

the

ubyssey

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volume 77 issue 28

Friday, January 12, 1996

Environment issue

Wilderness threatened: BC's enviro hotspots

by Nicole Guy

BC is home to millions of hectares of pristine wilderness regions, but these natural landscapes are increasingly under threat.

Battles are constantly fought to preserve these wilderness areas from the devastation of industrial development, particularly clear-cut logging. Many battles have been won—most recently the preservation of the Stein Valley—but the fight continues.

Here are some of the major wilderness areas in need of preservation:

1. Clayoquot Sound

Despite protests and campaigns for the

watershed greater than 200 hectares until a full inventory of all the forest values is completed. This inventory will help support the permanent preservation of Clayoquot Sound.

2. Randy Stoltmann Wilderness Area

Located 80 km northwest of Whistler, this region is the largest group of unlogged valleys in BC. The Sims, Clendenning, Upper Elaho and Upper Lillooet valleys are part of the 260,000 hectare wilderness area. Primary control of these ancient coastal Douglas Firs is in the hands of MacMillan Bloedel and International Forest Products.

composed of the Chaplain, Seymour and Coquitlam basin, total approximately 585km² in size.

The ancient temperate rainforests in this region filter the ground water that helps protect Vancouver water quality; however, the Greater Vancouver Water District, who has primary control of this land, has logged it since 1952 in an attempt to reduce fire hazards and maintain water quality. In fact, the logging caused the opposite reaction, increasing runoff and silt in the water supply.

4. Shook Hills Wilderness

This region just outside Victoria covers approximately 9300 hectares. The Greater Victoria Regional District owns this land, though it is not in the catchment area of the Victoria watershed. Some of the last stands of old growth Douglas Fir, as well as other rare and endangered species, are found in this wilderness area.

5. Canadian Raincoast Wilderness

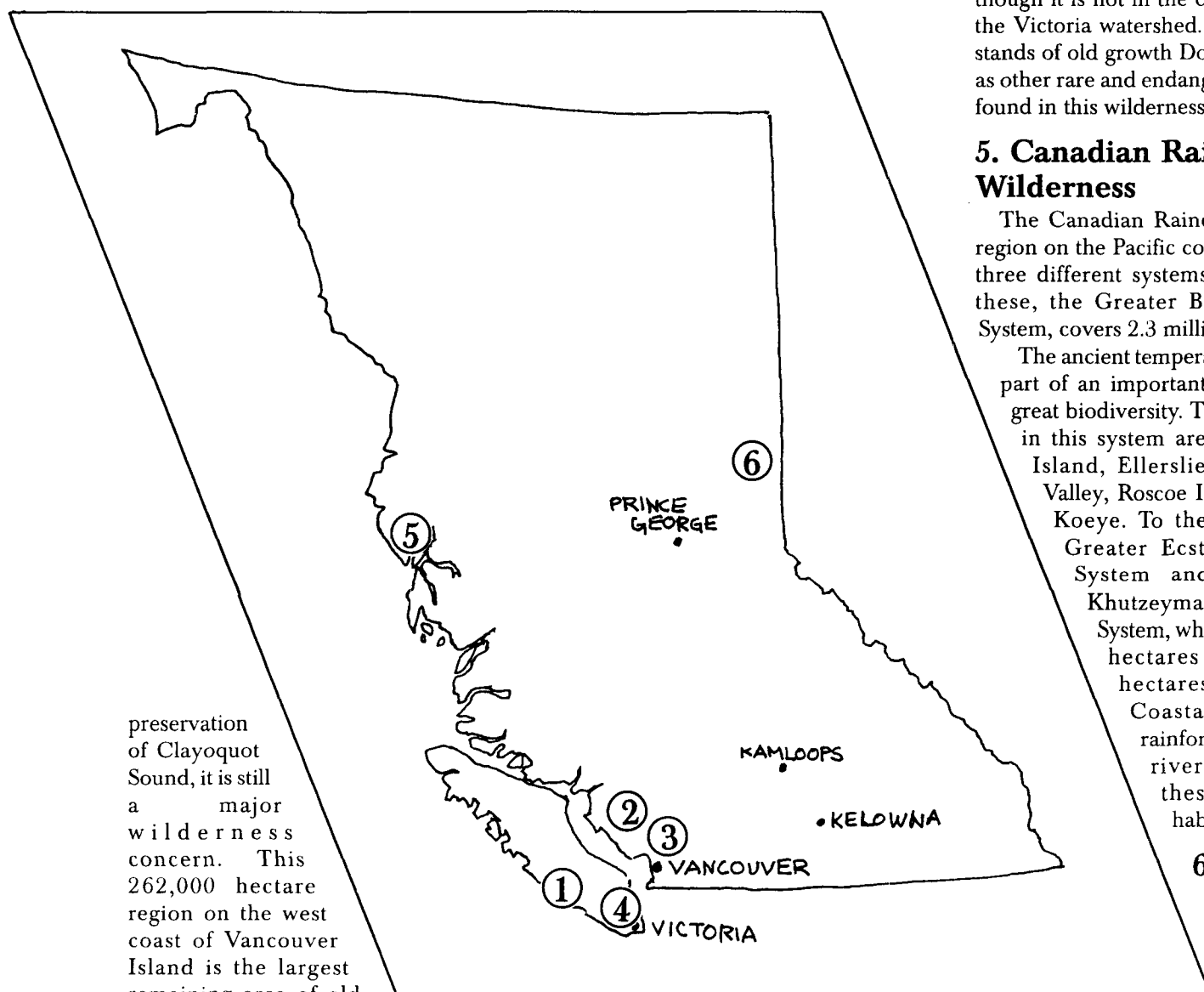
The Canadian Raincoast Wilderness region on the Pacific coast is made up of three different systems. The largest of these, the Greater Bear Wilderness System, covers 2.3 million hectares.

The ancient temperate rainforests are part of an important ecosystem with great biodiversity. The major regions in this system are Princess Royal Island, Ellerslie Lake, Kitlope Valley, Roscoe Inlet, Khutze and Koeye. To the north lies the Greater Ecstall Wilderness System and the Greater Khutzymateen Wilderness System, which cover 400,000 hectares and 250,000 hectares respectively. Coastal temperate rainforests surround the river valley within these mountainous habitats.

6. Northern Rockies

The Northern Rockies are home to a 9 million

hectare region of boreal forest, the largest undeveloped region in Canada outside the Territories. Although this relatively undisturbed area is a critical habitat for BC's major caribou, moose and elk populations, it is now threatened with several large-scale proposals for development and logging.



In 1993, the provincial government decided to allow clear-cut logging to continue in two thirds of this region. The BC government has recently accepted the recommendations of the Clayoquot Scientific Panel, however, which proposed to preserve every untouched

The Western Canadian Wilderness Committee has recently finished the first half of a 30 km hiking trail through the Stoltman Wilderness Area.

3. Greater Vancouver Watersheds

The Greater Vancouver Watersheds,

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Lost & Found

Found: A necklace with a large fimo bead. Call the GSS at 822-3203.

Ubyyssey Advertising

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Wanted

A local market research firm is looking for smokers to participate in research study. Earn \$3 for your opinion. No sales involved. Call 736-9680.

Researcher/Writer Needed
Aboriginal research journal requires part-time researchers/writers with proven interest in Native issues and intimate knowledge of Aboriginal culture. Previous advocacy work would also be beneficial. Fax covering letter, resume and a 500 word sample of your writing to 873-1920.

Upcoming

The BC Humanist Club invites you to an address by **Svend Robinson MP** "Church and State in the 90's", Friday January 12 at 7:30pm at the Senior's Centre, Oak Ridge Mall, 650 West 41st (entrance off west side parking lot). Donations to defray expenses are welcome. 739-9822.

'TWEEN CLASSES

Monday, January 15

GRAD STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

Keynote address by Teresa de Lauretis (UC Santa Cruz): "Writing as Self-Translation." Conference admittance: \$5 Students, \$10 Faculty, Reception/Buffer \$5. (Pre-registration required by January 12, 1:00 pm, at English Reading Room, 6th floor Buchanan Tower.) Green College, Grad Dining Hall, 4:30pm.

Wednesday, January 17

A LABEL DISCUSSION

CiTR celebrates 59 years of UBC radio. Conversation pit, SUB, 12:30pm.

Saturday, January 20

ACCOUNTING SEMINAR FOR GRADUATING DENTISTS

Call Kristi at 591-6181 before January 18. Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre, 711 West Broadway, 12:00-3:00pm.

The 1996 Ubyyssey Envirocorruption Test

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, who is the environmentally friendliest of them all? Take the following quiz to find out if your lifestyle is eco-friendly, and where you could improve your habits.

For each question answer either: never (0 marks), sometimes (1 mark) or always (2 marks). Then add up your marks and see where you fit in.

DO YOU ...

1. Avoid buying unnecessary products?
2. Share magazine and newspaper subscriptions with a friend?
3. Borrow items instead of buying them?
4. Carry a knapsack or cloth bag when you shop and refuse plastic or paper bags?
5. Buy used materials and promote "second-hand" stores?
6. Use recycled paper for your school notes?
7. Support products made of recycled materials?
8. Precycle by purchasing products in reusable or recyclable containers (such as glass, paper and aluminum)?
9. Avoid packaging completely and take your own bags and containers to purchase in bulk?
10. If buying an overpackaged product, shell the product before you leave the store, put the packaging on the counter and make a statement that you do not want the packaging?
11. Avoid using styrofoam products? (They may contain CFCs, and even if they don't, they are rarely reusable and never recyclable.)
12. Avoid plastics wherever possible, especially if they are not recyclable or reusable? (Plastics make up 25 percent of our garbage by volume.)
13. Try never to use or buy disposables? (The short term conveniences are not worth the tremendous environmental destruction.)
14. Use rechargeable batteries, refillable lights, dishes, non-disposable razors, thermoses, cloth diapers, etc.?

15. Support companies that are recycling, testing their products without animals, not exploiting workers, etc.? (Consider reading *Shopping for a Better World*, a guide to all major companies and their practices.)
16. Recycle all metals, glass, paper, etc.?
17. Take care of your belongings so that they last longer and do not have to be thrown out?
18. Use the blank back sides of paper to take notes and for scratch work before you recycle it?
19. Re-use envelopes and address them with pencil that can be erased and then re-used?
20. Mend clothes and repair things rather than replace them?
21. Make a compost pile to recycle food scraps and garden materials?
22. Make double sided photocopies to reduce paper waste and ask others to do the same?
23. Have a sign on your mailbox saying "no junk mail"?
24. If junk mail still arrives, return it to the sender?
25. Use public transportation, carpool, bike or walk whenever possible?
26. Turn off lights and appliances when they are not in use? (In North America, every 1 percent increase in lightbulb efficiency eliminates the need for energy from one nuclear power plant.)
27. Take short, cool showers?
28. Flush the toilet only when absolutely necessary? (40 percent of household fresh water is flushed down the toilet.)
29. Have a reduced-flow shower nozzle and tape?
30. When washing vegetables, do you run some water in a basin rather than leave the tap running?
31. Always turn off the tap when the water is not directly in use?
32. Buy organic products to help encourage farmers who do not use pesticides?
33. When possible, buy local and in-season produce? (Local produce uses less resources

- to transport the products to your area and it supports local farmers.)
34. Eat lower on the food chain? (Moving towards a vegetarian diet is healthier and frees up a lot of grain resources for people to use rather than for animal meat.)
35. Are you accepting of produce that is not aesthetically perfect? (A large part of chemical added to foods are for aesthetic purposes.)
36. Write a letter to the government once every month regarding an issue that concerns you?
37. Boycott products or companies which you know are not environmentally responsible?
38. Re-use your Christmas and other gift wrapping paper from year to year?
39. Carry a reusable coffee mug?
40. Carry reusable plates and cutlery for eating at take out places or cafeterias (e.g. at UBC) so you don't have to use the paper and styrofoam stuff?
41. Pack waste-free lunches?
42. Bring concentrated juice from home in a reused juice bottle instead of buying Tetrapaks or using a new juice bottle every day?
43. Promptly repair leaks in and around taps and faucets? (One leak can waste several thousand litres of water per year.)
44. When washing dishes, use a partially filled sink, then rinse them under the tap instead of running the tap continuously?
45. Reduce water use by about 20 percent by placing two weighted 2-litre plastic bottles filled with water in your toilet tank?
46. Have your water heater and pipes insulated to obtain hot water more quickly and reduce wastage?
47. In winter, turn down the heat at night and when you will be away for the day?
48. Take advantage of local hazardous waste depots and collection days?
49. Wash your windows with a mixture of 10ml vinegar and 1 litre water (instead of Windex)?

50. Clean your sink drains with boiling water containing 60ml baking soda and 60 ml vinegar?
51. Clean other surfaces with baking soda?
52. Use secondhand textbooks instead of new ones?
53. Buy eggs in paper cartons and never in polystyrene foam containers?
54. Drive at moderate speeds?

- (Most cars use 10 percent less fuel when they are driven at 90km/hour rather than 100km/hr.)
55. Avoid jack-rabbit starts? (Smooth acceleration pollutes less and saves fuel.)
56. Put *The Ubyyssey* back in a rack or give it to someone else when you've finished reading it?

THE MIRROR RESPONDS...

0-40 The mirror cracks and crumbles on to your hairy toes. From the dust, the Evil Demon of environmental damnation rises, to take you away to the radioactive underworld, where you will eat nothing but raw sewage until the sewers run dry. For all our sakes, make a concerted effort to improve your habits.
41-80 The earth rumbles. The council of wind, sun, water and soil concede to let you live—but just barely. Try to do more of what you're already doing.
81-112 The clouds open, an alleluia burst of sunlight shines through and a splash of rainbow lands at your feet. You are a leader on the road to a healthy planet. Keep it up—but don't stop there. There's always more to be done.

the ubyssey

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Editorial Office: Room 241K, Student Union Building,
6138 SUB Blvd., UBC V6T 1Z1

tel: (604) 822-2301 fax: (604) 822-9279

Business Office: Room 245, Student Union Building
advertising: (604) 822-1654 business office: (604) 822-6681

Business Manager: Fernie Pereira

Advertising Manager: James Rowan

Account Executive: Deserie Harrison

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Emily McNair stared wantonly up to the towering mountains while Mark Brooks gasped from the grey sludge of the city's factory. Lindsay Stephens and Jan Cook organized a trash clean-up that would take days to plow through. In their vegetable garden Sarah Weber and Nicole Guy dug up some Peter T.'s and carrots for the evening's meal. Since the pollution in the air was worse than usual, Allanah New-Small, Christina Zaenkar and Cherie Jarock had to breathe through their air purifiers. Ken Wu and Trina Hamilton were planning to free some calves from the local veal farm. Jaggi Singh and Jeremy Forst and attended a meeting of the Coke Clan. Thousands of aluminum cans were taken to the recycling centre by Duncan Cavens and Laura St. Pierre on their bikes. Mark Thompson and Paula Bach were planning to hike up the towering mountain but Scott Hayward wanted to ride his mountain bike to the top. Sarah O'Donnell and Matt Thompson were cultivating their marijuana plants so Joe Clark and Charlie Cho could make some clothes. Siobhán Roantree just wanted to get some sleep after a gruelling evening fighting with the *Clear the Forests* Bureau Chief. Ben Koh and Wolf Depner went gently into that good night while Jenn Kuo and Alison Cole stopped in the woods on a snowy evening.

Special Issue Coordinators:
Alison Cole and Laura St. Pierre

Editors:

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

Experts agree cloudy GVRD water to continue

by Alannah New-Small

Will Vancouver residents have more brown tap water to look forward to in 1996?

Both Derek Bonnen, superintendent of watershed management for the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and Paul Hundel, environmental lawyer, activist and head of Society Promoting Ecological Concern (SPEC) agree that they will. They disagree completely, however, about the reasons.

Bonnen claims Vancouverites' experience with dirty water in the fall was a result of naturally occurring rock slides. Because parts of the Seymour and Capilano watersheds, particularly the Capilano, are so unstable a certain amount

of sedimentation will naturally occur during heavy rains.

Hundel, however, says decades of logging have destabilized the entire area and contribute significantly to Vancouver's increasing water quality problems.

"Ask anyone who's lived here for 30 years," he said. "The water is much browner than it used to be."

Although, as Bonnen points out, neither of this fall's slides occurred in areas of current logging (the Capilano slide area was logged in the 1920s, and the old growth forest around the Seymour slide area was never logged), Hundel says three decades of logging cannot help but create a cumulative increase in the area's soil disturbance.

No logging is currently taking place in the Seymour, Capilano or Coquitlam watersheds. Active logging was carried on from the 1960s until last year. In the '30s,

"Ask anyone who's lived here for 30 years—the water is much browner than it used to be."

**—Paul Hundel
lawyer/activist**

'40s and '50s the head of the GVRD prevented all logging, taking a hands-off approach to management, although there had been logging previously.

Active logging was suspended in 1994 so that the GVRD—which Hundel says was under heavy

pressure from environmental groups—could carry out an ecological inventory of the watershed. The inventory is now complete, and a number of potential cutblocks are now drawn up.

Bonnen insists that no further logging will take place without "extensive public consultation" in a long-term management plan.

The GVRD still claims that a certain amount of "timber removal" is necessary to reduce the risk of forest fires. They say high-risk areas must be identified and managed, although areas with a very high risk of erosion may be managed through fire suppression.

Hundel dismisses this claim. "There are 1000 year old trees in

those watersheds," he said. "Eighteen in the area were a high fire risk, how could they live that long?"

Both sides have called in scientists to confirm their points of view, but there are conflicting opinions on the level of risk.

Hundel argues that environmentalists should be allowed into the watershed to assess these issues, particularly damage resulting from logging.

The GVRD keeps access to the watershed very restricted to avoid damage or infection risk. Hundel, however, questions why heavy logging equipment should be allowed into this fragile ecosystem when the public is excluded.

Vancouver's urban wilderness "trashed" in Burns Bog

by Ken Wu

The Lower Mainland's garbage dump sits on the southwest corner of Greater Vancouver's largest tract of wild habitat.

Burns Bog, a 40 km² area of tea-coloured ponds, pine trees growing on mats of sphagnum moss and forests of hemlock, cedar and spruce, is also the site of a dump that spreads over an acre of Bog each day. A federal study revealed that 30 kilograms of dioxins and 55 kilograms of PCBs are dumped into the Bog every year.

The Bog, located in the middle of the municipality of Delta, is entirely surrounded by highways, factories, warehouses, residential areas and farmland.

Although the Bog has been at the centre of environmental controversy for years, recent New Democratic Party initiatives to protect various wild areas have created new opportunities for its protection.

Burns Bog is the only raised peat bog on the west coast of North America and is home to many spectacular and rare natural features. It is one of the

few habitats in BC for sandhill cranes, the province's largest bird. As many as 10,000 waterfowl spend the winter on its ponds and a population of 50 bald eagles feed on the waterfowl and at the garbage dump.

Similarly, a completely isolated population of twelve black bears live off the extensive blueberry patches and on the garbage. In addition, an estimated 100 black and white-tailed deer reside in Burns Bog alongside 178 other mammal and bird species, including spotted skunks, coyotes, beaver, muskrats, peregrine falcons, red-tailed hawks, snowy owls and trumpeter swans.

Over the years, numerous threats have loomed ominously over Burns Bog. At present, major threats include a proposal to build a six-lane highway through the Bog, the expansion of cranberry farms for the multinational drink company Oceanspray, a proposed new golf course and the expansion of the garbage dump.

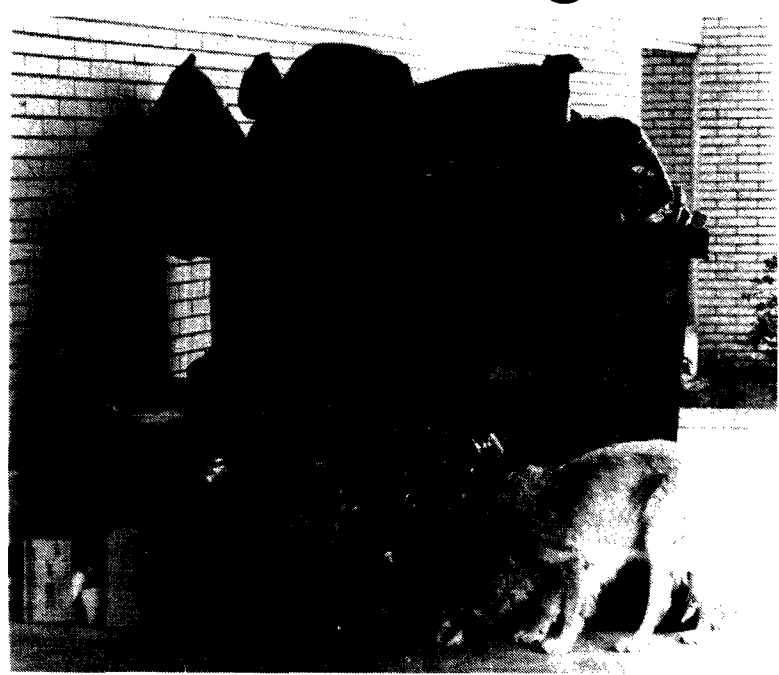
For more than a decade, the Burns Bog Conservation Society has laboured against such threats.

Prominent individuals, including UBC geneticist David Suzuki and recently British naturalist David Belamy, have spoken for its protection.

Radical environmentalists from Earth First! (an organization which holds nature to be as important as the interests of human beings) have blockaded the continued dumping of garbage into the Bog. Clearly, there is much public concern over the bog's fate.

Under the NDP's Protected Areas Strategy, in which twelve percent of the province is to be protected in parks, numerous tracts of natural habitat in the Lower Mainland have been set aside. These include Surrey Bend, Boundary Bay, and Douglas Island, but not Burns Bog. The NDP has proposed to protect 1000 of the Bog's 4000 hectares. However, the major landowner of the Bog, Western Delta Properties Corporation, is asking for a sum of over 200 million dollars for their lands, far more than the government is willing to pay.

Environmentalists are now calling for the expropriation of



UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

BURNS BOG will be the next stop for whatever Penny doesn't eat.

the lands for a park, charging the corporation with being unreasonable. An all out effort is needed by the public immediately to protect all of Burns Bog before the opportunity passes.

To help save Burns Bog, concerned citizens should write to the Minister of the Environment, Lands and Parks,

The Honourable Moe Sihota, Legislative Bldgs., Victoria. BC. V8V 1X4, asking him to protect all of Burns Bog and to expropriate lands if necessary.

The Burns Bog Conservation Society is sponsoring a conference on peatlands in the George Curtis Building at UBC from January 26-28.

RANDY STOLTMANN WILDERNESS:

Groups hope to create wilderness area north of Squamish

by Chris Ingleman

Located about 200 km north of Squamish is a vast 260,000 hectare region which includes old growth forest and encompasses three pristine watersheds.

The Randy Stoltmann Wilderness stretches from the Upper Elaho River north to the Upper Lillooet Valley and is about a three hour drive from Vancouver.

It includes some of the largest undisturbed old growth Douglas fir and cedar stands on the southern coast of BC, and boasts the third-largest Douglas fir tree in BC. It is a refuge for many species of wildlife which are under increasing pressure from nearby logging operations.

The area teems with wolverines, cougars, mountain goats, wolves and pine martens. It lies at the most southwesterly limit of the BC moose range and sustains the population of grizzly bears closest to Vancouver. The stunning scenery encompasses gigantic waterfalls, volcanoes, glacier-capped mountains, fast flowing cold rivers and rich forested valley bottoms.

The area has become the new conservation hot spot in southwestern BC. An avid group of concerned citizens have proposed to have the area preserved as the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness Area.

The proposal is named in memory of the late Western Canada Wilderness Committee

campaigner, who died in an avalanche in 1994. Randy Stoltmann explored the area extensively and hoped that it would be set aside for future generations to enjoy.

Like so many of the remaining wilds of BC, industry already has strong claims on the Stoltmann. Part of the proposed reserve overlaps the Soo Timber Supply Area, where a reduction of the Annual Allowable Cut has already occurred, and local forest workers are very concerned about job loss.

Mining Interests have their eye on the Upper Lillooet valley, and have proposed building a pumice mine on an extremely unstable slope. MacMillan Bloedel and two other forest companies are currently active in the Upper

Lillooet while Interfor's Tree Farm License #38 corners most of the southern half of the area. Interfor has already pushed a logging road five km up Sims Creek damaging the creek bed of this Class A fish stream.

Although it has been proposed as a park, and the BC government has said it will consider the area for protection, low-elevation trees have not been granted protection from logging and road building while talks proceed. Conservation groups are angered by the provincial government's "talk and log" approach.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee campaigner Joe Foy fumed when he said, "By the time coffee is served at the dinner meeting another hectare of the

Stoltmann Wilderness will have been lost."

John Clarke has been exploring the wilds of the south coast mountains for over 30 years and knows the beauty of the Stoltmann Wilderness intimately.

"I'm excited by this area because all of the traveling that I've done has really given me an idea of what's left in the lower elevation inlets," he said in reflection. "You'd expect this kind of forest in some God-forsaken inlet along the coast, but here it is right in the Lower Mainland."

Volunteers have spent the last two summers building rough trails through the Stoltmann Wilderness, so people can come and see just why it is crucial this area be preserved.

GVRD pushes UBC to clean up campus planning

by Duncan Cavens

The future of UBC's environment is being decided, and students need to be involved.

The University and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) are developing an Official Community Plan (OCP) for the campus, which will set long term objectives for land use at UBC.

The OCP will include guidelines for housing, commercial development, green space, transportation and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Students may cringe at the prospect of another long-winded, bureaucratic justification of UBC's profit-driven development vision, but the OCP will be a document with teeth. Once signed, the university will be legally obligated to follow the Plan's guidelines.

The impetus for this planning process came largely as a result of UBC's recent foray into real estate development, Hampton Place. This development of high-priced market housing at the corner of 16th and Wesbrook Mall alarmed many students, environmentalists and local

residents' groups concerned about the environmental impact of increased non-educational development in the area.

UBC hopes to continue with this kind of development to generate extra revenue. The University Board of Governors announced last spring it wants to reserve 30 percent of campus for market housing (Hampton Place represents three percent).

Pressure from government and community groups forced UBC to switch to a more consultative process. Unlike previous campus plans, which the university has regarded as mere recommendations, the OCP will include concrete rules for its implementation.

Much of the OCP will probably deal with the South Campus (south of 16th Avenue), the site UBC has proposed for more Hampton Place-style developments. However it will also apply to the main campus, dealing with issues crucial to students; transportation issues, safety, the availability and location of commercial services and the

amount of green space on campus will be impacted.

Some have suggested increasing commercial development at the centre of campus near the Student Union Building, which potentially could make the campus more vibrant and active at night and increase safety for students. Similar proposals have been made with respect to student housing, and bicycle and transit routes.

The OCP process has been ongoing since last summer, and several meetings and consultations have already taken place. Unfortunately, students have not been actively made aware of the process. However, the planning consultants hired by the GVRD want to hear from *all* members of the campus community.

Next week there will be an OCP Open House in the SUB, where a wide range of development choices will be presented. The Open House will be held Monday, January 15 from 4:00 to 8:00pm in SUB 214/216 with a brief presentation and open forum at 7:00pm.



DUNCAN CAVENS PHOTO
HAMPTON PLACE—rich people have moved in to replace the forest. "There goes the neighbourhood," opines this lonely oak tree.

UBC buckles down to reduce tonnes of trash

by Wolf Depner

Every year people at UBC generate enough waste to fill War Memorial Gym to the rafters and completely drown the Empire Pool, according to the university's 1994/95 Waste Reduction Annual Report.

Unofficial GVRD estimates say UBC produces more waste than any other single location in the Lower Mainland.

In the 1994/1995 fiscal year, UBC generated 4235 metric tons of what experts call "solid municipal waste." Given a 31,208

campus population, that means each member of the campus community produced on average 135 kg of solid waste last year.

These startling figures caused enough public concern in 1991 that the university administration was forced to create the UBC Waste Reduction Program. As a result, UBC has stepped up its commitment to waste reduction, recycling and environmental education in recent years.

The Program, part of the department of plant operations, employs five full-time staff and runs a campus-wide paper and cardboard recycling operation. It also coordinates multi-material recycling in student residences and provides education, information and advice on waste reduction to the UBC community.

UBC's Waste Reduction Coordinator John Metras says the program has made a significant contribution to waste reduction on campus. The university's per capita waste generation has decreased from its mid-1980s figures and has held steady over the last five years.

The percentage of waste being recycled and composted has also gone up, from thirteen percent in 1990/91 to 27 percent in 1994/95. According to another unofficial GVRD estimate, UBC is the biggest recycler in the Lower Mainland, although Metras says there is "huge room for improvement."

The university hopes that by the Year 2000, it will be able to recycle 50 percent of all its solid waste. To accomplish this goal, a new recycling collection system

has been designed and approved for implementation this upcoming summer. By using wheeled carts in combination with an automatic side-loading vehicle to collect mixed paper, this system will increase recycling capacity two-and-half times, reduce operating costs by 50 percent, and significantly improve worker safety.

The UBC community has also experienced some economic benefits from its Waste Reduction Program. A number of resource companies are now purchasing UBC's waste and recyclables. But according to Metras, the "solid waste" market can be rather volatile.

According to the department of health, safety and environment, the hazardous waste reduction and recovery on campus has also improved. Two years ago, a mere one or two percent of all chemical wastes were re-used or treated on campus. That figure was up to 30 percent for 1995. The department has also initiated a solvent recovery program and started a chemical exchange program.

The Department of Health, Safety and Environment has also begun to perform an environmental audit on campus. This program, initiated in January 1995, and currently in its pilot phase, is examining whether or not university departments act within existing environmental legislation. If necessary they provide guidelines on how to achieve compliance with such legislation.

Only a handful of departments have been audited so far, but the program will eventually look at

all UBC activities on or off the Point Grey Campus, according to Dorit Mason who is in charge of the environmental audit.

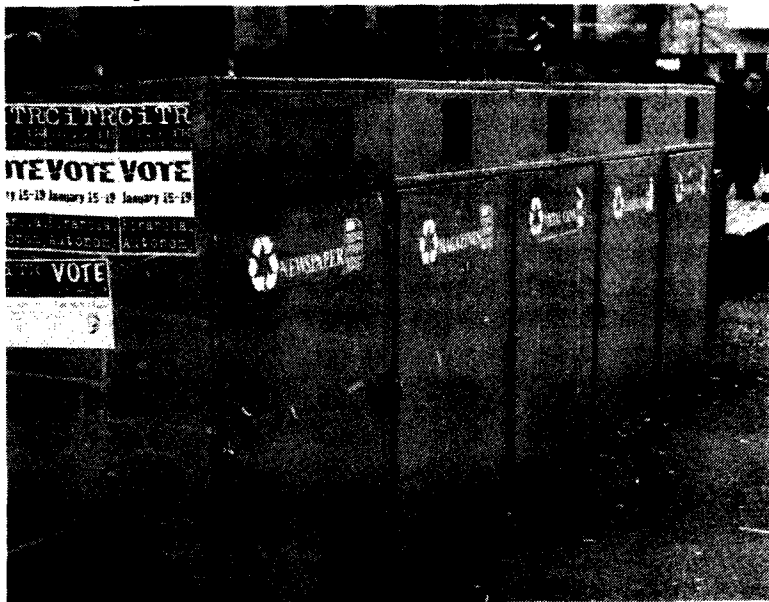
"[The audits] have been good," commented Mason. "Nothing of great environmental significance has been found yet in the audits."

One of key tasks performed by the Department of Health, Safety and Environment is raising environmental consciousness within the entire UBC community. The "Greening the Campus" campaign is another project aimed at getting students involved in the environmental decision-making process.


Initiated by the Sustainable Development Research Institute (SDRI) in the fall of 1994 and funded by the UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, the campaign aims to bring together students, staff and faculty with diverse skills and knowledge around specific initiatives that promote ecological sustainability.

To date, over 100 students from fourteen departments and five faculties have been involved in "Greening The Campus" projects. Janet Land, coordinator of the Greening The Campus campaign, said some of the projects make excellent suggestions. She also mentioned, "some of them are not quite as good as others while some of them are quite radical."

"Environmental consciousness has gone up," Mark Brooks, President of the Student Environment Centre said, while adding, "I would say that it is still unacceptably low."



DUNCAN CAVENS PHOTO
RECYCLING BINS—lined up outside SUB. "We're not bears, please feed the bins," they sing in five part harmony.



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Why the Coke Deal matters

by Jaggi Singh

"The junk merchant doesn't sell his product to the consumer, he sells the consumer to the product. He does not improve and simplify his merchandise. He degrades and simplifies his client."

William S. Burroughs
Naked Lunch, 1959

"It's just pop" seems to be the preferred mantra of the few vocal supporters of the recently ratified Cold Beverage Agreement (aka the "Coke Deal") on campus, as if to sign a deal unprecedented for a Canadian university is somehow a normal occurrence.

As a group of student-activists have tried to show since last October, there is nothing normal about a multimillion dollar deal—negotiated behind closed doors and bound by a comprehensive confidentiality provision—which obligates UBC to exclusively sell the beverage products of a billion-dollar multinational corporation for at least the next decade.

The Coke Deal is about much more than some shallow right to drink Pepsi or Canada Dry. Substantially, it's about the alienating and increasing corporatization of daily life and, as the recent actions of both the Board of Governors and a compliant AMS Council have shown, the contempt with which the students of UBC are treated by their so-called "democratic" institutions.

The Coke Deal is not based upon some simple proposition where UBC agrees only to buy Coke and is paid-off handsomely in return; rather, it is crucially dependent upon projected sales of pop over the next ten years. Of course, those purchases are overwhelmingly made by students, which means that Coke, UBC and the AMS are all taking advantage of the fact that over the course of any given day on campus, students might get thirsty and buy a drink.

Now, it might be a mundane observation that in a shamelessly consumer society we are all essentially commodities whose value is determined by how much we can buy or be sold for; but why should a university and its student council so callously take advantage of that fact? Indeed, perhaps the most disingenuous argument made by Coke Deal proponents is that, despite everything else, the deal is good business: UBC gets money in the millions, the AMS gets its cut and Coke undoubtedly increases its profits while guaranteeing market share. Well, where exactly does all that money come from in this sugar-coated equation?

Somehow the university and AMS (certainly not Coke) have lost sight of the fact that the money still comes out of students' pockets. The more profitable the deal remains, the more students will have to pay through the increased prices that

arise in a monopoly situation.

The Coke Deal, which is supposed to help solve budget problems, really means that students get soaked yet one more time—this time by their own student council in addition to the usual suspects.

It should also be kept in mind that in order to get their yearly payoffs, UBC and the AMS have to make sure that projected sales figures are reached. This means, in the very least, UBC and the AMS make the campus a congenial environment for the sale of Coke. It is not implausible though that the university could actively promote the product if its million dollar payoffs were threatened by the potentially slack purchasing habits of students.

Indeed, the confidentiality clause—which means absolutely no details of the agreement may be made available to students or the public (unless Coke's executives in Toronto agree)—is perhaps the most blatant example of Coke's literal takeover of UBC. In weighing the "competitive interests" of Coke versus the right of students at a public university to be informed, both UBC and the AMS chose Coke. In light of this, it is certainly no exaggeration to say that UBC has been bought off by Coke at the expense of its members.

Coca-Cola, as well as other multinationals like McDonald's, Pepsi, Marlboro, Budweiser and Shell, epitomizes the spread of a degraded, sterile and wasteful global monoculture.

There is nothing inherently of value in Coke except the vacuous image it literally spends millions of dollars per year promoting in ceaseless and pervasive advertising. Coke's ad hacks, better termed mind polluters, have created such inanities as the infamous "I'd like to teach the world to sing" commercials, as if there is absolutely any connection between drinking Coke and global peace.

In reality, Coke has directly contributed to human rights abuses, having been linked to the death of twelve union organizers in Guatemala. Has Coke ever pulled out of a country for any ethical or human rights concerns? To ask the question is to forget the fact that corporations exist to maximize profit and not to be bothered by the sorts of moral qualms that make us human.

Shockingly, the implications the Coke Deal might have on UBC's image did not arise in the minds of those university bureaucrats and AMS hacks who decided to proceed with negotiations last August.

In light of all the concerns outlined above, opponents of the Coke Deal thought that short of outright rejection, a vigorous debate through a referendum was essential. Of course, the university's Board of Governors, following its secretive *modus operandi* ever since David Strangway's arrival, passed the deal in an unannounced, closed-door executive session which excluded the Board's elected student members.

Pro-Coke AMS candidates

by Jaggi Singh

The following AMS election candidates both opposed a motion to send the Coke Deal to a referendum vote—preventing students from deciding on the issue for themselves in the upcoming elections—and voted in favour of the deal (pro-Coke and anti-referendum). The positions they are running for are in brackets.

Craig Bavis (Director of Administration and Senator-at-Large)

Mike Blackman (Co-ordinator of External Affairs, Board of Governors and Senator-at-Large): The only councillor to officially request a secret ballot for the final vote on the Coke Deal.

Janice Boyle (President): Signed a petition in favour of a referendum but hypocritically ended up voting against one at council.

Lica Chui (Vice-President and Individual Faculty Senator): Made the unfortunate but honest com-

ment that "Yes, our generation is for sale," in response to criticism that the Coke Deal was selling students out.

Patrick Lum (Director of Finance and Senator-at-Large): Immediately threatened to call security guards and the police when a student refused to leave council chambers in protest of council's decision to meet in closed sessions to discuss the Coke Deal. The AMS General Manager ended up calling guards anyway.

Vighen Pacradouni (Board of Governors, Senator-at-Large and Individual Faculty Senator): Stated that students who did not like how their councillors voted should not vote for them the next time. Vighen is running for three separate positions, which means students have to "not vote" for him three times.

Trevor Presley (Vice-President and Senator-at-Large)



The AMS council, on the other hand, nominally announced its meetings but also discussed and debated the Coke Deal privately until a student protest in October forced council to keep its doors open. The protests of students did not mean that councillors would actually listen. On two separate occasions motions for a referendum were soundly defeated.

Moreover, at the marathon six-hour session prior to final approval of the deal, modest motions to simply postpone consideration of the deal for a few weeks—giving some councillors a chance to inform themselves—were rejected a total of three times. It was obvious the more the Coke Deal was debated, the more doubts and opposition would grow.

Nonetheless, for a majority of councillors student democracy means having students vote once a year and then shut up. Some even argued that if students didn't like the results of the vote

they could vote for someone else in the next election, totally oblivious to the fact that the Coke Deal's duration is at least a decade.

Despite the obstacles institutions like Coke, UBC and the AMS pose, the fight of student-activists against the deal has not ceased. Stop by the Student Environment Center booth at Environment Days next week (January 15-16) for more information. You can watch excerpts of the film *The Coca-Cola Kid*, buy illegal drinks at rates cheaper than campus vending machines and sign the petition trying to force a referendum on rescinding the Coke Deal. The spread of an insipid Coca-Cola civilization might be predictable, but it doesn't have to be inevitable at UBC.

(Anyone who wishes to get involved against the Coke Deal can attend the weekly meetings of the Student Environment Centre and its Culture Jamming Group. Call 822-8676 or come by SUB 208.)

Important Notice - Shuttlebus Service

New UBC Campus Bus Service

Effective Monday January 15th a shuttlebus service will be initiated on a trial basis. The yellow bus will run on a 30 minute fixed route (see map.) The service, operated by Parking and Security will run Monday through Friday from 6PM to 2AM until April 30th. The yellow shuttlebus will complement the existing blue Security Bus. The Security Bus will continue to give personal transportation service on call (822-4721). This is a YOUR UBC joint initiative of the Personal Security Advisory Committee, the Vice President (Student and Academic Services) and Parking and Security Services.

UBC FILM SOCIETY

Friday to Sunday Jan. 12-14
in SUB Auditorium

8:00 Braveheart

For 24-Hour Movie Listings call 822-3697

UBC Film Society
Check for our flyers
in SUB 247.

\$3 a film

What you can do Zen and the Art of Bicycling



BECOME A CYCLE MANIAC: ride your bike

DUNCAN CAVENS PHOTO

by Lindsay Stephens

Bikes, for those who ride them everywhere, are as essential to life as eating and breathing. For those in the habit of regularly placing their seats on their bicycle saddles, the idea of riding can be a daunting one. And in a

city with giant hills and almost constant rain, riding could be considered lunatic fringe.

First and foremost, it is important to overcome your fears. Riding is not all that hard, despite the hills. If you go at your own pace and build your stamina slowly you

can make it absolutely anywhere.

You may now be wondering, "Why would I want to ride when I have a perfectly good car/bus/rowing machine?" The answer is that the benefits of riding cannot be equalled by any car, bus or rowing machine. I have a friend who considers biking to be a zen experience. He insists that whenever life is a little overwhelming he just has to go out and ride hard.

The nature of riding is such that if you're really pushing you can only think about one thing. My friend says that at the end of a ride "you've thought about one thing long enough that you've fixed everything else"—an experience very similar to meditation (only more cardiovascular).

However, if you are a person who doesn't go for that yoga stuff you may be pleasantly surprised to find biking has something to offer even the most hard core of partiers. You can work off that beer gut and clear your head of that hangover all on the way home the next morning.

All this and I haven't even mentioned the vast benefits to the earth (and the air you breath) that are a direct result of using entirely non-polluting energy sources (such as your breakfast) and reducing mass pollutants like cars. Vehicle emissions cause 65 percent of the air pollution in Vancouver.

Of course it is important to deal with problems like rain in an effective way. Fenders are a must, and since most are not long enough and you will still end up with a wet butt, a plastic pop bottle cut in half and taped or screwed on to your rear fender works wonders. Waterproof footwear is also a must, since it is impossible to avoid those puddles that stretch for several blocks.

As for the rest of your body, I personally prefer water resistant to rubber but you can weigh for yourself the benefits of getting wet from the inside out or the outside in. If you have a chance, go Gore-tex. Or course carrying a change of clothes never hurts.

Since the best riding tips are the ones you discover yourself, I'm going to end this article with the suggestion that you give your two-wheeled friend a little more attention. You may be amazed at the countless hours of fun, exercise, transportation and peace of mind that it can provide.

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Apathy in acad there anybod

by Emily MacNair

How young and green I was upon my arrival at the University of British Columbia. A dedicated environmentalist and a self-admitted idealist I felt sure that even in the 1990s universities maintained a degree of integrity.

I was inclined to believe that universities ought to be on the cutting edge of change; that if anybody would be motivated to examine and challenge the status quo of our society, it would be students.

In the hallowed halls of UBC I have experienced something which for an environmentalist is more disheartening than clear-cutting, water pollution or the greenhouse effect. I have been confronted with a reality which I refuse to accept—pure and unadulterated apathy and a deafening silence.

It is easy to claim that students are overworked and have little time to dedicate to changing the

world around us. However, I have become horrified at the degree of paralysis among my fellow-students. It seems there is so little which will move us; so little which will inspire us to take a stand. Perhaps we are the quintessential, revoltingly spoiled Canadians. Too comfortable to recognize what goes on around us and too afraid to rock the boat. Not even threats of massive tuition hikes impress upon students the need to take action.

Of course there are exceptions. The handful of small organizations on campus such as the Student Environment Centre who endeavor to bring about change on campus and off. Here there are a shockingly small number of dedicated individuals who concern themselves with the future of our campus, our species and the planet. I watch these people burn out and pull their hair out because it is difficult to believe that on a campus of this size, so few people care. After three years, I cling to

Resolutions for an ec

by Christina Zaenker

Unlike the many New Year's resolutions we so often make but never keep—like to cut out chocolate or stop watching trashy TV shows—the following resolutions are so simple even the most overworked, tired or stubborn students can carry them out. These ten environmental resolutions are specially designed for UBC students and are easily incorporated into your actual daily schedule—they don't require a commitment to get arrested or spike trees. Every resolution you make and keep will have an impact, and will help make all the New Years to come a little more liveable.

1. Always carry a mug.

Your mug is indispensable; you never know when you might need to grab a drink or have coffee with a friend. Everybody's got one at home—the trick is to remember to bring it. Putting it in your bag ahead of time will save you the embarrassment of forgetting it one morning and having to walk around campus with a styrofoam cup!

2. Bus or bike to school.

Or, if taking the car is a life-or-five-hour-bus-ride issue, make sure your vehicle is filled with other passengers.

3. Avoid buying food with excessive packaging.

Buy bulk whenever possible when shopping for groceries. If

you frequently eat out on campus, be aware of the amount of garbage included with each purchase. Better yet, bring your own meals in reusable containers and either take your compostable waste (peels, cores, etc.) home with you or take it to the SEC Office, SUB 208, and feed the ever-hungry worms in the wormbox.

4. Be a responsible and conscientious consumer.

Pay attention to what you buy, what it is made of and who your purchase is supporting. Buying any kind of recycled paper is an environmentally supportive choice. Refusing to buy Gillette products, like Liquid Paper, won't change the frequency of your mistakes, but it may send the company a message that consumers will not tolerate corporations known for their cruelty in animal testing.

5. Photocopy on recycled and/or unbleached paper.

Look for photocopiers that offer recycled paper. You may have to sacrifice a few measly minutes and wait your turn for ones that do—the wait won't kill you. Use this time to talk to the employees and suggest they add more environmentally-friendly machines.

6. Be aware of the issues affecting you and your university campus.

Environment Days!

Monday, Jan. 15 - Tuesday, Jan. 16

Brought to you by the

Student Environment Centre.

Booths in SUB main concourse:

Bear Watch

UBC Waste Reduction

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WC²)

Earth Save

Canadian Hemp Co.

Green Party

Sierra Club

V-Trac

Greenpeace

Student Environment Centre

Better Environmentally Sound Transportation

Food for Life

Food and the Environment

Ad Busters/The Media Foundation

Monday, Jan 15—SUB Auditorium

12:30 Kerry Dawson from WC²

•Randy Stoltmann Wilderness

1:30 Brendan Anderson from Northwest

Wildlife preservation Society

•Wildlife in BC

Buy illegal drinks, watch "The Coca Cola Kid" and sign the "Rescind the Coke Deal" petition.

ademia—Is y out there?

the ideals I once held with conviction. At one time I imagined students at UBC agitating for social justice, for environmental awareness and of course, for justice within their own institution. It is, after all, our institution. Yet when racial, gender or environmental issues are raised, or when a behind-the-scenes deal between the university and a massive corporation looms large—a lot of heads hide in the sand.

Our professors are rarely better. I hear their voices in lecture halls and office hours; I find the words of these men and women of letters in journals and books, but in the hour when corporations are beginning to own them, not a peep is to be heard.

We all have jobs to look out for, but if when we wake up the job is no longer worth doing—what then? If the people within an institution do not care to have any input they become mere pawns. When I sink money into this institution, I wonder where it goes. I frequently feel my

education is not in my hands.

Those who fund our education, in fact, shape it. Forestry and commerce students may not receive a well-rounded and objective education but perhaps they simply want to slide into the corporate world, confident they will find employment because they ask no questions.

Certainly the programs which do not involve big-business or profitable research are being slashed and burned—because who cares to fund education for its own sake? Do any of us want to ask whether administrators' financial decisions and business ties are directly affecting what we learn and how we learn it? I am horrified that students have so little interest in education.

The ultimate goal of the educated should be to think critically and to ask a lot of questions. There is no power in silence and apathy.

eco-friendly new year

This includes casting your vote in the upcoming referendum. With student support and a 'Yes' vote, various groups and projects will receive funding and be better able to give their services and knowledge back to the university.

This also includes paying attention to the decisions being made by the university elite, who may or may not be in touch with the realities of their decisions. Unless they're slapped in the mouth with knowledge of the real thing, we may be left with the fizzy aftertaste of their mistakes.

7. Take time to listen to people.

Fellow students often try to share their information and research with their peers via leaflets, posters and petitions. Concerned citizens can only do so much to get their message out—if someone approaches you, stop and give them the chance to fill you in on their cause. If you support them, your signature on a petition will make a difference. Always know what you are signing.

8. Carry recyclables to the appropriate recycling station.

This means glass bottles, pop cans, aluminum, plastic, paper, newspapers and others. It may be less convenient than a one-stop-drop at a garbage bin, but it's not as hard as you may think. Our

overflowing landfills certainly don't need any more waste. We're fortunate enough to have facilities to recycle valuable materials, so let's make use of them and throw away our wasteful habits.

9. Make use of free education on campus.

It's an embarrassing disappointment when enthusiastic, inspiring speakers take time out to speak on campus and the entire audience consists of the SEC executive and members, plus a few students who thought there was going to be a free movie or pizza. As with resolution #7, make an effort to get out and see some fascinating and informative presentations.

10. Share your knowledge with others.

Dare to enter into discussion with friends, roommates and family about environmental issues you're concerned about.

Encourage others to make their own resolutions and continue to put yours into effect.

Consumption Fact

A North American consumes five times more than a Mexican, ten times more than a Pakistani, 15 times more than a Nigerian and 30 times more than a person living in Bangladesh.

What you can do

You can contribute by composting

Composting is one of the most significant environmental contributions you can make.

by Jeremy Forst

Why is composting so important?

Throwing yard and kitchen waste out with the garbage contributes to the same global warming that threatens to cause drought, floods and raise ocean levels to the point of flooding places such as Richmond or Delta.

In a landfill, organic waste (namely kitchen scraps, grass clipping, leaves and other waste coming from plants) breaks down anaerobically, producing methane, which is many times more effective as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

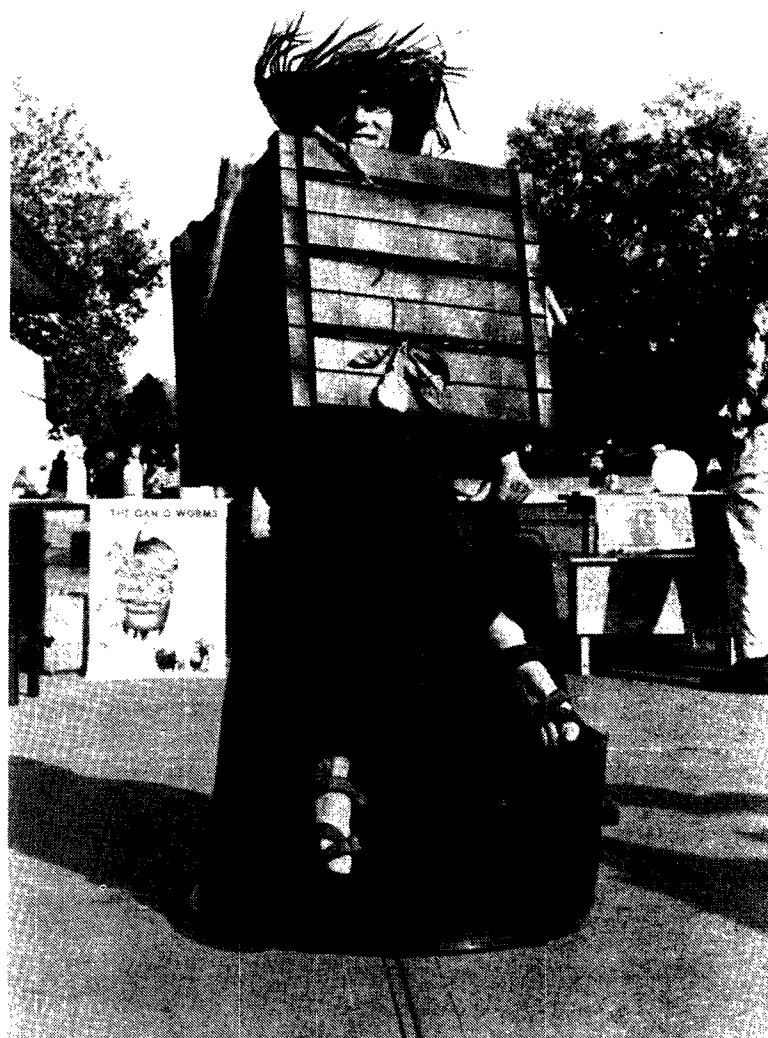
Methane is the gas which gives the "rotten egg" smell at landfills. Although some of the methane is collected and burned as an energy source, it is impossible to collect all of it, and some landfills don't collect it at all. Throwing your organic waste in the garbage contributes to global warming just as much as driving your car!

Another reason that composting is vital is because in a landfill it can take years for yard and kitchen waste to break down anaerobically. According to a *National Geographic* article on New York's Staten Island landfill, garbage archaeologists found identifiable kitchen scraps among garbage that was more than 80 years old. In a composter, on the other hand, decomposition happens aerobically and, in warm weather, takes three weeks.

But besides this, composting makes a huge dent in the amount of garbage we produce. According to Bev Weber of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, 32 percent of Greater Vancouver's garbage is yard and kitchen waste, and 32.7 percent is paper. By composting kitchen scraps (excluding meat scraps, which attract animals) and recycled paper, you can reduce your garbage by more than half (being the average resident that you are). It's easy and you'll feel really good!

That's fine, but how does one get started?

Many people think it is way too expensive to buy a composter. But in fact, most municipalities in Greater Vancouver sell subsidized



JEREMY FORST gets serious about composting.

MATT THOMPSON PHOTO

composters for \$25 to residents. At this time, the only municipalities which don't sell them are Coquitlam and Port Moody. In addition to the outdoor size composters, they also sell much

According to Bev Weber of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, 32 percent of Greater Vancouver's garbage is yard and kitchen waste, and 32.7 percent is paper.

smaller worm composters for the same price. They include worms, bedding, a thorough worm composting guide and a one hour course on how to keep your new wriggly friends healthy. They are completely odourless and perfect if you live in an apartment or

would rather compost indoors.

You definitely don't have a be a gardener to compost. The end product of composting is a rich black soil which gardeners call "black gold" because it is such an excellent fertilizer. Besides its gardening uses, it can be spread on your lawn, dug into the front garden, or given to your neighbour who will no doubt be overjoyed to take away your finished compost and will probably even give you free fruit and vegetables in return.

Composting truly is a cheap, easy and painless way to make a huge contribution to the health of your home, your city, and the whole world. It is all interconnected. You can take the first step right now by phoning the Compost Hotline at 736-2250. Composting is one of the most effective ways to think globally and act locally.

<p>APRIL</p> <h1>MCAT</h1> <p>We have classes starting:</p> <p>M601: Wed, Jan 17 M602: Sat, Feb 3 M603: Tue, & Sun Feb 27</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <h1>DAT</h1> <p>CLASSES STARTING Wed, Jan 17</p> <p>Our classes cover Soap Carvings</p>
<p>REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE UP TO \$80 call 734-8378</p>	
<p>KAPLAN The answer to the test question.</p>	

Factory farms exhibit a nightmarish reality

by Alison Cole

"Then there begins an appalling time of battering about and screaming and wriggling...a half-tonne [bull], wriggling like a little puppy....I saw these dreadful, blood-covered casting pens where the animals were bleeding from where they'd bashed their heads on the floor, because they were so terrified."

These are the disturbing words of a slaughterhouse worker, a person who has repeatedly witnessed your luscious steak and hamburgers before they end up on your dinner plate.

Factory farms and slaughterhouses are the nightmarish reality for animals systematically bred for human consumption before being reduced to slabs of flesh on Styrofoam and shrink-wrapped to anonymous perfection. Five billion animals suffer on factory farms each year before being sent to slaughterhouses where they end their lives in extreme agony and fear.

The next time you decide to eat meat, please consider the following facts. Hopefully they will awaken your conscience to the misery and pain endured by the animal to satisfy your carcass cravings.

Chickens

Chickens are raised purely for breeding and laying purposes. All male chicks (about 240 million) are killed shortly after hatching, as they are useless to factory production. Most are thrown into plastic bags where they usually suffocate; others are ground alive to make pet food.

The hens are kept in stacked wire mesh cages, and because of the stress they're subjected to often causes them to peck each other to death, they are painfully debeaked with hot irons. When the hens can no longer produce they are sent to "processors" to be made into soup stock or frozen foods.

"Broiler" chickens, kept in windowless sheds, are forced to eat as often as possible by means of light manipulation. These

chickens are also debeaked, making it difficult for them to eat and drink because of the severe sores and blisters that form in their mouths. These chickens are killed after nine weeks. Their trip to the slaughter plant often results in broken bones, as well as freezing to death in winter and smothering to death in summer.

"You can go to a slaughterhouse where they're killing chickens, and the enormity of the whole scale is really quite appalling. These chickens being shackled upside-down on conveyor belts, and being mechanically eviscerated [disemboweled], and mechanically de-feathered. The sheer scale of the massacre...is rather horrifying. And the whole smell and stench of the death pervades the place."

Pigs

The average factory farm pig may never see daylight until the day he or she is transported to market. Sows are usually confined to dark, narrow stalls with barely enough room to stand or lie down in.

After a sow gives birth, she is again confined to a restricting stall in which she can only eat, drink and keep her teats exposed to her piglets. After the pigs are born, their tails are cut off, their teeth clipped, and the males are castrated—all without anesthetic. Shortly after, the baby pigs are moved to a "finishing building" where they spend 20 weeks in darkness until ready to be murdered.

"As the first dozen is driven into the stunning pen, one urinates on the trot and makes a screeching noise I hadn't heard before. Blood and mucus fly from his snout. The eyes close, the front legs stiffen, and when the tongs are opened, he falls, like a log, on his side. He lies there, back legs kicking, as the stunner turns to the next animal."

Cows

Cows are often raised in cramped conditions and fed an unnatural diet of high-bulk fillers, including sawdust, to get them to their desired weight. They are usually castrated, dehorned and

branded without anesthetics. They are frequently transported in metal trucks, where they often become sick or injured from crowding and extreme temperatures, often losing up to nine percent of their body weight.

"Once the cow was dead it was winched right up so that its head was about two to three feet off the floor. It was then moved round to a man who slit its throat. When he did this a torrent of blood poured, splashing everywhere, including all over us....The hide was removed by a man who was standing up high on a platform, and then the carcass moved on again to where the whole body was split open, and all the lungs, stomach, intestines, etc. came flopping out. We were horrified on a couple of occasions to see a fairly large, well-developed calf come out as well, as the cow had been in a late stage of pregnancy. [We were] told...that this was a regular occurrence."

Calves

Veal calves endure by far the worst treatment of all factory farm animals. Newly born male calves are taken from their mothers days after birth and placed in narrow wooden stalls where they cannot turn or lie down in a natural position. To prevent muscle development and speed weight gain, they are not permitted to exercise and are kept in almost complete darkness to reduce restlessness.

In order to obtain the preferred "white" meat, they are fed only an

iron-deficient diet of gruel. The calves are chained in their stalls, restricting all movement, to stop them from licking their own urine and feces to satisfy their craving for iron.

By the time the veal calves are slaughtered at sixteen weeks of age they are often too sick to walk. Respiratory and intestinal diseases and chronic diarrhea are common. One in ten die in confinement.

Is the pleasure of eating a lump of cow worth these creatures'

suffering? How can people justify these carnivorous actions knowing the tortuous life their food endures before being horrifically executed?

What it comes down to is pure respect and compassion for the life of others. What right do we have to take it away only to indulge gluttonous desires that can easily be curbed with a little initiative and willpower?

It's not too late to change your ways.



MMMMM... cow meat! Scrumpt-dilli-icious!

DAVID BOWEMA PHOTO

Five reasons to stop eating meat

by Gillian Shepherd, with credit to Animal Allies

1. Health

Animals reared for consumption are fed an appalling cocktail of chemicals, hormones, and antibiotics. The long-term consequences on human health of consuming these toxic substances are not known, but can hardly be beneficial.

The high levels of cholesterol and fat found in all meat and dairy products are now accepted by the medical profession to be dangerous to one's health.

Cow's milk is a high-fat fluid designed to turn a 45lb calf into a 1000lb cow in 18 months. Humans are the only species that drink milk after they have been weaned and the only species to take another species' milk. Far from being 'natural,' this cow milk has been found to contain significant quantities of pesticide, antibiotics, and teat-dip disinfectants.

2. Economic

90 percent of the plant food fed to meat animals simply sustains their bodily processes. Only 10 percent finally arrives on the plates of meat-eaters. Cattle and dairy farmers receive enormous subsidies from the taxpayer. It has been estimated that a pound of beef would cost \$30 if it was not subsidized. It is

hard to imagine a more uneconomical or wasteful way of using the world's resources.

3. Compassion

If most meat-eaters were to spend a day down on the factory farm or in the slaughterhouse, they would become vegetarian overnight. (See accompanying article.)

Rabbits are experimented on here in a UBC laboratory, to try and find a cure for human heart disease. It is now widely recognized that an animal-product-based diet heavily contributes to atherosclerosis. The rabbits are made hypertensive by surgery, then up to one third of their blood volume is removed, while hormone levels and vital signs are measured. Because rabbits are vegetarian, they do not suffer from diet-induced hypertensive heart disease like us. Therefore this model is cruel, as well as irrelevant.

4. Ecological

Vast areas of the tropical rainforest are being decimated so that North Americans can eat burgers and steaks. As a result, countless species of wild birds, animals, and insects have become, or are becoming, extinct. It has been estimated that one person not eating meat saves an acre of trees a year.

Similar pressures apply

wherever land is farmed extensively. North America was 90 percent covered in trees just a few hundred years ago. Today cattle grazing is killing land at an alarming rate. The effluent from factory farms and feedlots kills rivers and streams. The average Albertan-sized feedlot produces the equivalent to the sewerage output of any medium-sized city.

The average meat-eater consumes up to 10 beef cattle, 30 pigs, 20 sheep, 1400 chickens/turkeys and thousands of fish in a lifetime. Multiply this by the approximately 300 people in North America and you can see the extent of the problem.

5. Altruistic

"You people care more about animals than people" is an accusation often thrown at vegetarians by irritated flesh-eaters. This is simply not true. If North Americans were to reduce their meat consumption by only 10 percent for one year, it would free at least 12 million tonnes of grain for human consumption. This is enough to feed 60 million people. Approximately 60 million people in the third world died from starvation last year. If North Americans stopped eating grain-fed beef altogether, the grain released would be enough to feed 600 million people.

The truth is if you wish to put people first you could not do better than become vegan.

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FIRST COME
FIRST SERVE

Environmental Coalition comes to UBC

by Kira Malchy

An American environmental organization with over 2200 chapters on university, college, and high school campuses has come to Canada. UBC's newly-formed chapter of the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) is the first Canadian chapter to be established.

"I wanted Canadian students to be plugged into the larger student environmental movement that has been growing on campuses across North America in the 1990s. SEAC is the largest, best-organized student environmental coalition that exists," said Ken Wu, organizer of UBC's SEAC group.

Since the SEAC was formed in 1988 by a group of students from the University of North Carolina, it has grown in both size and

clout. With so many groups across the U.S., there is a diversity of issues and approaches taken by different SEAC groups. Those in the East tend to focus on issues of pollution and environmental racism, while those in the West often focus on wilderness and biodiversity. SEAC groups range from campus recyclers and advocates of alternative transportation, to blockers of logging roads and those who cement themselves into barrels to prevent the construction of nuclear reactors.

Wu said the focuses of UBC's SEAC chapter will depend on the interests of the students involved.

"Perhaps it will be the logging of old-growth forests in the Randy Stoltman wilderness, the new Coke deal signed at UBC, the expansion of the University

onto the Endowment Lands forest, or the need for a better composting program at UBC. Whatever issues are chosen, the beauty of SEAC is that there is a whole network of other activists to cooperate with."

"Social events like vegetarian potlucks and trips to endangered wilderness areas are also important ways to keep the group going," he added.

SEAC's large size makes it particularly effective as an activist network.

"Every effective movement needs an organized vanguard group to provide direction and leadership... As the grassroots environmental movement grows in the 1990s, SEAC will likely be the leading group."

Although polls indicate that environmental concerns among

the general public are lower than they were in 1990, Wu believes that the grassroots environmental movement, especially among the young, has been steadily growing.

"The large mainstream environmental groups have decreased in membership since 1990—there's no question about that. But at the same time there has been a steady growth in the grassroots and radical environmental movements in which all individuals participate in organizing around issues—as opposed to simply paying a membership fee and sitting back and letting paid campaigners do the work" said Wu.

Anyone familiar with the

general apathetic student population of UBC may find it hard to believe that campus environmentalism is on the upswing. But Wu points out that "Many social scientists have noted that periods of conservatism and radicalism seem to come in roughly 30 year cycles in the twentieth century in North America... There's no question that environmental and social justice movements in the 1990s are far larger than those in the '80s. The peak, I think, has yet to come. And when it does, SEAC will be there."

Anyone interested in joining the Student Environmental Action Coalition can call or sign-up at the Student Environment Centre in SUB 208 at 822-8676.

Bears face grizzly slaughter

by Mark Brooks

Environmentalists have long been calling for a formal plan that would ensure the survival of one of earth's great creatures and a symbol of wilderness in BC, the grizzly bear.

In June 1995, BC's provincial government released its long-awaited Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy (GBCS) amid high expectations and much anticipation from environmental groups.

As it turns out, the government's conservation strategy is "devastingly weak," according to groups like the Nelson-based Grizzly Project. They claim the GBCS has been watered-down by guide outfitters and the forest industry lobby, and that the conservation strategy falls painfully short of the measures necessary to protect BC's bears.

While the plan attempts to address environmentalists'

concerns in some areas, it is woefully inadequate in others. Irwin Oostindie, the Grizzly Project's communications director, says the strategy's biggest failure is its inability to protect increasingly threatened grizzly habitat.

"The strategy is essentially toothless," Oostindie said. "The NDP government is not changing existing land processes and no additional new land will be set aside for Grizzly habitat."

The NDP's strategy recognizes the threat posed by habitat destruction, but its proposed management areas, while prohibiting grizzly hunting within their boundaries, must first be approved by the ministry of forests and do not prohibit clearcut logging, mining, road building and other forms of development detrimental to grizzlies.

Even the killing of grizzlies for

sport is still legal under the GBCS, despite recent public opinion polls showing that the vast majority of British Columbians are opposed to the trophy hunting of bears in BC.

The annual BC death ritual will continue as normal, but will now be conducted by a provincial lottery system that grants hunters a limited number of licenses.

Anyone who qualifies can apply for a hunting license, and some conservationists have obtained these permits to prevent them from being used by hunters.

Oostindie says grizzly hunters comprise less than .01 percent of BC's population.

The Grizzly Project estimates 700 grizzly bears are killed—both legally and illegally—by humans each year. Although the total grizzly population of BC is unknown, some wildlife biologists estimate there are as few as 3000 grizzlies in BC. Government officials and hunting lobbyists claim the number is as high as 13,000.

Oostindie says it's outrageous that up to 20 percent of the grizzly bear population is

slaughtered in BC each year. The Grizzly Project is demanding a moratorium on hunting until the provincial government's newly-formed scientific panel makes a recommendation on the sustainability of hunting the grizzly populations.

Grizzly poachers will be more severely dealt with under the new strategy, but it remains to be seen whether the courts will actually punish violators with the maximum allowable fines and corresponding jail terms. According to Oostindie, current penalties for poachers are a mere "cost of doing business and not a significant deterrent."

Grizzlies once numbered in the hundreds of thousands in North America and spanned from Mexico to Alaska. Now, less than 1000 remain in the United States and only a few thousand exist in BC. If the Great Bears are to survive in British Columbia, Oostindie says, it is essential that the general public become increasingly involved in the process of protecting grizzlies.

Those wanting to help out or obtain more information can contact the Grizzly Project at (604) 355-2327. Write the premier, Environment Minister Moe Sihota, or your local MLA.



Scientists study Canada's great boreal rainforest

by Cherie Jarock

When asked to think of major terrestrial ecosystems on our planet, what do you think of?

For many of us, the desert or tropical rainforests spring to mind. Few people know the largest terrestrial ecosystem on earth is the great boreal forest. This forest, stretching all the way across Canada into Siberia and Russia, covers a third of the Canadian landscape.

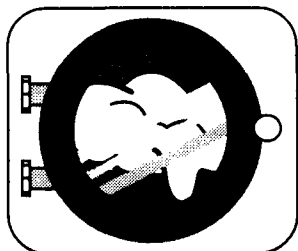
The boreal forest traps much of the carbon dioxide produced on earth in its peat moss, soil and trees, making it an indispensable part of our global environment. A 1992 project called the Boreal Ecosystem Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) was started in an effort to better understand the region. The Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing and NASA lead the ongoing field work, which involves 80 research teams from countries including Canada, the United States, Britain, France and Russia.

Scientists collect data in two study areas, one in Prince Albert National Park in northern Saskatchewan and another in Thompson, Manitoba.

In a sense, the scientists involved in BOREAS are measuring the respiratory systems of individual trees. Towers 30 metres high enable teams of researchers to collect data about the release of water vapour and heat into the atmosphere. A receiving station in Prince Albert also gathers information from satellites. In an effort not to disturb the park or cut down trees, no roads were built. As a result, these study sites are only accessible by hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Initiatives like BOREAS help us better understand the boreal forest ecosystem, which plays an integral role in the future of our climate and ultimately, our home.

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UBC ROADMAP TO COMPUTING

An Introduction to Networked Computing Facilities

FREE Lectures and Hands-On Tutorials

A FREE lecture and tutorial series has been created to help familiarize faculty, staff and students with the computing facilities at UBC. A companion document to the lecture series, entitled *UBC Roadmap to Computing*, is for sale at the UBC Bookstore. All lectures will take place in the Instructional Resource Center (in the same building as the Woodward library) in the rooms noted below. For more information about the lecture series, please call 822-0557, or send e-mail to roadmap@cs.ubc.ca.

- Introduction to Electronic Mail: January 15, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6
- Using Netinfo and Interchange: January 16, 1:30 - 2:30, Room 2
- Introduction to UBCLIB: Jan 17, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6
- Introduction to the UNIX Operating System: January 18, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6
- Introduction to the C Programming Environment: January 19, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6
- The World Wide Web and Usenet News: January 22, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6
- Introduction to UNIX File Editors: January 23, 1:30 - 2:30, Room 2
- Introduction to LaTeX: January 24, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6
- Introduction to X Windows: January 25, 5:00 - 6:00, Room 6

We are also offering FREE hands-on tutorials: Introduction to UNIX, and Introduction to C programming. Each tutorial is 2 hours in length, and you will work on an X Windows (graphical) terminal running UNIX. As space is limited, please phone 822-0557, or send e-mail to roadmap@cs.ubc.ca, in order to reserve a space.

This program was made possible through the support of The Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund and The Department of Computer Science.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION:

Pot bust turns protesters into martyrs

by [redacted] and J. Clark
 "The relegalization [of pot] is not a far off day."

Marc Emery has this sign on his wall at Hemp BC, the office raided by Vancouver City Police on Thursday, January 4. It took a semi and 25 police officers to clear out his office of \$140,000 worth of marijuana seeds and equipment. He and several of his employees have been charged with trafficking narcotics, sale of paraphernalia and several other related charges. They face life imprisonment and fines of up to \$120,000. Emery claims, however, that his business will continue. He and his fellow activists need the money for their crusade against Bill C-7.

Bill C-7 is the controversial new drug legislation drafted by the federal government. Despite recent publicity, this bill does not decriminalize pot. People found in possession of less than 30 grams of marijuana will have a criminal record and can be sentenced up to six months in jail and \$1000 in fines. Bill C-7 specifies that photos of offenders will not be given to US Customs, so

those with possession records may now cross the US border unhindered. Pot activists are hoping to stop the bill in the Senate.

Emery's business, Hemp BC, provides the financial backing and focus for the magazine *Cannabis Canada* which promotes the campaign against Bill C-7. The office is a resource for the organization of smoke-ins, hemp workshops and the expansion of the hemp and pot trade in BC.

Sacred Herb, in Victoria, which has received financial assistance from Emery, stages a Smoke-in at Bastion Square in Victoria at 4:20 every Sunday. The owner, Ian Hunter, plans to join Emery in his fight against marijuana laws by introducing Anointing Oil at his store, a product which contains small amounts of THC. On Sunday, January 7, approximately 100 people gathered and smoked up as they have been doing for weeks. The police were conspicuously absent.

Emery believes his case represents much more than a simple criminal case.

"They are worried...that Vancouver will be seen as a place where you can come and grow pot, export pot, cultivate pot without any repercussions."

Emery's case has received considerable media attention.

The legalization movement is grateful for the publicity, and Emery will be appearing at various demonstrations against Bill

C-7. On February 3 at 3:00 pm, there will be a massive rally at city hall where pot will be smoked openly, in defiance of the restrictive measures outlined in Bill C-7.



MARK EMERY counts his receipts at the end of the day as many other small businesses do. However, Emery's business aims to make a point in addition to making a profit.

DUNCAN CAVENS PHOTO

EASTERN EUROPE:

Fall of iron curtain reveals an environmental travesty

by Wolf Depner

A recent issue of *The Economist* featured a movie-poster style cover that spoofed the apparent revival of communism throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union as a sequel to a bad horror movie.

Whether the strong showings by communist parties in recent elections throughout Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union mark a return of European com-

munist remains to be seen. But as Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union struggle to find their bearings in today's supposed "New World Order," they will be haunted by the ecological sins of their common communist past.

The former communist states' mandate of industrialization at any cost has left vast stretches of Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union in ecological ruin. Acid lakes in the Czech Repub-

lic and the disappearing Aral Sea are but a few stark reminders of the indifference displayed by communist governments toward the natural environment—and ultimately their public's health.

Bitterfeld, an industrial town in the former East Germany, is another example of this indifference. Located in the south-eastern province of Saxon-Anhalt, Bitterfeld was as dirty as any other industrial town its size in Germany prior to World War II, but things turned for the worse after the war's end.

Unlike its western counterpart, the slowly forming East German government did not invest in the newest technology to replace devastated or dismantled industrial facilities. Rather, out-dated spare parts were used as replacements; some parts used in Bitterfeld plant dated as far back as the turn of the century.

Despite the out-dated technology, Bitterfeld's chemical plant operated at full-throttle production of over 4000 different products, pumping a wide range of untreated toxins into the atmosphere as a result of its reliance on brown coal—an inexpensive but inefficient and ecologically harmful energy source.

The plant also contributed to water and ground pollution, as chemical toxins were either released untreated into local water systems or simply used to fill the exhausted open-air brown-coal mining pits which mark the surrounding landscape.

The consequences of the mismanagement have been frightful, as workers in the area have suffered a disproportionately high number of skin and respiratory ailments including severe chronic bronchitis.

Only 39 percent of Russians questioned by a Gallup poll in 1993 said they would pay higher prices to protect the environment.

Ecological mismanagement in the former Eastern bloc has also impacted areas in the West; the Black Forest region of southern Germany and the Lapland area in northern Finland come to mind. In the early eighties, vast stretches of forest in southern Germany were devastated by air pollution swept across the former German-Czechoslovakian border. Once in contact with the atmosphere's moisture, the pollution fell as acid rain causing what Germans call *Waldsterben* (Dying Forests).

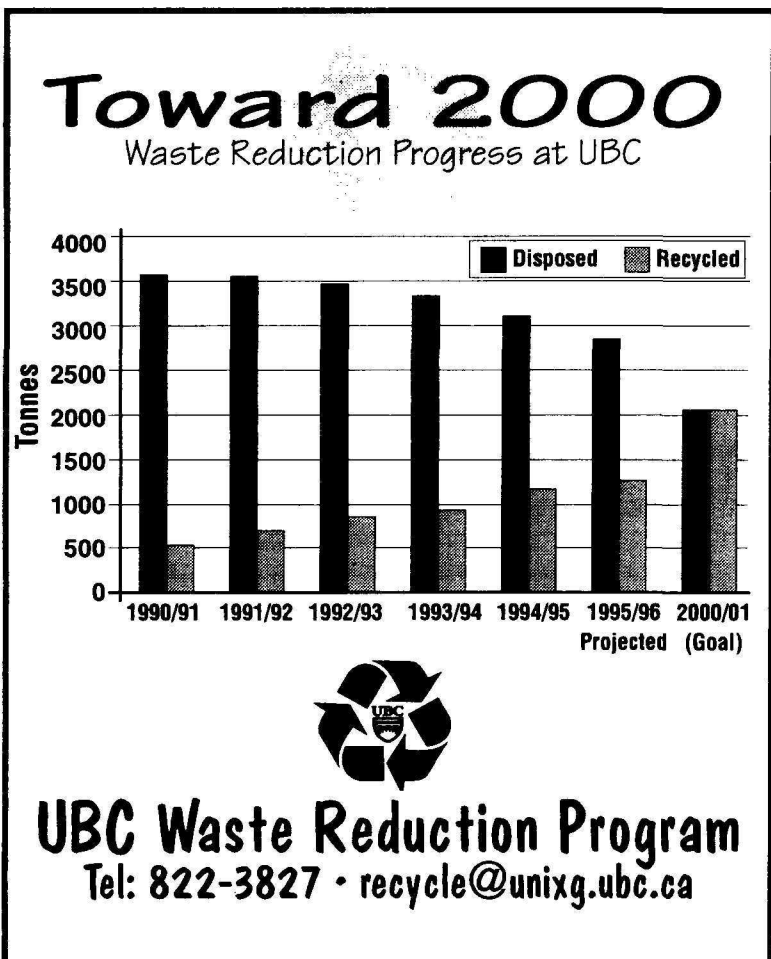
The people of Lapland suffered an even worse fate. Fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear reactor meltdown in 1986 blew directly over Lapland, contaminating soil and water. It ruined grazing lands for the region's vast herds of reindeer, forcing Lappians to slaughter these animals by the thousands. The Chernobyl accident, caused by

inadequate safety measures and an incompetent supervising staff, essentially robbed the Lappians of their economic livelihood and radically altered their life-style.

Western observers agree the short-term prospects for ecological recovery throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are not bright. Ironically, there have been significant improvements recently to air and water quality, as the most inefficient factories and plants have been closed or forced to cut production. But those improvements have come at high economic costs, further adding to the economic and social turmoil wrought by the collapse of communism and the painful transition to a market-style economy.

Not surprisingly, economic issues have taken precedence over environmental concerns for most of the former Communist bloc—an understandable but unfortunate attitude. Only 39 percent of Russians questioned by a Gallup poll in 1993 said they would pay higher prices to protect the environment, a response that ranked Russia third-lowest out of 24 countries surveyed.

The former Eastern bloc further lacks the financial and technological means necessary to address its deep-seeded ecological problems. The current tensions between Russia and the other ex-communist states over security and language issues have also hindered co-operation on environmental matters.



Buyers beware of eco-advertising

by Trina Hamilton

While many advertising campaigns still adhere to the old "sex sells" premise, eco-labelling is fast emerging as the gimmick of choice.

Critic Stephen Corry observed that everything from "dog food to petrol, hair conditioner to nuclear power" is being promoted as environmentally friendly, but "in most cases the only thing that really is green...is the colour of the dollar profits."

Increasing numbers of environmentally and socially conscious consumers have given rise to a whole new generation of marketing campaigns, ones which are just as deceptive and inappropriate as using beautiful women to sell beer and cars. These campaigns deal a double

blow to well meaning consumers, who not only pay more for products bearing environmentally friendly logos, but are also misled into purchasing products that are not as "friendly" as they are hyped to be.

We need not look any further than our own backyard to see the complications that arise when trying to sort through the eco-conscious declarations. Forest products like lumber and paper are being slapped with eco-labels to quell public outcry and satisfy conscientious consumers. The forest companies realize they need to polish their images, but we must question whether these new eco-labels are really indicative of more sensitive harvesting methods, or simply deceptive advertising ploys.

One of the major problems with this onslaught of eco-labeling is regulation, and consumers must be aware of the loopholes that accompany such claims. For example, it is very difficult to differentiate logs and determine their sources once they have been stockpiled in a yard. It is therefore possible to combine logs coming from unregulated (clear-cut) sites with logs harvested under stricter regulations, and to stick eco-logos on all the resulting products.

Although BC has a new forest practices code that limits clear-cut sizes and imposes some restrictions on private land logging, companies are now exploiting timber on unregulated private lands in Alberta and the Yukon. With an

estimated 2 million cubic metres of timber per year imported from private lands in Alberta alone, this is a significant concern.

The influx of trendy rainforest products must also be treated with caution, despite their environmental pretensions.

As Corry maintains in his critique of the rainforest harvest, "most of the products sold under the 'rainforest' label are nothing to do with rainforests."

Citing fellow critic Mac Margolis, Corry maintains that "the majority of these products are not rainforest products at all... but husbanded from land where forests have been removed." The "Rainforest Crunch" candy bar, for example, contains "Brazil nuts

from the Brazilian tropical forest [but] many other ingredients which are nothing to do with the rainforests". People who believe that they are saving a piece of the rainforest from the nasty jaws of the feller buncher by buying these products have been sadly misled.

According to Corry, when demand for a particular forest plant or product increases in the industrialized world, overcultivation and extinction destroy the balance that has historically been maintained between subsistence use and natural regeneration.

It is a "buyer beware" market in all respects, and is becoming increasingly difficult to elicit the truth from the dizzying array of attractive eco-logos and catchy slogans being thrown at us.

UBC Food Services trashes the campus

by Sarah Weber

Have you ever been peeved when, after diligently carrying your reusable coffee mug around with you, you arrive at the Trekker's milk bar only to find disposable milk and cream containers?

Why is it some food outlets on campus have reusable milk dispensers while others continue to fill huge garbage bags with the disposable stuff each day? It seems like such a simple thing to change. Am I missing something here? Other food outlets at UBC that need to immediately change from disposable cream and sugar containers to reusable dispensers are the Arts 200 Lounge, Roots...

For now, students and faculty can pressure UBC Food Services by either boycotting the offending cafés or by not using the disposables.

Another item of concern in the UBC Food Group world is the excessive use of paper and styrofoam plates, bowls and take-out containers and plastic cutlery. Would it be possible for those of us who eat in the cafeterias to adopt the habit of bringing our own plates, bowls and cutlery on a regular basis?

Maybe this habit could become just as trendy as carrying a mug. At the same time, pressure needs to be placed on Food Services to use more reusable dinnerware.

Regular Pie R Squared pizza eaters, for example, should bring their own plate or not use one at all, to cut down on all the paper

plate garbage. UBC's main problem with switching to reusable plates is probably the high rate of plate theft.

The Pendulum, a fine example of a food outlet that uses glass plates and real cutlery, loses an incredible amount of money each year when these items are stolen. Despite the theft problem, we should still encourage the campus food services to change to reusable dishes. The cost to us is more than worth the cost to the environment.

As for all you rotten plate stealers out there—get a brain or may the wrath of the garbage gods be upon you!

My third complaint about campus food services is the amount of cafeteria food thrown out at Totem Park and Place Vanier at the end of the day. Huge vats of soup, stew and pasta are thrown out every night, when this food could be going to a food bank, and given to people who really need it.

Investigation into this issue revealed UBC cannot give to the food bank for insurance reasons. If someone eats UBC food from the food bank and gets sick from the food, UBC could end up with a huge lawsuit. This danger may be present, but there must be ways to work around it.

The Bread Garden, for instance, has food bank trucks pick up leftovers every night. They seem to have found a way of working out the legal kinks. Why can't UBC do the same?



For every dollar spent on disposables, the taxpayer spends eight cents more to dispose of them.
This doesn't account for the environmental costs, which are not yet calculated.

OPEN HOUSE/ PUBLIC FORUM

Official Community Plan for UBC

The Greater Vancouver Regional District invites you to its 2nd Open House to discuss and provide input on the preparation of an Official Community Plan (OCP) for the part of Electoral Area 'A' that includes the University of British Columbia and two foreshore lots which are part of Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

The open house will present information on goals and alternative planning options for the OCP area and provide an opportunity for public comment on these options.

Please drop by for informal discussions and/or the public forum. We'd like to hear your views and ideas.

Monday, January 15th
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(Brief Presentation & Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.)

Student Union Building (SUB)
Room 214/216
6138 SUB Boulevard
UBC Campus

The Student Union Building is located between Gates 1 and 2 on the UBC campus beside the Aquatic Centre. It is near the main bus loop and parking is available in the North Parkade.

For further information, please call the information line at 878-8848.



Creating Our Future: Steps To A More Livable Region

GVRD Website: <http://www.gvrd.bc.ca>

The average North American car produces its own weight or more, about 2 tons, in carbon every year.

"The flames of hell are the flames of Shell"

by Jaggi Singh

This special environment issue of *The Ubysey* is humbly dedicated to the memory of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the eight other environmental and human-rights activists hanged by the Nigerian government of General Sani Abacha on November 10, 1995.

Saro-Wiwa, winner of the 1995 Goldman Environmental Prize for Africa, was a founder and leader of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), an activist organization he described as a movement for "social justice and environmental protection."

The Ogoni homeland is the oil-rich Niger delta region in the Rivers State of Nigeria, a fact that author William Boyd shrewdly describes as "the Ogoni's great

misfortune." Since the 1950s, Royal Dutch Shell and other multinationals have extracted oil while ravaging the ancestral home of the Ogoni. In Boyd's words, "What was once a placid rural community of prosperous farmers and fishermen is now an ecological wasteland reeking of sulfur, its creeks and water holes poisoned by indiscriminate oil spillage and ghoulishly lit at night by the orange flames of gas flares."

No less a source than the *Wall Street Journal* has described Ogoniland as a "ravaged environment." Shell "has extracted some \$30 billion" since oil was first struck in 1958. "Yet even by Africa's harsh yardstick, the Ogoni remain desperately poor."

The plight of the Ogoni explicitly exposes the true logic of the much lauded global economy—a system that ensures considerable profit for Shell and the corrupt rulers of Nigeria, satisfies the West's wasteful thirst for oil and, in the end, devastates the culture of an entire people.

The Ogonis are just one example of a long list of rich, viable and satisfying cultures whose time-honoured existences are rendered incompatible with profit-driven international free

markets—Tibet, East Timor, the Mayans of Mexico and Guatemala and the diverse Indian nations of British Columbia are just a few examples.

Under Saro-Wiwa, who in addition to his activist work was a journalist and writer, MOSOP organized a forceful and non-violent challenge to the brutal domination of Shell and their corrupt Nigerian sponsors. In January 1993, the Year of Indigenous Peoples, 300,000 people attended a rally in opposition to Shell in Ogoniland. The size of the rally is astounding when one considers that the Ogoni themselves number some 500,000.

Since the rally, which resulted in Shell temporarily suspending its operations in Ogoniland, there has been a brutal military backlash against the Ogoni, with 1800 Ogonis killed. *The New Internationalist* also reports that "around 700 Ogoni have been extrajudicially executed in recent years."

Saro-Wiwa is just one recent victim of multinationals and the governments—"democratic" or not—which allow them a free reign. Indeed, Saro-Wiwa blamed both the Nigerian government and Shell for the plight of the Ogoni people during his kangaroo-court military trial in



Port Harcourt—a trial based on trumped-up charges widely acknowledged to be false.

"I and my colleagues are not the only ones on trial. Shell is here on trial and it is as well that it is represented by counsel said to be holding a watching brief. The Company has, indeed, ducked this particular trial, but its day will surely come and the lessons learnt here may prove useful to it for there is no doubt in my mind that the ecological war that the

Company has waged in the Delta will be called to question sooner than later and the crimes of that war be duly punished. The crime of the Company's dirty wars against the Ogoni people will also be punished."

Ken Saro-Wiwa made those remarks on October 31, 1995. On November 10, he and eight others were dead, executed by hanging.

Mere days later, Shell publicly announced a four billion dollar natural-gas project in Ogoniland.

The following activists were hanged by the Nigerian government on November 10, 1995:

**Baribor Bera
Saturday Dobee
Nordu Eawo
Daniel Gbokoo
Dr. Barinem Kiobel
John Kpuinen
Paul Levura
Felix Nuate
Ken Saro-Wiwa**

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The SEC's Top 10 Wish List for UBC in 1996

(not necessarily in order of importance)

10. All paper used by university employees contain a minimum recycled content, and all unbleached and recycled paper in photocopiers.

9. Composting in all UBC residences.

8. A ban on all animal testing and experiments on campus.

7. Better bike access to UBC, especially on University Blvd., and more bike rack and lockers on campus.

6. The sudden revelation among all UBC students that McDonald's is gross.

5. Better vegetarian and vegan options in the food outlets on campus—heck, how about a vegetarian restaurant where McDonald's was?

4. Better multi-material recycling on campus—a recycling depot for every garbage can.

3. A ban (or at least moratorium) on all logging and development in our beautiful endowment lands which are ours (and all the little animals and birdies) to enjoy.

2. Inclusion of the student body in proper public process about the future and development of the campus (no more secrets big guys!). Students have the right to know!

1. Increased concern and participation on the part of all students in the environmental issues on and off campus. END THE APATHY—JOIN THE SEC!!!

