People's Republic of China globalisation
environment barriers University of British Columbia
Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation security unions
multinational corporations Chretien AMS growth
Hong Kong 2020 Canadian Year of the Asia Pacific
new global economy
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Papua New Guinea
Goddess of Democarcy
Mexico dinner with dictators Suharto
18 APEC
APEC Alert RCMP
Museum of Anthropology
Pacific Rim East Timor
Brunei Republic of China United States
Dili Massacre CFL engagement
No to APEC CFS Women against APEC
free trade tent city democracy
Singapore's 25th November
forced sterilisation human rights sex trade workers
civil disobedience security operation Jiang Zemin
Malaysia
Canada the freedom workers rights
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SPECIAL ISSUE

THE UBYSSEY APEC ISSUE (VOL. 79, ISS. 21)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1997

A brief history of APEC at UBC

Jan 8, 1997—Then UBC President Strangway announces UBC will play host to the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) on November 25. The announcement is made at a UBC Museum of Anthropology reception during the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF). The reception is disrupted when activist Jaggi Singh is forcibly removed after attempting to present an Indonesian delegate with an East Timorese flag.

Jan, 1997—Students at UBC form APEC Alert, a grassroots campaign against APEC and the use of UBC as a venue for a portion of the conference. The group stages several protests throughout the Spring as well as a series of public forums and debates.

March, 1997—Board of Governors (BoG) rejects a motion, proposed by the two BoG student reps, to not hold APEC at UBC.

May, 1997—Work begins on renovations to the atrium of Norman MacKenzie House, the official residence of the President of UBC. The $400,000 project is paid for by the federal government.

May 21, 1997—AMS motion to oppose UBC's decision to host AELM fails to get the two thirds majority it needs to pass.

May 22, 1997—The Graduate Student Society (GSS) Council passes a motion opposing UBC's unilateral decision to host the AELM.

Sept 22, 1997—Two UBC students, also members of APEC Alert, are arrested for painting an 'APEC Free Zone' around the Goddess of Democracy. The students are released later the same day after being charged with mischief. APEC Alert members continue to expand the zone into October and no further arrests are made for painting.

Sept-Oct, 1997—AMS sponsored Student Summit on the Asia Pacific. The summit features weeks devoted to human rights, the environment as well as economic issues.

Oct 31, 1997—Three more student members of APEC Alert are arrested for writing anti-APEC slogans on the atrium of Norman MacKenzie House. The protesters are charged with mischief and forced to agree not to protest at the President's residence as a condition of bail. It is four nights before the last of the students agrees to the conditions.

Nov 14, 1997—GSS agrees to vacate the Graduate Student Centre for the AELM after the RCMP provides them with evidence that the building can be legally appropriated. The RCMP will not be using the building, but argue that it *needs to be shut down for security reasons.*

Nov 17, 1997—APEC Alert are joined by students from campuses as far away as Washington in a tent city (called Demoville) outside the SUB.

Nov 19, 1997—APEC conference begins.

Nov 24, 1997—APEC Alert plans a student walk-out and alternative APEC teach-in.

Nov 25, 1997—AELM to be held in the Museum of Anthropology and leaders invited for a lunch in Norman MacKenzie House-the official residence of the UBC President. APEC-Alert plan to continue the student walk-out and 'crash the summit' by walking from the Goddess of Democracy to as close as they are able to the Museum of Anthropology.

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ubyssey

November 21, 1997 • volume 79 issue 21

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We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate.
Editorials are chosen and written by the Ubyssey staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssey Publications Society or the University of British Columbia.
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"Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.
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Twenty years from today at the black tie APEC issue gala reunion, celebrity emcee Sarah Galashan, in town for a *Columbia Journalism Review* cover story, will stare out at the meagre crowd with glee. She'll see Victoria Stott, Nike public relations hack, along with Chevron geologist Ayanna Ormond. Jamie Woods, Joe Clark and Federico Barahona, retired on their stakes in Burton Mansteller will be eyeing Jill Theilmann's Philippine black coral brooch. "And I'd especially like to welcome Richard Lam from the Heffner palace." Galashan will say, lolling on an Andy Barham whisky cooler. "He's the best darn photographer at Playgirl." Wolf Depner, meanwhile, always a worker, will be drafting his resignation letter to UBC Athletics. Mike McGowan and Jerome Yau, still in a sweat from their Greenpeace canvassing route will walk in late and stoned as usual. Somewhere by the buffet table will be Emily Mak demanding her fair share of McNuggets. But Richelle Rae dressed in a Rhonda McDonald get up will shout her down. "Go buy yer own goddam McNuggets asswipe." Poor Marina Antunes, celebrity masseuse won't be having that great a time, but it will only get worse when Todd Silver pulls off his socks during dinner to request a foot massage. "Omigawd, is that a toe jam?" Douglas Quan will con. "Get me a straw." Jaime Tong, recently profiled in *Hoboes: Life on the Street will* scuffle with security before packing half the buffet table into her overalls. Mito Tadano will be taking furious notes for her next book, The Cynthia Lee How to Write Erotica course will have done her well. Penny Cholmondeley, Sean James and Nicole Capler, working security for the night, will be reaching for Sarah Galashan's drink. "We don't want any tears now," they'll say. And Chris Nuttall-Smith, still at *The National Enquirer* after nineteen years, will stare at the ceiling. "I just knew it would turn out this way."

Canadian University Press

Canada Post Publications Sales Agreement Number 0732141

APEC, what you *see* is all you get

Late next Tuesday afternoon, Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his buddies from the Asia Pacific will emerge from the great hall in the Museum of Anthropology. No doubt they'll be smiling.

They'll likely read off a series of declarations to broaden investment opportunities and areas of cooperation—all in keeping with the goals set out in 1994 to eliminate trade barriers by the year 2010 (for developed countries) and 2020 (for developing countries).

Then they'll pose for the media, who really wants to get back to the downtown Media Centre and throw back a complementary brewskie. But who knows, maybe Chretien and China's President, Jiang Zemin, will give each other a bearhug.

Don't be fooled by the smiles and handshakes you'll see on the evening news. And don't think the world leaders spent the whole day labouring over those declarations, because they didn't. The details got hammered out in advance of the leaders meeting.

The APEC leaders meeting has nothing to do with nose-to-nose, fist-on-the-table formal discussion, and everything to do with schmoozing over Canadian spring water.

We put this special issue together to provide a forum for the news and opinion that haven't made it into Vancouver's mainstream media diet. We've tried to cover the issues that haven't made it to the APEC table. We want our readers to think about what's really happening on campus next week: there's more to APEC than photo ops and trade deals.

We hope you'll look beyond the immediacy of the conference—the motorcades, the extravagant dinners and the traffic jams—and take a look at what and who APEC really does or doesn't represent.

Sure, almost everyone will want to discuss the currency crisis in southeast Asia that sent shockwaves around the world.

Sure, Jiang Zemin would love nothing better than to ring the neck of Taiwan's (oops, that's Chinese Taipei's) representative. Not that it will be Taiwan's leader—he's not coming.

Sure, Chile just wants to talk logistics about joining NAFTA.

Global warming, the salmon dispute, landmines...

They will not want to acknowledge the precedence financial gain is taking over human rights and the need to deal with an Asian neighbour that now looks more like 18th Century Europe.

They will not want to discuss the Tiananmen Square Massacre, the Dili Massacre or the occupation of Tibet.

But in fact none of these issues will be discussed because the Museum of Anthropology is not the place for contentious debate. It is not a debate. It is not a negotiation. It's an exclusive club consisting of some of the most powerful people on Earth.

Leaders use this time to weigh each other out, to get to know the guy who is dropping fishing nets in your water, or running military exercises just off your shores.

Sure, allowing these guys—and currently they are all guys—to get to know each other is practical, after all, you wouldn't want to miscommunicate during some delicate arms reduction treaty.

But this is really just an organized media blitz. A bunch of suits getting together to pose in front of a spectacular view so that CNN's Bernard Shaw can give his newscast from a location other than Atlanta or Baghdad.

And even if it wasn't just about appearances, even if APEC leaders sat down and—God forbid—talked about substantive issues, all they'd be concerned about is how to improve their own respective positions in the world.

Next Tuesday, throngs of UBC students will be implicated in APEC. Unfortunately many will skip their classes and head down to the Museum of Anthropology just to see if they can catch a glimpse of one of the leaders, to see "history in the making." They will all be victims of the hype that has surrounded this event, caught up in the celebrity atmosphere of APEC.

What would change if APEC was not held on campus? Would it really be a victory? Would students be given any voice at all?

If nothing else APEC is giving UBC students a voice—one that the world might listen to. So consider what you want to say and make yourself heard.

contents

4 Women
A single conference takes an anti-Apec stand at the People's Summit

5 AMS
Student council opposes the jailing of students

6 APEC
Looking at things through the eyes of campus personalities

8 Opinion
Trade liberalisation just may be destroying BC's rivers

9 Opinion
Alerters speak out against...

10 Opinion
Cartooning APEC style

11 Drama
Acting out on environmental concerns

12 Director
Asia Pacific theatre gets back to the basics

Essays suck
write features
the ubyssey

Horta speaks out in Vancouver

by Penny Cholmondeley

There were no security escorts for the delegates at Wednesday's opening ceremonies for the People's Summit on APEC.

The People's Summit, unlike its official counterpart, addresses human rights, the environment and women.

The summit held its opening ceremony Wednesday night. Jose Ramos-Horta, co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in East-Timor, was the keynote speaker.

East Timor has lost one-third of its population in what some have called a program of genocide and sterilisation since Indonesia invaded in 1975. Horta has toured the world trying to raise awareness of the plight of the Timorese people.

The summit opened with a welcome from First Nations elders of the Tsleil Wau Tuth, Musqueam and Squamish nations, and a traditional Round Dance.

Organized by a coalition of Canadian NGO and labour organizations, the People's Summit has taken on the role of a counter conference to APEC.

Dedicating the Peace Prize to all those in the struggle for East Timorese independence, Horta reminded his audience of the approaching millennium and commented on the positive gains made by humanity.

However, he quickly took a more sombre tone to discuss what he called "humanity's darker side." He recounted the July meeting in Malaysia where that nation joined with Indonesia in opposition to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Asian values has simply become an empty slogan,"

JOSE RAMOS-HORTA
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

The two nations argued that the Declaration of Human Rights was based on an American standard and that it does not accommodate Asian values.

Horta rejects the idea that the declaration should be abandoned. He said it is a deliberate attempt to set back the progress made by the international community.

JOSE RAMOS-HORTA and MP Svend Robinson share a laugh at the opening ceremonies of the People's Summit last Wednesday. ADAM BRADLEY PHOTO

"The proponents of the Asian values theory have never actually articulated a set of Asian values that is supposedly different from the principles and values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Asian values has simply become an empty slogan," said Horta.

Horta also stated that those who claim to guard Asian values ignore the sacred teachings of the Eastern religions. Horta received a long applause after he criticising the UN and highlighted what he sees as blatant hypocrisy within the organization.

Horta was only one speaker at a gathering featuring a number of prominent political activists and social advocates. Also featured at the ceremony were former Manitoba opposition leader Elijah Harper and Malaysian activist Irene Fernandez who led the crowd in the chant: "We have life. We have rights. We have hope."❖

Women's Conference stands alone

by Cynthia Lee

The second International Women's Conference Against APEC is the only People's Summit event taking a clear oppositional position against APEC.

It was organised by a coalition of women's groups around the world and is part of the People's Summit on APEC, which is currently running parallel to the APEC conference.

The intention of the People's Summit is to provide alternatives to the positions taken by the eighteen member economies. Foremost among the concerns of the summit are the effects that trade liberalisation has on the peoples of the Pacific Rim.

The other conferences, such as those dealing with the plight of domestic workers or the impact of globalisation on education only provide a forum for discussion to take place but the Women's Conference took a firm stand against APEC.

Labour, human rights, environment and socio-economic development were the themes of the conference attended by over 450 delegates.

Sunera Thobani, a former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), said that engaging in the APEC process or creating side agreements could not effectively combat its destructive effects. "Globalisation is profoundly impacting the status of women everywhere."

The conference's stance went beyond APEC itself, expanding its opposition to include what Nandita Sharma, a conference organiser, called "the agenda which is driving APEC."

MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S Conference Against APEC meet to discuss the effects of neoliberalism on the developing worldline. ADAM BRADLEY PHOTO

"What you are hearing is women's experience around the world of neoliberalism. We are very much concerned that APEC is only about promoting that agenda," she said.

But for Tania Suarez, who, at 23, is an active member of the Mexican Zapatista Front for National Liberation, the conference wasn't enough.

"Unfortunately we don't have all the women here—those women who live the real problem. Could you imagine how they're living right now? They don't have the chance to study. They just have their hands to produce and to make a family comfortable. But they're not living with dignity."

Keynote speaker, Jeanette Armstrong, an Okanagan activist who works with the Council of Listeners in the International Testimonials on Violations to Indigenous Sovereignty, suggested Canadians have a duty concerning the APEC agenda.

"One of the clear responsibilities we have as a Canadian people in urging our government is not to participate in these large globalisation programs. It is our responsibility for other peoples, where the effects will be severest on the indigenous peoples and people under the poverty line," she said.

Education was also a recurring theme of the conference. Through a translator, Cheung Lai-Ha, vice-president of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, said, "Our next important act is to educate and organise women to fight for our rights."❖

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Fences to seal off Norman Mackenzie House

by Sarah Galashan

When 18 world leaders attend the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) the eyes of the world will be on UBC. And the eyes of security personnel will be on the protesters.

Seven foot high, chain-linked fences are being raised to form a protected zone around the Museum of Anthropology and Norman MacKenzie House, the sites of the AELM. RCMP officers will line both sides of the barricade. The borders run roughly from the corner of Chancellor Blvd. and Westbrook Mall to the Nitobe Memorial Garden.

"It will be regular RCMP members who will be assigned to ensure that the zone is secured," said Lloyd Plante, staff sergeant for the RCMP University Detachment.

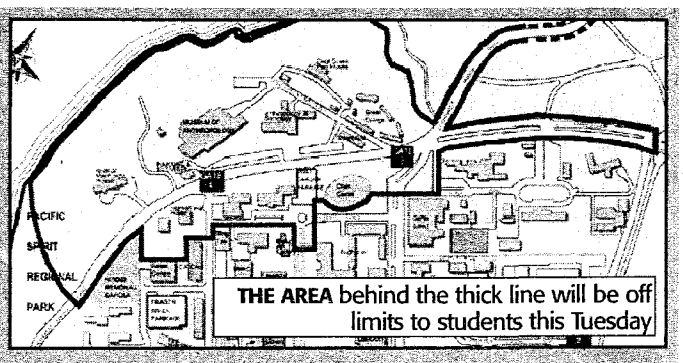
In the past week, RCMP officers have been scouting the campus, questioning students and orienting themselves with the area. According to RCMP Superintendent Trevor Thompsett, who's in charge of site security for the AELM, they will be ready for anything on Tuesday.

The officers will be equipped with handcuffs and standard firearms, and have been instructed to allow for reasonable and peaceful protest.

"There's always a concern. In no way do we wish to hamper protest. We feel confident we will be able to meet both needs," said Thompsett.

There is little doubt the meeting's presence will be felt by students. From November 24 at 6pm, to the same time the following day, parts of the campus will be closed to the public.

Only accredited personnel will have access to buildings within the security zone. This includes the Anthropology and Sociology building, meaning classes normally held there will be relocated. The Chan Centre, Green College, Rose Garden Parkade and the Graduate Student Centre will also be closed.



There are a few locations along the protected zone where students will have an unobstructed view of that day's events.

Bus routes along Fourth Ave., Chancellor Blvd. and Spanish Banks will be periodically re-routed and a shuttle bus will be available to help with cross-campus travel for drivers forced to find remote parking.❖

AMS opposes jailing peaceful, disobedient students

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

AMS council doesn't want students who use non-violent civil disobedience as a means of protest to go to jail.

The council's near-unanimous decision Wednesday comes weeks after three students were arrested for writing washable anti-APEC slogans on windows at the residence of the UBC president, Martha Piper.

But more significantly, it comes days before expected student protests against the APEC leaders' retreat at Piper's residence and the Museum of Anthropology November 25. The 18 APEC leaders at that meeting will include Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Indonesian leader General Suharto, both known for massive human rights abuses.

Student protesters from APEC-Alert, a group active in protests at UBC, have vowed to cross security barricades during the retreat to attempt to arrest Suharto for war crimes. And while they say the action will be non-violent, they expect to be arrested and possibly jailed.

Vivian Hoffmann, the AMS director of finance, spoke in support of the motion saying that while it's important to protect the safety of the leaders, that effort shouldn't impede students rights to effective protest. She argued civil disobedience of overzealous security measures is justified.

"Security is important, but there is the worry that the measures aren't being taken as much to protect the leaders from getting hurt, as to protect them from being embarrassed," said Hoffmann.

She added that protesters who are arrested should be jailed only if they will flee the country before a trial, or if they pose a threat to public safety. "Jail shouldn't be used to impede free speech or to silence or intimidate protesters," she argued.

An earlier version of the motion was returned to the AMS executive for clarification two weeks ago after councillors asked for a definition of 'civil disobedience.' At that meeting some councillors also spoke against defending students who break the law.

THE AMS, is opposed to more scenes like this on campus RICHARD LAM / UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

But a caveat in the policy passed this week limits the policy's definition of civil disobedience to action that isn't violent, doesn't cause physical harm and doesn't significantly or permanently damage property.

For an anti-APEC protester at the meeting, the move is welcome, but late. Rex Bailey, a third year Arts student, said the motion is so wishy-washy that council had no choice but to pass it.

"They should have made a stronger stand of principle some time ago," he said. "Rather, they've sidelined themselves and made themselves irrelevant to much of the APEC debate until now."

Bailey said council's motion might give him some support if he gets jailed at an anti-APEC protest.

"I'm not planning to [get arrested] but we'll see what happens."❖

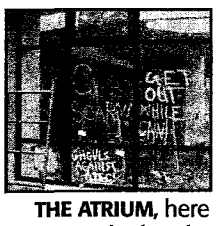
APEC brings no costs to UBC

by Michael McGowan

On Tuesday November 25, UBC campus will be the center of a huge media spectacle as it welcomes leaders for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation leader's summit.

"I would hope that UBC would gain a lot of profile and recognition of its programs, and that [recognition] would spin-off into additional funds being made available for programs in which both undergraduates and graduates could benefit," said Terry McBride, director of the C.K. Choi institute and recently-named academic vice president and provost.

Aside from the free publicity that UBC will gain from hosting the conference, there are other more tangible benefits.



THE ATRIUM, here marked up by activists, is one of the benefits gained from APEC RICHARD LAM / UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

The campus has already seen some physical improvements in the form of renovations to the Museum of Anthropology and the addition of the atrium to the president's house. All the costs are being covered by the federal government.

There are also a number of potential APEC legacies. They include: creation of a centre for Australia-Canada relations; an Asian art exhibit at the university shortly after APEC; journalism exchange with APEC countries; and creation of models of the APEC economies.

All funding for these UBC legacy initiatives will either come from endowment resources within the university, or new funding initiatives from donors to the university.

Stan Hamilton, associate dean of the faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, stressed the need to forge economic links with the Asia-Pacific region.

He said many of the students currently studying at UBC are from the Asia Pacific region, and will return home after earning their degrees. They will be our future business partners, he says.

But McBride said the APEC agenda can open up in the future. "I don't see why as those [economic] goals move forward or change, APEC can't also begin to embrace other goals such as matters relating to health in the region, or environment, or sustainable development."❖

East Timorese put Suharto on trial in SUB

by Todd Silver

General Suharto, leader of Indonesia, was indicted for crimes against humanity last Monday in a mock trial organised by the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN).

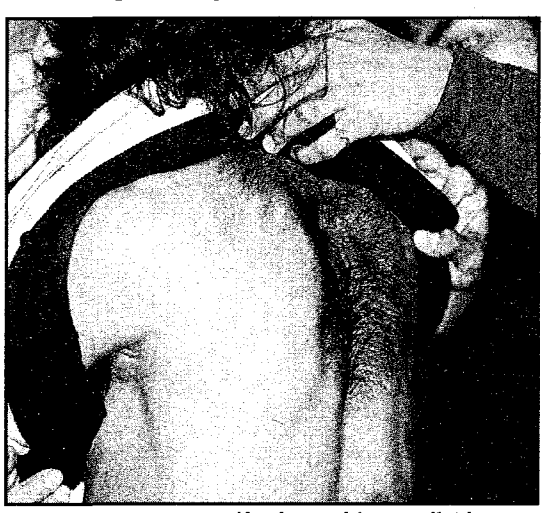
The decision followed the testimony of 17 Timorese and Indonesian individuals, who gave first-hand accounts of the massacre and torture which began in 1975 following the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

General Suharto, who became president in a coup, is said to be responsible for the deaths of as many as 200,000 Timorese under a program of genocide and forced sterilization.

Isabel Galhos, who is one of only three known East Timorese currently living in Canada, described the life she lived under Indonesian rule. While still in school, she was injected with Depo Provera, the drug used by the Indonesian military to sterilize many Timorese. It took five soldiers to hold her down for the injection.

The only way she knew how to get out of the country was to join a government sponsored initiative to quell rumours of a massacre in the Indonesian capital which began to drift over the Pacific in 1991.

Dili, the capital of East Timor, was the site of a protest against Indonesian's continued occupation. According to the panelists, soldiers opened fire on the protesters. Reports say that over 200 were killed and another 300 wounded.



TORTURE SURVIVOR Alfredo Rodriques displays cigarette burns inflicted by the Indonesian army. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

In response to the growing world concern over the region following the Dili massacre, the Indonesian government enlisted East Timorese people to travel the world to hail the benefits of the unification of the two nations.

Galhos ended up in Canada. But before she left, she had to endure what she said was a grueling interrogation. For two weeks, she was interviewed for twelve hours a day to ensure what she told the world fit with what the government wanted. "I was forced to lie," she explained. "The East Timorese were used to hurt East Timorese."

Galhos defected while speaking in Canada. But the family she left behind in East Timor supported her decision.

The chatter during the trial Monday fell silent when Alfredo Rodriques lifted his shirt to expose a blackened scar across most of his upper back. He explained through a translator how he was tortured with cigarettes. He listed off the names of the battalions he said killed his mother, father and brother.

The jury found that the testimony was enough to call on the government to arrest Suharto for crimes against humanity in accordance with Canadian law.❖

Your UBC forum 2
Work Experience, Co-op and Internship
Speak your mind... we're listening
Friday, November 21
12:30 pm in the
SUB Conversation Pit

Singh gets active

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

If everything goes as planned next Tuesday and a troop of anti-APEC protesters pours over the barricades at UBC to arrest the president of Indonesia, expect to see Jaggi Singh, take-charge activist and all-around shit disturber near the front of the pack.

It was Singh who was dragged in a choke-hold from an Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum reception at the Museum of Anthropology last January after trying to present an Indonesian delegate with the flag of Indonesian-occupied East Timor, site of some of the most vicious human rights abuses since the Holocaust.

It was also Singh who was arrested last month during a demonstration outside the Nike store on Robson Street. And outside an Indonesian forum at the Robson Square Media Centre. And at a bicycle rally to protest the Molson Indy.

But for all the protests Singh has organised or participated in this year, he still doesn't have a record. "One point I want to make is I'm not proud of the fact that I don't have a criminal record," Singh says, sitting on a balcony outside the Student Union Building. "There are a lot of things that are worth getting a record for."

If Singh has a record at UBC though, it is with students who have applauded or sneered at his tactics; with a host of university administrators who would probably like to see him disappear; and with a burgeoning group of fellow activists. Singh can take a lot of the credit for building the group of activists.

By most accounts, UBC was a wellhead of apathy until late.

The campus was a place where self-involved students fretted over job prospects and beer gardens; hardly fertile soil for a debate about human rights and Third World development prospects. So the roiling protests, the string of arrests, all the attention on issues, all the debate on campus, is a new thing to a lot of people here. Panel discussions on APEC are packed. And people are talking.

For better or for worse, Singh is widely seen as the one who's conceived, carried, delivered and reared the rebirth of social activism at UBC.

Not that he'll accept the credit. Environmental groups and racial and social awareness groups have been a part of the university for years. But lately they've tended to be polite. *Timid.*

Singh, new to Vancouver from his native Toronto, was one of a small group of people who got involved in opposing the Coke monopoly at UBC, starting a small group called Culture Jammers. The group staged rallies outside the UBC McDonald's and plastered campus Coke machines with unfriendly stickers. They deflated an enormous blow-up Ronald McDonald stationed outside SUB during Storm the Wall. They stormed the towering plywood walls and 'redesigned' the walls' corporate logos with spray-paint.

Singh helped found the Ogoni Solidarity Network to protest the hanging of Nigerian environmental activist Ken Saro Wiwa and seven other activists. "The Ogoni Eight" were hanged for their protests of Shell oil's operations, and the company's environmental and social impact on the region. The Ogoni Solidarity Network started picketing Shell service stations (Shell has been widely blamed for supporting the military regime that killed Saro Wiwa) and distributing literature on Nigeria and the Ogoni region.

He's also involved in the East Timor Alert Network, APEC-Alert, the No to APEC Coalition, Food not Bombs, anti-racist groups, a squatters rights group.

This week he's spoken on a panel discussion, at forums and rallies and as a panellist on a Vancouver chat show. He was in good form Tuesday at a UBC panel on APEC. The panel was made up of faculty experts in economics, development, political science and labour, a politician, and James Cooney, of Placer Dome, the international gold mining firm.

Cooney, speaking in support of APEC, argued that issues like the environment and human rights would eventually be drawn into the APEC agenda. But business, being universal, was the place to start, he said.

Singh, in a tattered Gap pullover and unhemmed corduroys, stripped Cooney of his environmentalist cred by mentioning Placer Dome's role in the biggest mining tailings spill in the Philippine history, at Calancan Bay. "When spills happen, when catastrophe happens—when they ask for compensation—Placer Dome takes its money and pulls out," Singh rallied. "The people in Calancan Bay are still waiting for compensation."

And Singh slammed the much-bandied assertion that people in Asia have a different standard for human rights and democracy than Westerners do. It's the military, the governments and the business leaders who say human rights is a Western instrument that doesn't apply to Asia. Workers in Asia, aboriginal people in Asia, a majority, Singh said, want human rights, but no one's listening to them because they're not at the APEC table.

For all his activism, Singh doesn't want to be profiled in the media as a leader. He was reluctant to cooperate for this profile. The reason people think he's the leader is that he's the one who makes the six o'clock newscast and writes the press releases, he says.

Step into a lush, manicured backyard with a multi-million dollar view of the Straight of Georgia. It's the UBC President's official residence and Singh and a dozen other protesters weren't invited to play road hockey. See Singh cut in front of the television lights and cameras and microphones scrumming in Piper's backyard to deliver an eloquent media clip on why APEC-Alert is reclaiming space that will provide a retreat for dictators.

Road hockey against APEC didn't make much of a media splash, though. The media came for arrests, and there weren't any. But the APEC-Alert press release promised nothing short of Oka. "UBC students to risk arrest three times this week as opposition to APEC grows" it yowled.

The media were only extras though, in a bigger picture.

"I really don't like stunts. The vibe I got at the hockey game for example, I hated that. And it was more a reflection on the media than anyone else." Singh adds for every protest action he does, he evaluates whether it's worth doing even if there's no media there to record it. The importance of an action is the action itself, he says, not the attention it might get.

He complains that the anti-APEC groups are known only for their civil disobedience because the media won't go to panel discussions, or forums or speeches, or teach-ins. The other side to the groups—discussing the issues—is shunted from the headlines.

"A good case study of this is what's going to happen on the twenty-fourth [of November] and twenty-fifth. Because on the twenty-fourth we're having a teach-in. We're bringing in speakers from New Zealand, Native speakers from here, from East Timor, Tibet, Maude Barlow [of the Council of Canadians] and Tony Clarke [author of *Silent Coup*]."

On the twenty-fifth, they'll try to arrest Indonesian President Suharto.

"One thing I have learned is that to be an activist is not something to be ashamed of—to be called an activist. It's a term that's thrown around to disparage people and I think it's quite an honourable thing...to be called an activist."❖

JAGGI SINGH RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Chris Brown gets organised

by Sarah Galashan

Chris Brown is the Executive Interchange Officer for the Department of Foreign Affairs looking into the Asia Pacific. In short, he's the man with one of the longest titles at UBC.

He has the longest title and, arguably, one of the most important jobs this week. Organising APEC at UBC is no easy task.

In the C.K. Choi building, Brown sits at his desk by the phone he uses to contact foreign dignitaries and federal officials. He explains that he is employed by the university, and is on a government assignment intended to broaden his experience and offer UBC his international expertise.

CHRIS BROWN RICHARD LAM PHOTO

On November 25, 18 big names will be on our campus. But there are personalities on all sides of the APEC debate who have been here for a while. Jaggi Singh and Chris Brown are a couple of the names you can expect to hear a lot of in the next few days.

Formerly posted in Vietnam and having worked extensively in the Asia Pacific makes Brown an expert. The UBC spot became available on his way back from a posting in Asia. He was the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

No other Canadian university devotes as many of its resources to the Asia Pacific as UBC does. This is partly credited to former UBC President David Strangway, who insisted the school would strengthen its link to the Pacific Rim. For this, and the anticipated role UBC might play in APEC '97, Brown was offered the stint two years ago.

Lately he's been the man with the connections, spending a great deal of time on the phone liaising with his government contacts and working out the logistics of the campus portion of APEC. But he insists he's most interested in how APEC will affect the university and whenever possible he finds time to directly address the students' concerns, often by speaking to classes or to the campus media.

"Much of my work for the last six months has been working on the university's role in APEC and how that fits into its broader position in Asia Pacific interests."

Grad fellowships, an Asian art exhibit, and a centre for Australian-Canadian relations are among what administration types are calling the UBC APEC Legacy Initiatives. Brown believes it is important that the school gets as much out of the event as possible and has been working to ensure it will happen.

"UBC's real strength lies in Asia Pacific affairs and it goes right across every faculty. Every department from anthropology to zoology has some kind of Asia Pacific interest, some kind of connection."

University professors and researchers have provided important background information to APEC organisers on transportation, energy and environmental issues. It's been just one of the opportunities the controversial conference has provided UBC.

APEC has also provided UBC with more protest and media attention than ever before. Activism both on and off campus has become a regular occurrence and anyone with a bone to pick knows that on November 25, UBC is the place to be.

Whether the campus protests have upped the stakes for APEC security on campus is not for certain, says Brown, but it is for certain that the federal government has a large responsibility to ensure the safety of the Internationally Protected People who will be in Vancouver for the economic conference.

The campus has been a hotbed for student protests since the announcement that the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) would be the venue for the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM). There have been several arrests made and there could be more to come. Three students were arrested earlier this month for graffiti on the residence of UBC President Martha Piper. They have also played ball hockey on her driveway.

Brown says targeting Martha Piper is unjustified. "Martha Piper inherited this file. Whether or not the university was consulted is no longer the issue."

He also defends the choice of location and says ultimately it benefits the students who want their issues heard. "I believe that their concerns can be more effectively highlighted...by holding the meeting on the university campus and using that as a venue not only for the meeting but for an expression for these concerns, than it could be if this meeting took place in a hotel downtown."

The site was chosen from among many possible Vancouver sites because of its spectacular location and for the security options it provided. But he believes that the location choice also emphasises the government's interest in youth and in education.

He is not surprised but impressed by the amount of commitment students have shown in their cause. "You hear all this stuff these days about students being apathetic. And I don't think that's true. I think that UBC students are passionately concerned."

And he attributes growing awareness of the issue of human rights across Canadian campuses to the protests at UBC. The recent arrests of protesting UBC students have generated national attention in both the mainstream and campus press.

"[The Government] has made it very clear to the leaders that there will be demonstrations, that there will be protests, that there will be strong and visible expressions of sentiment against certain APEC leaders on certain issues. But that these will go ahead without fear of reprisal or retribution as long as they take place in a reasonable manner."

APEC-Alert has received national media attention for many of their protests. What concerns organisers of the event is avoiding an international incident.

"Protests will continue. I think they will be come more active and frequent and I think that's quite reasonable given the level of concerns it seems the student body has on this," says Brown. But he stresses that providing some reasonable alternatives to APEC is more constructive .

He expects protests along the fenced off RCMP protected zone, but hopes that UBC students in general will also show an interest this Tuesday. He's helped ensure that students will have access to information on the proceedings in the Museum of Anthropology; televisions carrying AELM coverage are being installed in many campus buildings.

As for the meeting itself, he won't be in attendence, but from what this man with the federal conections says, it will see some broadening of the agenda with more sustainable development issues being discussed than ever before. And no matter what, Brown is confident that APEC is a good idea. It's good because engaging people in dialogue is more constructive than cutting them off with sanctions.

"I personally believe that it is important to be holding the AELM at a democratic institution in a democratic country," said Brown.

What the future after UBC holds for the man with the longest title is still up in the air. For now he's got to focus on APEC.❖

APEC is all about culture

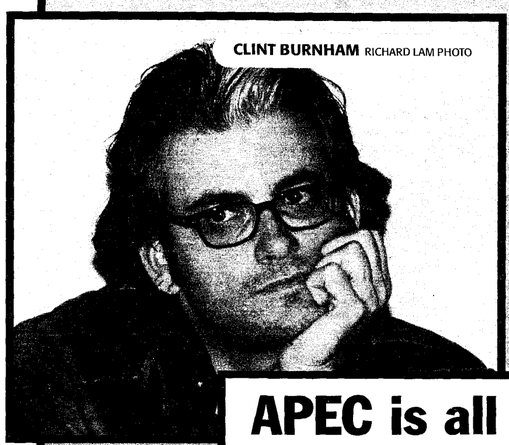
by Penny Cholmondeley

Talk about APEC and you'll brew up all kinds of opinions and emotions. But talk about APEC and culture, and you'd better expect confusion. After all, isn't the conference only about economics?

Not necessarily, if you believe Clint Burnham, a sessional instructor at UBC and Emily Carr.

Burnham spoke on the matter as part of "Globalisation and Culture," a panel discussion organised by Art Against APEC.

Burnham asserts that the link between APEC and culture lies in the process of globalisation and that culture is, in fact, at the very root of the conference. He quickly points out that APEC wouldn't exist without globalisation, a process which not only affects culture, but is rapidly becoming a part of how it is defined.



CLINT BURNHAM RICHARD LAM PHOTO

While Burnham may not feel that globalisation has to, by nature, be a negative force, he does refute claims that it is a naturally occurring process. Instead he blames the leaders of the APEC countries for perpetuating it for their own agendas.

"They present it as being natural, it's inevitable, it's coming, get ready, get used to it," says Burnham. "But they help it... Why can't it just sort of, like a wave or something, just come in and cover us all with cheap imports or jobs or whatever it's supposed to cover us with!"

According to Burnham, the effects of globalisation have created a kind of cultural schism. On the one hand, the world is witnessing the emergence of a system of unprecedented communication. However, at the same time we are having to deal with "religious fundamentalism... ethical monotheism... isolationism... social conservatism and xenophobia." We are, at the same time, living in both worlds.

The art being displayed at the conference is, in Burnham's opinion, the perfect example of how this kind of split is being manipulated by APEC organisers.

For instance, highlighting non-controversial West Coast Native art appeals to a kind of nostalgia about what Burnham calls the "authentic." This "authentic" side of Canadian art is being used as part of a carefully orchestrated environment, in which organisers can tightly control the focus of the conference.

So, despite their differences, contributions from Bill Reid, Gordon Smith and other well known British Columbian and Canadian artists to be showcased, all have one thing in common. They are highly unlikely to offend anyone.

"The reason why I'm saying it's bad is that this is precisely the role that culture has played through most of history in terms of highly oppressive societies...trophy art."

Perhaps aware of how damning this might sound, Burnham is quick to qualify his criticisms of many of Canada's most popular artists.

"Obviously many of these artists are quite interesting and they've done interesting work—it's not just the fact they were very clear that they did not want anything controversial or sexual or violent in the imagery."

But Burnham questions the role such art is playing in the context of APEC.

"I mean, will they even know it's any different from what they think would be there anyway!. And that's exactly the kind of function that that kind of art plays in that kind of high class world, and has played for the past few hundred years as just being a trophy... That's what really the role of art for APEC is in terms of the event happening here."

In response to everything being said about the "economic only" agenda of the APEC conference, Burnham offers a convincing counter argument. APEC isn't really about economics. It's about appearances.

The leaders summit, to Burnham, is in a sense a completely cultural event where the national leaders appear on stage so as appear to be in control when, in fact, they do not. "That's the irony, they have to pretend to lead."❖

More than two sides to APEC

by Cynthia Lee and Jill Thielmann

If APEC has had any effect on UBC campus, it has stirred a flurry of debate about trade policy, human rights and representation. But, while some professors who teach subjects directly related to APEC have downplayed the issue, others have taken the opportunity to speak up on it.

Xavier Furtado, an international relations graduate who has participated in several APEC forums at UBC, says it's easier to articulate an anti-APEC position than a pro-APEC position. And he says it's hard to pigeon-hole the debate into a pro-APEC and anti-APEC dichotomy.

"The division is artificial. It is easy to portray the anti-APEC side because someone can be aligned with righteous causes—for human rights, against the presence of murderous leaders," said Furtado. "It's harder if you aren't against APEC. No one's position is quite that simplistic. No one is going to say, 'I'm pro-APEC and against human rights,'" he explained.

Law Professor, Pitman Potter, agreed. "I would like to suggest that the classification of either 'for' or 'against' is sort of a false dichotomy, and I would hesitate to characterise myself as someone who is 'for' APEC in any sort of unqualified sense. I think it has some things to offer, but I think it also has some potential problems," Potter said.

But at an APEC-Alert forum on October 24—Professors Speak Out on APEC—there was little doubt as to what some professors thought about APEC.

"I am offended that the university, a place of academic freedom, would be welcoming something contrary to this idea of academic freedom," said Frank Tester, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. He invited UBC President Martha Piper, to "think about it," adopting the university's pro-research buzzword.

Valerie Raoul, director of the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations was also firm in her stance against APEC.

"I find it alarming that an organisation that is not elected, representative of governments, or accountable, and whose debates are kept secret, can have so much influence on the lives of such a large number of people," said Raoul.

And she spoke from some first-hand knowledge of conditions in Asia, where she worked in Thailand with the International Voluntary Service, and with the World University Service of Canada.

She added that many faculty members have serious reservations about APEC, but are hesitating to speak aloud. "They may be afraid of being labelled as part of a knee-jerk protest groups with questionable tactics," she said.

That might explain why many UBC classes that deal with Asia Pacific issues, have not discussed the upcoming APEC conference, nor will they.

Diane Mauzy, a political science professor of South Asian government and politics, said she will not be discussing APEC with her class because there is already enough public information on the organisation.

Neither will Brian Copeland. The International Economics Professor said APEC will receive mention in his class but it won't be his focus. "I won't be focusing on the controversial issues because that's not what my class is really about."

Ironically, one professor who is raising APEC in his class is not in the social sciences at all. English Professor Clint Burnham has incorporated APEC into his two essay writing classes and his novel class will discuss APEC's "controversial issues."

Burnham plans to bring the issues to the classroom November 24, the day before the conference. He said professors should be discussing the controversial issues in order to educate students.

"It's our job to educate as professors, and what goes on outside the classroom affects what goes on inside the classroom."

Burnham said instructors should at least acknowledge the presence of APEC on campus, and ensure students understand what is going on and the implications it will have, especially those classes whose curriculum is directly related to the APEC conference.

Whatever opinions professors may hold, Michael Wallace, a professor of Political Science, warned "professors should not use their position to coerce or browbeat their students into accepting their views. Academic freedom applies to students as well."❖

APEC ignores environmental concerns

by Andy Barham

In Indonesia, residents are forced to put on gas masks because the smoke from slash and burn forestry is thick enough to cause severe resperatory damage. The wood is then used to produce cheap pulp in Canadian- built mills. The explanation that economics is separate from enviromental concerns would seem strange to a woman unable to breathe the air.

But economics is all that will be talked about when the leaders of the 18 APEC "economies" meet at UBC next week. APEC is not about the environment. It is not about human rights, or fair and safe labour practices, or equal treatment of women and aboriginal people, or child exploitation, or, in fact, any of the issues and concerns of the ordinary citizens of any of the countries participating in the summit.

Instead, APEC will concern itself entirely with a discussion of trade liberalisation in an emerging global context, focusing in particular on removing barriers to trade between participating nations. Issues, such as environmental degradation, pollution, and deforestation are not on the agenda.

Libby Davies, NDP MP for Vancouver East argued that unfettered trading arrangements among APEC countries means that there are no rules governing the behaviour of transnational corporations operating within the Asia Pacific sphere. She described it as a region without rules.

"Their whole idea is trade liberalisation and getting away from any rules whatsoever. So, from that point of view, I think we should be very concerned about APEC and its relationship to globalisation and its relationship to the role of government. One of the things I see happening with this sort of whole issue of globalisation and trade liberalisation is that the role of the state is being dramatically redefined. That, instead of serving public or human interest, it's being redifined to serve corporate interests, facilitating the creation of new markets. That's what its primary role is," she said.

Canada has played a leading role in this deforestation with Canadian engineering companies building many of Indonesia's huge new pulp mills, in at least one case, with hefty subsidies from the Chretien government.

According to Communication, Energy and Paperworkers' Union representative Fred Wilson, Indonesia's pulp mills operate with the lowest costs in the world, making them profitable, even during downturns in the pulp market.

Canada has also sold two CANDU reactors to China, bringing in with it legislation exempting any 'mega-project' from enviromental legislation which was originally brought in by the Chretien government.

According to Wilson, Canadian engineering firms like HR Simons have played a leading role in building new pulp mills in Indonesia. These new pulp mills are then used by the Canadian government as examples of the nation's success in the global market. The government does not, however, address the allegations that these mills, which run on the barest expense, rely on a labor force making two dollars a day and forbidden to form unions. In fact, trade union activist Muktar Pakpahat was imprisoned for demanding a doubling of the minimum wage.

"It's almost impossible for them not to make money, regardless," said Wilson. "Their costs are so low that they can make money even at the lowest end of the cycle, and they are saturating the world with cheap pulp. That's directly related to the lack of human rights and labour rights in that country."

Wilson says when these companies flood the world market with inexpensive pulp, Canadian companies have no choice but ask the government to ease off on environmental standards and reduce the size of the labour force so that they can have a chance to compete. [Effectively, they are asking Canada to make changes in its economy so that the nation can compete in an internatonal market which Canadian companies helped create.]

Environmentalists in BC are concerned. According to Ken Woo of the People's Action for Threatened Habitat (PATH), the provincial government is buckling to the pressure, and has already shown a preference for economic interests over the environment. The Forest Practices Code was changed to place economic concerns on par with environmental interests. Previously, enviromental concerns came first. "The government is really pandering to the forest industry, big companies, right now," said Woo.

A commitment to loosening up environmental protection legislation, such as the Forest Practices Code, is being requested by B.C.'s forestry sector to make it competitive with the forestry industry in Indonesia.

Rationalising BC's forestry practices in order to achieve competitive parity with other APEC countries doesn't just affect our forests. It also has a major impact on the rest of the ecosystem and those who depend on it for something other than fibre production.

Woo points out that one of the ways that the forestry industry would like to see the Forest Practices Code streamlined is through the elimination of the proviso for riparian leave strips along stream banks.

"The Forest Practices Code in BC is being so-called streamlined because the BC companies are complaining that they're not competitive because of increased costs associated with the regulations. This is an increasing result of globalisation. APEC is just going to push it farther along those lines. Right now, major forest companies are drafting a plan to make it no longer necessary to leave riparian strips, strips of trees along streams that protect salmon," says Woo.

Innumerable scientific studies demonstrate that leaving 10 metre buffer zones of woodland along streambanks, or "riparian strips," mitigates many of the destructive effects of clearcutting. Removal of these strips results in greater siltation of gravel spawning beds, for example, through upsetting the natural regulation of stream discharge interfering with the salmon using the lakebed to spawn.

But on November 25, 18 of the world's leaders will meet at the Museum of Anthropology and talk economics, and not the enviroment, while outside, the Fraser River spills into the ocean below the North Shore Mountains. There will not be a gas mask in sight.❖

Andy Barham is a third year science student and a frequent contributor

APEC Environmental Hotspots

CANADA

High rates of air pollution are destroying the ozone layer over the high arctic.

Only about 25 per cent of British Columbia's coastal Old Growth rainforest remains unlogged.

CHINA

The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest dam, currently under construction on the Yangtze River, will divert water 200 km from the river to supply many cities. However, this will result in the probable extiction of the River Dolphin.

MALAYSIA

The wholesale clearcutting and burning of Malaysian forests displaces the indigenous inhabitants who depend on the rainforest for survival.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

National Forests and Parks are under threat from Congressmen who feel they should be opened up to mining and logging as supplies elsewhere run out.

The Military Industrial Complex has created huge quantities of nuclear waste from the byproducts of weapons manufacture.

–Sources:
David Cadman chair of the Board of Directors of SPEC, the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
Dr. Aprodicio Loquian, Director of Human Settlements for the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning

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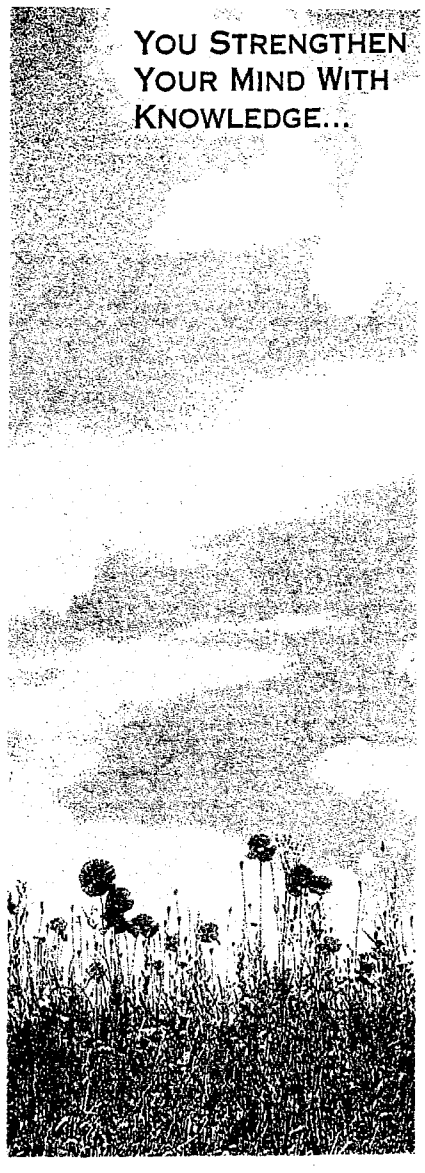
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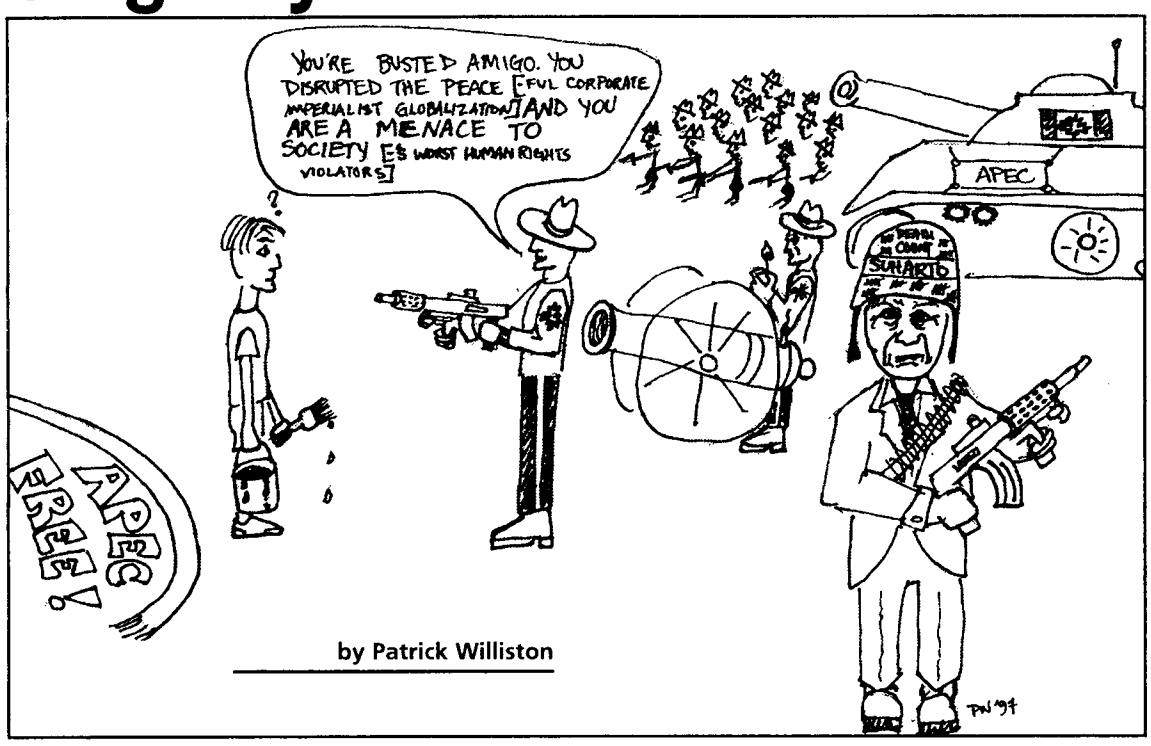


by Patrick Williston

Ah, those so-called Asian values include human rights

by Nicole Capler

A couple of weeks ago in *the Globe and Mail* there was an article, in the news section, about President Suharto of Indonesia and what a great leader he is. The news article neglected to mention the genocide in East Timor and other such nastiness that is to the credit of Suharto. Even more offensive than that blatant omission was the worst statement I have yet seen printed by our country's newspapers: the article stated that Suharto had an unwritten social contract with the people of his country who were willing to give up their human rights and democracy for the sake of economic growth. Ah, those honourable so-called Asian Values.

The scary thing about this is that Canada is buying into and promoting this racist crap in order to trade with these countries so that we can be one of the big boys. In Nazi Germany, new values were adopted for the sake of the economy too. Maybe as our freedoms are taken away from us, such as our freedom to peacefully protest and strike, and we are told to accept the notion that people don't mind being tortured and killed, there will be a rhetoric of New Canadian Values.

Taken down to the level of UBC, we can see some very ugly behaviours being engaged in to be part of this big APEC thing about which so very few people know anything (*the Sun* tried to call it an economic festival—thanks for the info). Here's an example: At an exhibit on Tibet last winter at the Museum of Anthropology, staff were dismayed that while the display included a statement by Ziang Zemin, President of China (the country that is occupying Tibet and destroying its inhabitants), the director of the museum would not allow a statement sent in by the Dalai Lama (leader of the Tibetan government in exile) to be displayed, on the grounds that it would be too political.

The first questionable action regarding APEC on campus was taken by past-president Strangway, a.k.a. Corporate Dick, who invited the Leaders' Meeting to campus, with all its major, major repercussions, without consulting anyone. And now the rights of students to protests and their freedoms are being taken away by the RCMP and the justice system under the complicit administration's watchful eyes.

This is just the time for enacting the checks and balances we have on the misguided and greedy administration. One of these takes the form of the students elected to sit on the Board of Governors (BoG). And when the issue of APEC was brought there (after the deal was already made), the two student representatives voted against having it on campus. The other check is the AMS, which has independent status for the administration, which basically means they have a lot of power to keep the administration in line when it comes to issues that affect students.

But the AMS did not back up the reps to the BoG by swiftly and strongly taking a stand against hosting APEC. This is a scandal. How could this be? Well, the APEC people thrive on greed and ignorance (especially in people with power), and know how to play it. They got Jenny Chen, an executive on the AMS, to work for them as a coordinator of student volunteers. Jenny finally fessed up to council about her role with APEC after the secret got out.

Concerned and outraged students, under the auspices of APEC Alert, tried to help the AMS use their power properly. They gave the AMS executive and council members information, explained the problems with the undemocratic process of APEC, and with having leaders such as Suharto and Zemin come to campus. They reminded the AMS of their role to represent students' concerns. Members of APEC Alert bored themselves to tears at the AMS council meetings and as a result a motion was passed to uphold values of human rights (something vague and mushy). A majority also voted in favor of a motion to oppose APEC on campus, however to pass it needed two-thirds. Jenny and Shirin [Foroutan], also an AMS executive, gave speeches in favour of APEC coming to campus and of its "great opportunities" and "constructive engagement" and voted against the motion. APEC Alert tried to bring another motion to council this fall after Shirin stated in a public forum that she would be opposed to APEC coming to campus if there would be riot police and snipers around, but somehow it was not put on the agenda for council.

The Faculty Association also decided not to take a stand, with the reasoning that it was not a campus issue. Perhaps they were unaware that their students would be arrested. Perhaps they were unaware that APEC's agenda in regards to education calls for the privatisation of public institutions and the end of liberal arts education—or they don't believe in the value of what they teach and research. Did they think it would just go away if they didn't deal with it?

Although the rest of campus, including all the unions and the GSS, voted against APEC coming to campus, without the support of the AMS and Faculty Association, it was impossible to get the meeting relocated. So APEC Alert was faced with the "opportunity" of taking on the monumental task of educating the campus body about APEC through leaflets, posters, panel discussions, open forums, and acts of protest. Support for APEC-Alert has come from the GSS and other universities, such as SFU, Langara and UVIC, and the Canadian Federation of Students, and from universities all over Canada, all shocked that the AMS did not use its power to counter the administration, nor even make a statement in support of the students who got arrested for protesting.

By not taking a stand, the AMS and Faculty Association are supporting the administration, and not representing those whom they are supposed to. They are abusing their power. By not taking a stand, they have allowed students to be put in jail for peaceful protest. They did not use their power while they still could, to prevent such things, but now at the very least, even if just to save face, they should support students who are, and will be, exercising their freedoms. If the AMS and the Faculty Association, who exist to represent us, refuse to do so, our unwritten contract to respect them will be null and void.

At the level of the university, APEC has brought out the abuse of power...Think About It.❖

Nicole Capler is a UBC alumni and a member of APEC Alert

The case against APEC

by Aiyanas Ormond

APEC Alert has never pretended to represent all UBC students. There is no membership, no party line, no dress code. APEC Alert is an open forum wherein students can express their many strong concerns about the November 25th Leaders Summit on Campus and the broader agenda that APEC represents in a creative and collected way. In doing so we've been challenged for postering, painting the "APEC Free Zone" and also for our arguments, ideas and alternatives. This dialogue, so long as it is honest and mutually respectful, is more than welcome. In fact, an atmosphere in which students challenge each other on their ideas, debate vital social and political questions and at least discuss (if not push) the boundaries of expression, public versus private property and collective action is exactly the kind of environment that should prevail on a University campus. I hope that these issues continue to be addressed after APEC has come and gone. But in the last few days leading up to the summit I would like to focus the debate on APEC itself.

The concerns that I and others in APEC Alert have with the APEC world view and the summit itself have been fairly well documented in these pages and elsewhere. They begin with a rejection of trade and investment liberalisation as a way to promote a future which is sustainable, democratic, egalitarian and empowering, the kind of world we would like to live in. Our criticisms extend to APEC extension of a mass consumerist model where everything including people, lifestyles and culture have to be marketed, bought and sold to be recognised as valuable. We've even pointed out how APEC refuses to address human rights or environmental concerns and excludes and undermines alternative economic and social models. We've come to these conclusions based on a very close examination of APEC's history, policies and players. All the evidence can't be laid out in this short article but I would suggest that as litmus test we take a look at exactly how APEC operates as an organisation, the assumption being that this should give us some insights into the fundamental motives and agendas of the participants.

My argument is basically that APEC suppresses dissenting voices and pretends that people marginalised and negatively impacted by its policies don't exist. At both the last APEC summit in Manila and this year in Canada visitors wishing to attend counter-conferences have been denies visas. This year in particular a number of student leaders from the Philippines and other delegates to the conference organised by NO! to APEC have been denied entry to the country without any justification. Moreover, critics of APEC have been met with arrests, intimidation and threats both at UBC and elsewhere. The arrests of students has been fairly widely discussed; less well known is the fact that activists planning peaceful political protest have been called, questioned and threatened by police in both publicly and privately. One prominent east Vancouver activist was taken for a ride by secret service agents and told that people like himself could be detained without charges during conferences like this one. Considering that all parties concerned have stated their commitment to peaceful protest, what exactly is being protected here? In fact, what's happening is that certain leaders are being protected from "embarrassment" and the whole process is being shielded from public scrutiny and debate.

While APEC stresses some aspects of economics and trade the main players don't even want to see the negative impacts of capital mobility, slashed social spending and fiscal austerity. In Manila last year 60,000 homes were demolished in building a highway between the Manila airport and the secluded resort setting of the summit, with no compensation to the hundreds of thousands of people they sheltered. Moreover, the conference organisers erected walls along the highway so that delegates would not have to be exposed to the massive poverty they were passing through.

We've seen a continuation of this process this year in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Canada's lowest income community. Police presence in the area has vastly increased and residents are being driven off the streets through increased crackdowns and arrests for minor offenses and ticketing for things like jaywalking, laws the police admit aren't enforced in the rest of the city. The parallels between Manila and Vancouver aren't accidental. Rather than look at the serious problems created by increased unemployment and underemployment, forced urbanisation through the degradation of the natural environment and traditional ways of life, and the resulting cycle of poverty and hopelessness, APEC focuses on macro-economic factors, growth indicators and private profits; logical, tidy, unambiguous—nothing like the real world.

My argument is basically that APEC suppresses dissenting voices

Give these attitudes, what kind of world can we expect APEC to promote? It's an important question given that eleven of the most powerful players in the region are involved in an promoting this organisation. Well, it's a world where things are only valued in terms of economics and profitability; where business interests are synonymous with national interests; where marginalised people are ignored or blamed for their situation; where a few people maintain control of rapidly depleting world resources through the use of coercive media and advertising, ideology and brute force.

This is addressed to people with other visions. These visions might be quite diverse but share certain fundamental concerns for the common good, for some kind of equality and social justice, for the environment and the future of the planet. If these are things that we value then we need to push for structures and organisations that take those values as the premise for trade. APEC takes the opposite view. Trade is seen as good in and of itself rather than in terms of who gains and who loses. As far as I am concerned this is just plain backwards. APEC cannot be reformed. Refuse it.❖

Aiyanas Ormond is a third year Economics and a member of APEC Alert

Corporate agenda theory smacks of socialism

by Jerome Yau

The controversies surrounding the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) will come to the peak when leaders of the 18 member economies will come to UBC to attend the APEC leader's meeting on November 25. Since September, students have been bombarded with anti-APEC messages in and around campus. Unfortunately, those Anti-APEC messages are often ill conceived and misleading. As a supporter of free trade and believer in pragmatism, I felt compelled to refute the myths perpetuated by APEC Alert and to examine the issue from a broader perspective.

Before arguing my case, I would like to take a moment to criticise the action taken by APEC-Alert in protesting APEC in campus. While I support their rights to express their opinions, I find it disgusting that members of the APEC Alert tried to promote their agenda by engaging in acts of vandalism and tried to justify their actions in the name of free speech.

Yes, they have the right to free speech but that does not mean they can break the law. For example, free speech does not give anybody the right to spray-paint the pavements of the Koerner Plaza nor trespass on private property and vandalise the windows of the Norman Mackenzie House.

The reason I support APEC is very simple: APEC promotes free trade. Critics charged that the free trade agenda is "anti-people." Well, have these critics ever provided a compelling case that there is a cause and effect relationship between free trade and exploitation? No. They could not because there is no such relationship. Conversely, free trade has always been a source of prosperity.

Free trade is worth our support because it allows trade, investment and other business activities to be conducted without undue government interference. Many economists have long identified that excessive government regulations would you hurt the economy and hence affect the livelihood of ordinary citizens. Moreover, free trade means free exchange of ideas which is something that trade protectionism cannot achieve. In the words of Milton Friedman, a renowned economist and Nobel Prize winner: "Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself."

Free trade means a prudent economic policy. The many economic problems that we have seen or experienced are not due to trade liberalisation but rather excessive government interference and trade protectionism. In a leading article appeared on the August 23 issue of *The Economist*, the leaders rightly pointed out that "the biggest economic-policy mistake of the past 50 years, in rich and poor countries alike, has been and still is to expect too much government."

Apart from such a resounding comment, critics of the free trade ideology have tried to mislead the public by claiming job looses and factories close down since the implementation of FTA and NAFTA. However, they conveniently forgot that there are new opportunities in the export sector and that consumers have benefited from cheaper goods. The reason why some people oppose free trade and in particular APEC is that they feared competition and their self-serving interests would be diminished.

The accusation of corporate greed or corporate agenda is so absurd that does not warrant any serious consideration. Perhaps these people are still obsessed with communism or socialism. If this is the case, my advice to them is to read the works of Sir Winston Churchill: "The virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."

Politically, APEC is a good way to engage leaders of the Asia-Pacific region in spite the fact there are human rights violations in some Asia-Pacific countries. Although human rights values are universal, they have to be applied in a practical manner to achieve the best possible results. In "Outrage Is Not a Policy" that appeared in the November 10 issue of *Newsweek*, Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State argued eloquently that "[a] deliberately policy of isolating and weakening China-which is what the protesters and much of the TV media seems to be demanding-would be a fateful enterprise."

The words of Mr. Kissinger are profound. It is simply unrealistic and naive to think isolating China would bring any improvements to the Chinese people. From a historical perspective, it is clear that China is improving and she begins to play by the international rules. For example, China has recently signed the International Convent on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which is a step forward in bringing China closer to international human rights standards.

Critics of APEC have been charging that human rights issues are ignored in the APEC agenda. Unfortunately, these people must have forgotten that APEC is an economic organisation. You are not going to discuss human rights issues in the meeting of World Trade Organisation, World Bank or IMF, are you? It is not a matter of deliberately divorcing trade from human rights issues but rather a practical way to deal with the complex realities.

With respect to human rights, APEC Alert has been arguing that the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin is responsible for the killings in the Tiananment Square. However, this is simply unfair to Mr. Jiang. During the incident, Mr. Jiang was not in Beijing and he was the major of Shanghai. There was no killing in Shanghai and he should not be held responsible for the killings in Beijing. Moreover, Mr. Jiang like Mikhail Gorbachev, is a reformer and there is simply no reason to isolate a reformer.

Furthermore, engagement has been proved an effective strategy in terms of global security. Larry Eagleburger, the former US Secretary of State has recently commented in a CNN program: "In China, a long history of engagement starting with the Shanghai Communique, has, in fact, I would argue, substantially changed China already and it will continue to change."

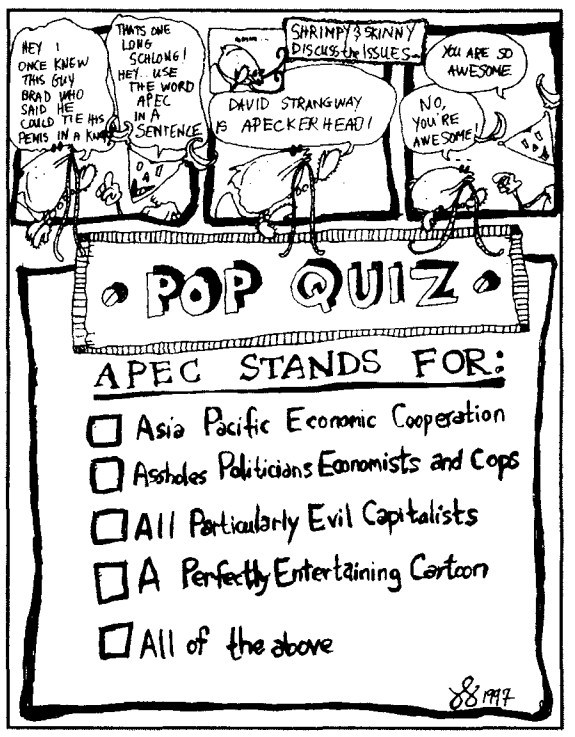
On the other hand, engagement does not mean we have to agree to human rights abuses. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State pointed out that "engagement is not the same as endorsement." While Ms. Albright was talking about the Sino-US relationship, her words are equally valid in terms of our relationship with China or other member economies of the APEC.

Human rights and democracy take time to develop and the best way to achieve these goals is through stability and cooperation. Isolating countries like China will do nobody good and it will work against the interests of Canada and Canadians. In short, I would like to borrow the words of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to sum up this article: "Free enterprise and competition are the engines of prosperity."

–Jerome Yau is a fourth year arts student and a regular contributor to the Ubyssey

APEC, shrimp and capitalism

by Victoria Scott



–Victoria Scott is an APEC Alert member and a grad student

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Cross-cultural success

NINGULS
at Arts Club Theatre
Nov. 15-22

by Mito Tadano

Dancing, Taiko drumming, movement based performance, and acting. These are some of the ingredients that went into a special performance on Saturday night by Japan's Furano Natural Studio.

Furano is a multi-talented theater group currently on tour in Canada. The passionate acting and unique production earned them a standing ovation at the end of their performance of *Ninguls* and a place in many Vancouverites memories.

The play explores environmental issues about forestry and commercialisation that face a small farming community. The story is easily transferable to a Canadian setting. *Ninguls* showed us how greed makes people blind to nature and questioned the rush to modernise and make a profit at all costs.

A community elder suggests looking back to the old ways to solve current problems, "why don't we go back to the past a little bit," he says "it will be a little inconvenient, but we were happy enough."

The play is about a farming community that is facing poverty, so the community reluctantly decides to cut down the old forest surrounding them so that they can extend their farming land and feed and clothe their families.

The title of the play is taken from an old legend; *Ninguls, according to the legend, are small six inch-size* humans living in the forest. It is the Ninguls who provide the villagers with the warning of the dangers in cutting down the forest.

Skampo, a mute girl in the farming community, unexpectedly meets Ninguls and finds that she is the only one who can communicate with them.

The Ninguls tell her, "If you cut the trees, your village will be punished."

In the beginning of the show, there was a dance scene with Taiko drumming. During this sequence about twenty cast members begin to stomp and slap their bodies in rhythm to the drumming, using their own body as a percussive instrument. This scene turns out to be a community celebration of a local wedding. This somewhat reminded me of *Stomp*.

The set was really simple, the majority of which was created using props carried by the actors or the bodies of the actors themselves. The effect worked well because it forced the audience to use their imagination and keep their focus on the actors themselves.

This is not a dialogue driven play.

Although *Ninguls* was performed in Japanese, most of the story is relayed through movement and music.

A translation board was hung at the front of the stage to aid the audience in understanding when the actors spoke in Japanese. Sometimes, the translation seemed to be too abstract for the non-Japanese speaking audience. Where occurred the actors compensated by repeating the same idea several times.

While watching the play I wondered whether the Canadian audiences recognised that the farmers were hanging a mosquito coil from their waists to drive away annoying mosquitoes while they were scattering rice seeds. I worried that elements specific to Japanese culture may have been lost to the Canadian audience.

The play ended with the entire cast drumming on logs. The noise of this effect was incredible, and I wondered if the audience left the theater hard of hearing. The drumming sounded to me as if the voices of the trees were saying, "we are speaking this loudly, you humans just go ahead and try not to listen."

The Furano Natural Studio has produced a play that addresses environmental issues as well as moral ones without sounding preachy or condescending. The powerful acting, dancing and drumming must have attracted and entertained many across Canada. ❖

PacRim ads worth a flick

TELEVISION COMMERCIALS OF ASIA PACIFIC
at Granville Cinemas
November 19

By Jaime Tong

You could call it ironic, a movie theatre as the venue for a two hour screening of TV commercials. Yes, irony is a good word to describe the screening of the Television Commercials of Asia Pacific.

Some of the best TV commercials from twelve Asian Pacific countries were selected as a part of the cultural events organised in association with the APEC conference. The result was a humourous, thought provoking, and sometimes shocking compilation, which acted as a window to Asia's pop culture.

Many of the commercials were reflective of the role and position women occupy in these countries. Not surprisingly, many of the women were depicted as working in the home ironing the laundry, as passive observers, cheering on their man, or as mere objects wearing tight shirts and holding a gas station pump.

Hong Kong was one country which placed women in active roles in the real world; they were the "natural born shoppers" clutching fists full of gold cards.

There were also several blunt public service announcements; many of them were Australian productions. Drunk driving was a popular topic, but others such as child prostitution and one or two environmental ones were just as powerfully rendered. Whereas the commercials selling a product incorporated music, swanky characters, and humour, the public service announcements were painfully simple, sometimes foregoing sound completely so that the image could speak for itself.

The commercials from India were most entertaining and, because of the contradictions within this grouping, were quite thought provoking. Each commercial was like a mini action musical: there was a hero, who was always male, his antagonist, a love interest, lots of fighting, singing, and impossible stunts while the women watched from the sidelines.

There were also two refreshing commercials that depicted independent women. One was an ad for a new women's magazine which opens with a letter from a boyfriend to his fiance telling her that his parents do not approve of their marriage plans. The ad then cuts to the present and the couple is happily married and has had a child. Another commercial had a woman in her twenties knocking on her male neighbour's door, introducing herself, and then asking if he has any Pepsi in the apartment. Taster's Choice anyone?

Television Commercials of Asia Pacific gave insight into the different cultures and served to remind us that despite the language barriers, we all can be manipulated or brainwashed by advertisements and the consumerism they stem from. ❖

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Nomination Process: Members of faculty, students or alumni may suggest candidates to the Head of the Department, the Director of the School, or Chair of the Program in which the nominee teaches. These suggestions should be in writing and signed by one or more students, alumni or faculty, and they should include a very brief statement of the basis for the nomination. You may write a letter of nomination or pick up a form from the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts in Buchanan B130.

Deadline: 4:00pm on January 26, 1998. Submit nominations to the Department, School or Program Office in which the nominee teaches.

Winners will be announced in the Spring, and they will be identified as well during Spring convocation in May. For further information about these awards, contact either your Department, School or Program office, or Dr. Errol Durbach, Associate Dean of Arts at (604)-822-6703.

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Furano Natural Studio Creed

By Mito Tadano

Soh Kuramoto is a man who believes that it is not too late to return to a simpler life. He believes that people can still be touched by simple things. This seems odd coming from a man who has spent the majority of his life chasing fame and fortune.

Kuramoto is a well-known screenwriter and playwright from Japan, who has written over 1000 scripts for TV dramas and film and won several awards, most recently the Montblanc Cultural Award for his international artistic contributions. He is also the founder and artistic director of the Furano Natural Studio.

The Furano Natural Studio has been invited by APEC to represent Japanese contemporary theatre. The Furano Natural Studio has come to Canada to showcase two of the theatre school's most recent productions: *Ninguls* and *Kanashibetsu*.

Kuramoto founded the studio in 1984 after a very successful career as a screenwriter and playwright. He found that he had lost sight of what theatre is all about. Kuramoto wanted to give actors an opportunity to obtain classical theatre training, produce professional quality shows, and maintain fiscal and artistic autonomy.

He wanted all this *and* he wanted his students to contribute to the farming community that he hoped would financially support the school.

"After a few shows of Kita no Kuni Kara [From the North Country] a lot of people wrote me letters saying 'Can I come to Hokkaido?' or 'Is it possible to live over there and study to become an actor or a writer?' So I thought I should do something for those people," said Kuromoto.

And he did. He started a revolution in Japan's theatre community. The school is demanding both mentally and physically. During the two years that they train, the students are expected to till the land, grow their own crops, build their own home and rehearsal studio and, of course, create professional theatrical productions on a very tight budget. A very tight budget. Kuramoto has to find a way to feed every person involved with the school on about four dollars per person a day. He has done that and managed to create successful elaborate stage productions.

However, Kuramoto is humble about the school he founded.

"It's just a school. I myself own this school. Every year, applicants from all over Japan compete to get into this school. One in every thirty applicants gets into the school. But, I don't ask them to bring any money. There is no application fee, no entrance fee and no tuition."

Normally theatre schools seem to require a lot of money, but at the Furano Natural Studio the only thing his students need is talent. Kuramoto respects this basic principle, which is often ignored in modern societies.

Sound too good to be true? It isn't. Kuramoto's school has done something that most theatre companies only dream of: he has successfully created a totally autonomous and self-sustaining institution. The school is located in the rural countryside of Hokkaido, where most of Japan's dairy products are produced. Furano, the town the school is named after, is especially famous for lavender farming.

"They [the students] are encouraged to support their lives by doing agriculture work...Students help farming people in our community when it's a busy season. We work in cooperation with NOKYO (an Agricultural Co-operative Organisation)."

Kuramoto has been to Canada before. In fact, he comes every year to visit friends on an Indian reserve in the Queen Charlottes. It was after his first visit to Canada that Kuramoto realised how much the two countries have in common.

SOH KURAMOTO laughs with his students at the Furano Natural Studio.

"Canada is closely related to Pacific Rim because of forestry issues and we [Japan] have mining communities that are losing jobs and so does Canada," said Kuramoto.

The two plays that will be performed in Vancouver, *Ninguls* and *Kanashibetsu*, are especially suitable for West Coast audiences.

Ninguls is a story about the cutting down of a forest. And *Kanashibetsu* is about a Japanese mining community and the people who are lose their jobs when a mine is shut down. "..It's just a drama. We are not doing a propaganda play, but yes the environment is our focus," explained Kuramoto.

"One in every thirty applicants gets into the school. But, I don't ask them to bring any money. There is no application fee, no entrance fee and no tuition."

—SOH KURAMOTO
FOUNDER OF FURANO NATURAL STUDIO

The transportation and funding were a bit of a crisis for the group, "It was huge expense to bring 41 people to Canada," said Kuramoto. Though the group was invited by APEC, they are not getting paid for their performances, nor are they accepting any funding from the organisation.

Despite difficulties with transportation, language, and finances, the group has performed so far in Edmonton, Toronto, and Halifax. The audience has varied from venue to venue and from city to city. Most of the audience were seniors in Edmonton and Halifax, and in Toronto it was mainly young people who went to the shows. So far there haven't been many Japanese Canadians going to the shows but Kuramoto is hoping that in Vancouver this will change.

"This is [the dramas are] for everybody...We are more interested in how foreigners respond than the Japanese since we are doing this in a foreign country," said Kuramoto.❖