

Close some branch libraries, review committee proposes

By GAVIN WILSON

Some branches of the university library may be closed and circulation of academic journals restricted if recommendations currently being considered by President David Strangway are approved.

Proposals from an external review committee also call for increased government funding of the library above the university's current operating budget. This funding should be "vigorously pursued" to reflect the true costs of running a library which serves as a provincial

resource, the committee's report said.

Chaired by McMaster University librarian Graham Hill, the committee was established to review library services and management, its role as a provincial resource, strategies for maintaining collections and the impact of information technology. The report was recently released for public scrutiny.

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It found that library users were near unanimous in their praise of the library, but expressed concern over its future due to financial restraint.

Strangway said the report is a thoughtful one that "doesn't pull any punches."

"It says there are things we can and must do internally. But none of it takes away from the fact that we have a really first class library that is serving the community very effectively and which needs our continued support," he said.

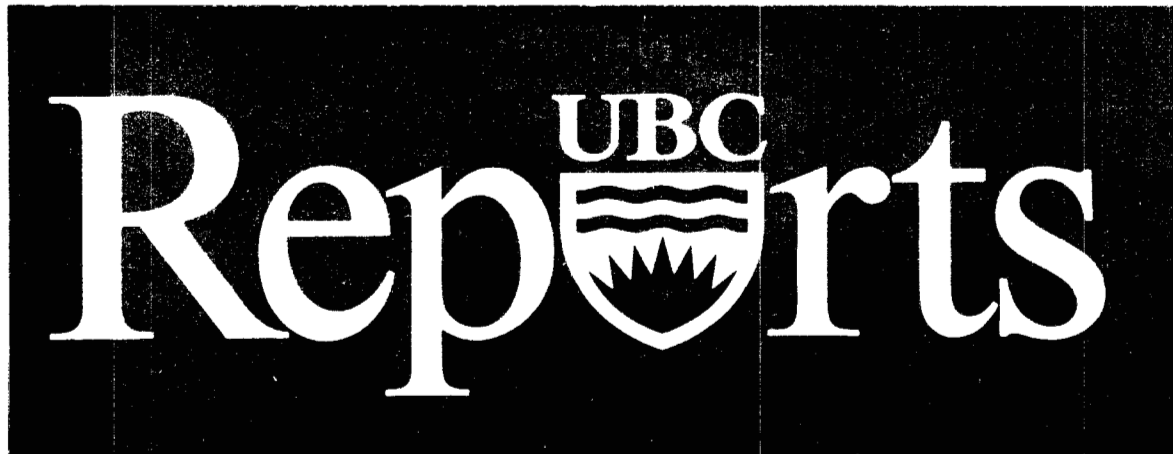
One recommendation calls for a gradual reduction of the number of branch libraries -- there

are currently 15 -- and a centralization of collections.

"There is a clear dollar cost to provide the convenience and personalized service of a highly decentralized library system," the report stated.

But any move to centralize library collections would have to wait until proposed new library space is constructed, said University Librarian Douglas McInnes. The Main Library, one of the oldest buildings on campus, is already overcrowded, he said.

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Students protest against a 10 per cent fee increase outside the Faculty Clubs last month while the Board of Governors ponders the issue inside.

'Agonizing decision'

Board approves tuition rise

By JO MOSS

UBC's Board of Governors deliberated for more than three hours before making what President David Strangway called an "agonizing decision" to approve a 10 per cent tuition fee increase.

The proposal came from the university administration which was concerned about maintaining the quality of education. Strangway said it was the fundamental issue in the board's discussions.

"The decision was not made lightly. We must do whatever we can to preserve the quality of education at UBC," Strangway said.

About 600 students staged a noisy demonstration and rally outside the Faculty Club, where the board meeting was held Jan. 26, to protest against the fee hike which takes effect in the Fall.

Students representing the Alma Mater Society and the Graduate Student Society delivered formal presentations to board

members before the vote asking them to reconsider the increase.

Peter Brown, Board of Governors chairman, said in a statement to reporters afterwards, that the university must balance its books.

"We don't have a choice," Brown said. "The feeling of the board is that if we are asked to do further cuts, we go right to the quality of education itself."

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Fines may aid students

By PAULA MARTIN

University administrators are considering a student proposal to funnel parking fines collected on campus into a student bursary fund.

"We think it's a good idea," said K.D. Srivastava, Vice-President of Student and Academic Services, who estimated the annual revenue at \$150,000. "Assuming it is all available, we would like to put it toward a university bursary endowment fund and the income from the fund would be used to help students in need."

The idea was proposed at a meeting between senior administrators and student representatives who met to discuss student concerns about the tuition fee increase.

Victoria gives UBC \$750,000 to plan building

By GREG DICKSON

The provincial government will provide \$750,000 to develop architectural plans for UBC's new Academic and Administrative Services Building and the Brock Hall Student Services addition.

"This will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the university's operations," said Advanced Education Minister Stan Hagen. "It's an investment in increased productivity."

UBC President David Strangway said he was extremely pleased with the government's announcement.

"The various academic and administrative units are inadequately housed, often in derelict huts that pose fire hazards and have been condemned by the fire department. The safety of workers is a major concern," Strangway said.

The \$14-million project will allow the demolition of the huts which date back to the Second World War.

The Brock Hall addition is part of UBC's master plan to put all student services under one roof. The Registrar's Office, the Student Housing and Conference Department and the Awards and Financial Aid office will be part of the same complex as the Counselling and Resource Center.

"This will provide a significant improvement in the services provided to students at UBC," said Strangway.

Ministry officials expect planning to be complete by the Fall, when the final budget will be submitted to cabinet. Construction should be complete by the Fall of 1991.

New research facility brings PhD program in Nursing step closer

By JO MOSS

UBC's School of Nursing will move one step closer to establishing a PhD program with the opening of its new nursing research unit, Feb. 23.

"One of the very important things we have to do in implementing a doctoral program is to develop a strong research program within the school," said Dr. Marilyn Willman, director of the UBC Nursing School. "The unit will provide

coordinated support so that research activities can be carried out more effectively."

The research unit is located on the third floor of the University Hospital in the nursing school.

Nursing research plays a large role in improving the quality of Canadian health care, said Willman. Cross-cultural health care, the management of chronic illness and disabilities, aging, and family health care, especially of women and children, are some of the issues which school researchers are addressing.

Related to the establishment of the research unit is the school's new visiting research scholar program. The first of these scholars is Dr. Agnes Aamodt, professor emerita at the University of Arizona, who will spend two weeks at the school. The official opening ceremony of the unit will be followed by Dr. Aamodt's public lecture on culturally sensitive health care.



Willman

Elsbeth Cameron opens MH Chair lecture series

By PAULA MARTIN

Canadian author Elspeth Cameron opened UBC's Maclean Hunter Chair lecture series yesterday, speaking on the writing of Creative Non-fiction and Literary Biography.

Authors Peter C. Newman, Pierre Berton and Susan Crean will deliver the remaining lectures in the series over the next few weeks.

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Crane to stay in UBC system as Strangway rejects proposal

By GAVIN WILSON

Crane Memorial Library will remain part of the university library system, despite a recommendation it be taken over by the provincial government, President David Strangway said.

The recently released report of the review committee for the library recommended the university hand over financial responsibility for the library to the province as a cost-saving measure.

It suggested Crane then be consolidated with other services for the blind and visually impaired as part of a new unified service.

But the president has rejected the proposal, calling the library "a critical service for UBC students."

"I don't think that makes any sense at all to somehow spin it off from the university," Strangway said. "It's too important for UBC. We have recently made some strong commitments to the interests of the disabled."

Strangway helps set science policy

A new science and technology policy recently adopted by Victoria will help lead British Columbia into the 21st century, says UBC President David Strangway.

The policy was drafted by the Premier's Advisory Council for Science and Technology with the help of Strangway, who is a member.

The nine policy statements are intended to guide research, development and application efforts in science and technology from now to the year 2000.

The policy statements are:

Support the use and development of technological innovations that build on existing strengths and capabilities and that have export potential.

Encourage the use of science and technology to improve the quality of life for British Columbians through protecting and improving our natural, man-made and cultural environments, and do so in a way that produces products and services that can be exported.

Recognize the importance of basic research and encourage applied research of an international calibre in areas that contribute significantly to B.C.'s economic development and competitiveness.

Foster entrepreneurial enterprises and encourage partnerships among post-secondary institutions, government, industry and labor that will promote technology transfer and encourage commercialization of the results of basic and applied research.

Support the development of marketing programs that take advantage of B.C.'s unique geographical location and cultural makeup.

Strengthen the science and technology components at all levels of the education system so that scientific and technological literacy is improved, more people are attracted to careers in science and technology and our universities continue to produce graduates and research of the highest calibre.

Encourage government, institutions, industry and labor to communicate the benefits of science and technology to the general public so that the public supports science and technology policies and initiatives.

Make education programs available in science and technology to enable retraining, upgrading and acquisition of new knowledge to ensure an educated and adaptable work force in the trades professions.

Provide a level of direct government financial support for technology-intensive industries that will enable B.C. to be competitive nationally and internationally.

The university will, however, consider asking Victoria for additional funding in recognition of the community services offered by Crane, Strangway said. Crane's portion of the total library operating budget is about \$230,000 annually.

Crane head Paul Thiele called the proposals's rejection "wonderful news." "I'm pleased to hear that. It's cer-

tainly a relief," he said.

Crane provides taped versions of textbooks required by blind or visually impaired students as well as reference material for sighted students in fields such as social work and nursing. It also has a large collection of braille books and some personal computers equipped with voice synthesizers.

Few staff to lose jobs if branches are closed

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Closure of small branch libraries would have little impact on staffing levels, McInnes added.

The report also urges that the library end within the year a policy of circulating journals and compensate for this with an increase in the number of photocopiers.

McInnes said he personally did not want to see users inconvenienced by more circulation restrictions even though a blanket policy keeping journals on the shelf would be simpler for the library.

"I think we should move toward this policy gradually, looking at the problems it may create for certain areas and disciplines," he said.

The library, Canada's second largest, provides services for the general public, the medical, legal and business professions, supports distance education and offers interlibrary loans for B.C.'s other universities and colleges.

But before requesting additional funding from the province, Strangway said, the university must be sure that every step has been taken to make the library efficient and cost-effective.

Among the 25 recommendations being considered are:

Place a ceiling on the proportion of the \$5-million annual acquisition budget spent on serial publications. Currently, serials account for about 60 per cent of the budget, a figure that has been increasing in recent years due to rapidly climbing costs.

Institute a zero-net-growth limit on the number of current journal subscriptions for at least two years.

Establish a new circulation system to replace the current one.

Push ahead with computerization of the catalogue system.

The review, submitted to Strangway in July, has since circulated to deans, vice-presidents, the Senate library committee and senior library staff. Input is now being sought from the wider university community. A copy of the executive summary will appear in the next edition of UBC Reports.

"We're asking library users to give thoughtful consideration to the recommendations and then offer insights that we can incorporate as we develop a final administrative position," Strangway said.

Students disappointed with decision to raise fees

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UBC faces a budget shortfall of several million dollars this fiscal year and is already implementing cuts of one per cent, about \$2-million. While tuition fees represent only a small part of the university's budget—about 15 per cent—Strangway and Brown said UBC must make ends meet.

Students who waited outside the closed meeting to hear the vote outcome said they were disappointed and angry. Tim Bird, president of UBC's Alma Mater Society and one of the students who made a last-minute appeal to the board, said UBC will lose good students as a result of the decision.

"It's bad news for students who are on maximum student loans already," Bird said. "A number of students won't be going to UBC next year because they simply can't afford it."

Vanessa Geary, one of the organizers of the student protests, described the decision as "absolutely outrageous." "The board is clearly not listening to the students of this campus," she said.

Barry Jones, NDP MLA for Burnaby North and Education critic, addressed students at the rally as did Gordon Wilson, leader of B.C.'s Liberal Party, and Sandra Bruneau, program coordinator in UBC's Faculty of Education.

UBC's Board of Governors vote comes on the heels of a decision by Simon Fraser University to scale down tuition increases to six per cent and to cut enrolment by 10 per cent. Strangway said UBC has no plans to cut enrolment adding that the

university was "committed to accessibility."

UBC plans to increase graduate student enrolment by 2,000 places and is working with B.C. colleges to create new degree-granting institutions in the province, he said.

Newman, Berton to give lectures

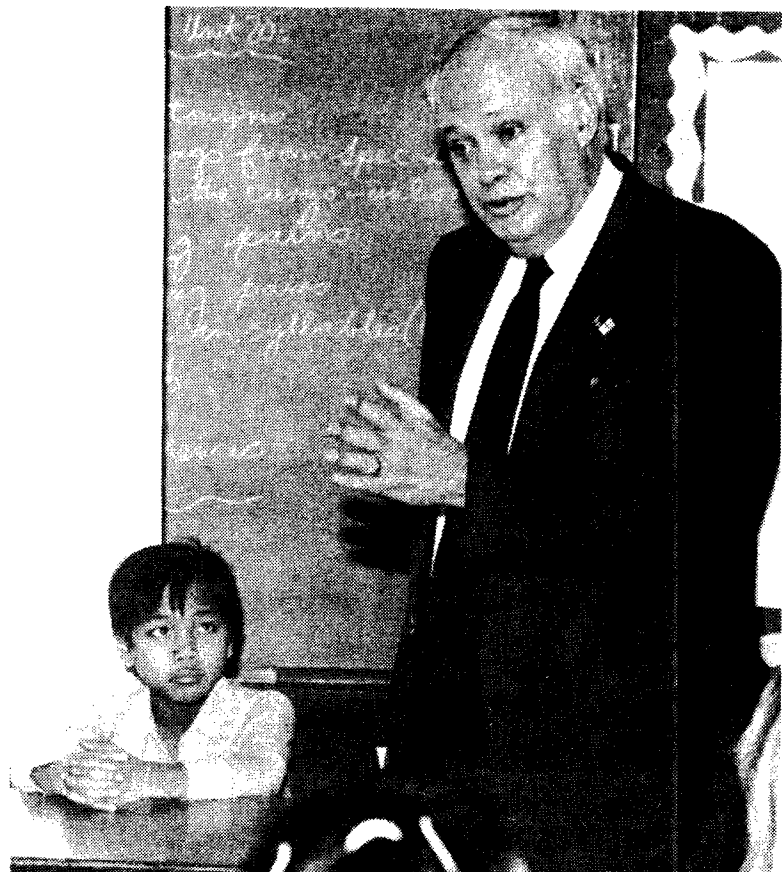
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"These writers are the major practitioners of Creative Non-fiction in Canada," said George McWhirter, head of UBC's Creative Writing department.

UBC's new Maclean Hunter Chair of Non-fiction and Writing on Business will be held by Susan Crean during February and March, 1989.

"This chair acknowledges the importance of this form of writing and the pioneering work of Robert Harlow, who introduced it to the Department of Creative Writing in 1973," said McWhirter, who added the department will introduce its new diploma in Creative Non-fiction in 1989-90.

The remaining lectures at UBC are:
Feb. 24 -- Peter C. Newman, Creative Non-fiction and Writing on Business and Politics, 12:30 p.m., Frederic Wood Theatre
Mar. 17 -- Pierre Berton, Creative Non-fiction and the Writing of Popular History, 12:30 p.m., Frederic Wood Theatre
Mar. 29 -- Susan Crean, Creative Non-fiction and Writing on Canadian Culture, 12:30 p.m., Room A100, Buchanan Building.



UBC President David Strangway talks about science to Burnaby students during the kickoff of the new Scientists in the Schools program.

'Real scientist' helps launch new program for B.C.'s schools

By GAVIN WILSON

On TV, scientists wear white lab coats, not suits, said 12-year-old Julie Brown, a Grade 7 student at Stride Avenue elementary school in Burnaby.

Added classmate Dave Raposo, 13: "I always thought that a scientist was someone who used big words all the time."

The students had just met a real scientist, geophysicist and UBC President David Strangway, for the first time as their school played host to the official launch of a new provincial government program called Scientists in the Schools.

"Our goal is to provide every student in B.C. with the opportunity to meet a scientist face-to-face at least once during their time in school," said Stan Hagen, Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training, and Minister Responsible for Science and Technology. "We hope to leave the impression that there are excellent careers in science."

Strangway told the students how he led experiments on the first lunar rock samples brought back to earth and taught geology to astronauts. He showed slides of planets and answered questions about temperatures on Venus and the atmosphere of Mars.

Increased power cause for CITR celebration

By JO MOSS

Ground Hog Day, Feb. 2, was more than a celebration of the end of winter, it was also the day UBC's student radio station CITR officially broadcast at high power on 1800 watts.

Station staff released balloons in front of a 25-foot inflatable ground hog to mark the occasion.

The station has been trying for several years to increase its broadcasting power from 49 watts, a signal so weak that tuning in was more by accident than design. Commercial radio stations broadcast at 50,000 watts.

With approval from the federal regulator last September, the station invested \$100,000 in new equipment and will now

Joining him on the first day of the program were Tony Arrott of SFU, Reg Mitchell of UVic and Sharon Proctor of the Vancouver Public Aquarium.

In the coming months, dozens of scientists and engineers, from universities, research institutes and private industry will be volunteering their time to visit elementary and high school students through B.C. to help boost awareness of science and technology.

"It isn't too soon to be considering what our province is going to be like in the 21st century. It's only 4,000 days away," Hagen told an assembly of students, teachers, parents and dignitaries at the school.

If current trends continue, he said, the high tech industry will be B.C.'s third largest employer by 1995, when some of today's elementary students will be graduating from high school.

Posters and brochures for the program prominently feature a photograph of UBC microbiology professor Julia Levy, and other UBC researchers and projects are also mentioned.

The message was not lost on Lisa Bourdages, 11, who said: "If more scientists come to the schools then more people will get the idea to become scientists."

