

DEADLY EXPORTS

It's been weeks since France announced an end to its nuclear test policy in the South Pacific, but activists are only just beginning to realize how extensively Canada's uranium exports aided the program.

With a group of university activists vowing to blockade any further shipments, CUP'S Chris Scott explains why the issue is bound to remain explosive.

The load starts out in northern Saskatchewan. Bundled onto trucks later used to haul groceries to native communities, it speeds over bleak roads on a 12-truck trek south to Saskatoon. From there, it is carried by rail, then inventoried, road, purified, in a gas, and mixed into a gas. By the time it enters Montréal, the uranium hexafluoride is so dangerous that a single collision could produce an explosion and a low-level toxic cloud of over 2.5 square kilometers.

Canada is the world's foremost producer of uranium, commanding roughly 30 percent of the world market. With France's domestic mines yielding less than 15 percent of its own supply, the French government relies heavily on Canadian reserves.

In fact, the French company COGEMA (Coalition Generale des Matieres Nucleaires), 90 percent owned by the French Atomic Energy Commission, now controls half of all uranium operations in Saskatchewan, home to the large majority of Canada's active uranium mines.

But it is the distinction between "civilian" and military uses of the material in France and other import countries that remains the source of a growing controversy between activists and government.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Ariel deLouya insists that controls are in place to uphold Canada's post-1965 policy of exporting for peaceful purposes only.

"Any time Canada wants to export a good, be it a dangerous or controlled good, it has to be approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs," says deLouya.

In the case of uranium, a second agency—the federal Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB)—also must issue an export licence.

But according to a 1995 Greenpeace report titled *The French Connection*, France routinely re-directs Canadian

uranium in its "civilian" plant to other uses—all with Canada's approval.

The only requirement is that France be able to account for an amount of uranium equivalent to Canada's exports in its civilian inventory. But since France has a similar, but independent, agreement with almost every country it imports from, it could theoretically be using the same physical uranium to convince

each country its supply is being used for peaceful purposes.

The French Connection also reports that the large portion (around 80 percent) of radioactive material "discarded" as low-grade could also be used to produce atom bombs.

Considerations like these led to a 1993 finding by a joint panel of the federal and Saskatchewan governments that "no proven method exists for preventing the incorporation of Canadian uranium into weapons." LUCY SHIH GRAPHIC

Political rhetoric and sizable profits, however, outstrip governments' commitment to world peace.

Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow argued in a recent letter that "because wars begin in the minds of men," withholding Saskatchewan uranium from world markets would be "irrelevant for all practical purposes."

Saskatchewan is the world's foremost uranium producer, and according to the federally-sponsored Nuclear Canada Yearbook, annual national profits from the sale of uranium stand at about \$1 billion.

And despite the end of the French test program and Chirac's professed commitment to have France play an "active and determined role for world disarmament," COGEMA shows no signs of pulling out of Saskatchewan.

In fact, according to Phillip Prena of the Saskatoon-based Inter-Church Uranium Committee, the company is *expanding*, having recently bought out Midwest Joint Venture and applied for permits in new areas.

Such moves raise fears that despite the international media's focus on nuclear weapons testing, there is still no accord to prevent states from stockpiling uranium for use in untested bombs.

Greenpeace Canada Campaigns Co-ordinator Steve Shalhorn is outraged, charging that not only domestic but also Australian uranium reaches France through Canadian ports.

The raw product, known as yellowcake, arrives via Europe through the Port of Montréal. From there it is transferred to one of two Ontario refineries: Blind River (on the North shore of Georgian Bay) and Port Hope (100 km east of Toronto).

Uranium trucks enter Montréal anywhere from once a month to once a week, says Shalhorn. The transport raises critical safety concerns, including the possibility of a leak, but nuclear suppliers refuse to bear any responsibility for such an event.

Canada's Nuclear Liability Act exempts suppliers from paying compensation in the event of even a massive accident.

The nuclear complex is the only industry in Canada with this immunity.

The power of an international, multi-billion dollar complex can seem overwhelming, but citizens' groups elsewhere have succeeded in bringing the nuclear supply lines to a halt.

Intense public pressure has banned uranium mining in British Columbia, for example, and a non-violent Greenpeace lockdown last August paralyzed the Port Hope refinery for several hours.

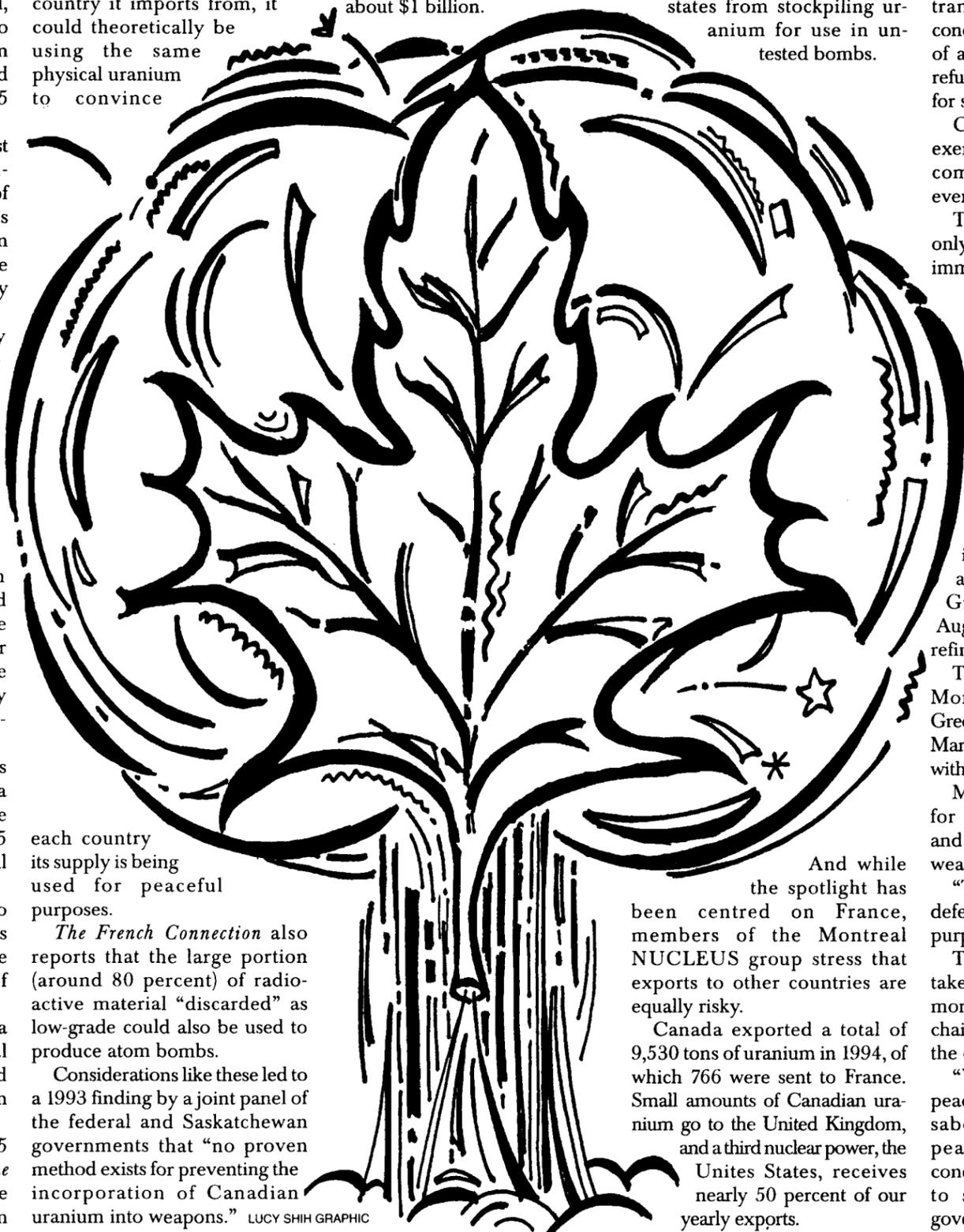
The upcoming blockade in Montréal will be similar to Greenpeace's in nature, says Judith Marshall, who has worked closely with NUCLEUS members.

Marshall has nothing but scorn for Chirac's recent statements and dismisses his view of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

"There is no such thing as a defensive nuke. A nuke has one purpose: to kill," Marshall says.

The first blockade will likely take place within the next two months, and is hoped to trigger a chain reaction of blockades along the entire supply route.

"While pretending to be a peace leader, Canada is actually sabotaging the international peace process," Marshall condemns. "It's time for citizens to stand up for what their governments claim to believe in."



And while the spotlight has been centred on France, members of the Montreal NUCLEUS group stress that exports to other countries are equally risky.

Canada exported a total of 9,530 tons of uranium in 1994, of which 766 were sent to France. Small amounts of Canadian uranium go to the United Kingdom, and a third nuclear power, the United States, receives nearly 50 percent of our yearly exports.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:

Approaching the cutting edge

by Scott Hayward

Not content to rest on the laurels of last weekend's bronze medal at the CIAU championship, the women's volleyball team is already planning for next year.

"This is sort of the most exciting part of it, once you're in the hunt," said coach Doug Reimer. "You get 80 percent of your improvement with 20 percent of your work. If you're starting to scratch the high end of your potential, it demands certain things."

"This is where, as players and hopefully in terms of general life skills, they will get the most benefit because they will be forced to deal with something a little bit extra, contributing a little bit more."

"We're all going to improve, it's just a matter of who can improve the most within that one year."

—T-Bird starter
Tanya Pickerell

Reimer took over the program two years ago after the team finished with a dismal 1-15 record. In his first year, the team came fifth at the national championship, and this year they improved to a third place finish.

Joanne Ross, who was Canada West's leading kill-getter this year, credits Reimer with the team's success.

"We have good players, but he brings out the best," she said. "He takes what was an average player and makes her a very, very good player."

Tanya Pickerell, who was named to the tournament all-star team this weekend, agrees. "Technically, everyone has improved on the team [under Reimer]," she said. "He has also helped us with the mental aspects of the game like staying positive, forgetting about the last mistake."

That mental attitude helped the T-Birds against Manitoba in the first round of the eight team playoff competition last weekend, especially coming off a tough loss to Alberta in the Canada West championship.

"[First rounds] are almost nerve-racking in the sense that, if you lose, you're in the consolation side and everybody knows it," Reimer said.

UBC won that match 3-1, but then dropped a 3-1 contest to top-ranked Laval Rouge in the semifinals. After the Rouge lost their top player to a knee injury at the end of the second game, UBC came back and stole game three but fell behind in game four.

"[We] came back facing elimination, fought hard, and fell



GARÇON, GARÇON? T-Bird starters Tanya Pickerell, Kim Perree, Jeannette Guichon, and Janna Lunam wait for service in their Canada West semi-final match against Saskatchewan.

SCOTT HAYWARD PHOTO

just a little short," Reimer said.

Laval lost to the Canada West champion Alberta Pandas in the final, while UBC squared off against third-ranked Winnipeg for the bronze medal.

"They were seeded above us, but we knew we could take them," Ross said. "After we lost the semis we thought that we should at least get a bronze so we played pretty well."

"We lost a tough first game 15-13 and came back very well," Reimer said. The T-Birds won the second and third games, and rebounded from a 14-10 fourth game deficit to take the bronze medal.

"The players showed a lot of jam to finish. That's a great way to finish the season," Reimer said. "I felt we might have been the one group that was still really growing as that tournament went."

While all six UBC starters will return next year, so will Alberta's. "I think the competition is just going to get tougher," Pickerell said. "We're all going to improve, it's just a matter of who can

improve the most within that one year."

But Reimer sees Alberta as a motivating factor to help the Birds this year. "They've helped make us a better team," he said. "If we didn't have a team like that, maybe we don't beat the Winnipegs and Manitobas that have traditionally done very well, so there's a definite two-edged sword."

Reimer plans to stay in contact with his players over the summer and monitor them as they work on strength training and overall fitness to prepare for next season. With the memory of last weekend fresh in their minds, the players are motivated.

"It's hard at the beginning of the year to think of nationals," Ross said. "But at nationals its easy to look back and see what you should have done."

"Now you've got to do that July 15 when you're working and everybody else is going to the beach," Reimer said. "Championships may be won at that time. That's where I like to kick in the 80-20 principle."

'TWEENS

Friday, March 8

SPEAKER
UBC Law Student Jillian Caulder will speak about her experiences at the U.N. Women's Conference. Presented by Amnesty International, SUB 206, 12:30pm.

COFFEE HOUSE ORGANIZED FOR
International Women's Day by the Womens Centre. Womens Centre (SUB), 11:30 am.

Saturday, March 9
WOMEN'S WENLIDO SELF-DEFENCE COURSE
Presented by the Women's Centre. To pre-register, please call Victory at 822-2163. Cost is \$35. SUB 212A, 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Monday, March 11
SUSAN McCASLIN
Tuesday, March 12
DONNA LAFRAMBOISE

Wednesday, March 13

DENISE CHONG
The Vancouver Public Library presents these authors as part of the "In Celebration of Women" series. All events at the Central Library, 7:30pm.

Thursday, March 14
SPEAKERS
Students for Forestry Awareness present Bill Stanbury and Mike MacCallum: "Analysis of recent BC government forestry policy and land use initiatives." McMI 166, 12:30 pm.

Mondays
LUNCH SOCIAL
Presented by GLBUBC. SUB 125N, 12:30pm.
DISCUSSION GROUP
Presented by GLBUBC. Grad students centre Penthouse library, 5:30pm.

Wednesdays
GENERAL MEETING
GLBUBC. SUB 211, 12:30pm.

classifieds

Lost & Found

STOLEN from the Gallery Lounge on Wednesday Mar.6: one blue backpack and brown leather jacket. Any information please call Douglas at 689-9558 or come to SUB 241K.

FOUND: small bracelet on retaining wall, west side of SUB (Feb.29)
Phone 221-4091 to claim.

For Rent

Accommodation Available in the UBC Single Student Residences

Rooms are available in the UBC single student residences for qualified women and men applicants. Single and shared rooms in both room only and room and board residence areas are available. Vacancies can be rented for immediate occupancy in the Walter H. Gage, Fairview Crescent, Totem Park, Place Vanier, and Ritsumeikan-UBC House Residences.

Applicants who take occupancy of a residence room are entitled to reapplication (returning student) privileges which will provide them with an "assured" housing assignment for the 1996/97 Winter Session. Please contact the UBC Housing Office for information on rates and availability. The Housing Office is open from 8:30am - 4:00pm weekdays, or call 822-2811 during office hours.

*Availability may be limited for some room types.

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Student leaders react to federal budget

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

It slashes billions from federal transfer payments, makes only token improvements in job opportunities for students, provides minimal tax breaks for wealthier students and their parents and fails to charge big business their fair share of taxes — that's the reaction of Canadian student leaders to the federal

budget released Wednesday.

But an unexpected \$11.1 billion floor on federal transfer payments to the provinces is a victory, says Canadian Federation of Students BC Chairperson Michael Gardiner.

"It's a result of the protests that happened across the country this year," credits Gardiner, adding that the CFS nationwide Day of

Action protest against education funding cuts may have been partly responsible.

While the Liberals stopped short of their earlier plan to gradually eliminate provincial transfers altogether, Gardiner warned the provinces will have just \$11.1 billion to spend on social programs in 1999-2000 — \$7.4 billion less than this year.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations was also quick to broadly condemn the budget. A CASA press release accuses federal finance minister Paul Martin of hypocrisy for promising to provide hope for youth while providing only token improvements in his budget.

Martin's budget speech committed the Liberal government to provide legislation to make

Canadian Student Loan Program repayments "more flexible," but didn't provide details.

Gardiner was unimpressed by Martin's promised increase in tax breaks for students and their parents.

"The measures are geared for those students with high incomes who are already paying taxes, not for those students who don't even have the income to be paying taxes," he charged.

Some students may benefit from Wednesday's budget, namely single parents and Natives. Funding for native housing, health and

welfare and education will rise 12.7 per cent by 1998-1999 in one of only two budget spending increases.

Jo-ann Archibald, Director of UBC's First Nations House of Learning, says she's pleased with the spending increase.

"It's certainly very good news compared to the cuts in the rest of the budget. It's positive especially in the areas where it's much needed like housing, education and health and welfare," she said.

Single parents who are also full-time students will be able to claim child-care expenses on their income tax, a benefit previously available only to married parents.

More budget details...

- Parents, grandparents and spouses of students will receive an increase in the allowable annual tax credit for supporting a student, up to \$850 from \$680.
- The monthly tax credit for students will rise \$20 to \$100 a month.
- Allowable annual contributions to registered education savings plans will rise \$500 to \$2000.
- \$105 million a year will be reallocated to youth and summer programs for three years. A large chunk of next year's reallocation will be earmarked to double the federal summer jobs program.

The Ubyyssey asks who Dunnet?

An interview with AMS co-ordinator of External Affairs Allison Dunnet

by Janet Winters

What do you intend to do with the \$100,000 allocated to the AMS and university for external lobbying?

I'd like to see big campaigns—it makes us a bigger player. It means we can do more.

You've said you plan to shut down the Granville Street bridge this September for a student protest against funding cuts. Do you think the public will sympathise with students if this tactic is used? I think it's a viable question... But we're not being listened to, and we have to get someone's attention somehow.

Is this the only way?

If you don't have the public behind you, why the hell would anyone have to listen to you? I think the government in this country listens to public opinion.

With so much apathy on campus, how are you going to get people to attend rallies?

That's essentially my job... It takes work.

What difference is lobbying the government really going to make?

I think it can make a huge difference. These cuts are going to come down—a lot of people have accepted that. I think when people finally feel the pinch to their pockets and to their lives, you are going to start to see people getting pissed off, wanting to do something about it.

How do you feel about the brand new Ministry of Education, Skills and Training?

I find it kind of hard to figure out if it's going to be beneficial, or if it's going to be bad.

Who do you plan to vote for [in the upcoming provincial election]?

I'll be voting NDP. I believe in a socialist party.

Are the provincial NDP really socialists?

I wouldn't say they are the socialist party I want them to be, but I do like them better than Gordon Campbell.

You've spoken out against tuition fee increases and cuts to post-secondary education. How can we afford not to make these cuts with our enormous federal debt?

Big business has been living well—there's a lot of money that could be brought in that way. The kickbacks to the private sector are huge.

"Graduating a flexible, intelligent, rational-thinking workforce is important."

Why should taxpayers subsidise our post-secondary education?

This is a community and we're supposed to be helping each other out. Education is fundamental, and graduating a flexible, intelligent, rational-thinking workforce is important. Post-secondary education has huge amounts to offer to that.

Then why can't we, as students, take on that financial responsibility?

Why should it be up to other taxpayers who don't get the opportunity to have a post-secondary education?

If you look at who comes to university right now, it's very obviously mostly middle to upper-middle class. You can't make the money you need to go to school right now in the summer. The

more expensive it gets to go to university, [the more] you're going to starve people.

Do you think students will feel more reluctant to fund AMS and other university programs if their tuition fees rise significantly?

Oh yeah, I can definitely see that as a problem. As tuition goes up, people start to feel like, "Well, wait a second—I'm paying more in tuition, and every year you're going to come back and ask me for more money for something else. I think that's going to piss people off."

What do you think about the AMS using ads like those used by Langara and the Canadian Federation of Students?

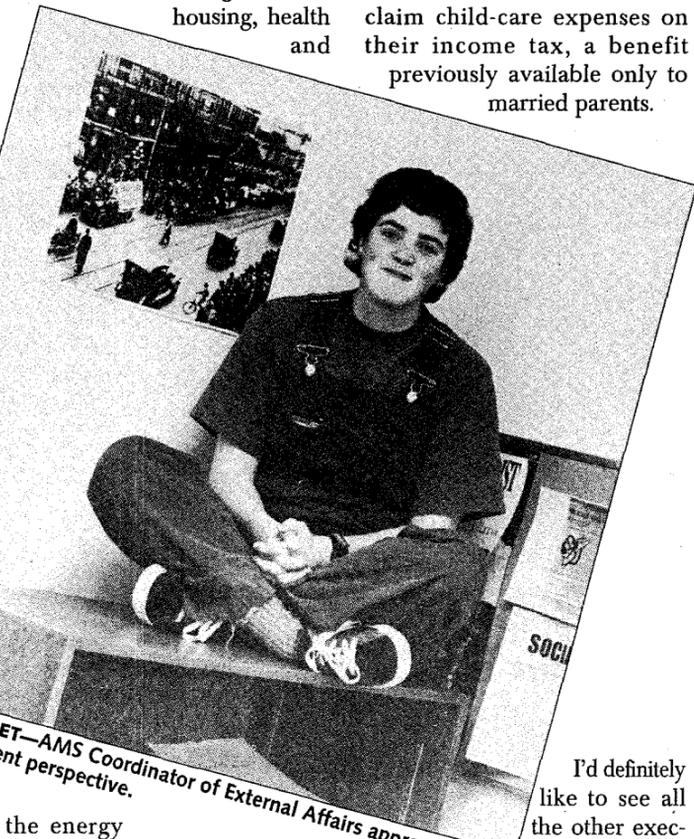
I like it. I think it's great.

Would you like to see UBC join the CFS?

No, I like the position we're in now.

How would you respond to critics who say you don't have enough experience to be an effective coordinator of external affairs?

I value passion, desire, and wanting to put in the time and



ALLISON DUNNET—AMS Coordinator of External Affairs approaches her job from a different perspective.

I'd definitely like to see all the other executives involved in this. There should definitely

the energy more than experience. Experience in this job counts for something, [but] it doesn't count for everything.

Should you be the only AMS executive who lobbies the provincial and federal governments?

be a growing external feeling to this place. I'd like to see the AMS, in general, become more interested in lobbying.

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According to Chomsky...



THE EPHEMERAL DR. CHOMSKY visits UBC last Tuesday. CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH PHOTO

Canada's international status

Canada is not a major player in the world scene. But it's not an insignificant one, either. It's not the United States, but it's substantial. And it's closely linked to the

United States. And what happens here certainly makes a difference. How much of a difference? It's really hard to say. But all of these things interact. So if Canada does something it'll stimulate somebody else to do something. It makes a big difference.

NAFTA

I was opposed to the particular form of NAFTA...but a North American free trade agreement might well be a good idea. This thing [the existing agreement] is not a North American free trade agreement. It obviously wasn't an agreement between the population of the three countries—it was about investor rights. So there was this North American investor rights agreement among elites, but a North American trade agreement might not be bad at all, so long as worker rights were protected, wages were more or less equalized, environmental standards were equalized, etc. This is not Utopian; Europe basically did this with Portugal and Spain. There was compensatory funding for the integration of the economy. The same could be done here with Mexico.[†]

US policy

The United States considers its own interests. The integrity of other "American" nations is "an incident, not an end." Actually, that's a good definition of world politics generally... In the United States too, the population is an incident, not an end. That's a truism that goes back to Adam Smith and without recognising it, you can't understand the world at all.^{††}

Work

The system is extremely inefficient; about a third of the population of the world doesn't have work. It's not that there's no work to be done. In fact, let's just take the rich societies; there's a lot of talk about 'the end of work' and what's going to happen to all the idle hands. Take a walk around any city—you can't see any work that can be done? You can't see anything that people could do? The simple fact of the matter is that there are plenty of things to be done, there are plenty of idle hands, and those idle hands would be delighted to have work to do. But the system is such a catastrophic failure it cannot put idle hands to needed work.[†]

Bringing the Third World home

The standard story is that we have lean and mean times and that we have to tighten our belts and so on—it's complete nonsense. The country is absolutely awash in capital. There has been conscious social policy to transfer resources to the rich and to punish the general population. It's kind of "structural adjustment" applied to an industrial society. In fact it's being applied all over the world, though the Anglo-American societies are in the lead. Britain and the United States are first, Canada is not far behind. The purpose is perfectly clear; it's to internationalize the third world model, meaning the structural model of sharply two-tiered societies with sectors of enormous wealth and privilege and large masses of people who are suffering deprivation and absolute misery.[†]

"Capitalism" according to Newt Gingrich

It is revealing to see how even the concept of markets or even the concept of capitalism has just disappeared from the consciousness of business leaders. They just take it for granted that 'entrepreneurial values' means figuring out the best way to feed at the public trough. Newt Gingrich, for example, the leader

of the so-called conservative revolution, represents Cotton County, Georgia, an affluent Atlanta suburb the New York Times called "ground zero" for the explosive growth of Republican conservatism.

A slight footnote: [Cotton County] gets more federal subsidies than any suburban county in the country, outside of the federal system itself [eg Arlington, Virginia, where the Pentagon is located or Washington, DC]. If you're outside the federal system it's the champion of ripping off public funds. The headlines in a free press would have read, 'Newt Gingrich is the biggest welfare freak in the country.'[†]

"Free trade"

Free trade is like debt—it's not something you're for or against; it depends on what it's for. Free trade might be a good idea. It's worth thinking about. There's never been anything remotely like it—except with Third World countries that have it rammed down their throat.[†]

Fundamentalism

The most fundamentalist Islamic state in the world is Saudi Arabia, and it's the darling of the United States... [But] as soon as somebody shows disobedience they move instantly from beloved friend to hated enemy—Saddam Hussein, Noriega, and on and on. So I think the issue is really obedience. In fact, for the US to be opposed to fundamentalism is kind of ridiculous. It's one of the most fundamentalist countries in the world. Maybe the most. And if you look at elites, it's probably more than Iran.^{††}

The internet

It depends on what you do with it. If you leave it to Bill Gates, you know what it will become—it'll be a home shopping service and another technique of conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses. If people take control of it and keep private power out, it could be great. It's just like print; you can't say, 'Is print oppressive or liberating?' It depends on who's got control over it. Same with radio. Same with television.[†]

Strategies for activism

There are no magic solutions; no one has invented a key that you can turn or a mantra you can produce or something that will make it all go away.

You can't give a general answer; if you're concerned about particular issues, you can ask what's the best way to deal with that particular issue. In the longer term, I think there will be far-reaching issues, like undermining and eliminating illegitimate systems of power—and private tyrannies are illegitimate systems of power. There's no reason for them to exist any more than there is for a totalitarian state to exist. In the shorter term there are specific things to struggle about, organize about and change. There isn't a single answer for all of them, except, you know... do it.[†]

Welfare

There is a lot of talk about the failure of the welfare system and the war against poverty. The welfare system failed because it's been cut. Aid for families with dependent children has been destroyed—cut by about 50% from 1970 to 1990. This has sped the dissolution of families, child abuse, violence by and against children, etc.

That has nothing to do with the failure of the welfare system except its failure to exist.[†]

"International law"

"In accordance with international law" means whatever the United States decides. That's called international law.

US racism

There's a lot of discussion in the campaigns [on whether Pat Buchanan is anti-semitic]. On the other hand, he openly stands up and denounces "Boo Boo Ghali" and nobody thinks there's anything racist about that. If he was to denounce "Yitsi Shmitsi Rabin," people would notice that it's racist. But when you say it's "Boo Boo Ghali," I've yet to see a reference in the press saying, "Look, there's something racist here." And the reason is, it's just reflecting the general racism, so you don't notice it. It's like the air you breathe.[†]

The Palestinian paradox

Israel is becoming sort of reminiscent of Eastern Europe before Hitler... In those days there was a lot of anti-semitism in Europe. And the Jews reacted to it by sort of getting ahead; they were more educated, they became a commercial class, and as compared with the Russian peasants they were way ahead. Something like that's happening in Israel. The Palestinians, who are roughly analogous to the Jews in Eastern Europe, are getting better educated than the poor Jews... That's causing plenty of rejection among the poorer sectors of the Jewish population... And it's reminiscent to the situation in which my parents grew up in Eastern Europe. That could lead to similar hostilities.^{††}

[†] The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, March 6, 1996
^{††} The Fridge Theatre, March 6, 1996

Marketing

Marketing is just a name for manipulation and deceit. The purpose of marketing is to create artificial wants, to manipulate

attitudes, to fragment people to turn them into isolated atoms of consumption and production, and for more educated sectors, to control their opinions as well.[†]

The state of US democracy

A growing number of American people are reasonably concluding that political campaigning has become a joke.

Voting has declined steadily through the century as corporate propaganda has increased; they're pretty closely correlated.

"Free markets"

Nobody is in favour of an unfettered free market except for someone else. That's an almost historical and universal truism.

There is what we might call a really existing free market ideology, and that is that free markets are fine for poor people, for people in the Third World and for seven-year-old children etc.

But for the rich and powerful, there has to be an interventionist 'nanny state' that protects them from these factors. That's the way it in fact works, and that's the 'proud tradition' the Republican have followed like everyone else since 1945.[†]

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UBC Writing Centre
Continuing Studies

Part-time Sessional Lecturer and Coordinator of AGSC 323

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the University of British Columbia in cooperation with the UBC Writing Centre invites applications for a part-time Sessional Lecturer position effective September 1, 1996. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching up to four sections of *Agricultural Sciences 323 - Professional Communication*, two sections in each of the Winter I and II terms. In addition to teaching, the successful candidate will be responsible for a limited amount of administrative work such as supervising course registration and answering inquiries from prospective students, for which a small stipend will be added to his or her regular salary as a Sessional Lecturer. This teaching load may be supplemented by one additional section each term of either WRIT 098 or APSC 201 to make a full-time eight month appointment.

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The successful applicant will have at least an M.A. degree in English (or equivalent) and successful experience teaching technical writing and oral communication. Experience in the field of agricultural sciences or a related discipline will also be an asset.

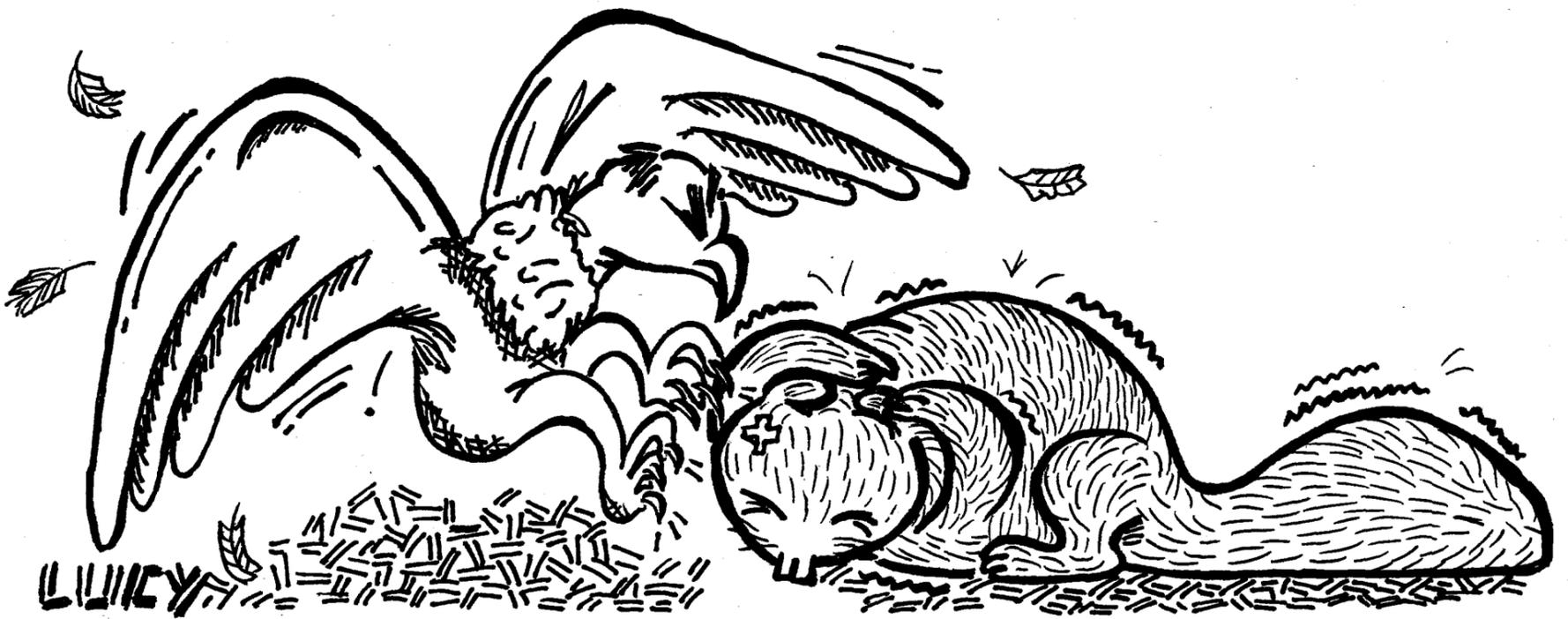
The University of British Columbia welcomes all qualified applicants, especially women, aboriginal people, visible minorities, and persons with disabilities. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be sent to Ms Andrea Drysdale, Program Assistant, UBC Writing Centre, Continuing Studies, 2329 West Mall, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z4. Application deadline: April 30, 1996.

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A message to the American people from the Helmsman

Earlier this week, US Senator Jesse Helms condemned Canada for its on-going trade relationship with Cuba despite the US embargo. Helms is 67 and widely-regarded as one of the most deranged of all US Republicans.

Fellow patriarchs,

They live in igloos. They eat bacon and they drink maple syrup. They listen to Anne Murray. They speak Eskimo. They eat our fish. They refuse to let our little boats sail through their waters. They wear Flannel shirts and moccasins. They continue to trade with pinko commie bastards. They support a murderous system that subjugates capitalists. They support oppression. They live close to our borders. They use funny money. They gave us Bryan Adams. They want to smoke cigars. They

don't go to church. And worst of all, they don't eat apple pie.

Friends, it is time to declare war on the evil empire of the north. It is time to put them under notice that we won't subjugate our national interests to *their* financial interests. We will not tolerate wimpy diplomats coming to the floor of *our* House to ask *us* to consider Canadian investors while the bodies of four Americans are still lost in the Straits of Florida, having been murdered by a hairy, cigar-smoking dictator as they delivered a message of hope and freedom to poor Cubanitoes. We will not tolerate any action which would impede or otherwise restrict *our* right of passage of vessels in a manner inconsistent with our laws. We must be firm.

They must be made to understand that it's *our* coast line, *our* jobs, *our* vessels. Let us say

to them: you have become a part of what you condone. By your advocacy in this matter and by your opposition to our position, you, red beaver, are condoning evil.

And they should be ashamed of themselves. Their policy is no different from the appeasement pursued by British prime minister Neville Chamberlain with Hitler. They must be made to understand that Neville Chamberlain was wrong and Winston Churchill was right!

It's time for them to choose. They have to choose between a democracy like America and a banana government led by communists.

Their choice is simple. It's apple pie or bananas.

In God we trust,

Jesse Helms

the ubyssey

March 8, 1996
volume 77 issue 42

The Ubyyssey is a founding member of Canadian University Press. The Ubyyssey is published Tuesdays and Fridays by The Ubyyssey Publications Society at the University of British Columbia. Editorial opinions expressed are those of the newspaper and not necessarily those of the university administration or the Alma Mater Society.

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Canada Post Publications Sales Agreement Number 0732141

In which Scott Hayward does something. Something to do for Douglas Hadfield. To do something Matt Thompson will have to do some thing. Something Joe Clark has to do do something Federico Barahona. Jenn Kuo does something to Christine Price something Janet Winters does. Do Sarah Galashan to something does Chris Nuttall-Smith have to do. Something Mike Laanela did. Something Lucy Shih done. Irfan Dhalla does something that Charlie Cho used to do. Siobhán Roantree does does Sarah O'Donnell do some thing that is to be done. Amanda Growe did done do. Did does Peter T. Chattaway and Maura MacInnis do the did Andy Barham. Done did she do to do too too to do to. Done did he do too do to too do too. Does it. Do something. Do some thing. Do. Some. Thing. Some thing. Thing.

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Coordinating Editor: Siobhán Roantree
Copy Editor: Sarah O'Donnell
News Editor: Matt Thompson
Culture Editor: Peter T. Chattaway
Sports Editor: Scott Hayward
National/Features Editor: Federico Barahona
Production Coordinator: Joe Clark
Photo Coordinator: Jenn Kuo

letters

For the victims of terrorists

We, the Jewish Students' Association, and the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, mourn the loss of the many innocent victims killed in recent terrorist attacks in Israel.

On Sunday, February 25, 1996, a bomb exploded on a crowded commuter bus in the heart of Jerusalem, killing twenty-five and wounding ninety. That same day, in Ashkelon, another terrorist attack left two dead and dozens and dozens more wounded.

On Monday, February 26, 1996, a suicide bomber detonated explosives on a bus in Tel Aviv, leaving eighteen more victims, and scores more seriously injured. Of those killed were nine Israelis, ranging in age from nineteen to sixty-six, two Arabs, five Romanian workers, and two tourists.

On Monday, March 4, 1996, another suicide bombing outside of the Dizengoff Centre in Tel Aviv left at least eleven dead and eighty wounded.

It is important that the university community and the public at large know about the

horrific devastation of these criminal acts. These violent atrocities must end. They are attacks not only on the innocent men, women and children killed and wounded, but on the State of Israel, the peace process, and the Jewish people.

We strongly condemn the actions of the terrorists, and those that support or condone their brutal ways. We wish the victims' families our most heartfelt condolences, and a quick return to good health to those injured.

Tadd Berger,
Student Co-President, J.S.A.
Michelle Gumprich,
Programme Coordinator
Jonathan Massel,
Student Treasurer, J.S.A.
on behalf of the Jewish Students' Association,
and the Hillel Foundation

All letters and perspectives must include your signature, phone number, faculty and year.

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

A great, then so-so, night at the Pit



Taste of Joy with Daytona
Feb 29 at the Pit Pub

by Andy Barham

I wasn't going to write about this concert at the Pit. Truth to tell, I wasn't even going to go, until Jennie from Daytona talked me into it. It is that time of year after all—midterms, essays, lab write ups, and so on, making too many demands on one's time. Never mind the luxury of taking a night off to actually go out and enjoy oneself.

Ah, what the hell...

Daytona was the first band I interviewed

for *The Ubysey*, and Taste of Joy's *Trigger Fables* was the first CD I reviewed. Seemed like Fate to me.

Daytona was a bit edgy at first. The whole thing was stalled for a hockey game that was, itself, stalled. But at last Daytona took the stage — or, rather, pit — much to everyone's relief. Compared to Daytona's gig at the Town Pump last year, they were a bit subdued. The Pit just isn't designed for the sort of Pete Townsend-style leaping about that Colin likes to indulge in when the surrounding architecture allows. Nonetheless, the band put in a competent performance and garnered some new converts, to judge by the audience's reaction.

The question is: Why is a band with all the talent, energy, creativity and,

most importantly, originality of Daytona still playing second fiddle in smalltime gigs like the Pit? These guys should be playing the Commodore by now—they can beat the hell out of most of the bands the Commodore currently features. Ah well, if the truth be known, the Canadian Cultural Establishment loves nothing so much as it loves mediocrity. We'd rather be first on the bandwagon, rather than actually *build* the bandwagon itself.

Of course, most punters go to a show to see the headliner, which, in this case, happened to be Taste of Joy. I have a few problems with this band. They do have some great songs—'Dear John' and 'Maybe In Time,' for example—but they've also got a few duds, not least of which is the one that got a fair bit of airplay last summer, 'Gun Pointed.' Taste of Joy have also changed

their line-up, although the band's core—Michele Gould and Corinne Culbertson—is still intact. It's the lads who've disappeared, replaced with two new blokes. A pity, really. After having read the comic book that came with the CD a few times, I felt as though I'd gotten to know them.

Taste of Joy gave a spirited and energetic performance that got an encore from the enthusiastic crowd. I must confess I rather liked watching Michele and Corinne; they overwhelmingly dominate their band, unlike Daytona's more cohesive stage presence.

If Taste of Joy can just figure out what it was they did right on the three or four superb tracks off their first CD, and if Daytona can use the harmony between Jenny and Colin a *lot* more, both of these bands should go far.

Musicolumn

Pansy Division — Wish I'd Taken Pictures
[Mint Records]

There's no shortage of groups doing the same thing as Pansy Division: catchy, fun, but not very challenging music.

No bizarre chords—nothing a drum machine couldn't handle—and not a whole lot to think about. Although there are a few "serious" songs, most of the album is about sex (but then, what pop song isn't?).

The band's bid for originality is that it's *gay sex*, but otherwise there's no special distinction. Nostalgia, broken hearts, and the "a good man is hard to find" syndrome are all frequent themes. 'Dick of Death' could take a lesson or twelve from Frank Zappa's 'Swana Dik,' which is still the story of a man and his songworthy endowment, yet even more blatantly so, and delivered with more polish and musical sophistication than Pansy Division will ever achieve.

Although, in all fairness, they don't lay claim to sophistication. Labelled "gay pop-punk," they fulfill the first two without really making it into punkness. They also succeed in putting out a charming set of songs with a certain interchangeability. It's not bad, if you're in the right mood. And they're great for singing along. — Jenna Newman



White Balloon pops

The White Balloon
Mar 8 - 14 at the Ridge theatre

by Amanda Growe

Jafar Panahi's first feature film, *The White Balloon*, was clearly made with the best of intentions. Despite this, it falls flat. While it is nicely filmed, well-edited, and easy to follow despite its subtitles, the plot is unexciting and unenlightening.

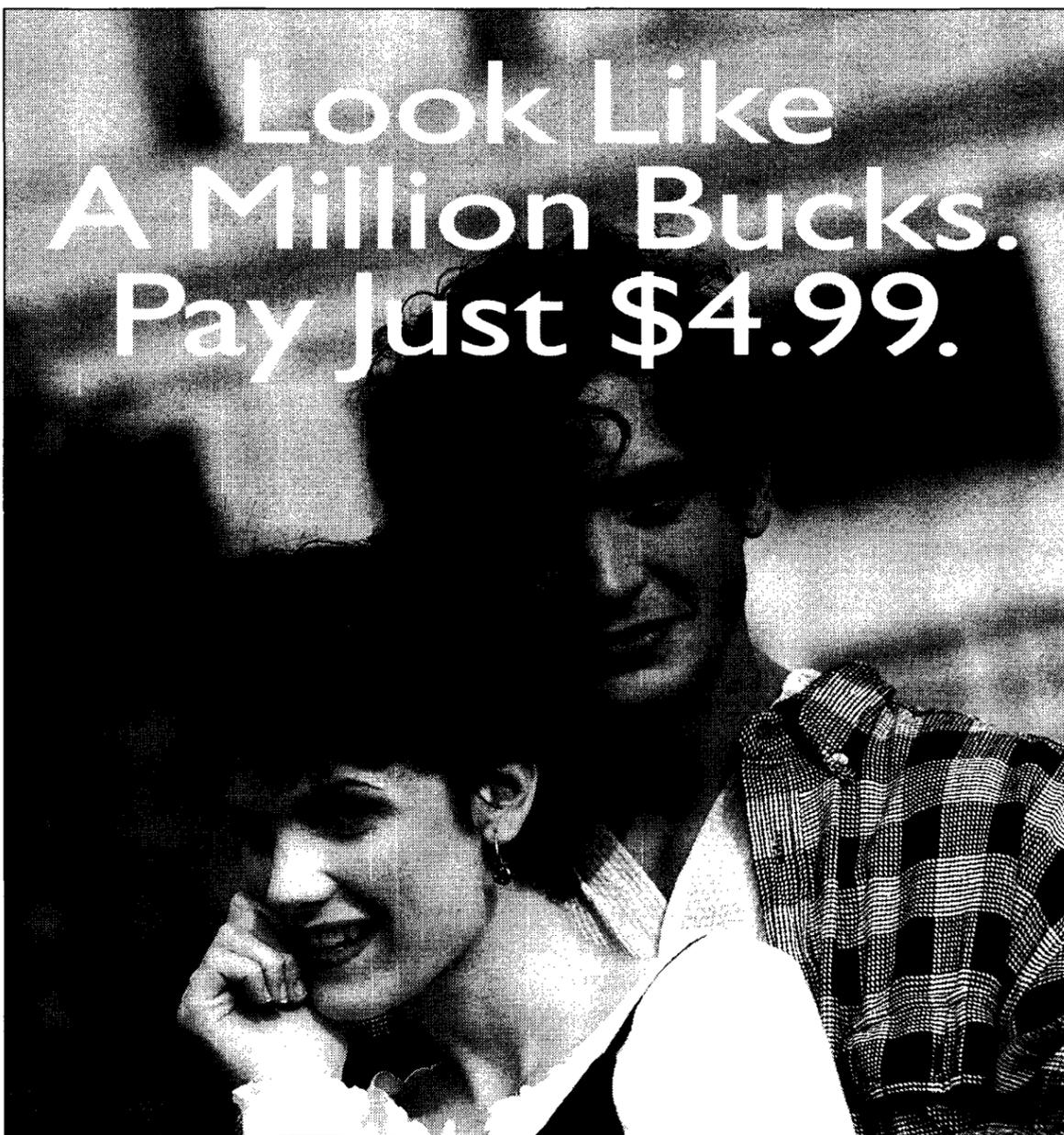
The story takes place in a location rarely seen by North American audiences: Iran. Razieh (Aida Mohammadkhani) is a seven-year-old girl who lives with her brother Ali (Mohsen Kalifi) and their parents. On the day before New Year's, Razieh sets her heart on buying the plump, white goldfish she has seen for sale in the marketplace (goldfish are a part of the Iranian New Year's tradition). Her mother finally consents and gives her money for the fish, and Razieh embarks on a series of adventures and encounters along the way.

Mohammadkhani does a good acting job as Razieh, as do Kalifi and Mohammad Bahktiari (who plays the Tailor). But even good actors like these can't save the movie from its dull script.

Perhaps the film seems slow and purposeless because it focuses on a seven-year-old. Razieh's frustration with the unfair, inattentive and sometimes cruel adults she meets is portrayed well, but adult audiences may lose interest since this lasts for the entire movie. Razieh's emotions do not vary, but remain in three categories: happy, tearful, and whiny. This tends to grate on one's nerves.

Finally, the question remains: why the title?! If Panahi taunts us with this, why doesn't he at least give us a clue to its symbolism? A blue balloon appears in Razieh's hand at the beginning of film, and a white balloon is tied to the stick of the Afghan balloon seller near the end, but both seem absolutely insignificant.

This film won a number of awards at film festivals around the world including Cannes, but the judges need their eyes checked. *The White Balloon* is not ruined by its actors, but by its plot, and the blow is hardened by the absence of meaning from the movie's intriguing title.



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A slacker movie with smarts

Kicking & Screaming
Mar 8 - 14 at the Ridge

by Peter T. Chattaway

It's fast becoming an independent filmmaker's cliché, but Noah Baumbach did not go to film school or even visit a film set before he began to shoot *Kicking & Screaming*. Instead, he says, "my experience came from watching movies."

A hint of that experience is evident from the film's beginning, when a student at a college graduation party challenges a fellow grad to list "eight movies where monkeys play key roles." Even the nonsensical attempts to answer the quiz — *Monkeys, Monkeys, Ted & Alice* is one — betray Baumbach's above-average film literacy.

The 26-year-old cinephile and son of *Village Voice* film critic Georgia Brown first got interested in film when he saw *Lancelot du Lac* at the age of four, "and from that point on it was a hugely eclectic group of movies. When I was younger and going to theatres, I saw movies like *The Jerk* and *Stripes* and all those, and I still like those movies, but once I started to see more of film history I just wanted to see more and more."

Talk about eclectic: Baumbach counts David Cronenberg, Woody Allen and Jim Jarmusch among his favorite directors, and he says Jean Renoir's *oeuvre* is "as good as it could get." Mix the offbeat humour, social observation and character-driven narratives of these directors with the droll witticisms of Bill Murray and Steve Martin, and you get a sense of what *Kicking & Screaming* is like.

Unlike his characters, who go back to school because they're not ready for their annual "bad summer" to turn into a "bad life", Baumbach did not stay in school (Vassar College, in his case) once he got his English degree. Instead, he exorcised the lure of ongoing studies by working it into his script. "I was imagining a worst-case scenario: if I had stayed, what would happen?"

Financing the film was a nightmare unto itself until producer Joel Castleberg persuaded Eric Stoltz (who had worked with Castleberg on *Sleep with Me* and *Bodies, Rest & Motion*) to take a role that didn't exist yet. "I made up the part as Joel was typing the fax," Baumbach says. "He agreed to do it, not even having seen the part."

Chet may have been written as a



Noah Baumbach takes it easy with (left to right) Carlos Jacott, Josh Hamilton, and Chris Eigeman on the set of *KICKING & SCREAMING*.

last-minute attempt to rescue the budget, but it's hard to imagine the film without Stoltz, who — as a veteran of just about every GenX ensemble film ever made — is suitably cast as a student who hasn't left school in ten years ("though I skipped a semester in sophomore year," he says) and is now something of a role model to the fresh crop of post-grad slackers: Grover (Josh Hamilton), whose girlfriend Jane (Olivia d'Abo) leaves him for Prague ("You'll come back a bug!" he protests); Otis (Willem Dafoe lookalike Carlos Jacott), who wears pajama tops to formal parties and cannot board his plane to grad school; and Max (Whit Stillman alumnus Chris Eigeman), who dreams of retirement but still gets ID'ed at nightclubs.

In one of the film's funnier running jokes, Otis gets a job at a video store that classifies its films with obsessive specificity (sample genres include "Terminal Illness" and "Dog-Buddy Movies"). Attempts to label *Kicking & Screaming* have so far

been more generalized, and Baumbach himself seems reluctant to categorize the film.

"I was once at a studio and an assistant was writing out a summary of it, and under 'Genre' she asked what it was. I said, 'I think it's a comedy,' and she goes, 'Not a dramedy?' I'm glad the term has now become used so officially."

You can hear the irony dripping from Baumbach's tongue, an irony so typical of the times that *Kicking & Screaming* might fairly be granted the even more amorphous label of a 'Generation X' flick. Baumbach doesn't object to that tag either, though he finds it potentially misleading.

"There's a big difference between Richard Linklater and Hal Hartley and a Whit Stillman movie, though they often are all put in that category. I certainly try as a moviemaker to make movies that have a certain authorship to them, and I think people respond to that. The best film noir is film noir that is made with a

certain kind of authorship."

Spoken like a true English major, though it's not hard to slap the GenX stigma on any film co-starring Stoltz. In fact, it's easy to imagine some future film opening with a list of, say, eight GenX movies where Eric Stoltz plays a key role.

Baumbach finds the possibility "flattering," but adds, "I think there's a danger when you're doing trivia movies and TV. Now, particularly, it becomes about the trivia, you're actually interested in hearing them refer to some *Brady Bunch* episode or something. What was important for me was that none of this become about the trivia, that it become about what they're not speaking about. I don't really care that they can come up with eight monkey movies — Otis couldn't really anyway — so it becomes about their way of communicating."

"But," he adds with a laugh, "I think if this turned up, if someone could name eight Eric Stoltz movies and this is one of them, that's fine."

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Today (Mar. 8) at 5:00pm.
Nomination forms must be signed by ten members in good standing of the Society.
For more info, contact the UPS at 822-6681 in SUB Rm.245.
Campus wide voting will take place later this month.

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Ubyyssey Staff Elections
Editorial Positions
Deadline for the posting of Position Papers:
Today (Mar. 8) at 5:00pm.
For more info go to SUB 241K or call 822-2301.
Editorial candidates must be voting members of staff.
Internal elections will be held from March 18 to March 25.

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General Duties of Editors	Editors are responsible for the orderly day-to-day operation of the newspaper; recruitment and training of new volunteers; coordinating assignments; participating in the general upkeep and maintenance of the office space, files, etc.; attending all meetings and keeping regular office hours.
The Coordinating Editor	shall prepare agendas for staff meetings, sit on the board of directors, act as an intermediary between staff and the business office and have final responsibility for the content of the paper.
Two (2) News Editors	shall assign and ensure the completion of at least three (3) news articles per issue.
The Arts and Culture Editor	shall assign and ensure the completion of at least two (2) culture stories per issue.
The Sports Editor	shall monitor and coordinate coverage of sporting events and sports-related activities on campus.
A National/ Features Editor	shall be responsible for the completion of at least one (1) feature article per week; shall seek out and facilitate exchanges of news and other information with other members of the student and alternative presses; and ensure a balanced quality and quantity of coverage among all departments, in conjunction with those department heads.
The Production Coordinator	shall facilitate and coordinate the design and production of all editions of <i>The Ubyyssey</i> , shall be familiar with and train staff in the use of <i>The Ubyyssey</i> computers and other production equipment, and to ensure that such equipment is in good supply and working order.
The Photo Editor	shall coordinate the availability and quality of photos for all editions of <i>The Ubyyssey</i> in consultation with other departments.
The UPS Treasurer	(a Board member and signing officer for the Society) will be chosen in elections held concurrently with editorial elections. The Treasurer must be a voting Staff member.

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