of 4-8 weeks in receiving their new loan. These people should get in touch with participating banks (Royal Bank, CIBC, Scotia Bank) immediacy to avoid problems later. Be aware that the transfer regulations only exist for federal student loans not provincial loans.

ALMA MATER SOCIETY
STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC

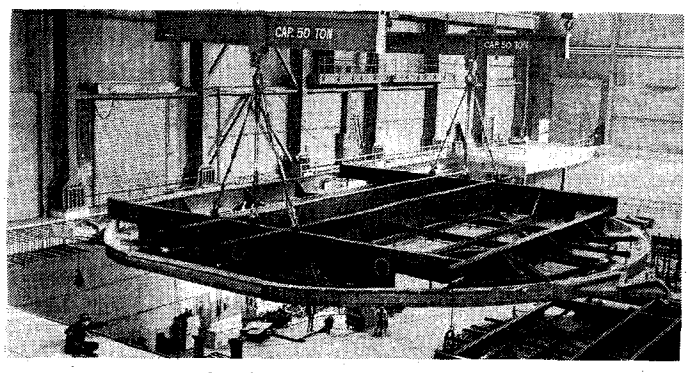
Prepared by your Student Society

Federal cuts lead to TRIUMF and NRC layoffs

by Charlie Cho

The TRIUMF laboratory and the National Research Council Institute for Machinery Research (IMR) at UBC are both laying off staff to offset a 15% cut in federal funding.

TRIUMF, a particle physics laboratory at the south end of Wesbrook Mall, laid off fifteen staff members and another twenty-two senior staff accepted early retirement. Last month the federal government announced $166.6 million in federal funding, but TRIUMF needed $196 million to support its Five Year Plan presented in July 1994.



TRIUMF construction in 1972. Now, staff cuts are needed to afford new facilities *Ubyssey file photo*

The plan involves a new radioactive beam facility (ISAC-1) on site and a contribution to experiments at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN).

Voluntary Early Termination (VET) was offerred to those who have worked at least ten years at TRIUMF and are at least fifty-one years old. The buy-out package offerred employees either two years salary or "the cumulative salary for half of the number of months until the normal retirement date," whichever is less, according to documents obtained by CUPE.

Laid off staff receive "one month per each year of service", according to TRI-UMF Head of Administration Division Ian Thorsen. "[Staff] are also given counselling and help in finding their next job."

The IMR on NW Marine Drive cut staff from "around sixty down to about forty," said the lab's Director Jim McBeth. According to a July 18 letter by McBeth, "NRC is facing substantial budget reductions as a consequence of the February 1995 Federal Budget. Overall, NRC's annual funding will be reduced $76.2 million or some 17 per cent by 1997/98."

As a result of the cuts, "NRC will not proceed with the Institute for Machinery Research (IMR) as previously envisaged, but will develop a community-based innovation centre to be called the Institute for Sensor and Control Technology (ISCT)," said McBeth. The new facility will be located on 16th Ave.

"If you have been with the organization for a number of years, you may get a severance package of one week a year plus whatever your retirement benefits are." However, McBeth admitted that the severance policy is very complicated. "Each individual calculates their benefits differently," he said.

In a June 28 letter, NRC President Arthur J. Carty stated that "approximately 300 people will be affected by the changes which follow, accounting for approximately 10 per cent of NRC's work force. ... NRC can no longer trim at the edges and continue to be an effective, viable organization."

AMS Council Briefs

Equity Principles

The AMS will now "strive to adhere to equity principles when appointing society members to any non-elected positions." Council will seek to ensure its committees have a balance of gender, race, and other characteristics that reflect the diversity of UBC's student population. Discussion over the motion centred primarily over what force the motion would actually have in practice. "Equity," said Graduate Studies rep Gail Edward, "is somewhat different than affirmative action, which sets quotas."

"Equity is somewhat different than affirmative action, which sets quotas."

Gail Edwards, GSS Rep to Council

The motion passed unanimously, though it is largely symbolic. It directs Councillors to consider equity principles when voting (normally in secret ballots) for membership on committees but does not force Council to chose a diversity of candidates for a particular committee. "You're not going to vote for a complete moron just to make your quota," joked Science rep Matt Wiggin.

Coke or Pepsi?

Council went into closed session *in camera* to discuss the details of an exclusive Cold Beverage Purchasing Agreement. Details of the agreement will be negotiated and the contract will be made public after it is signed. However, it "will result in significant transfers of money to the AMS," according to the introduction to the 95/96 AMS Budget.

Referendum Committee and Athletic Funding

The AMS is planning to run a referendum in the 1995/96 school year. A motion to form the committee was tabled until details of the referendum questions could be finalized. Two possible questions were discussed including the start-up of a bursary fund for child care, and reallocating the $7 Varsity Athletic fee paid by students each year to fund AMS services and intramurals.

Political Science Report

A letter stating the Graduate Student Society's (GSS) position on the McEwen Report was circulated. The AMS will be asked to support the GSS position (endorsing the report's findings) at the August 2 meeting.

CASA vs CFS

Coordinator of External Affairs David Borins distributed a report on the recently formed Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). CASA is "an undergraduate lobbying group for universities," said Borins, which will lobby the federal government on its education policies. He plans to propose at the August 2 meeting that that the AMS join CASA.

– Scott Hayward

AMS offers students bikelockers

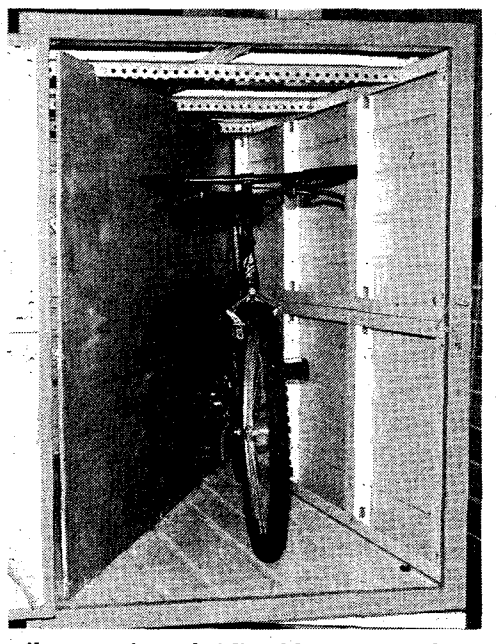
by Chris Nuttall-Smith

The AMS wants to provide UBC cyclists with a safer, more convenient way to park their bikes on campus this fall. And they're willing to spend $4,000-$5,000 doing it.

Plans are in the works to make ninety AMS-subsidized bicycle storage locker spaces available to UBC students starting this September.

AMS Director of Administration Am Johal said there may be more lockers to come. "We hope this will be a springboard for eventually having bicycle storage lockers all around the campus," said Johal.

The lockers, if approved by council and Campus Planning and Development, will be located at the North end of War Memorial Gym so bicycle-commuters will have close access to that facility's showers.



Bike security subsidized by your student government. *photo by Chris Nuttall-Smith*

University Athletics will administer the fully-enclosed containers, renting them to students for about $15-$17 a month on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The AMS will almost certainly lose money on the venture, Johal stated, although Maria Klawe, Vice President of Student and Academic Services, has agreed to contribute $7,500 toward the project. Parking and Security Services may also kick in an additional $7,500.

Johal says the lockers are aimed at reducing bike-related theft and damage on campus.

Students named to advisory committee

by Tony Zuniga

Six students' names are being forwarded to Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean John Grace for consideration as members of a new Advisory Committee. The Committee's mandate is to make recommendations regarding the Political Science Department and the controversy surrounding it.

At a recent meeting, the Graduate Student Society's council named six graduate students to a list to be presented to Grace. The six graduate students will be among his appointments to an advisory committee intended to make recommendations regarding the graduate program in the Department of Politial Science, which has had admissions suspended in wake of the McEwen Report's findings of pervasive racism and sexism.

"Dean Grace is charged with the decision of when to reopen admissions to the Department" said Steve Wilson, Graduate Student Society director of student affairs. In order to carry out this task, Dean Grace will appoint a committee that will "make the decision as to...how things can be fixed, basically, so we can figure out what the problem is and what needs to be done," said Wilson.

Hey Newshounds!

The Ubyssey News department's Story Assignment Meeting will be 12:30 pm Thursday August 3rd SUB 241K

Find out the stuff we can't print!

Musicolumn

Nothing In Particular
***Is That Right?* [Kinetic]**

***Is That Right?* is full of competent middle-of-the-road rock songs for the 90s. There is nothing particularly fresh or original to grab the listener's attention and, as a result, I find myself feeling as uninspired writing about this album as the band must have felt putting it together.**

Post-grunge and 70s hard rock cliches of the average loud band from Toronto variety abound. This being Canada — a land wallowing in middle class pretension, conformity, and the resulting tedium — such a mediocre effort will probably do well here. One need only consider the success of 70s retro-rockers The Tragically Hip. I'm inclined to note that Canada is a nation that, musically at least, never quite left the 70's behind. The Tragically Hip at least manage to put a fresh spin on that tiresome mid-70s sound. *- Andy the grate*

Hoi Polloi
***Happy Ever After* [Via]**

If bands simmered over an open fire, Hoi Polloi might smell like a potful of Juliana Hatfield, seasoned with a dash of Over the Rhine. The first helpings off of this disc, the New Zealand band's third, are hot and tasty, from the boisterous opener 'Tiptoe' to the grungy ambience of 'Smile', but a blandness of taste begins to form over the second half of the disc.

'Lucy' and 'Sun Moon and Stars' in particular seem to have run out of musical steam. A dutiful haze of distortion covers the music, but there is little activity within that cloud. The swirling melodies of 'Boat' stir things up again, thankfully, just in time for dessert in the form of the uplifting, almost tender closer 'Love Has Come'.

Jenny Gullen's passionate vocals perfectly complement her band's happy, effervescent noise. Hoi Polloi haven't yet reached the dreamy apex suggested by the disc's title, but give 'em time; this album shows real promise. *- Peter T. Chattaway*

Eskimo
***The Further Adventures of Der Schrimpkin* [Prawn Song]**

Jazz funk fusion, with rap and punk elements thrown into the mix, no doubt because this is the 90s, and punk and rap just can't be ignored. Great stuff, if you like this sort of thing. Personally, it leaves me cold.

Ever since a friend of mine tried to interest me in Chick Corediarrhea's extremely complex plinkety-plonk noises for piano, jazz has struck me as basically music to wank by. I'll give credit where it's due: some of the music is at least lively and danceable. 'Blue Pepper, Far East of the Blues', with its incorporation of Eastern melodies and rhythms, is the disc's most enjoyable and interesting track. *- Andy the grate*

by divine right [Kinetic]

Hard rock is basically the refuge of those who lack the talent, the imagination, or the initiative to do something more interesting.

by divine right is no exception to this rule, as this collection of dull hard rock songs plods along with some of the silliest lyrics ever put together by man-nor-beast. I mean, these guys make New Order's lyricist seem like Bill Shakespeare, for Christsakes!

Like every hard rock album, it contains the obligatory soft ballady thing or two, or three, or however many the band thought they could get away with before someone accused them of sounding like folkies, just to let us know that these guys are basically sensitive, intelligent folks after all. Black Sabbath on heavy downers couldn't sound worse. *- Andy the grate*

Independent films gang up on a potboiler

Letters touring to promote Canadian films; *Kids* gets people talking

Some Letters to a Young Poet
at the Harbour Centre Observation Tower August 4
at the Pacific Cinematheque August 10

by Peter T. Chattaway

The problem faced by filmmakers indigenous to Canada (probably the only country which puts its own movies in the Foreign Film section of the video store) is not one of production but of distribution. Of the scores of films produced in Canada last year, how many did you see? How many even made it to Vancouver? For every *Double Happiness* or *Exotica* there are dozens of struggling films that never get a chance to escape the festival circuit.

Rick Trus at Canadian Film Scene hopes to give these films an outlet on community TV, and he has picked Richard Story's Vancouver-made film *Some Letters to a Young Poet* for his series' maiden voyage in September. These two advance screenings are part of a nation-wide tour to promote the show in particular, and Canadian films in general.

Letters concerns a poetic stonemason named Francis (played by co-producer Scott Belway) who goes through an identity crisis when he loses his job. He strips his apartment of its maps, furniture, and other accoutrements in an attempt to lead a life that will mirror the "elegant simplicity" of his haikus. In one masochistic moment — quite uncharacteristic of the film as a whole — he deliberately burns his hand on a stove.

His life picks up when Remy (Todd Witham), a Quebecois street vendor, pays him a visit and introduces him to the world of *camera obscura* photography. The bare elements of cardboard boxes and photographic paper form a nice narrative metaphor for the shoestring ingenuity, on Story and Belway's part, that is the film's subtext.

Letters is not without its flaws, of course. The opening shots of Francis's boss are awkwardly framed, and Belway comes across like a resolute salesman for spartan values when he pitches the virtues of poetry and surface travel. But despite these caveats, *Letters* is filled with a human warmth that places this film head-and-shoulders above more recent, klunkier Canadian fare (such as the much-touted, wanna-be-Hollywood *Johnny Mnemonic*).

Just make sure you stay for the closing credits and the wickedly subversive outtakes spliced between them. It's like discovering your *sensai* was waiting to surprise you with a whoopee cushion all along.

Yakira Peguero and Leo Fitzpatrick in Kids*: authentic portrayal of modern teen sexual habits or kiddie porn gone mainstream? You be the judge.*

Kids
at the Granville 7

by Janet Winters

It is always refreshing to watch a film which does not face the real world in a state of denial. Larry Clark's *Kids* may be the most brutally honest film of the summer.

Written by Harmony Korine, a 19-year-old high school drop-out, *Kids* is an intense portrayal of a day in the life of some troubled youths in inner-city New York. The controversy surrounding *Kids* stems from the film's explicit teenage sex scenes and its seemingly endless supply of drugs, violence, and coarse language, but the notably well-written script is perhaps worthier of attention.

The film's dialogue is raw and realistic: "It's like sweet, sour, and salty butter" is one bit of girl talk to which the female audience is likely to relate. Also familiar is the sweet talking garbage that flows from the mouth of Telly (Leo Fitzpatrick), the film's central male character.

Telly is a 17-year-old skateboarder whose favorite pastime is preying on virgins. He believes that seducing a virgin gives him a sort of power, as no one else will ever be able to steal her virginity.

Telly also finds reassurance in his belief that virgins supposedly carry no sexually transmitted diseases. Ironically, he is unaware that he carries the HIV virus.

Jennie (Chloe Sevigny) is one of Telly's victims, and she tests positive for the HIV virus. Sevigny delivers a strong performance as a nice girl who has tragically become lost in the wrong crowd.

Although some may find *Kids* disturbing, it is never boring. This film will undoubtedly have people talking for a long time.

Little Odessa
at the Ridge August 4 - 10

by Peter T. Chattaway

Some first-time directors get all the luck. 24-year-old James Gray not only finished his film degree with the backing necessary to write and direct his own feature-length film, he managed to summon a stellar cast that includes the likes of Tim Roth, Vanessa Redgrave, and Maximillian Schell. If only he hadn't given them such a sophomoric script.

Roth, in particular, has demonstrated a keen ability to weave his way through the moral complexities of his past characters, but as the leather-clad hit-man Joshua Shapira, caught between his immigrant family and the Russian mafia that wants him dead, he operates in two basic modes: speaking through a somnolent, nasal drone just a few octaves above comedian Steven Wright's, or lashing out like a rabid pugilist on uppers.

Roth's ability to keep these two modes in volatile tension nearly keeps things unpredictable, even interesting. In the presence of certain characters, he looks ready to explode with nary a second's notice; even when he doesn't, the *absence* of such an outburst is notably conspicuous. But there's a tragic arc flying over these Brighton Beach buildings, and anyone with a basic grasp of tragedy knows where this trajectory will land. Roth's incidental outbursts are but stylistic wreaths decorating the etched-in-tombstone inevitability of the final scenes.

The women in *Little Odessa* are little more than passive accessories to the male protagonists. Joshua hates his father (Schell) and loves his brother Reuben (*T2*'s Edward Furlong), and these three characters are given some depth. But Redgrave, as Joshua's mother, is saddled with the sort of peripheral deathbed role she's had to work with before (e.g. *Howards End*). Joshua's girlfriend Alla (Moira Kelly) seems to exist for no better purpose than a gratuitous sex scene or two.

Gray redeems *Little Odessa* to some degree with moody dirges and snowy vistas that cast a sombre ambience over the film as a whole. These qualities may give *Little Odessa* a superficial continuity with Russian films of the past, but Gray — at least in this first effort — doesn't come up with anything profound to say that even remotely compares with those old masters.

Bushwhacked
opens August 4 at the Granville 7

by Sam Arnold

Excuse me while I roll my eyes. Ten to fifteen years ago, I would have loved this movie. *Bushwhacked* was created by marketing executives who know that their pre-adolescent male audience (with dutiful parents in tow) has yet to develop any taste.

Mistaken identity and unlikely timing are the towers from which the story hangs: an incompetent urban schmuck (Daniel Stern) gets mistaken for a disciplinarian scout leader.

As Max, a harmless creep, Stern resembles a slightly taller and much thinner Rodney Dangerfield. Few lofty cinematic demands are made by such a role, but Stern does it well and with enough gusto, charm, and armflapping to warrant a comparison to Jim Carrey.

The remaining actors, mostly children, fill their equally undemanding and stereotypical roles, which can be broken down into the Leader, the Hypochondriac Coward, the Chubby Kid with an absent personality, the Small Kid who proves his worth, a couple of Unnoteworthies, and the Token Girl that all the little boys can strut in front of (and then get blown out of the poverbial bathwater as she displays a wit and ability designed to reflect the gender awareness of the moral correctness squad). These are not actors, but name-tag wearers; at least none of the labels fall off in an embarassing way.

It is a fun movie: the wilderness setting is designed with story, and not reality, in mind. Sheer cliffs to dangle over, rope bridges to cut down, computer-enhanced rapids to fall into, perfectly stacked firewood (no creepy-crawleys) to hide behind, and helicopter landing pads beside a mountaintop cabin — the villains' lair — all mix together in a story that cuts out all the ho-hum hours normally squandered in traffic and on neverending mountain trails.

This is a good movie for minds that would enjoy *Police Academy*. There should be a 14 Years limited admittance rating for this movie — namely that you must be younger than 14 years of age to gain admittance. It would save the minds of many a beleagured parent.

Sarah Redmond relives the 60s at the VAG's replica of the Silver Factory Studio, part of their Andy Warhol: Images exhibition. Paula Bach photo.

Andy Warhol: Images
at the Vancouver Art Gallery until October 1

by Charlie Cho

Four UBC Theatre students are performing in Vancouver Art Gallery's Andy Warhol: Images exhibition.

They act in one of the two gallery spaces, dominated either by the bright, beautiful portraits of Queen Elizabeth II or the multicoloured icons of Marilyn Monroe's face.

Sarah Redmond describes her playful interpretation of Queen Elizabeth as "the people's queen that people can relate to". Wearing an orange garbage bag, yellow rubber gloves, a tin foil tiara, a long gold train and black galoshes, the queen "that everyone can be" carries a short plunger as a sceptre and a microphone.

Opening with 'God Save The Queen', she begins by acting self-consciously. She then startles her onlookers by declaring them to be different sorts of queens — "Queen of the really cool hair," for example.

Redmond's colourful, energetic act works well with Warhol's art.

"That was [Warhol's] effort. Here's mine, 'cause it's my turn. And I want everybody else to have their turn, which is why I queen them as well. ... I want the crowd not to just look at me and just look at the art but to look at each other too."

Tina Biellow's "Italian queen", dressed in black and dazzling red with sunglasses, contrasts the Italian Old Masters with Warhol. Tongue in cheek, she bemoans the lack of Italian subjects in Warhol's work, which she says is more apt to focus on "the queen of England [and] the king of Canadian hockey," referring to Wayne Gretzky.

At one point, Biellow's character calls herself "Andy's real queen". In the same way that Warhol made up stories about himself, she has created her own "Italian queen".

Biellow says she loves to challenge people who have an "almost churchlike" impression of art galleries.

"When people came [soon after the opening] they'd whisper. If you laughed in the space, everyone would look at you. So to have someone come in and 'LADALA!' just go off, it's just kinda shaking ground, which is what Andy Warhol was doing and wanted to do. So it's great that they have this for this exhibit."

Rebecca Harker begins her piece wrapped from head to toe in a gold fabric. A tape recording berates Warhol for being a "sissy" and a "momma's boy" as Camille Sullivan's Edie Sedgwick looks on. Slowly Harker unravels herself, revealing a brightly coloured, grinning face. She then flies through the audience, dancing vigourously.

Initially, the five-minute performances were unadvertised, and they shocked some of the visitors. A startled onlooker even alerted a security guard. Since then, hosts have been announcing the acts in advance and answering questions afterwards.

Audience reactions have been quite unpredictable. Sometimes spectators stand up against the wall, forming a semicircle. At other times, the crowd may be scattered around the room, some of them sitting down. Occassionally, some people even get in on the act.

Once, during one of Biellow's performances, "one guy started speaking to me in Italian. It was great! So we sort of talked for a while and then I went on." Loose, spontaneous interactions like these are a fitting homage to Andy Warhol, and characteristic of the exhibition as a whole.

Inspector Sly picks up lots of exciting clues but he discovers a stiff

Inspector Sly's Second-to-Last Case
at the Jericho Arts Centre until August 13

by Diana Stein

Farce is not supposed to be subtle, but if it is to be funny, it shouldn't stampede the audience as soon as it's out of the starting gate.

Inspector Sly's Second-to-Last Case, written and directed by Kico Gonzalez-Risso and presented by Novus Theatre as part of their Great Canadian Play Festival, has "full of promise" written all over it, but it wastes many of its best comic moments by shooting its characters out of a one-note cannon of acting hysteria.

The plot revolves around Inspector Sly's efforts to solve an ongoing string of grisly murders, the heads of whose victims — all young women — keep turning up at the police station enclosed in cake boxes. Suffice it to say that this can be classified as a "black farce".

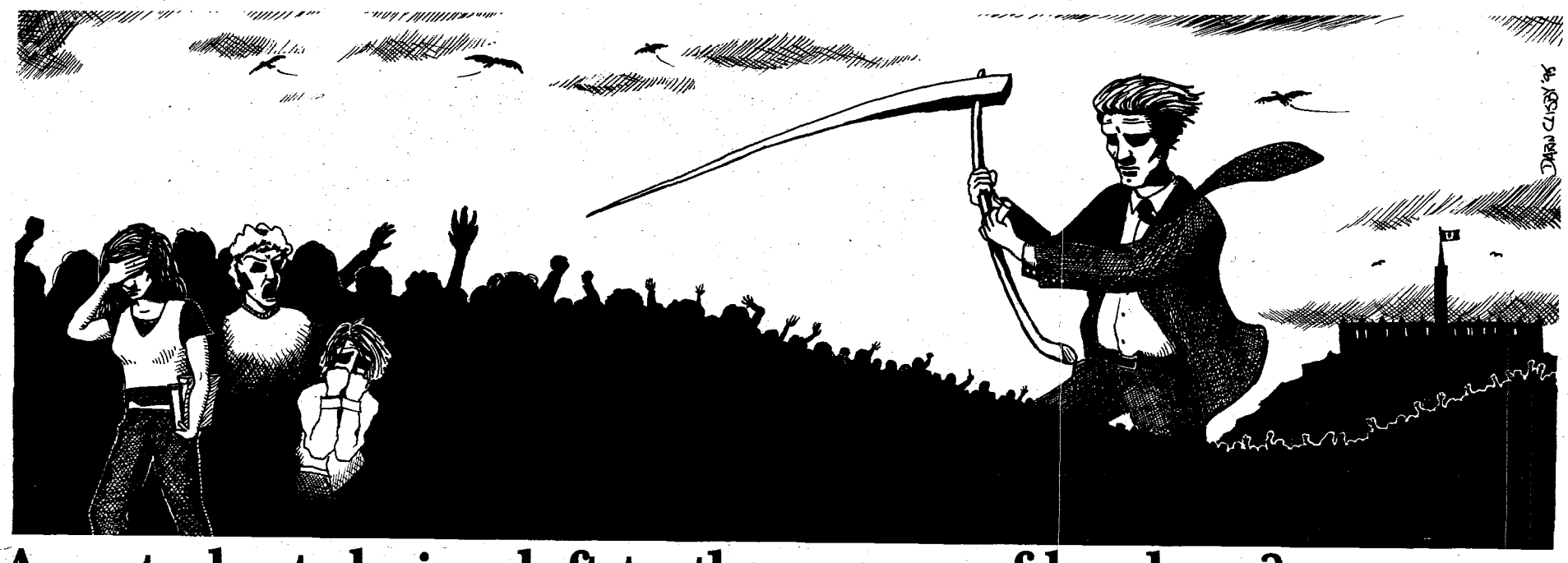
Farce does require BIG performances and moments that go way over the top, but most plays also require some kind of build — a journey that goes from point A to point B. This production, unfortunately, offers up so much ranting and raving shortly into Act I that it leaves itself nowhere to go. By the time the play reaches its ostensible climax in Act II, the production feels strained as it reaches for comedic limits exhausted earlier in the play.

However, there are aspects of the production that do merit praise. Deryk Houston's colourful set works well in establishing an atmosphere of overdrawn and suspended reality, as do many of Patricia Richards' costumes. In the acting department, Bill Murdoch, as the disturbed psychiatrist Dr. Crock, often provides a nice counter-balance to the other characters' manic outbursts.

There are also a number of funny and well-played exchanges between Crock and Inspector Sly, solidly played by UBC theatre grad Mark Weatherley. Weatherley and Ian Ross McDonald, as the fanatic gardener Mr. Johnson, also hit the comedic mark dead-on with their dueling Scottish accents in Act II. Some of the best comic moments of the piece undoubtedly belong to Elisabeth Lamont as the twisted and ambitious Mrs. Crock.

In fact, taken individually, almost all the performances have a lot going for them. The problem is, when put together, they afford the audience little opportunity to recover from one bout of hysterical shrieking before the onslaught of another. In short, the whole is less than the sum of its parts.

opinion



Are students being left to the mercy of bankers?

In the past, if you defaulted on your loan, the banks recovered your debt through the government. As of a couple of days ago, the government no longer guarantees the repayment of federal and provincial student loans. That means when it comes to collection of student debt, it's just you and the bank. Nervous yet?

Under a new agreement called "risk sharing" a select group of banks has taken responsibility for collecting student loan debts, assuming all risks of losses through default, and being compensated by the government for this risk with a five percent premium on all loans. This five percent premium is in line with the historical average rate of default on student loans and in line with the average default rate on other consumer loans.

As far as how this changes your relationship with your lending institution, there is a wide range of possibilities. The pessimistic view is that the increasing privatization of student loans will give the banks a lot of leverage in dealings with the government. Student leaders worry that the savings that risk sharing represents for governments will lead to huge concessions in future negotiations and students being hung out to dry.

Under the risk sharing agreement, participating banks have new motivation to adjust repayment terms to discourage default. Now that the government will no longer be covering defaulted loans, it is up to the banks to shave as much off the default rate as possible and protect their profits from the five percent premium.

There are increasingly more alternatives to government administered student loans. Some banks that are no longer participating in government loan programs are producing new or revamped student loan programs of their own, such as the Bank of Montreal's student line of credit. These programs do have their drawbacks – the bank decides on your need and your ability to repay and in most cases, students will likely require a co-signer. In addition, these loans accumulate interest and in most cases require payment on interest while you are still a student. Still, the potential competition from private student loans may help prevent radical, negative changes to government issued loans.

It would also serve the banks well to consider that today's student is tomorrow's consumer of mortgages, car loans and investment instruments. Unless students are treated with respect and compassion under limited choices in financial institutions available to them in negotiating loans under this new system, the banks may face a backlash when graduates consider their options for their future banking needs.

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It was a dark and stormy night. James Rowan and Janet Winters stood under a lone oak tree to shelter themselves from the pelting rain. In the distance, a church-bell tolled. Suddenly Chris Nuttall-Smith appeared from behind the tree, brandishing a bloody knife. Joe Vales screamed in terror as the maniacal lunatic approached the soggy students. "Run," cried Darin Clisby, as Charlie Cho bashed him over the head with a whiffle-bat. Trent Ernst collapsed bleeding into the arms of Andy Ferris. "It was...it was Peter T. Chattaway who did it," he whispered with his dying breath. Diana Stein wept over his body.

A group of zombies staggered over the crest of the hill. "Isn't that Christine Price?" exclaimed Tony Zuniga as he saw the rotting corpses. "And over there, it's Deserie Harrison!"

"Shut up, and start shooting!" cried Scott Hayward as he fired his Smith & Wesson at the stumbling, decaying creature that once was Matt Thompson. Paula Bach grabbed Andy Barham by the arm and dragged him away into the dark folds of unforgiving night. "Oh stop it," Siobhan Roantree said to Sam Arnold as he cowered in terror. "It's only a movie."

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letters

Cutting satire

I am shocked and appalled by the lack of consideration the Ministry of Transportation and Highways has shown with their decision to cut down the 186 trees lining University Blvd. Obviously, the powers-that-be have abandoned all sensitivity and reasoning and, with reckless abandon, rubber-stamped the decision to chop 'em down. I'm sure they never even bothered to consult a silviculturalist at any stage of the decision-making process. I mean, those blue suits at the top probably have some kind of personal vendetta against trees. And only three times have I seen transit buses held up by fallen trees. These problems, however are miniscule compared to the rampant razing proposed by the ignorant "fat cats" at the top. I understand from an expert opinion on television that sick trees can be cured by caressing and stroking the bark and singing to them in soothing tones. We must all unite to stop this clearcutting! Come, join together brothers and sisters, as we lobby the government to consider pruning as an alternative. It would only take weekly crews of a few dozen union workers to keep those trees in shape. The alternative–cutting and replanting–is unthinkable.

Josh Bender
4th Year Commerce

Kurt's back

President Strangway's critics are wrong. The way he responded to McEwen's report was necessary.

Granted, the report is flawed. It describers mostly trivial gripes and raw emotions which occur wherever human beings interact. It is blind to the conflict between vagus harassment policies and academic freedom. And it interprets the replies of accused faculty as further evidence of guilt.

But McEwen's bias and the limits of her competence were well-known from her previous work–like her report on Kamloops psychology professor Al MacKinnon. So anyone who assumes that she was hired without a carefully calculated purpose must think that senior UBC administrators are stupid.

Was there perhaps a golden opportunity to let the surging forces of political correctness discredit themselves? By giving McEwen essentially free reign on an unlimited budget, UBC leaders could predict that her work would erode sympathies for the "equity" establishment on campus.

Implementing a few toothless recommendations–like temporarily halting graduate student intake into Political Science–was necessary to spark widespread reaction to the report. It also made administrators look responsive to student concerns without, in the end, forcing more than cosmetic changes.

On the basis of talking to many UBC graduate students I think that student allegations of racism and sexism are partly symptomatic of another problem: relatively low priority given to graduate students by busy faculty whose promotions hinge almost totally on publications. Accusing faculty of harassment and discrimination gets attention while voicing frustration about the general quality of graduate mentoring never does.

The only surprise to President Strangway in this whole affair must have been the ferocious intensity of the Canada-wide backlash against the McEwen report. His new reputation as a strong anti-sexist crusader and weak defender of academic freedom is truly ironic.

When one plays games of strategy one rarely controls the specific outcome.

Kurt Preinsperg
PhD. '92 (Philosophy)

Pharmacy Dean responds

The Article on Pharm.D tuition increases (July 27, 1995) is somewhat misleading and contains factual errors.

The increase in tuition was arrived at after careful consideration of the costs of the program, which was the first of its kind in Canada, and a comparison of the UBC tuition with the tuition charged by other schools in the US and at the University of Toronto. Even with the increase the UBC tuition ranks at the low end of the scale, the University of Toronto now charges over $16,000 for its Pharm D. program.

We have attempted to offset the tuition by vigorously seeking support for students from pharmaceutical companies and have been successful in raising funds that should provide scholarships of $12,500/year for students.

There is no "profit" to the Faculty or to the University from the program. In fact, it is still not full cost recovery. Seventy percent of the tuition will go directly to the Faculty to assist in covering the costs of the program and 30% will go to UBC to cover infrastructure costs. Without the increase the viability of the program was in serious question.

The concluding remarks of the article that professional undergraduate programs are being considered for increases in tuition reflecting full cost recovery ar not based on any discussions or facts of which I am aware.

John H. McNeill, Ph.D.
Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences

LETTERS POLICY: Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space. "Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run unless the identity of the writer has been verified. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the office of The Ubyssey, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

sports

Student Recreation Centre to be ready for fall

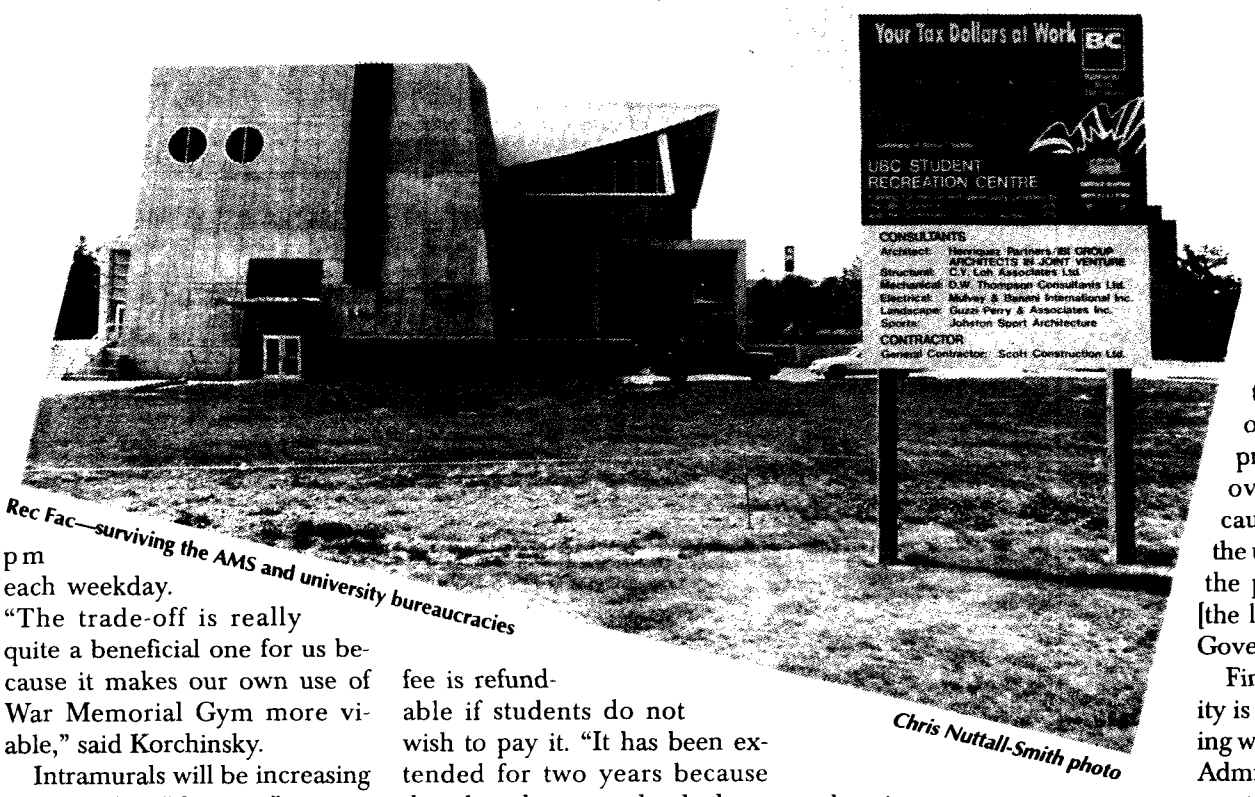
by Scott Hayward

Having survived a referendum to kill it and major budget cuts, the Student Recreation Centre (Rec Fac) will open to students in September. Students will continue to pay for the facility for another two years.

Construction started on June 30, 1994 according to Building Superintendent Ron Simpson. The facility "should be ready when students get back in September," he said. With the exterior completed, workers are completing "final items for occupancy permits," said Project Manager Carlo Bordignon.

The facility is located on the north side of MacInnes Field by the north-east corner of SUB. It will include three full size gymnasiums, a weight room/fitness centre, martial arts studio, dance studio, playcare facilities and offices for administration. Most of the Intramurals department will move to the new building, but "it is terribly important to have a presence within SUB," said Intramurals and Recreation Coordinator Nestor Korchinsky. Intramurals will continue to publish The Point newspaper and run UBC-TV in SUB.

The Athletics Department will also have some access to the facility. "The Varsity program is going to use the facility for two hours Monday to Friday," said Korchinsky. In return, Intramurals will supplement its current 9:30-11:30 pm use of War Memorial Gym with 8:30-9:30 pm each weekday.



Rec Fac—surviving the AMS and university bureaucracies
Chris Nuttall-Smith photo

"The trade-off is really quite a beneficial one for us because it makes our own use of War Memorial Gym more viable," said Korchinsky.

Intramurals will be increasing its popular "drop-in" times, where students can come out to play basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, or wheelchair basketball. In addition, "Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays students will be able to book facility times, and for this year it is going to be free of charge. There are some limitations, we'll have to come up with a policy," said Korchinsky.

However the new facility does not come without a cost. Last January the University Board of Governors voted to extend the $40 per year fee charged to students to pay for the facility. The fee is refundable if students do not wish to pay it. "It has been extended for two years because there have been people who have not been contributing, so they need more money," said student Board of Governors representative Michael Hughes.

Extra money raised from the additional fees will also "permit the construction of a tennis bubble," according to minutes of the January BoG meeting. Any funds raised over and above building costs will be used to equip the two facilities.

From the beginning, Rec Fac has been cloaked in controversy. Initial plans to include a 4,000 seat indoor arena and lighting for MacInnes field were scrapped to reduce its cost.

Students supported the project by passing a referendum calling for a $30 annual fee in November 1988. However when the University Board of Governors raised tuition by 10% later that year, students started a petition which forced the Alma Mater Society to run a second referendum to repeal that fee.

In the second referendum in September 1989, students voted to withdraw the fee by a margin of 2,612-1,766, 38 votes below quorum. The result was challenged in the AMS' Student Court, and quorum was determined to be 2,576 students. The AMS then decided to return the $800,000 thus far collected.

This opened the door to a proposal from the Athletics Department in September 1990 which called for a refundable $40 per year fee levy. The provincial government had already committed matching funds to pay one half the cost of the project, so the University took over its development. "Because of the matching funds, the university didn't want to lose the project so they just passed [the levy] through the Board [of Governors]," said Hughes.

Final details of how the facility is going to be run are still being worked out. AMS Director of Administration Am Johal will be meeting with Intramurals to discuss its management. "I'm certainly hoping that it will be similar to either the University Athletic Council or the Aquatic Centre," said Johal.

"The Aquatic Centre is set up with two student reps, currently the AMS President and Director of Administration, and a member from the [student] community chosen by the AMS. Athletics has one person, there's the manager of the pool, another representative from the university, and a person from the [outside] community chosen by the university," he said.

Women's field hockey team trains down under

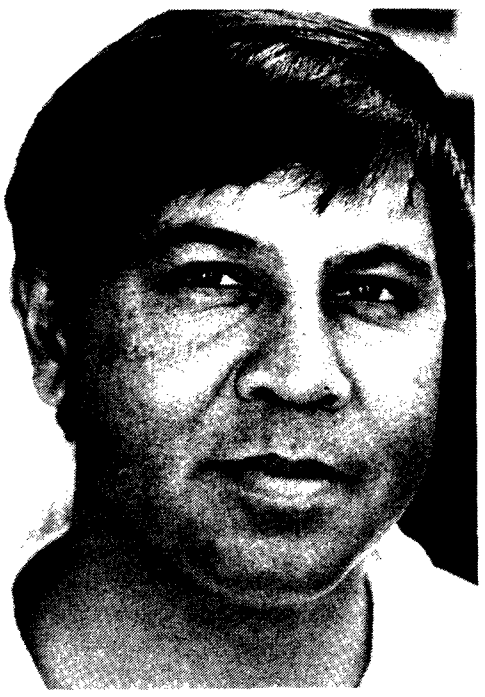
by Joe Vales

The UBC Women's Field Hockey team is travelling throughout Australia in August to compete against eleven high calibre collegiate and university teams.

T-birds' coach Hash Kanjee is in his third season as head coach after replacing long-time coach Gail Wilson. Slated to leave for Australia August 3, Kanjee is excited about the challenge ahead. In past years trips represented a reward for a job well done and generally took place in April or May.

However Kanjee believes this trip "prior to the season, gives [him] an opportunity to work with the kids in a highly competitive environment; a training camp. International competition gives students a better idea of student life elsewhere, student-athletes can gauge their own performance [against] players who are very good and equally pressed at school."

Kanjee is proud of the fact that "the kids raised much of the travelling funds themselves through car washes, chocolate sales," and other fund raising projects. Successfully raising the finances revealed the players "bought into the program, and me," said Kanjee. However a large portion of this trip (at least $700) also comes out of the students' pockets. His goal is to hold an international "training camp" every two years, finances permitting.


Hash Kanjee—bringing tactical skills to UBC
Chris Nuttall-Smith photo

Despite losing seven players from last season's second place finish in the Canada West and a bronze medal in the CIAU Nationals, Kanjee is optimistic about this year. With no one left from the "Wilson era" Kanjee is anxious to stamp "his own label" on this team. During his two years he has seen dramatic improvement in the team's play. "Three years ago a game with powerhouse University of Victoria would result in a 7-0 loss." In the 1995 season the T-Birds were 0-2-2 versus UVic, dropping the Canada West final 2-1 after UVic scored with less than fifteen seconds remaining in the match.

Already challenging UVic for field hockey supremacy in the West, Kanjee sees great promise for his team. Despite difficulty scoring goals and not finishing opportunities, their strengths lie in "a strong goals-against-average, the team concept with everyone contributing, and [they] don't depend on one or two stars." He uses technological tools such as video to point out the strategies of field hockey, and compares the game of grass hockey to the strategies and set plays of soccer.

The T-birds' success this season depends upon the performance of a group of talented and hard-working women. "Kanjee's Kids" include captain Heather Andrews, Sarah Franks, the Morrisonn twins – Juhli and Jacqollyne, national team member Naomi Harding, and the future of the UBC program, sophomore Ayra Davy.

Kanjee speaks highly of his captain's leadership; "most important to our success is Heather Andrews. She has improved so much."

Kanjee plans to mold the T-Birds distinctly with "his flavour", building around solid players. His forward line consists of the Morrisonn twins and Davy who is "the focal point of the attack" and the future nucleus of the program. The defensive squad centres around set play quarterback and corner striker Naomi Harding, whose shot has been clocked at over 100 mph.

Kanjee brings experience and current tactical and technical skills to women's hockey. He wants them to be "the best players they can be. Australia can show what players can aspire to. There are no role models here in Canada, and there are many parallels between Canada and Australia."

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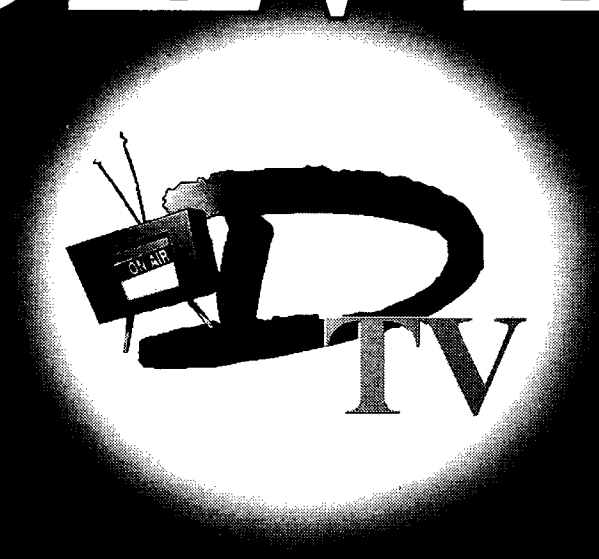

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