

THE UBYSSEY

OUTSIDE

It's all
around
you

Founded in

Vancouver, B.C., Friday, March 16, 1990

Vol 72, No 44



FAR from T.V. cameras and picketing pensioners there is another housing trend occupying Vancouver. It is a silent response to a city experiencing sweeping growth and a shortage of affordable housing.

In the older residential and industrial tracts, pockets of vacant buildings slated for demolition are being occupied by squatters.

Many young artists and students are making a political statement against the high rent that is gripping the city.

Megan Osborne (a pseudonym) lives at an East Vancouver address which is slated for demolition. Megan is squatting—the organised occupation of unoccupied buildings.

Megan is a 25-year-old graduate of philosophy—one of a growing number of young people who have chosen to fight Vancouver's high housing prices by squatting in abandoned houses being demolished to make room for condominiums and expensive apartments.

Contemporary urban squatting grew up in post-war England in response to the housing shortage caused by bombings and government inefficiency in replacing the buildings. Today London has over 30,000 squatters, many of whom are students.

While it is difficult to determine an accurate number, there are likely more than a hundred squatters currently in Vancouver. There have been widespread squatting movements in London, West Berlin, Amsterdam, Philadelphia, and New York.

And Toronto has experienced organized squats when its housing market boomed and created a lack of affordable housing during the 1980's.

In Europe the movement is highly developed with a whole culture and philosophy—and tens of thousands of people—behind it. Besides providing housing, squatting was a means for radical movements to create a free space in which to organize and develop their own institutions. Squatting was a challenge to the system as a whole and a rallying point for self-management, communal living and militant resistance.

Megan's squat in Vancouver, and many others, are taking place near Commercial Drive in the city's east side, where many of the older family-style residences are being replaced by upscale dwellings.

The process, known as gentrification, is a 1980's phenomena in which older neighbourhoods with character are redeveloped into more expensive accommodations. Often this process is at the expense of the lower-income group who traditionally occupied the area.

The decision to squat was not easy for Megan because it challenges one of our society's most cherished institutions—private property.

"I used to think that owners could do anything they want," she said. "I still kind of accept that whole system where people own something. But now I am in a situation where I don't want a traditional job."

Megan now holds two part-time jobs, playing part-time for a local band and working for a graphics company unionized with Industrial Workers of the World.

"The area is being bought out by developers. Tenants are beginning to fight back now—there will be more," she said.

"Many of the people who are being affected the most are those who have chosen to lead an alternative lifestyle, such as artists."

"The developers are buying the land and a stand has to be made."

Megan predicts that many in the arts community will be forced to leave the city for the interior where the cost of living is much lower.

Stephen Leary of the Downtown Eastside Residents Association said at present there is little squatting taking place in the downtown east-side, but acknowledges that there is certainly a possibility of it in the future as it is preferable to living on the street.

According to the United Nations definition of homelessness there are currently over 10,000 people in Vancouver who fit the category, said Leary.

"We don't think there is a large number of these people who are shelterless, but there is a large number who are very close. All it takes is a couple of big hotels to be torn down. There are quite a few now slated," warned Leary.

"We are on the down-hill side of the hill. When it free-falls, who knows?"

The vacancy rate in Vancouver is 0.4 per cent which leaves approximately 432 suites for rent in Vancouver, according to city housing planner John Winsor.

Leary said that the recent city proposal to build 52 units of housing is "laughable."

Leary said the city proposal is a "drop in the bucket considering we have 2,600 people on our waiting list. The city estimates that there are over 17,000 people city-wide on waiting lists for affordable housing. And they won't be overestimating the figure."

Leary said over 1,700 housing units have been lost in the downtown eastside alone since 1986.

He estimated that Kerrisdale and Kitsilano have each lost approximately 1,000 housing units—most of them in the last 18 months.

"There is no way they are going to replace what is being lost."

In the past, squatting in Vancouver has not been a safe practice and Leary cautions potential squatters to the ever-present dangers.

"It's not a glamorous life, many are glue-sniffers and rip-off artists," he said. "Most of the squatters here in the past have not politically motivated."

Leary has not ruled out the possibility of organized squats for the

THE EMERGING TREND OF SQUATTING HAS ADDED A RELUCTANT PLAYER TO THE VANCOUVER HOUSING CRISIS

BY JOE ALTWASSER

future as Vancouver's housing market continues to deteriorate.

"We have spoken of the possibility of going in and taking over a place," he said, though he believes that DERA has a way to go before it can stage a political squat because of the high level of commitment and organization it takes.

"They are starting to organize squatting in Toronto," he said.

In Toronto, the housing crisis is more critical than in Vancouver and it has left social planners scrambling for alternatives to provide housing for an increasingly large segment of society.

Recently, squatting has started to become a viable alternative.

Leslie Robinson of Metro Tenants Legal Services in Toronto said: "Lobbying governments and trying to get laws to both protect tenants and provide housing is frustrating."

"We are looking for alternative actions. We want something we can take for ourselves, rather than having to ask for it."

"Because of the laws, power of police, and the huge financial interests that landowners have, it is very difficult for people to provide or develop housing in the city for themselves," said Robinson.

In Canada there are no laws that allow people to squat, even if they are in need and there is a vacant building available. Squatters can be arrested for break and entry.

In fact, police in Canada can arrest squatters for merely being on property that they had not been given permission to enter—without the owners even making a complaint first.

Robinson said that in Toronto owners are now bricking up the windows and doors on the first floors of buildings in order to discourage squatters.

Most Torontonians did not even realise they had squatters until the city hosted the 1988 economic summit said Robinson.

"But it became very apparent during the summit when police started going through the buildings and arresting people," said Robinson.

In 1982, there were some 300 squatters in the downtown area east of Yonge Street alone.

In Vancouver the situation has not reached the point where concrete plans are being blue-printed, but some organisations like the Tenants Rights Coalition (TRC) are keeping a watchful eye and may be forced into direct action soon if nothing is done to ease the local housing crisis.

"Right now we realise that people in Vancouver are being forced to squat. Vancouver is becoming another large city that is forcing people

continued on page 12

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05 - COMING EVENTS

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THE VANCOUVER INSTITUTE

Free Public Lecture

Saturday, Mar. 17

Professor Brunilde Ridgway
Dept. of Classical Archaeology
Bryn Mawr College

on
AN ANCIENT MASTERPIECE
RECREATED:

THE PARTHENON IN NASHVILLE
Lecture Hall 2, Woodward IRC
at 8:15 p.m.

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7:00 p.m. University Chapel 5375 University
Blvd. 222-0800.

VIDEO, COMMENTARY on fascinating
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Monad, 3642 Kingsway nr. Boundary this
Sunday, March 18 at 8 p.m. Free Admission.
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11 - FOR SALE

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20 - HOUSING

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campus. Early May - late August '90. (606)
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25 - INSTRUCTION

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30 - JOBS

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sional light housekeeping, and general
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TREEPLANTING interviews will be held
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in Brock Hall 9-4 p.m. For more info call Rob
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PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY

UBC Rugby Club Manager for the

1990/91 Season (Sept. 1/90 to April 30/90)

Responsibilities include:

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Between Classes

Deadline for submissions: for
Tuesday's paper is Friday at
3:30PM, for Friday's paper is
Wednesday at 3:30pm. LATE
SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED.

Note: "Noon" = 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAR. 16

World University Service of Can-
ada. General Meeting. Noon,
Buchanan A203.

Family and Nutritional Sciences.
Pancake Breakfast - FNS Com-
mons Rooms. Whole Wheat Pan-
cakes, Fruit toppings \$3, \$2.50
with own plate & utensils. 7:30-
9 a.m., FNS Building Commons
Room.

Gays & Lesbians of UBC. Annual
"Ides of March" Queer Garden. 4
- 8 p.m., SUB 205.

UBC Sports Car Club. Car Rally:
St. Patrick's eve rally. There will
be pizza for all who finish, and a
case of oil for the winner. 7:30 -
10pm, SUB 216B.

Graduate Student Society. Open
Stage Talent. 6pm, Fireside
Lounge, Graduate Student
Centre

International Association of Stu-
dents in Economics & Commerce
(AIESEC). Bzzr Garden. 4:30,
Henry Angus 25 (POTTS)

Geography Students Association.
Geography Bzzr Garden (Geo-Pit).
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Geography Bldg. -
in lounge.

Film Society. Subfilms Showing of
7:00 - Casualties of War with Mi-
chael J. Fox & Sean Penn; 9:30
Uncle Buck with John Candy -
Same times Saturday - 17th and
Sunday - 18. 7:00 & 9:00. SUB
Auditorium.

Psychology Students Association.
Elections. 12:30 - 1:20. Buch
A205.

University Christian Ministries.
A discussion on current issues and
how Christianity addresses them.
Noon. SUB 211.

Environment Center. Ocean
Death - Driftnets, Dolphins, and
Tuna - Earth Island Institute will
kick off its Canadian awareness
campaign, video & discussion.
Noon. SUB 215.

SUNDAY, MAR. 18

Lutheran Student Movement.
Communion Service. 7:00 p.m.
Lutheran Campus Centre.

MONDAY, MAR. 19

UBC Students for Choice. General
meeting. Noon, SUB 205.

Graduate Student Society. Free
Films: (1) Loyalists; (2) Pow Wow
Highway. Starts 6:30, Fireside
Lounge, Graduate Student
Centre.

Classic Subfilms. Film: The
Meaning of Life starring the infam-
ous Monty Python gang. 7:00
& 9:30 p.m.. Subtheatre.

TUESDAY, MAR. 20

Institute of Asian Research.
Seminar: "Images of Japanese in
Korea and Images of Koreans in
Japan." Prof. Kamigaito, Inter-
national Research Centre of
Japanese Studies, Kyoto. 12:30-
1:30, Asian Centre Room 604.

Narcotics Anonymous. A fellow-
ship of men & women for whom
drugs have become a major prob-
lem. Members meet regularly to
help each other stay clean. 12:30
- 2:00 p.m. (24 hr. help-line 873-
1018). Room 311 (main floor -
through the lab medicine door)
U.B.C. Hospital (main entrance).

Jewish Students' Association/
Hillel. Famous Hot Lunch.
Noon. Hillel House.

Biological Sciences Society (Bio-
Soc). Presentation by Dr. G.C.
Hughes on "Weeds, Seeds, and
History". Noon. Biology Build-
ing Room 2449.

Lutheran Student Movement.
Co-op Supper. 5:30 p.m. Lu-
theran Campus Center.

Lutheran Student Movement.
Bible Study. 10:00 a.m. Lu-
theran Campus Center.

Speakeasy - Outreach Program.
Information Service: Office for
Women Students. 11:30 - 12:30.
(Speakeasy) SUB 100B.



DAN ANDREWS PHOTO

Showdown at Douglas College

by Greg Davis

An accusation of censorship and homophobic harassment has been aimed at the administration of the Maple Ridge branch of Douglas College.

Posters advertising the establishment of a Gay/Lesbian support group were ripped off Douglas College bulletin boards in Maple Ridge last week.

Student Society executive member Angus Adair said he thought the administration had the posters removed.

Directors of Douglas College Rick Carruthers was unavailable for comment, but Douglas College public relations agent Bill Bell responded to the accusations.

"It's my first taste of what homophobia is about and it's just the tip of the iceberg."

"Maple Ridge campus shares the same building with Maple Ridge Senior Secondary school. Adair was told by Carruthers that he could post them only in college areas," said Bell.

Adair put the posters on the secondary school bulletin boards as well, according to Bell.

According to Bell, Carruthers had denied the administration took them down and said they might have been taken down by students.

Adair was not convinced. "In order to rectify the situation I've met with resistance at all turns," he said. "On Monday I was told the director was unavailable for two weeks, yet the New Westminster student society got a 15 minute meeting for the next day."

Adair attended the meeting, which Norm Gludovapz, a member of the New West society, set up for him.

According to Adair, the meeting turned out to be a "forty minute session of abuse."

Adair claims Carruthers used the word "fag" despite his protests and that Carruthers' secretary also addressed him in an offensive manner, shoving memos in his face.

"I stand by my resolution to keep the posters up," said Adair. "It's my first taste of what homophobia is about and it's just the tip of the iceberg. I feel compassion for anyone who has to live with the rest of that iceberg all their lives."

Bell said, "At this time I've only heard this through the media, so it's just an allegation. There's a formal process for handling the complaint process. (Adair) could see the student ombudsperson, a counsellor, or Carruthers' boss."

"We are quite proud of our policy and procedures (for dealing with this problem). I'm not really sure of the nature of the complaint [but I] hope it can be resolved at an informal level," he said.

"We are resolved not to let this issue drop, we are going to fight it tooth and nail until the issue is resolved," said Adair.

"We've decided to go through the proper channel and start a formal complaint against [the administrator]," said Gludovapz.

"At some point (Carruthers) will get his fingers rapped. Douglas College certainly doesn't want the bad media," he said.

Carruthers has since apologized to Adair. The College ombudsperson is investigating the situation.

Adair said he put the posters up to help fight homophobia on campus.

"The Canadian Federation of Students passed a motion to fight homophobia, and (it was adopted) by the student society," Adair said.



Board for the new UBC Home game. Dice not included.

Liberals want a change

by James Dolan

The B.C. Young Liberals want to change the way their leaders are picked.

Last February, the Young Liberals passed a resolution giving every card-carrying member of the party a direct vote in the leadership election process.

This type of system has already been implemented by the Progressive Conservative party of Ontario.

As it stands now, members vote for delegates in their individual ridings who go to leadership conventions and vote directly for the candidate of their choice.

"In my opinion, the process now is not the best way to select a leader. Under a direct vote, the system would be more democratic," said Mike McDonald, president of the B.C. Young Liberals.

"After the election of the delegates to the convention, the average Liberal's influence and direct participation in the leadership selection is null and void."

McDonald also criticized the competition and division inherent in the present leadership election process.

"The present system is pitting Liberal against Liberal. I don't think that's long-term thinking, much less healthy."

McDonald points to the recent tension over the so-called "instant Liberals", new Liberal members signed up by the Paul Martin supporters just before the 45-day cutoff.

"It's not democracy, it's just a game of who can sign up the most people," he said.

Erin Whitley, president of the Young Liberals of UBC, also backs the resolution.

"It'll stop all of this hassle about the 'instant Liberal' allegations by stopping all of the competition between the camps. I support it fully," she said.

Bruce Young, British Columbia youth chair for leadership candidate Paul Martin, also sup-

ports the one Liberal, one vote motion. "I think it's great for the party—it shows us to be open to everyone," he said.

Young also believes more members would be drawn to the party if all members were eligible to vote for their own leader.

Neil Sweeney, ex-executive for the UBC Liberals said, "People definitely want change from the convention system, because so many Liberals end up disenfranchised."

Sweeney, however, is skeptical about the implementation of a direct leadership vote. "I can see it work on a provincial level, but on a federal basis, there's too much regional disparity," he said.

Under a universal suffrage system, the provinces with the highest Liberal population would be likely to decide the next leader.

Instead, Sweeney supports a modified delegation system, where the separate regions of Canada are represented by an equal number of delegates at a leadership convention. "That way, you become a party more representative of the entire nation, not just of where the most Liberals are," he said.

The president of the B.C. Liberals, Floyd Sulley, agreed that regional disparity is a problem with the direct vote system noting the problem must be assessed before the plan is implemented.

Under a direct vote, the influence of special interest groups would be greatly decreased, McDonald says. "The current system is really prone to special interest groups. Anyone with good networks and organization can have a massive effect upon the delegation elections," he said.

Return of the son of RecFac

by Steve Conrad

Like the sequel to a bad monster movie, the beleaguered student recreational facility reappeared on last Wednesday's AMS council agenda.

There were two motions pertaining to the facility.

One was to direct the AMS president to explore the possibility of channelling the roughly \$800,000, already collected for RecFac, into some scaled down version of the RecFac proposal, even though a previous council motion had resolved to refund the money to students. This motion was defeated.

"I can't believe this motion has come before council. The previous motion [to refund the money] hasn't been rescinded," said agriculture representative Leonard Kogan. "It totally contravenes everything council has done regarding RecFac."

Despite last September's referendum decision to discontinue student involvement in the proposal, RecFac supporters such as intramurals, the alumni association, and the president's office seem unable to abandon the idea of putting the facility on McInnes field.

"There is a definite and clear need for recreational facilities on this campus," said vice-president for student and academic services K.D. Srivastava. "Sooner or later these facilities will have to be built. If we miss this opportunity with the matching funds then we miss it for several years."

Physical education representative Barbara Solarz said, "While the opportunity is there I think we should go after it."

The facility is one of the projects included in the university's \$132 million fundraising campaign under which the provincial government will match all money raised up to a maximum of \$66 million.

"There is enormous pressure on the president's office and on myself to displace the matching funds from the RecFac toward other projects," said Srivastava. "The embarrassment for the university has been enormous."

Arts representative Mark Keister said, "If we put this money into RecFac we're slapping students in the face."

Another motion, which was passed, requested that AMS council ask the administration to hand over the money collected for the ill-

fated facility.

"When students pay their fees in September they trust the administration to hand the money over to the AMS," said AMS director of finance John Lipscomb. "It was a betrayal of student wishes for the administration not to hand over the money."

But AMS coordinator of external affairs Jason Brett said, "Asking for the money to be refunded has no legal basis."

"As long as there's the slightest interest on campus for a recreational facility, the project is still alive. To do anything else with the money requires a referendum."

Srivastava echoed Brett's views, stating the administration would not hand over the money unless "the project is irrevocably dead," or else a student referendum decides the money should be refunded.

"It was a dedicated fee," said Srivastava. "That was the condition of the trust under which we collected the fee. We have to be assured that the money is used for the purpose for which it was collected."

"I think the AMS is in some (legal) difficulty if it uses the money for some other purpose."

the Alma Mater Society in Conjunction With the University of British Columbia

NEEDS FROSH COORDINATORS FOR 1990-91!

We can all remember our first year at University. The campus seemed overwhelming, classes were huge, course loads a slap in the face (especially when exams rolled around), and making friends in a group of 25 000 people wasn't exactly the easiest thing to do. But somehow, we all managed to overcome the typical first year anxiety: "Oh my God, I'm not going to make it!" Syndrome.

When reflecting on an experience like that (and for some it's a less painful memory than for others!), thoughts about how things might have been made a little easier for us come to mind, thoughts about that first year anxiety: "Oh my God, I'm not going to make it!" Syndrome. Well, times are changing for the first year student, and you, the Frosh Coordinator (FroCo), are going to be the reason why.

The question is, "How do we build spirit at U.B.C.?"

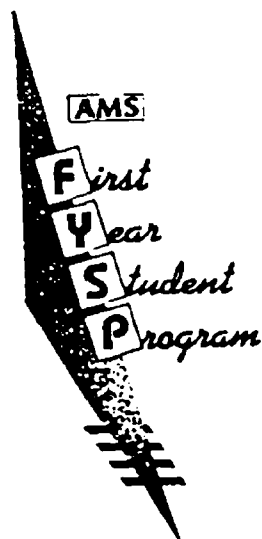
That's what the First Year Students Program is all about —team spirit, feeling like you're part of a group— and if there was a time that we ever needed that, it was in first year. It's about helping first

years identify with each other, and letting them know that they're not alone. Once we've accomplished that, spirit will take care of itself. We're going to encourage involvement in student clubs and activities. We'll be organizing social events at the beginning of the year, and FROSH WEEK.

As a FroCo, you will play a key role, providing support and leadership for the Frosh. You and another FroCo will be put in charge of a group of Frosh (15-20 people). This is not to say that you will then be abandoned. You will certainly be allowed to exercise your own imagination in dealing with your group, but we will have a myriad of activities organized especially for the Frosh.

The time has come to do something about the apathy on this campus, and the U.B.C. spirit has to happen in first year, or it might not happen at all. There's a lot of work to be done, but together we can pull this off, and start a tradition at U.B.C. Other universities in Canada have had well-established Frosh programs for years, and there's no reason why we can't do it too. We have a plan, but it can't work without your help!

If you are active, involved and care about the future of U.B.C., look us up.
Pick up applications in S.U.B. 216A or the Librarian's office of the Main Library.
Please return all applications by Tuesday, March 20, 1990.



There will be an all-day leadership conference for FroCos
on Saturday March 24, 1990.

FIRST YEAR STUDENT PROGRAM
OFFICE: SUB 216A
OR SUB BOX 113





A quiet break from Open House.

WONG KWOK SUM PHOTO

Blue Chip profits fund student loans

by Nicholas Ionides

For students at UBC eating cookies will be good for their health—their economic health.

A motion carried unanimously at the February 7 AMS students' council meeting allows for revenue from AMS-owned Blue Chip Cookies to be used "to provide temporary emergency loans to students who are unable to pay for the costs incurred while attending UBC," as stated in the meeting minutes.

The emergency loan program was started last September using \$10,000 of the \$250,000 AMS student bursary fund.

According to the AMS general manager, Charles Redden, the new loan program was started

because of the earlier one's success. "All of the loans were repaid," he said.

The motion, initiated by former AMS coordinator of external affairs Vanessa Geary, stated "an emergency loan is made specifically to a student who is unable to obtain immediate and adequate financial aid."

The fund will allocate \$10,000 each year for the next three years to fund the loans.

The loans, which are for UBC students only, are interest free and are made on a short term of less than one year.

The loans do not require security, but students should show a reasonable ability to repay the loan within the agreed upon term of

repayment, according to the guidelines. Individual loans should not exceed the lesser amount of \$1500 or the cost of tuition.

Outstanding loans will be reviewed by the AMS president, director of finance, and general manager after one year and under extenuating circumstances, delinquent loans may be written off.

The AMS took possession of Blue Chip Cookies in 1988. Previously called Duke's Cookies, the private owner was forced to sell to the AMS.

According to AMS president Kurt Preinsperg, "the main reasons the AMS purchased Duke's was to employ students and for large portions of the profits to go into bursaries for students."

UBC Liberals pick delegates

The UBC Liberals filled three of four positions with Jean Chrétien supporters at the club's delegate selection meeting on Monday night.

Erin Whitty, Jim Irwin and Mark Cameron were chosen to represent the club at the Liberal party's leadership convention to be held this June in Calgary.

Joining them will be Carina Shepard, a Paul Martin backer.

The outcome follows a strong

trend of support for Chrétien among B.C. students according to Doug Eastwood, the B.C. Youth Chairman for Jean Chrétien.

Predicting that 80 per cent of students in the province will be for the former cabinet minister in the Trudeau government, Eastwood said Chrétien also enjoys addressing students.

"I think nobody speaks to students in a bigger way than Chrétien does," Eastwood said.

Eastwood also said Chrétien has a clearer vision than the other candidates of what shape the country should take.

"The key was maintaining the stability of the country and keeping the nation united," he said.

Club members were required to chose two male and two female candidates. As well, 25 per cent of the delegates at the convention will be less than 26 years old.

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Composite photo free - \$40.00 deposit for a package.

Arts Grad Banquet

History, Poli Sci, I.R. and English

\$35.00 per ticket. Fri. March 30th at Pan Pacific.

Speakers are Alan Fotheringham and W.P. Kinsella.

(Must purchase tickets by Monday 26th, March.)

Tickets on sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday
12:30 Arts 200 Lounge.

AMS Art Gallery Committee



Applications are now being accepted by the AMS Art Gallery Committee for Exhibitions in the 1990/91 school season in the AMS Art Gallery in SUB. Shows range a week in length and applicants must submit ten slides of current work, a small explanation of their work and a twenty-five dollar deposit with their application. Applications are available from the AMS Executive Secretary in SUB Room 238 and must be returned by 4 p.m., Friday, March 23rd., 1990. UBC students are given priority but all applications are considered.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Problem and the Legal Responses

Appearing:

March 21, 11:30 - 2:30

Jean Hiady - Director of Child and Family Services of the Children's Hospital and an expert on therapy with sexually abused children.

Gail Way - Psychologist who specializes in therapy for adult survivors of sexual abuse.

Wendy Harvey - Crown prosecutor specializing in criminal prosecution of abusers.

Megan Ellis - Lawyer who has worked on civil damages cases and researched sexual offence sentencing.

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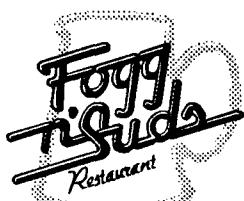
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PAGE FRIDAY

Solomon Gursky IS alive

by Rick Hiebert

THE Gurskys are an odd bunch.

Alternately nutty, religious, tough and dishonest, they are wonderful characters in the latest Mordecai Richler book *Solomon Gursky Was Here*.

PRINT
Solomon Gursky Was Here
By Mordecai Richler
Viking

The Canadian humourist and writer has produced another wry and interesting novel about a fictional Montreal set of characters, this time a family of Montreal liquor barons and the people around them.

The Gurskys own a series of distilleries that developed from Prohibition era rum-running into the United States. As well as struggling for respectability, they are certainly odd, from Henry, who is convinced that a new Ice Age looms, to Lucy, a would-be actress who acts as well as I would give birth. Richler, as in *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* and *Joshua Then and Now*, has created a fascinating dramatis personae for his latest work.

Solomon Gursky Was Here is about the history of the fictional Gurskys, from patriarch Ephraim to the present day.

The thread that pulls the episodic book, that flips back and forth in time, together is the

device of using fictional writer Moses Berger, son of a writer hired by the Gurskys to sing their praises, and his obsession with Solomon Gursky, the family black sheep, who fell in with gangsters and disappeared after a mysterious air crash in the Arctic. Moses is convinced that Solomon Gursky is still alive, and much of the book flows out of his research into the mythical family.

The book is great fun to read. Though it isn't always laugh-out-loud funny, there are many amusing parts, particularly in the characterizations (like Bernard Gursky, who is so affluent and powerful that he can blow his nose into a wastebasket at work with impunity). The humour isn't forced and comes out naturally from the characters and situations.

The book is nicely researched as well, particularly in the sections where Ephraim grows up in England, becomes part of the ill-fated Franklin expedition to the Arctic and then becomes a religious hero to both some Inuit people and a village of rather gullible Quebecois.

Several of the incidental details are great, like the Al Cohol radio commercials that Richler scammed off the NWT government. The historical details add much to the book.

Solomon Gursky Was Here is one of Mordecai Richler's best novels and well worth reading.



Chevy n ethnic d

by Effie Pow

IS the moon bigger or brighter outside China? Pakk, Eddy and Chun, three Chinese-Canadians, realize it is not when they immigrate to a small town in British Columbia.

THEATRE
Powder Blue Chevy
Firehall Arts Centre
until March 31

The characters of the play question what it means to be Chinese through interactions with the white community so alien to them.

They put on ostentatious shows of traditional Confucian values such as humility, filial piety, and honour. At the same time they want to reject their ancient culture in order to fit into their new Canadian life.

Eddy is admired by Pakk and Chun because he is "educated in Chinese," but by Canadian standards, he is uneducated because he does not speak the English language proficiently. Similarly, Pakk pushes his new immigrant bride, Chun, to learn English by listening to store-purchased records.

Like many other immigrants, these three acknowledge bitterly that in this country, English is the language that rules. Communication is the first human response in a foreign place and the greatest barrier between all people.

Powder Blue Chevy's script provides a unique language experience. The dialogue is spoken English, but it is a direct translation from Chinese. Chinese-speaking members of the audience will hear distinct Chinese phrases in English. The mind translates simultaneously; the meanings are familiar but the sounds are not. It is English.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA THE CECIL H. AND IDA GREEN VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS 1990 SPRING LECTURES

SIR RICHARD DOLL

Sir Richard Doll, FRS, is Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford and was the first Warden of Green College, Oxford. Former director of the Cancer Epidemiology and Clinical Trials Unit established by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, he is currently consultant in epidemiology. His work has included studies of the causes and treatment of peptic ulcers, the causes of lung cancer and leukaemia, the occupational hazards of cancer, the effects of smoking, exposure to ionizing radiations, and the use of oral contraceptives. Knighted in 1971, Sir Richard Doll is the recipient of many honorary degrees and prestigious medals and awards.



NUTRITION AND CANCER: An Epidemiological Approach (Seminar)
Monday, March 19 In Lecture Theatre, B.C. Cancer Agency, at 12:00
HAZARDS OF LOW-LEVEL RADIATION: Have we Underestimated the Risks?
Thursday, March 19 In Woodward IRC-6, at 12:30 PM
ALCOHOL AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (Seminar)
Thursday, March 22 In Room 102, Ponderosa C Statistics Dept. at 4:00
OCCUPATIONAL CANCER: The Recognition of Small Risks (Seminar)
Friday, March 23 In Room 253, Mather Bldg., Health Care at 9:00 AM
PROGRESS AGAINST CANCER: An Epidemiologist's Assessment
Saturday, March 24 In Hall 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, at 8:15 PM (Vancouver Institute)

APPLICATIONS FOR FIVE POSITIONS ON THE 1990-1991

AMS ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

...ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The Committee provides an opportunity for UBC student artists to display their work and to bring UBC students in contact with contemporary Canadian works of art. The purpose of the Committee is to ensure that the AMS Art Collection is properly maintained, and utilized, and that Art Gallery policies are implemented.

These positions are open to UBC students. Application forms are now available from the AMS Executive Secretary in SUB room 238.

Applications must be returned by
4p.m., Friday, March 23, 1990.

Every Monday Free Film Night

Presented by the Graduate Student Society
Fireside Lounge • Hosted by Mina Shum • Starts at 6:30 pm

March 19	Loyalties
	Pow Wow Highway
March 26	Brazil
	To be or not to be

For a detailed synopsis of the Films see the March/April issue of *the Graduate* at your nearest department.

Fireside Lounge Hours:
Mon. to Thurs. 3 pm - 11 pm Friday 3 pm - 1 am

All Videos supplied by Video Stop, Broadway and Alma.



Cezanne deserves praise

by Harald Gravelsins

DYKK (The Vancouver Sun) slammed it, Wyman (The Province) thought it was decent, and Thomas (The Georgia Straight) reached ecstasy over it.

THEATRE
The Cezanne Syndrome
Pink Ink
Vancouver Little Theatre
Until March 17

The item in question is Pink Ink's presentation of The Cezanne Syndrome, an award-winning play by Quebec's Normand Canac-Marquis.

Last Saturday, the Ubysses sent one of its own to check out what the city's big shot critics were skirmishing over. Arriving without warning and waiving the free admission customarily offered to reviewers, The Ubysses got the goods, untainted by corporate allegiances, gratuities or other covert influences.

The Cezanne Syndrome is no fluffy piece of entertainment. It is presented to us through the shaken-up reminiscences of Gilbert, in which he converses alternatively with his deceased companion Suzanne and the police inspector investigating the car accident that killed her. It is a dialogue with his emotions—anger, self-recrimination, denial—refracted through shifting memories of the shared existence that has been exterminated by tragedy.

Special mention must be made of the set and the script. Habitues of the Vancouver Little Theatre know how genuine the name is. The performance space is very tight and a sell-out audience numbers about sixty people. With the current production, the audience surrounds the actors on all sides, on elevated seating. Ducking for a seat at the back means sitting in the second row.

There is no possibility of missing out on the action or hiding out behind row upon row of audience members' backs and hairdos. You are so close to the performance that you start worrying about catching the eye

of a cast member and disrupting the performance.

The script exudes both the integrity of the playwright's own experience, from which the play is drawn, and the artistry that universalizes its impact. It never resorts to exhibitionism or sensationalism to make its point, its purpose being neither to shock nor to embarrass.

Through its immediacy with the performance space, the audience shares the intimacy played out by Gilbert and Suzanne through the tempests of daily domestic life, through the natter of accusations and rebuttals, through the mistakes and imperfections that love endures willingly, in spite of any despair it might occasionally feign. There is nothing unusual about this couple. They love each other and they get under each other's skin, scratching and tussling their way through ordinary living.

The implicit power and magic of this domestic dialogue is brought out by juxtaposition with the police inspector's discourse where the pretence of concern for the bereaved survivor barely masks indifference and brutality.

With a brilliant script and an effective set going for them, does the Pink Ink cast come through?

The answer is yes. Sharon Heath and Stephen Bland, who play the couple, succeed in working up the tumult of situations and emotions on which their roles are based. Bland does, though, at times sacrifice the flow of his delivery in favour of precise articulation, an undertaking that is unnecessary in this theatre space.

Thomas Healy is superb in the role of the police inspector, capturing the tone, gait and demeanour of this character. Director Robert Garfat masterfully brings together the disjunctive dialogue and the multitude of technical elements of the production.

Disregard what you read in the Vancouver Sun about the Cezanne Syndrome. You deserve better than stock reviews concocted before a show's opening night.

Cinder-fucking-rella goes to Hollywood

by Effie Pow and Dan Andrews

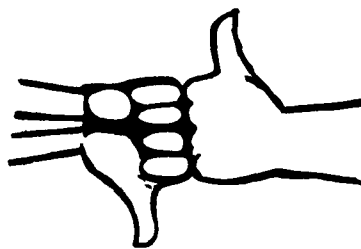
PRETTY WOMAN is a Hollywood movie about a prostitute who has hired her to be his escort for the week. He introduces her to the world of power, money and glamour, and they fall in love (neither mean to) and...well you can guess the rest.

FILM
Pretty Woman
Opens Friday

Pow: It's easy to go into the theatre to see Pretty Woman with assumptions that it will be a generic Hollywood film demeaning to women. It is demeaning. I hear a big But coming.

Andrews: This film is escapist. In the opening and closing scenes a 'Happy Man' walking down the street says: "Welcome to Hollywood. What's your dream, everyone has a dream. That's why this is Hollywood." The streets appear a bit fake, in that the sidewalks are sanitized. But then the movie wasn't about the streets.

Pow: What has sidewalks got to do with it? The movie is a modern 'Cinder-fucking-rella' story, it's supposedly a Pygmalion story for the '90s (according



to the press release). How can you expect the streets to look real? The film was entertaining, I admit reluctantly. I actually sat there and laughed at certain scenes, but by the same token, I also sat in my seat and grimaced every time Vivian Ward (Julia Roberts) appeared on the screen portrayed as an object. She's valued by the way she looks. It's the typical image of women and men that Hollywood spews out.

Andrews: At the beginning of the movie she was only interested in money. Edward Lewis (Richard Gere) was only interested in maintaining a social image. He needs a date to make a business dinner meeting look social, without the hangups of having to deal with a real person. Interestingly, he cares enough about social norms to need a date but little enough that he takes someone who is visibly out of place. They treat each other as objects, but by the end of the movie they learn they cannot continue to treat each other as objects. They care more about the person than the image.

Pow: I'm more concerned with the way women are portrayed than the superficial romantic theme of the movie. I

know men are also stereotypically portrayed. BUT it's the woman who is most often victimized in her role. Vivian is weaker socially and economically because she's a prostitute and because she is a woman. The women besides Vivian are defined by their relationships with men. The men are the power moguls, the women take the minutes, are docile and emotionally dependent. The Pygmalion story line actually reflects a destructive child-parent relationship. He is powerful, though distant, paternal figure and she is a giggling, socially insecure child. In the movie, Edward constantly says to Vivian, "Stop fidgeting, you're beautiful when you don't fidget."

Andrews: I think, the main message is revealed when she walks through the lobby in her street clothes. The looks are one of shock and revulsion, but when in her red evening dress she is a "Pretty Woman". The fact is she is the same and that a person should not be judged solely on appearance.

Pow: You see the perimeter of the whole issue—in a broad, optimistic, roundabout way. The movie is a fantasy, it's good at pulling the heart strings, but I think the point of doing this review is to point out the social ramifications of Hollywood portrayals of people, especially women. Aren't we trying to go beyond reviewing this as a good or bad movie? It is actually entertaining and funny, but once you get used to a certain way of thinking, it's easier to recognize the negative images.

Andrews: I can see a message against racism, sexism and prejudice. I want to know what's wrong with a woman looking pretty. It's wrong if it stops there. You have to accept the woman as an individual, not only as an object. She may be pretty but she has a mind too.

Pow: No problem, I agree. But it's not just a matter of a woman looking beautiful. The movie projects the standard of beauty constantly perpetuated by media. The advertisement for this movie depicts Julia Roberts back to back with Richard Gere, she's wearing a short miniskirt and thigh-high boots and he's wearing a black suit. The stereotypes are more damaging to women. Viewers should be aware of the unequal power relationships depicted. I'd give it thumbs down.

Andrews: The primary purpose of this movie is to entertain and this movie does. I give it a thumbs up.

Effie Pow and Dan Andrews are Ubysses staffers who aspire to become Siskel and Ebert. (They don't really like each other...they just couldn't get dates)



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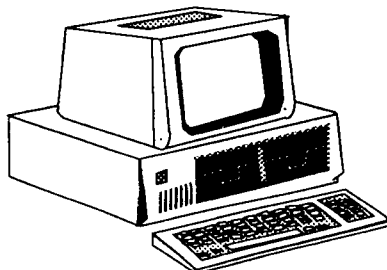
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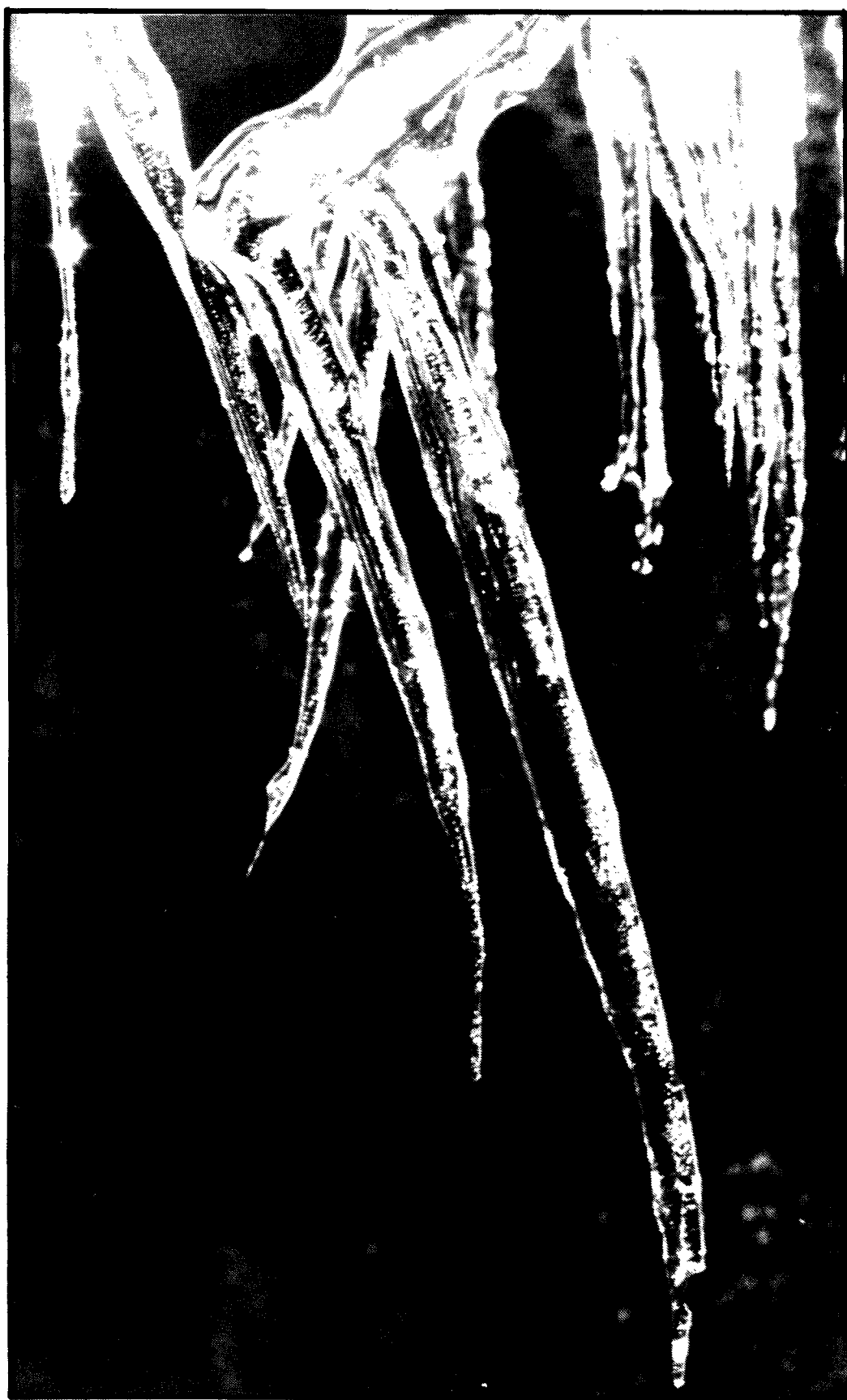
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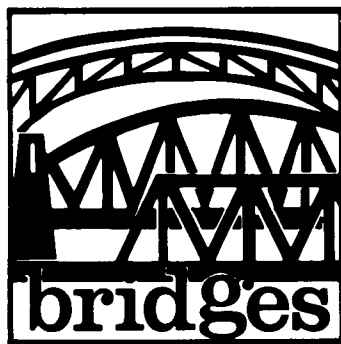
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Winter reflections '90.

DAN ANDREWS PHOTO

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Bridges restaurant is hiring staff to work on our
Granville Island dock for the summer.

If you are an experienced sailor we are looking for
waiters and bartenders. If you are just getting
your sea legs, we have positions open for
waiter's assistants, bussers and hosts.

Drop off your resumé with the first mates of
the S.S. Bridges at stateroom #5 - 1551 Johnston,
Granville Island, March 14, 15 and 16,
between 2:30 - 5:30 PM,
Saturday March 17, between 9 - 11 AM.

Collect more than just sand dollars this summer!

Truckdwellling: A shitty way to live (the corrected text)

by Steve Conrad

The sun is beating down on
my face and it's really starting to
heat up in the truck. It's 10:00; I've
slept in past the end of the univer-
sity swim. No shower this morn-
ing.

Outside I can hear talking.
Looking up and out the window, I
can see an older man standing
outside a Jeep with Nevada plates.
He is drawing away a pile of garbage
from the trunk of a 1984 Skylark.
Both men seem to admire the
view. Their presence annoys me.
It's bad enough facing the day
from the back of a truck, even
without being caught in the act.
The whole reason for parking way
the hell out here on Marine Drive
is to avoid facing strangers when I
wake up.

I've been living in the back of
this truck for about three weeks
now. Already longer than I'd been
expecting to stay. The apartment
hunting hasn't been coming along
too well.

In general, motor vehicles are
not good places to live, but I can't
admit that this situation annoys
me because it's my own fault that
I'm here. Anyway, I've lived in
worse places. Beach infestations,
Mexican hotels, foggy trails,
planting tents, dirt houses with
obnoxious room mates—truck
dwellling isn't all that bad. I try to
convince myself that living in JBC
is an adventure compared with visit-
ing a foreign country or roaming
the wilds of the BC interior.

When I was green, wanting
many of my tent-dwelling co-work-
ers were a little less than my big,
dry Wagoner. However, here in
Vancouver most people live in
buildings; consequently they
aren't so easily impressed.

Journalists are easily im-
pressed, though. I've already had
two offers to go public with my
squalor—once from the CBC and
another time from MacLean's. Not
that I'd consider accepting. Hardly
the way to make a splash in a new
town.

too much work to try to live any way
around that. When people find
out I don't have a home as such,
they usually drop the subject
abruptly, as though they'd asked
me how's it hanging, only to dis-
cover I'd recently lost a testicle to
cancer.

Back to the gate. Outside the
content of the gate is a few
minutes of my time, the belliger-
ent barcade now has the nerve to
demand a quarter of me. I can't
find the bills, are loons aplenty
but no quarters.

I haven't been awake long
enough to think reasonably in an
angry mood like this. I feel
like smashing my grill against the barrier,
which flexes effortlessly.

It probably wouldn't even
scratch my paint.

The hell about it. I don't seem
to be taking much notice of me so
I get dressed and head out in search
of a parking spot.

The really shitty thing about
living in a truck is that I am
obliged to put in so many hours
behind the wheel trying to park.
Some waste their time watching
TV; I waste mine watching the
road.

At this time of day, most of the
cheap parking spots will be taken
already. I'm going at an easy half
an hour before I'll find any way to
ditch the truck for the day for
under \$5. The backpacks perma-
nently attached to the backs of
many students are a source of
plenty of irritation to be bound to
1700kg of metal. Obviously a far
more serious problem.

When I find a spot I live (as
happened today) in the chit
chat with my mates. I freely
admit I live in a truck. It would be
I pull up to one of the B-lots.
10:30 already. Hardly worth look-
ing, except the sign doesn't say
FULL and the gate opens to let me
through.

Not a space to be seen, cars
everywhere. The narrow passage-
ways of the lot meant more for
compact cars than for bulky units.

On my own, I can't manage
such a co-operative cheat. How-
ever, seeing those two student
sneek in to park in the aisle way
cheers me up.

I dig through the back of the
truck in search of a quarter.
In Banff, when I pulled all of my
stuff in back of the truck, it didn't
seem like much. A couple of bags of
clothes, some books, my camping
equipment, whatever tree-
planting gear I didn't bother to
throw out and a set of tools. Now, it

seems I have to examine each item
individually whenever I look for
something like this damn quarter
or a text book that suddenly goes
missing five minutes before class.
There isn't really enough room to
move this clutter around. It's like
I'm trying to toes salad in an un-
dersized bowl.

There's a tire iron in my sleep-
ing bag. For some reason, the tool
kit won't slide off the pile of dirty
laundry. The whole mess reminds
me of one of those stupid puzzles I
never had the patience to finish as
a kid.

Eventually, I find a quarter in
a pair of dirty pants, and manage
to placate the B-lot.

Still, I'm not free of the vehicle
yet. With time this gas guzzling
monstrosity seems to seem almost
like an extension of my body, much
to the detriment of my self-image.
I become fat and rusty. I bachel

smoke and other obnoxious fluids. I
make mysterious clunking
sounds.

I scour the free parking along
Marine Drive. I check out the spots
on Westbrook Mall.

A grassy knoll behind Gage
catches my eye.

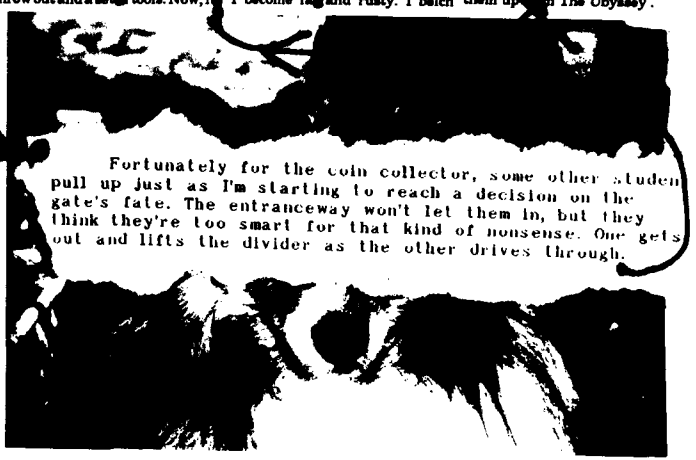
Could I park there? Let's just
drive up on the grass and see.

Without slowing down, I pull
into the lawn.

No, not much parking poten-
tial here, but it's been fun checking
it out.

Squeezing between a couple of
landscaped trees, I resume my
place in the traffic. I realize that
what I have just done wasn't really
normal, so I decide to call off the
hunt and settle for parking in one
of the pull-outs on University Blvd.,
even though it means missing my
class.

No problem. I'll just go to the
Ponderosa annex for some more
accommodating fistings and phone
them up on The Ubysssey.



Fortunately for the coin collector, some other student
pull up just as I'm starting to reach a decision on the
gate's fate. The entranceway won't let them in, but they
think they're too smart for that kind of nonsense. One gets
out and lifts the divider as the other drives through.

Fable shatters human myth



You may only spend 30 seconds—if at all—a day to notice and acknowledge a stranger. But after watching *The Bear*, you will be observing the nature of humans as if you were watching an animal up close for the first time. You will be motivated to interact.

What is a human? We have spent centuries distinguishing our superiority by pinpointing our intellect. We see very little of our other aspects. When other animals meet, all secrets are known. For us, even our nature is secret and we seldom choose to show ourselves.

by Chung Wong

THERE is not another human being around as a film opens with scenes of endless landscapes.

Immersed in the scene, you feel completely isolated—and begin to notice your feelings and fears.

Your heart is like that of a nervous child's—desperately hyperpulsating.

FILM
The Bear
Paradise Cinema
Opens Soon

You gain comfort when brought to a scene of a bear and her cub poking at a beehive licking honey at high speeds and humorously trying to paw away the swarms of bees off their fur.

The mother, however, is crushed by a falling rock. Suddenly, you feel insecure. The cub reminds us of our human design. Its tears and sensitive touching of the corpse create an emotional struggle between your true feelings and your heart which has been conditioned to society's regulations.

Alone in this huge impressively uninhabited land, the cub ventures out on its own.

The soundtrack pulsates with the cub's whimpering. It makes sounds you have not made in so long—they seem to hit your natural frequency. Instinctively, you become aware of crying—its natural mechanics—its source—and its nature.

The Bear makes you tap deep into the well of your soul until you find water.

When the cub dreams, we see transfigured images relayed in colour negatives. It is just one method the film uses to peel different layers of the cub's being.

Have humans lost their lustre—their playfulness? We feel so upon watching *The Bear*.

In the city, in our lifestyles, we have been required to relate only to buildings, sidewalks, traffic lights, signs, packages, office clothing (uniforms), cars and buses, and the mind games of social modes when we deal with people or ourselves. They are distractions to which we connect ourselves, and upon which we act and respond.

In *The Bear*, we are isolated from all these luxuries. Placed in an unfamiliar environment, we cannot connect to anything; we are forced to face ourselves.

When humans enter, they become a haunting element to us—we know humans too well. Their behaviour, which was once normal to us, has become frightening. Our polarity is transformed.

The film includes a selection of very impressive shots. In an interesting perspective, the camera takes a peek at the

night's haunting sky through a ring of bullets.

In another shot we see, through the bullet hole of a tree, the eye of a young hunter who has just shot it. The experience has reverberating psychological effects.

In pursuit of a 1500 pound grizzly, this young hunter manages to shoot its shoulder but it gets away. He remains obstinate and continues the pursuit along with an old wise hunter.

The grizzly's aura is frightening, it reminds us of an angry human who has travelled roads we've never known. And in the wilderness, there are many to travel. The cub senses the bear and follows it with difficulty. Eventually the grizzly allows the cub to come near when it rests in a puddle. The cub licks its wound. And the grizzly responds by licking the cub's mouth—it is the articulation of their affection.

When both bears stand as two...scanning the mountains—our spirits rise.

The film captures the integrity of animals. And later, it brings us close to our own integrity.

When the young hunter leaves his ammunition at his scouting post to douse himself in water sprinkling, the director captures the lucidity of the moment he is caught by the grizzly. Instinctively, he picks up a rock but fear makes him drop it. The grizzly leaves.

Good films make you notice things you overlook.

In stripping away all of society's fabric, distractions, businesses, politics, intellect, community—the film places you face to face with the well of your soul.

The Bear makes you tap deep until you find water.

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WRITTEN BY BILL MULLAN AL THURGOOD JOHN CONTI PHIL SAVATH KEN LESTER Produced in association with E.C. Film

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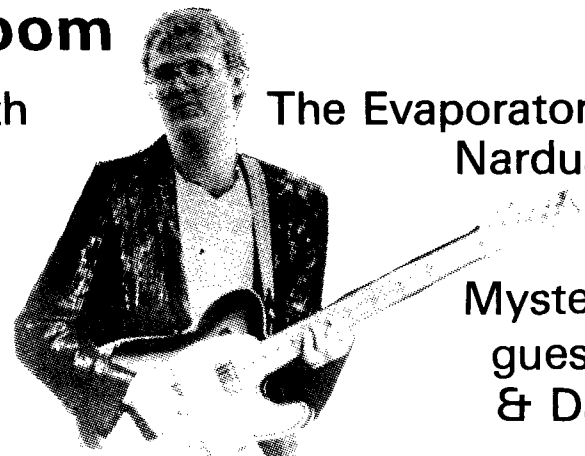
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In The

**Ubyyssey Office
5 p.m.**

Editorial

Displacement domino effect

A prediction: if we see a rise in militancy in the next few years here in sleepy Vancouver it will be over housing.

Few have been untouched by the rapid rise in rents in Vancouver over the past several years. For many of us, having shelter can suck up to 70 per cent of our incomes; that's 30 hours in a 40 hour work week devoted to rent.

For the first time Vancouver faces the possibility of large numbers of homeless on the scale of most major American cities.

The process is known as gentrification.

Gentrification is the displacement of low income residents by higher income households through conversion or replacement.

At the bottom end of the scale many of the hotels and rooming houses in the Downtown Eastside (Main and Hastings area) are being lost to demolitions or conversions to things like up-scale offices. This area, which has traditionally been the safety net before hitting the streets, has seen the loss of more than 1,000 units, about 10 per cent of its total stock, since 1985.

Emergency shelters like the Lookout have begun turning people away for the first time in its history.

At the same time, displacement is a chain effect that begins at the highest levels. Gentrification is pushing Kerrisdale tenants into Marpole or East Vancouver, raising rents in these areas, and pushing tenants from East Van into the Downtown Eastside, where, in turn, hotels are bumping up their rents in response to the influx, some like the Columbia, as much as 60 per cent. The new rents are beyond the means of the traditional tenants of the hotel rooms and push them into the streets.

The 1980's according to UBC prof David Hulchanski will be known as the decade of homelessness.

The problem is rooted in the logic of the marketplace. Developers can only make a profit by building upper scale condos, and these condos are replacing low end housing. Beyond this, the problem is rooted even further in the logic of capitalism, which sees something as fundamental as housing as a legitimate commodity for profit and gain.

We may see a situation like New York, which is in a state of advanced gentrification, which has 200,000 families on the waiting list for public housing. In response to this, many have gone militant. An estimated squatters community of over 500 exists in the lower east side itself. They are organized and radical.

Militancy thrives when bread-and-butter issues are attacked. Housing is one of those "issues" so close to home that it is impossible to ignore.

The continuing housing crisis will force many of us to become radical if we wish to stop being victims.

THE UBYSSY

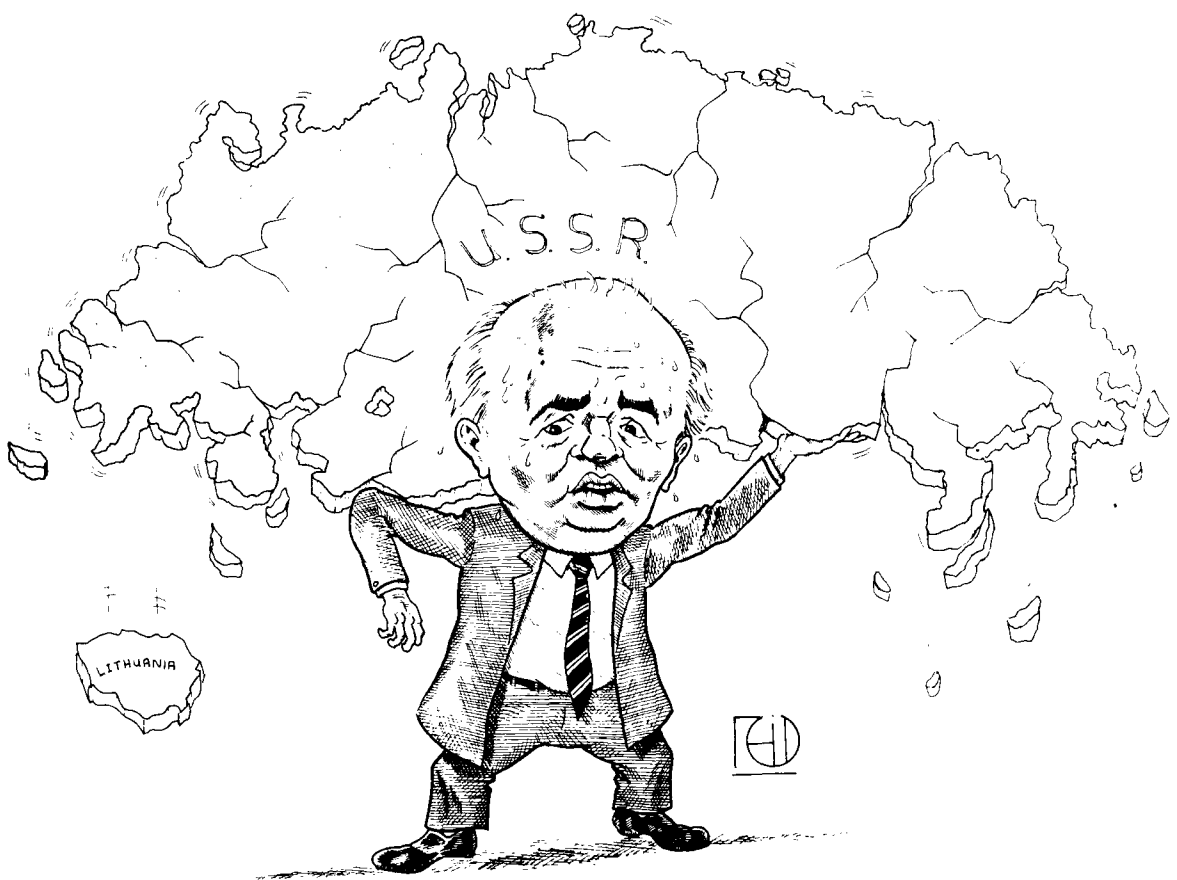
March 16, 1990

The Ubyssy is published Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the academic year 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 Ubyssy is published with the proud support of the Alumni Association. The Ubyssy is a member of Canadian University Press. The editorial office is Rm. 241k of the Student Union Building. Editorial Department, phone 228-2301;

In the depth of the dark room, Corinne Bjorge and Wong Kwok Sum cackled in glee as they pored over the secret message from mastermind Hao Li, a seemingly harmless staffer, who wiled away the hours behind the black mask pretending to be sleeping, while really concocting plans to create—the model average Ubyssy staffer. They sent word to Chung Wong, who lulled the unsuspecting staff to sleep by reciting his opening lines, and to Nicholas Ionedes and James Dolan, who dragged in the hapless victims one by one as Bjorge and Wong stood waiting with the wax, tape and knives. They were going to show them all how to think for themselves. First to go were Franka Cordua-von Specht and Nadene Rehnby, who, combined had been in planes, trains, automobiles in 16 countries, followed by Harald Gravelins still mumbling in French about the FLQ. Steve Conrad was almost victimized but awoke as Chung's voice broke and ran to go treeplanting in the Amazon with Rick Hiebert, who dashed back to grab his hidden stack of the National Review thereby stumbling across the bodies of Mark Nielsen, who was surprised, and Elaine Griffith who took quick action and wrote a letter to the government which Andrew Boyle typed for her. Ernie Stelzer was stripped off his oppressing conservative cloak and emerged a born again anarchist while Ted Aussem came out of the closet and admitted that he was an NDP'er and proud of it. Effie and Greg admitted to their Torontonian upbringing, and Michael Booth of his dreams of marital bliss, and Yukie Kurahashi of her radical feminist leanings. Paul Dayson (of Kerrisdale upbringing) and Keith Leung and Joe Altwasser were rejected by Bjorge and Wong (the three went to squat in Germany) who had finished their model of the average staffer, Dan Andrews, the legend...

EDITORS

Joe Altwasser • Franka Cordua-von Specht
Nadene Rehnby • Chung Wong • Keith Leung



Letters

Wickle invites you

The AMS Students Council, at its last meeting, has just recently struck the Drug & Alcohol Awareness Committee (hopefully, we will come up with a better name at our first meeting!). The purpose of this committee is not to preach or harass students on the evils of alcohol but rather to provide factual information on the use and abuse of these substances (both legal and illegal) and provide social alternatives other than the annual Wednesday Pit lineup. If anyone is interested in getting involved in something like this it would be great if you could get ahold of myself or Jason Brett.

The first meeting will be Thursday March 22 at 12:30 in Room 260 in the SUB. If you have an idea or two of events, etc we could put on, please drop it by the AMS exec offices or call Jason or myself at 228-3092 or 228 2050.

Johanna Wickie
AMS Vice President

Feeling guilty?

I have always believed that the combination of being both opinionated and uninformed is a particularly dangerous one. Unfortunately, such appears to be the case for Ubyssy sports scribe Michael Booth, who saw fit to express a rather strong opinion (Technically Foul, Feb. 14, 1990) without knowing the complete score.

Mr. Booth charges that the Athletic Department is to blame for poor attendance at women's basketball games, and, specifically states, "it is no surprise to learn that the gym is virtually empty until around half way through the second half when people start to arrive for the men's game in the higher profile time slot."

I am writing this from courtside and it is well into

The Ubyssy welcomes letters on any issue. Letters which are not typed will not be accepted. Letters over 200 words may be edited for brevity. Please be concise. Content which is libelous, slanderous, racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise unfit for publication will not be published. Please bring letters, with identification, to our editorial office, Room 241K, SUB. Letters must include name, faculty or department, year of study and signature.

the second half, and despite UBC hosting the best women's team in the country, the stands are still virtually empty. This suggests to me that it is not the time that is so much the problem, but simply the very sad truth that women's sports, not only at UBC but virtually everywhere, do not draw as well as men's competition.

Mr. Booth also states that he does not accept the department's explanation that the games are scheduled unusually early to accommodate media deadlines. I was surprised to know how little Mr. Booth, himself a competent journalist, knows about the press. It is not only our own Vancouver media who want scores prior to make-up call (TV), 10:00 P.M. major broadcasts (radio) and morning paper deadlines (Province), but the media in other provinces are facing even stricter deadlines given the change in time zones. That is why Canadian Press wires service is the first to receive results, so that they can be moved in time for Alberta newspapers, who are particularly anxious to get results of teams such as the much-publicized Calgary women's basketball team.

As for local press, I would have thought that it would be obvious to Mr. Booth that there are many people on our phone list and that the earlier we can get scores to all media, the better the chance at maximizing the number, as well as the length of the various broadcasts and newspaper columns. That is the reason why the University of Victoria's results rarely appear on the evening sports. Their games start 45 minutes later and that is enough time to eliminate them from receiving valuable press.

Had Mr. Booth given the Athletic Department a better chance to explain the

rationale behind these admittedly awkward game times, he would have also been told that it is our intention to attract as many student and community members to our games as possible. Unfortunately, the Pit Pub and other social events on campus seem to be our most formidable competition and scheduling the games later seems to cut into students' much-valued party time. Not only that, but families who want to bring children to our games would be less inclined to do so if the games went on much past 10:00 P.M.

In addition, had Mr. Booth inquired a little further, he would have been told that up until 1987-88, the women's games began at 6:45 and there was little, if any, increase in attendance.

Don Wells
UBC Sport Information Officer

Womens' issue warms cockles of reader's heart

Your "womyn's issues" edition of The Ubyssy (Tuesday, March 13) was a welcome breath of fresh air. After years of your left-wing, anarchist drivel, I was delighted to read such a witty, satirical piece of work. Allow me to commend you further.

The editorial set the tone for the rest of the paper. I almost took it seriously until the cheering started. Remember? "And so, this is a cheer for women. And this is also a cheer for men." What men? You already kicked them out for the night so that you could put the paper together. OK, I'm smiling now.

Then you hint at the connection between feminists and lesbians in the "Dykes Unlimited" piece. It was truly daring to bend

those guidelines on sexist content!

But it gets better! The story on "Advertising's Bad Influence" reads like a Monty Python script. I can see John Cleese playing the part of the female editor, grimacing at the nasty sexism in the movie ad. How ironic to include a copy of the ad and make it seem accidental! Brilliant!

My favourite bit was your use of that irritating spelling of womyn. You know, the one that dares to include "man" in it.

Tell me, who's the clever man that came up with the idea?

Jeremy Cooperstock
Engineering 4

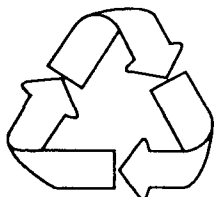
Anti-semitism?

This is in reference to A. Saul's letter of March 2, "Hammer and Sickle Flies in Gage". His/her not so subtle inference that Jews control the media is not worthy of a response. However, we would like to address our comments towards The Ubyssy editorial staff who somehow let this letter be printed in direct violation of your own policy that prohibits the printing of letters with racist content.

Being as this is your stated policy we can only surmise that either you don't consider this offensive comment racist, or that there was a gross oversight on your part.

We are angered and disappointed by the publication of that letter.

Jacqui Barron
Law 2
and six others



Recycle this newspaper

Freedom of the press threatened

by Hai V. Le

Whatever happened to press censorship?

Veli Yilmaz ought to know. Editor and writer of a Marxist publication that was legal in Turkey before the 1980 military coup, he was slapped a 748-year prison term for his work.

Under the 1982 constitution drawn up by the military regime, it is a crime to insult the government, president, or spread communist or separatist propaganda.

Mr. Yilmaz is not alone. There other Turkish journalists and editors have sentences exceeding 100 years.

In Turkey, journalism may lead to jail but in some places around the world — Mexico, for instance — it is a murderous profession. Since May 1984, an average of one journalist has been killed every two months.

The killings are attempts by corrupted local authorities, drug traffickers, and big landlords to silence, and to intimidate responsible journalists from speaking the truth. In addition, many others were attacked, robbed, abducted, or tortured. Some publications were raided or closed down.

As recent as a few days ago, an Iranian-born British journalist was hanged by Iraqi authorities for alleged spying.

In many parts of the world, journalists pay with their lives, and their freedom so that information may prevail over silence.

Freedom of the press, a ba-

rometer of how free a society really is, took a nosedive in 1987 when 25 journalists were killed and 200 arrested while on duty.

The plight of Yilmaz and others draws attention to the threats that confront the right to freedom of expression, one of the fundamental human rights.

Censorship and repression are hallmarks of totalitarian regimes in faraway and exotic places. In a Western society like ours which is relatively free, we often assume — or are led to believe — that our press is free too.

Not quite.

Western democratic ideals hold that the press must not be censored or its voice muffled and that the fundamental concept of a free marketplace of ideas as a means of arriving at solutions to difficult problems must be nurtured and upheld.

But at present some totalitarian regimes are moving in the reverse direction of press censorship — the Soviet Union, for instance, has removed prior censorship for all publications, broadcasts, and films — some democratic governments are moving in the opposite direction and resorting to arbitrary measures to silence the unwanted views, not mentioning subtle pressure exerted on the media conglomerates to toe the governments' lines.

Witness the British government's ban on radio or television interviews with Northern Ireland guerrilla groups and their sympa-

thizers. The government continues to block publication of some stories and books through the use of the Official Secrets Act.

South of the border, under the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act, foreign journalists whose work does

not meet with official approval may be detained and deported upon arrival at a US airport.

Freedom of expression is a basic condition for the progress of a democratic society. If the democracies don't clean up their acts,

people who suffer from human rights abuses or press censorship may not breathe easier knowing that some Western governments will only reveal their hypocrisy if and when they speak out against repression in other places.



Graphic: The Strand

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Hampton towers raise ruckus

by Mark Nielsen

The Greater Vancouver Regional District parks committee has a problem with the high rise towers planned for Hampton Place.

On Wednesday the GVRD unanimously agreed to request that the UBC Real Estate Corporation modify the high rises to be more compatible with the view.

The committee agreed the height of the three high rises, located at the entrance way adjacent to Pacific Spirit Park, would "definitely have a negative visual impact" on the view.

Bowie Keefer, a director of the Endowment Lands Regional Parks Committee, described the towers as "three very upthrust fingers of concrete rearing above the trees and dominating the park at its most sensitive point."

The chances, however, of finding a realistic alternative is slim, according to UBC REC president Mark Betteridge.

Lowering the number of storeys in each tower is impossible because doing so would reduce revenue, he said.

Instead, the three towers in question would have to be combined into one creating a visually unpleasing "solid wall of concrete."

Relocation is also out of the question, Betteridge said, because the services for the project have already been put into the ground.

Betteridge said moving the buildings from their present location would contradict the overall design concept.

"One of the perspectives that isn't being looked at is that you've got to consider the view from the

university end coming up 16th Avenue," he said.

"Park proponents don't seem too concerned about that. You'll get the same problem but from a different end."

Betteridge cited a June 1989 letter from the GVRD which supported plans for Hampton Place.

Much of the report was based on a 90-minute slide show presented during a public information meeting held on campus in February.

Several of the slides showed the view from a balloon sent up to a height equal to that of the top floor of the 80 metre tall high rises once completed.

Stated the report: "This clearly demonstrated that the upper floors of the towers would exceed the tree line of Pacific Spirit Park."



The politics of squatting

continued from page 1

to do it," said Noreen Shanahan of the TRC.

"Tenants are being forced out and buildings are being left empty," she said.

And the magnitude of the development is incredible—"Between January and July last year, 1009 units were demolished throughout the city," she said.

In response to the lack of government intervention the TRC has been planning to become much more active in helping people facing a housing crisis.

Shanahan is documenting the numbers of vacant buildings throughout the city and hopes to take a rough census of the number of people living in them.

Squatting is new to the TRC but Shanahan says they will help and use their exposure to the media and the government to show the public what level the

housing crisis has reached.

Shanahan believes another of the culprits of the housing crisis is gentrification.

"Gentrification is being seen all over the city. Before if you could not afford to live in Kits or Kerrisdale, you moved to the east end. We are now talking about the east end (becoming unaffordable)," she said.

"Vancouver is turning into a city for the rich. People on low and fixed income housing cannot find places to live. People are being forced out of the city," she said.

The TRC is now dealing with the fallout of the rising housing prices.

"Because of the rent increases people are not able to pay their rent anymore," said Shanahan.

"Squatting is another result of the worsening times," said Shanahan. "People are becoming desperate and political action is a way of finding housing."

Sandra Campbell, 23, (a pseudonym) is a third year philosophy student at UBC and is part of another squat in the Commercial area.

Sandra's place is not the burnt out husk that many often assume most squats to be. The place has heat, electricity, hot-water, and a stove and fridge.

Both Sandra's and Megan's buildings have not been condemned but are only vacant because they are going to be replaced by condominiums.

Campbell said: "in the best of all worlds I would rather not be squatting. But this not the best of all worlds and that is the point."

Squatting is not a glamorous lifestyle.

"What struck me about squatting was the instability of it. You can only have a few things there and everything seems so barren. The kitchen, everything," she said.

Campbell said the squats are symbol around which the local radical community can coalesce.

"The squats provide a venue to say something—to do something."

"The word of our squat took off. People were very interested."

"On the east side the squats have become a symbol for us," she said. "There is a housing crisis and here is proof that something can be done about it."

David Hulchanski of the UBC's centre for human settlement agreed that the issue of squatting is only a desperate response to the extremely poor Vancouver housing situation.

"It is only when a situation becomes desperate that these measures will be taken," said Hulchanski.

Hulchanski believed the response of the squatters and the legal aid organisations is symptomatic of the 1980's—a decade he said will be known as, "the decade of homelessness."

Hulchanski said the future appears bleak for the housing situation in Vancouver, especially after the recent federal government budget slashed social housing by

approximately 15 per cent.

Hulchanski expects the cuts will translate into about 200 social housing units not being built in the Vancouver area and "roughly 3,000 across the country."

Hulchanski emphasized that squatting is not the answer to the housing crisis but a method of direct action to raise awareness to the problems people are experiencing. "It is a form of saying something to society—to do something," he said.

John Winsor, a housing planner with the city planning department says the city is unaware of any squatting in Vancouver, but he is aware of cases where people remove boardings and move in temporarily.

"Homelessness is supposed to be on the increase but it is a difficult thing to measure," said Winsor.

But Shanahan also cautions society against thinking that squatting is an housing option: "Squatting is not the answer, cheaper housing is."

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3. Report from Council
4. Auditor's Report
5. Replacement of Auditor
6. Constitutional and By-Law Amendments
7. Poetry Recitation

Agenda B

1. Peter Huron Jazz and Blue - 5 pm
2. Hot Food in the Fireside - 6 pm
3. Los Tropicós Reggae and Calypso - 9 pm

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wink, wink.