



Two professors win Steacies

By GAVIN WILSON

UBC professors have won two of Canada's most prestigious awards for young researchers in science and engineering, the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships for 1991.

The UBC winners are Indira Samarasekera, a professor in the Department of Metals and Materials Engineering, and Leslie Smith, a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences. It is the second year in a row that UBC professors have won two of the four annual Steacie awards.

The announcement was made Jan. 15 in Ottawa by Peter Morand, president of the Natural Sciences and Engi-

neering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

UBC researchers have won 10 Steacies since the awards' inception in 1964, more than any other university in Canada except the University of Toronto, which has 13.

The award of salary, plus benefits, gives winners the opportunity to focus on research full time, free from undergraduate teaching and administrative duties, for up to two years. A Steacie also helps fellows secure additional research funding.

Samarasekera was named for her research into the processes used to manufacture steel. Her findings have immediate application in the steel in-

dustry, where she helps to solve complex problems in the processes of continuous casting, the hot rolling of steel and gallium arsenide crystal growth. Her services are in demand by companies in Canada, the United States and around the world.

Holding a joint appointment with the Centre for Metallurgical Process Engineering, Samarasekera has been at UBC since completing a PhD here in 1980. Her thesis supervisor at the time was Keith Brimacombe, director, Centre for Metallurgical Process Engineering, who continues to be an important research collaborator.

"I've benefited enormously from the opportunities I've had to collaborate with some outstanding people," said Samarasekera, who also won a Killam prize in 1987.

"The steel industry is a very supportive one to work with. They are frequently willing to try out your ideas in plant, so I've been able to have quite an impact. It's been very exciting for me."

Smith has achieved international acclaim for his contributions to the science of hydrogeology, in which he has pioneered studies in the transport of chemicals and energy through complex geologic media and contributed to scientific understanding of the role of groundwater in geodynamic processes.

His research is relevant to environmental problems involving the movement of contaminants in groundwater

systems. It also has applications in the site selection of facilities for the geologic disposal of radioactive waste produced by nuclear power plants.

"I've been fortunate to work in a research field that has expanded dramatically in the past decade due to heightened awareness of the need to better quantify the role of sub-surface fluids in geologic processes and because of its societal relevance in dealing with one of the major problems involving environmental contaminants," said Smith.

Also a UBC PhD graduate, Smith has taught at the university since 1981. He won a Killam prize last November.

Other winners of 1991 Steacies are physical cosmologist Nicholas Kaiser of the University of Toronto and mathematician Maruti Ram Murty of McGill University.

Past Steacie winners from UBC are chemist Michael Fryzuk and physicist Tom Tiedje, 1990, chemist Grenfell Patey, 1988, physicist William Unruh, 1985, Keith Brimacombe, 1981, psychologist Anthony Phillips, 1980, geneticist David Suzuki, 1969, and chemist Neil Bartlett, 1964. Another Steacie recipient, UBC ophthalmologist Max



Engineering Professor Indira Samarasekera

Cynador, won while at Dalhousie in 1980.

Winners are chosen from a list, submitted by universities from across Canada, of academics who have begun to establish a national and international reputation for original work in their respective fields. Final selection is made by NSERC in consultation with the Canadian and international research community.

A federal agency, NSERC is one of Canada's largest research granting bodies, this year providing more than \$423 million to support advanced research, train new scientists and engineers and encourage collaboration between universities and industry.



Geological Sciences Professor Leslie Smith

Protein engineering advanced

New Centres of Excellence network launched at UBC

By CONNIE FILLETTI

Canada's capabilities in the newly emerging field of protein engineering are expected to expand and become more competitive worldwide with the official launching of a Centres of Excellence network headquartered at

UBC.

Network researchers will investigate the human body's complex immune system — information which is critical in the fight against cancer and infectious diseases, as well as in the design and development of new drugs to enhance the immune system's ability to combat these diseases.

Other research projects included in the network, called Protein Engineering: 3D Structure, Function and Design, include improvements to new enzymes that can efficiently convert agricultural and forest waste into high-grade chemicals, with a direct impact on Canadian industry and our health system.

Heralded as biotechnology's new wave, protein engineering uses a variety of techniques to understand how proteins function. They are then improved by making systematic changes to their building block structure.

"Protein engineering is important because it allows us to understand how the proteins in nature function," explained network head Michael Smith,

director of UBC's Biotechnology Laboratory and professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

"This, in turn, allows us to design new treatments for diseases such as viral infections and cancer. It also allows us to modify enzymes to make them more useful as environmentally friendly tools in the food and beverage industry, and in the chemical industry."

Smith also said that proteins are essential to all living things because as enzymes, they catalyze the breakdown of food and other nutrients, as well as the synthesis of essential components. He added that proteins are also important as signalling factors, such as hormones, or as structural elements, such as muscle or cartilage.

With the assistance of industry partnership, the researchers will undertake to develop products and processes that can be exploited by the developing Canadian biotechnology industry.

In addition to a program of fundamental studies on protein design, the

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Disciplinary action taken against Place Vanier students

By GAVIN WILSON

UBC President David Strangway has taken disciplinary action against 20 male students involved in the Place Vanier invitations incident.

The discipline ranges from reprimands to suspensions of up to 16 months for the students, who were accused of sending obscene and threatening notes on Oct. 10 to about 300 women living in the campus residence.

One student is suspended for 16 months, two others are suspended for eight months and 15 more are suspended for four months. All suspensions take effect May 1, 1991. Names of the students will not be released by the university.

Strangway acted after receiving recommendations made by an advisory committee on student discipline and meeting individually with each of the students.

One student has yet to meet with the president.

"We want to send a clear message that this type of behavior will not be tolerated at the University of British Columbia," Strangway said. "But at the same time, we wanted to give these young men every opportunity to explain their actions."

The disciplined students can appeal their penalties to UBC's Senate Committee on Appeals and Academic Standing.

The university will put a notation of the disciplinary action on the academic transcripts of the suspended students. The students can apply to have the notation removed, generally in the year in which they expect to graduate.

Three other students, found to have minimal involvement in the incident, will receive letters of reprimand. Another student, cleared of wrongdoing, was not disciplined.

All of the disciplined students will be required to complete community service work with agencies that deal with women and then write a report.

Inside

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UBC physicists 'hear' Big Bang

By GAVIN WILSON

A team of UBC physicists has discovered compelling proof for the Big Bang theory of the creation of the universe after analyzing data gathered by a rocket-launched space probe.

The measurements are the most accurate ever made of what is known as cosmic background radiation, the faint after-glow of the primeval explosion that created the universe about 20 billion years ago. The UBC experiment established the effective temperature of this radiation with very high precision, surpassing even a costly NASA probe.

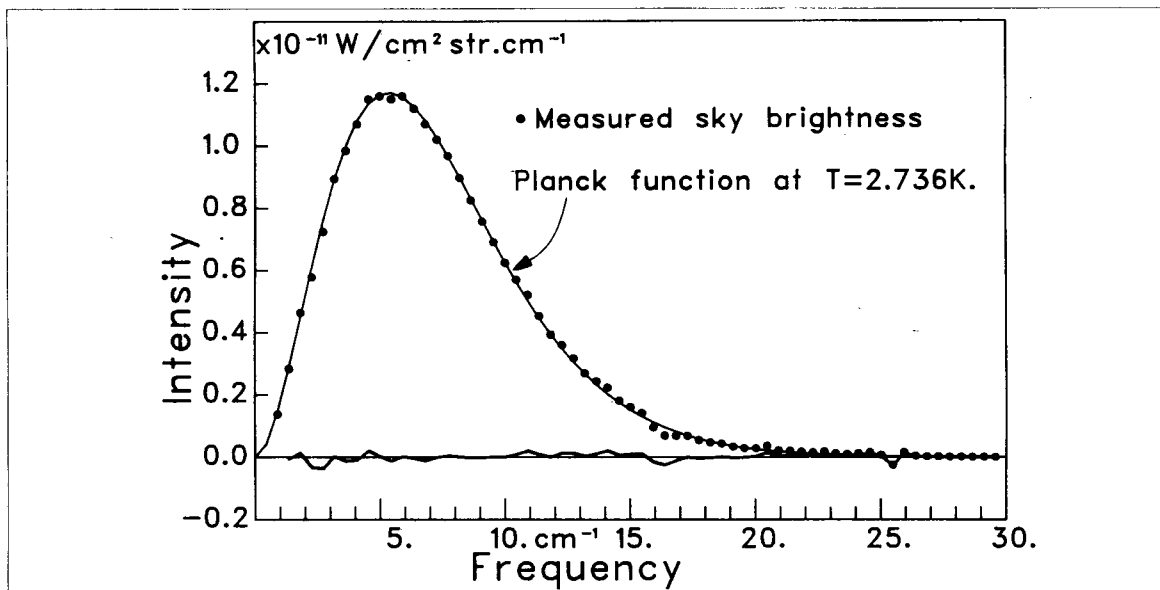
"This is a big step forward in the precision of our understanding of the early universe," said Mark Halpern, a professor of physics.

"If you have any new theory about the early days of the universe, it will now have to match our results," he said. "We've made life very difficult for any non-Big Bang theory."

The Big Bang theory holds that the universe began with a sudden expansion from a very hot and dense starting point. As the universe expanded, it cooled, allowing the formation of nuclei, atoms, and eventually, galaxies, stars and planets.

The ancient traces of radiation from the Big Bang were discovered in 1965. But the radiation is very difficult to study because it is so faint and easily absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere.

Measuring the properties of this light is one of the most important ex-



A "snap shot" of the Big Bang. The graph shows a consistent pattern of radiation across a frequency range, as measured by an instrument designed by members of the UBC Physics Department.

periments in cosmology, the science of the origins of the universe. Like a fossil, it could reveal the processes that shaped the Big Bang.

The UBC experiment was the culmination of a program initiated by Physics Professor Herbert Gush in 1970. It was developed in the past eight years in collaboration with Halpern and graduate student Ed Wishnow.

The instrument used to measure the light consists of a telescope and a Fourier Transform spectrometer, both cooled to two degrees above absolute zero with liquid helium. The detectors are the most sensitive ever used for

this purpose. The entire instrument was designed, built and tested in UBC's Physics Department.

It was launched atop a two-stage Black Brant rocket from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on the night of Jan. 20, 1990.

The rocket reached an altitude of 250 kilometres before returning to earth. Measurements were taken for just five and a half minutes while the payload was above the atmosphere.

Halpern said the UBC results are as accurate as those taken last year by the multi-million-dollar U.S. Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE), a

NASA satellite.

The two experiments established that the spectrum of the cosmic background radiation is thermal, what physicists call a Planck Spectrum, with a temperature of 2.736 Kelvin. This result is predicted by the simplest

models of the Big Bang put forward by cosmologists.

"The results of the two experiments were completely consistent, more consistent than one can expect," Halpern said. "COBE produced similar results to us, but they were not as precise. Their margin of error was greater."

One of the puzzles revealed in the data is that there is no evidence of any other violent event of cosmic proportions since the Big Bang.

"It is hard to imagine how the creation of huge objects, such as large clusters of galaxies, could have occurred without violence. If there was, it didn't leave any evidence," Halpern said.

This finding sets limits for future theories about how large-scale structures, such as galaxy clusters, were formed, he added. Any theory will have to explain how they were formed with only a certain amount of energy being released.

Next, the UBC researchers plan to send their spectrometer aloft in a high-altitude balloon in a related effort to measure how uniform the cosmic background radiation is in different directions.



Photo by Media Services

Graduate student Ed Wishnow, Professor Mark Halpern and Professor Herbert Gush with space experiment instrument.

Network marks new era in genetic engineering



Photo by Media Services

Michael Smith heads UBC's Protein Engineering Network which will explore new treatments for cancer.

Continued from Page 1

network will offer its facilities for protein structure determination to scientists from other universities, research institutes and industries.

Also, more than 25 per cent of the ongoing budget will be designated for the training of graduate students and post doctoral fellows at UBC.

Network Manager Brian Rigby lauded the network as representative of a new era in genetic engineering.

"It will be taking the concepts of genetic engineering and moving them into the next generation," he said.

Pat Carney, a member of Canada's Senate and adjunct professor in UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning, said the network proposes a research program that will help guarantee Canada's competitiveness in the crucial area of science, technology and industry.

Her remarks were made on behalf of Science Minister William Winegard during the official launch of the network at UBC on Jan. 17.

Bernard Bressler, associate vice president of research, added that UBC is proud of its participation in the Pro-

tein Engineering Network.

"The opportunity to link the efforts of our researchers with those in other universities and the industrial sector is a unique feature of this program which should contribute significantly to the advancement of scientific knowledge," he said.

The network is supported by \$20 million in federal funds and comprises a team of 21 researchers in five locations across Canada. It is part of the \$240 million Centres of Excellence Program for scientific research, launched by Ottawa in 1988.

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Calf takes first steps for cattle industries

By GAVIN WILSON

The ancient Greeks were so amazed by the rebirth of the natural world each spring, they attributed it to the work of a goddess.

Imagine what they would make of her namesake, Persephone, a calf born last month at the dairy unit of UBC's Department of Animal Science. Her birth mother is not her genetic mother and her father is an anonymous donor to artificial insemination.

Persephone is the first test-tube calf born in the unit, where experiments are being conducted that could have significant impact on B.C.'s \$369-million cattle and dairy industries.

Animal Science Professor Rajadurai Rajamahendran and his colleagues are seeking improved and less expensive methods of embryo transfer, a technology that has seen widespread, but limited, use in Canadian agriculture in the past decade.

Rajamahendran's research could have applications in other areas as well.

"Although our particular application is with cattle, the results could help to optimize human in vitro fertilization," he said.

The research could also have applications in the breeding of transgenic animals. These are animals which have genes for various attributes, such as growth and milk production, implanted into them when they are still single-cell embryos. In vitro fertilization could produce embryos for increased production of transgenic animals.

Research partners involved in Rajamahendran's work include the Biotechnology Lab, the Andrology Lab at University Hospital, UBC site, and the Human In Vitro Fertilization program.

But the focus of his research, funded for \$125,000 by the Science Council of B.C., is the agriculture industry, where improved technology could result in increased milk and meat production.

B.C. dairy farmers are also in an excellent position to take advantage of advances in embryo transfer because of the superior genetic stock of their Holstein cattle, he said.

Rajamahendran sees great potential in the export industry, particularly to African and Asian countries that are looking for improved genetic stock. Canadian cattle have a worldwide reputation for excellence but exports of full-grown cattle are difficult and expensive. Shipping a microscopically small frozen embryo, however, is a far easier matter.

Embryo transfer begins with a genetically superior cow which is given hormone injections to stimulate the release of as many as 20 eggs into the reproductive tract, instead of just one.

After being fertilized by artificial insemination, the embryos are flushed out of the cow's uterus and inserted singly into surrogate mothers. One cow can be the genetic mother to dozens of cattle each year.

"There's lots of variation using current techniques. You might get 20

embryos from one cow, but none from another," he said. "We don't know the exact dose that should be used or how early it should be given."

The UBC team is experimenting with the hormone treatment that produces superovulation, administering it at different times during the cow's estrous cycle and in varying doses to see which is most effective in producing the greatest number of eggs. Ultrasound is used to observe stages of the cycle and monitor development day by day.

Another source of large numbers of calves, whether for export, research or production of transgenic animals, is slaughterhouse ovaries.

A problem in the current in vitro fertilization technology is that delicate surgery is required to place fertilized eggs in the oviducts of surrogate mothers.

If the embryo could be allowed to develop to a later stage, it could be implanted directly into the uterus.

Using eggs harvested from a slaughterhouse, Rajamahendran is using an incubator to try to mimic the conditions of the oviduct where eggs develop in the first few days after release from the follicles. The eggs are fertilized by artificial insemination and returned to the incubator, where their development is studied further.

The researchers are also working on a process to separate male and female embryos, important because female embryos are much more valuable to farmers.



Photo by Media Services
Graduate student Michele Calder takes a licking from Persephone.

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Across the Nation

Federal government reviews financial needs of post-secondary students

The federal government has called for a review of the methods used to assess the financial needs of post-secondary students under the current loans program.

Economist Gail Cook-Bennett, formerly with the C.D. Howe Institute, has been appointed to conduct the study.

Student financial needs are currently assessed by provincial governments according to criteria agreed to nationally. The same structure has been in place since 1984.

Cook-Bennett will consult provincial government officials, student leaders, financial aid administrators and bankers across the country during her review of the program. Her report is expected early this year.

Quality of university education studied

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has established a Commission of Inquiry on the quality of education in Canadian universities.

Among the issues the commission will be addressing are tuition fees and accessibility.

Other areas of focus include the development and use of performance indicators for faculty and librarians, and what barriers exist to improving the quality of education within Canadian universities.

The AUCC commission is chaired by Stuart Smith, former chair of the Science Council of Canada.

Post-secondary education needs federal standards: Dye

A report by Auditor General Ken Dye charges that Ottawa is not doing enough to develop federal standards for post-secondary education.

He said that the Department of the Secretary of State has not yet been able to implement a framework to promote and encourage the clear definition of national objectives in support of a post-secondary system based on excellence and equality of opportunity.

Dye added that even though post-secondary education in Canada falls under provincial jurisdiction, the Secretary of State must establish a mechanism for overall coordination of federal programs and policies.

He further stated that considering the challenges facing post-secondary education, there was a clear need for the joint establishment of educational and economic goals in order to enable Canada to adequately develop its human resources for the future.

Human sciences take back seat to applied sciences

The president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council says that research in the social sciences and humanities is treated with less importance than research conducted in the natural sciences and engineering.

Paule Leduc made her remarks in a recent address to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

She said that universities were responsible for a growing imbalance between the place accorded to human sciences and that reserved for the applied sciences in the university setting.

However, Leduc added that universities alone were not responsible for the marginalisation of the social sciences and humanities.

She said that researchers in these disciplines must also assume a major portion of the blame for the current lack of energy devoted to developing a dynamic research infrastructure in the human sciences, and drawing positive attention to the results of their research.

Family support clinic opens on campus

By CHARLES KER

Support for families on campus has been bolstered by the addition of a graduate training program in UBC's School of Social Work.

In conjunction with Student Family Services, a church-sponsored counselling agency, the school has opened a family support clinic to serve the needs of more than 530 student families living on campus. The six-room clinic is located in the north wing of the Social Work Annex on Cecil Green Park Road.

"It's an exciting way for the university to make a contribution because it provides training and research opportunities for students as well as meeting a community need," said Social Work Professor Kathryn McCannell.

Graduate work at the clinic focuses on play therapy, family therapy, and a therapy group for survivors of sexual abuse.

In the past, students and graduates of the Social Work program have received training in close to 150 social work agencies throughout Vancouver. However, people living in the University Endowment Lands don't have the same access to these municipal agencies as Vancouver residents and must often join waiting lists of up to three months.

Since her appointment two years ago as agency director, Brenda Stevens' caseload has grown from 17



Brenda Stevens watches over toddler in family support clinic's play therapy room in Social Work annex.

to 125 clients. Clients consist of single parent and low-income families, as well as many international families.

Stevens said that in addition to the heightened stress of being a student,

these families experience a variety of social problems such as loneliness, family break down, alcohol and drug abuse, and physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Services available at the clinic in-

clude child and family counselling, couples counselling, crisis intervention and a family drop-in for preschoolers and parents.

To foster a better sense of community on campus, the clinic works closely

with the Acadia Park Tenants' Association, the Family Practice Department and local schools.

"We're trying to provide a wide range of services to strengthen family life," said Stevens. "The aim is to network with other service providers to make the agency a community effort."

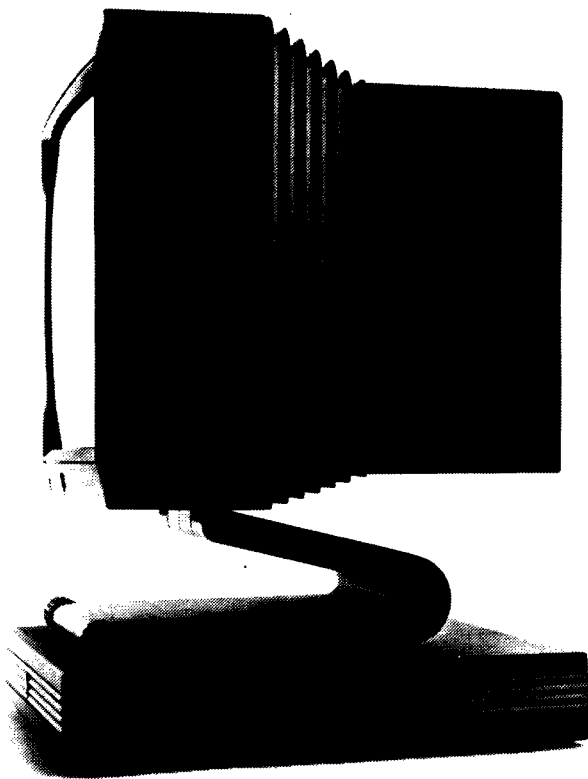
Before linking with the school in August, Student Family Services operated for two years from a small office in the Acadia Park high-rise off Melfa Road. The service was initiated by an Anglican minister who saw a gap in family service for children and spouses of university students. The Acadia Park office remains open with the space, furniture and telephone costs being picked up by UBC Housing and Conference Services.

Stevens now divides her time between Acadia Park and the annex wing. Joining Stevens in the clinic are two faculty members who supervise the clinical work of five graduate student volunteers.

Student Family Services is funded by the Anglican Church of Canada and has received donations from the Vancouver Foundation and the Rotary Club. Open Monday to Friday, service is free to residents of UBC Family Housing and children attending schools on the UEL lands. Other residents of the UEL pay according to their income.

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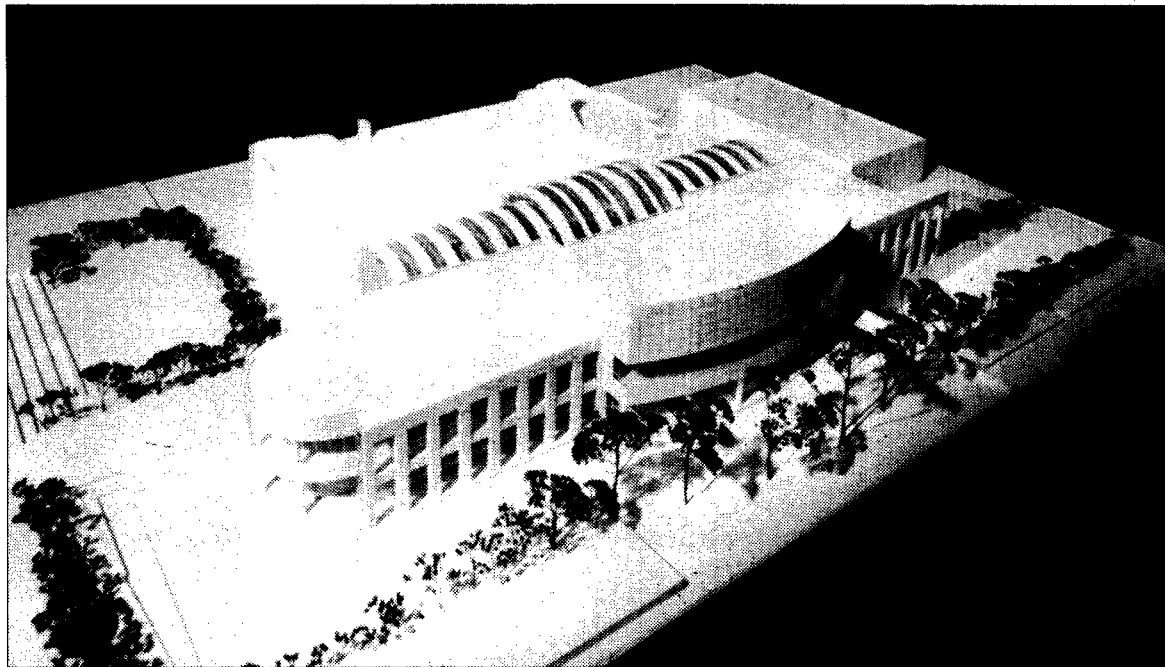
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All student services will be consolidated in the new, enlarged Brock Hall. Shown here is the architect's model.

Work begins on Brock Hall addition

A \$9.32 million contract has been awarded for construction of a 5,500 square metre addition to Brock Hall.

UBC President David Strangway announced that contractor James A. Rice Limited will oversee the addition, which will consolidate all student services under one roof and offer im-

proved communication among departments.

Along with the Registrar's Office, Student Housing, Financial Services, Awards and Financial Aid, the building will be the new home of the Disability Resource Centre and will also house the Rick Hansen National Fellow program.

B.C. Lotteries provided \$2 million toward the cost of this project.

The public areas of the building were analyzed and designed to respect the needs of the hearing, visual and physically impaired. Construction is scheduled to begin this month and is slated for completion in the summer of 1992.

Arts administrators face tough challenges

By ABE HEFTER

Arts organizations in Canada are going to find it exceedingly difficult to survive unless they do a better job marketing themselves.

"In countries like France, Britain and Germany, marketing is not a dirty word," says Professor Robert Kelly, director of UBC's Arts Administration Program. "These are countries with distinguished arts programs that have come to terms with the need to serve many publics."

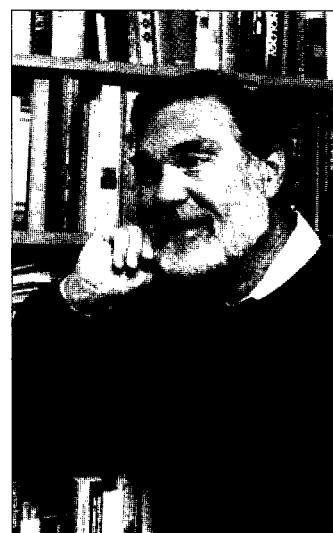
Kelly said arts organizations in Canada are much more reluctant to try to make a case, economically or otherwise, in terms of the value of their services.

"Arts organizations in this country must begin to address the economic

as well as artistic problems facing them," he said.

To help administrators address the unique problems they face in performing arts and visual arts organizations, UBC offers the Arts Administration Option, a special option within the MBA program of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. The program, currently in its third year, is a joint initiative with the Faculty of Arts.

Kelly said those who manage arts organizations are traditionally promoted from within the



Kelly

ranks of creative, technical or professional individuals.

"Unlike senior managers in private-sector organizations, they have neither the technical training nor the administrative experience to fulfill their new responsibilities," said Kelly. "Yet the problems facing arts managers are vast. They must operate complex organizations with less-than adequate resources, answer to boards composed of individuals whose areas of expertise usually lie outside the arts while, at the same time, fostering creativity and artistic standards."

"Clearly, arts administrators are among the most challenged and least prepared of all administrators in Canada."

Kelly said applicants to the program must have, in all but the most unusual cases, professional experience in an arts organization. Anywhere from five to eight people a year who meet the university's standards are accepted into the program.

"There has been a reluctance on the part of the arts community in Canada to acknowledge the need to take control of its destiny," he said. "This country has been losing orchestras, theatre companies and the like because of a reluctance and inability to take on fiscal responsibility. There's a battle for the entertainment dollar being waged in this country and a battle for the cultural dollar within that framework."

However, Kelly is quick to point out that no amount of business savvy will replace the deep-rooted commitment needed for arts organizations to flourish.

"The Arts Administration Option helps people who are dedicated to the arts compete by giving them the tools that may enable them to realize artistic goals in a businesslike manner."

However, this businesslike approach has left the arts world in somewhat of a dilemma, he said.

"There are questions that the arts world has been struggling to answer," said Kelly. "Can you do anything commercial without destroying the arts? How do you find that middle ground? The arts world needs people who have the technical background to be able to come up with strategies they can sell and sustain by demonstrating a sensitivity to the public. The world does not owe the arts community a living."

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Book by UBC professor wins French prize

The French edition of Fine Arts Professor Serge Guilbaut's book, *How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art*, has been awarded the annual Prix des Libraires d'art de la Ville de Paris, for 1990.

Originally published by the University of Chicago Press in 1983, art historian Guilbaut's acclaimed book was published in French in 1989 by

Editions Jacqueline Chambon of Nimes, France.

How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art, which documents the rise of Abstract Expressionism in post-war New York City, has also been recognized as one of the most important books published since 1945 in a special issue of the Parisian magazine *Actuel*, devoted to the ideal library.



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Photo courtesy of Bellis Fair Mall

American and Canadian cars at Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham: 50% of mall's patrons are from Canada.

Local shoppers go south

By ABE HEFTER

Here's a word of advice for shoppers who travel that extra kilometre to purchase goods in the U.S. in an effort to save money: Try checking out your own backyard first.

It's not unusual for Vancouver-area residents to pile into their cars on the weekend and travel to cities like Bellingham, Wash. to purchase anything from shoes to cheese. But Tim Hazledine, professor of Agricultural Economics and an eagle-eyed comparative shopper in his own right, said when you consider the time and costs involved in making that trip, it may not be worth it.

"There's little doubt that Canadian consumers can save up to 25 per cent by shopping in the U.S. But much of that saving can be wiped out by the costs associated with making that trip," he said.

Hazledine said a study done last year by one of his students compared the prices of 20 items purchased at a Vancouver supermarket to the prices of 20 similar items bought at a Bellingham supermarket. The study found that the goods were 25 per cent cheaper in Bellingham.

"There are several reasons for this," said Hazledine. "One is the value of the Canadian dollar. Another, at least

in the case of dairy products, eggs, beer and wine, is because distribution of these goods is tightly regulated in Canada. As a result, their prices are kept high."

Hazledine said he can sympathize with people who go the U.S. to buy dairy and alcohol products in an effort to save money.

"However, speaking as a Canadian, I generally feel you should consume where you produce. Failure to do so hurts the fabric of the community. All the shops in and around the Vancouver area depend on people using them."

Wendy Ripley, marketing director for Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham, said licence plate counts have revealed that up to 50 per cent of the mall's patrons are from Canada. The Vancouver area is a prime direct-mailing target when it comes to the mall's major marketing events.

"Canadian shoppers are big on shoes, leather goods, linen and clothing," she said. "Although there are no grocery stores at the Bellis Fair Mall, I understand many Canadians like to shop for food in the Bellingham area, especially for cheese, while taking the opportunity to shop at the mall as well."

Hazledine said low-income wage earners stand to benefit the most from savings that can be had by travel-

ling to the U.S. However, they usually can't afford the transportation necessary to capitalize on those savings, he added.

"This is very much a middle-class consumer battle where a source of transportation is crucial to realizing any savings," he said.

However, Hazledine feels this is where comparative shopping can play a major role in reducing food bills.

"Consumers can save real money by shopping for no-name generic brands, or house brands. Generic products can be of lower quality, but certainly house brands tend to offer a first-rate product that is often indistinguishable from the national brands. It's really a case of perception."

Hazledine pointed to a study done by one of his students which compared the prices of national, regional, house and generic brands at a Vancouver supermarket.

"Ketchup, I believe, is a fairly standardized product," said Hazledine. "Yet in this study, the national brand of ketchup was 72 per cent more expensive than the generic brand in this particular supermarket. Price differences like this are enormous. Inside the stores themselves — that's where the biggest price variations exist."

Students form alternate Canada conference

By CHARLES KER

It's not yet known when the Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future will convene in Vancouver. However, a UBC student forum of the same name has planned a Canada conference of its own next month.

Alternative Visions: Canada in the 1990s, a conference sponsored by The Other Citizens' Forum, opens Feb. 15 with a panel discussion at the Frederic Wood Theatre. Scheduled for 7 p.m., panelists include Maude Barlow, chair of the Council of Canadians, playwright John Gray, Tom Berger, former judge, lawyer and author, and Jenny Jack, UBC law student and native rights advocate.

"We came up with our name before the federal government did," said student Mark Cameron, who helped create The Other Citizens' Forum in early October.

The federally appointed Citizens' Forum, announced in late October, is to report back to Parliament by July 1 with recommendations from its cross-country talks with Canadians.

Cameron and Steve Chase, both fourth-year Political Science students,

and Political Science Professor Philip Resnick, appealed to students in an open letter published in the *Ubysses*, Oct. 2.

The letter called upon the university community to speak out and express their national concerns after the failure of Meech Lake.

"We had problems with the way Meech Lake was carried out behind closed doors at the last minute," said Cameron. "The idea behind our forum is to have a democratic process that is not being dictated by elected politicians, but by the people."

On Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., discussion workshops and a plenary session will be held in the Student Union Building. Topics will include regionalism and Senate reform, bilingualism and minority language rights, aboriginal issues, free trade and Canadian culture in the 1990s.

Parts of the conference will also be filmed by the National Film Board of Canada and used in a feature-length documentary about Canada's future.

Registration is \$20 for working adults and \$10 for students, seniors and the unemployed.

UBC phone numbers to change on March 4

Effective March 4, 1991, UBC is adopting a new prefix for most of its on campus telephone numbers. It will be "822" (or "UBC" if you use the letters on your telephone's dialer.)

If your current number is in one of the following blocks:

222 - 8600 to 8699

- 8900 to 8999

224 - 8100 to 8599

228 - 2000 to 7999

your new number for off campus callers will be 822-xxxx (or UBC-xxxx) or for on campus callers 2-xxxx.

If your current number is not in one of the above blocks, your telephone number will remain as it is.

If you currently use a PBX local, your four digit local number will be from one of the following blocks:

0000 to 1099

1200 to 1999

8700 to 8899

and it will be reached from on campus by dialing 3-xxxx.

Study draws links between family mental illness history and post-birth depression

By CONNIE FILLETTI

Women with a history of family mental illness may be at increased risk for depression following childbirth.

A study by UBC psychiatrist Dr. Shaila Misri concludes that women, with at least one blood relative with a history of psychiatric illness, are more likely to become depressed after giving birth.

Postpartum depression may appear as early as two weeks and as late as nine months after giving birth. Symptoms include tearfulness, fatigue, insomnia, feelings of inadequacy and hopelessness, irritability and the inability to cope with infant care. In extreme cases, women may also become delusional and suicidal.

Between 10 to 12 per cent of Canadian women

suffer from postpartum depression, but only one to two per cent seek psychiatric help, Dr. Misri said.

She added that the baby is also affected cognitively and emotionally by the mother's depression and the longer the woman goes untreated, the more significant the effects on the child.

"It is possible that these babies may develop ongoing problems such as learning disabilities and depression," Dr. Misri said.

Women aged 25 to 40 with no prior history of depression related to childbirth participated in the study.

Of the 250 participants interviewed by Dr. Misri and a colleague, 50 women were randomly chosen for appraisal.

In total, 54 per cent of the women selected

had family histories of psychiatric disorder. Of these, 34 per cent had reported depression in first- or second-degree blood relatives such as a parent, grandparent, cousin, aunt or uncle.

The study also indicated that almost 50 per cent of the patients had experienced a previous episode of psychiatric illness. Of this group, 30 per cent specifically suffered from a depressive illness.

Other reasons for postpartum depression include chronic marital problems, lack of support from family and friends and unresolved conflicts from childhood.

Dr. Misri explained that women suffering from postpartum depression, no matter what the cause, are treated with supportive psychotherapy, group

therapy and antidepressants.

"What we do hope for the future, however, is that women at high risk for postpartum depression will be identified and treated earlier," she said.

Dr. Misri advised women to talk to their family practitioners about their emotional well-being when a child is born.

"Motherhood is traditionally seen as a time of joy and fulfillment for a woman," she said. "Women become afraid when they feel the contrary and there is danger in that. Although postpartum depression is a serious illness, it is a treatable one. Our main concern is that women recognize their right to talk about it to ensure they receive proper referral and treatment."