

UBC REPORTS

Vol. 15, No. 4/Feb. 6, 1969/Vancouver 8, B.C.

UBC REPORTS — CAMPUS EDITION

Nominating Committee Aids Board

The Board of Governors of the University of B.C. has established a special nominating committee to assist it in its search for a new president.

The 21-member committee was established by the Board of Governors at its meeting Feb. 3. As promised earlier by Board Chairman Dr. Walter Koerner, the committee will be broadly representative of all components of the University community. It will consist of:

- Three members of the Board of Governors;
- Three members of the university Senate;
- Four members of the faculty;
- Three deans;
- Four students;
- Three members of the Alumni Association;
- One member of the non-academic Administration.

The three Board representatives on the committee will be the Chancellor, Mr. John Buchanan, who will chair the committee; the chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Koerner; and the chairman of the Board's staff committee, Mr. Donovan F. Miller.

The Administration member will be the University Bursar, Mr. William White.

The three Senate members of the committee will be elected by Senate.

The four faculty members will be chosen by the Joint Faculties.

The three deans will be chosen by the Committee of Academic Deans.

Of the four students, one will be the president of the Alma Mater Society; two will be undergraduates chosen by the Students' Council; and one will be a graduate student chosen by the Graduate Students' Association.

One of the three Alumni members will be the president of the Alumni Association.

The committee's terms of reference as established by the Board are:

- "1. To recommend criteria to guide the Board in the selection of a president; and
- "2. To make recommendations to the Board of Governors."

The committee is expected to begin meeting as soon as all its members are selected. This is likely to take a few weeks.

Under the Universities Act, the Board of Governors has sole responsibility for the appointment of a new president to replace Dr. Kenneth Hare, who resigned as of Jan. 31, but the Board has decided to seek the advice of all segments of the University community through this large and broadly based committee.

The last presidential search committee consisted of four members of the Board of Governors. This group was assisted by a four-man faculty advisory committee, and received advice and suggestions from various groups in the University.

In its eight-month search the committee considered 111 potential candidates in Canada, Britain and the United States before deciding on Dr. Hare.



Dr. John Young is UBC's new dean of arts. For details see page four.

UBC Extension Photo Services

PSYCHIATRIC UNIT

Operating Gap Eliminated

The University of B.C. and the provincial government have reached a compromise agreement on financing the operating costs of the UBC Health Sciences Centre psychiatric unit.

Opening of the unit has been delayed since Nov. 18, 1968 because of lack of an adequate formula for covering the costs of many of the services to be provided by the new unit.

Until last week, negotiations with the government seemed to have reached an impasse.

The B.C. Hospital Insurance Service had set a rate for the 60-bed unit of \$55 per patient-day, equal to about \$1.2 million annually. UBC contended that although this was adequate payment for the treatment of in-patients, it would not cover the wide range of out-patient services incorporated in the unit's program, nor would it cover the cost of clinical teaching salaries.

This was that out-patient services be paid for separately, rather than being considered simply a part of the \$55 per-diem rate. This added almost \$100,000 to the unit's revenue, and narrowed the gap to \$200,000.

REDUCE PROGRAM

This last sum represents clinical faculty salaries—the cost of administering and supervising patient-care and teaching programs.

And on this point, Dean McCreary received more good news. He and his negotiating team—including Dr. J.S. Tyhurst, director of the psychiatric unit and Mr. William White, the University Bursar—were authorized to seek the missing \$200,000 from other government agencies such as the Mental Health Services, the B.C. Medical Plan and the Department of Education.

Dean McCreary said he now has real hope that the funds will be found and that the unit will be able to admit its first patients very soon.

The self-imposed budget cuts represent a significant reduction in some aspects of the psychiatric unit's program. They will, for instance, eliminate one community-liaison social worker, a psychologist and a technician assigned to out-patient services, and reduce nursing services available to out-patients. This may mean that day-care and night-care cannot be offered on weekends.

SPECIAL GRANTS

In addition the cuts will wipe out a planned program of operational research relative to quality control of patient care.

But Dean McCreary said he is confident the unit can still fulfill its basic functions in teaching, research and exemplary patient care.

He added that he hoped some of the lost services might be restored through special research grants.

CLOSURE THREAT

The University had asked for a no-fat budget of \$1.7 million a year. The two parties were therefore \$500,000 apart.

The Board of Governors resolved that unless the impasse was broken by Feb. 6, it would have no alternative but to give notice to 40 staff members and close the unit as of March 6.

A series of hard negotiating sessions late last week broke the deadlock.

The management committee of the Health Sciences Centre agreed to reduce the budget by \$208,000, even though this meant making substantial cuts in the hospital's community-services program. That was as far as the budget could be cut without seriously interfering with the unit's effectiveness as a treatment, teaching and research facility.

At almost the last minute—4:50 p.m. Monday, with the Board of Governors scheduled to meet at 5:00 p.m.—the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service informed Dr. J.F. McCreary, UBC's Dean of Medicine, that it had accepted one of the University's major requests.

Reclamation Study Begins

A research study which could lead to a model reclamation project for strip-mined land has begun at the University of B.C.

The project is being supported with an annual \$5,000 grant from Kaiser Coal Limited, which plans to develop huge coal reserves in the east Kootenay area of B.C. for shipment to Kaiser steel mills in the United States and to Japanese mills.

Directing the research in UBC's faculty of forestry is Prof. J.V. Thirgood, a British-born, former UBC student, who joined the faculty this year. He has had experience in forest and land reclamation in eleven countries and has undertaken studies for British government committees on industrial rehabilitation.

Associated with him is Mr. Jiri Selner, a 38-year-old Czechoslovakian who came to UBC last September to enrol in the faculty of graduate studies.

Mr. Selner, a forest engineer, was formerly with the rehabilitation section of the Czechoslovakian coal mining directorate, which was responsible for the exploitation and restoration of mined lands to both forest and agriculture production. He will use the research project as the basis for his thesis leading to the master of forestry degree.

DETAILED INVESTIGATION PLANNED

Selner is the first recipient of the \$3,600 Kaiser Fellowship, which will enable him to make a detailed investigation of all the factors involved in restoring the area to be mined in the east Kootenays.

Mr. Selner will investigate the geological formations and soils in the area, survey the existing vegetation and assess growing conditions for trees and other forms of vegetation with a view to coming up with concrete recommendations for rehabilitation both of the stripped land and the environs of Natal/Michel. He will also map out a restoration program.

The investigation has to be seen against a backdrop of public concern, expressed through television and other news media, that the Kaiser development in B.C. will simply be a repetition of previous strip mining operations in the Appalachian area of the U.S.

Before legislation was introduced in some American states, strip mining operators simply des-

troyed vegetation above ore and coal deposits and laid waste the landscape in getting at the deposits.

When the ore deposit or the coal seam was exhausted, the land was left scarred and barren, subject to erosion by wind and water, and useless for recreation or as a haven for wild life. In addition, waste material from the mining operation was often dumped indiscriminately into local streams and lakes, polluting the water and killing marine life.

The Kaiser Coal Co., in public statements concerning its B.C. operation, has attempted to assure Canadians that the same thing won't happen here.

WILL IMPROVE COMMUNITY

"We are going to change a situation that has been a disgrace," says Mr. A.P. Heinger, vice-president for public relations and traffic in the company. "We are going to improve that community."

No figure has been set by the company for reclamation expenditures—this will presumably emerge from the UBC study—but another company official has said the figure will be "adequate to do the best job in B.C."

The company's promises will be reinforced by legislation promised by Premier W.A.C. Bennett during the 1969 sitting of the B.C. Legislature which opens Jan. 23.

Kaiser now holds mining rights to 65,000 acres of land near the town of Sparwood, a new community to replace the nearby twin towns of Natal and Michel, grimy towns covered with decades of coal dust.

As Sparwood is occupied bulldozers move in to level the ancient homes and outdoor privies of Natal/Michel.

Over the next 15 years the Kaiser Company plans to mine 120 million tons of raw coal at the rate of eight million tons a year and ship much of it to Japan through the new Roberts Bank superport now being constructed south of Vancouver.

Kaiser will use gigantic earth-moving equipment to get at the coal seam which is 40 to 50 feet thick and three-quarters of a mile wide and lies under overburden 480 feet thick.

The overburden will literally be "ploughed" in much the same way as a farmer prepares fields for

seeding. When coal-removal is complete, the spoil is pushed back into the trench and is ready for reclamation.

Prof. Thirgood points out that Harmer Ridge, the area to be mined, is hardly likely to be an eyesore to the general public. It lies behind a high mountain ridge and can't be seen from public roads.

He adds that although reclamation has never before been attempted in the west there are no significant technical barriers to restoring the mined-over areas to a forest condition. The landscape will be changed since the company will literally remove the top of a mountain to a depth of almost 500 feet.

At present Prof. Thirgood is reluctant to make an estimate of the costs of reclamation. "This varies from area to area," he says, "and one of the objects of our research is to make an estimate of the costs in the light of local conditions."

Of one thing he seems certain: "The Kaiser Company is serious about plans to reclaim the area and there is no doubt in my mind that the Natal area can be improved in appearance as the result of reclamation."

Prof. Thirgood says the overburden to be removed is high elevation forest land, which, although logged over, is not productive by B.C. coast standards.

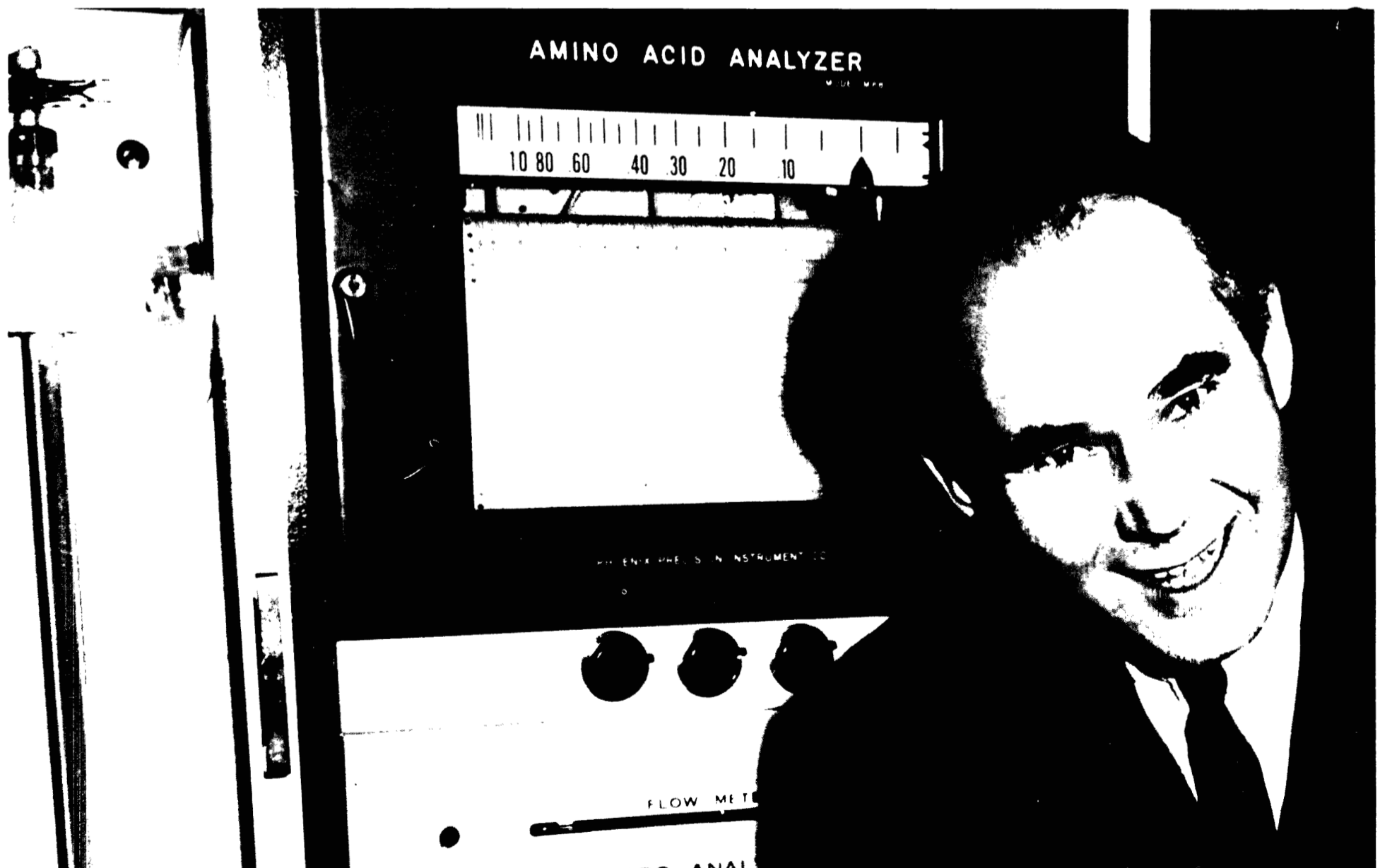
"The operative factors in reclaiming the land are climate and elevation, and the only use that the land can be put to is to bring it back to forest," he says.

Determination of the best kinds of trees to be planted in the mined-over area is part of the research study now underway, but Prof. Thirgood expects that less demanding species, probably of a pioneer and soil improving nature, will be best suited for the reclamation work.

RECLAIMED LAND PRODUCTIVE

Both Prof. Thirgood and Mr. Selner bring a wealth of experience to the project. Both point out that reclamation projects carried out in the United States, Europe and England are highly successful.

In Germany, reclaimed land is considered to be more productive for agricultural purposes after mining and the landscape of Europe is dotted with examples of recreational areas which were once strip mining operations.



Smiling Dr. William Powrie, head of UBC's new food science department, will take up his appointment on July 1 of this year



UBC Extension Photo Services

Graduate student Jiri Selner, pointing, and forestry professor Dr. J.V. Thirgood will develop model reclamation project in B.C.'s interior

UBC Food Studies to Expand

The head of the University of B.C.'s new food sciences department wants UBC to become a generator of ideas for the food industry of the province.

Dr. William D. Powrie, 42, who will take up his appointment at UBC on July 1, said he will attempt to develop basic concepts or ideas which could be picked up by industrial firms in B.C. and used as the basis for an export industry.

"This doesn't necessarily mean that we will actually develop new foods," says the Canadian-born food scientist. "What we hope to do is engender new, basic ideas which can be picked up and developed by industrial firms."

He said special emphasis would be placed on utilizing fish, plant and animal materials grown in B.C. that could be used in new product development.

Another aim of the new department in the faculty of agricultural sciences will be to train food scientists to meet an ever-growing demand.

"The development of new food products depends on the training of food scientists who are well-versed in basic concepts and have a well-founded scientific knowledge," Dr. Powrie says.

He adds: "The days of pot-and-pan research are over. It's simply not possible any longer to mix a few ingredients together, stir, taste, and put it on the market if it's palatable."

CELL CULTURE STUDIED

Dr. Powrie, who visited UBC recently to meet food scientists in the agricultural sciences faculty, said one of the basic ideas already under investigation at UBC is cell culture.

"Cell culture," he says, "is the growing of large masses of cells in a synthetic medium. It can be carried out with almost any type of plant cell—carrots

and lettuce, for instance—and this technique may be of increasing importance to B.C., where land is becoming more and more scarce."

He said the technique of cell culture is not being practiced on any large scale at the moment. "It's a brand new area that the food scientist is just getting into," he said, "but it shows great promise."

There are many difficulties to be overcome with the new technique, he said, including palatability, color, texture and cost.

CONCENTRATE ON FOOD CHEMISTRY

Dr. Powrie's own interests will be concentrated in the area of food chemistry, particularly the chemistry of eggs, milk and meat.

"One of the main areas I will be investigating," he said, "will be textural changes in meat—including fish, fowl and red meat—during cold storage."

He said there are stores in the U.S. which now sell nothing but frozen meats, and food scientists want to know how long meat of all kinds can be held in frozen form without causing undesirable flavor and textural changes.

Dr. Powrie also plans to take a close look at the lowly egg. "The housewife," he says, "uses eggs for a variety of purposes, but no one really knows why. We'd like to know more about the functional properties of eggs, and this may lead to new uses for eggs."

"B.C., of course, is recognized as a poultry area and we have an excellent department here at UBC. So our egg research could have widespread results for the province."

Dr. Powrie doesn't expect that the UBC department will undertake much work in the field of imita-

tion foods, although he does admit that synthetic food products hold out possibilities for overcoming the world food shortage.

Most of the work on imitation food is being done by the food industry itself, Dr. Powrie said, while food science departments in universities are continuing to deal with natural foods.

Synthetic foods such as imitation bacon and milk are now on the market, but the question of whether or not the public will accept them on a scale large enough to be economical is still in doubt, he said.

Synthetic foods, he said, have obvious advantages such as low cost, convenience and storability.

On the other hand, many synthetic foods are simply not very palatable and it will be a long time before they displace natural foods. This applies even in underdeveloped countries, said Dr. Powrie, where people are still interested in something that tastes good.

Dr. Powrie is a native of Toronto and a graduate of the University of Toronto, where he received his master of arts degree in food chemistry, and the University of Massachusetts, where he was awarded his Ph.D.

BEST ON CONTINENT

He headed the food products laboratory of the Canadian government in 1955-56 and then joined the faculty of Michigan State University. He has been with the University of Wisconsin since 1959.

"I'm coming back to Canada," Dr. Powrie said, "because I'm optimistic about the creative abilities of Canadian food scientists. I think this department can be one of the best on the continent, not in terms of numbers, but in terms of quality. Certainly we have the basis of an excellent faculty right now."

Dr. John Young Named Dean of Arts

Professor John H. Young has been appointed dean of the faculty of arts by the Board of Governors of the University of B.C.

Prof. Young, 46, has been acting dean of UBC's arts faculty since July 1, 1968. He succeeds Prof. Dennis M. Healy, who resigned last year to become vice-president of York University in Toronto.

The recommendation that Prof. Young be appointed dean of arts was made to Acting President Walter H. Gage by a nine-man committee chaired by Prof. M.W. Steinberg of the UBC English department.

The committee held a total of 22 meetings since last May and considered the names of more than 200 persons who were suggested to the committee or who responded to advertisements placed in newspapers and journals in Canada, the United States and Great Britain.

Dr. Steinberg said letters were sent to all members of the UBC faculty, the Board of Governors and Senate, the UBC Students' Council and the Alumni Association executive asking for the names of candidates.

Dr. Steinberg said the committee also kept students informed of its deliberations through consultations with the executive of the Arts Undergraduate Society and with David Zirnelt, president of the Alma Mater Society.

"The committee," Prof. Steinberg said, "was unanimous in its decision to recommend Prof. Young for the deanship. The committee felt that he possessed the qualities which best met the needs of the faculty at the present time."

Dean Young is a native of Victoria, B.C. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and was a student at Victoria College for one year before enrolling at Queen's University, where he received his bachelor and master of arts degrees in economics.

He then went to Cambridge University, where he was awarded his doctor of philosophy degree in 1955. Dean Young was a member of the staff of Yale University from 1953 to 1960, when he joined the UBC faculty as head of the department of economics. He resigned the headship in 1965 but remained on the UBC faculty as a full professor.

Dean Young heads UBC's largest faculty, which enrolls more than 6,000 students and is staffed by more than 400 faculty members.

He said that since his appointment as dean his two major concerns have been the improvement of conditions within the faculty for students in the first and second years, where the heaviest enrolment occurs, and the planning of additional building space to accommodate growing numbers of students.

He said he plans to continue efforts in these directions in the future.

ARTS WEEK

13 Lectures Planned

A five-day series of lectures on "The idea of the university" will be held at UBC February 10-14.

Officially called "Arts Week," the lecture series has been planned by a sub-committee of the arts faculty's committee on student life. A total of 13 lectures will be given during the five-day period.

The bulk of the lectures have been scheduled during class hours to allow instructors to involve all students, "committed, neutral and apathetic," the organizers said.

The bulk of the lectures will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the new Student Union Building. Three noon-hour lectures in the same location are also planned.

A full list of the week's topics and lectures follows:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

10:30 a.m.—HIGHER EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, Dr. John Chapman, geography: "The options open to UBC for unilateral action are limited. Yet, because an overall plan for higher education is lacking, unilateral action is an unfortunate necessity."

12:30 p.m.—HOW NON-ACTIVIST STUDENTS RESPOND TO THE ACTIVISTS, Bob Higginbotham, University of Victoria Student Council, Students for a Democratic University, B.C. Students Movement: "Feeling threatened, non-activist students respond like the administration, but more viciously."

2:30 p.m.—RELIGION AND THE CRITICAL FUNCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY, William Nicholls, Religious Studies: "The University must be a critic of society—but one informed with an understanding of the religious past as well as the religious present."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10:30 a.m.—STUDENT POLITICAL ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA, Jean-Louis De Lannoy, Sociology: "The style of student political action in Latin America is entering North American universities. It argues, correctly, that because students have certain interests which are finally decided on a political basis, they should share in determining that basis, whether in the university, province or country."

2:30 p.m.—HOW LARGE A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?, A. Milton Moore, Economics: "As with all expenditures of public funds, the substantial sums now being spent on higher education in Canada can only be justified by a demonstration that the benefits that accrue to the general public over and above those received by the primary beneficiaries, the students, are 'worth their cost.' To the extent that the benefits to taxpayers, who do not attend university, fall short of the subsidy, students are recipients of unrequired income transfers from persons whose life-time incomes will be less than theirs."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:30 a.m.—THE UNIVERSITY AND THE RELEVANT ARCHITECTURAL QUESTIONS, Henry Elder, Architecture: "No answers are relevant without knowing the right questions."

12:30 p.m.—THE IDEA OF THE UNIVERSITY, James A. Corry, Visiting Professor of Law, McGill; Former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Queens.

2:30 p.m.—THE CENTRE OF A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, Bert Binning, Fine Arts: "The centre of a university education should be the creative arts." James Forsyth, Chemical Engineering: "The best centre for a university education is the perimeter."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

10:30 a.m.—DOES THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY APPLY TO UNIVERSITIES? Bhiku Parekh, Political Science: "The university is not a state, factory, or family. It should be a special kind of parliament, with equal representation from each segment of the university." Robert Rowan, Philosophy: "The university is a school and a school is not a democracy."

12:30 p.m.—THE IDEA OF THE UNIVERSITY, Louis Feldhammer, Instructor, PSA Department, S.F.U.: "The university's role is to be a revolutionary agent, a focal centre, which will shape a revolutionary outlook and support movements to overthrow bourgeois society." Allan Cunningham, Professor, History Department, S.F.U.; Former Dean of Arts, Former Head of History: "The independence which for a long time has allowed the university to be a revolutionary organization is now threatened with destruction because of the tactics of the activists."

2:30 p.m.—EDUCATIONAL REFORM AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, Geoffrey Durrant, English: "The language of the reformists is dull and trite—bad poetry." Peter Taylor, English: "Student reformers are mis-using language, and acting upon false analogies." Ron Silvers, Sociology: "Reason cannot create a community of politically-aware students, and may create apathy. Serious political action stems from a sub-rational level, which cannot be expressed in the rational language to which the university is accustomed."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10:30 a.m.—DISCIPLINES VERSUS NON-DISCIPLINES, Gerald McGuigan, Arts II: "Bringing various disciplines together allows each to see analogues otherwise imperceptible." Douglas Kenny, Richard Tees, Psychology: "Disciplines versus non-disciplines is a straw-man issue."

2:30 p.m.—STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENTAL DECISION-MAKING, Malcolm McGregor, Classics: "The ideal university is non-democratic. Students should not participate officially because they do not know enough." Paul Tennant, Political Science: "When a department—teachers and students—is working well, votes are seldom needed. What is necessary is to determine what the real interests of the department are."

Research Award Honors Prof. Biely

An annual research prize of \$1,000 has been established at the University of B.C. to honour Prof. Jacob Biely, former head of UBC's department of poultry science.

The award has been made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. George Biely. Mr. Biely is president of Biely Construction Co. Ltd. and the brother of Prof. Biely.

"The Professor Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize" will be awarded annually for distinguished research accomplished, and the results published, in the three years prior to the award. To be eligible, faculty members must have been with UBC for three years and hold the rank of assistant professor or above.

Nominations for the award are to be signed by two colleagues and accompanied by an external reference. In addition, the nomination must be accompanied by a biographical statement, a copy of the research material on which the nomination is based and a brief comment setting the research contribution in perspective.

An inter-faculty committee will be established to decide on the recipient of the prize. Correspondence should be sent to UBC's dean of graduate studies, Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan.

Although he retired as head of the poultry science department last year, Prof. Biely has continued to carry out full-time teaching and research duties in UBC's faculty of agricultural sciences.

UBC REPORTS

Volume 15, No. 4—February 6, 1969. Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash. Postage paid at Vancouver B.C. Published by the University of British Columbia and distributed free. J.A. Banham, Editor; Barbara Claghorn, Production Supervisor. Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Information Office, UBC, Vancouver 8, B.C.