the ubyssey

"the vilest rag west of Blanca"

FRIDAY 04 MARCH 1994 VOLUME 76, ISSUE 36

THANKIN' JOE'S MOTHER SINCE1918

EUS fee hike pays for old penalty

by Tessa Moon

The AMS council has denied it allowed the engineering undergraduate society (EUS) to increase engineering student fees by two dollars in order to repay a debt to the AMS.

According to arts rep Jeff West, $15,000 was loaned to the engineers to pay a fine imposed on them four years ago by the student court. The fine was levied in response to the infamous 1989 *nEUSletter*, which contained sexist and racist material.

But AMS student researcher Derek Miller said the student court ruling "precluded any loans being made to the EUS, on principle."

Former AMS director of finance Dean Leung said the AMS money that the EUS was allowed to borrow was earmarked for summer construction and will be repaid by a two-dollar increase in student fees.

"We have a loan for renovating the Cheeze," said EUS treasurer Mikey Hylands, "[West's assertion] is completely unfounded."

Miller admitted that a loan existed, but said, "It's sort of a loan, but not really. It's like AMS spending student money before getting it—the fees are guaranteed unless the university collapses beforehand."

West disagreed. "When you're dealing with EUS and AMS, there's a real danger of historical revision.

"There was a referendum to renovate the Cheeze, then the EUS council came to AMS again to ask for two-dollar [increase] to repay the AMS loan," he said.

Several months after the AMS council accepted the student court ruling in 1990, council minutes were altered. They were changed to indicate that the fine would be levied only if the EUS collected student fees.

West pointed out that this change in effect overturned the student court decision, because the engineers were prevented from collecting their fees in a separate penalty imposed by the board of governors.

"What the hell is the point in having a student court if the AMS has ultimate authority on its rulings? The AMS has the right to go and correct past minutes," he said. "That makes it a kangaroo court."

According to West, the EUS actually made a profit from the *nEUSletter* affair.

"The goodwill committee is supposed to have spent $5,000 each year," he said. "This is the third year and they have spent zip. Nothing. So the engineers ended up making $15,000 from that nEUSletter. What a punishment, eh?"

You are what you wear

by Pat McGuire and Sara Martin

How to sell yourself was the theme of arts week's beyond the BA seminar in SUB party room on Thursday 3 March.

Guest speakers Evelyn Buriak, manager of UBC career and placement services, and Casey Forrest, who runs his own training and management recruiting firm, told an audience of job-seeking arts students how to use the degree they spent the last four-plus years attaining.

"The world is a fluid place," observed Buriak. "And your basic tools are your resume and ability to do an interview."

Buriak's message was knowledge. Not the kind obtained through a university education, but knowledge of "the labour market and the corporate world."

University students have many skills, however they do not know how to market themselves, Buriak said. Qualities such as communication, writing ability, and research skills are taught in university. In order for these skills to aid a successful career they must be packaged properly in a cohesive resume, conservative dress and communicated through creative networking.

Forrest's discussion also centred around targeting companies, building resumes and honing interview skills. He is a self-proclaimed "nineties guy" who smiled while using military language such as "attack the job market" and telling "war stories" to describe interview scenarios. He emphasized the aggressive nature of job "hunting."

He told the listeners that wearing a "suit of armour," (which comes in either a two- or three-piece variety) will protect them from the fashion scrutiny of potential employers.

Forrest gave a contraditory message of interviewing etiquette. Relax and be yourself, because "you want people to see you for what you are," he said. However, one must be able to change and "adapt to what you think they want."

In finding employment, networking is essential. It is "like being an insurance salesman (sic)"; your initial contact is your small group of friends and, through word of mouth, you increase your sphere of influence, Forrest stated.

Forrest's final advice to students was to be aware of the small and incestuous nature of Canadian business.

"Don't burn any bridges" by talking badly about potential employers behind their back and "don't talk about your dirty laundry in public, you never know who's sitting beside you."

T-BIRDS ADVANCE TO CAN WEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

by Steve Bercic

After a mediocre regular season that saw them finish with a 10-10 record, the UBC men's basketbal team has kicked into high gear for post season action.

Any thoughts that they would quietly bow out and end their season in relative obscurity were quickly put to rest when the Thunderbirds swept into Victoria and upset the highly ranked Vikings in two straight games in CWUAA semi-final action.

As a result of their weekend series victory, the T-Birds now advance to the Canada West championship finals and get set to take on the Alberta Golden Bears this weekend in Edmonton. The Bears won their semifinal series 2-1 over the Calgary Dinosaurs.

In their first game against UVic on Friday night, it looked as if UBC would easily be overwhelmed by a superior Viking squad which built a comfortable 41-30 half time lead.

The T-birds however showed a lot of character by battling back and eventually tying the game on a Dave Christiansen layup in the dying seconds of regular time. UBC carried this momentum into the overtime session and squeaked out a narrow 82-81 victory.

The back and forth nature of Saturday's game produced even more excitement as neither team built more than a three point lead at any time in the game. "It was like two heavyweights going all out for 15 rounds—slugging it out and exchanging their best shots round after round" said UBC coach Bruce Enns. "I think both teams played their best games of the year."

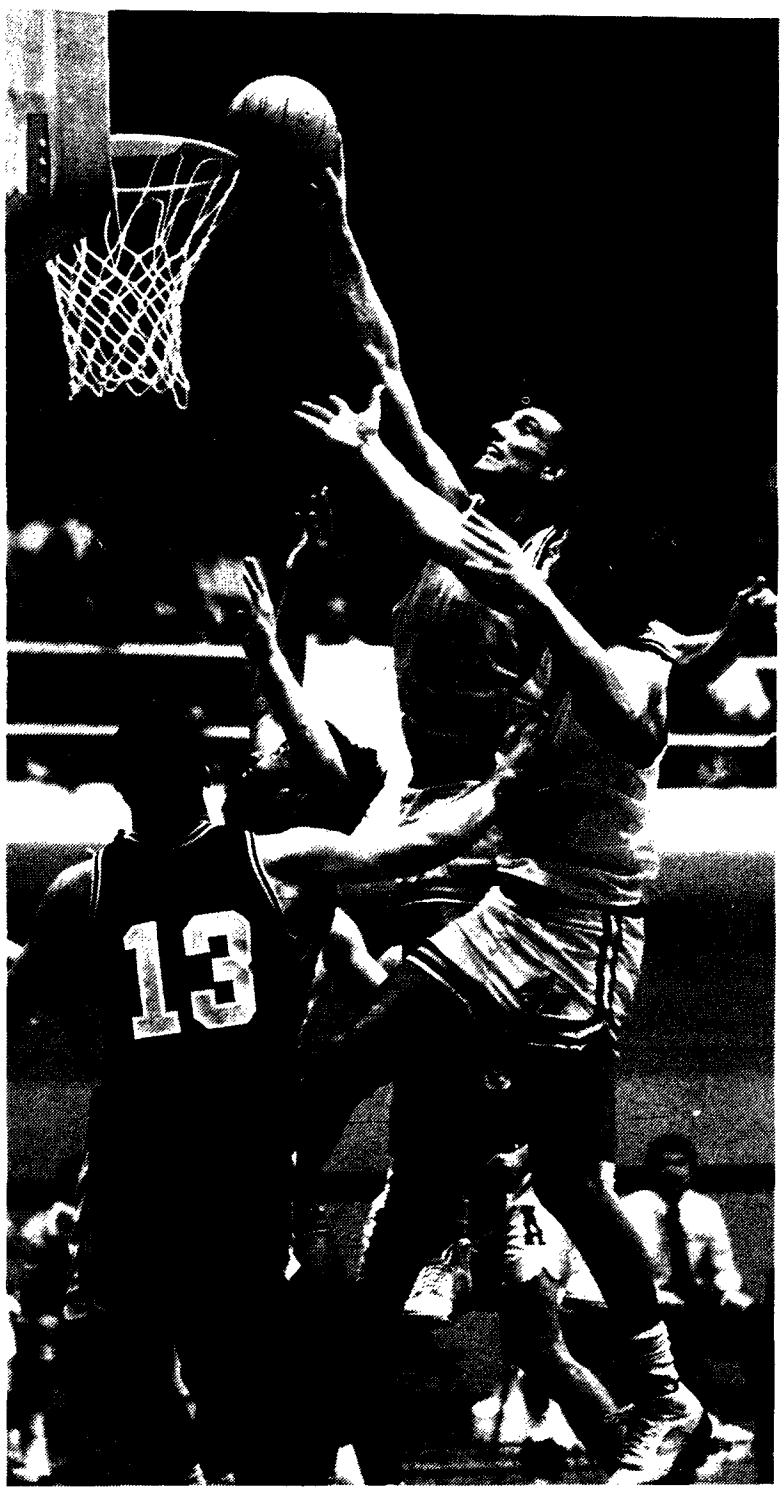
In the end, the difference was a missed three point shot by the Vikings at the buzzer as UBC pulled out another narrow victory, 89-87.

Now the Thunderbirds get set for the CWUAA championship series this weekend in Edmonton. The winner will advance to the National tournament scheduled for later this month.

The Golden Bears pose an even tougher challenge to this Cinderella T-Bird squad. Although not as big or physical as UVic, Alberta does move the ball around more effectively and has many more ways of scoring on offense. "They're a difficult team to defend against," said Enns. "They are one of the best teams, if not the best team, in Canada." The Golden Bears were ranked within the top three nationally all year long.

Alberta won the regular season series 3-1 with two of those games being virtual blowouts. But the T-Birds did win the last meeting by a score of 95-83. So, according to Enns, "we know we're capable of playing at their level and of winning."

The women's basketball T-Birds also pulled off a Canada West semifinal upset last weekend by sweeping the defending CIAU champion Lethbridge Pronghorns in two straight games. The UBC women will now travel to Victoria to battle the Vikings in a best 2 of 3 weekend series for the CWUAA championship.



Will the T-Birds advance to the finals? STEVE CHAN—UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

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Rates: AMS card holder -- 3 lines, $3.15; additional lines 63 cents. Commercial -- 3 lines, $5.25; additional lines 80 cents. 10% discount on 25 issues or more. Classified ads payable in advance. Deadline: 3:30 pm two days before publication date. Advertising office: 822-3977.

05 - COMING EVENTS

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'TWEEN CLASSES

Friday, March 4

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Trotskyist League. Women and Revolution. The "Date Rape" Issue: Feminist Hysteria, Anti-Sex Witchhunt. Rm L4, Britannia Comm. Ctr (Napier & Commercial). 7:30pm.

Japan Exchange Club. Sushi Demonstration. Featuring lots of great sushi! $4 members / $6 non-members. 7pm. SUB 205.

UBC Students of Objectivism. Video of Leonard Peikoff's lecture "The American School: Why Johnny Can't Think." Noon, Angus 428.

Saturday, March 5

AMS Tutoring. Free drop-in tutoring for 1st year Math, Phys, Chem, English, Econ, Biol. 1-5pm, SUB Rm 205. More info call 822-8724.

Sunday, March 6

AMS Tutoring. Free drop-in tutoring for 1st year Math, Phys, Chem, English, Econ, Biol. 5-9pm, SUB Rm 205. More info call 822-8724.

Monday, March 7

Student Health outreach. Lunch on the run. Nutrition fair - nutritious food preparation and demonstrations, product info, recipes, free food samples, representatives from 15 Health Organizations and Food Companies. 11 am - 2 pm, SUB Main Concourse.

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AMS

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25-27% of women in Canada can expect to be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives if things don't change.

While most sexual assaults are committed by men against women, most men do not commit sexual assault. On U.S. campuses one in 12 men admits to committing acts that meet the legal definition of rape; of these 84% do not define their behaviour as rape.

For more information or help, call:

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R.C.M.P.	224-1322	Student Counselling	822-3811
		WAVAW/Rape Crisis	255-6344

Women Students' Office Sexual Harassment Office Student Health Outreach Housing and Conferences Alma Mater Society Student Counselling & Resources Women.

Students face tough choices at job fair

by Graham Cook

They file listlessly past the booths advertising "sales opportunity!" and "great room for growth!".

And the lack of enthusiasm among students browsing the AMS jobs fair is borne out by recent data from Statistics Canada.

According to a story in the *Globe and Mail*, a new report says that 27.7 per cent of Canadians aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 1989, a figure which rose to 50 per cent by November 1992. At the same time, adult unemployment had dropped to pre-recession levels.

By November 1993 adults were a little better off—while young Canadians faced a 50.2 per cent unemployment rate.

Carman Holmes is a sales manager with Canada Life Assurance company, one of the companies at the AMS jobs fair. He admitted that while it is "not hard to find a job, there are fewer good jobs around as companies cut a lot of middle management positions."

"A lot of 40- to 50-year olds are being terminated [from their jobs] right now, and that must be difficult to see. I know when I came out of university a secure [management] job was my aspiration," Holmes said.

Three or four graduates from UBC might be hired as insurance agents by the company this year, he said. Commission and bonuses make up 90 per cent of a sales agent's income, a fact which turns off many prospective agents who are looking for a stable job.

Another alternative for students with $600 to $800 to provide up front, along with a workaholic attitude, is selling and installing Toro brand sprinkler systems.

"It's not a 35-hour a week job," said Allen Weeks, a Student Sprinkler company manager with a booth at the fair.

According to Weeks, the job involves "recruiting, hiring and firing, scheduling jobs and training, overseeing installation" and numerous other tasks. The net take for a manager in a summer is "between $7000 and $9000," which works out to $12 to $16 per hour for a 35 hour week—or a more realistic $8 to $11 per hour for a 50 hour week.

The company will hire "about 3 guys [sic]" from UBC for this summer, Weeks said.

For non-"guys," temporary and full-time office work is another classic generation X option. Templine/Proline filled that void at the fair.

Tamara Dohan, a sales representative for the company, denied temping was a "pink-collar" ghetto for women.

"We get a wide range of applicants," she said, adding that not all temping jobs are data-entry and many can be turned into full-time positions.

But Dohan admitted there is a trend towards shorter-term contracts, in office work as elsewhere in the economy.

One company posed an increasingly familiar refrain: "The income opportunity is limitless!"

Vector Marketing made the claim, and their promotional literature promises bonuses like cruise contests and scholarships. Testimonials from various satisfied employees proclaim how the company gave them "a brand new beginning and the future looks bright."

One former Vector employee said the work itself is not all it's cracked up to be.

"The actual job, which they never mention, is selling sets of knives to your parents and your friends' parents, and your parents' friends," said the former employee, who asked not to be named.

"They advertise a summer job for $10.15, but that isn't an hourly wage, it's what you get for each sales call," he said. (Vector advertises an "$11.25 starting wage" on its banner at the fair.)

The rest of a Vector employee's income is from commission on the $800 knife sets.

"Some of the selling techniques were useful" in later life, the former employee admitted.

For those interested in killing and being killed, the Canadian military remains a prospective employer despite recent federal budget cuts. Lt. Bates was decked out in the finest spit and polish at the fair's armed forces booth, promoting a career in the "primary reserves."

The job requires soldiers to be on guard for their country one night a week and one weekend per month. The armed forces also provide opportunities for officer training for successful peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Somalia—Private Elvin Kyle Brown notwithstanding.

Bates handed out glossy pamphlets and letter openers (which could double as hand-held combat weapons) emblazoned with the forces' logo.

Conference coordinator of the AMS bookings department Mike Swan organized the conference. After putting out 300 requests to different companies, only a few were finally able to attend the fair.

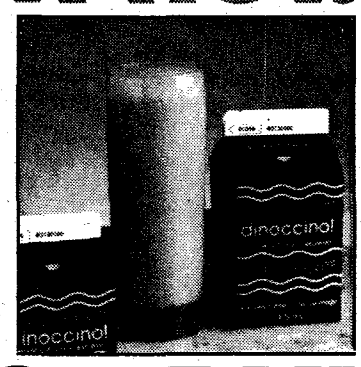
"The reason why some of them didn't come out is that they already had too many applicants or the companies weren't hiring," Swan said.

"Even UBC human resources wouldn't come out, they said they didn't have the resources," he said.

"The ones that did come are interested, they want to hire students, but they have to actively search because they have a bad stigma, like insurance companies.

"We stayed away from student painting and jobs that have a bad reputation like South Western," he said.

SOME LIKE IT HOT.



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Kathryn from Joblink talks at job fair.

STEVE SCALI PHOTO

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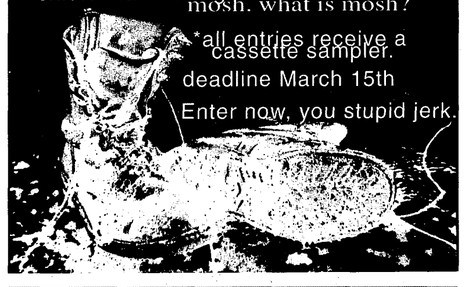

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I dream of daycare

by Taivo Evard

"The AMS can run [on-campus student daycare] far more efficiently or cheaply than the university," Dobie said in introducing the "St. Andrew's Proposal."

The AMS is being asked to fund construction of a daycare facility at St. Andrew's Hall at a pricetag of $350,000, with either the university or the AMS picking up the operating costs.

"I'm gonna preface the discussion by telling you we're a long way off from donating any money," Dobie said.

AMS researcher Derek Miller, in a white t-shirt and with his hands deep in his pockets, explained that because of the university's legal status, it is not eligible for grants or subsidies which the AMS might garner.

"If the AMS were to run it, or some other organization were to run it, chances are it would be cheaper," Miller said.

"Anyone can run a cheaper daycare," countered white t-shirt clad student David Black, "we don't need that, we need something more effective."

"And operating funds from the government will not always be available, so the AMS should make provisions for the future," Black added.

BoG rep Michael Hughes, wrapped in a grey Oxford and topped by a honking pontifical Gordon Campbell cap, explained many of the university's current daycare spots are taken up by residents of Point Grey and the UEL who can afford the expensive service. The residents enroll during vacancy periods in the summer, and "in September they can't just be kicked out," he said.

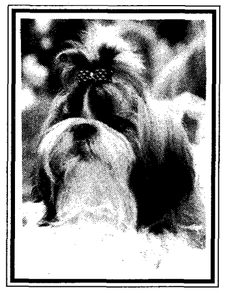
"If we were to take over daycare we'd have to be very sure to maintain a high student proportion," Hughes said. Dobie replied that only AMS members would be able to use the facilities.

Hughes added that "students don't run on a nine-to-five schedule" and this could be "a great opportunity to provide a service that's not offered by the university."

Student stress

Social work rep Marla Milrad informed council of a student's recent heart attack, citing the stress level on fourth-year students with 50-100 per cent projects as a contributing factor.

"We hope administration takes into consideration personal problems which they don't always do," she said.



THE AMS IS YOUR FRIEND

budget blues

Ryan McCuaig, a cornerstone of fashion originality in a white tee-shirt, repeatedly asked Dobie about the nature of a rumoured $100,000 overspending in the AMS budget.

"No, the budget balances," Dobie finally answered. "A miscalculation on budget committee [was made] when they were allocating."

"Nothing to do with dinner?" Woods asked bemusedly.

"No," replied a sombre Dobie.

Women's centre report

AMS vice president and ministry of science and technology poster-child Janice Boyle, dressed in a blue denim button down shirt lightly offset by gold-coloured earrings, introduced the women's centre presentation to council.

Women's centre coordinator Sara Dorsey, in a flower print tank top, explained the centre's purpose to provide "a safe space for all women," to "challenge sexism on campus collectively, not individually."

The centre grew from its five-member core last school year to 30 or 40 women showing up regularly for meetings.

Tanya Battersby, in a black leather jacket, appealed to council to consider honoraria for at least one woman to oversee the centre's library and help "get past the day-to-day operations of the women's centre."

"We'd like to move beyond that and start to offer more," Battersby said.

When the floor opened to questions, one council member asked the difference between the women's centre and the women students office.

"The WSO is an arm or branch of the administration of UBC," the self-same source of the troubles of many women, replied centre member Lisa Taylor, in a white sweater. "A parallel would be what is the difference between UBC administration and the AMS."

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING

Dobie deals with pluralistic debate

At this point, Dobie cut in, telling council that "we have a growing speakers list here. Remember, please, try not to repeat."

West pointed out that administration calculates the percentage of the tuition contribution made by full-time students differently, including fiscal maintenance of UBC and building of facilities, among other things, in their suppositions.

"(Administration says) we pay 10-15 per cent of our tuition, but when it's actually worked out we pay over 50 per cent," West said. "Those are pretty bogus figures."

"So when an international student pays ten times what we pay, the university's making money off it. That's a point that's pretty racist," he added.

Senate rep Chris Woods, in a blue silky button-down, said, "the idea is to increase the number of students without burdening the taxpayer."

He said 70 per cent of the money is supposed to go to increased teachers, labs, and tutorials.

Arts rep Jason Mogus, with cropped-off hair and a sweater of many colours, asked if these new students would compete for residence space as well.

"Where are they going to house these people," Mogus asked.

"Just to clarify, I agree with Jason," Costello, also sporting a less Reform, more conservative 'do, said. "I don't believe the housing issue has been dealt with."

Costello said, "there's not that problem with residence right now, there's a lot of spaces available."

"That's because it's March now, Leah," arts rep Andrew Hayes said, draped in a black tee.

Edwards said the current trend is that a higher cost model such as those in place in the US is being lauded.

"I don't think that's the model we want to encourage at UBC," she said.

Dobie said *BC Reports*-type people had been calling him with "interesting ideas" about the international students debate. One person, he said, sounded relatively coherent for the first minute or so, when they turned it into "a race issue." Dobie has been wisely deflecting their calls.

When Mogus suggested that council should "show our support with more than just a letter, Dobie replied, "We've already run a small campaign to oppose this in the media and tv and radio," and he suggested those interested meet with Costello immediately following the meeting.

Costello postponed further action until the next meeting of the external affairs committee, "so we can get working on this as soon as possible."

International money-grubbers

UBC president David Strangway's BoG proposal to add more wealthy students to UBC at a time when university access is restricted to BC residents met with vocal opposition at council.

BoG rep Hughes prefaced the discussion, warning that "such a proposition will totally change the composition of students at UBC."

While current international students are accepted because of high academics, the new proposal will mean that international students "will just be the ones able to afford being

With a weighting system wherein a base rate of $4800 is multiplied by a factor of one to eight, with one for arts students and eight for medicine students, "the university stands to gain a lot of

"Will they take our interests into account, or will they just let new students in so they can pocket

"We're kind of confused as to why the administration wants to pass this policy," read Costello. "I won't restate everything Michael said, and I agree with him," she added.

BoG rep Orvin Lau, in a white button-down shirt, also asked where the money would go, and "are we going to admit domestic students who can pay this?"

However, his means to an end differed, adding, "this proposal has to be reworked before it can be approved."

Lau said Strangway had told him that morning "he is considering delaying approval of this motion."

Library rep Gail Edwards, in a black sweater, said she was "horrified that the university would think this is a good way to make money off students. It is loathsome. It's just another one of their ways to make money."

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Grads continuing (to pay more) fees

Whereas the average expected completion time for a masters degree is one year longer than expected, two years for a PhD, the university would like to charge these truant students an extra $1000 per year.

Many PhD students in areas such as history and philosophy take ten years to complete their theses.

This is "a program to get PhD students out of here faster," but a study shows the converse is true and completion times increase along with fee hikes, Hughes said.

Graduate students are significantly poorer than undergrads, because "by the time they're grads, they've already gone past their lifetime limit for student loans," Hughes said. "Grad students have to take outside jobs to support themselves while they're taking their degrees."

Petitions, phone-ins, and letter-writing to BoG reps is underway, and a faculty petition has begun as well, according to Hughes. A sit-in is planned for the next BoG meeting. Most of the money for graduate students comes from private sources, so it is not taking anything from the university when students have longer completion times, Hughes added.

Edwards, an archival grad student, pointed out that "a lot of our students opt to take fewer courses than a full course load, and this discriminates against part-time students, students with disabilities on a reduced course load."

Audiology rep Janine Reid, in a blue horizontally-patterned knit sweater, said her department offers a thesis or non-thesis option to grad students. The proposed fee structure would encourage students to do the non-thesis option, which would be much easier to complete within the two year time frame.

"That affects your professor's perception of you. They like a student who's going to do a thesis. That's where you get the grants, fellowships, etc," she said.

A budget prior to fiscal year end?

Three council members were to be selected to sit on the budget committee, presumably to get a budget out before March of '95.

"Arts isn't going to have its five members elected for the next few weeks," West said.

A vote to postpone the motion until 1 April, by which time position turnovers would be complete, was defeated 12-11. External Affairs coordinator Leah Costello, in an AMS sweatshirt with that fashion faux-pas of shirt lapels creeping over top of the sweater, was one of those who against postponement. Two of the three positions remain open due to lack of willing victims.

Can we talk?

Costello warily announced her planned national student loans forum, inviting other universities and government members to "get everybody together to talk about the issues."

No mention was made of what these issues may be by Costello, who has no problems with the proposed 8-9 per cent fee increase, "as long as it's spent properly."

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EDITORIAL

Ah, spring. The sweet smell of cherry blossoms, fresh-cut grass, and subtly-applied perfume and cologne. The latter of course wafts from the army of university students who have begun their descent on the personnel directors hiring for summer jobs.

And as the AMS jobs fair points out, good summer jobs are in short supply. Yes, Starbuck's or McDonalds will be happy to take your resume, but perhaps after a few years of higher education you expect a nearly-poverty-line wage. How dare you!

The new world order/global restructuring/adjustment to new realities is in place, don'cha know, and that means even the lucky few of us who are attending university must make more with less.

And the jobs that are offered currently are much, much less than those that were available to the university-educated 10 or 20 years ago. Less security, less compensation, less hope of building a life around fulfilling work.

That can be liberating in some ways—the trip to Thailand for some becomes not a career obstacle but a slacking necessity.

But the security that comes with a living wage, that comes from a youth employment rate of more than the current 50 per cent, means that fewer people will be having families or working to build their communities.

It is the familiar generation X refrain—lower expectations, no future.

However, in an era when technological change allows us to produce huge gluts of the most unnecessary consumer products, while single mums with BAs toil in demeaning service sector jobs, the question begs to be asked. Is there not a more rational way of organizing the way we work?

Why is it that some CEOs receive tens of millions of dollars in compensation while those who slave in the dirty jobs are deemed "greedy" and "unwilling to accept reality" when they ask for a decent wage?

People who are going out to work for a wage, whether university-educated or not, deserve a more rational division of income. Alternative economic models, even capitalist ones like Japan, propose much smaller ratios between what those at the top of the hierarchy receive versus those at the bottom.

Some models do away with hierarchy altogether, advocating cooperative forms of management and ownership.

Regardless, the selection of jobs at the AMS jobs fair clearly indicate a sickness in the economy. Sales jobs promise "limitless income opportunities" for selling $50 knives; officer training for our local death machine; and flogging life insurance are not rational, creative job choices.

Some people might find fulfillment, for a short while. Others might tough it out for that airfare to Bangkok.

But in the long run, unless you can come up with some creative scam, I mean, business opportunity; or unless you can decipher the secret codes to the winning lottery numbers; or your family can give you a job, your choices are going to remain few and far between.

Welfare pays too little, and besides, that social safety net is frowned on nowadays. Maybe you'd better just take the job selling knives (especially if you've got lots of family or psychopathic friends who are short of shiny sharp things) and stick it out till school starts in the fall. If you're graduating, you're probably just now coming to the stomach-sinking conclusion that the descent from the ivory tower is a long one into the depths of the "real world." Good luck.

THE UBYSSEY 04 March 1994

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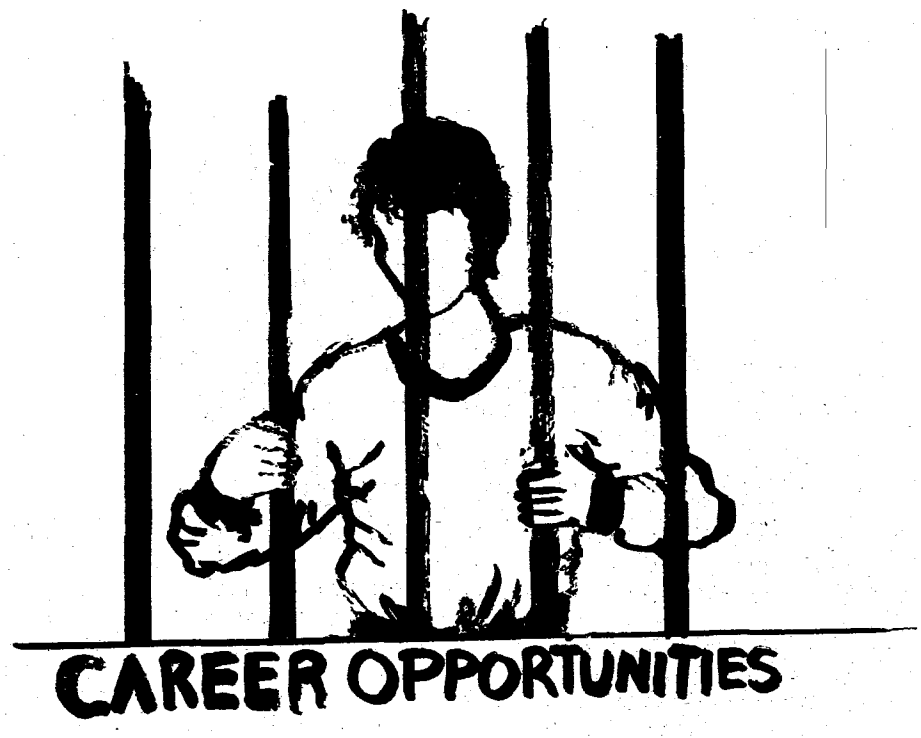
Resume in hand Niva Chow and Tessa Moon hit the streets. Going from door to door, they needed a job. Graham Cook and Steve Chow, proprietors of Capitalist Inc. slammed the door before the job hunters could even ring the bell. "We don't need damn undergrad students around here," yelled Liz van Assum, the husky voiced security guard. Doug Ferris saw what was happening and suggested that the women get a new fashion consultant. "Perhaps a suit by Tony Zuniga, or a Christine Price blouse." Taivo Evard also saw the incident but had a different idea. "Lets break down that door and light their intramural board on fire." David Black and Steve Scali jumped at the chance. Grabbing a hammer and sicle from Siabahn Roantree's treasure chest, they broke down the door and suits went flying in every direction. Sara Martin had the zippo and Sara Dorsey lit the fire. With smoke billowing from the stairwell, the anal retentive security guards cleared the building. Pat McGuire and Beth Long warmed their hands over the fire until the fire department came and asked everyone to leave. They had a real deadline. Joe Gagnon the MacGod asked everyone to pose for a picture and Steve Bercic put the two fingered peace sign over Gregg McNally's head as the sky scraper burned to dust. Fish quietly put away his matches and smiled a wry and hollow smile.

Editors

Coordinating Editor: Douglas "are those your boots" Ferris
News Coordinator: Graham "Nancy Kerrigan (kill kill)" Cook
News Editors: Sara "no those are not my boots" Martin, Taivo "the wild estonian" Evard
Culture Coordinator: Steve "I'm Tanya Harding" Chow
Culture Editor: Ted "I'm writing an essay" Young-ing
Photography Coordinator: Siobhan "why me?" Roantree
Production Manager: Liz "get me da fuck otta here" van Assum



Letters to the staff...

Leah Costello congratulates The Ubyssey

I am writing in response to your article about External Affairs in the March 1 issue. In the past, *The Ubyssey* has complained about the AMS' lack of effort in regards to lobbying the government about student issues, as well as its inability to be relevant to students. In my plan for the AMS External Affairs Committee, I plan to bring the students together who share concerns about issues - such as student loans and daycare - and personally lead the AMS in lobbying for changes. I find it ironic that the tone of The Ubyssey aricle was disapproving of my plans to get students involved in these issues through the External Affairs Committee. During my campaign, you criticized me for trying "single-handedly" to accomplish what no one else has ever been able to do. Now, you accuse me of pawning off my workload! I feel (and am being realistic in doing so), that there are too many important issues on the table for just one person to work with. I am calling out for interested students to get involved if they want to help lobby for changes. As well, I stand by my comments in the *Vancouver Sun* article about *The Ubyssey*. I don't think that many of your articles are particularly well-researched or well-written. This last article about me clearly asserts my position. Many of my quotes were isolated in your commentary are incomplete representations of my opinions on the topics we were discussing. Congratulations on another article poorly done!

Leah Costello
AMS External Affairs

UBC plans to cut more trees

After last summer's protest against tree cutting in the forested land on the University of British Columbia campus, the University promised to subject further development in the area to full "municipal-style" public process. Between Feb. 5 and 10 the UBC Real Estate Corporation (100% owned by UBC) held a series of "community workshops" regarding their plan to put a market housing (housing too expensive for most students) compex consisting of 2-4 high-rise towers just west of Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Members of COUP (Citizens for Open University Planning) participated in this process by attending workshops.

We were disappointed, but not surprised to find that there was no oppurtunity for public input regarding; !) The Chatham, a 19 story tower presently being built next to the site in question, 2) the need to cut down even more trees on a campus with abundant open space, 3) the appropriateness of building market housing when there is inadequate staff and student housing. COUP feels that full public process cannot happen if the above items are not on the discussion table.

Markus Eymann
COUP

More than one black woman is a federal MP

I can understand why Leesa Barnes might think that Jean Augustine is the only black woman who is a sitting MP. After all, Leesa is a York University, and in common with many other Torontonians probably thinks that anything west of Missasauga doesn't count.

But I am puzzled why no one at *The Ubyssey* was aware of the election results in Vancouver Centre, where Dr. Hedy Fry turfed out Kim. Dr. Fry considers herself black, and I think we should accept her opinion on the subject.

Jean-Philipe Wilmshurst
librarian's office

Like get a life liz, don't you have something better to do?

I've just about had it with stupid letters. ZPeople writing letters to the editor totally wasting space and saying nothin. Why look at me here i am just wasting space saying absolutely nothing. Maybe I should become a politician. Why, I bet that Bill Dobie would love to teach me since his dioor is always open. Anyway the problem here is that the computer will notsupport the file format and my eyes are to tired to put someone else's letter here today. My apologies to all of those people who's letters are backlogged but if you really want to have them run then you can come in here and type them onto disk yourself. You will find that your letter will run much sooner if you do that.

I will now return you toyouregularily scheduled reading of the finest rag anywhere. You know here's to all of you confused people who think we bite. We are actually a humour magazine posing as a newspaper. But more on that in our up and coming special media issue where all sort of deconstructive treats are in store. Ta.

Elisabeth van Assum
editor extrodinare
sociology failure

Unpucker those ass kissing, licks boot lips marc

In response to a letter appearing in the editorial section of today's issue, I would like to briefly comment on the concerns of Carmen F. Chan. While your considerations about the environment is justified, your shameless attack on the leadership of AMS vice president Janice Boyle is not.

You state in your letter that you are concerned about Janice's "...Apparent lack of political leadership." I would go so far as to refute your inane argument by stating that Janice has shown nothing but promise in the execution of her duties as vice president.

By crusading under the banner of "Free Parking After Five"; not only has Janice eased the safety concerns of many of her fellow students, she has also made a very positive step regarding campus safety by increasing the options that UBC studentts ahve to choose from.

I therefore find your argument redundant to the very core. If you nwant to talk about the environment, do so by all means without dragging others by the wayside. I agree that the environment is a very important issue that must be delt with in a practical approach. I stress that student safety has nothing to do with the physical environment or state of the globe at this present time. So even though your argument concerning the environment has grappled our attention by your comments, let us not forget that the safety of UBC students is principal to the aims and purposes of the Ad/Hoc safety committee and the vast majority of the students at large. Next time, don't confuse the issue.

Marc G. Schaper
Arts

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

Thank you

The laws of supply and demand

PERSPECTIVE
by Tony Zuniga

Decades of careless consumption of goods has depleted the natural resources of our planet at an alarming rate, due to a lack of general concern and awareness.

Thus, the purpose here is to awake in your minds the need for a shift in our food consumption habits through consumerism, by making use of the powerful laws of supply and demand.

Natural resource depletion can be decreased, but only to the extent to which we fellow students and "consumers" are willing to adopt resolutions to make the necessary changes in our consumptive habits, habits that should be practiced continually and collectively. A continuous and collective consumption of environmentally-sensitive products will trigger a trend that will favour companies producing those particular products.

As this trend develops, institutions facing a decrease in sales due to a consumption shift will start producing products to take advantage of the trend. Eventually, higher competition for your dollars will drive prices down. Availability of those particular products will also improve.

Thus, in view of this theory let the following consumption resolutions be proposed:

1. MAXIMUM PURCHASED-FOOD UTILITY

Some of us know that our excessive consumption of food has a negative impact on world hunger. If we were to collectively reduce our consumption of food this would create an excess supply of food in the world which would drive prices down. The poor in third world countries would greatly benefit from this reduction in food prices.

Excess world food supply would also reduce the need for using the world's arable land to grow crops and produce food. With a decrease in the demand for land, there would be a reduction in the trees being cut to grow crops, decreasing the marginal rate of the world's forest depletion.

Consider the difference the collective practice of "asking for a doggy bag" and "heating up last night's leftovers" will make on food prices, the poor and the environment.

2. REDUCTION IN MEAT CONSUMPTION.

Many of us unequivocally believe that we could not live without our daily intake of animal proteins. Nevertheless, lowered meat consumption would have a pervasive impact on the preservation of our environment.

Lowering meat consumption would decrease demand for cattle. This would in turn decrease the demand for land to raise cattle. Costa Rican and Brazilian rainforests have in the past been cut down in order to make room for land to raise cattle. A decrease in the demand for land to raise cattle may keep a few trees from being slashed and burned.

A decrease in meat consumption would also reduce demand for the grain used to feed cattle which in turn would reduce the need for land to grow cattle-feeding crops.

This relative excess in the supply of land may not be reforested, but it would certainly lower the rate of deforestation and eventually stop the destruction of forests for cattle-raising purposes.

3. USE AND BUY REUSABLE,RECYCLEABLE AND BIODEGRADEABLE CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING ONLY.

When buying any product, choose packaging made of recycleable or biodegradeable material (i.e. unbleached paper). Stick to products that are packed with materials easily recycleable through "blue boxes." Also, when going to food outlets, do not eat from non-reusable (styrofoam) dishes. This includes food served in UBC food services outlets.

Power to the people

join the Ubyssey -- SUB 241K

SIOBHAN ROANTREE PHOTO

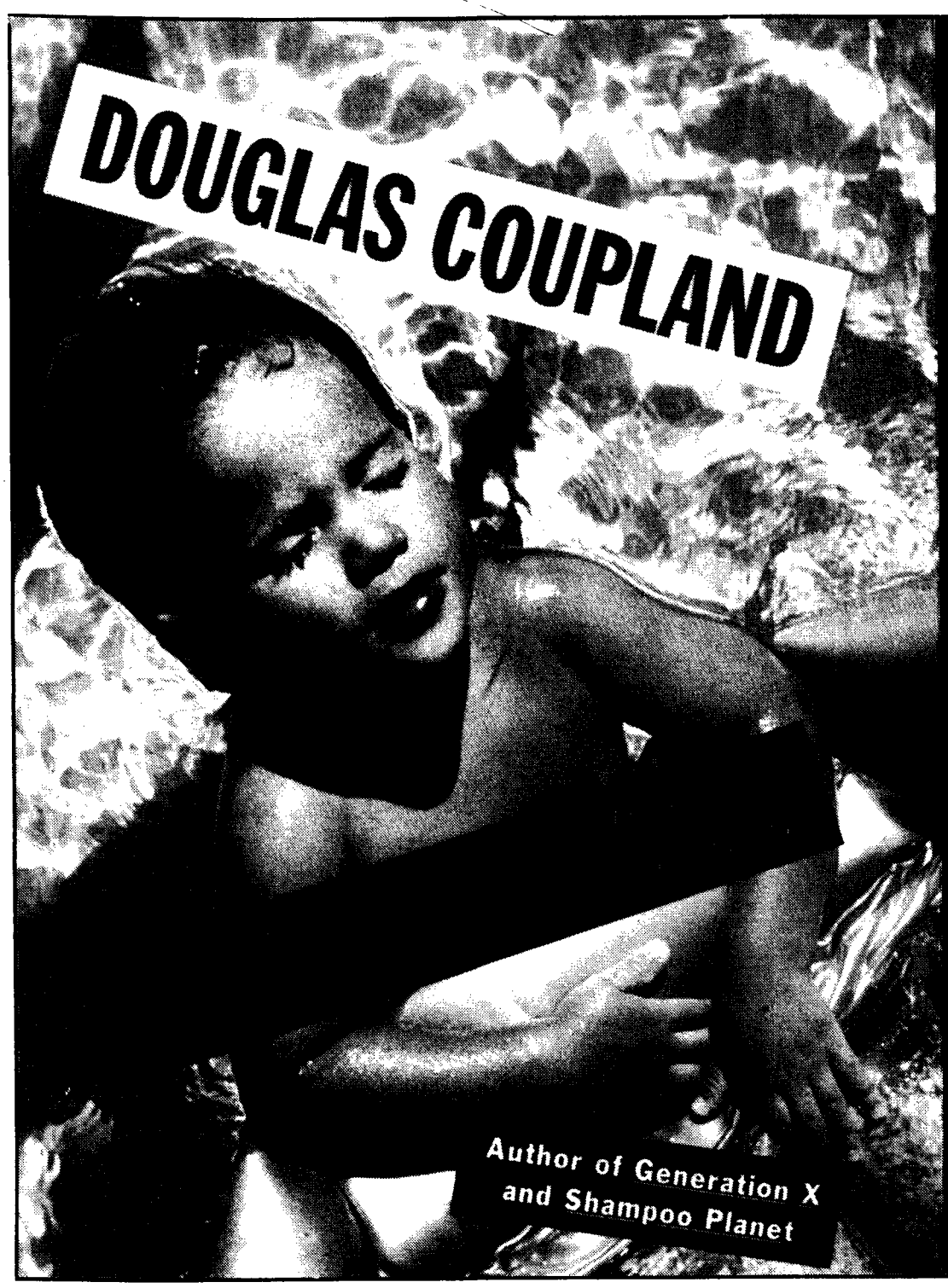
Fire in the SUB

The SUB was cleared on Thursday evening at 7:30 as a fire destroyed the right half of the intramural bulletin board in the basement in a fiery blaze.

Fourth year history student Steve Laing was studying in the intramural office at the time of the inferno. Upon hearing the fire alarm, Laing grabbed the fire extinguisher and put out the flames.

Of course arson is suspected.

Women's issue all weekend production will begin after deadline has been met on Friday March fourth at 4:00pm. Production will proceed after editing has been completed, at 4:00pm Saturday the fifth. This weekend is an all women production. Bring whatever goodies you like. It will be a blast and if you've never joined us here before, now would be a perfect time. See you on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Have any questions or want to submit something? Call the coordinator, Sara Martin at 822-2301



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REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

Flirting with politics

by Sara Dorsey and Beth Long

Out. Proud. Loud. And they may be the world's first and only politically active, multicultural, gay a cappella quartet.

"From the very beginning, we were determined to be out about our sexuality," explains diva tenor Jon Arterton of The Flirations. "We didn't want to be just gay and singing together, but we actually made it part of the material."

And "it" IS their material. The group consistently confronts homophobia, racism, misogyny, AIDSphobia, queer- bashing, and colonialism with pride, sensitivity, humour and unbridled camp.

The Flirts put their money where their microphones are. During their recent run in Vancouver, the band played for five nights which included a benefit for Little Sister's Legal Defense Fund and a benefit for Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

Members Jimmy Rutland, Cliff Townsend, Jon Arterton and Aurelio Font transform doo-wop from a putrid 1950s flashback into meaningful, worthwhile and downright foot-tappin' fun!!! Yee ha!!!

The Flirations currently have two (buy them at Broadway Records and Tapes) CD's on the Significant Others label. *The Flirtations* (1989) gave the not-so-classic "To Know Him is to Love Him" new meaning—it's all just a shitload of fun. *The Flirtations: Live Out on the Road* (1991) includes queer renditions of "Bop 'Til You Drop / At the Hop" ('bop 'til you drop, shop for a top, flop with a cop, stop when you pop), and "Mr. Sandman" (Mister Sandman, I need a man / What kind of man? No one psychotic or Republican / Give him two legs like Greg Louganis / but make him comfortable about his Gayness).

Other songs are powerful, even chilling.

Every concert, the members of the group offer personal testimony in "One of Us": "One of us has had the same lover for eight years . . . one of us is from a family in which the gays outnumber the straights . . . one of us was in the closet until he was 37 . . . one of use took his boyfriend to the high school prom . . . one of us coached high school wrestling . . . one of us wants to carry a child to term . . . one of us helped start Hispanos Unidos Gays y Lesbianas . . . one of us has never seen a porno film . . . one of us was an MP in the US army . . . one of us was entrapped, arrested, handcuffed, and beaten by the police . . . one of us has smuggled AIDS drugs into the country . . . one of us has been arrested for civil disobedience . . . one of us was fag-bashed with a two-by-four . . . and two of us have AIDS . . . ."

The Flirtations lost two of their members to AIDS: TJ Myers in 1990, Michael Callen in 1993. As Callen was dying, the group rearranged their harmonies for four voices. A third member (who doesn't want to be named) is HIV-positive. "We don't have to say much about AIDS," says Arterton, "The points make themselves. Seeing someone with AIDS jumping about on stage, being a queen, and having a high old time means more than millions of speeches about living one-day-at-a-time and enjoying life to the fullest."

PERSPECTIVE
by David Black

International Women's Day: the Men's Role

Tuesday is International Women's Day. Again there will be many men who are confused about their role in regard to the events.

Many men whom I know have felt excluded when there have been women only events that they are excluded from. I do not believe that men should feel resentful when women only events are undertaken. Instead, supportive men should try to figure out a strategy to support women. There has been very little written on this subject, although I believe there probably has been a great deal of thought given to the idea.

Other men have made veiled attempts to establish a theory of a "systemic" oppression of men. It is for this reason that feminists are rightfully wary of attempts by men to define women's issues. What may be useful in the struggle for equality is for men to discuss the most effective means of supporting the women's movement.

If you are interested in pursuing this discussion, come to the International Women's Day Rally at 12:30 Tuesday, and the discussion on Wednesday, open to women and men and hosted by the UBC New Democrats.

Didier Guillevic
Ph.D. student in Computer Science

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