

Reasons sought for student withdrawals

More than 950 students withdrew from UBC last year and the Office of Student Services wants to know why.

A questionnaire has been sent to all students who withdrew in 1976-77 asking why they left before writing exams and what problems they encountered in their UBC studies.

Student Services director Dick Shirran said the aim of the study is to determine what steps the University can take to help students who may be considering withdrawing.

"One aspect of this problem," he said, "is that many students withdraw 'cold turkey.' In other words, they don't discuss their

decision with anyone. Many don't realize there's a great deal of assistance available to help them overcome financial and academic problems."

He said the study would concentrate on the 700-odd withdrawals who were classified as full-time students taking nine or more units of work.

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ubc reports

1976-77 UBC frosh were better students



This was the scene at 4 a.m. Saturday (Sept. 24) as firemen and UBC faculty, graduate students and employees herded panic-stricken pigs out of burned-out swine unit on UBC's south campus. About 190 animals died in the blaze, which wiped out the breeding and feeding-trial program operated by the Department of Animal Science. The unit was insured and will be rebuilt. See story on page 2. Picture by Jim Banham.

UBC's 1976-77 class of 3,228 freshman students performed better academically than the previous year's class, UBC's Senate was told at its September meeting.

Prof. Cyril Finnegan, chairman of the Senate admissions committee, said the failure and withdrawal rate of last year's class dropped and the percentage obtaining full credit in their academic programs increased.

He said the improvement in performance was the result of "a more rigorous scrutiny" of the standings of grade 12 applicants seeking admission to the University.

"In general," he told Senate, "applicants with a grade point average of 2.3 or lower (C=2.0 and C+=2.5) were denied admission and those above 2.3 but below 2.5 were screened on the relevancy of their studies. Those with an average of 2.5 or above were, in general, admitted."

The more stringent measures had the desired effect of reducing failures in May, 1977, Dr. Finnegan said in his report.

"The percentage of freshmen failing or withdrawing dropped to 13.5 per cent from 17.7 per cent the previous year . . . and, for School District 39 (Vancouver) from 13.4 per cent to 9.3 per cent. At the same time the percentage obtaining full credit rose to 56.7 per cent from 53.2 per cent . . . and to 59.5 per cent from 52.6 per cent for Greater Vancouver students."

For admission to UBC in September this year, similar criteria were applied with decisions being made on the relevancy of studies for those with averages of 2.5 and above, Prof. Finnegan said.

For a story on UBC's new entrance regulations, passed at the September meeting of Senate, turn to page 2.

Tougher admission rules approved

Recommendations by the UBC Senate admissions committee calling for much tougher admission requirements in 1981 were approved in their entirety by Senate at its September

meeting, after a long debate on a recommended language requirement.

The report stipulated grade 11 French or a foreign language as an entrance requirement, and a move led

by Prof. John Dennison (Education) to make French mandatory barely failed after a close vote.

Effective in September, 1981, students entering UBC from B.C. secondary schools must have a general C+ average, and they must have English 11 and 12, Social Studies 11, Mathematics 11, a science 11, plus French 11 or a foreign language 11. At present, the only mandatory subjects are the two English courses and Social Studies 11.

Plans made to rebuild burned-out swine unit

UBC's Faculty of Agricultural Sciences has begun making plans to rebuild its swine research unit, which was destroyed by fire early Saturday morning.

Dean Warren Kitts said he has asked the new head of the animal science department, Prof. Bruce Owen, for a full report on losses resulting from the fire and for recommendations on rebuilding the unit, one of a half-dozen animal research buildings located on the south campus.

"We have a solid core of faculty and graduate and undergraduate students interested in swine research," Dean Kitts said, "and it's essential that the research unit be rebuilt as soon as possible."

The unit, built at a cost of \$268,000 in 1969, was insured.

The University Endowment Lands Fire Department is investigating the blaze, which was reported at 1:35 a.m. Saturday by an RCMP patrol vehicle. The fire department had the fire under control by 3 a.m.

An estimated 180-190 animals died as a result of the fire, chiefly from heat and smoke inhalation. About 250 pigs survived but will be sent to slaughter.

The fire wiped out the swine-breeding and feed-trial program supervised by Dr. Richard Beames, associate professor of animal science. He said some aspects of the swine research program can be kept going this year by purchasing small numbers of young pigs.

The fire in the E-shaped swine unit began in the rafters of the central wing, where most of the dead animals were found, and spread to the rafters in the other two wings.

The weakening of the rafters by fire and the weight of water from fire hoses caused the collapse of the tile roofs over two wings and the partial collapse of the roof of the third wing.

Dr. Beames said many of the pigs were saved because the roof tiles collapsed onto a plywood ceiling inside the wings. The sagging plywood ceiling protected the pigs, housed in

steel pens, from falling tiles and burning roof rafters.

When the fire was out, a group of UBC faculty members, graduate students, employees, and firemen entered the building and began the difficult job of herding the surviving panic-stricken animals out of the unit to an open-air corral.

"There was considerable personal risk involved in getting the surviving animals out of the unit," Dean Kitts said. "It took a good deal of courage on the part of those who responded to the appeal for help to go into the burned-out building. The University is grateful for their assistance."

The roofs on all of the units were removed on Saturday and Sunday so that cleanup operations could begin and dead animals be removed.

UBC enrolment prediction almost reached

UBC's enrolment of daytime winter session students stood at 23,073 last Friday (Sept. 23) — 600 more than were enrolled at the same time last year.

A spokesman for the Registrar's Office said he expected that the predicted winter session enrolment of about 23,500 students would be reached by the end of this week.

Enrolment in the first-year engineering program in the Faculty of Applied Science is up 58 students over last year and the combined total of registrations in the first- and second-year programs of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration has increased by 75 students. The first-year class in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences is up about 7 per cent over last year's enrolment of 64 students.

Official registration figures for UBC and other Canadian universities are struck on Dec. 1 each year.

In addition, Senate will vote at its Dec. 14 meeting on any further specific subjects of grades 11 and 12 that may be required or recommended to the secondary schools for entry to various faculties at the University.

Prof. Finnegan told Senate the University had hoped the current policy of not requiring specific courses would permit the secondary schools to tailor study programs to the individual needs of their pupils.

"This hope was not realized," Dr. Finnegan said. "Some school principals have reported their frustration in attempting to provide a 'best' program in the face of pupils' desire for the 'easiest one'."

He said UBC's present policy "is not providing adequate guidance to secondary school pupils in selecting the broad academic background for university study that the committee feels is appropriate."

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To ensure that students' evaluations of teaching are taken into consideration when faculty are being considered for tenure, Senate has asked its teaching evaluation committee to look into a recommendation contained in the Board of Governors' tenure review report.

The recommendation, presented to Senate at its September meeting, asked that "measures be taken to establish at UBC systematic methods of evaluation by students of teaching; and that such evaluations be considered in tenure decisions."

Tenure is granted or withheld at UBC on the basis of the faculty member's teaching, research and public service contributions. There is no guarantee that student evaluations of the faculty member's teaching ability are taken into account. The Board's recommendation will be considered by the Senate committee on teaching evaluation which will then bring it to Senate for approval.

ubc news roundup

UBC's Department of Physical Plant plans to reduce temperatures in campus buildings this fall as part of a program to save fuel and power.

Arnold Lucks, UBC's supervisor of mechanical utilities, said classroom and office temperatures, now set at a uniform 68 degrees throughout the University, would be adjusted to fall within the 65-to-68-degree range.

In warmer weather next spring and summer, UBC air conditioning systems will be adjusted to operate only when temperatures reach the 75-to-80 degree range.

Mr. Lucks, who is a member of a special committee on energy conservation established by C. J. Connaghan, vice-president for administrative services, outlined other steps planned in a drive to cut UBC's annual energy bill of \$2 million by 10 per cent in the current fiscal year.

He said discussions would be held with the systems services office, which books rooms and other facilities on the campus, to explore the possibility of consolidating evening classes and other nighttime activities into a smaller number of buildings. Heat would be shut off at night in little-used buildings.

Machinery that forces warm air through heating systems in campus buildings will operate for fewer hours in the future, Mr. Lucks said. These systems will be switched on an hour or so later in the morning and shut down an hour or more earlier in the evening, he said.

Other measures planned in the energy conservation drive include restriction on the installation of air conditioning units in campus offices, and a reduction in the use of the burning unit at the south campus Chemical Waste Disposal Unit. Mr. Lucks said the unit would operate three days a week in future instead of five.

An energy-conserving system that provides warm air in winter months and acts as a cooling system in the summer will be installed in the new Library Processing Centre now under construction west of the Woodward Biomedical Library.

The system economically distributes heat through a building and stores excess heat from daytime operation for future use. A similar system was installed in the Computer Sciences Building (formerly the Civil Engineering Building) when it was renovated last year.

Lighting levels have already been reduced in some UBC buildings and a qualified energy-conservation officer will be appointed before the end of this year to co-ordinate the UBC program.

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Theft of personal and University property is a regrettable fact of campus life.

All members of the University community should be conscious of the need for security and take steps to minimize opportunities for theft, says Dave Hannah, superintendent of UBC's traffic and security department.

He offered the following "don'ts" to students and members of the faculty and staff.

- Don't leave personal and University property unattended on desks or in unlocked offices and closets;

- Don't leave office doors and windows open when you leave for the day or even for short periods of time during the work day;

- Don't prop open doors to allow friends or colleagues to enter buildings locked for the night.

He said the loss of personal or University property should be reported immediately to the traffic and security department at 3030 Wesbrook Mall (228-4721).

Students living in residence can borrow a portable engraving gun from the RCMP detachment at 2137 Allison Road to mark personal property with their social insurance number.

"In doing this, the students will join 'Neighbourhood Watch,' a program established by local police agencies to mark all University property so that it can be identified if stolen," Mr. Hannah said. UBC buildings that contain marked equipment have had Neighbourhood Watch decals placed on exterior doors and windows, he said.

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Mr. Hannah also urges the University community to become familiar with UBC's new street-address system to aid patrol and fire services when they have to respond to emergencies.

The campus street-address system conforms to the block plan in use in the Greater Vancouver area. Each campus building now sports at its main entrance a plaque with white lettering on a blue background showing the street address.

Phones in each campus building should have affixed to them labels showing the name and street address of that building. Callers who want emergency services should give the building name and street address when they call Traffic and Security (228-4721) or the Fire Department (228-4567), Mr. Hannah said.

The new street-address system is not the building's mail address, however. All UBC departments use a single mail address, 2075 Wesbrook Place. UBC's postal code is V6T 1W5.

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The complex traffic signal at the main entrance to UBC — corner of University Boulevard and Wesbrook Mall — has been reprogrammed and improved to make it more responsive to the volume of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Twelve push-button pedestrian signals have been installed on boulevards and on the corners of the intersection.

Electrical engineer Martin Kafer of the Department of Physical Plant, who redesigned the signal system, said vehicle signals at the intersection are actuated by heat sensors buried in the roadway. He said the green lights at the intersection stay on longer if there are a large number of vehicles waiting to pass through.

However, there is no similar sensing system in existence to determine the number of pedestrians waiting to cross an intersection. He said the vehicle signals at the campus intersection would continue to operate indefinitely unless pedestrians used the push-button signals.

He said the signals would give pedestrians a 17-second crossing period — 12 seconds of green light and a 5-second warning period with a flashing red hand.

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Dr. W. D. Liam Finn, 44, has tendered his resignation as dean of the Faculty of Applied Science to UBC's president, Dr. Douglas Kenny. It takes effect June 30, 1978.

Dr. Finn, dean of the faculty for eight years, will return to his position as professor of civil engineering. He has also expressed a desire to devote more time to the directing and developing of his soil dynamic research group at the University.

Dr. Kenny said he respected Dr. Finn's decision. "Dr. Finn is a gifted man whose teaching and research strengths will continue to be an important asset at the University."

NEXT WEEK AT UBC

Notices must reach Information Services, Main Mall North Admin. Bldg., by mail, by 5 p.m. Thursday of week preceding publication of notice.

VANCOUVER INSTITUTE

October 1, 8:15 p.m.:

Prof. Geoffrey Scudder, Zoology, UBC, discusses **Evolution or Special Creation?** Lecture Hall 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

October 8, 8:15 p.m.:

Prof. Keith Spicer, visiting professor at UBC and former official languages commissioner, speaks on **Bilingualism: Un succes de Scandale.** Lecture Hall 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

3:00 p.m. **MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY** features **Traditional Korean Dances**, in conjunction with the exhibition on display at the museum. 6393 N.W. Marine Dr.

MONDAY, OCT. 3

- 12:00 p.m. **CREATIVE WRITING READING** by Judith Merrill, Canadian science fiction writer. Room 104, Buchanan.
- 12:30 p.m. **CANCER RESEARCH LECTURE.** Jim Koropatnick, Cancer Research Centre, UBC, on **DNA Fragmentation Assays for Organ-specific Carcinogens.** Library, Cancer Research Centre, Medical Block B.
- 2:30 p.m. **COMPUTING CENTRE LECTURE.** First in a series of nine lectures on the PL/I programming language by Dave Amos, Computing Centre, UBC. Room 443, Computer Sciences Building.
- 3:30 p.m. **POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR.** David Bonavia, special correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, on **Changes in Chinese Foreign Policy? The Place of Sino-Soviet Relations.** Penthouse, Buchanan.
- MANAGEMENT SCIENCE SEMINAR.** Prof. D. A. Wehrung, Commerce and Business Administration, UBC, on **Multiple Criteria in Investment Preferences.** Room 312, Angus Building.
- COMPUTING CENTRE LECTURE.** First in a series of nine lectures on **MTS Commands and Files** by Al Fowler, Computing Centre, UBC. Room 447, Computer Sciences Building.
- 3:45 p.m. **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR.** H. Villalobos, Mechanical Engineering graduate student, on **Application of Work Sampling to Assembly Operations.** Room 1215, Civil and Mechanical Engineering
- 4:00 p.m. **BIOCHEMICAL DISCUSSION GROUP.** Dr. Joe Skala, Pediatrics, UBC, on **Regulatory Role of the Protein Kinase System.** Lecture Hall 3, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.
- ASTRONOMY AND SPACE SCIENCE SEMINAR.** Dr. Daniel Harris, Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, Penticton, on **X-Ray Detection of Extra-Galactic Radio Sources.** Room 318, Hennings.
- 4:30 p.m. **ZOOLOGY SEMINAR.** Prof. D. H. Janzen, Biology, University of Pennsylvania, on **Short Stories in Tropical Animal-Plant Interactions: Figs, Orchids and Fruits.** Room 2000, Biological Sciences Building.
- 8:00 p.m. **ARCHEOLOGY LECTURE.** Dr. L. Bell, University of Pennsylvania Museum, on **The University Museum's Egyptian Expedition to Dira Abu El-Naga.** Room 104, Lasserre Building.
- OPERA OVERTURE LECTURE.** French Tickner, Music, UBC, discusses *Don Giovanni.* Admission, \$4. Room 339, Music Building.
- ## TUESDAY, OCT. 4
- 12:30 p.m. **CURRENT AFFAIRS LECTURE.** David Bonavia, special correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and former London *Times* bureau chief in Moscow, Peking and Saigon, on **What is Really Happening in China? A Correspondent's View.** Room 102, Buchanan Building.
- BOTANY SEMINAR.** Fred Ganders, Botany, UBC, on **Breeding Systems and Fruit Polymorphism in *Plectritis*.** Room 3219, Biological Sciences Building.
- 2:30 p.m. **COMPUTING CENTRE LECTURE.** First in a series of 12 seminars on the FORTRAN programming language by John Coulthard, Room 107, Computer Sciences.
- 3:30 p.m. **ENGLISH COLLOQUIUM.** Dr. Peter Quartermain, English, UBC, on **Louis Zukofsky's First Half of 'A'-'9.** Penthouse, Buchanan Building.
- COMPUTER SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM.** Prof. W. W. Bledsoe, University of Texas, Austin, on **Automatic**

Theorem Proving and a Maximal Method for Set Variables. Room 300, Computer Sciences Building.

OCEANOGRAPHY SEMINAR. Dr. J. B. L. Matthews, Institute of Marine Biology, University of Bergen, Norway, on **Marine Research at Bergen, Norway and in particular at the Institute of Marine Biology.** Room 1465, Biological Sciences Building.

4:00 p.m. **HEALTH CARE SEMINAR.** Dr. Anne Crichton, Health Care and Epidemiology, UBC, on **Health Policy Making: Canada, Britain and Australia.** Room 146, James Mather Building.

4:30 p.m. **SOCIOLOGY SEMINAR.** David Bonavia, special correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, on **Politics and Social Change in China: The Prospects.** Room 202, Anthropology/Sociology Building.

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR. Dr. Thomas Beattie, Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories, New Jersey, on **Polymeric Reagents in Organic Synthesis.** Room 250, Chemistry Building.

9:00 p.m. **UBC PUBLIC AFFAIRS.** Host Gerald Savory, Centre for Continuing Education, speaks with Dr. Ross Johnson and Dr. Kenneth Carty, Political Science, UBC, on **The Canadian Unity Question - A View from the Maritimes.** Channel 10, Vancouver Cable-telvision.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

- 8:00 a.m. **OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY LECTURE.** Hugh P. Robinson, Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland, on **Ultrasound in Obstetrics - Present and Future.** Lecture Hall B, Vancouver General Hospital.
- 12:30 p.m. **NOON HOUR CONCERT.** Hans-Karl Piltz, viola, and Patrick Wedd, harpsichord, play **Music of W. Marquis, Bach and Etler.** Recital Hall, Music Building.
- 12:35 p.m. **FREESEE FILM SERIES** presents *America - A Personal History of the United States* with Alistair Cooke. First in this series of seven is **The New Found Land.** Auditorium, Student Union Building. Free.
- 3:30 p.m. **STATISTICS WORKSHOP.** Prof. M. Perlman, Statistics, University of Chicago, on **Testing a Mean Vector in the Presence of Covariates.** Room 412, Angus.
- 4:00 p.m. **GEOPHYSICS SEMINAR.** Dr. Arthur McGarr, U.S. Geological Survey, California, on **Relationship of Seismicity to Mining.** Room 260, Geophysics and Astronomy Building.
- 4:30 p.m. **COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SEMINAR.** Dr. Patricia Merivale, English, UBC, on **The Biographical Compulsion: Elegiac Romances in Canadian Fiction.** Penthouse, Buchanan Building.
- CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR.** Dr. K. L. Pinder, Chemical Engineering, UBC, on **Surface Area of Evaporating Droplets in Direct Contact Liquid-Liquid Heat Transfer.** Room 206, Chemical Engineering Building.
- 4:45 p.m. **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff. Room 100, Scarfe.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

- 9:00 a.m. **MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS.** Dr. M. G. McLoughlin, Urology, UBC, and Dr. W. J. Godolphin, Clinical Chemistry, VGH, on **Receptors in Hormonally Dependent Tissue - Prostate and Breast.** Lecture Hall B, Vancouver General Hospital.
- 12:30 p.m. **UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY** conducted by Martin Berinbaum plays **Music of Weber, Copland and Giannini.** Auditorium, Student Union Building. Repeated at 8 p.m. in the Old Auditorium.
- 3:45 p.m. **APPLIED MATH AND STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM.** Prof. W. Evans, Mathematics, University of California at San Diego, on **Multiple Nerve Impulses.** Room 2449, Biological Sciences Building.
- 4:00 p.m. **PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM.** E. N. Fortson, Physics, University of Washington, on **Parity Non-Conservation in Atoms.** Room 201, Hennings Building.

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

- 12:30 p.m. **NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE.** Stephen Chatman and Eugene Wilson, directors, and French Tickner, narrator, perform **Music of Stravinsky.** Recital Hall, Music Building.
- 8:00 p.m.