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Piper at the gates

Twelve years ago, the university decided David Strangway was the best person to guide UBC through the 1980s and into the 1990s. On Tuesday, they announced who would take the university into the 21st century.

by Ian Gunn

UBC hit the jackpot this week, according to the 19 members of the university's presidential search committee.

And so far, everyone else on campus seems equally delighted that Martha Piper will be the next president.

Piper, who is currently vice-president of both research and external affairs at the University of Alberta, will replace David Strangway at the end of his 12 year term in June 1997.

"Dr. Piper is extremely charismatic and full of energy, has an amazing sense of the university as community and is very accessible," said Heather Hermant, one of three student representatives on the search committee.

The committee unanimously recommended Piper's appointment to the Board of Governors [BoG] after a rigorous process which Hermant said gave them a "very, very detailed picture" of the new president and her background.

"From a student perspective what totally amazed me is here is this woman who is holding the portfolios of both research and external affairs, and yet she is extremely active in the campus community in terms of being involved with students and student issues," Hermant said.

Genetics professor Patricia Baird also sat on the search committee as a faculty representative. "I'm really quite excited and I think most people are," she said. "[Piper's] got an open style, is able to bring people together and understands the university community and values the contribution of both students and faculty."

Notably absent so far has been any dissenting voice in the chorus of praise over the appointment.

Political Science professor Philip Resnick was the centre of controversy earlier this fall when he questioned the wording of a presidential search committee newspaper advertisement. It smacked, he said in a *Globe and Mail* commentary, of reverse discrimination by singling women and visible minorities out as "especially welcome to apply" for the job.

But Resnick was silent when approached for comment on Piper's appointment. "I've decided not to comment publicly on this issue," he told *The Ubyssey*.

Despite any reservations he may have had about the process, Resnick, a faculty representative on the Board of Governors, added his voice to those behind Piper's appointment; the BoG vote was unanimous and there were no abstentions.

In terms of specific objectives, Piper was reluctant to commit herself saying it was too early to be setting priorities. "I've admired the University of BC from a distance for the last few years in my position [in Edmonton], and know a bit about it. But I think it's presumptuous of me to think that I know and understand all [of UBC's] issues and priorities and how we might tackle some of them."

Piper comes to the coast with a reputation as a fund-raiser and someone able to build strong links with the university's neighbours.

With the government restraint in Alberta, Piper said, the U of A was compelled to find creative and original sources for funding, including partnerships with corporations. Such sponsorship has been a contentious issue—particularly for students—at UBC in the past two years.

"It's always a sensitive issue," she acknowledged, "but I don't think that we are reinventing the wheel here—many, many universities throughout North America are looking at the same issues. And I think the point is that you have to have a sense of what's important for the community, and that should drive how you seek funding, rather than the other way around where the funding determines the priorities.

"As long as the university is clear on its priorities and makes those the basis for its funding then I think you're on firmer ground," she said.

It's that clear set of priorities that will make Piper especially valuable to UBC, Hermant said. "The thing that is great about her is that she can raise the funds, but at the same time spends a lot of energy going out to the community and saying 'this is why the university is important, this is why our research is important', and articulating what the university's role is as part of society."

> **"You have to have a sense of what's important for the community, and that should drive how you seek funding, rather than the other way around where the funding determines the priorities"**
> **MARTHA PIPER**
> **UBC PRESIDENT ELECT**

And fund-raising is clearly something Piper intends to work on at UBC. She cautions that UBC students have been lucky with the provincial government's tuition freeze and commitment to funding for post-secondary education. What lies ahead, she warns, is difficult to predict.

What will buffer the university from large cuts and students from hefty tuition increases, she said, is stable funding. "We have to build a situation where we are not constrained by the ebb and flow of funding from circumstances beyond our control." UBC needs a financial buffer, she said, much like families keep a bank account with some money in it in case next month's paycheque is a little smaller than expected or fails to arrive.

According to Hermant, Piper was quick to sense during the selection process that undergraduate students at UBC often feel as though they are a low priority when compared to the university's real purpose—research. "I'm really hopeful that she can make undergraduate students feel more a part of the university," Hermant said.

Students in the liberal arts, who sometimes feel even more neglected, she added, can take added reassurance from Piper's appointment. "I have no concerns about any potential neglect of the humanities or social sciences because that's just not something I read from her style. She really does have a sense of the community as a whole."

Asked about the place of humanities in her vision of UBC, Piper is unequivocal.

"One of the things that I've admired about UBC is its rich social sciences and humanities programs. And as we move into an increasingly complex world, that kind of research, that kind of scholarly inquiry is going to be key in our ability to function in a global society and economy. A university such as UBC must have a balanced view of research and scholarship."

Piper spent much of her own academic career as a researcher in Rehabilitation Medicine, trying to sort out the neurological developmental causes of mental and physical handicaps in children.

That research background comes as good news to UBC's research faculty, said Baird, herself a noted geneticist. "[Piper] understands the research process and understands its importance to the university community, and her comments about what kinds of things we need to be thinking about in the future were very insightful."

One of those insights is to integrate the roles of research and teaching, often treated as two separate entities, into one. "I'd like to see teaching and research inextricably linked and somehow I'd like to operationalise that," Piper said. "I think the university that finds the synergy between teaching and research is truly going to be the university that moves forward in the next century."

And she clearly sees UBC at the vanguard of that move forward. "*Maclean's* [university issue] put UBC at the top of the list for producing the leaders of tomorrow, and I think that's the exciting piece," she said.

"So that's one of the big challenges: what are the skills that our students need to be the leaders and how do we ensure that we provide [those skills] to them."

Piper told the University of Alberta's student newspaper, *The Gateway*, last month that "there has never been a better time to be at the University of Alberta." The irony of her newly-announced departure is not lost on Piper. "There still has never been a better time to be at the U of A," she said, but was quick to add that the opportunities at UBC are infinitely greater.

"There is no question in my mind. It's just so absolutely clear that UBC is the place to be." *yf*

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One more issue...

news

Student leaders decry NPA sweep

by Irfan Dhalla

Last Saturday's NPA sweep of Vancouver's civic election has left some UBC student leaders with a bad taste in their mouths.

"Throughout the Lower Mainland, there has been an elimination of a lot of dissenting voices," Graduate Student Society Director of Student Affairs Michael Hughes told *The Ubyssey*. "In Vancouver, the NPA will be able to go unopposed."

Non-Partisan Association candidates won every position on the ballot, including the mayoral seat, all ten city council seats, all nine school board seats and all seven parks board seats.

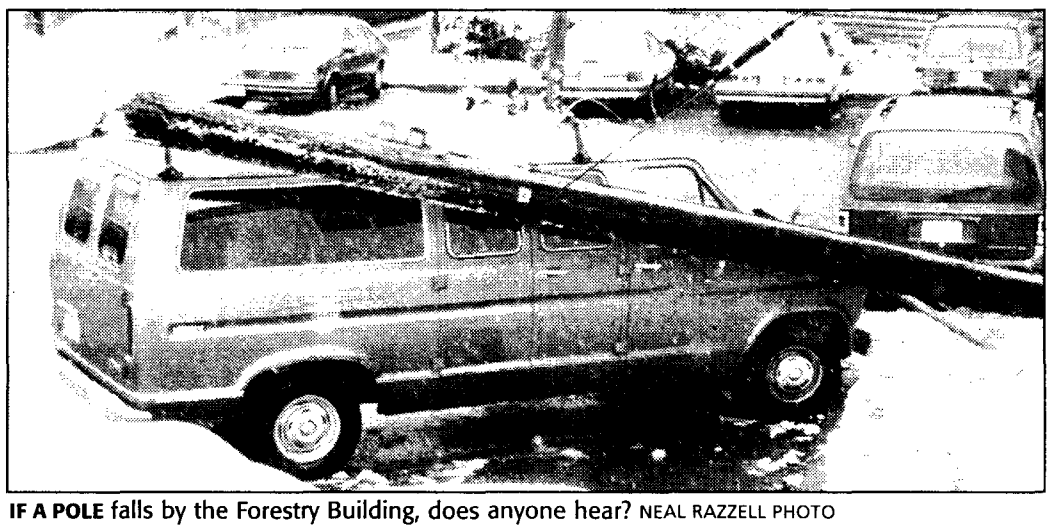
Both Hughes and Allison Dunnet, AMS Coordinator of External Affairs, are worried about the election's impact on UBC's development plan for the south campus, the Official Community Plan.

An NPA council, Hughes said, could be influenced by property developers. "It's no secret that the NPA is heavily funded by developers," he said. "I think a few of the developers have had an involvement with Hampton Place and would have a good interest in high-priced housing in the south campus. I hope they don't have too much say over the final OCP."

Dunnet added that people like Mel Lehan, a Coalition of Progressive Electors candidate who opposes the OCP as it stands, were not elected to council. "I don't see a lot of people who were at [the OCP public hearing] with concerns about the future of living at UBC represented on council," said Dunnet.

Tara Ivanochko, a student representative on UBC's Board of Governors, said she was also disappointed with the results of the "ward question."

Vancouverites voted to stick with the current system of electing councillors, where ten people are elected to "at-large" positions and represent the entire city. Under a ward system, voters only vote for one candidate who represents a specific neighbourhood. If Vancouver had voted by wards last Saturday, at least one COPE candidate would have been elected.



IF A POLE falls by the Forestry Building, does anyone hear? NEAL RAZZELL PHOTO

At least one AMS executive was happy with the results. "I can't say I'm displeased with the results," said Ryan Davies, Director of Finance. "If I were a resident of Vancouver, some of the people who were elected were probably people that I would have voted for."

> **"[COPE] needs some structural work...they need to re-evaluate how they appeal to voters."**
>
> **DESMOND RODENBOUR**
> **AMS POLICY ANALYST**

Desmond Rodenbour, AMS policy analyst, said the leftist COPE party needs to make serious changes to contend in the 1999 civic election.

"I think that [COPE] needs some structural work," he said. "They need to re-evaluate how they appeal to voters. Like him or not, Glen Clark made such an evaluation prior to the provincial election. I think COPE needs to start the same kind of planning process."

Rodenbour did, however, see a silver lining in the NPA's sweep. "There may be some advantages democratically to having all ten NPA councillors as opposed to having nine from the NPA and one COPE member," said Rodenbour.

"If you have an adversary, there's a uniting factor. A party that controls everything has no adversary, and they will create them internally."

Because of this, Rodenbour said, the NPA might be more active than people think. "I think that with the media coverage of the OCP and transit issues, I think the NPA is going to be active in these areas. There seems to be a lot of community groups that are fighting for changes to transit, so I think that [the NPA] will be willing to consider some changes."

Safety campaign gets lobbying money

by Todd Silver

Student council transferred $8000 slated for external lobbying to an information campaign on campus safety last Wednesday, despite the concerns of some councillors that it was a misuse of funds.

University commissioner Ruta Fluxgold, who is heading up the project, said the commission felt student safety deserved the AMS's attention. "The campus should be aware of safety issues and programs which we need to have," she said.

Fluxgold said the money will go towards an extensive media campaign using pamphlets, newspaper advertising and UBC TV.

> **"The student union should not take over things which the university should be running."**
>
> **ALLISON DUNNET**
> **AMS COORD OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Fifty posters pinpointing existing safety offices with brief explanations of their function will also be put up around campus. "The hope," said Fluxgold, "is to get attention so that there would be permanent funding from the University."

But not everyone is happy that external lobbying money was allocated to the safety project. "The university should be in control [of safety]," said Coordinator of External Affairs Allison Dunnet. "The student union should not take over things which the university should be running."

To date, council has spent external lobbying money on issues like voter awareness, lobbying in the last provincial election to make education a top government priority, raising student awareness of the official community plan and lobbying for the legalisation of secondary suites in the past civic election.

With $8000 now going to the safety campaign, $17,000 is left in the fund.

"Things come up, and it is hard to plan for the long term," Dunnet said, pointing to a possible spring federal election. "We will have spent all of this money, as well we should, as it should go towards issues which involve students."

But Fluxgold said student safety is worth the money. "We want to do a big campaign," she said. "There is a huge amount of funding at stake. We are looking at the deterioration of existing facilities."

"There should be work on safety," agreed Dunnet, "but we must wisely pick our battles. External lobbying is much more expensive than on-campus lobbying and if there is a federal election this spring we may have to fly someone to Ottawa."

AMS seeking signatures

by Kersi Regelous

When students go to the polls in January's AMS elections, they may be asked to dig a little deeper into their pockets.

AMS Director of Administration Jennie Chen hopes to gather 1000 signatures in support of a referendum question asking students to pay $1.50 more in AMS fees.

If she succeeds by next Wednesday's council meeting, the question will appear on the ballot.

Of the $1.50 fee, 50 cents would go toward the Walter H. Gage Memorial Fund, while the remaining dollar would go towards a club benefits fund.

"We thought that since clubs are such a big part of what we do and what we are, we wanted to be able to support them more," said Chen.

Clubs can currently apply to the AMS for money, although Chen said monetary aid was limited due to budget restraints. "We do turn down clubs right now," said Chen. "With this money we'll be able to turn down less."

If Chen's plan is successful, the AMS expects to allot approximately $30,000 to club grants. In order to access the fund, clubs will have to submit a detailed application that will be reviewed by the AMS's finance office.

Keith Banerjee, chairperson of UBC's Film Society, thought the fund sounded like an interesting idea. "It would definitely be good for all clubs of the university," he said, adding that FilmSoc generates its own revenue and would have little need to apply for a grant.

Similarly, Dance Club Vice-President David Takagawa said, "financially, Dance Club doesn't have a problem, but I can see how a lot of smaller clubs have a tough time financing themselves."

Chinese Collegiate Society executive members Joseph Mirpuri and Karen Chan said a positive referendum vote would be good for their club. "Our budget can get very tight," Mirpuri said. "For us it would be very beneficial."

PORNOGRAPHY SCANDAL: SFU student execs impeached

by Sarah Galashan and Irfan Dhalla

SFU students voted Wednesday to impeach their student society's president and treasurer, ending their terms in office after just seven months.

A seven-month investigation found Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) President Kristjan Arnason and SFSS Treasurer Frank Karabotsos used student society computers to download pornographic images from the Internet.

A Special General Meeting (SGM) was held Wednesday so students could decide the fates of the two student politicians. Students voted by a five to one margin to impeach the two.

The scandal, dubbed 'Pornogate' by the Simon Fraser community, erupted last April when an SFSS employee found a pornographic image in a printer tray.

A subsequent investigation found more than 100 files containing pornographic material on the hard drives of the two executives' computers.

Guy Letts, the SFSS chief electoral officer, said an initial search found the pictures on the hard drives depicted everything from scantily-clad women to anal intercourse and bestiality. Three weeks later investigators also found a floppy disk containing an image they described as "child pornography" in one of the executive's offices.

In conversations with *The Ubyssey*, Karabotsos and Arnason said they did download pornographic images, but did not admit to viewing anything more graphic than Playboy.

"We got our new computers. We got hooked up to the Internet. We surfed various web pages over about a week. Playboy was one of them. We got bored, and we stopped. That was it," said Karabotsos. "No one mentioned that we went to the Sega home page."

In light of media coverage they both feel was defamatory, the executives are taking legal action against UTV, claiming a story the station ran on Monday was false. "They ran a story on Monday which said that we were downloading 'rape scenes, kiddie porn, and scenes of beastiality.' They said we were doing it, and that's complete garbage," said Arnason.

"We did nothing of the sort, and there's absolutely no evidence to suggest we did."

Both deny allegations of downloading child pornography and said any evidence of such an act was insubstantial. Letts conceded there was no hard evidence linking the Arnason and Karabotsos with the disk.

Downloading child pornography in Canada is an indictable offense punishable by up to five years in prison.

"The police were notified way back when the stuff was discovered," said Letts. "They decided not to go ahead with it based on a lack of evidence."

The SFU student population felt strongly enough about the issue that more than 850 students attended the outdoor special meeting Wednesday despite frigid weather.

Arnason and Karabotsos did have a chance to defend themselves at the meeting, but not many students listened. "A lot of people didn't even care what we had to say. They came in, marked their ballots, and left," said Karabotsos.

Before the official announcement, Karabotsos predicted his fate. "I think we're impeached. I think we're gone. I think there was an angry mob mentality thing happening," Karabotsos said as the ballots were being counted.

Arnason also questioned whether the society met its SGM quorum regulations.

"Well, I think they played fast and loose with the constitution, which clearly states that general meetings have half an hour to reach quorom. They let it go about 40 minutes before they declared it quorate," he said.

Letts, responsible for the meeting and for calling quorom, refuted this allegation. He said that although the time allowed for quorom was extended by five minutes, it was only because there were too many people waiting in line, more than he could process through.

The SFSS will appoint interim replacements for the two executives. Letts also said the SFSS will have to decide either to hold an immediate election or to wait until the March spring elections.

UBC's student union president, David Borins, said the situation at SFU was unfortunate. "I think people should be impeached if they've clearly broken by-laws in a serious manner. If the SFU student society has a by-law against viewing pornography, which I doubt they do, then they should be impeached for that reason

"You pray for those kinds of things not to come up because they waste so much time. There are so many other important things to do," he said. *yf*

Engineers to hold own vigil

by Sarah O'Donnell

UBC students will be remembering the 14 women who died in the Montreal Massacre on December 6, but they won't be doing it together.

On Monday, Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) President Rachel Barstow sent a letter to the AMS External Commission informing them that this year, engineers would be holding their own private vigil to mark the murder of the female engineering students at l'Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.

"We've been attending those ceremonies, and like I said in the letter, we've encouraged people to attend those ceremonies before," said Barstow.

The problem, she said, is that in the past engineers who have attended the campus-wide ceremonies left feeling upset with their experience.

But it's possible that in the past engineers have felt too uncomfortable to bring their concerns forward, she explained. "Engineers have had problems in the past with being thought of as sexist, racist, homophobic, and all that. So people have been afraid to say things about [the memorial] and they've gone, and they've been upset, but they haven't said a whole lot about it because they were afraid of being misinterpreted."

The letter took the members of the External Commission's December Sixth planning committee by surprise.

"It's just disappointing, because we're trying to make this a very respectful memorial, and not have what she's saying about a political agendas," said External Commission member Nicola Hill.

Tamalyn Hossack, a Safer Campus Peer Educator for the Women's Students Office, said this was the first year the External Commission had organised the vigil. "In the past, the women's centre and the EUS have gotten together to do the memorial. This year, our organising team worked separate from that."

"The reason [the External Commission] got interested in organising the vigil was because we wanted to make sure it was a memorial that everyone on campus could participate in and everyone was welcome to come to," Hill explained. "We're just trying to make it an event where everyone is comfortable: men, women, faculty, students. We wanted it to be unified."

Barstow said although the EUS has nothing against the External Commission's plans for this year's campus vigil, its members feel more comfortable attending their own memorial.

On Thursday, November 28, the EUS will be hold a short candle-lighting ceremony at the Cheeze Factory.

The campus-wide vigil will take place on December 6 and leave the engineering cairn at 4:00pm and walk to the SUB courtyard for a candle-lighting ceremony and a moment of silence. After that, organisers said, participants are invited to a partyroom to hear two speakers.

"If all you're there to do is to remember and grieve you're perfectly welcome to leave, and we actually even encourage that because we don't want make anybody feel uncomfortable," said Aaron Delany, also a Safer Campus Peer Educator. *yf*

Quebec tuition plan sparks protests

by Neal Razzell

Students in Quebec stayed away from classes in the thousands this week to protest a huge increase in student fees for out-of-province students.

On Monday Education Minister Pauline Marios froze tuition at the lowest rate in Canada for Quebec residents; students from outside Quebec will have to swallow a $1500 fee-hike, bringing their tuition to the national average.

The Federation des Etudiants Universitaire du Quebec (FEUQ), Quebec's largest student group which overwhelmingly represents students at francophone institutions, quickly hailed the announcement as a victory for their lobbying efforts.

"Some victory," said Brad Levigne, president of the Canadian Federation of Students. "One section of the student population gets what they want at the expense of another."

Atim Leon, a FEUQ executive, called all fee hikes regressive, but said that in this situation "it was the interests of the majority against those of the minority."

Wednesday's protests were part of a larger wave of student and labour action against the provincial government's deficit-cutting proposals which will take $35-million from the ministry of education this year, and between $600-million and $700 million in 1997-98.

Tim Dunn, McGill student, Ontario resident and anglophone believes the differential tuition fees have more to do with politics than economics.

"This is nothing but a separatist ploy to put up barriers of movement between Canadians," he said.

Levigne agrees. "This is no long-term funding solution... It's a buying-off of some of the Quebec student movement."

But if Minister Marois intended to split the province's student movement, she seems to have failed.

Her two-tiered tuition plan has radicalised traditionally complacent Anglophone students and united the two solitudes of student politics.

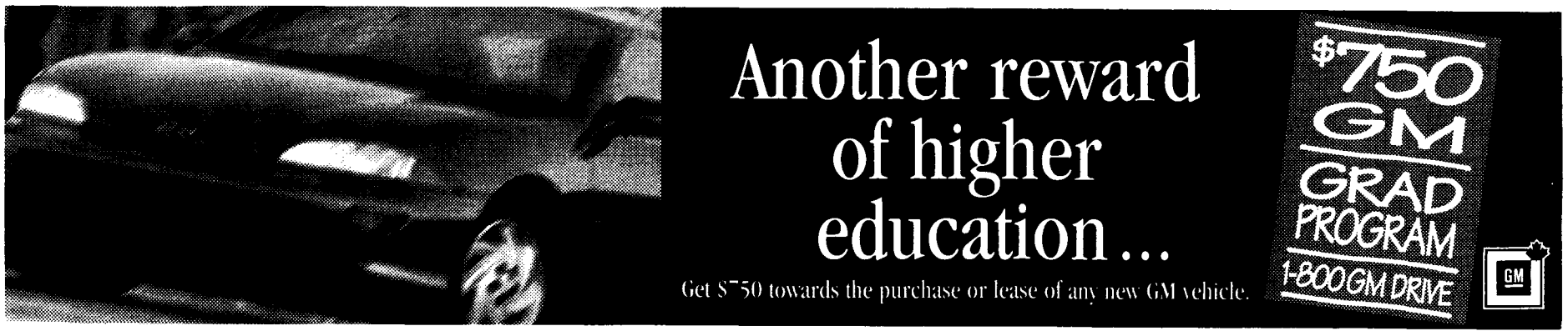
"Francophone students from across Quebec were out in force with us," said Chantal da Silva, McGill student association vice-president external.

Francis Cote, vice-president external at the University of Montreal and member of FEUQ, said that all francophone students would pressure the Bouchard government. Speaking in French, he told *The Ubyssey* the support comes from solidarity "between all students facing these cuts, a 50 percent rise in tuition, and for solidarity with students from other parts of Canada."

Such support flatters Dunn and other Anglophone activists. But, he said, it may not be enough to keep him at university in the province.

"I'll be able to come back, obviously, if I get a loan. Would I come back? The jury's still out. I don't need that kind of slap in the face." *yf*

—With files from CUP



Story of a Reverend on Trial

UBC PhD candidate and Reverend Kevin Annett has spent the last three months fighting attempts by members of the United Church to have him delisted. This is his diary.

by (Rev.) Kevin Annett

It's so like a scene from a Kafka novel: accused of nothing, I am unable to face my accusers or know the case against me. "There are no charges against you," stated a church official in a September 1995 letter to me. And yet here I sit before a panel of three strangers who will decide whether I will remain a minister in the United Church, or be denied my vocation and livelihood.

I was fired from my pulpit in Port Alberni nearly two years ago, without cause or review, but those events aren't what's before the three somber panel members. It's my "failure to comply" with all the orders of the church directed at me; *my* removal, that is the basis for the request to have my name removed from the church rolls as a practicing minister.

In short, my suitability as a minister is not the real issue. I am actually on trial for a single "offense": insubordination.

AUGUST 28

Crammed into a United Church lounge in the west end, the hearing begins with a prayer, naturally. The formalities must be observed, after all, and the words are so easy to mouth: "justice," "guidance," "love and forgiveness." I suppose even Richelieu and his Inquisitorial buddies prayed for their tortured victims.

One branch of the United Church will be the judge and jury in this hearing, another the prosecution. This seems unfair and biased to me, and perhaps to most people. But not to the Church, which proceeds with its case lost in paper.

The "prosecuting" wing of the Church is called Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery, the regional body that fired me in January 1995. Its lawyer is a well-paid young guy who is nervous and fidgeting, like someone who can't quite convince himself he is on the right side. He calls his first witness: one of the Presbytery officials who oversaw my firing. A fellow minister.

This official admits he never witnessed any of my work, never heard a sermon or attended a worship service at my church. He also acknowledges that the Presbytery never had any concerns or contact with my ministry until two months before they fired me, after I had been working in Port Alberni for over two years and had more than doubled the size of my congregation.

Perplexed, I ask him during my cross-examination, "So you based your decision to fire me completely on second-hand knowledge, even hearsay?" He eventually admits so, after long pauses.

"It wasn't even a competent or informed decision," an observer mutters to me. What I've known all along is becoming clear to many.

"Whenever I ask questions related to the reasons for my firing, or native people and the United Church, or particular senior church officials, they are ruled out of order."

REV. KEVIN ANNETT

AUGUST 29

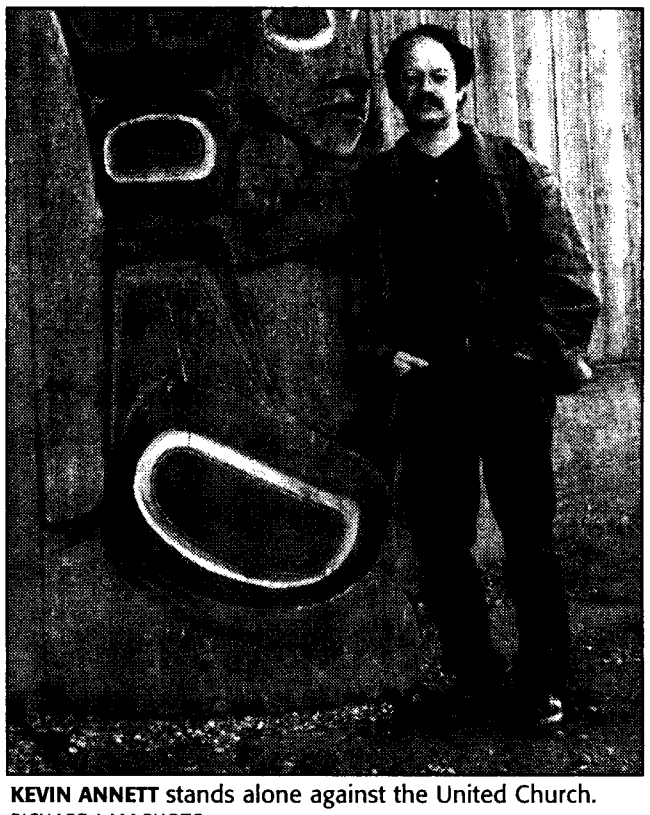
Official number two mounts the stand, holding the Bible upside down as he takes the oath. Another minister.

This official chaired a commission to negotiate with me, admitting that he, too, never saw me in action: "I never set foot in Port Alberni," he mumbles. Official number two is the archetypal "Mr. Know-Nothing;" whenever I ask an embarrassing question, he retracts into the "that was someone else's area" response by which any machine of oppression operates.

If it ever was in doubt, it becomes starkly clear to me the Presbytery's case against me is not based on anything more than hearsay and bias. No evidence is offered to support their rapid firing of me, no witnesses brought forward. Official number two, however, blurts out something revealing: "We first took notice of you in October, 1994."

That was the month I wrote to the Presbytery concerning its refusal to negotiate a land claim with local native elders. The issue involved land given to the church in trust by a west coast band and sold by the United Church for profit to a white man. I criticised the Presbytery for its actions, and cited church policy on land claims. I believe this is one of the reasons I was fired. Shortly after, all hell broke loose, culminating in my firing a few months after I wrote the letter.

At first, Official number two doesn't seem to notice the impact of his admission, until his lawyer starts panicking and accuses me of "disrupting the proceedings." A retired cop who is sitting through the hearing smiles afterwards, and says to me, "You're getting close to something. Keep at it."



KEVIN ANNETT stands alone against the United Church.
RICHARD LAM PHOTO

AUGUST 30

A human rights observer and Amnesty International member has been attending the hearing, and shares with the media how "appalled" she is by the biased nature of the court. "It smacks of how China deals with dissidents" she said.

As if to confirm her remarks, the panel almost always rules against me and in favour of Presbytery on procedure and other matters. The Presbytery lawyer is allowed to shout at me and interrupt my cross-examination without comment from the chair.

Reporters keep trying to interview church officials, and are rebuffed. One of the Presbytery officials loses his cool and begins yelling at a female reporter to "stop harassing" him. *The Globe and Mail* and *Macleans* print stories on the hearing, and the human rights observer suggests a deeper, hidden Church agenda is at work.

More people are sitting in on the hearing, including church members. They all come away shaking their heads. "What's he done?" is their refrain.

The Presbytery lawyer knows he's not making headway; he hasn't proved that I'm not a fit minister, just that I had differences with the church leadership. At this rate, he will lose his case.

SEPTEMBER 5

When the hearing resumes, it's clear to me the Presbytery has run out of ammunition, but it carries on, announcing it will be calling two more witnesses. One is the church official who hand-picked the panel members.

I believe this official is in a clear conflict of interest, especially since he's allowed to appear anyway by the panel. The retired cop leaves the hearing in disgust, saying to me, "Why carry on in this kangaroo court?"

OCTOBER 7

The hearing resumes with a stern admonition by the panel chair instructing no one to speak to the media. We were told all along that this was an "open hearing."

Today, I present letters from Presbytery members supporting my work, contradicting Presbytery officials and criticising the latter for "concealing" my removal from them, and from any debate or vote in Presbytery.

I also offer a letter showing that the Presbytery requested my immediate delisting from the church *only two days* after my firing.

I ask Official number two, who is still sweating on the stand, "why the urgent desire to have me thrown out of the church?"

I continue, "[The] Presbytery has argued that they were recommending delisting of me only after I refused to comply with some of their orders, months after my firing. But this letter proves you wanted me delisted as early as January 25, 1995, only two days after you removed me. So what version is true?"

"[I]t becomes starkly clear to me the Presbytery's case against me is not based on anything more than hearsay and bias."

REVEREND KEVIN ANNETT

Having hit on a key contradiction in the Presbytery's whole case, my questions are immediately ruled out of order by the panel, after a strenuous objection of Presbytery's lawyer.

I'm then told I'm forbidden from asking any question related to how and why Presbytery removed me from my pulpit.

I respond, "But isn't that the key issue here? And the right to find out the cause my firing is guaranteed to me under natural justice and the law."

But the panel forbids such a question.

OCTOBER 8

I see a pattern has formed, which illuminates the church agenda: whenever I ask questions related to the reasons for my firing, or native people and the United Church, or particular senior church officials, they are ruled out of order. Both Panel and Presbytery want to keep the limelight focused solely on me, and those unstated transgressions I'm supposed to be guilty of. This only confirms my belief they're clearly hiding something related to native people and the actions of certain officials.

Ironic moments abound, however. Official number one, back on the stand, states, "In my anger and fury, I can't say that Kevin would have received a fair hearing in our Presbytery."

I also ask him to describe what he meant by his reference to "all that social justice stuff Kevin's involved in." He declines to respond, with an icy stare of hatred.

The Presbytery's lawyer announces yet another witness, the present minister of my former Port Alberni church; someone whom I've never met, and who only began her work seven months after I finished mine there. However, she is going to comment on my ministry in Port Alberni!

I challenge this on the grounds that to allow her to speak would be to admit complete hearsay evidence, which, I was told, would not be allowed in the hearing. I comment, "Besides, what do you expect her to have found in the church, after any of my supporters had left or been driven out?"

The Panel rules that she can appear. Kafka was right.

OCTOBER 9

After the Panel's decision to admit hearsay evidence, it's obvious to me that the proceeding is completely ignoring both natural justice and its own rules of procedure, changing the latter whenever it suits itself.

At this point, I'm urged to get a lawyer. Everyone present is either confused or disgusted by the hearing. "Why do you carry on with your own railroading," someone asks me. But I hope to take the stand soon, and I want to get what actually happened on the court record.

The hearing stands down until November 18. Although penniless, I must try to find and brief a lawyer on this convoluted affair in a few weeks.

Harriett Nahanee sits near me on every day of this farce. She is a First Nations survivor of the Alberni Residential School, run by the United Church, where she was terribly abused, and claims to have witnessed the murder of a young girl by a church official.

Harriett turns to me at the close of this day, and says steadily, "All they can do is go on lying and hurting. But we are stronger than they are. They hate the truth, and want to bury it. That's why you have to carry on. We're with you." *yf*

English Patient more than eye candy

by Richelle Rae

THE ENGLISH PATIENT
at the Park theatre

Watching *The English Patient* is like being zip-locked in velvet for two and a half hours. It is a beautiful and luxurious experience not easily articulated, and one of the best films to be released this year.

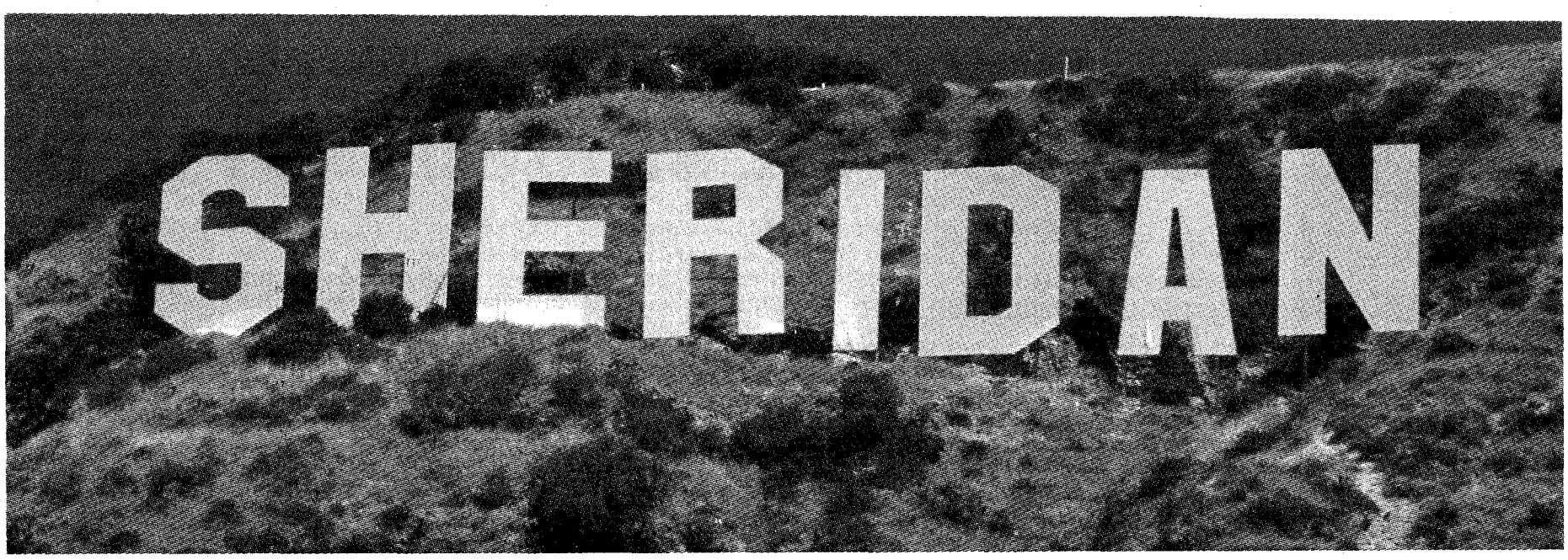
The English Patient is a story about love, loss, betrayal and healing that takes place in North Africa and Tuscany during World War II. The story unfolds elliptically. The lives of four characters are mysteriously joined together by the survivor of a plane shot down over the Sahara Desert, known only as "the English patient." Through a series of flashbacks to prewar Egypt the patient's identity is revealed along with the tragedy behind his name and the ultimate price he pays for it. The story has an elusive dreamlike quality that is rich in texture and emotion.

It is not often that the screenplay is as good as the novel on which it is based, but in this case Anthony Minghella (from *Truly, Madly, Deeply*) has managed to capture, even recreate the delicate lyricism of Michael Ondaatje's award winning novel. Minghella's dialogue is right-on, the characters that Ondaatje first created are beautifully drawn out, their speech, gestures and exchanged glances exactly as I imagined they would be. Although the story is not the same as the novel, the choices Minghella explores are interesting and true to the original with which so many of us fell in love.

It is doubtful a better or more talented cast could have been chosen. Ralph Fiennes is completely winning, his skill almost alarming. He shows himself to be an actor with both flexibilty and poetic subtlty. As his lover Katherine, Kristen Scott Thomas provides the film with its soul, her character as lush as a Matisse painting. Willem Dafoe, who usually makes my skin crawl every time I see his creepy slightly maladjusted grin, seems to struggle at first in finding the character of Caravaggio, but eventually he settles into the role. A newcomer to film, Niveen Andrews is as intuitive and comfortable as any screen veteran in his interpretation of Kip, and Juliette Binoche is as magnetic as ever in her portrayal of the fragile Hana.

Part of what makes this film worth its two and a half hours is its seamless editing. Carolyn Choa's cinematography is so luscious it becomes reminicent of Bertolucci films. My only bone of contention would be with the heavy handed use of music to emphasize intense, tragic moments that didn't need to be emphasised. We don't need huge swelling scores to let us know when to get teary eyed. Let the actors and script speak for themselves — they do it so well.

JULLIETTE BINOCHE (ABOVE) AND RALPH FIENNES star in epic love story *The English Patient.*



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Sick? Twisted? Well, what else is new?

by Adrienne Smith

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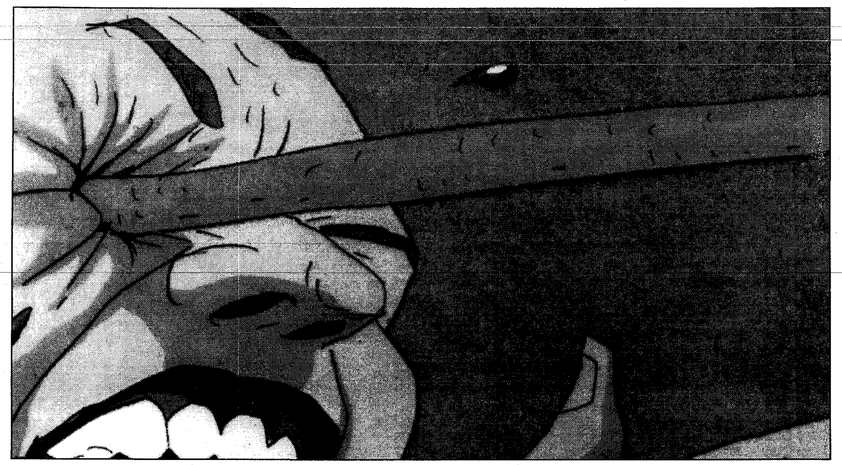

HOW TO MAKE LOVE TO A WOMAN is one of Bill Plympton's more outrageous efforts

The Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation was not the disappointment I expected. This year's films — well, the new ones, anyway — were both hilarious and disgusting.

New films like Bill Plympton's 'How to Make Love to a Woman' left the audience in stitches, and Don Hertzfeld's bitter relationship-mocking 'Ah, L'Amour' followed suit. Other great films like 'Left Over Dog,' about the unfortunate solution to the problem of plastic surgery waste, and Hertzfeld's 'Genre,' the self-titled pretentious student film, were funny and neatly balanced the new, experimental German film 'Ah Pook is Here,' narrated by William S. Burroughs (*Naked Lunch*). If experimental German stuff is your style, this alone is well worth the price of admission.

Last year's leftovers like the Valley girl-mocking 'Hut Sluts,' 'Dirty Birdy' and 'Home Honey I'm High,' as well as the groan-inspiring 'Lloyd's Lunchbox' series, while amusing the first time, are a bit stale the second (or third, or fourth, or ...) time around.

Topping the list of truly bad films is the Vancouver Film School's 'Blackhead and Weiner,' a disgrace to the entire animation industry, about a couple of oddly shaped cartoon characters who get drunk and maliciously beat up children. At an event where the audience is encouraged to cheer when they like a film, this film left most silent and even elicited a few boos.

Similar films like 'S**tfaced' and 'the Lizard Womper,' while interestingly animated, were almost devoid of plot or entertainment value. Also the grossly overrun 'Frog Baseball'—the very first Beavis and Butthead film—wasn't much fun the first time and gets less so every year.

But on the brighter side, five new 'No Neck Joe' films, a new 'Rick the Dick' set in Haight-Ashbury San Fran, and an inflatable toy toss game in the theatre before the show are a lot of fun.

The Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation, though not particularly sick or twisted this year, is worth seeing if you've never been before, or even if you don't mind a few reruns. But those cynics who figure if you've seen one, you've seen 'em all, may as well stay home. *jf*

Exploding blues

by John Zaozirny

JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION
Nov 16 at the Vogue

"OK Vancouver, you ready to fuck shit up?"

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion came to the Vogue last Saturday, writhing, screaming, moaning and preaching.

They carried the audience in the palms of their hands.

"I come from a poor family. My family was so poor that they couldn't afford kids, so my next-door neigbour had me," says R.L. Burnshide, the man who helped put the blues back into Blues Explosion and recently collaborated with them on his record *A Ass Pocket of Whiskey*.

He warmed up the crowd with a deep, rich and authentic version of the Blues Explosion's latest release *Now I Got Worry*.

Perplexed and looking fond of the mosh pit that somehow erupted in the middle of his songs, R.L. pronounced the crowd ready for the Blues Explosion:

"I want everybody to put their hands in the air ... and kiss my ass, 'cause your girlfriend still loves me!"

30 minutes later, room darkened and crowd primed, the bassless wonder that is the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion sauntered onstage and broke into the crowd pleaser '2Kindsa Love.'

Pulling most of their set list from *Now I Got Worry*, including 'Wail,' 'Love All of Me,' 'Rocketship,' 'Can't Stop' and their cover of Rufus Thomas' 'Chicken Dog,' the Blues Explosion also found space for older songs, including 'Afro' and the encore opener 'Flavour.'

As good as the music was, it wasn't the show. The Blues Explosion was, with guitarist Judah Bauer flying off the drum case and screamed backup on 'Fuck Shit Up.' Russell Simmins beat his drums so hard the roadies had to re-tighten them between sets.

Combining the essence of Elvis, the performance of Jim Morrison and the frenzied energy of Jerry Lee Lewis, frontman Jon Spencer seized the stage and ripped it apart.

Whether it was long wailing moans, playing guitar while sliding around the stage on his back, or dragging himself offstage during the Blues Explosion's fifteen minute version of 'Sticky,' Spencer gave an exciting, exhilirating and thoroughly tiring performance.

That night the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion exemplified what a concert should be and put everyone else to shame. *jf*

A fabulous mag for fabulous men

by Wah Kee Ting

Canada's first national gay magazine, *FAB National*, is taking the country's queer mainstream media by storm.

According to publisher Michael Schwarz, "*FAB* parallels the new media movement that has graduated from gay politics to a celebration of life."

The name comes from the hit British comedy *Absolutely Fabulous*. Published bi-monthly in a glossy, full-colour, full-size format, *FAB* is a stylish, up-beat and positive gay magazine targeted exclusively at the educated and affluent gay male market.

And no one is more surprised at the fast market response than *FAB* magazine itself.

Barry Grant, who works at the gay and lesbian bookstore Little Sisters, says the store has sold more copies of *FAB*'s premiere issue than the last two issues of *Advocate*, an American political out bi-weekly.

"*FAB* has sold over a hundred copies," says Grant, "however, the second and following issues will tell if *FAB* keeps up with the first issue's success."

Speaking from Toronto, where *FAB* got its start as a local magazine, Schwarz says *FAB*'s "Canadian focus" is the main difference between *FAB National* and mainstream gay publications such as *Genre, Out* and *Advocate*. This focus is brought to a varied content including fashion, health, fitness, news, opinions, personalities and public events.

"American [mainstream magazines have] done a poor job covering anything that is Canadian," says Schwarz, "and the mandate of *FAB* is to include Canadian fashion, artists, articles, photograhers, models, and the whole magazine is geared and produced on the Canadian side."

Schwarz explains *FAB* is a male-oriented publication working in a "manly" genre.

From mountain biking to working out in the gyms, Schwarz does not believe the magazine reinforces the "sterotypical types" of gay men, but presents something that is mainstream and popular with the readers.

He adds that the content of *FAB National* is geared towards an active cultural playing field and not neccessarily politics.

Schwarz also says that *FAB* is promoting the works of young Canadian fashion designers.

And although contributors include critically acclaimed writers such as Michael Rhode, *FAB* is also open to unsolicited submissions.

Companies such as Absolut, Evian, Saab, Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein have been quick to advertise in *FAB National*.

The publishers believe that these companies are tapping into the gay consumer sector because recent studies show that gay men have significantly higher disposable income, and that gay consumers are loyal.

Future plans include distributing *FAB* to smaller towns especially, so gay persons all over the country can have access to *FAB*. *jf*

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Former UBC student sings his *Swann* song

by Robin Yeatman

David Cubitt studied International Relations at UBC. Now he's making movies.

David Cubitt not only hails from Vancouver, he once walked the sacred grounds of UBC as an international relations undergrad. If his name sounds familiar, you may have seen him in the lead role of *Alive*, filmed in BC, or as Jack in the TV show *Traders*. Cubitt has also been a guest on shows such as *The X-Files, The Outer Limits, ENG* and *Lonesome Dove*.

In his new film *Swann*, opening soon in Vancouver, Cubitt plays Brownie, the sexy, scorned lover who gets dumped by Sarah (Miranda Richardson), and he says he is unsure whether audiences will like his character. "I really don't know. He's not very likeable, but aspects of him are kind of charming. He's a hard guy to like at the end."

Cubitt was interested in *Swann* when he heard it was based on the book by award-winning Canadian novelist Carol Shields, and he was also attracted by the opportunity to work with Brenda Fricker and Miranda Richardson.

Cubitt has nothing but favourable memories of working with Richardson. But how do their characters feel about each other? "One of the things [Brownie] finds really attractive about the character Miranda plays is that she lends him legitimacy."

But does this passionate young man truly love Richardson's character? "I don't know if he really knows what love is, yet. He really wants her," Cubitt says, laughing. Say no more.

Although it was a pleasure to act with Richardson, Cubitt thought the filming itself was a little rushed. "It wasn't that we really had a feeling for it, it was just that they didn't have a lot of time. We could have done with more time, for sure."

Unlike some actors on the publicity circuit, Cubitt is able to give an honest, critical opinion of the film. "I think that it could have been a superb film. I think it was a good film, I don't think it was superb. I think it faltered a bit at the end." Well. That's just his opinion.

There are obvious differences between *Swann* and *Alive*, the most highly profiled films in Cubitt's portfolio, and he is vehement in his opinion of the two. "I'd rather do a hundred *Swanns* and no *Alives*. If I had my choice I'd rather be in one room with another actor than on a mountain falling down cliffs."

Cubitt prefers more philosophical films that deal with ideas rather than situations. *Swann* is just such a film, as its main themes are based on the reciprocal effects that characters and literature have on each other. "I think the best part of *Swann* is that aspect of it that it is simply a landscape unfolding in front of you, a canvas. And I think the worst part of *Swann* is the murder mystery part. I don't think it really works that well."

Cubitt acknowledges that being a Canadian actor has given him experiences he may not have had if he were American. "I would have a lot more celebrity in the United States if I was doing a series that was to the United States what *Traders* is to Canada. And what that celebrity would do would be to make it difficult to live day to day, but would make it easier for my career. And in the end I think my life is more important than my career. So, I would say I'm pretty comfortable in the situation that I'm in."

Having experience in both television and movies, David would rather be making films. "I prefer the process of film because I think first and foremost you are working with a story that has a beginning and an end and an arc. And in TV you're working with a character and a story that's limitless, that goes on and on and on, and it's hard to work within those parameters, or lack thereof. And beyond that, you have more time in film.

"On the other hand, TV is nice because it's nice to be working steadily and have a semblance of normalcy in your life."

Cubitt's future looks busy for the present. Some imminent plans include a possible development deal with CBS, guest starring on the TV show *FX*, and presenting an award at the Genies. Cubitt is also looking carefully at more film work. "I'm not going to do anything unless I really feel that the project's right. But I'll read anything."

Apart from the nightmare of walking to classes all the way from B-lot, Cubitt says he has other UBC memories. "I remember I used to walk out of Buchanan A and walk towards Sedgewick and every other day or so I'd run into my friend Jed Reese. He was talking about going off to New York and going to acting school, and I was talking about what audition I had, and it's funny that we both turned out to be actors in the end."

Unlike the character he plays in *Swann*, Cubitt comes across as a modest, relatively soft-spoken guy with a good deal of integrity. Or, at least, he's just a really great actor. Hopefully, and most probably, he is both. *jf*

DAVID CUBITT (on the left, of course) gets a scene with Miranda Richardson in *Swann*.

Oops.

In a Nov 13 article on the Tragically Hip concert, we inadvertently referred to their last album as *Springtime in Vienna*. We would like to clarify that the goof-up lies not with Bryce Edwards, the author of the piece, but with some dumb schmuck who thinks he can SNAFU this stuff and still call himself a Culture Editor. All of us who proofed that page *are*, nonetheless, *as* Canadian as they come, thankyouverymuch. *jf*

Did you know...

...that more students living on campus than off campus worry "a fair amount" or "a lot" about their safety (49.2 vs 40.7)?

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Once again, the University is recognizing excellence in teaching through the awarding of prizes to faculty members. Five (5) prize winners will be selected in the Faculty of Arts for 1997.

Eligibility: Eligibility is open to faculty who have three or more years of teaching at UBC. The three years include 1996-97.

Criteria: The awards recognize distinguished teaching at all levels; introductory, advanced, graduate courses, graduate supervision, and any combination of levels.

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 27, 1997. 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 822-9062.

sports

Hoop dreams are made of this

UBC basketball star Nino Sose looks to rebound after surviving war in his native Bosnia. Sose beats the buzzer once again.

by Wolf Depner

NINO SOSE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A LASTING impression on the basketball court.

But underneath the husky frame and stern demeanor is a soft-spoken 22-year old who wants to start life all over.

Sose and his family touched down in Vancouver on a rainy, depressing night two years ago after escaping from the former Yugoslavia.

"We're just lucky I guess," Sose says.

Sose picked up the leather ball when he was a 14 year old living in Capljina, a small town of 12,000, 164km southwest of Sarajevo.

NINO SOSE chases a ball against Winnipeg. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Little did he know back then basketball would be his ticket out of Europe's most violent conflict since World War II.

At the age of sixteen, he moved to Sarajevo to play semi-pro ball for one year. Later on, he moved to Mostar to continue his high school education.

Prior to the war, Mostar was a city of ethnic tolerance, according to Sose who had both Croatian and Serbian high school friends.

These friendships, which he maintains to this day, were severely disrupted in June 1993 as a full-scale civil war broke out.

"Things got pretty hairy then," Sose says, describing Mostar at the time as a place of rape, death, and famine.

Barely surviving for four weeks, Sose left Mostar for Zagreb in Croatia to play for a Croatian first division team.

Two days later, he was informed by his mother that his father was detained in a concentration camp for Moslem males outside of Mostar.

"They were also going to take my mother to a female concentration camp," recalls Sose's sister Nemia, then thirteen years old.

Sose pursuaded his mother and sister to leave Capljina; they eventually joined him in Zagreb, but only after they had endured a treacherous trek.

Once settled in Zagreb, Sose used his basketball skills to free his dad from the Croatian concentration camp.

"I would not sign the contract with the club until [the Croatian club owner] would get my father out of the camp," Sose explains.

His father, who lost 26 kilos at the camp, was released in early August and had an emotional reunion with his family in Zagreb.

"He was barely standing on his feet," remembers Nemia.

Remaining in Zagreb was not an option for the Sose family.

While Sose was granted Croatian citizenship to play for the Under-22 national team, his family lacked proper papers and faced the threat of deportation.

Canada was to be the family's new home.

Emigrating channels proved to be easier than anticipated—the family found a sponsor in a Catholic church in Merrit, BC.

The irony that the family was helped by a Catholic church after they had been expelled from Bosnia by "Christians" wasn't initially lost on the Soses'.

"In the end we didn't mind it all," says Nemia. "It didn't bother me personally and it didn't bother my parents.

"They just wanted to help us. It's a different world, I guess."

Sose and Birds' head coach Bruce Enns crossed paths soon after the family had landed in Canada. Enns heard of Sose's story and immense talents through a friend and arranged for him to visit Vancouver.

"We became friends very quickly and we committed to each other that Nino would someday play here," recalls Enns.

The Bosnian civil war, however, had completely disrupted Nino's education.

Sose was encouraged to enroll at UCC where Enns' former assistant Jamell Aziz coached the Sun Demons of the British Columbia College Athletic Association.

"We made a sort of loose arrangement that he would come here to [Cariboo College] for at least one semester," says Mel Galloway, UCC's Director of Student Services and Athletics.

That first semester turned out to be one and a half years.

He stayed in Kamloops for a full school year to get a better feel of the English language.

"I wasn't even thinking about basketball," explains Sose. Instead, he was more concerned about his friends back home, and how to get them out of the former Yugoslavia.

"He grew up a lot while he was here," says Galloway. "He had a bit of a temper early on, I suppose. He also felt that it was the referee's fault when he'd made a mistake. It took a while for him to get over that, but once he got over that he became an excellent player."

Blessed with a quick initial step, Sose penetrates the lane with a rare combination of grace and power. He also has an excellent outside game and passes extremely well.

"Offensively, there are a lot of things Nino can do to pick up some of the areas that we're lacking in right now," says Enns.

So far, he has averaged 11.4 minutes and 3.8 points per game, reflecting the limited floor time he is getting. But while he is still making adjustments on the court, he was immediately accepted by his teammates.

> **If there's some chance for a normal life I would like to (go home), but that is not the plan.**
>
> NINO SOSE
> T-BIRD BASKETBALL PLAYER

"I think Nino is everybody's buddy on the team," says Sose's best friend John Dysktra.

With his eyes set on a future in Canada, Sose has no immediate plans to return to his shattered home country.

"If there's some chance for a normal life I would like to, but that is not the plan." *yf*

NEWS TIP? If you see news happening over the December break, give us a call and let us know. Ask for Sarah or Ian. 822-2301.

Think or swim

Marianne Limpert, silver medalist in Atlanta, now back at McGill as a full time student. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Marianne Limpert and Curtis Myden, two of Canada's top swimmers, have had their olympic glory and are going back to school.

by Sarah Galashan

LIFE IS BACK TO NORMAL FOR OLYMPIC MEDALIST swimmers Marianne Limpert and Curtis Myden.

Four months ago, they were in the Canadian media spotlight after winning all of Canada's three medals in the pool in Atlanta.

Now, the two elite swimmers mire in relative obscurity again as they have resumed their respective academic careers.

Myden said that he has become much busier after Atlanta, "but I think my life is the same as before."

Limpert, meanwhile, finds being back at McGill full time very different. Over the past two years, she took just a few courses to give herself time to prepare for Atlanta.

While most students at the age of 24 are working on their Masters or PhDs, Limpert still has three years left on her undergraduate degree in modern languages.

"I think it is one of those things where you can go to school for the rest of your life, but you only have a certain window when you are still at your physical peak."

Limpert, a native of Matagami, QC, received her first swimming lesson from her grandfather and joined a local swim club at the age of nine.

"It is one of those things that you say when you are little kid 'I want to go to the olympics', but it wasn't until 1991 that I really realised that I had a shot at making the Olympic team. That is when I started really seriously training for it."

Limpert made the Barcelona team in 1992, but succumbed to nerves and finished sixth in the 200m individual medley.

This time around, however, she felt less stressed. And it showed as she won a silver medal in the 200 IM en route to breaking her own Canadian record.

She was only beaten by the 26-year old Irish swimmer Michelle Smith who the American media accused of steroid use.

But Limpert dismissed such allegations. "She didn't test positive, so without a positive test I really think there's nothing left to say on the issue."

Although she doesn't think that steroid use is a big problem in swimming, she is hopeful that the international governing body has started to go after people.

"I know I'm clean and if I'm competing against people who aren't, well I just have to be happy with my own performances and not worry about that."

While Limpert is confident about her talent, she still has not decided whether or not she will compete at the 2000 Olympics.

Like Limpert, Myden would like another shot at the Olympics. But Myden does not have to prove anything to anybody. He did that in Atlanta by winning two Bronze medals in the 200m and 400m IM and breaking his own Canadian records.

"I knew that if I got the best out of myself that it would set me up pretty well to try and win a medal," said Myden who placed tenth in Barcelona in the 200 IM and felt he could achieve more.

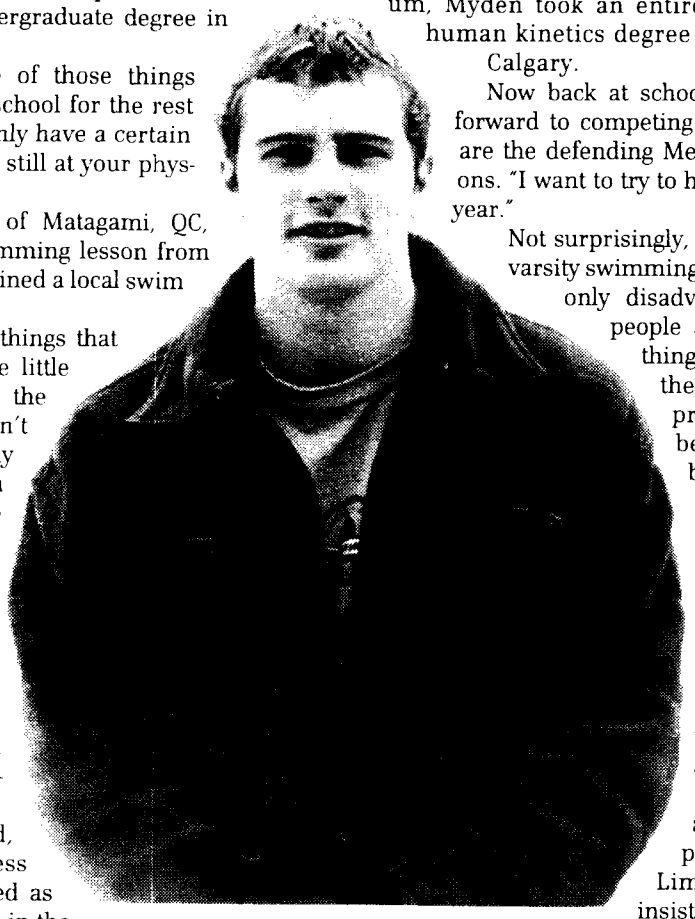
To make that final step onto the medal podium, Myden took an entire year off from his human kinetics degree at the University of Calgary.

Now back at school, Myden is looking forward to competing with the Dinos who are the defending Men's national champions. "I want to try to help out the team this year."

Not surprisingly, Limpert doesn't find varsity swimming as competitive. "The only disadvantage is that now people always expect something from you, so maybe there's a little more pressure to perform because people may be paying more attention to what you do."

The business community, however, has paid little attention to the two elite swimmers. "But maybe there will be more stuff coming up in the future," said Myden.

While their medals haven't exactly paid off financially, Limpert and Myden insist that the benefits far outweigh the sacrifices they had to make. *sf*



Olympic medalist Cutis Myden looks forward to the 2000 olympics. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

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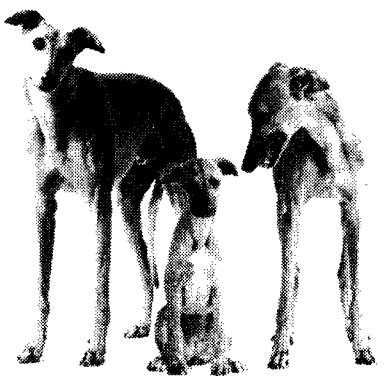

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ubyssey

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The Ubyssey is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia. It is published every Tuesday and Friday by the Ubyssey Publications Society.

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.

The Ubyssey is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and firmly adheres to CUP's guiding principles.

Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. 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 editorial office of *The Ubyssey*, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

"Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.

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Peter Chattaway and Wah Kee Ting just can't get enough of the rhinestone cowboy. Wolf Depner has a shrine to David Hasselhoff and prays to him every zingle night—he'll be beck. Federico Barahona and Robin Yeatman love Kenny G. Neal Razzell, Irfan Dhalla, and Ian Gunn entertained us all with their Ethel Merman imitations. Todd Silver lip-synched to Milli Vanili. Sarah O'Donnell tells us she knows all the words to "Let's Get Physical". Sarah Gallashan and Adrienne Smith have all of Tiny Tim's albums. Joe Clark could not be keener on the "Hooked on Classics" series by K-Tel. Richard Lam is huge fan of Yanni. Kevin Anett likes Grace Jones. Kersi Regelous, Wesley Chiang, and Emily Mak love the mini pops. Ashin Mehin and Christine Price are wondering whatever happened to John Denver. Scott Hayward collects Andrew Lloyd Weber show tune albums. And Richelle Rae thinks that Shaun Cassidy is still a babe and a great singer.

Canadian University Press

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op/ed

Dr. Piper, all we want for Christmas is...

Twelve years ago, a new president appeared on our campus. He drank beer in the Pit with UBC students. He made promises about openness and accessibility and the importance of students. But we never really saw those promises materialise. That's why this time around, we hope things will be a little different.

We've been told by the search committee and the rest of the campus community that the newly appointed President Martha Piper is accessible, open and cares about students. We have no reason to disbelieve them, but history demonstrates the enthusiasm of a search committee isn't always a guarantee for students. Dr. Piper has said she doesn't have a sense of the UBC community yet, which is fair enough since she was only appointed four days ago. So, we've taken the liberty of preparing a cheat sheet for her highlighting Student Concerns 101.

Openness and accessibility: It sounds simple—of course a university president should be accessible to the students she serves. But there is currently very little opportunity for the average student to voice their concerns directly to the president. You shouldn't have to be elected to office to talk with the president. We would like to suggest Dr. Piper institute some sort of weekly office hour where she is available to students. At least that way students will think she takes their concerns seriously.

Class sizes: *Maclean's* said it all this week, ranking UBC at the bottom of 13 universities in class size. There is a growing factory ethos at the undergraduate level. It is particularly acute in science with over 500 students crammed into one classroom.

Faculty revitalisation: Instead of forcing students to bear the brunt of the hard economic times that have hit the university through higher tuition, increased library fines and fees for using everything from technology to toilets, perhaps Dr. Piper could look at some of the old wood rotting in departments across the campus.

We all know a few profs like that. They only show up in the mornings when they teach a class, and don't care about the poor evaluations they receive because they have tenure. Some professors haven't published a paper in six years—they claim to be writing a book or something. Half of their $80,000 salary could be used to hire a younger, more dynamic professor who cares about their students, while the other half could be savings.

Transportation: Most people seem to agree we need to reduce the flow of cars coming to campus every day. Instead of building giant parking lots under rose gardens, perhaps the university could help with alternatives—like properly paving the bike path on University Avenue and working with BC Transit to reduce the cost of bus passes for students.

Development: The university will undergo changes through the rest of the century. Faculty, students, and the surrounding community alike will be affected by those changes. An honest, open consultation with *all* stakeholders would increase the sense of community and, quite possibly, be a source of new ideas for future development.

We could go on and on. Dr. Piper needs to take a good, hard look at everything this university does, from its food services to its fundraising. Most importantly, she needs to remember that students are major stakeholders in this institution. We have opinions, and would like a chance to be heard.

letters

Christian wolf in sheep's clothing

Re: Christian Coalition Perspective

Am I threatened by a group that "happens to support reduction in crime, accountability within leadership...increased voter awareness...an informed democracy?" Well now, that depends on what exactly you mean by all this hyperbole. Reduction in crime? What counts as a crime to you upholders of Judeo-Christian values? Homosexuality? Abortion? Same-sex benefits? The theory of Evolution? If these are the kinds of "crimes" you're intent on reducing, then I think maybe I am threatened. And how exactly are you defining "accountability" and "leadership"? Accountable to whom? You? God? What counts as "leadership"? Hierarchy? Domination? Coercion? What would you like voters to be aware of, precisely? Amageddon, perhaps? Your agenda? Let's have a little information.

And we can be certain this information will be "unbiased". After all, you've effectively invalidated the family structure of at least 17% of Canadians by your self-righteous proclamation of what constitutes the "traditional" family, and hey, that's pretty unbiased. By the way, my family is one of those families you've so contemptuously dismissed. Am I threatened? Fucking furious is more like it. Why don't you turn your "honest attention" towards figuring out why you are so threatened by those of us who see the Christian Coalition for what it is: a wolf in right-wing, woman-hating, gay-bashing, anti-progressive sheep's clothing.

Andrea Darrell
MA Interdisciplinary

Geers' invited to join Dec 6 vigil

The ceremony to remember the women killed on December 6th, 1989 is not a vehicle to be possessed. An event orchestrated by a group of engineers or women remembering the 14 killed as exclusively "their own", flattens out the previous dimensions of these women's lives.

Handled in a positive and proactive manner, the 1996 vigil could be a unifying experience. As was suggested in Rachel Barstow's letter to *The Ubyssey* of Tuesday November 19th, past vigils are *not* role models for future ceremonies. What is needed now is a vision of a ceremony created upon the communication and interwoven ideas of all interested participants.

The EUS president's letter was the first input the AMS women's center received from the EUS about the vigil. An EUS representative came to a vigil brainstorming session. She did not offer any ideas for December 6th, nor did she relate any problems the EUS may have had with the ideas put forth. Rachel's vehement "there is no possibility of reconciliation", is absurd in that it is frustration with, and closure of, a communications channel that was not once utilized. Her thoughts stemmed from preconceived ideas about the center's intentions. Continuing unchecked, these ideas manifested themselves in an unreferenced outpouring that could have been potentially damaging. Decisions based on assumptions and non-communication will not take us to an exemplary future.

We have a common goal. The impetus of the December 6th ceremony is, as Rachel has said, "a way of healing and remembering". As people differ, so do their requirements for healing and remembering. Methods for making sense of feelings evoked by this tragic event, were generated separately by both the women's center and the EUS. We, at the center, extend an invitation to all engineers to begin work on our joint vision of a "dignified and respectful memorial". The center is unanimously excited to co-create a vigil whose format, through collective decision making, would more closely ressemble the representative choice of those killed. By working together and utilizing the power of multiple perspectives, we can approach a ceremony that provides a wholistic picture of those we are attempting to remember.

Laura Livesey
AMS Women's Center

Letters continued on page 11...

EUS Prez should have asked WSO, AMS about Dec 6 vigil

This letter is in response to the letter written by Rachel Barstow, President of the EUS that was published on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Copies of Ms. Barstow's letter were also addressed to the Women Students' Office and the AMS External Commission. We are assuming that this is in response to our invitation to the Engineering Undergraduate Society to participate in the unified, campus-wide memorial for the women who were killed at L'Ecole Polytechnique. This letter was the first contact that either the Women Students' Office or the AMS External Commission have had with Rachel Barstow. We think that it is unfortunate that Rachel Barstow did not take the time to contact either the WSO or the AMS to discuss what our plans are for the memorial on December 6 before she wrote this letter to the editor.

If she had contacted us, she would have found out that the campus-wide memorial that we are organizing is nothing like the "circus of speakers, workshops, and chanting" that she described in her letter. On the contrary, the AMS External Commission and the WSO have been working hard to organize a respectful memorial to commemorate the women who were killed and to remember this tragedy. It is our goal to organize a memorial that every student, staff member and faculty member would feel comfortable attending.

Our plans for the December 6 memorial are not concrete at this time, but they include an on-campus procession to the Student Union Building at 4:00pm, followed by a service in the SUB at 4:30pm that will be very similar to what Rachel Barstow has described as the plans for the EUS. We will read the names of the women who were killed, we will light candles, and we will have a moment of silence. After the memorial we will move into the SUB for speakers. At this time we have not decided who will speak. We have a number of people who are interested, but we only intend to have two speakers, not "a circus." Following the speakers, we thought that a short reception would be appropriate to give people a chance to talk and to express their grief.

The memorial is to commemorate the fourteen female university students who were killed on December 6, 1989. This was a shocking event that horrified all Canadians. The WSO and the AMS are organizing a memorial that allows everyone on campus to honour the women who were killed on December 6 and to express their grief. It is unfortunate that Rachel barstow feels that "there is no possibility of reconciliation." While we have been consciously trying not to turn the memorial into a "political vehicle," she has done just that by writing her letter without first taking the time to contact the organizers. The WSO and the AMS External Commission still intend to hold the memorial on December 6. Once again, we invite Rachel Barstow, all of the UBC Engineers and all of the UBC Community to attend the memorial. Please do not hesitate to phone either the AMS External Commission or the Women Students' Office for more information.

Nikki Hill
AMS External Commission
Aaron Delaney and
Tamalyn Hossack
WSO, Safer Campus Peer Educators

NEWS TIP? If you see news happening over the December break, give us a call and let us know. Ask for Sarah or Ian. 822-2301.

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Mackenzie King stresses importance of university training in public life

November 19, 1929

"It is the sacred obligation of university men and women to carry the work forward into the greater area of the world." This was the burden of the message that the Premier of Canada, Rt. Hon. WL Mackenzie King, delivered to the faculty and students of UBC on Friday, November 15. Chancellor McKechnie, as chairman, introduced the speaker.

In the beginning of his speech, the Premier pointed out what it means to Canada to have a university in a part of the Dominion such as this. "Such a manifestation of growing intellectual power and leadership, in only twelve years time," he said, "amases one."

In pointing out the relation of the university to public life and the opportunities that come to university men and women, the Premier drew a sharp contrast between conditions at the present time and sixty years ago. In those days BC was not part of the Dominion. The privilege of university education, and opportunities were far from being what they are today. There was not the chances of specialisation - not the hospitals, labs, and equipment to make men masters of their professions. In those days, with the provinces loosely knit together with rudimentary means of communication, the character of the field, and the nature of the opportunities for men and women to serve their country were naturally circumscribed. When we realise that, we realise how far from those conditions we are today. More than anything else, the obtaining of self-government, by bringing more opportunities for public service, has brought opportunity to the universities.

RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS

"On us rests a responsibility greater in affairs of government, industry and commerce than at any previous time," stated the Premier. In signing the Peace Treaty, Canada took her place among the nations of the world, and since then has taken a leading part in world affairs. When Ramsay McDonald crossed the ocean, to try to settle international differences by amicable means, he was greeted by a spectacle that was an object lesson to the rest of the world-the spectacle of two great nations living amicably side by side, with unfortified frontiers, their differences settled by reason rather than by force. A budget free from the enormous expense caused by the fear of invasion by another-that was Canada's lesson to the Old World.

Canada is geographically situated in the centre of an amphitheatre of world powers, France, the United States, Japan, and is associated through Great Britain, with the great nations of the world. "But," stated the Premier, "her position rests in understanding, peaceful relations, and goodwill. The foundations of these qualities can only be laid by men who know their responsibilities. Here is a special obligation for the universities."Canada's representatives abroad at the present time are all Varsity men, including a graduate of our own UBC.

In the relations of the university to public life, the Premier stressed the importance of truth and the right attitude. The necessity of truth, in every aspect of human affairs, is greatest today, he said. This is the special function of the university, which, next to the church, is the home of truth, where we learn its application to science and public life. The university stands, too, for giving the right attitude in dealing with various questions. In these days, when every part of the world is linked by mechanical means, when everything we do in one part affects others, the importance of truth and the right attitude cannot be overestimated.

In conclusion the Premier said that the university is only at the beginning of its possibilities. There are great things in store for it in the future. "You are going out into the world now," he said "and if you falter, the Varsity also fails."

In tendering a note of thanks on behalf of the faculty and students, and Chancellor expressed the hope that the Premier would honour us again on some future occasion. *jf*

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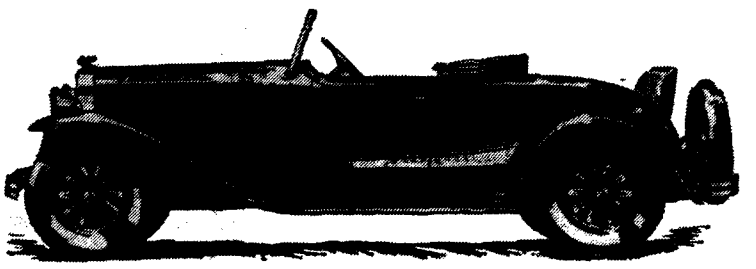

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Where do you prefer to graduate?

UBC Graduating Student Opinion Poll

This student opinion poll is brought to UBC students by the UBC Ceremonies Office and the AMS

Preamble: Why the Poll?

Traditionally, UBC Congregation has taken place at various locations on campus.

Prior to 1948, students first graduated in the Old Auditorium and then in the Old Gymnasium (BuTo site). In 1948, Congregation was moved to the Armouries, where it remained until 1964. It wasn't until Spring Congregation 1965 that students began graduating in the War Memorial Gym.

Now, 31 years later, The University of British Columbia is once again considering a change. In 1989, plans began to switch the location of UBC Congregation by Spring 1997—This time to a state-of-the-art Convocation Hall in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. Below you will find a brief outline of what this change would mean to you, the Graduating Student.

Questions and Comments?

If you experience problems voting, please call 822-4367 between 9am and 5pm.

While the Poll itself is open only to 4th year and Graduate students, we welcome the input of all students on this matter. Another poll will be carried out between January and February to ensure that all UBC students are heard and represented. If you would like to let us know how you feel about the proposed change, or to get more information about the poll, please contact:

Faye Samson 822-1961 comco@ams.ubc.ca
Desmond Rodenbour 822-8131 policyan@ams.ubc.ca

The Choices

War Memorial Gym

Advantages
- Maximum number of students per ceremony is 350 (In past years, maximum capacity was on average 500-600 students).
- No limit to the number of guests.

Disadvantages
- Estimated length of the ceremony is 2 hrs15mins.
- Early arrival of guests (Unassigned seating & parking a greater distance from venue).

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Advantages
- Shorter (Estimate: 1hr15mins) ceremony that would allow for more student recognition.
- Later arrival for guests.

Disadvantages
- Maximum number of students per ceremony is 250 (May require multiple ceremonies for some faculties).
- 4 guests per graduate guaranteed, with the possibility of more seats.

Instructions for Voting

Voting will take place from November 27 at Midnight to November 29th at Midnight. There are two questions to be answered in the poll.

Voting will take place via Televote, the University's telephone voting system, at UBC-VOTE (822-8683). When you enter the system, you will press 3 to vote in a student election. You will then be required to enter your eight-digit student number and your six-digit birthdate in year/month/date format. You may also cast your ballot using the Expressvote system: simply call Televote, listen for the Expressvote option prompt, and enter the two-digit candidate code below:

Where would you prefer to graduate?

ExpressVote Code	Selection/ Candidate
01	Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
02	War Memorial Gymnasium

How many tickets do you anticipate requiring for your guests?

ExpressVote Code	Selection/ Candidate
01	4 or less
02	more than 4