

UBC REPORTS

Volume 39, Number 1

January 14, 1993



Gavin Wilson photo

All covered in snow

Students on snow-covered Main Mall pass by the Ladner Clock Tower on their way to class. The blanket of snow may look pretty, but the recent cold snap is costing the university an additional \$30,000 a day for heat.

UBC Reports issues in 1993 with a new look and new features

In this first issue of the new year, we are introducing a brand new look for UBC Reports.

The redesign of our twice-monthly tabloid, developed over the past few months, is intended to make the publication more readable, more attractive and, most importantly, more informative for the UBC community.

The new-look UBC Reports was developed with the help of Rob Dykstra, of Singletree Publishing, and incorporates a number of changes including: a brighter, more modern banner in university blue and black; a more reader-friendly Bookman body type and Avant Garde headlines; front-page column rules and new column headings.

Also in this issue, we are launching a new feature called Offbeat. This will be a regular column dedicated to the many interesting, unusual and sometimes humorous happenings on our campus.

In a future issue, we'll introduce News Digest, a column of brief news items from around the campus.

You'll also note that our regular Profile

column now has its own page highlighting the people of UBC and the important contributions they make to life at the university and beyond.

Twenty-two times a year, 38,000 copies of UBC Reports are distributed to the campus, the neighboring community beyond the university gates, UBC's teaching hospitals, high schools

and other institutions. Our goal is not only to inform you about policy, teaching and research activities at the university, but also to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions. With this in mind, we invite and encourage letters to the editor and contributions to Forum, a column to which members of the UBC community can submit opinion pieces on current, topical issues.

While it is difficult to cover every aspect of such a large institution in a twice-monthly newspaper, we hope that our moves to improve and update UBC Reports will make it an even more effective publication. We welcome your comments.

UBC REPORTS

Spinal cord research yields clue to healing

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

UBC researchers have discovered one of the reasons why spinal cord injuries do not heal — a discovery that could have major implications for spinal cord repair.

The researchers have found that myelin, a natural substance in the spinal cord of all vertebrates, including humans, inhibits regeneration of neural injury.

The researchers have also been able to suppress myelin production in embryonic chicks, allowing regeneration of spinal cord injuries, and opening the door for similar experiments with adult chickens, now underway.

"I think this is one essential step towards the possibility of regeneration, although it may not be sufficient by itself," said John Steeves, a professor in the departments of Zoology and Anatomy, who conducted the research with senior PhD student Hans Keirstead.

"Neural development is a complex process. Our work has helped to identify one of the factors that inhibits regeneration," he said.

Steeves had earlier found that spinal cord injuries in embryonic chicks are capable of complete repair when the injury occurs before the last third of embryonic development. Later embryonic injuries result in the same

limited repair found in adult injuries.

What seems to regulate the ability to repair injuries is the appearance of myelin within the spinal cord.

Myelin is a fatty substance that appears relatively late in embryonic development and forms a protective sheath around the nerve fibres in the spinal cord. It performs several important functions, including the prevention of unwanted nerve fibre growth, which could explain why it inhibits the regeneration of nerve fibres after injury.

The UBC researchers have been able to delay the development of myelin in embryonic chicks by injecting an antibody with a serum complement protein into the spinal cord. This has extended the period for repair of injuries to a level that is in development than was otherwise possible.

The researchers are having success in removing myelin from adult animal spinal cords using similar immunological procedures. The results of this work are not yet published.

The research is funded by the Medical Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Network of Centres of Excellence on Neural Regeneration and Recovery, the B.C. Health Research Foundation, the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation and private donors.

Athletic history remembered as Hall of Fame plans unveiled

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

The athletes and administrators who have contributed to UBC's rich 77-year-old athletic history are being gathered together under one roof.

The Department of Athletics and Sports Services has unveiled final plans for the Athletic Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre, which will be home for displays and memorabilia depicting the broad scope of athletics on campus from 1915 to the present.

The Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre is scheduled for completion Dec. 1, 1993 and will be located at the west end of the War Memorial Gymnasium.

At a recent ceremony, the Hall of Fame named its first 23 inductees.

The selection committee, chaired by former UBC athlete Ken Winslade, named 13 athletes, five builders and five teams for induction, after reviewing UBC athletics from 1915-1975.

The induction ceremonies will be held April 16.

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Fame

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The inductees are:

Athletes:

Bobby Gaul, an excellent track competitor and rugby player. Gaul died of rheumatic fever in 1935 at the age of 24. He is remembered today through the Bobby Gaul Award, the most prestigious of UBC's awards available to male athletes;

C.C. "Geh" Terman, one of UBC's rugby greats. In 1924, he received a special trophy for being UBC's greatest athlete produced to date;

Howie McPhee, a Canadian sprint champion and Olympian in 1936. He is remembered through rugby's prestigious Howie McPhee trophy;

Gordon "Cokie" Shields, who, from 1923 to 1930 was a campus, provincial or national star in tennis, track and field, football, rugby, soccer and badminton;

Herb Capozzi, one of the greats of UBC football. He played professionally in Canada.

Sandy Robertson, a record-setting basketball player on some of UBC's finest teams. He also played varsity soccer and cricket;

Doug McIntyre, one of UBC's most versatile athletes. He starred in track, basketball and football;

Ruth Wilson, one of the finest basketball players and golfers that UBC has ever produced. She was also a coach at UBC;

Sandra Hartley, an Olympic gymnast who led UBC to four Western Canadian titles and one Canadian university championship;

Thelma Wright, the only female track athlete in UBC history to represent Canada in two Olympics. She was a medal winner at the Pan American, Commonwealth and World Student Games;

Harry Warren, one of Canada's best sprinters in the 1920s. He was a 1928 Olympian as well as a 1926 Rhodes Scholar. Warren introduced men's field hockey and cricket to UBC and



Abe Heffer photo

UBC Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre inductees Bob Osborne (left) and Harry Warren share a sporting moment.

has been an educator at UBC for more than half a century;

Ron Thorsen, who led UBC to two national basketball championships in 1970 and 1972. He coached the women's basketball team to the 1974 Canadian championship;

Ted Hunt, an outstanding skier and rugby player who played professional football with the B.C. Lions.

Builders:

Maury Van Vliet, UBC's first director of Physical Education from 1935-1945. He was instrumental in establishing the intramural program;

Art Lord, who coached and played on two of UBC's most memorable rugby teams as a student, both before and after the First World War, in which he served;

Bob Hindmarch, who served as director of Athletic and Sport Services for 12 years. A versatile athlete, he also coached the hockey team to a UBC record 214 victories;

Bob Osborne, a former basketball star and coach, who was UBC's Physical Education director for 33 years. He was instrumental in the creation of UBC's Physical Education and Recreation Education degree programs;

R.J. "Bus" Phillips, a director of men's athletics for 27 years. He helped found the Canada West University Athletic Association and the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union.

Teams:

Rugby team of 1970/71 capped a peerless season with Tisdall, McKechnie and World Cup victories;

Women's basketball team of 1929/30 captured the title of world champions at the 1930 Women's Olympiad;

Women's basketball team of 1969/70 was the first and only UBC women's team to be both the number one university team in the country, and the nation's Senior "A" champions;

Men's basketball team of 1969/70 is the only UBC basketball team to win a Canadian championship without losing a single game to Canadian competition;

Four-oared crew of 1955/56-59/60 captured the gold medal in the 1956 Olympics.

The Hall of Fame selection committee, when it meets again later this year, will be considering nominees from UBC athletics through 1988. Nominees not initially selected will remain eligible and considered for induction for a period of five years.



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FACULTY OF SCIENCE
University of British Columbia

Call for nominations

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The University of British Columbia established Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 1989. Awards are made by the Faculty of Science to UBC faculty, lecturers and laboratory instructors who are selected as outstanding teachers.

We are seeking input from UBC Alumni, and current and former students.

Deadline for nominations: February 1, 1993

Nominations should be accompanied by supporting statements and the nominator's name, address and telephone number. Please send nominations to:

Chair, Faculty of Science
Excellence in Teaching Award,
c/o Office of the Dean of Science,
R 1505, 6270 University Boulevard,
University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

FAX (604)-822-5558



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We are in the IRC building
2194 Health Sciences Mall
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UBC REPORTS

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UBC Reports welcomes the submission of letters and opinion pieces. Opinions and advertising published in UBC Reports do not necessarily reflect official university policy.

Material may be reprinted in whole or in part with appropriate credit to UBC Reports.

Equity census profiles university employees

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

UBC employees are getting a second chance to respond to an employment equity census questionnaire.

The questionnaire is designed to establish a profile of the university's workforce, and to determine the representation of women, native people, visible minorities and people with disabilities among workers on campus.

It is part of UBC's ongoing employment equity program, which seeks to ensure a fair and equitable workplace. The first employment equity census was conducted in Feb. 1990, and a census of newly hired employees has been ongoing since that time.

"We are trying to reach those employees who did not respond to the original survey," said Sharon Kahn, director of Employment Equity. "I would strongly encourage them to participate."

She would also like to hear from employees whose status may have changed since the original census was conducted. For example, an able-bodied person may now have a disability, or a person who had a disability may no longer have one.

Kahn believes that some university employees may be reluctant to take part in the census because they have misconceptions about the employment equity program.

She emphasized that employment equity will not decrease standards or harm employment opportunities for those not in designated groups. And it is not the same as pay equity, which seeks to harmonize salaries of male and female workers.

"UBC's policy is absolutely clear: always hire the best person for the job, based on job performance criteria such as knowledge, skill and experience. We just want to be sure that everyone seeking employment is given an equal opportunity," she said.

Kahn also stressed that an employment equity program is not to be confused with reverse discrimination, affirmative action, or quota systems.

"We are not, and have no plans to start setting aside any jobs for designated group members," she said.

Meanwhile, she added, the B.C. government's proposed new employment equity program for the public service should not have any effect on UBC's policies.

The university's employment equity program was formally established in 1989, as part of a federal government initiative. Employers receiving federal contracts are required to develop and maintain fair and equitable employment practices.

Information gathered from the questionnaire is confidential and does not become part of personnel files.



Martin Dee photo

Force to reckon with

Richard Prince, an associate professor in the Department of Fine Arts, works on his sculpture *The Force That Drives*. The piece is on display at the Teck Gallery in the SFU Harbour Centre until February 13.

Car pool popularity rising

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

The number of people sharing a ride to UBC increased in 1992 over 1991, according to the results of a UBC traffic survey.

"We hope to reduce the number of single-occupant cars on campus and this survey would indicate that commuters are headed in the right direction, much to their credit," said John Smithman, director of Parking and Security Services.

The traffic survey, conducted by an independent engineering firm from Nov. 2-6, monitored all inbound and outbound campus roads 24 hours a day.

Results indicated that in 1991, the first year of the traffic survey, 31,584 single-occupant vehicles travelled to UBC. Last year, that number dropped to 31,124.

In addition, the number of vehicles carrying two or more occupants increased across the board in 1992 over 1991. For example, in 1991, 14,244 two-occupant vehicles travelled to UBC during the occupancy survey. Last year, that number increased 20 per cent to 17,038.

Smithman believes a number of initiatives in 1992, part of Parking and Security Services' effort to promote car pooling across campus, have contributed to the rise of multi-occupant vehicles on campus.

"The students on campus have gotten

on board the car-pooling bandwagon," said Smithman.

"Two car pool programs for students, in addition to van pooling for faculty and staff, sponsored by the Jack Bell Foundation, have led to an increase in the number of multi-occupant vehicles on campus. The survey bears that out."

Despite what Smithman calls encouraging results, he's concerned with another aspect of the traffic survey which revealed an increase in daily total of inbound vehicles: from 31,713 in 1991, to 32,379 in 1992.

He believes the key to reducing the number of vehicles on campus lies with staggered work and study schedules.

"B.C. Transit, which has been very responsive to the university's needs, has indicated it could serve the campus more effectively and efficiently if we could avoid the traditional peak morning and afternoon rush hour periods," explained Smithman.

Smithman plans to meet with the registrar to discuss the feasibility of altering study schedules and lab times to reduce the rush-hour crush.

"In addition, staff supervisors and managers should review the need to have all employees start work at the same time each day," he said.

"We need to revise our thinking to allow for more efficient commuting alternatives to replace the automobile."

Offbeat

by staff writers

During U.S. Vice-president-elect Al Gore's inauguration Jan. 20, one UBC professor will be looking on with added interest.

Mathematics Professor Colin Clark has the distinction of being quoted by Gore in his book *Earth in the Balance* and in an article the incoming Democrat wrote for the British newspaper, *The Guardian*.

Gore, who has a strong environmental record as a senator, argues that classic economic theory narrowly focuses on productivity while turning a blind eye the cost to the environment.

Quoting Clark, he says: "Much of apparent economic growth may in fact be an illusion based on a failure to account for reduction in natural capital."

The quote is taken from a plenary address Clark gave two years ago at the first conference of the International Society of Ecological Economics.

Clark has earned an international reputation with his research, which uses applied mathematics to model the exploitation of natural resources by industries such as fisheries, forestry and mining. He also applies mathematics to the study of animal behavior.

What weighs half a ton, is a friend to chemists, and recently wound its way through the Rockies?

Answer: A nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer donated by UBC's Chemistry Dept. to Augustana University College in Camrose, Alberta.

The spectrometer will reside in the lab of Eugene Wickenheiser, a recent UBC doctoral grad who is an assistant professor at Augustana, a private undergraduate school with about 800 students.

While here last summer to conduct research, Wickenheiser discovered the Chemistry Dept. had a spectrometer it no longer needed. He volunteered to give it a home.

The spectrometer, an instrument valued at \$20,000 which identifies the chemical makeup of substances, will be used for research and to give senior students hands-on experience.

Second-year law student Lisa Ling recently returned from Granada, Spain, where she competed in the world karate championships. Her fifth place finish in the sparring class was the best-ever showing by a Canadian female at the championships.

Coached by her father, Ling has her sights set on a medal at the next world championships to be held in Malaysia in 1994.

With so many rankings and surveys of universities out there, we're hesitant to add to their number. But then we came across the number of Rhodes Scholars each Canadian university has produced.

Topping the list is the University of Toronto, with 11 scholarship winners, followed by McGill with 10. Saskatchewan, Queen's and Dalhousie with 8 and UBC and Manitoba with seven.

Only one Rhodes scholarship is awarded each year in B.C. It covers residence, tuition, books and a living allowance for two years of study at Oxford University.

If you're a student between 18 and 23 and want to be added to UBC's honor roll, call the Awards Office for more information.

New guide identifies bike routes

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

Every morning, rain or shine, Art Pope hops on his bike for the 20 to 25 minute ride to UBC from his Kitsilano home.

He wishes you would do the same.

A Computer Science doctoral student, Pope is one of the creators of the *Bicycling Guide for UBC*, designed to encourage people who work or study on campus to commute by bike.

Pope says more and more people are catching on to pedal power, inspired by environmental concerns and the need for exercise.

"There are even a few hardy souls who cycle in from Burnaby every day," he said.

The idea for a guide was hatched at the AMS-sponsored Student Environment Centre, where Pope and education student Krista Bogen were both active. They wanted to promote commuter cycling and educate people on how to do it.

Collaborating with Pope's wife, graphic

designer Susan Steinbrecher, they produced the foldout guide, which was then published by Campus Planning and Development.

Pope and Steinbrecher own a car, but they use it only if they really need to.

"We're concerned about the effect on the environment. It's not so much an economic thing."

Once a self-described "fair weather cyclist," Pope has been making a concerted effort to cycle to campus every day for the past year.

"It's somewhat addicting once you get over the hurdle of getting organized to do it," he said. "It feels good to get the exercise and fresh air and it offers a lot of freedom and flexibility, too."

The guide features a map of the best bike routes to get to campus from west side neighborhoods, and also includes tips on equipment, safety, theft prevention and the rules of the road.

It is available at local bike shops, the office of Campus Planning and Development and the Speakeasy office in the Student Union Building.

Calendar

January 17 through January 30

Seminars

Monday, January 18

BC Cancer Research Centre Seminar

Stereotactic Radiosurgery. Dr. Ervin Podgorsak, director, Medical Physics, McGill U. BC Cancer Research Lecture Theatre at 12 pm. Call 877-6116.

Sustainable Health Care: An Attainable Goal. Dr. Ervin Podgorsak, director Medical Physics, McGill U. John Jambor Education Centre, BC Cancer Agency from 5-6pm. Call 877-6116.

Plant Science Seminar

The Rough And The Refined: Some European Urban Landscapes. Moura Quayle, Landscape Architecture. MacMillan 318D from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-8233.

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Journal Club Seminar

Glycogen Debranching Enzyme: More Than Just A Simple Glucosidase. Dr. Neil Madsen, Biochemistry, U. of Alberta. IRC #4 from 3:45-5pm. Call 822-3402.

Tuesday, January 19

Pharmacology/Therapeutics Seminar

Update On Treatment Of Depression In The Elderly - Focus On Educational Principles And Therapeutic Strategies. Dr. Caroline Gosselin, Psychiatry, Vancouver General Hospital. University Hospital G279 from 12-1pm. Call 822-6980.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar

Transdermal Delivery Systems. Mr. Rajesh Krishna, Pharmaceuticals / Biopharmaceuticals, Pharmaceutical Sciences. IRC #4 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2051.

Centre For Chinese Research Seminar

Manila's Chinese In Regional Context: Is There A Hokkien Quadrangle? Dr. Edgar Wickberg, professor emeritus of History, Asian Centre 604 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-6788.

Thursday, January 21

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar

The Quest For New Medicines From Plants. Dr. Neil Towers, professor emeritus of Botany, Family/Nutritional Sciences 60 from 11:30am-12:30pm. Call 822-2692.

Modern South Asia Seminar

Mapping Indic Fundamentalisms Through Nationalism And Modernity. Dr. Harjot Oberoi, Asian Studies, Asian Centre 604 from 12:30-2:00pm. Call 822-4359.

Friday, January 22

Health Care/Epidemiology Seminar

Cigarette Advertising: Tricks Of The Tobacco Trade. Dr. Richard Pollay, professor, Commerce / Business Administration, James Mather 253 from 9-10am. Call 822-2772.

Anatomy/Neuroscience Seminar

Naturally-Occurring Neuronal Death In The Somatosensory System. Dr. Michael Miller, Psychiatry, U. of Iowa, College of Medicine, Iowa City. Friedman 37 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9071.

Chemical Engineering Weekly Seminar

Ca²⁺ Effects On Biofilms. Jifei Huang, graduate student, Chemical Engineering, ChemEngineering 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

Monday, January 25

BC Cancer Research Centre Seminar

Molecular Mechanisms Of Chromium Genotoxicity. Dr. Elizabeth T. Snow, Nelson Institute of Environmental Medicine, New York/University Medical Centre. BC Cancer Research Lecture Theatre at 12pm. Call 877-6116.

Plant Science Seminar

Biological Control Of Plant Pathogens - New And Old Technologies Combined. Dr. Jim Cook, USDA, Pullman, Wa. MacMillan 318D from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-8233.

Tuesday, January 26

Pharmacology/Therapeutics Seminar

Alcoholism: From Whole Brain To Whole Cell. Dr. Peter Carlen, Playfair Neuroscience Unit, Toronto Western Hospital, University Hospital G279 from 12-1pm. Call 822-6980.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar

The Analysis Of A Stable Isotope Analogue Of Diphenylamine And Its Experimental Use. George Tonn, BSc Pharmacy, MSc graduate student, Pharmaceutical Sciences. IRC #4 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2051.

Statistics Seminar

Modelling Gambling Probabilities. Victor S.Y. Lo, Management Science, Commerce, Angus 426 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3167/2234.

Thursday, January 28

Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar

Pathophysiology And Possible Pharmacological Approaches To Huntington's Disease. Dr. Barry Kremer, Acute Care Unit, Medicine, Family/Nutritional Sciences 60 from 11:30am-12:30pm. Call 822-2692.

Friday, January 29

Chemical Engineering Weekly Seminar

CFB Hydrodynamics. Jiahua Zhou, graduate student, Chemical Engineering, ChemEngineering 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

History Seminar

Feeding The Cities Of The Low Countries At The End Of The Middle Ages. Prof. Raymond van Uytven, U. of Antwerp, Buchanan Tower 910 at 4pm. Call 822-5938.

Lectures

Tuesday, January 19

Centre For Research In Women's Studies Lecture

Sifted Evidence. Patricia Gruben, Family/Nutritional Sciences 50 at 12:30pm. Call 822-9171.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry

TBA. Dr. Chi-Huey Wong, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Ca. Chemistry South Block B250 at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:50pm. Call 822-3266.

Wednesday, January 20

Orthopaedics Grand Rounds

TBA. Chair: Dr. Robert W. McGraw. Eye Care Centre Auditorium at 7am. Service - Orthopaedic Nursing/Therapy. Call 875-4646.

Friday, January 22

Obstetrics/Gynaecology Grand Rounds

Reports Of Recent Medical Visits To: North China. Dr. Tim Ng, University Hospital Shaughnessy Site D308 at 8am. Call 875-3265.

St. Paul's Clinical Day

Neuro-Ophthalmology. Dr. Ronald M. Burde, professor of Ophthalmology/Neurology/Neurosurgery; chairman of

Colloquia

Wednesday, January 20

Geography Colloquium

The Management Of Mega-Urban Regions: Lessons From Asia. Aprodicio Lacquian, director, Centre For Human Settlements, Geography 201 from 3:30-5pm. Refreshments at 3:25pm. Call 822-5612.

Applied Mathematics Colloquium

Rebuilding The Fraser Sockeye Salmon: Some Case Studies Of Operations Research Techniques Applied To Bio-Economic Problems. Dr. David Welch, Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries/Oceans, Nanaimo. Mathematics 203 at 3:45pm. Call 822-4584.

Thursday, January 21

Physics Colloquium

Astronomy With A Liquid Mirror Telescope. Paul Hickson, Geophysics/Astronomy, Hennings 201 at 4pm. Call 822-3853.

Psychology Colloquium

Psychophysiology, Genetics And Psychopathology. Dr. William Iacono, U. of Minnesota. Kenny 2512 at 4pm. Call 822-3005.

Monday, January 25

Counselling Psychology Colloquium

Child Sexual Abuse And Art Therapy. Dr. John Allan, Counselling Psychology, Counselling Psychology 102 from 12-1pm. Call 822-5259.

Wednesday, January 27

Geography Colloquium

A Tale Of Two Socio-Economies:

Ophthalmology/Visual Sciences, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Centre, New York, N.Y. University Hospital St. Paul's Site New Lecture Theatre from 8:15am-4pm. Call 875-5266.

Paediatrics Grand Rounds

Dendritic Cells And Childhood Diseases. Prof. Ross Petty, MD, PhD. FRCP, Paediatrics, Head of Paediatric Rheumatology. G.F. Strong Auditorium at 9am. Call 875-2118.

Saturday, January 23

Vancouver Institute Saturday Night Lecture

Tombs And Treasures Of Ancient Macedonia: Recent Discoveries In Northern Greece. Prof. Stella Miller-Collett, Classics, U. of Cincinnati. IRC #2 at 8:15pm. Please note this lecture was originally advertised for January 16. Call 822-3131.

Tuesday, January 26

Lectures In Modern Chemistry

Solutions In A Box. The Organic Chemistry Of Molecular Wires And Switches. Dr. Laren M. Tolbert, Chemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. Chemistry South Block B250 at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:50pm. Call 822-3266.

Wednesday, January 27

Orthopaedics Grand Rounds

Management Of Scaphoid Fractures. Chair: Dr. Robert W. McGraw. Dr. Timothy Herbert, Zimmer visiting professor. Eye Care Centre Auditorium at 7am. Call 875-4646.

Thursday, January 28

History Lecture

A Taste Of Medieval Wine. Prof. Raymond van Uytven, U. of Antwerp. Buchanan A202 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-5938.

Friday, January 29

Obstetrics/Gynaecology Grand Rounds

Current Status Of In-Vitro Fertilization. Dr. Basil Ho Yuen, University Hospital Shaughnessy Site D308 at 8am. Call 875-3265.

Health Care/Epidemiology Grand Rounds

Public Policy & Protection Of Public Health. Dr. David Bates, professor emeritus, Health Care/Epidemiology. James Mather 253 from 9-10am. Call 822-2772.

Saturday, January 30

Vancouver Institute Saturday Night Lecture

Knowledge-Based Competition: The Japanese Challenge. Dr. Mark Fruin, director, Institute of Asian Research. IRC #2 at 8:15pm. Call 822-3131.

Calendar Deadlines

Material for the Calendar must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2. Phone: 822-3131. Fax: 822-2684.

Notices exceeding 35 words may be edited.

Deadline for the Calendar in the January 28 issue of UBC Reports — which covers the period January 31 to February 13 — is noon, January 19.

Music

Wednesday Noon Hour Concert Series

Wednesday, January 20

Barbara Pritchard, piano. Music Recital Hall at 12:30 pm. Admission \$2. Call 822-5574.

Wednesday, January 27

Terence Dawson, piano; Camille Churchfield, flute; Victor Costanzi, violin; William Jenken, clarinet; Andrew Pearce, violoncello. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Admission \$2. Call 822-5574.

Music Concerts

Thursday, January 21

Magic Flute In The Wind. Co-production Music, Theatre and Film. Music Recital Hall at 12:30/8pm. Call 822-3113.

Thursday, January 28

Distinguished Artists Series: Robert Davidovici, violin; Rena Sharon, piano. Music Recital Hall at 8pm. Adults \$14, students/seniors \$7. Call 822-5574.



Report of the Task Force on Appropriate Use of Information Technology

Task Force Members

Dr. Maria Klawe (Chair)	Dept. of Computer Science
Professor Robin Elliot	Faculty of Law
Ms. Susan Mair	University Computing Services
Mr. Derek Miller	Student Member, Board of Governors
Dr. Jon Shapiro	Dept. of Language Education
Dr. Veronica Strong-Boag	Centre for Research in Women's Studies & Gender Relations
Staff	
Ms. Teresa Tenisci (Researcher)	Information Systems Management
Ms. Shirley Marcus (Secretary)	President's Office

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Task Force was asked to make recommendations on the appropriate use of information technology in the context of UBC's Sexual Harassment Policy. The Task Force reviewed policies at other universities, received input from the University community through written and verbal presentations, and considered a variety of related topics including limitations of the technology, policies on libraries and other communication media, and the Canadian socio-political and legal contexts. This summary highlights the major findings of the Task Force, and is followed by a set of specific recommendations. The background material and more detailed discussions of the issues are given in the body of the report.

Information technology offers tremendous opportunities for enhancing teaching and research activities at universities and UBC should take full advantage of these opportunities. Thus, we are recommending that UBC reinstate access to all available newsgroups.

As is the case for other communication media, some material carried via information technology may be offensive to some or all members of a community. Moreover, the medium may be used by individuals in ways that harass others. These abuses may include racism and other violations of human rights as well as sexual harassment.

The University must work to create a climate in which the users of information technology treat each other with respect, and in which abuses of others are not tolerated. It is, however, technically unfeasible and also inappropriate for a university to attempt to restrict access to material that some may consider offensive. The Task Force believes that the best approach to creating an acceptable climate is through education, and through the establishment of procedures and penalties for inappropriate use. Some procedures are already available through the Sexual Harassment Policy. Moreover, based on our study, the Task Force feels that some of the changes to that policy now under discussion by the President's Permanent Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment would result in procedures better suited to handle problems arising from the inappropriate use of information technology. Our study also points out the immediate need for an effective Human Rights Policy at UBC, since many incidents of inappropriate use are not sexual harassment but are still violations of human rights. In addition, it is important that UBC identify a single individual with responsibility for providing advice, and for contacting the appropriate authorities external to UBC when, for example, material that is believed to be illegal is involved.

Another important issue is the need to broaden the community of users of information technology at UBC and elsewhere. This will significantly contribute to the creation of a culture more sensitive of the views of others. It will also allow a much larger segment of the community to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by information technology.

Finally, information technology and its associated culture is evolving so rapidly that it is important that the University regularly review its policies and procedures in this area. Such reviews and any decisions which are made should involve consultation with the University community.

• Fundamental Principles Used by the Task Force

1. Those associated with the University are entitled to the best possible environment for working and learning.
2. Such an environment is not one in which those associated with the University are involuntarily exposed to pornographic, racist, homophobic, and similar offensive messages and images.
3. Therefore, no one associated with the University should be required to consume against his or her will offensive messages and images conveyed by information technology or any other means.
4. Those associated with the University should be entitled to communicate freely with one another and the wider community.
5. The Criminal Code of Canada, the Civil Rights Protection Act, the B.C. Human Rights Act, and the UBC Sexual Harassment Policy all apply to the use of information technology at the University, as they do to other aspects of life here, to limit completely free communication in order that the best possible environment be preserved.
6. The responsibility for establishing the best possible environment for working and learning is a shared one between the University administration and those associated with it.
7. The University should not ban the electronic communication between willing participants of messages and images which others might find offensive, since no such ban applies to other forms of communication.
8. Those associated with the University should be educated about the laws and policies applicable to this area, as well as about the need for everyone at UBC to treat one another with respect.

MEMORANDUM

January 4, 1993

To: Deans, Heads and Directors
Campus Advisory Board on Computing

From: Bernard S. Sheehan
Associate Vice-President
Information & Computing Systems

Re: Appropriate Use of Information Technology

Attached is the report of the Task Force on the Appropriate Use of Information Technology chaired by Dr. Maria Klawe. I commend it to your careful review.

Following complaints of pornography on the Internet last summer, President Strangway asked me to establish a task force which would recommend procedures to guide campus use of information technology, particularly within the context of the University Sexual Harassment policy. The Task Force concludes that we all share responsibility for maintaining a campus learning and working environment in which our mutual respect for each other assures the appropriate use of information technology.

The Task Force notes that "information technology offers tremendous opportunities for enhancing teaching and research activities at universities and UBC should take full advantage of these opportunities." The report attempts to balance two fundamental principles: that those associated with the University are entitled (a) to the best possible environment for working and learning, and (b) to communicate freely with each other and the wider community. The report considers these potentially competing values in the context of today's computing and communications technologies including the recent phenomenon of the explosive growth of the Internet. The analysis in the report breaks new ground by treating these sensitive issues within our unique Canadian social and legal circumstances and traditions.

I would like to thank the members of the task force for agreeing to accept this challenging assignment.

I welcome your comments on the report itself, and in particular on issues related to the implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The University should ensure that its efforts to create an environment in which all members treat each other with respect extend to facilities and activities associated with information technology.
2. The University should provide access to all newsgroups and, more broadly, the Internet as a whole, for all members of the University community. Other institutions, such as schools, which access the Internet through UBC accounts, should be informed of the possible existence of material that is inappropriate for their users. Such institutions should make their own policies regulating access to such material.
3. The University should make it clear that the user bears the primary responsibility for the material he or she chooses to access, send, or display on the network and other computing systems.
4. The University should educate the University community about the benefits of access to the Internet and information technology, as well as the form of and need for responsible use of these resources. In particular, before obtaining accounts, users should be informed of the culture and etiquette involved in the use of information technology such as newsgroups and electronic mail, the nature and impact of offensive uses of these facilities and associated penalties, the procedures for reporting abuses, and the Canadian legal context.
5. The University should instruct the administrators of units operating computing facilities to establish procedures for dealing with abuses involving information technology. An outline of recommended procedures is given in Appendix H. All administrators should be aware of the issues involved, and be prepared to deal with complaints in consultation with the Sexual Harassment Policy Office or Human Rights Office (once it is established). A single individual should be identified as the person to whom abuses should be reported in cases involving material that is potentially illegal, or sites outside UBC. This individual should be responsible for notifying the appropriate authorities external to UBC. The University should make it clear that, as in other contexts, all members of the community bear a responsibility to report instances where they feel abuses have occurred. Moreover, the University should ensure that there are non-intimidating mechanisms for doing so.
6. The University should establish Sexual Harassment and Human Rights policies in which victims need not bear the entire responsibility for initiating correction of offences under those policies. The policies should attempt to deal with causes as well as symptoms.
7. The Campus Advisory Board on Computing should be responsible for regularly reviewing the University's policies on the appropriate use of information technology. This body should be broadened to include representatives of graduate and undergraduate students.
8. The University should provide resources, information, and incentives to encourage the broadest possible participation in the use of information technology at all levels in the University community.
9. Changes in policies affecting information technology should involve significant consultation with the University community.

Task Force on Appropriate Use of Information Technology

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

• History

In April/May of 1992 the availability of pornographic material on university computers became a very controversial topic with widespread media interest. UBC Associate Vice-President Bernard Sheehan and his computing staff worked on the issue for several weeks, collecting background information from other institutions worldwide. A package containing some of the most extreme material was made available to senior administrators at most Canadian universities through activities of the Women's Centre at the University of Winnipeg. Several members of faculty, staff and the student body at UBC, including the Advisor on Women and Gender Relations, the President of the AMS, and the Director of the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, wrote to President Strangway protesting the availability of pornographic material on UBC's computers.

On July 30, 1992, President Strangway issued a letter (Appendix B) informing the University community that all pornographic material would be removed from the computer files belonging to University Computing Services and requesting that all UBC units be very vigilant that University property not be used to access, create or store pornographic material on University computing equipment. He announced that AVP Sheehan had taken steps to remove the newsgroups and would establish a Task Force on the Appropriate Use of Information Technology. On September 14, 1992 AVP Sheehan published the Terms of Reference (Appendix A) of the Task Force, instructing the Task Force that it should advise the President's Office on appropriate use of information technology in the context of the campus Sexual Harassment Policy.

• The Sexual Harassment Policy

UBC's Sexual Harassment Policy (Appendix F) came into effect in February 1988. The critical provision of that policy for present purposes is section 1.01, which reads as follows:

1.01 "Sexual Harassment" includes comment or conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, suggestive comments or gestures, or physical contact when any one or more of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) the conduct is engaged in or the comment is made by a person who knows or who ought reasonably to know that the conduct or comment is unwanted or unwelcome;

• • •

(5) the conduct or the comment is intended to, or has the effect of, creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

In the university context sexual harassment often occurs between individuals of unequal status. However, sexual harassment can and does occur between individuals of equal status.

In practice, this policy has been applied to a single incident or a series of incidents. Clearly individuals who receive unwanted material of a sexual nature or are exposed to this material by means of information technology can seek the assistance of the Sexual Harassment Policy Advisors or any University administrator in order to remedy their situation.

• The Underlying Technology: The Internet

In understanding the issues, it is important to understand the underlying technology and how it is used. The Internet, a recent and rapidly growing phenomenon of high technology, consists of approximately one million computers, each being used by one or more people and connected to each other by telephone lines or their higher-speed equivalents. This computer network spans

the globe. It is used to generate, communicate, and store information. In particular, the Internet serves as an alternative to the post office and a library, and permits its users to send messages and receive them from others connected to the network. It also permits, via newsgroups and bulletin boards, group discussions on, at last count, over 1500 separate topics.

The benefit of the Internet to those who use it regularly, of whom academics are a large percentage, is the quick and easy exchange of ideas and information. Many academic research communities rely almost entirely on the Internet for the communication of information (announcement of research results, conferences, job openings, etc.), and groups of researchers often use the Internet as the primary vehicle for collaborative research. Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence, for instance, are centres in name only; without the Internet, the joint work done by the Centres would be impossible, as the researchers are spread across Canada.

Once a site is connected to the Internet, it is virtually impossible effectively to control or censor the information that can be accessed from that site. The volume of new material received by a site each day is so high that monitoring each item is simply not practical. The high degree of connectivity in the network and the ability to log on to remote sites ensures that users have many routes by which they can access material banned from their local site. For example, when a university removes some newsgroups, users can continue to access these newsgroups by connecting to other sites, as is currently the case at UBC. The only effective form of control would be to cut off all access to the Internet. Like cutting off our telephone system from the rest of the world, the benefit to UBC of doing this would be far outweighed by the drawbacks.

• Offensive Material: Nature and Impact

Computer communication is subject to many, if not all, of the problems of other media. It can be, and on occasion is, used to communicate material and information that objectifies and effectively dehumanizes both individuals and groups. Abuses range from the use of sexual imagery as computer background screens in labs and other shared computing environments, to widely disseminated messages containing hate material. Offensive background screens create work environments which are extremely unpleasant for many individuals, while hate material implicitly and sometimes explicitly justifies and advocates actions and policies, including violence, which limit the freedom and opportunity of targeted individuals. UBC is not exempt from such abuses. During the month of November 1992 alone, there were episodes of pornographic background screens appearing in UBC undergraduate computing labs, and UBC users posting newsgroup messages which were both inappropriate to the newsgroup topic and highly offensive.

Offensive materials range widely in their nature and preoccupation. Jokes and off-hand dismissals of legitimacy and authority exist at one end of the continuum, advocacy of rape, lynching, and genocide at the other. While most material is of the milder variety, at its core, too often, lie assumptions about the inferiority of others and the superiority of the messenger. Women, children and all groups perceived as "the other" (in the West these are usually non-Christians, people of colour, persons with disabilities, and lesbian and gay individuals) have always been favourite, sometimes interchangeable and often overlapping, targets for media overwhelmingly controlled by white men. Much of the material is merely silly and unpleasant but there also exist regular examples of extreme misogyny, racism, and homophobia. Whether voiced publicly or privately, such hate material, whether in the form of pornography which links violence and degradation with sexuality, or approval of Hitler's "final solution," threatens and disempowers its targets. The result compromises any free society.

Substantial debates rage about the impact of material along this continuum. Free speech advocates and censors exist simultaneously among conservative and progressive, including feminist, groups. Efforts at solution also vary by jurisdiction. Canada, for example, has taken a much more proactive legislative role than the United States. The problem of how to identify and deal with "hate material" distributed through computer systems now confronts the UBC community, and has been the major focus of our Task Force.

• Actions by Other Universities

Universities have responded to the situation in which pornographic and other offensive materials might be accessed from the Internet through their computing facilities in a variety of ways. Some institutions have decided to retain access to all newsgroups because they view censorship as ineffective and inappropriate. Some have always carried only an approved subset of available newsgroups, and others have deleted access to specific newsgroups in response to the recent controversy and complaints.

Those institutions which have deliberately chosen not to censor newsgroups include the University of Toronto, Stanford University and the University of Waterloo. In fact, both Stanford University and the University of Waterloo reversed earlier decisions to remove the newsgroups as the result of community feedback and reports from ad hoc committees. The Waterloo report recommended that "the University adopt and widely publicize the principle that it is the user, not the University, who is responsible for his or her decision to read a mail message or an article posted to an electronic newsgroup ... and in sending E-mail or in posting an article to a newsgroup... assumes responsibility for its contents." It also recommended appointing a person to help users deal with objectionable electronic news or mail.

Of those who have censored newsgroups some, including Simon Fraser University and the Universities of Alberta and Victoria, acted unilaterally on the advice of computing centre management. Others, such as the University of Manitoba and Queen's University, referred the matter to committees similar to UBC's Campus Advisory Board on Computing for a review of their decision to delete the newsgroups. Most of these universities made an attempt to block whatever material they had received complaints on, as opposed to actively censoring the relevant newsgroups, and made allowances for private feeds of the material if requested in writing. Common reasons given for censoring included "inappropriate use of University resources for material that is not in support of the University's mission of teaching and research," lack of computing resources and disk space, and liability issues concerning illegal material and accessibility by minors.

In researching policies on the appropriate use of computing resources at other universities, we found very few which described effective procedures for dealing with offensive material. Most institutions are still studying how to modify their existing policies, which usually cover topics such as confidentiality, copyright, privacy, and unauthorized access. Excerpts from some of the relevant policies which express sentiments with which the Task Force generally agrees include:

- "Unmannerly conduct, including mailing obscene or abusive material is unacceptable behaviour." (University of Waterloo)

- "Respect the rights of other users; for example you shall comply with all University policies regarding sexual, racial and other forms of harassment." (University of Michigan)

- "Sending rude, obscene or harassing material via any electronic mail or bulletin board is strictly forbidden." (Iowa University)

In addition to appropriate use policies,

many institutions are investigating procedures which can be used to deal with incidents of offensive material or harassment. Again, there are very few models of established working procedures.

• The Canadian Context

A number of people who made submissions to the Task Force invoked, in support of the positions they took, arguments grounded in either the experience or the socio-political traditions of other countries. Prominent amongst these were arguments grounded in the American free speech tradition.

Grateful as the Task Force was to be told about the approaches taken in other jurisdictions to the problem with which it has been asked to deal, and important as it is to examine that problem from a broad range of perspectives, the Task Force is strongly of the view that the best approach to take to this problem at UBC is one which reflects the Canadian context, including our socio-political traditions.

These traditions, which are finding clear expression in the judgments of the Supreme Court of Canada under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, include a greater willingness than exists in the United States to acknowledge that the abuse of private power can be as much a threat to freedom in a modern liberal democracy as the abuse of state power; a greater sensitivity to the harmful effects of pornographic and racist messages and images; and a greater emphasis on the need to attend, not merely to freedom and equality in their formal senses, but to freedom and equality in their substantive senses as well - that is, to recognize that, in a society in which real inequalities exist between individuals and groups, a policy of inaction is not always going to promote the cause either of freedom or of equality for society as a whole.

To insist upon an approach which is sensitive to these socio-political traditions is neither to denigrate the importance of freedom of expression nor to ignore the dangers of heavy-handed action on the part of the University in this area. It is simply to say that, in the Task Force's view, it is not enough if one is arguing for a hands off approach to wave the flag of "free speech". At least in Canada, the issue is more complicated than that.

• The Legal Context

Resolution of the issue of how the University can best deal with the problem of pornographic and other offensive messages being communicated on the Internet and through other information technology media on campus necessarily requires that account be taken of the broader legal context within which the University and those who work and study here function. There are three aspects of that broader legal context which are especially relevant to this task.

Criminal Code of Canada

The first is the Criminal Code of Canada, which contains prohibitions against both obscenity and hate propaganda. The prohibition against obscenity makes it an offence inter alia "[to print, publish, distribute, circulate, or have in one's possession] for the purpose of publication, distribution or circulation any obscene written matter, picture... or other thing whatever," with the term "obscene" being defined in terms of a publication "a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and...crime, horror, cruelty and violence." There can be little doubt that individuals who send obscene messages and images through the Internet are vulnerable to prosecution under this provision of the Code. It is possible that individuals who store obscene messages and images in their computers with the intention of showing them on their screens or otherwise communicating them to others would be vulnerable to prosecution. It is even conceivable that the University itself would be vulnerable to prosecution if it stored such messages and images and made them freely

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available to users of its systems.

The Supreme Court of Canada has recently revisited the question of how the definition of "obscene" should be understood. It indicated that (a) the combination of sex and violence will almost always be considered obscene; (b) explicit sex which is degrading and dehumanizing may be so considered; and (c) explicit sex which is not degrading nor dehumanizing will generally not be so considered unless children are involved. However, it went on to add that, if the portrayal of sex is essential to a wider artistic, literary or other similar purpose, then even if, absent such a purpose, it would be obscene, a court should not hold it to be obscene. Integral to this approach to obscenity was a willingness on the Court's part to attribute harm to at least some pornographic messages, with harm being understood in terms of encouraging or predisposing people to act in socially harmful ways. But the Court also recognized that sometimes society must be prepared to endure such harm in the interest of freedom of expression.

The Code provision dealing with hate propaganda makes it an offence for anyone, "by communicating statements, other than in private conversation, wilfully [to promote] with identifiable group," with "identifiable group" being defined to mean "any section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion or ethnic origin." Persons charged with this offence have available to them a number of affirmative defences, including truth and "[irrelevance] to any subject of public interest, the discussion of which was for the public benefit... if on reasonable grounds [they] believed [the statements] to be true." Because of the way in which this offence is worded, very few people have been charged with it and even fewer convicted. However, it clearly has the potential to be relevant to the communication through systems such as the Internet of messages designed to promote hatred against racial and religious minorities.

It is worth noting that both the obscenity and the hate propaganda provisions of the Criminal Code have recently been held by the Supreme Court of Canada to be "reasonable limits" on the freedom of expression protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Hence both provisions remain intact even though they have been challenged under the Charter.

Civil Rights Protection Act

The second relevant aspect of the larger legal context is the Civil Rights Protection Act. This statute, which appears to be unique to the province of British Columbia, creates a civil cause of action for the targets of "conduct or communication... that has as its purpose interference with the civil rights of a person or class of persons by promoting (a) hatred or contempt of a person or class of persons, or (b) the superiority or inferiority of a person or class or others, on the basis of colour, race, religion, ethnic origin or place of origin." The Act explicitly authorizes the courts to award punitive damages in cases brought under it, and to grant injunctions prohibiting the continuation of the offensive conduct or communication. Again, the language of this legislation is such as to make it difficult for those who would use it to succeed in bringing claims. Again, however, the potential is clearly there for it to be used to deal with at least some of the problematic messages and images which can be communicated through information technology.

B.C. Human Rights Act

The third and final aspect of the broader legal context which has special relevance to this Task Force is human rights legislation, specifically the B.C. Human Rights Act. Human rights legislation, which exists within the federal sphere and which each province and territory, is designed to eliminate discrimination on a range of different grounds in a range of different contexts. One of those contexts invariably is employment, and sex is one of the prohibited grounds within that context. The Supreme

Court of Canada has recently made it clear that sexual harassment directed at persons of the opposite sex is to be considered a form of sex discrimination. Hence, any female employee who can satisfy the B.C. Human Rights Council that she has been a victim of sexual harassment at the hands of a male employee is entitled to a remedy of some sort, including damages, from that employee. Moreover, and this is particularly important for the University in its capacity as employer is concerned, such a female employee will also, as a rule, be entitled to relief from the employer. While the law relating to the employer's liability in such circumstances has yet to be firmly settled, indications are that the nature and scope of that liability will be a function of the efforts taken by the employer to deal with the problem of sexual harassment in that particular workplace. An employer who is aware of a problem of sexual harassment and does nothing to remedy it can expect to pay a heavy price for its failure to act. Similar rules are applicable in cases in which the harassment is based on race, religion, disability or any other prohibited ground of discrimination.

Another context in which human rights legislation prohibits discrimination is housing. Here again, sex is one of the prohibited grounds, and it is safe to assume that in this context, too, sexual harassment will be considered to be a form of sex discrimination. Although the potential for information technology to be a source of sexual harassment in the housing context would seem to be remote, it is conceivable that a problem could arise through the use of personal computers in university residences. Again, similar rules would be applicable in cases in which the harassment is based on another prohibited ground.

Yet another context in which discrimination is prohibited by human rights legislation is in the delivery of "services, facilities and accommodation customarily available to the public." As the law stands at present in British Columbia, the educational services and facilities provided by the University to persons who have been accepted as students are NOT considered to be services and facilities "customarily available to the public." Hence, students on this campus cannot now avail themselves of the B.C. Human Rights Act to seek relief from the University in the event that they are victims of sex discrimination or any of the other forms of discrimination prohibited by the relevant provision. It should be noted, however, that the decision in which this ruling was made is currently on appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. If that decision is overturned, then students as well as employees will be able to make use of human rights legislation to deal with complaints of sexual and other forms of harassment arising from the misuse of information technology. In this context, too, the University might find itself being held to account if it were found not to have taken appropriate steps to deal with the problem on its own.

• Input Received from the UBC Community

After the July 30, 1992 letter from Dr. Strangway and the removal of the newsgroups, he and AVP Sheehan received a variety of responses, both positive and negative, to these actions. The Task Force on Appropriate Use of Information Technology began its meetings in September. During October, the Task Force advertised electronically and in print, seeking input from the campus community.

Approximately twenty submissions were received. Of these, only one was supportive of the University's decision to remove the newsgroups. Of the remaining submissions, almost all objected to the decision based on an opposition to censorship. Many others included additional reasons for their opposition. Several cited the usefulness of the Internet and the necessity for a university to respect the concept and tradition of academic freedom and the free flow of information. Others pointed out the difficulty of defining offensive material and the impossibility of totally removing offensive mate-

rial from UBC's computers. The self-policing nature of the newsgroups was mentioned frequently as a reason why no action should be necessary, as was the observation that individual users had to take specific steps to view offending material. Solutions other than removing newsgroups — such as educating people on responsible and ethical use, encouraging more widespread use of electronic news, and instituting procedures to deal with incidents of inappropriate use — were mentioned in a few submissions.

It is worth noting that the majority of the submissions did not perceive any major problems. We received no input from individuals who felt they had been victimized. Rather, the submissions were from people who feel empowered by the existing system.

In addition to these submissions, the Task Force requested presentations from the following people to aid them in their deliberations:

- Dr. Peter Danielson, Centre for Applied Ethics
- Dr. Richard Rosenberg, Computer Science Department

The Task Force is grateful to all members of the University community who took the time to express their views.

DISCUSSION

• Fundamental Principles

The terms of reference given to this Task Force call for it "to advise the President's office on the appropriate use of UBC information technology and facilities in the context of the campus Sexual Harassment Policy." The principle underlying the latter policy is that those associated with the University are entitled to "the best possible environment for working and learning," and the policy itself represents an acknowledgment on the University's part that an environment in which sexual harassment occurs fails to deliver on that promise.

This Task Force accepts this first principle as fundamental. Moreover, it accepts that an environment in which members of the University community are involuntarily exposed to pornographic, racist, homophobic and similarly group-related offensive messages and images fails to deliver on that promise. For the members of those groups at which those messages and images are targeted - women, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, persons with disabilities, gays and lesbians - such an environment is clearly a hostile one, and one in which both working and learning can for them be exceedingly difficult.

The Task Force also, of course, accepts as fundamental the principle that those associated with the University, and particularly faculty and students, should be entitled to communicate freely with each other and the wider community. Commitment to such a principle is integral to the very nature of a university, and certainly, in the view of this Task Force, of UBC. Any form of constraint on this freedom to communicate is inconsistent with this principle.

It is apparent that, in some circumstances, these two fundamentally important principles come into conflict. The question is how that conflict should be resolved. To a significant degree, that question has already been answered by legislation by which members of the University community are clearly governed. Messages and images which are offensive to the Criminal Code provisions relating to obscenity and hate propaganda are subject to criminal sanction. The Civil Rights Protection Act renders messages and images caught by its terms subject to civil claims. And to the extent that the B.C. Human Rights Act can be said to apply to communicative activities on campus which amount to sexual, racial, and other forms of harassment, it too exposes those who engage in such activities to civil claims.

In the context of forms of communication

which amount to sexual harassment, that question has also been answered for members of the University community by the campus Sexual Harassment Policy. Such forms of communication are effectively prohibited by that policy, and those who engage in them can be subjected to discipline by the President.

It is clear from these legislative enactments and this policy that it has been thought appropriate in at least some circumstances to impose constraints on freedom of communication in order to protect other interests, including the interest in a working and learning environment in which people are free from uninvited pornographic, racist, homophobic and similar offensive messages and images. Moreover, it is also clear that these constraints operate, either by necessary implication or by design, on the campus of this University.

This answer to the question of how the conflict between these two principles should be resolved commends itself to the Task Force when members of the University community are involuntarily exposed to such messages and images via information technology. In such circumstances, the principle of freedom of communication must, in the Task Force's view, give way to the principle of a positive and learning environment for all. This is true not only when such messages and images offend one of these legislative enactments or the Sexual Harassment Policy but more generally. No member of the University community should be required to consume against his or her will offensive messages and images conveyed on information technology. There is little if any benefit to be gained and much to be lost by protecting the freedom to communicate of those who would convey such messages and images to those who, because they find them offensive, do not wish to be exposed to them.

With the exception of those messages and images proscribed by the obscenity and hate propaganda provisions of the Criminal Code and the Civil Rights Protection Act, the Task Force is not persuaded that it is necessary or appropriate at this time to recommend that the University ban the communication between willing participants of messages and images which others might find offensive. To do so would be to recommend that information technology should be singled out for special and more restrictive treatment on this campus than other methods of communication - for example, the telephone, private conversations conducted in person, the library system - and that the Task Force is not prepared to do. As a medium for communication information technology has much in common with the telephone and the printed word; our Task Force feels it should be governed by similar policies. Printed materials which would be viewed as offensive to some people are available in the UBC Library; they are not in the stacks but must be requested specifically by the borrower. Likewise, a potentially offensive discussion on the Internet generally must be sought out by the reader: it is rarely inflicted on him or her unknowingly. The telephone system is open to abuse by those who would make harassing phone calls, but this potential for abuse does not result in restriction of access to telephones. Rather, the harasser is dealt with by social and legal sanctions. The same should be true of the Internet.

The Task Force does, however, recommend that it be considered a serious abuse of information technology to communicate to anyone messages and images which offend the provisions of these special enactments. Situations in which such messages and images are communicated should be no less a concern to the University than they are to society as a whole, and it is important that the University be prepared to take steps on its own to deal with them.

Before leaving this discussion of fundamental principles, mention should be made of two others which featured prominently in the thinking of the Task Force. One is the importance of educating the members of the University community not only about

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the specific laws and policies which are applicable in this area, but also about the need for all of us to treat each other with respect. The kind of working and learning environment that we are seeking to establish here - "the best possible environment" - is one in which there would be no call for the enforcement of such laws and policies because the atmosphere was one in which we all respect and take into account the interest of others. The University must take steps to ensure that this message is communicated consistently and in a range of different ways.

The other additional principle, which flows out of the first, relates to the issue of responsibility. This Task Force is firmly of the view that the responsibility for establishing "the best possible environment for working and learning" is a shared one. The University, as we have already made clear, bears a significant amount of this responsibility, but so too do individual members of the University community, faculty and administrators certainly, but staff and students as well. They too can participate in the educational process, and they too can take steps to ensure that the applicable laws and policies are enforced.

Restoration of Banned Newsgroups

The Task Force recommends restoring access to all Usenet newsgroups because of their importance to the teaching and research missions of the University, and because of the difficulty and inappropriateness of attempting to censor material accessed via the Internet. We were not convinced by arguments that computing resources should be restricted to the research and teaching activities of the University, since it is extremely difficult to determine the boundaries of such activities. Moreover, the additional costs associated with maintaining access to all newsgroups versus maintaining access to a subset of newsgroups are negligible. Since the University makes no attempt to prevent the use of its other resources (buildings, telephones, etc.) for other activities so long as the costs incurred by the other activities are minimal, it would be inconsistent and undesirable to apply such restrictions to computing resources.

Education for Appropriate Use of Information Technology

It is essential that all users of UBC facilities, including faculty, staff, students and others, be educated in what constitutes abuse of information technology and what to do if abuses occur. Specifically, in addition to distributing copies of the relevant legislative enactments, the UBC Sexual Harassment Policy and the pending Human Rights Policy to all of those at UBC, training sessions should be conducted by qualified instructors wherever possible.

There are two places where training in this area is particularly important. One is in classes of courses which use computing resources. Instructors should brief their students on what is considered appropriate and inappropriate use of the resources, and tell them what to do if abuses occur. The departments offering the courses must be prepared to follow up on complaints in an expeditious and sensitive manner.

Secondly, providers of information technology on campus such as University Computing Services, the Department of Computer Science, and other departments which issue accounts for use on computing equipment, should include a statement of what is regarded as appropriate use in their account application forms. Sample wording for such a statement is given in Appendix G. The penalties for inappropriate use should be made clear. Specific recommendations are made in Appendix H.

Procedures For Dealing With Inappropriate Uses

Even with better education of the UBC information technology user community about issues concerning offensive mate-

rial, incidents in which people are offended are likely to occur. Procedures on handling offensive material are needed, as well as an educated and sensitive environment. All relevant UBC authorities, from lab supervisors to Deans and administrators, must be aware of their responsibilities with respect to the issue. They must know to whom complaints can be referred, but also deal with specific cases and general problems. In appropriate cases, complaints should be dealt with in consultation with the Sexual Harassment or Human Rights offices and the appointed individual in UCS.

We specifically recommend the identification of a single individual in UCS to whom abuses should be reported in cases involving material that is potentially illegal, or sites outside UBC. This individual should be responsible for notifying the appropriate authorities external to UBC. Moreover, all members of the community should be aware of their responsibility to report instances where they feel inappropriate incidents have occurred, and the University should ensure that there are non-intimidating mechanisms for doing so.

Although complaints will be the primary means of identifying problems, authorities should also be prepared to deal with abuses of which they are aware but about which complaints have not been made. Additionally, complaints should serve as a spark to action: if a complainant prefers not to pursue the matter, or the specific complaint is resolved while leaving a larger issue open, further action may still be necessary. Not only the victim but the University and its administrators have responsibility for initiating correction of abuses.

There are a number of different means of dealing with specific incidents, and the Task Force feels that all of the following are valid:

1. Taking direct personal action. The simplest (but sometimes not feasible) procedure is for those who have been offended to deal with the source of the offending material directly. This only works when the source is identifiable (either as an individual or group), accessible, and willing to listen, and when those offended feel comfortable with approaching the source of offense.

2. Notifying an appropriate authority. It must be made clear that there are people within the academic or administrative unit concerned who are responsible for addressing incidents which occur. There should be a number of such people identified, in case the most obvious person (e.g. a lab supervisor) is unsympathetic or unavailable.

3. Moving up the supervisory hierarchy. If the problem cannot be resolved at the level of the obvious authority, Department Heads or other such administrators should be informed and should be available to deal with incidents. Additionally, Heads or equivalent administrators should be made aware of incidents occurring within their departments, and should have the responsibility of seeing whether internal policies or procedures can be implemented to prevent similar incidents from occurring in future.

4. Using alternate avenues. If the problem is not resolved in a way satisfactory to the complainant, or if the complainant wishes to pursue the issue in a parallel manner, other avenues should remain open and be made clear. Examples include the Sexual Harassment Office, any new Human Rights Office, the UCS resource person mentioned below, the AMS Ombudsoffice, and, depending on the nature of the incident, police, human rights agencies, and the courts. Referral to another avenue of complaint should not excuse the previously mentioned authorities from trying to reach a resolution or dealing with larger problems while a specific case is pursued through other means.

Once action has been taken at any level other than that of direct personal communication, i.e. by any authority, the incident and the resolution should be publicized by whatever means are convenient and appro-

priate. The user community should be informed of the outcome of incidents where sanctions were applied in departments which have computing facilities.

Broadening The Community Of Users

The media is the voice of the community, allowing it to express its interests, concerns, and prerogatives. This applies to information technology as much as to any other media, and many of the issues concerning offensive material on the Internet may be related to the relative narrowness of its community of users. The community tends to be male, of European descent, middle-class, scientifically-oriented, and North American and European in location. Thus the culture that has evolved does not include a large part of the wider diverse community. Inevitably, the preoccupations and prejudices of the largest group of users have coloured the character and development of information-technology-based media. Fiat will not change this orientation, although it would undoubtedly bring about some degree of subterfuge. What is needed is an end to the effective monopoly over a powerful medium.

Information technology will better serve the entire community if its users represent the community's diversity. Women, those of non-European origin, those trained in the arts, social sciences and humanities, and others presently without a voice in information technology media must be empowered to contribute to electronic exchanges. Here the University can take leadership by taking steps to bring in otherwise excluded groups. Institutional initiatives should begin with education, both within and without the classroom, and with practical assistance in linking into computer-mediated debates. Without such initiatives, the Task Force fears a continuing and growing division between those who use and control a powerful medium and those who for one reason or another are excluded. The costs of refusal to address this imbalance are substantial, and the benefits of broadening the community of users are enormous.

APPENDICES

**Appendices A - F are not reproduced here due to their bulk. Copies may be obtained from Shirley Marcus (phone: 822-6122, e-mail: marcus@unixg.ubc.ca)

APPENDIX A

Terms of reference for Task Force and list of members

APPENDIX B

Dr. Strangway's July 30, 1992 letter

APPENDIX C

Submission to Task Force by Dr. Peter Danielson, Applied Ethics

APPENDIX D

Submission to Task Force by Dr. Richard Rosenberg, Computer Science

APPENDIX E

Other submissions to Task Force

APPENDIX F

UBC Sexual Harassment Policy

APPENDIX G

Recommended wording for computer account applications

The University of British Columbia is committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which all persons treat others with humanity and respect. The computing facilities at [department name, e.g. University Computing Services] are primarily intended for teaching, research, and administrative purposes. Their use is governed by the University's Human Rights and Sexual Harassment policies, by the Criminal Code of Canada, by the B.C. Civil Rights Protection Act and by the B.C. Human Rights Act. The user bears the primary responsibility for the material that he or she chooses to access, send, or display.

The computer facilities may not be used in any manner to send or display material which contravenes the above policies or statutes.

Those who do not adhere to these guidelines may be subject to the suspension of computing privileges. More details on the guidelines are available in the package "The Appropriate Use of Information Technology," available with this application form.

Abuse of these computing facilities should be reported to [contact person] in [department name] by phone ([campus local]) or by electronic mail ([e-mail address]).

Signature of this application form denotes that the applicant has read and understands the package of material and also denotes acceptance of the above-stated terms of use.

APPENDIX H

Recommended University-wide procedures related to inappropriate use of information technology

1. Ensure that application forms for computer accounts include the wording indicated in Appendix G.

2. Ensure that before obtaining accounts, users are informed of the culture and etiquette involved in the use of facilities including newsgroups and electronic mail, the nature and impact of offensive uses of these facilities and associated penalties, and the procedures for reporting abuses.

3. Establish as a penalty for inappropriate use suspension of computing privileges for a period of time. The length of the period should be proportional to the significance of the abuse as well as the number of previous abuses.

4. Ensure that all staff, faculty and administrators connected with a computing facility (either in a support/management role or through the teaching of courses using the facility) receive training on what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate use of the facilities, and on what to do if confronted by or notified of inappropriate usage.

5. Establish the procedure that on becoming aware of inappropriate use, a user should notify any of the staff, faculty or administrators connected with a computing facility. Once notified, this person must, in consultation with the appropriate UBC office (Sexual Harassment, Human Rights, etc.) and others responsible for the facility, address the problem. If the problem involves material that is potentially illegal, or sites outside UBC, this person must also notify the UBC individual responsible for handling such cases.

APPENDIX I

Recommended additional actions by UCS

1. Identify a staff member of UCS as the person to whom abuses should be reported in cases involving material that is potentially illegal or sites outside UBC. This individual should be responsible for notifying the appropriate authorities external to UBC. This individual, in consultation with the appropriate UBC offices, would also prepare an annual report to CABC regarding the number, nature and outcome of abuses.

2. Make available one or more staff members of UCS to provide training for staff, faculty and administrators connected with computing facilities at UBC on what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate use of information technology facilities, and how to handle abuses.

3. Prepare a package of material covering the culture and etiquette involved in the use of information technology facilities including newsgroups and electronic mail, the nature and impact of offensive uses of these facilities and associated penalties, and the procedures for reporting offences. Make this material available to all users of UCS systems, and distribute the package to the other UBC computing facilities.

Calendar

January 17 through January 30

Notices

Orchid Sale
Horticulture Greenhouse every Monday now through February from 8:30am-3:30pm. Call 822-3283.

Campus Tours
School and College Liaison Office Friday morning tours for prospective UBC students. Reserve one week in advance. Call 822-4319.

UBC Speakers Bureau
Would your group like to know more about topics ranging from dolphins to computers of the future? Choose from more than 400 topics. Call 822-6167 (24 hr. ans. machine).

Frederic Wood Theatre Performances
Sticks And Stones by James Reaney. Now through Jan. 23 at 8pm. Adults \$10, students/seniors \$7, preview Wed. 2 for \$10. Call 822-2678 or drop by Room 207 in Theatre Building.

MOA Recent Acquisitions
View recent donations and purchases by the museum displayed at the Museum of

Anthropology Visible Storage Gallery. Now through January 31 during regular hours. Free with museum admission. Call 822-5087.

Maioica Majolica: Historic and contemporary decorated earthenware. Museum of Anthropology New Lobby. Now through February 28 during regular hours. Free with museum admission. Call 822-5087.

Executive Programmes
Business seminars. Jan. 18-20: New Venture Creation, \$1450. Jan. 20-22: Do-It-Yourself Marketing Research, \$795. Jan. 26-27: Managing the Sales Process, \$550. Call 822-8400.

Computer Applications For ESL
Learn about microcomputers or WordPerfect 5.0 and improve your English language skills at the same time. Tuesday evenings beginning January 26. Call 222-5208.

English Language Institute Business Communication
Downtown business communication course for non-

native speakers of English. Held Mon/Wed, Jan. 26-Mar. 18 at the Women's Resource Centre on Robson St. Call 222-5208.

Professional Development For Language Teachers
Intensive weekend workshop: Managing The Language Classroom. Evening workshops include educational field trips, teaching reading comprehension, reflecting on the teaching of writing. Beginning January 19. Call 222-5208.

Language Conversation Classes
Develop your conversational ability in French, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin or Cantonese. Ten-week session begins Jan. 26; classes are held Tues/Thurs evenings or Saturday mornings. Call 222-5227.

Spanish Immersion Program
Program will be held in Cuernavaca, Mexico from Mar. 1-19. Call Language Programs/Services at 222-5227.

Fine Arts Gallery
Tues.-Fri. from 10am-5pm. Saturdays 12-5pm. Free admission. Main Library. Call 822-2759.

Sexual Harassment Office
Advisors are available to discuss questions or concerns and are prepared to help any member of the UBC community who is being sexually harassed, find a satisfactory resolution. Call Margaretha Hoek at 822-6353.

Statistical Consulting/Research Laboratory
SCARL is operated by the Department of Statistics to provide statistical advice to faculty and graduate students working on research problems. Call 822-4037 or e-mail scarl@stat.ubc.ca.

Surplus Equipment Recycling Facility (SERF)
Disposal of all surplus items. Every Wednesday, 12-5pm. Task Force Bldg., 2352 Health Sciences Mall. Call Vince at 822-2582/Rich at 822-2813.

Clinical Research Support Group
Faculty of Medicine data analysts supporting clinical research. To arrange a consultation, call Laura Slaney 822-4530.

Professional Fitness Appraisal
Administered by Physical Education and Recreation through the John M. Buchanan Fitness and Research Centre. Students \$40, others \$50. Call 822-4356.

Child Studies Research
Is your baby between 2 and 22 months? Join UBC's Child Studies Research Team for lots of fun. Call Dr. Baldwin at 822-8231.

Psychiatry Research Studies
Psychiatric Study Involving Eye Test. Volunteers are needed as control group. Study involves one eye test at Vancouver General Hospital and one interview at UBC—total time 1 1/2 hours. Stipend \$15. Call Arvinder Grewal at 822-7321.

Medication Treatment For People With Depression. Call Annie Kuan/Dr. R. A. Remick at 822-7321.

Medication Treatment For People With Winter Depression. Call Arvinder Grewal/Dr. R. Lam at 822-7321.

Self-Concept/Body Image Study
Seeking women volunteers ages 35-65 who either have not had any surgery on their breasts or had undergone surgery for breast cancer 2-5 years ago, without recurrence or further surgery on their breasts. Participation involves a questionnaire about body image/self-concept which takes about 15 minutes to complete. Call 224-0313.

Behaviour Study
Do you check or clean too much? Psychology is looking for people who repeatedly check (e.g. locks, stoves) or clean excessively to participate in a study. Call 822-7154/9028.

High Blood Pressure Clinic
Adult volunteers needed to participate in drug treatment studies. Call Dr. J. Wright in Medicine at 822-7134 or RN Marion Barker at 822-7192.

Drug Research Study
Male and female volunteers required for Genital Herpes Treatment Study. Sponsoring physician: Dr. Stephen Sacks, Medicine/Infectious Diseases. Call 822-7565.

Heart/Lung Response Study
At rest and during exercise. Volunteers aged 35 years and more and of all fitness levels required. No maximal testing; scheduled at your convenience. Call Marijke Dallimore, School of Rehab. Medicine, 822-7708.

Nutrition Study
Seeking female vegetarian/non-vegetarian, non-smoker volunteers, between 20-40yrs of age for a study on menstrual status, diet and bone. Honorarium \$50. Call Christina 228-1606.

Jock Itch Study
Volunteers 18-65 years of age are needed to attend 5 visits over an 8-week period. Honorarium: \$100 to be paid upon completion. Call Dermatology at 874-6181.

Faculty/Staff Badminton Club
Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm in Gym A of the Robert Osborne Centre. Cost is \$15 plus library card. Call John at 822-6933.

Late Afternoon Curling
Space available at Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre from 5-7:15pm. Beginners and experienced curlers welcome. Call Alex at 738-7698 or Paul (evenings) at 224-0835.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park Programs
Autumn program brochures are now available for all-ages as well as children's recreational/nature-study outings. Pick up from the Park Centre at 16th, west of Blanca or the GVRD main office in Burnaby. Call 432-6350.

Botanical Garden
Open daily from 10am-6pm. Free winter admission in effect. Call 822-4208.

Nitobe Memorial Garden Restoration
The Nitobe Garden is being restored to its original character through Mar. 31/93. During this period, the garden will be closed to the public. Call 822-8228.

Miscellany

Tuesday, January 19
Statistics Workshop
Strategies For Tackling Real Live Statistical Problems. Dr. Chris Chatfield, Mathematical Sciences, U. of Bath. Angus 426 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3167/2234.

Wednesday, January 20
Women's Research/Introduction To The Internet
An introduction to the Internet: email, ftp, and telnet with a focus on resources for women. Library/Information Science. Main Library 835 from 3:30-5pm. Call 822-8672.

Thursday, January 21
Board Of Governors' Meeting
UBC's Board of Governors meets in the Board Room, second floor of the Old Administration

Building, 6328 Memorial Rd. The open session starts at 9:00 a.m.
Media Services Live Video Conference
Teaching With Technology. Apple Computer Company. University Services TeleCentre 112 from 8:45-10am. Call 822-5036.

Tuesday, January 26
MOA Artists' Reception
The Transforming Image. Museum of Anthropology New Lobby Gallery 5 at 7:30pm. Free with museum admission. Call 822-5087.

Thursday, January 28
Video Screening
Program 1 - Multimedia 101 - Getting Started; Program 2 - MacIntosh In The Classroom. Apple Computer Company. University Services TeleCentre 112 from 9:30-11:30am. Videotape repeats from Apple Educator Series (1990). Call 822-5036.

Research forest trees lead sheltered life

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

Douglas fir trees are leading a sheltered life at the Alex Fraser Research Forest.

That's the idea behind a co-operative research project involving the forest, the Ministry of Forests - Cariboo Region, and Weldwood Canada Ltd.

Between the dry country around Williams Lake and the wet country around Horsefly and Likely is the transition zone, which is plagued by frost during the growing season.

When foresters plan a harvest in this area, the Douglas fir and lodgepole pine forests are clearcut. There is no problem planting lodgepole pine in the area, according to Ken Day, resident forester and manager of the Alex Fraser Research Forest. However, if foresters want to re-establish Douglas fir in the area after harvesting, a different method is required.

"Douglas fir is very sensitive to frost during the growing season, and its young seedlings need to be protected for several years until their growing buds are up out of the freezing air that

collects on the surface of the ground," explained Day.

That's where the shelter comes in.

A shelterwood silviculture system is a method of harvesting which thins the forest over several years, encouraging regeneration of the type of tree desired.

"Once the young trees are established, the remaining mature trees are harvested," said Day.

"The entire process takes about 20 years from the first thinning to the final harvest and a young, healthy forest is left behind."

Day said that although shelterwood harvesting allows foresters to regenerate harvested areas with Douglas fir, which can be difficult in a clearcut, it also has its disadvantages.

"If too many trees are removed at the beginning, winds may blow the remaining trees over. In addition, less timber is harvested from each area, so logging is more expensive and more area needs to be harvested in a year.

"However, if research proves shelterwood harvesting to be successful, foresters will have one more technique for managing the forest in the Cariboo."



Ken Day photo

Forestry students visit Alex Fraser Research Forest site.

Classified

The classified advertising rate is \$15 for 35 words or less. Each additional word is 50 cents. Rate includes GST. Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z2, accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to UBC Reports) or internal requisition. Advertising enquiries: 822-3131.

The deadline for the January 28, 1992 issue of UBC Reports is noon, January 19.

Accommodation

HOUSING WANTED New UBC Professor of Family Practice needs housing for March! Main living area must be wheelchair accessible or easily convertible. Minimum 2 bedroom plus den; bungalow or condo; to buy, rent or sublet. Contact Dr. Klein (514) 935-8138 or Roslyn Hoad 822-3314. Coming to look mid-January.

Transportation

CAR POOLING How about a car-pooling resolution? Your car and/or mine. From UBC to Capilano College area in North Vancouver. Hours of work 7:45 am to 3:45 pm. Flexible 8-4. Phone Deborah at 988-1149 or 822-5415.

Miscellaneous

GAGE BIOGRAPHY I am writing a biography of Dr. Walter Gage. Would former colleagues please send their memories of his lifelong service to UBC as administrator and teacher of mathematics to Helen Borrell, Apt. 204, 30 East 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5T 4C8. Phone 875-6772.

SINGLES NETWORK Science professionals and others interested in science or natural history are meeting through a North America-wide network. For info write: Science Connection, P.O. Box 389, Port Dover, Ontario N0A 1N0 or call 1-800-667-5179.

HAPPY NEW YEAR Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous year ahead. Brar Amarjit Singh, candidate for Board of Governors.

Technique locates brain damage

by **Connie Filletti**

Staff writer

A technique useful in determining the location and extent of brain damage in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, has been developed by a UBC neurologist.

ALS is a condition that causes progressive degeneration of the brain and spinal cord cells that control movement.

Called magnetic coil stimulation, the painless, non-

invasive technique is the result of a three-year study by Dr. Andrew Eisen, director of UBC's Neuromuscular Diseases Unit at Vancouver General Hospital.

Eisen said that during the procedure, 2,000 volts of electricity, which have been stored in a magnetic simulator machine, are released through a coil which has been placed on the patient's head.

"The current induced by the magnet causes excitation of the motor cortex with the resulting contraction of muscles. The procedure helps us to understand the integrity of the

motor pathways in awake subjects."

Eisen and his colleagues conducted a controlled study of 50 patients with Lou Gehrig's disease. They were examined within 15 months of developing their initial symptoms.

Although there is no known cause for ALS, scientists speculate that environmental conditions may be responsible for the disease.

Magnetic coil stimulation is also useful in helping medical researchers to gain a better understanding of other neurological disorders such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, he said.

Eisen, who began his research in 1989, was the first physician in Canada to use the coil. To date, it does not have U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval because of the agency's concerns about brain damage, seizures and heart stoppages.

Eisen, who has used the technique on more than 2,000 patients with a variety of diseases without incident, dismisses the FDA's concerns as unfounded.

"It is a remarkably safe procedure in the short term."

The technique is not used on anyone known to have epilepsy, a biomedical device such as a pacemaker, or who has had brain surgery.

Eisen's research is funded by the Medical Research Council of Canada and the B.C. Health Care Research Foundation.

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Paul Wilford **call... 669-2905**

UBC Reports advertising rates and deadlines

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1/16 page (1 7/8" x 5")	\$70.00
Business card ad (4" x 2")	\$56.00

* other sizes: \$14 per column inch

Classified advertisement: (GST included)
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Advertising Deadlines:

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Profile



Andrew Dawes . . . International performances and UBC students keep Dawes and his 222-year-old violin in tune.

Fiddler on the move

by Charles Ker

Staff writer

A 222-year-old J.B. Guadagnini greets all who enter Andrew Dawes' third-floor studio in UBC's School of Music.

Sheltered from the elements inside a custom-made green silk jacket, the exquisite Italian violin rests in an open case to the left of Dawes' desk, and directly in front of his office door; a precarious place for so precious a possession.

"Not really," says Dawes, proudly pointing to pictures of his two daughters tucked above the prized fiddle. "It's been in worse positions."

Some years ago, while cycling to class at the University of Toronto, Dawes and his beloved instrument were knocked down by a careless driver. Disregarding a delicate tool of the trade, namely his right hand, Canada's preeminent chamber violinist promptly slammed a fist into the car door, startling the driver.

"I remember the worried look on his face as he scrambled to roll up the window," he chuckled. "I guess he thought I was going to get up and punch him next."

Since moving west to join UBC's music faculty in September, there's been little time for cycling.

When he isn't teaching one of 12 students the complexities of a Brahms concerto, Dawes is himself a performer with An Die Musik, an American chamber group of oboe, string trio and piano.

Last November, the quintet played in Monterey, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vancouver and two concerts at its home base in New York City. This month, the musicians perform in Basle, Bonn, Wurtzburg, Fussen and Berlin

before breaking up and reconvening in the spring.

"Basically, we split before we get on each others nerves," said Dawes.

It was a lack of any time apart which contributed to the breakup two years ago of Dawes' "other" group, The Orford Quartet. Dawes founded this, Canada's greatest chamber ensemble, back in 1965, despite earlier leanings toward a solo career.

The son of an Alberta rancher, the 52-year-old musician started "fiddling" in Calgary and Saskatoon, where he bought the J.B. Guadagnini from a local farmer in 1957. Six years later, at 23, he graduated from the Geneva Conservatory winning the Prix de Virtuosite with the highest marks ever recorded at the Swiss institution.

But before launching his top student as a soloist, Hungarian teacher Lorand Fenyves prompted the young Canadian to give chamber music a try.

"I decided to give it a shot for a year and if at the end of that period things weren't working out, then we'd give it up," said Dawes. "As it turned out, there was never anything else that I wanted to do. I loved it."

What attracts Dawes to chamber music is the opportunity it gives musicians to perfect the interpretive and technical aspects of a piece. Whereas a guest soloist might spend two hours with an orchestra preparing for a 45-minute concerto, chamber musicians often take two months to prepare for a performance.

The Orford regime typically involved members practising separately for two hours in the morning, then rehearsing together for four hours each afternoon.

Said Dawes: "I enjoyed that interaction, a highly-skilled level; refining, polishing and getting better all the time. As long as it continued to meet my own needs as far as ambition and technical excellence, then I was happy to keep doing it."

For 26 years the Orford kept doing it, wowing audiences with their skill and style in nearly 2,000 concerts on six continents. Three of its 50

recordings won JUNO Awards and last year, Dawes' contribution to the group was recognized with the Order of Canada.

Eventually, internal tensions and a realization on Dawes' part

that he wanted to teach more and perform less, led to the Orford's dissolution in July 1991.

"Every quartet goes through on-going strife," he said. "It's part of working seven days a week and coming to grips with conflicting personalities, egos and opinions. I had a finite amount of time left to play and realized I didn't want to spend the rest of my life playing in a quartet."

By incorporating an oboe into the mix, Dawes says An Die Musik has a unique advantage over the 20 to 30 string quartets it competes against for engagements. For its coming tour through Germany, the quintet has added pieces written specifically for them by jazz artist Dave Brubeck and

conductor Andre Previn.

At UBC, he and colleague Stephen Chatman keep on top of developments in the music scene by directing the UBC Contemporary Players, a student instrumental ensemble which performs 20th century classics and "New Music."

Formerly an associate professor at the University of Toronto where he taught chamber music for 20 years, Dawes also keeps active on the judging circuit.

A juror of the Banff International String Quartet Competition since its inception in 1983, he presided over the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition in Indiana last year and was invited by Sir Yehudi Menuhin to be on the jury of the London International String Quartet Competition in 1991.

Together with violinist Robert Davidovici, cellist Eric Wilson and viola teacher Gerald Stanick, Dawes hopes UBC becomes the preferred place of study for young string musicians across Canada and North America.

"As far as chamber music goes, we have a quartet here which is certainly the strongest in Canada and equal to any in the U.S.," he said.

Admittedly, it was hard for Dawes and his wife, Karen, to leave Toronto after 27 years. The move does, however, bring him closer to his sister, Mary Lou, an accomplished pianist whom he performs with periodically in Victoria.

As for the J.B. Guadagnini, Dawes has commissioned an old friend in Geneva to build him a second violin which he hopes to pick up during An Die Musik's European tour this month.

By leaving one fiddle at home, and one at the office, he looks forward to cycling to work without the extra baggage.

"We have a quartet here which is certainly the strongest in Canada and equal to any in the U.S."

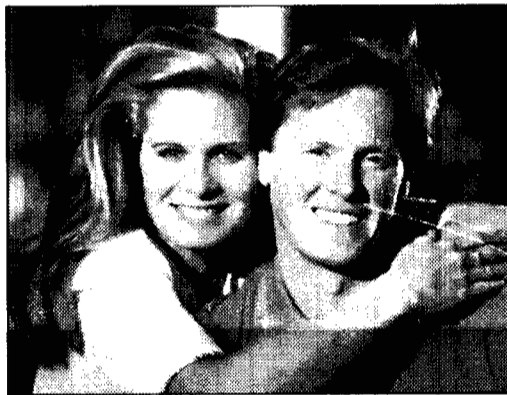
-Andrew Dawes

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