SUMMER
THE UBYSSEY

INSIDE

We do this because we were very bad in another life

Founded in 1918 | Vancouver, B.C., August 16, 1990 | Vol 9, No 7

Squatters take action

The story of the Frances Street squats

by Jessica McArthur

In protest to the threat of eviction, the Frances Street squatters barricaded doors and windows of two houses with boards and wire in the hope that police would be inhibited from removing residents.

But as it turns out their efforts were needless because neither the police nor Ning Yee, the landowner, decided to take action against the squats on Wednesday. Yee declared this Wednesday as his deadline for the eviction of the squatters at the beginning of the month.

"The bottom line is leaving unoccupied houses vacant - that is the crime to us," says Penny Singh, one of 35 Vancouver Eastside squatters, who has been living in one of a row of six empty houses in the Commercial Street district for the past six months.

Bruce, a squatter who preferred not to give his last name, said the Frances Street houses gradually became vacant in February when Yee, a real estate developer, bought the land in order to destroy the houses and replace them with condominiums.

The original tenants were given two months notice to vacate, after which Yee said he would go ahead with his plans.

Disturbed with the prospect of gentrification and unwilling to watch viable accommodation go to waste, Bruce and the other squatters, who include some of the former tenants, decided to squat the adjacent houses until they were forced to leave.

Yee then demanded that squatters who were not former tenants leave, Bruce said.

"So he (Yee) started telling us (the former tenants) one thing and the others something else," Bruce explained.

After some research Bruce discovered that Yee's demolition application had been rejected by Vancouver City Council. Bruce explained that because it takes six months to process a demolition request, the houses would have to remain empty for that period.

Bruce confronted Yee with this information and forced him to give the former tenants permission to stay longer, though he pressed the others to leave.

But contrary to the potential internal conflict and resulting division that might have arisen from Yee's favoritism, the squatters became stronger as a whole. Once aware of the political value of their solidarity, the squatters began to use their group as a platform from which to address city council on the larger issue of Vancouver's housing crisis.

"It is obscene and virtually criminal to throw out families when these houses will otherwise be wasted," Bruce said.

Yee persuaded the police to investigate the situation on August 1st after a complaint was made by the neighbors about garbage sitting in an outside garage. The material was actually recyclables collected by one squatter, who later dumped it at the appropriate site after the complaints were made.

When Yee and a single officer came to the Frances Street site on August first, they were confronted with forty squatters. Bruce claims the officer took one look at the situation and decided to turn around. Before leaving, however, he set a new eviction date, August 15.

But because the police have not since returned, the matter still remains a private issue between the squatters and Yee. The squatters plan to continue living in their Frances Street homes.

Since their February arrival, however, the squatters have been rallying the support of not only their friends and allies but also that of various housing organizations such as D.E.R.A. (Downtown Eastside Residents' Association) and T.R.C. (Tenants' Rights Coalition). Feeling that their eviction, though stalled, is inevitable, the squatters are trying to focus a great deal of support for and attention to the issues of homelessness, the lack of affordable housing and extremely low vacancy rates.

T.R.C. representative John Shayler said "we do not support developers who buy up property, empty out buildings and evict people, only to leave unused housing". Shayler said there are already as many as 800 units of empty rental housing in the lower mainland area.

D.E.R.A. employee Jim Greene also supports the efforts of the squatters to draw attention to some pertinent housing issues, but said "we don't like to see people boarded up in houses because it can lead to fire deaths".

He does hope, however, that the tactics of the squatters will push the mayor to "play a mediation role". "That would be a person to put pressure on," he says. "There is potential for a real confrontation there and it might not be pretty."

Criminal lawyer Jim Bahen said squatters have no rights in British Columbia.

He said British Columbia

continued on page 3.

Squatters draw parallels between native struggles and homelessness MIKE COURY PHOTO

Administration levies students for Recreational Facility

by Carla Maftechuk

Just when you thought you were safe from sequels, along comes an idea from UBC Athletics. This one, however, will cost you more than the admission price to a film.

A "no" vote was apparently not enough to indicate that students don't want to pay for a RecFac, a student recreation facility, or any such building. A proposal has been presented by the University Athletic Committee to the Board of Governors requesting a student fee increase of $40, which would go towards building "new athletic facilities".

The increase will be classified in the calendar as a "Student Fee", which actually means a fee chosen by the students themselves.

According to Jason Brett, AMS director of external affairs and member of the University Athletic Committee, an "opt out" clause included in the proposal allows the annual $40 fee to be considered a "voluntary contribution".

"At the end of the year, students can fill out a form to get reimbursed," stated Brett.

The opt out option is difficult to use, for a student would have to pay in the fall and then try to get the money back at the end of the year.

Brett supports the idea of a facility but he is uncomfortable with the way it would be funded. "If they wanted to make it easy for students, they would give the money back in the first week of classes. The opt out clause makes it hard to protest," said Brett. "I don't feel it's a voluntary contribution."

Justin Steele, a third year Arts student, does not like the procedure being followed. "Students didn't want it," he said, "I think they should just do another referendum and do it properly. I think that the $40 should go to the library so they can buy some more books."

"I'd rather eat than go to a recfac; it sounds like another bureaucratic cop-out," he said.

"It's pathetic," said Rohan Spratley, a recent UBC graduate. "There are other athletic facilities in the city that you can use, but you can't get access to a university quality library anywhere else. How about a world-class library instead?," she said.

There will not be a third referendum on this issue because the proposal must be approved before October 1, 1990. The reason for the deadline is that student money could be matched dollar for dollar by the government through the 75th Anniversary fundraising campaign initiated by Dr. Strangway.

The matching would continue for a projected five year time period of construction. Money collected in subsequent years would be used to fund athletic programs and fulfill other athletic needs, such as field maintenance.

Brett, who does not feel that the negative results from the last referendum accurately reflect the students' feeling on the subject, says that the university needs the athletic facility. "For the majority of students, $40 is not a big fee. For borderline students and those ethically opposed, the opt out clause provides a chance for getting their money back," he said.

"I'm not diametrically opposed to it, but I don't like the idea that the BoG can impose a fee in this way," Brett said.

Roma Gopaul-Singh, also on the Athletic Committee, agreed with Brett. "Personally, I think we need a facility. I don't like the idea that they will impose a levy, but perhaps this is the only way of getting money," Gopaul-Singh said. "The proposal allows for a lot of student input."

If the Board of Governors gives approval, a facility management committee with student members will be created.

The official position of the AMS on this issue is unclear, as the proposal was announced quite recently. "There has been no extensive discussion to date," said Gopaul-Singh.

"There has been no active opposition to it," said Brett.

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SUB MAIN CONCOURSE

AMS mixes booze and ballots

by Martin Chester

The AMS Executive has reinstituted the system of holding the annual general meeting during the yearly AMS barbecue, to be held this year on September seventh.

In past years, the AMS has used the barbecue to pass by-laws as it is the only opportunity they have in the year to bring together enough students to reach quorum. However, last year the executive decided not to use the barbecue for these purposes.

AMS vice president Johanna Wickie said it was necessary to take advantage of the barbecue to clean up the code and by laws.

"The majority of issues that are going through are housekeeping— changing by laws— for which we need quorum," Wickie said.

The barbecue is "the only time where enough students are gathered to make any changes to code and by laws," she said.

Wickie showed some concern about the fact that alcohol will be served at the barbecue, but she said that not all people will be drinking.

To open the event to minors, the AMS has decided to use a wristband system which will require drinkers to wear a wristband for which they will have to produce identification to obtain.

"There are pros and cons to any kind of referendum," she said, but "we've made a conscious decision as a council not to put forward any motions which involve substantial amounts of money."

Former AMS vice president. Sarah Mair said last year's council had problems with the idea of mixing the barbecue with a referendum.

"I don't feel that the barbecue is an appropriate place for a referendum,' she said.

"I don't know what to do with (the quorum problem)," she said. "The best thing to do would be to advertise very, very widely across campus (during a regular referendum) unless they have a booth and ballots," she said.

In a story in the September 12, 1989 edition of The Ubyssey, former AMS president Mike Lee said "it is not an appropriate way to be passing bylaws, but in all practical sense, I'm not shutting it off in the future for practicality. We can't get people out to meetings."

The issues which will be put to the vote will include a motion to make the language in the code and by laws non-gender specific.

In addition, students will be asked to vote on a motion to include night students in the calculation of quorum. While this will raise the number required to reach quorum, Wickie said it will make the process much more democratic.

Graffiti artist makes position clear REBECCA BISHOP PHOTO

AMS greenness in doubt

by Martin Chester

Despite the recent AMS efforts to be green, the annual AMS barbecue will not be using reusable dishes and mugs.

AMS environmental coordinator Anna Brown raised concerns to the AMS that the event should be garbage free.

"The logistics of using reusables at this barbecue would be difficult," Brown said, "but because it's difficult does not mean it is impossible."

"That they are not using reusable products reflects the attitude of council as a whole," she said. "I didn't get the feeling from council that they wanted to change."

She said switching to reusables would require a fundamental change in the way the AMS is run.

She suggested that perhaps a system like the one used at this year's Folk Festival would work. The Folk Fest lent out plates for their food in exchange for a deposit.

"The reasons why they are not (using reusable products) are good," she said, "but basically it comes down to a fundamental question of principle: do you want to do it or do you not want to do it."

"If you want to do it, it can be done," she said.

Programs director Laura Myers said "there's a lot of reasons why (not to use reusables), but money is the biggest one."

She said the barbecue is programs only source of income and she can not risk a large outlay of money. She would require AMS help. To raise money, she said, a lot of beer must be sold at the barbecue.

AMS general manager Charles Redden said "where we have the problem with reusables is in any of the large beer gardens; there are no facilities outside (to wash them)."

Redden said the reusables would have to be cleaned for health reasons.

Redden said that had the AMS known about the Folk Fest system sooner, they would have been able to implement a similar program. "Logistically we are unable to implement it for this September."

Brown said that council should take the initiative. "Council should understand that managers have to do what council wants," she said.

AMS director of finance, John Lipscomb, said "what I really want to happen is for us to purchase plastic beverage ware."

"I'd like to make it a garbage free event (and) offer discounts for people who bring their own mug," Lipscomb said.

Squat the lot

continued from page 1

law states that because there is no legal contract (an exchange of money) between a tenant and a squatter the latter has no legal recourse against a landowner. New legislation to protect the rights of squatters is not likely, Bahen said.

"B.C. is a very conservative province and the law is intended to benefit the interests of landholders," he said. "Unless politicians feel pressure from voters to make a policy change then things won't change. They (the squatters) don't have the might in numbers and they're not mainstream."

Bahen claims that there is an "unlawfully dwelling" charge which applies to non-paying residents of private property and an "assault by trespass" charge which is usually used to force "bag ladies from camping out in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel."

He believes, however, that the police will not attempt to arrest the squatters unless a policy-making decision is made to do so by a high-level official of the police department.

"This is not going to be a 'Hey, let's go in and bust these long-hairs' kind of attitude," Bahen said. In fact he believes that the police are unwilling to get involved at any level, preferring to view it as a civil dispute between the landowner and the squatters themselves. If this remains the case, then Yee will have to order the squatters' eviction through the courts at his own expense. A Sheriff would then be legally entitled to evict them using force.

The squatters themselves have assumed a powerful but peaceful form of resistance and are trying to dispel the notion that they are subversive by nature.

Sarah, another squatter who declined to give her last name, said "I don't think it's radical to want to inhabit housing that would otherwise be empty during the midst of a housing crisis."

As for the future, most of the squatters seem grudgingly willing to move on, but are repelled at the notion of more upmarket "yuppie condos" being built. Ideally they would like to see the land used to build affordable housing in the form of a co-op, but do not foresee Yee undertaking such an action as long as his plans to maintain ownership are in order.

"We are just people who are trying to live affordably," a squatter called Lliam said. " (We will) try and carry on with our lives", he said, whether they lose the dwellings or not.

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DJ's set out to conquer world

by Martin Chester

The Sub Ballroom will be hopping with happening hip hop early this September.

On the weekend of September seventh and eight, UBC's student radio, CITR, will be hosting a competition for rappers.

The event is meant to give Vancouver's neophyte hip hop scene the boost it needs. "Everybody says Vancouver doesn't have any rap," explained CITR station manager Linda Scholten, "but that isn't true. It doesn't have very much, but it needs support."

Scholten said the idea came from CITR on air personality Don Chow, who hosts Home Taping International on the student radio station. Chow found his inspiration in the New York Battle for World Supremacy, a huge rapping competition held in conjunction with the New Music Seminar.

CITR has tried to open up the competition to include all kinds of rappers. "We want to make it easy as possible to enter," Scholten said.

The competition was organized "to promote this kind of music and help get kids involved with kids who are doing this stuff," she said.

Scholten said the organizers hoped the entries would include reggae rappers, toasters and perhaps even house.

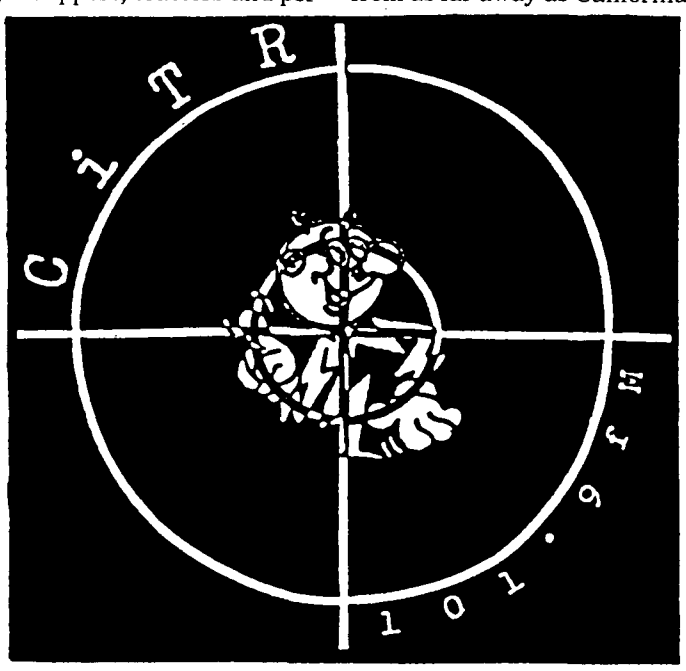
The competition will be organized into four categories. The first is the MC, or "the rapper, the guy who does his little spiel." DJs, "the guy with the turntable, scratching and mixing," make up the second category, dancers the third, and crews, a combination of at least two of the other categories.

Scholten said the crews, who make up the bulk of the entries, will perform on Friday the seventh, and the rest on the Saturday— both in the SUB ballroom. Saturday's show will also include Seattle hip hop artists EQ.

At New York's Battle for World Domination, the competition is for a single belt which indicates the wearer as the best in the field. CITR will be offering more tangible prizes, such as 24 hours of recording time at Profile Studios, other recording packages, and gift certificates and subscriptions to StreetSound magazine. The top crew will also receive an opening place for a major rap performer at the Commodore Ballroom.

Scholten was happy, though not unduly surprised by the response to the new competition.

She said they have received 12 entries in the crew category alone, each to perform for 15 to 20 minutes. She was pleased that the competition had elicited responses from as far away as California.



Elizabeth gets her hands dirty

by Harald Gravelsins

Hansard records "fuddle duddle" as one of Pierre Trudeau's replies to an Opposition member during Question Period. The tapes Richard Nixon so badly wanted to keep from public airing are transcribed with hundreds of deleted "expletives". Elizabeth I in Novus Theatre's production of Elizabeth: Almost By Chance A Woman has no compunction in making use of terms such as "fuckwit".

THEATRE
Elizabeth: Almost By Chance A Woman
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To hear political leaders swear, curse, and look ridiculous brings us welcome relief from the unrelenting media stream of stage-managed photo opportunities and scripted pronouncements by those who claim to personify the national interest. They might have attained public office but we reserve the right to deny our leaders the moral superiority that seems to accompany their desperate quest for power. Their fallibility and vulnerability should not extend too far however. Ronald Reagan, for example, wasn't too funny next to the button when he started musing foolishly about winnable nuclear wars and evil empires.

Playwright Dario Fo's Elizabeth is a character about which there is plenty to like. She lets loose with her sharp tongue, lets her hair down, and shows us her warts. Or rather her bee stings, the remedy she attempts in order to enlarge her breasts. The part is written on a monumental scale. Perhaps by way of her father Henry VIII, Elizabeth was possessed of an overbearing and unpredictable personality.

At opening night's performance, Marilyn Norry staggered under the weight of the role, mistaking her lines with disappointing frequency. It seemed that not enough preparation had gone into such a demanding role.

For much of the play, Elizabeth struggles with her body rather than the duties of public office. Hence the characters Martha and Dame Grosslady. The former, played ably by Cory Philley, is the devoted but independent-minded Maid of the Chamber. Dame Grosslady is a forerunner of today's professional esthetician, a charmingly grotesque bearer of ridiculous and impossible beauty treatments.

Ian McDonald (yes, a man) has crafted this role wonderfully. The English language falls prey to his French-Italian discombobulations. Intermission is preceded by McDonald directing the audience in a chorus of "With one tit-No and the other-Yes; the Queen does pee-pee down her dress."

Elizabeth's enduring preoccupation with her body is motivated by sexual desire, specifically her attraction to Robert, Earl of Essex. In the end, her ambition is frustrated not by a body that is physically inadequate but by the limitations of the English body politic.

Elizabeth reigned in an era in which the nation-state was congealing and a political leader could say with confidence: "L'Etat, c'est moi." Elizabeth's assessment of high office, "I am a murderer," is the corollary. This assertion of the definition of the state as an instrument of systematized torture and death is Fo's main purpose in writing the play, which ends with Elizabeth's anguished confession of her guilt in wielding power. Her sexuality and humanity become virtually accidental or trivial to the exercise of power.

Is this such a radical insight? I think not. The moral dilemma of having "dirty hands" is arrived at in the last scene and its mere enunciation serves as the culmination of the dramatic development. If it is not possible to govern innocently, what sort of outlook do we hope for in our leaders? The script and the production alike waver on the edge of reaching beyond themselves but are content to fall back to limited and less compelling terrain.

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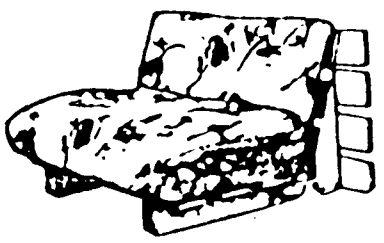

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Gayla: An affirmation of culture

By Rebecca Bishop

Look out, stealth lesbians are everywhere! Somewhat akin to low flying, undetectable stealth jets, stealth lesbians are an invisible social force. They are however, of greater value than military planes.

MUSIC
Gayla! A Celebration of Women's Culture.
Orpheum Theatre
Friday Aug. 10

Friday night was a night of lightning and other powerful forces. The Orpheum was filled with the voices and faces of many not-so-invisible women. There was Kate Clinton, comedian and Mistress of Ceremonies, Heidi Archibald, jazz singer, Katari Taiko, BETTY, three women of undescribable genre, and Ferron, a singer-songwriter.

BETTY, Katari Taiko, and Ferron were the most memorable performers. Heidi Archibald also gave a strong performance, although arriving late, I missed half of it.

After spending several minutes in the aisle while an usher compared the seat number on my ticket and those of a group of women who had booked an entire row together, I ended up sitting right in their midst. So much for invisibility. But in the meantime, I had the opportunity to look at the crowd. Women. Lots of them.

Katari Taiko came on while I settled myself in my seat. They are a group of Japanese-Canadians who have brought the taiko (big drum) tradition to Canada.

The last piece they performed was a moving work which was composed around a poem written early in this century called Mountain Moving Day. It was written by a Japanese woman about the "sleeping" population of women in Japan waking up, and using their combined power to move the mountain of women's oppression.

It was a powerful combination of words with ten drumming performers. "In the past, all mountains have moved in fire. All women wake up."

The following performance, BETTY, was quite a change. Currently performing in New York, BETTY consists of three women who give the initial impression of metal groupies. Long hair, cleavage, legs, and tight clothing. They are performing for an entirely different audience however. They sing, talk, rant, and laugh of outrage and the outrageous. Songs (acts?) range from the tough-dyke-in-prison stereotype found in movies, to why one should stay home because dating is such a trying experience. They fail even to convince themselves, and succumb to the pleasures of lust.

Half of BETTY's appeal is how they distort sexual stereotypes. They are women who are performing for women. They speak both suggestively and graphically of women's sexuality. Lesbian sexuality, that.

surprise. Campiness would be the best way to describe them. And funny.

The last act, Ferron, is a Vancouver performer who has been absent for some time. She performed songs from an upcoming album, and sang older favorites. The performance was not so much outstanding, as it was a welcome home. Ferron's appeal was apparent when the entire audience finished one of her songs for her. She called all of the performers on with her for her encore to sing Testimony:

by our life be we spirit
and by our hearts be we women
and by our eyes be we open
and by our hands be we whole

The evening was made memorable by both the performers and the audience. I saw one mixed couple (hetero) and one man by himself. Mind you he had a press pass on. So all in all it was definitely a celebration of, by, and for women. And much enjoyed at

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Editorial

Hands up for a pilsner

A political pundit once wrote the quality of Canadian politics can be measured in percent of alcohol.

The same can be said for the quality of AMS democracy.

The AMS executive has decided to resume the practice of holding referenda during the annual barbecue, which is nothing more than a pleasant name for the year's biggest beer garden.

The decision making process should not be clouded with alcohol. And don't think these are minor considerations. The barbecue referendum could change the definition of quorum, making it even more difficult to get a referendum passed. It must decide whether or not to take sexist language out of the code and bylaws. Students will also be asked to decide if board of governor representatives should sit on the AMS council before sitting on BoG.

These are all questions which might induce some debate, perhaps heated debate. The issues of sexist language and quorum are particularly contentious. Yet we seem to be willing to allow these decisions to be made by a group of people, a great many of whose judgement will be affected by alcohol.

The people in charge of this event will tell you that the only way for it to make a profit is to sell beer— a lot of beer.

The AMS has its intentions crossed. The programs office must sell beer to make the barbecue profitable. Yet, the executive arm must hope for some semblance of sobriety so that the referendum can not be seen as the farce that it truly is.

Granted, student apathy has forced the issue. If we were able to draw enough interest in the running of the student society the referendum might pass, or at least reach quorum. In which case such events would not be necessary.

But resorting to a grand beer garden to get bylaws passed is a major derailing of the democratic process.

The issues might not seem like a big deal, but then the trip around the corner might not seem such a big deal to the drunk driver— it certainly will to that driver's victim. The AMS had the option to take the keys out of the hands of the driver. But now they have given drinkers their blessing. Stay off the road kids...

SUMMER
THE UBYSSEY
August 16, 1990

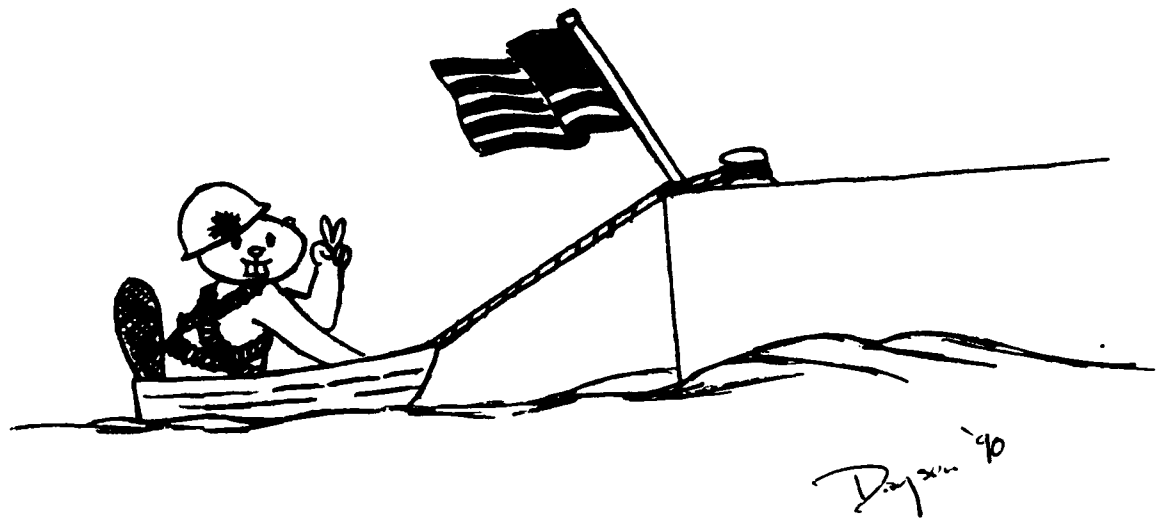
The Summer Ubyssey is published Thursdays by the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia. Editorial opinions are those of the staff and not necessarily those of the university administration, or of the sponsor. The Summer Ubyssey is published with the proud support of the Alumni Association. The editorial office is Rm. 241k of the Student Union Building. Editorial Department, phone 228-2301; advertising, 228-3977; FAX# 228-6093

King Poohbah Don Mah was to square off against Oil Can Steve Chan when the clumps of sod had settled. It was the year that the monster trucks came to Thunderbird Stadium. The two were left after hours of drag 'em out duelin'. Twenty thousand screaming fans lined up for the outhouses as head mechanics Effie Pow and John Gray fine tuned their respective awesome machines. Announcer Yukie Kurahashi screamed into the mike as Paul Dayson and Joe Altwasser roared back towards centerfield, their mountainous machines long ago left for dead. Rebecca Bishop, Saskia Ages and Brenda Wong soon made it clear that only a smash up derby would determine the day's winner. Super-Lyanne Evans revved her five litre, and gave co-pilot Omar Diaz a whiplash when she popped her clutch and leapt into the fray. Not to be outpowered, Ernie and Ted swooped down in their chopper, and started ramming windshields with their extendo-umbrellas. Umpire Laura J. May was unimpressed by the devience which prevailed, but put away her whistle when the irate weekly rag press corps of Mark Nielsen, Hao Li and Greg Davis pelted her with cooked pineapple chunks, and screamed for more Pepsi. Mike Coury reached for his keys, but was flattened under the wheels of Dale Fallon's ten speed when he touched down after getting some air off the ramped hood of Mike Booth's corvette. Colin Maycock dashed away from his duties, leaving only Mike Laanela to supply beers for the testy crowd. Carol Hui nodded to Carla Maftechuk as the latter filed down their forklift's fangs, and aimed them bumper high at nearby prey. Isobel Simpson backed her eighteen wheeler onto the field, clearly challenging the previously accepted supremacy of Jessica McArthur in her jet-powered back hoe. Everyone was now going it alone - Peter Lankester started punching car doors since his own unit had been cannibalized by the devious pawnshop owners David Loh and Harald Gravelsins. Nicholas Ionides rammed into Tim Crumley, Dawn Buie into Myk Gordon, and Helen Willoughby-Price tossed her chapeau into the ring to celebrate the festive occasion. Former NHRA champ Mike Roman gunned his Miata, and skidded off Andrea Lupini in her demobilized Desoto.

Martin Chester brought a smug smile to the director of athletics when he announced a return engagement in three weeks.

Editors

Rebecca Bishop • Michael Booth • Martin Chester • Paul Dayson



Letters

The Ubyssey welcomes letters on any issue. Letters must be typed and are not to exceed 300 words in length. Content which is judged to be libelous, homophobic, sexist, racist or factually incorrect will not be published. Please be concise. Letters may be edited for brevity, but it is standard Ubyssey policy not to edit letters for spelling or grammatical mistakes. Please bring them, with identification, to SUB 241k. Letters must include name, faculty, and signature.

AMS Owes Students

Deforestation. The Greenhouse Effect. Third-world debt crisis. Hunger and famine in Africa and elsewhere. And the deplorable state of the natives in our own backyard. These are some of the issues the Global Development Centre informs students at UBC.

That responsibility has been jeopardized by the June 18 Renovation Committee's decision not to give the GDC space in the concourse, when in fact there is space available.

Prior to June 18, five service organizations — the Global Development Centre, Disabled Students Association, Students Environmental Centre, Speakeasy, and Ombuds Office — applied for five offices on the concourse: four at what is now Dress-for-Less premise and the other room 100A.

A lack of space in the concourse has a direct and negative impact on the GDC's ability to reach out to students and serve them. Currently located on the second floor, the GDC's library is inaccessible and invisible to students. It is mainly through the library that students can be informed of global issues that ultimately affect them.

The GDC's predecessor, the International Development Club, had been in existence for two years and had had a commendable record of serving students.

In giving two offices to the Ombuds Office and an extra office to Speakeasy for counselling purposes, the renovation committee ignored the fact that either organization can easily go upstairs to a place that is "private" to do counselling — leaving concourse space to other organizations to serve students better.

At June 20 Council meeting, the impact on the quality of services that a lack of concourse space would have on the GDC was drawn to the attention of the AMS.

Two weeks later on July 4th, the Director of Administration put forward the five-office plan for the expansion of what is currently Dress-for Less premise.

On July 18th, after one Council member demonstrated that the smallest office of the five would not be big enough for any organization to conduct a meeting, council voted not to concern itself with the issue of space allocation indefinitely. That move is disappointing: Council has abidicated its responsibility.

For the first time in human history, our entire species faces threats that transcend all nations. We won't progress very far into the future if we do not understand the root causes and consequence of these. A good understanding of these threats is the indispensable foundation upon which the future of humankind depends. Thus, any effort by any individuals or organizations to inform students and the public of these issues should warrant support from all progress-minded people from all walks of life.

In voting to let one organization to have two offices on the concourse and none to the GDC, council has demonstrated a lack of vision and courage. When the AMS collects $27.50 from a student, it owes him/her some manner of safeguard against the possibility of arbitrary or unwise decision made at the committee level. Must the buck stop at the committee? Must the lack of vision on the part of some impede the tide of progress? Can human frailties and justice all be so aligned?

Hai V. Le

Reality in Sahel

Perspective

In environmental terms, the Sahel, a region just south of the Sahara consisting of Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Mauritania, has suffered heavily from land degradation, droughts, civil conflict, and government neglect.

The results: massive movements of destitute people, both within their own respective countries and across international borders. Many of the refugees are pastoralists belonging to the Tuareg, Tamashek, and Fulani ethnic groups, who for centuries have lived in harmony with nature in a region whose soil is the most infertile and most fragile in the world. Recent droughts have pushed the number of migrants up, sweeping more pastoralists and small farmers into a vortex of misery and hunger as their land bakes into rock under the relentless sun.

An estimated 6500 Sahelians now live in Ghana. Many of the country's new citizens have been dragged into a harsh existence of begging, casual labor, and crimes. In the sprawling shanties around many cities, huts of cardboard scraps, old mats, and cloths are home for many of them.

But droughts are natural to the Sahel. After the 1968-73 drought in the region, a study by the World Meteo- rological Organization concluded that the droughts "although severe, are normal to the climate, in the sense that they have occurred before, and presumably will occur again."

Yet six or seven years ago when drought struck the region, the pace of destruction accelerated. A thousand Chadians were dying each month and one-third of the population or 1.5 million depended on food aid for survival. In Niger, it displaced 400 000 and affected 2.5 million people. Why all the sudden disasters and suffering then?

The forces inflicting misery upon the people are greatly magnified by droughts, but are not necessarily drought-related. Examples:

* Leaders' Indifference:

In the 84-85 drought, General Nimery of the Sudan discouraged journalists from writing about victims who had trekked to the capital from the affected regions. Many were trucked back to where they came from. In 1990, both Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia and Omar Hassan el Bashir of the Sudan refuse to let food convoys enter areas afflicted by famine because they are controlled by forces opposing them.

* Governments' Neglect:

Governments do not see desertification as a high priority item. After the 1968-73 drought in the Sahel, aid flooded the region: $1.97 billion in 1981 from 756 million in 1974. But only 4 percent go to developing the region's agriculture. The bulk was spent on imported foods and improving infrastructures such as transport, telecommunication, and education.

* Governments' Ignorance:

Nomads are mobile. The governments often distrust these people because they owe their allegiance to their tribes. They and their herds follow green pastures wherever they are, often crossing national boundaries in the process. In the dry land of the Sahel, that is the most efficient way to extract protein from the land. Yet lured by a vision of profitable cattle ranches in the North, and encouraged by Western development "experts" who have little understanding of the way of life of the pastoralists, many governments have attempted to sedentarize these people. An outcome is overgrazing around settlements' lands and these settlements eventually have to be abandoned.

* Cash crops Vs. Food crops:

Peanuts and cotton are the cash crops in the Sahel and they tend to get the best land along rivers as well as attention from the governments. These factors mean that food crop farmers are pushed to areas where soil fertility is low and are given little help from the governments. Overuse of the land combined with population pressure eventually result in land degradation and hunger. As world prices for those commodities fall, governments exacerbate the conditions by increasing production of cash crops to make up for the shortfall.

In Ghana, the All-African Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the Christian Council of Ghana, and the government are working together to alleviate the plight of approximately 1000 Sahelians living in Accra, the capital. Gbawe, 15 kilometres north-west of Accra, is host to an ambitious 40-acre, rehabilitation project that when completed, will provide 100 housing units, a school, a clinic, and some cottage industries for these people. The ultimate objective is to help them regain their dignity and capacity for self-reliance.

At the time when the region as a whole is experiencing unprecendented economic and social difficulties, the Sahelians are fortunate. Others displaced elsewhere in the region may not be so.

Hai V. Le

This week's Student's Council

by Dale Fallon

STUDENTS TO TREK FOR CHEAP

AMS Council voted last night to subsidize student tickets to the annual Great Trekker Dinner and Dance, to be held September 27th.

One hundred tickets will be made available at $20 each, which is $15 less than the regular student price. The full ticket price is $75, however the UBC Alumni Association had already agreed to reduce the price to $35 for students.

The motion at last night's meeting was originally to confirm a July executive decision to offer tickets at $10 for student's council, and various committee members and their guests. However the proposal was altered so as to include all UBC students at a slightly less subsidized rate.

Information on distribution of these special tickets is not yet available.

AMS MUST PAY FOR SINKHOLE

The saga of the Barn continued as council grappled with how to negotiate with the university over future renovations and use of the B-lot landmark. Last night council voted down a motion which would have released $28,000 to be paid to the university for work already completed.

UBC treasurer Byron Braley recently wrote the AMS informing them that "failure to pay the debt by August 31 will result in a witholding of the debt amount from the AMS fees to be collected in September."

Student council had hoped that retaining this money would aid their bargaining position while a lease with the university was being negotiated.

An option presented recently by university vice-president of administration & finance, Bruce Gellatly, would see the $28,000 forgiven if the AMS was willing to drop discussion about leasing the building.

"We should cut our losses, end negotiations, and accept the university's offer", said AMS director of finance John Lipscomb. Likewise, both AMS president Kurt Preinsperg and student Board of Governors representative Dave Hill described the barn as a potential "sinkhole" for AMS money.

THE AMS BUDGET COMMITTEE STILL DEVOID OF STUDENT REPS

Council voted against the recommendation of Budget Committee to appoint Anna Brown and Brent Lee to its ranks. The normal method of choosing members is through the selection committee process. That group however has been unable to meet this summer.

The proposal to appoint the two students at large would have ended the stall in AMS budget committee decisions caused by the lack of quorum in their recent meetings.

D of F IGNORED

A motion by director of finance John Lipscomb to amend the extended health plan referendum question to include the opt-out option failed to be seconded, and thus was not even discussed.

According to vice-president Johanna Wickie, students will be able to opt out of the plan if they can provide proof that they are already covered by an equivalent extended plan. Lipscomb's proposal would have seen this fact included in the wording of the referendum where it is not presently mentioned.

"Council refused to consider the idea of offering individual health plan subscriptions. Instead they went for the previously approved universal plan", Lipscomb said.

Scholarship policy changed

Students expecting a scholarship from the University Scholarship Program may be in for a big surprise this year; they will either receive more money than they expected or none at all.

Until this year UBC has offered the top three percent of students $1200 and the next three percent $900. This year, the Awards and Financial Aid office has decided to increase the dollar amount of the individual awards, but the fund itself has not been increased.

"We have not decided what the final cut offs are," said Byron Hender, the director of Awards and Financial Aid. The number of awards given may still be cut.

In the Awards and Financial Aid booklet, published by the university, the awards office does explain that "the amounts and ranges are reviewed annually and (are) subject to change."

At the present time, Hender said, the top four percent of students have been notified that they will be receiving awards. A decision will be made in September as to whether the numbers of awards will be decreased, or the money in the fund increased.

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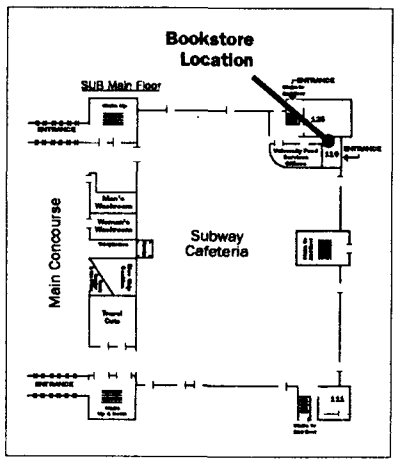

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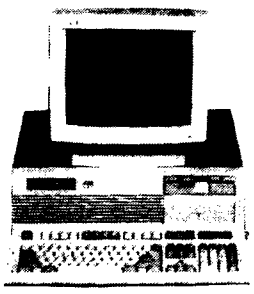

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

September 7, 1990 at 4:00 p.m.
MacInnes Field, east of the Student Union Building
University of British Columbia

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A. AFFECTING QUORUM AND MEMBERSHIP STANDING.

BE IT RESOLVED By Special Resolution of the Active Members, that the By-laws of the ALMA MATER SOCIETY be amended as follows:

1. Bylaw 2 shall be re-written to add the following clause:

   "4. Standing

   A member shall be deemed to be in good standing until they cease to be a member of the Society pursuant to Bylaw 2."

2. Bylaw 3(4) shall be re-written altering:

   "(a) A quorum at an annual general or special general meeting is achieved where the number of active members present at such meeting is equal to or greater than 10 percent (10%) of the Day Members at the Point Grey Campus of the University."

to read:

   "(a) A quorum at an annual general or special general meeting is achieved where the number of active members present at such meeting is equal to or greater than 10 percent (10%) of the ***active members who are currently in good standing."***

3. Bylaw 4(4)(b) shall be re-written altering:

   "b. the number of votes cast supporting the referendum is equal to or greater than 10 percent (10%) of the active members of the Society who are Day Members at the Point Grey Campus of the University."

to read:

   "b. the number of votes cast supporting the referendum is equal to or greater than 10 percent (10%) of the active members of the Society who are ***currently in good standing. 'Supporting' shall be defined as voting in favour of the referendum.".***

4. Bylaw 19(1)(a) shall be re-written altering:

   "(a) a Special Resolution of the Society passed at an annual general meeting or special general meeting of the Society ***where there is a quorum of ten percent (10%) of the Day Members at the Point Grey Campus of the University,*** or"

to read:

   "(a) a Special Resolution of the Society passed at an annual general meeting or special general meeting of the Society, or"

B. AFFECTING STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND COUNCIL SENATORS.

BE IT RESOLVED By Special Resolution of the Active Members, that the By-laws of the ALMA MATER SOCIETY be amended as follows:

1. Bylaw 5(2) shall be re-written altering:

   "(f) The student members of the Board of Governors shall assume their seats on Council at the first Council meeting after the Board of Governors meeting where they first sit as voting members.

   (g) Council Senators shall assume their seats on Council at the first Council meeting after the Senate meeting where they first sit as voting members."

To read:

   "(f) The student members of the Board of Governors shall assume their seats on Council at the first Council meeting after ***they commence their term of office on the Board. The term of office as voting members of Council shall be concurrent to their term of office as student representatives on the Board of Governors pursuant to the University Act.***

   (g) Council Senators shall assume their seats on Council at the first Council meeting after ***they are elected Council Senators by Senate Caucus pursuant to Bylaw 6. The term of office as voting members of Council shall be at the discretion of Senate Caucus, PROVIDED however that said Council Senators shall continue to be student representatives on the Senate as defined by the University Act."***

2. Bylaw 6 (3)(a) shall be re-written altering:

   "(a) The Senate Caucus shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least once each month between the months of September and May inclusive. The first meeting of Senate Caucus shall be held within fourteen (14) days before the Senate meeting at which they first sit as voting members."

To read:

   "(a) The Senate Caucus shall hold regularlyscheduled meetings at least once each month between the months of September and May inclusive. The first meeting of Senate Caucus shall be held within fourteen (14) days ***after the beginning of the term of office as student representatives on the Senate pursuant to the University Act."***

C. AFFECTING THE COORDINATOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

BE IT RESOLVED By Special Resolution of the Active Members, that the By-laws of the ALMA MATER SOCIETY be amended as follows:

1. Bylaw 1(2) shall be re-written altering:

   "Coordinator of External Affairs - shall mean the Coordinator of External Affairs of the Society"

To read:

   "***Director*** of External Affairs - shall mean the ***Director*** of External Affairs of the Society"

2. Bylaw 5(3)(a) & (b)(i) shall be re-written altering:

   "(a) EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL

   The Executive of Council shall be:

   i) The President;
   ii) The Vice-President;
   iii) The Director of Finance;
   iv) The Director of Administration; and
   v) The Coordinator of External Affairs.

   (b) ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE

   i) The President, Vice-President, Director of Finance, Director of Administration and Coordinator of External Affairs shall be elected by and from the active members of the Society in a general election which shall be held during the month of January in each year, and in no case less than fourteen (14) days prior to the annual general meeting. Regulations for the conduct of general elections shall be set out in the Code."

To read:

   "(a) EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL

   The Executive of Council shall be:

   i) The President;
   ii) The Vice-President;
   iii) The Director of Finance;
   iv) The Director of Administration; and
   v) The ***Director*** of External Affairs.

   (b) ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE

   i) The President, Vice-President, Director of Finance, Director of Administration and ***Director*** of External Affairs shall be elected by and from the active members of the Society in a general election which shall be held during the month of January in each year, and in no case less than fourteen (14) days prior to the annual general meeting. Regulations for the conduct of general elections shall be set out in the Code."

2. Bylaw 5(3)(d) shall be re-written altering:

   "(v) The Coordinator of External Affairs shall:"

To read:

   "(v) The ***Director*** of External Affairs shall:"

D. AFFECTING GENDER SPECIFIC LANGUAGE.

BE IT RESOLVED By Special Resolution of the Active Members, that the By-laws of the ALMA MATER SOCIETY be amended as follows:

1. Bylaw 1(1) shall be re-written deleting the phrase:

   and words imparting the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender,

   To read:

   "In these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires, expressions defined in the Society Act, as amended from time to time, shall have the meanings so defined in that Act. Words imparting the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, and words imparting persons shall include bodies corporate."

2. Bylaw 3(1)(a)(iii) and 3(1)(b)(ii); Bylaw 5(2)(h), (i) and (j); Bylaw 5(3)(d)(ii)(7), 5(4)(a)(ii)(1) and 5(4)(b)(ii); Bylaw 6(3)(b)(i); Bylaw 12(5); Bylaw 14(6); Bylaw 16(2); and Bylaw 21(5) and 21(5)(f) shall be re-written replacing the words ***"his"*** with the words ***"her/his"*** throughout. Bylaw 5(4)(b)(ii) shall also be re-written replacing the word ***"himself"*** with the word ***"herself/himself"***. Bylaw 6(4)(b) shall be re-written replacing the word ***"him"*** with the word ***"her/him"***.

PROPOSED MOTION TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A. BE IT RESOLVED By Resolution of the Active Members, that the following motion be adopted:

   "Be it resolved that the mandate of the 1982 fee levy referendum which added a $15 fee for capital projects onto the AMS Annual Membership Fee be extended to allow this levy to be used for student union expansion and renovations in and around SUB.

Note: The SUB Southside expansion which was specifically mandated by the 1982 referendum was completed several years ago, and funds are needed now for a Northside expansion."

Held in conjunction with the AMS Annual Barbeque, Noon to 8:00 p.m., September 7, 1990