

UBC REPORTS

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July 13, 1995



Stephen Forgacs photo

Making Music

Indonesian Vice Consul Trini Sualang performs with other musicians on a 20-piece Javanese gamelan ensemble donated to the UBC School of Music by Consul General Sukartini Sabekti and the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia. Gamelan ensembles comprise bronze-knobbed gongs and xylophone-type instruments and are popular throughout Indonesia. Indonesian gamelan instructor Sutrisno will be teaching the gamelan at UBC during the coming school year.

Federal funding gives TRIUMF secure future

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

The uncertainty is finally over at TRIUMF.

National Revenue Minister David Anderson recently announced a five-year funding commitment of \$166.6 million for the particle accelerator laboratory on the south campus.

"In a time of spending restraints, this was a difficult decision, but clearly the right one," said Anderson, who was joined at the announcement by Jon Gerrard, secretary of state for Science, Research and Development. "TRIUMF will bring long-term scientific and economic benefits."

The announcement was good news for the 350 scientists and technicians who work at TRIUMF and for researchers at UBC and other institutions who depend on its unique facilities.

Concern for its future had been growing since the federal government declined to fund the \$2-billion KAON project 18 months ago.

KAON would have expanded and updated TRIUMF, a cyclotron accelerator that creates sub-atomic particles for nuclear physics research. Without it, many openly questioned the aging facility's long-term viability.

In addition to its work in fundamental physical sciences, TRIUMF has important research programs in advanced materials and the life sciences, including the development of medical diagnostics and unique cancer therapies.

Through its partnership with UBC's Faculty of Medicine, about 3,000 people a year receive treatment based on TRIUMF activities.

The renewed support will allow TRIUMF



Gavin Wilson photo

National Revenue Minister David Anderson talks to the news media following the announcement of a five-year funding commitment to TRIUMF.

to continue its current research program, develop a new research facility and provide components to the world's most powerful particle accelerator — a \$3-billion project being built at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The contributions of equipment and technical and scientific expertise to CERN will ensure access to this unique facility for Canadian scientists.

The new TRIUMF facility will be a \$9-million Isotope Separator and Accelerator (ISAC-1), which, when completed in five years, will create a beam of short-lived but rare and exotic isotopes for physics research.

ISAC-1 will produce what is likely the world's most intense beam of these isotopes. The facility will be of interest to astrophysicists who will be able to simulate the formation of elements in stars

See **TRIUMF** Page 2

McEwen Report

Committee set up to advise on equity

A committee working on the first of seven recommendations dealing with allegations of racism and sexism in the Dept. of Political Science should be in place by the end of July, says UBC's dean of Graduate Studies.

Dean John Grace suspended admissions to the department's graduate program following the release of a report written by Vancouver lawyer and labour arbitrator Joan McEwen.

The 177-page document recommended the suspension until all students in the department "be accorded educational equity, and will be afforded a learning and working environment which is harassment and discrimination-free."

Grace said the committee comprising students, faculty and staff, will advise him on how best to address issues of equity, harassment and discrimination and at what stage it would be appropriate to lift the suspension. Students already admitted in the political science program for 1995 will be allowed to register.

"I really want to have consensus on the part of students and faculty in the department that the climate between the two is much better," said Grace. "When we do re-establish admissions, everyone should be on side and that will be an indicator that the climate has improved."

A week after the report's release, political science faculty unanimously passed a resolution to meet the objectives set out in the decision to suspend graduate ad-

missions. In answer to another of the report's recommendations, faculty endorsed a second resolution stating that the department "will not tolerate any retaliation against students, staff or faculty as a result of their participation in the enquiry."

Both resolutions were circulated to all graduate students and faculty as an interdepartmental memorandum.

The administration agreed to other recommendations which include:

- providing a copy of the report to each graduate student in the department and to those who have already been admitted for the fall of 1995;

- forming a committee to define clearly the roles and responsibilities of department heads, graduate advisers and deans;

- inviting the Faculty Association to enter into negotiations to prepare a statement of mutual commitment to fostering a learning and working environment for the students, faculty and staff that is free from harassment and discrimination.

UBC President David Strangway said mechanisms already in place will deal with recommendations to amend UBC's mission statement and to establish an ombudsperson's office. He stated that the university's policy on discrimination and harassment, the principle vehicle for promoting and protecting such an environment, will be reviewed to determine whether changes are required.

See **REPORT** Page 2

Earthquake simulator gains range of motion

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

UBC's earthquake shake table has received a \$500,000 upgrade that enables it to more accurately reproduce the movements of a real earthquake.

Located in the Earthquake Engineering Laboratory, the table is used by Civil Engineering faculty and graduate students to see how different construction materials and techniques withstand the forces unleashed by earthquake ground motions.

Before the upgrade, the 25-year-old equipment was only capable of repro-

ducing motions in one direction. Now, the table can be configured with either three additional movements — roll, pitch and up and down — or with two additional horizontal movements.

More than half the faculty members in the Civil Engineering Dept. do at least some work in the field of earthquake-related research.

Some faculty members recently conducted tests for the seismic retrofitting of the Oak St. Bridge for the Ministry of Highways. They looked at four types of retrofit, each using different materials and techniques, to see which would

See **QUAKE** Page 2

Inside

Dementia Americana

3

Offbeat: Keith Maillard explores the craziness of contemporary America

Disaster Strikes

3

UBC staff, RCMP, and paramedics attend a mock disaster on campus

House Float

7

Open House '95 is theme for UBC's debut float in PNE Parade

High Stakes

8

When the Aztecs played ball, they may have been playing for their lives

Letters

LETTERS POLICY

UBC Reports welcomes letters to the editor on topics relevant to the university community. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Please limit letters, which may be edited for length, style and clarity, to 300 words. Deadline is 10 days before publication date. Submit letters in person or by mail to the UBC Public Affairs Office, 207-6328 Memorial Rd., Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2, by fax to 822-2684 or by e-mail to pmmartin@unixg.ubc.ca.

Dean responds to Poli Sci report

Editor:

There is a good deal of controversy over the inquiry and report on Political Science. I am concerned that two different issues are sometimes confused.

As the dean of the faculty involved in this unfortunate affair, and also as a female member of faculty, I am entirely in agreement with the sentiment that we should strive to create an inclusive and non-discriminatory climate at UBC. There are problems to be addressed in the Political Science and in other departments. Toward the goal of improving the "climate" for all students, faculty, and staff, the Faculty of Arts is developing guidelines for heads, deans, and faculty, and is undertaking debate on these sensitive issues. The Dept. of Political Science has dedicated itself to becoming a more sensitive community.

To recognize the need to institute reforms and become more sensitive to the issues does not preclude and is not in conflict with another recogni-

tion, namely that the report is deeply flawed. Among many weaknesses: it dismisses testimony and evidence contrary to the allegations and relegates faculty responses to a short appendix; evidence is lacking; allegations are repeated as if all were about sexism and racism even where there is no apparent or necessary linkage, and the context of alleged comments is not reported. The investigator failed to distinguish between the taking of offence and provable harm related to complaints, and did not define "systemic" discrimination in terms of harmful practice. There is a persistent assumption of guilt by virtue of accusation. The report, in short, is deficient in principles of natural justice, a deficiency that does not in the long run serve the interests of the aggrieved any more than of the defendants.

As a matter of information: the draft terms of reference for the report were established by the dean of Graduate Studies and myself as dean of Arts, together with the vice-president and associate vice-presidents, Academic. That draft was discussed with representatives of both the

Faculty Association (including the president) and the Graduate Student Association (including one of the self-identified complainants). Both groups requested changes to eliminate identification of individuals, and those requests were met.

The terms were fully conducive to seeking evidence: the investigator was charged with the responsibility to determine whether there was a basis for the allegations. She chose instead to repeat the allegations and treated them as if they were proof. This failure to distinguish between allegation and evidence, together with the flawed report and administrative decisions that followed from it, concerns many scholars among whom I include myself.

It is my belief that the report is harmful to the very causes we most want to advance on this campus. I hope that my colleagues who deeply and sincerely seek ways of developing a more respectful atmosphere for all members of the university community will move beyond this inadequate vehicle in pursuit of that goal.

**Patricia Marchak, FRSC
Dean, Faculty of Arts**

Report

Continued from Page 1

He also pointed out that the equity office, created in the spring of 1994, is intended to serve an ombuds-like function and will be strengthened if necessary.

Sharon Kahn, associate vice-president, Equity, is responsible for preparing an annual report to include case summaries and recommendations to the UBC Board of Governors for policy change and to the administration for improvement of procedures.

Said Strangway: "It is our intent to ensure that there is an office which is, and is seen to be, independent."

McEwen was hired by the university in August 1994 to enquire into allegations of "pervasive racism and sexism" within the Dept. of Political Science and review actions taken in response to initial allegations from 12, primarily female, graduate students and subsequent complaints. Her report, which took 10 months to complete and provided no names, concluded that a basis does exist for the allegations. McEwen concluded also that the university's response was inadequate.

Law Prof. Tony Sheppard, president of the UBC Faculty Association, expressed concerns

that the report failed to specify the nature of the evidence supporting the allegations.

Since its release on June 21, McEwen's report has triggered a media debate across Canada, the U.S. and abroad.

TRIUMF

Continued from Page 1

and in the early universe, and to physicists studying nuclear structure and the behaviour of unusual atomic nuclei.

Construction of the new accelerator at TRIUMF and development of components for CERN will result in the purchase of about \$50 million worth of services and products from Canadian high-tech companies.

About \$96 million of the total federal funding is a continuation of the existing commitment to TRIUMF by the National Research Council. The remaining \$70 million is a reallocation within the existing budget of Western Economic Diversification Canada.

The provincial government also announced it will contribute almost \$10 million to renovate an existing building for a new particle beam target hall and construct new buildings for experiments, technical support, offices and labs.

TRIUMF did not get everything it was asking for. Its 1994 proposal to Ottawa was for \$196 million over five years, which has been cut by \$30 million.

TRIUMF is operated by a consortium of universities, including UBC, but its operating budget is funded by the National Research Council.

Quake

Continued from Page 1

best bring the bridge up to standards.

Future research using the earthquake shake table includes: testing timber connections made with Parallam, a reconstituted wood product used primarily for structural beams; testing new techniques for strengthening steel-frame buildings with steel-plate shear walls; and testing the strength of reinforced plywood walls for a company promoting their use in Japan.

The recently completed upgrade is a unique application of systems designed for the aerospace and automotive industries to test vibration resistance.

The addition of fully digitized controls and four new actuators, which are hydraulic pistons that move the two-tonne stiffened aluminum table, will enable it to more accurately reproduce the movements of a real

earthquake.

In a demonstration of the table's improved functions, a model of a wood-frame house was subjected to various seismic effects, including a re-creation of the Northridge earthquake that rocked Los Angeles in 1994.

The increased testing capability of the earthquake shake table will make it an even more valuable asset to the province of British Columbia, much of which sits on a high-risk earthquake zone, and will enhance teaching, research and service activities at UBC.

Members of the public will be able to see the earthquake shake table in action during UBC's Open House, Oct. 13-15. The earthquake shake table was one of the most popular attractions at previous Open House events.

The upgrade is being funded by the National Research Council, B.C. Hydro and the Science Council of B.C.

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The UBC Public Affairs Office moves to its new home on August 17/18, 1995

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M and P staff vote to ratify agreement

The university and its management and professional staff have ratified a framework agreement for terms and conditions of employment at UBC.

Eighty-one per cent of the 417 ballots cast by management and professional staff were in favour of ratification. In total, 1,130 staff were eligible to vote.

"The result of this vote establishes a process for negotiating terms of employment," said Justin Marples, president of the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff (AAPS) and administration manager in the School of Human Kinetics.

"In addition, there is now full recognition among all parties that M and P staff are represented by AAPS. It is a legally binding relationship which gives us the strength we need when it comes to negotiating with the university."

Frank Eastham, associate vice-president, Human Resources, shared Marples' satisfaction with the agreement.

"The university is pleased that an agreement for discussing and formally negotiating terms and conditions of employment has been achieved within the framework of a commonly shared vision," he said.

"The substantive and the process elements of the framework agreement value and recognize the crucial contribution of management and professional staff to the university's mission," he added.

Marples said he was pleased with the outcome of the vote, but disappointed with the low turnout among AAPS members.

"We have to keep it in perspective. This agreement did not resolve the issue concerning the university's desire not to agree to third party binding arbitration for compensation issues. In that respect we have a very long way to go."

"Many AAPS members must have struggled with this, so it's not entirely surprising that the turnout was less than 50 per cent among AAPS members."

AAPS will now focus its efforts on recruiting new members with a one-year membership drive that will begin later this year. With the voluntary agreement calling for automatic inclusion into AAPS of newly hired management and professional staff, Marples said the association will attempt to recruit current M and P staff who are not AAPS members.

"The university recognizes that it's in everyone's best interests that all M and P staff be members of AAPS," Marples said. "The voluntary agreement includes a letter of agreement which provides an infrastructure to increase membership numbers."

The voluntary agreement also preserves current rights and practices, unless AAPS agrees to negotiate changes to these rights and practices, and calls for no strikes or lockouts.

In other labour news on campus, contract talks with the unions that represent the university's clerical staff, teaching assistants and trades people were all scheduled to be in mediation this month.

Canadian Union of Public Employees locals 116, 2278 and 2950 were expected to go into mediation in early July. Talks with the International Union of Operating Engineers were already in mediation last month.

Campus unions have been without contracts since the spring of 1994.

Members of UBC's Faculty Association last month voted overwhelmingly in favour of accepting a new two-year agreement with the university. The deal does not provide for any general pay increases but does allow for career progress increments.



Gavin Wilson photo

Emergency workers load a "victim" into an ambulance as part of emergency response exercise organized by UBC's Health, Safety and Environment office.

Explosion sets stage for emergency drill

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

The June 23 explosion was one of the most horrific scenes ever witnessed on campus.

Police sirens wailed, firefighters scrambled to douse a dangerous blaze and injured people moaned as they were carried on stretchers into waiting ambulances.

Later, everyone involved agreed it was a huge success.

The "explosion" was simulated and the massive emergency response simply an exercise organized by UBC's Health, Safety and Environment office.

Such drills are an excellent way to see how different agencies react and co-ordinate their efforts, said Dorit Mason, environmental and emergency planning officer with Health, Safety and Environment.

"We hope that nothing like this ever happens on campus, but we must be ready to respond to any eventuality," she said.

The event measured emergency response to a simulated explosion at the

Chemical Waste Processing facility on the south campus. In this scenario, there was one fatality and about 20 injuries ranging from serious burns and fractures to minor cuts.

It was the third year Health, Safety and Environment has co-ordinated an emergency scenario. This year's was the largest exercise of its kind ever held on campus.

Taking part were the University Endowment Lands Fire Dept., the UEL detachment of the RCMP, the B.C. Ambulance Service, Parking and Security Services, UBC's Public Affairs Office and the UBC site of Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre.

"Overall, everyone was very pleased with the way things went," Mason said. "It brought up a number of issues that each of the agencies was interested in working on and improving."

For example, Mason said, the hospital and ambulance services wanted to practice setting up a triage area, where injured persons are assessed, given first aid and then prioritized for further treatment.

Offbeat

by staff writers

The craziness of contemporary America. This is the general topic Keith Maillard explores with his latest publication called, *Dementia Americana*. The League of Canadian Poets recently honoured the associate professor's work with the 1995 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for best first book of poetry.



Evelyn Nesbit

Maillard, with the Dept. of Creative Writing, says *Dementia Americana* has three sections. The first two consist of poems pondering the derangement of private life in the wake of the Vietnam and Gulf Wars. The third segment is a long narrative poem in seven parts dealing with the 1906 murder trial of Harry Thaw. Thaw was accused of murdering leading U.S. architect Stanford White after learning that White had an affair with Thaw's wife (Evelyn Nesbit) long before Thaw met her.

According to Maillard, the trial was among America's most scandalous and provocative causing fist fights and suicides. U.S. President Roosevelt apparently went to great lengths to try to suppress news of the sensational trial.

His efforts had little effect as Maillard notes in this passage from *Dementia Americana*.

"The trial of the century" (as it was called) got off to a slow start, so newsmen did their best to satisfy their hungry readers, reporting on the clothing, manner, mood, and slightest move of everyone involved. Mother Thaw, in widow's black, and lightest "dignified." She was invoked by her daughter, Alice Cornelia, Countess of Yarmouth, and Mrs. George Carnegie - and, by Evelyn, who looked to one reporter "like a very small and frightened mouse." Depending on the paper you read, Harry was "cheerful," "bored," "dismayed," or "deeply interested." A multitude of lawyers crammed the court - so many, someone quipped: "If Mother Thaw has bought the very best, she's also bought the very most she could."

The craziness continues.

Crane Memorial Library joins Disability Resource Centre

In a move that will enhance services for students, faculty and staff, UBC's Crane Memorial Library, a branch of the UBC Library since 1969, became the Crane Resource Centre, a unit within the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) in Student Services, on July 1.

"This move follows recommendations from two extensive reports on Crane and our services to persons with disabilities," said Maria Klawe, vice-president, Student and Academic Services. "It recognizes that Crane's role has changed over the years from building a library collection of materials in alternate formats to offering direct support to clients who require alternatives to print as well as technical support in order to access information."

Linking Crane's mandate and resources with the DRC confirms UBC's commitment to deliver centrally required services from the Disability Resource Centre, Klawe added.

Paul Thiele, director of Crane, said the move is much welcomed. "Crane has benefitted from 25 years of growth and development with the UBC Library but it

is appropriate that it be linked with the Disability Resource Centre given our mutual roles in providing services to persons with disabilities."

He emphasized that a central part of Crane's mandate will continue to be the production of books and documents in alternate media for UBC and external users who are blind, visually or print impaired.

The move will allow Crane to transfer its collection from UBC Library's general catalogues onto a separate catalogue, accessible through the UBC Library. "This will alleviate the confusion of materials restricted for specialized use due to copyright and braille reading skills, from being documented in a general catalogue," Thiele said.

"We welcome Crane into the Disability Resource Centre and look forward to working even more closely together," said Ruth Warick, director of the Disability Resource Centre. "We will have even greater opportunities to develop and implement programs to make the University fully accessible to persons with disabilities."

Students prefer challenge to being spoon-fed: dean

Contrary to views often heard on campus, students like to be intellectually challenged in the classroom.

That's the conclusion Associate Dean of Science Judy Myers has reached after reviewing teaching evaluations submitted by students in her faculty.

Teaching evaluations are carried out each term for all courses in the Faculty of Science. Students are asked to evaluate various aspects of their courses on a sliding scale from strongly negative to strongly positive.

Myers said an analysis of second-year course evaluations shows a strong correlation be-

tween the students' views of the overall effectiveness of professors and whether they thought professors stimulated them to think.

"We all hope students prefer courses in which they are stimulated to think, but one often hears opinions to the contrary," Myers said. "Some teachers believe they don't get good evaluations be-

cause they make students think



Judy Myers

rather than spoon-feed them course material."

Myers said the evaluations also showed that students are generally satisfied with the teaching effectiveness of their professors, most of whom get positive overall ratings.

"These positive results are encouraging to all of us concerned about the quality of students and the effectiveness of teaching," she said.



John Chong photo

Fry On Campus

Vancouver Centre MP Hedy Fry (right) met with members of the Family Practice Dept. including Dr. Carol Herbert (left), head of the unit, to discuss health issues during a visit to campus June 29. Fry's itinerary included a visit to the UBC-based Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network and Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, discussions with representatives from the Faculty of Forestry, a meeting with Law Dean Lynn Smith, who also serves as chair of B.C. Women's Hospital board and a visit to the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada where she reviewed research initiatives with Jack Saddler, senior chair holder of Forest Products Biotechnology, a component of the Dept. of Wood Science.

Symposium examines health effects of metals

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

Research in toxicology and metal-related diseases is the focus of a three-day symposium currently in progress at UBC.

The fifth COMTOX Symposium on Toxicology and Clinical Chemistry of Metals, organized by the Association of Clinical Scientists in collaboration with 21 sponsors including the World Health Organization and the United Nations, has attracted more than 400 delegates from 38 nations.

They are sharing insights on the latest discoveries about the role of metals in health and disease, occupational and environmental exposures to metal, the molecular biology and toxicology of metals and the analysis of metals in biological materials.

Research on the toxicity of metals provides important information to government agencies and to the public on types and amounts of exposure to metals that can be health hazards, said Anne Autor, a professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and chair of the symposium's local organizing committee.

"Although mining of metals, for example, is an important part of the Canadian economy, biological studies tell us that some metals, such as copper and zinc, are vital to body function but can be toxic if the level of exposure is too high," she said.

"In contrast, other metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead are not used by the body but are toxic."

Highlights from the scientific program, which comprises more than 300 lectures and poster presentations, include new data on the dietary exposure to toxic metals of Canada's indigenous people living in the Arctic, the cancer risks of orthopedic prostheses and illnesses associated with mercury release from dental amalgam fillings.

Autor said it is important to raise public awareness about the prominent role metals play in our everyday lives.

"Many people don't realize that when they renovate old houses, they are unleashing a spray of lead when they start scraping away the paint. This is particularly hazardous for young children who are very susceptible to lead fumes."

Exposure to metals is usually derived from airborne particles carrying metal contaminants that can travel long distances before being deposited on soil or in water, Autor explained.

Movement of contaminating metals through the food chain can then reach humans causing indirect exposure.

She advised that many household and workplace products also contain metals such as titanium in toothpaste, cadmium and nickel in rechargeable batteries and chromium in cement.

"In many cases, the levels of metals used are low enough to be safe, however, high exposures through accident or carelessness can present hazards producing a variety of health problems ranging from allergies to neurological damage," Autor said.

The symposium, which began July 10, continues through July 13 at the Student Union Building.

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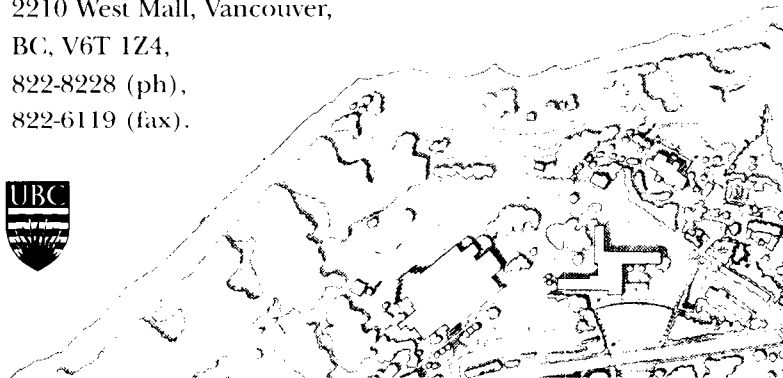
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ADULT PROGRAMS

News Digest

Vancouver Hospital is operating a Community Involvement Response Line until Aug. 12 as part of an information gathering process by the volunteer Community Facilitating Group. Vancouver residents are invited to call 875-5510 to record their comment on the question "Given the changes taking place to the health care delivery system in B.C., how should Vancouver Hospital re-define and implement its role within the community of Vancouver?"

Opinions and comments from the community via the response line, along with information from other surveys and questionnaires, and recommendations for further community participation activities will be presented to the Vancouver Hospital Board in September.

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UBC faculty members are involved in organizing a major conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), in Vancouver Oct. 22-25.

Held in Canada for the first time, the IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics has as its theme Intelligent Systems for the 21st Century.

Some of the topics covered in the 700 papers to be presented at the conference include artificial intelligence, biomedical engineering, computer vision, control systems, robotics, software engineering, human-machine interaction, industrial automation and fuzzy logic control.

Electric and electronics engineers from around the world are expected to attend the conference, which will be among the largest engineering conferences ever held.

The conference program chair is Prof. Clarence de Silva of the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering. Other UBC Mechanical Engineering faculty members involved in organizing the conference are Prof. Dale Cherkas and Asst. Prof. Chris Ma.

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An international panel of speakers will explore the role of the laboratory in critical care of the fetus, infant and child during the Sixth International Congress on Pediatric Laboratory Medicine July 21 to 24 at UBC's Instructional Resources Centre.

Conference participants will share the latest information on the quality and effectiveness of diagnostic testing and screening in the pediatric age group, focusing on children with cancer, the sick fetus and newborn infant, and children undergoing transplants.

New molecular and other diagnostic techniques in microbiology, surgical pathology and metabolic disease, and the optimal use of testing in the assessment of nutrition in infants and children, will also be highlighted.


For more information, call 875-2394.

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Nearly half of the industry respondents to a nationwide survey said they planned to enter into new research and development partnerships with universities within the next year. Another 15 per cent said they planned to enter into new arrangements within the next three years.

Four of every five Canadian universities reported an increase in university-industry collaboration within the last five years, the survey showed.

Conducted last April and May by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Conference Board of Canada, the survey polled 208 Canadian CEOs and 66 university presidents. Eighty-six companies and 43 universities responded to the survey.



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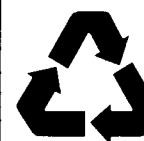
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Studies

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Please
Recycle

UBC debuts in PNE parade with Open House '95 float

by **Connie Filletti**

Staff writer

Open House '95 organizers are hoping for a tidal wave of community support after UBC makes its debut appearance in Vancouver's annual PNE Parade, Aug. 19.

The UBC float will feature the university's first campus-wide Open House in five years, which takes place Oct. 13, 14 and 15.

"The PNE Parade is a B.C. tradition and a prominent summer event which is televised across the province," said Debora Sweeney, UBC Marketing Manager.

"We considered it a great opportunity to showcase UBC with the help of our faculty and students and their considerable talents."

Entering a UBC float in the parade is the brainchild of Richard Prince, an associate professor of Fine Arts.

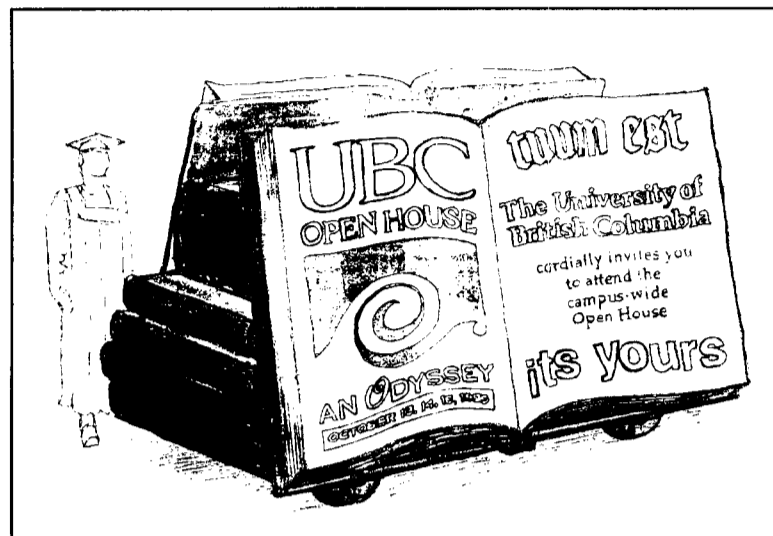
"It's a way to inform the public about the university and about

Open House specifically," Prince said. "But just as importantly, it's encouraging people to attend a welcoming, family event."

The float, an open book measuring approximately 18 feet by 12 feet, will be constructed by skilled students and technicians from various campus departments.

Preliminary sketches have been prepared by Robert Gardiner, an associate professor of Theatre.

The UBC Thunderbird and letter people, familiar sights at Open House in 1990, will be on board the float to greet the 100,000 people expected to line the parade route.



Robert Gardiner drawing

Main Mall to gain green space

by **Gavin Wilson**

Staff writer

This summer will see work begin on a dramatic new addition to the campus landscape — the creation of the Great North Meadow on the hill below the

Rose Garden.

The new open space is part of a long-term plan that is changing the face of the area surrounding the northern end of Main Mall, said Urban Designer Michael Howell of Campus Planning and Development.

"The concept of a Great North Meadow originated in the Master Campus Plan, which stressed the importance of the Main Mall as an organizing feature of the campus," he said. The meadow will be a part of the northern terminus of the mall.

The mall's southern end, which will be very urban with new buildings and a plaza, will be balanced at the northern end by the landscaping of the meadow. Rose Garden and view of ocean and mountains beyond, Howell said.

In its first phase, the meadow will stretch down from Marine Drive to the area between the Anthropology and Sociology Building and Mary Bollert Hall.

Earth work this summer will create a gentle slope on which low maintenance grasses will be planted. It will be an ideal place to sit or stroll, Howell said, comparing it with the knolls behind the Museum of Anthropology.

A new wheelchair-accessible path will link the Rose Garden Parkade and Cecil Green Park House.

To create the meadow, some trees will be moved to other parts of campus. Other trees, mostly cedars, that are too big to move will be cut down.

The removal of about a dozen trees will also dramatically open up views of the ocean and mountains from the Rose Garden area, Howell said.

Campus Planning will ensure that an equal number of trees are re-planted on the edges of the site to make up for any that are removed.

"There will be no net loss of trees," Howell said.

The second phase will see the meadow expand with the demolition of the Anthropology and Sociology building, but that may be as far away as 25 years, he said.

"The benefits of this project far outweigh its minimal cost," Howell said.

Managed zone will protect park's forest

by **Connie Filletti**

Staff writer

A silviculture plan is being implemented to protect the forested area of Pacific Spirit Regional Park directly adjoining UBC's Hampton Place Developments.

The plan, commissioned late last year by the UBC Real Estate Corporation (UBCREC) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Parks Dept., will preserve the ecological integrity and the recreational and esthetic values of the land immediately to the east of the park boundary and south of Heron Trail.

Various groups, including the GVRD, which owns the park, expressed concern about the forest interface zone, said Mark Betteridge, president of UBCREC.

"It was crucial for UBCREC, GVRD Parks, the residents of Hampton Place and the park users to have a plan to manage this sensitive interface," Betteridge said.

"By consulting with the volunteer groups who advise GVRD Parks, we were able to anticipate future problems and implement solutions to secure a healthy and viable park."

Specific issues identified in discussions with concerned parties by forest resource consultants Stewart & Ewing Associates Ltd. (Seafar), architects of the plan, were leaning tree haz-

ards, reduction of plant species diversity, invasion by ornamentals, degradation of bird and small mammal habitat, spoiled views from and into the park, increased glare into the park from new buildings and windthrow.

Windthrow usually occurs after heavy thinning or clear cutting which render the remaining trees — once supported by their neighbours — too weak to withstand wind exposure.

Of all the concerns addressed by Seafar in its report to UBCREC, eliminating leaning trees in the interests of public safety is given top priority.

Other recommendations for the interface zone include planting new trees, fencing the area until it recuperates to desired levels and monitoring the site annually so that treatment techniques may be refined as necessary. The tree planting has already been completed, Betteridge said.

Seafar estimates that the five-year silviculture plan will cost UBCREC about \$60,000.

UBCREC was established by the university in 1987 to plan developments on existing campus lands and other holdings.

To date, 564 residential units comprising a mix of townhouses, low-rise apartments and high-rise apartments have been constructed on six of the 11 lots available for development at Hampton Place.

People

by staff writers

Ricki Goldman-Segall has been selected as a 1995 National Academy of Education Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow.

Goldman-Segall, an assistant professor in the Dept. of Curriculum Studies, was awarded the fellowship for her study titled, A Multimedia Portrait of Girls' Socio-Scientific Thinking: Epistemology, Ethnography and Networked Multimedia. As director of UBC's Multimedia Ethnographic Research Laboratory (MERlin), Goldman-Segall's research goal is to present educators with an idea of how young people conduct multimedia socio-scientific investigations.

Funding for the fellowships comes from the U.S.-based Spencer Foundation which supports research that promises to improve education worldwide.

•••••

Prof. Ken Haycock, director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, is the recipient of the 1995 Grolier Award for Research in School Librarianship in Canada.

Haycock's proposed study, The Impact of Scheduling on Co-operative Program Planning and Teaching and Information Skills Instruction, was cited by the award jury as bringing a "national and Canadian focus to a significant topic of enquiry."

Haycock was the first recipient of the Grolier award in 1983. Sponsored by the Canadian School Library Association, the award supports theoretical and applied research that advances the field of school librarianship.

UBC was also honoured by the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries with this year's Innovation Achievement Award. **Suzanne Dodson** of the UBC Library will receive the award this month for the entry, Preservation Microfilming Special Projects Program, which she created with colleague **Norman Amor**.

•••••

Four UBC faculty members are among the 60 Canadian fellows elected to the Royal Society of

Canada. **Melvin Comisarow**, Chemistry, helped develop Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectroscopy in the 1970s, which today is recognized as having the greatest versatility and the highest mass resolution of any mass spectrometer.

Paul J. Harrison, Botany/Oceanography, is one of the few world authorities on the uptake of nutrients by marine algae. He has co-operated extensively with other scientists in international projects and has consulted on water management issues in Canada, China and Pakistan.

Dr. Michael Hayden, Medical Genetics, has made major contributions to the genetics of Huntington's disease, especially by pioneering a predictive testing program for Huntington's which is widely regarded as a model for predictive testing for other late-onset disorders.

Robert Miura, Mathematics, has made notable contributions to the theory of nonlinear wave propagation, mathematical physiology and singular perturbation theory. Working with biologists, he has contributed to the theoretical understanding of neurophysiology and cell membrane behaviour.

The new fellows will be formally inducted into the society at a ceremony this fall in Ottawa.

•••••

Rick Hansen received an honorary degree from the University of Toronto on June 16.

Hansen is director of UBC's Life Skills Motivation Centre, through which he gives keynote presentations and seminars at conventions, conferences and other major events across North America and internationally.

Hansen joined UBC in 1989 as a consultant on disabilities to President David Strangway. He helped establish the Disability Resource Centre, a centre for the promotion of the full involvement of persons with disabilities in post-secondary institutions.

His previous achievements include a successful career as a wheelchair athlete and the Man in Motion World Tour, which raised \$23 million for research, rehabilitation, wheelchair sports and awareness of spinal cord injuries.



Hayden



Miura

Student unearths Aztec ball court, clues to early society

by Charles Ker

Staff writer

The Aztecs of ancient Mexico called it Tlachtli, a game that sometimes went on for days before a team scored. To the victors, glory; the vanquished, death.

"That first goal was important because it not only ended the game but sometimes losers were sacrificed to the gods," said Warren Hill, a PhD student in the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology. "Either that or winners gained instant right to the clothing and jewelry of the spectators."

Hill recently unearthed the oldest known court for the sport in Mexico. The huge playing surface dates back to 1400 BC, five centuries older than any other court yet found.

Made of hard-packed earth, the playing area consists of an enormous alley—12 metres wide and 80 metres long—bounded on either side by sloping, two-metre-high embankments. At the top of each embankment may have been rings through which players tried to manoeuvre a dense rubber ball (somewhere between the size of a softball and soccer ball) using any part of their anatomy but hands or feet. This early earthen court is much simpler than stone ones built in later centuries by the Aztecs and Mayas.

Archeologist Michael Blake, an associate professor in the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, said Hill's find provides clues to the social and political inequality of the times.

"This site would have been part of a network of similar ball courts, much like our modern-day arenas and coliseums."

- Michael Blake

An elaborate ball court provided a means of competition for an emerging elite class.

"Competition was a key element in the development of civilization in the area," said Blake, who has been researching Mexican archeology for the last decade. "This site would have been part of a network of similar ball courts, much like our modern-day arenas and coliseums."

Blake, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, has been excavating ancient houses at a site called Paso de la Amada on the Pacific coast of Chiapas, Mexico about 30 kilometres from Guatemala. For his PhD thesis, Hill excavated a large mound of earth near Blake's dig with the expectation of finding even earlier dwellings. It took almost a month of digging to finally figure out what the mound contained.

Unlike residential sites, there were no house posts, artifacts or debris on the court surface to turn to for clues. Moreover, a preliminary test pit through the centre of the two-metre-high mound uncovered a puzzling

layer of fine sand and silt a metre thick. Hill explains that the mysterious buildup was, in fact, sediment washed down from the mounds into the centre of the court itself.

"When the court was finally abandoned and rains began eroding the embankments, the central alleyway became like a giant catchbasin," said Blake. "What confused us early on in the project was how these water-layered deposits came to be at the top of the mound above ground level."

Once the research team figured out what they were dealing with, they dug trenches out from the centre to measure the exact dimensions of the court. Hill pointed out that the structure would barely fit within a modern football field.

The UBC team, who worked on the site from February to April of this year, was able to verify the age of the court from ceramic fragments and ancient garbage found in the embankments.

Charcoal fragments buried in the sides and floor of the court have been shipped off to a laboratory for radio-carbon dating. Meanwhile, Hill is keeping busy organizing all the data for his thesis which should take a year and a half to complete.

As for Blake, he organized a summer field school closer to home. From May 22 to June 23, a dozen UBC students and members of the Scowlitz Band near Mission excavated an ancient Sto:lo village at the confluence of the Harrison and Fraser rivers.



John Chong photo

Learning From The Best

Maestro Sergiu Comissiona, music director of the Vancouver Symphony, conducts the 110-member senior orchestra of the 1995 UBC Summer Music Camp. Participants at the third annual camp range in age from 15 to 75 and perform in either the orchestra, jazz, choir or concert ensembles.

Centre promotes eye care worldwide

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

A new research, training and program centre has been established by UBC's Dept. of Ophthalmology to promote appropriate eye care services and help reduce blindness and vision loss worldwide.

Based at St. Paul's Hospital, the British Columbia Centre for Epidemiologic and International Ophthalmology (BCEIO) is the only centre of its kind in Canada.

Scientists will conduct research related to eye care, patient satisfaction and improved quality of life, said Dr. Paul Courtright, an assistant professor of Ophthalmology and director of the centre.

He added that the multidisciplinary facility will also focus on creating and evaluating eye care programs in developing countries.

The World Health Organization estimates that there are more than 35 million people worldwide who are blind, few of whom have access to eye care services, Courtright said.

"The BCEIO is in a position to assist eye care providers, particularly in East and Southeast Asia, in identifying eye care needs and developing locally appropriate solutions," he added.

ate solutions," he added.

"Diseases of particular interest to the centre include the ocular complications of leprosy, eye pathology in HIV/AIDS, cataract and the use of traditional eye medicines."

Major activities which the centre plans to undertake in Canada during the next two years include development of a standardized system for the recording and retrieval of data on HIV/AIDS-related eye pathology and the creation of a simple, low-cost format for monitoring quality of care related to routine cataract extraction.

Courtright said that research concerning quality of life assessment in HIV patients with cytomegalovirus retinitis, as well as the prioritization of patients in need of corneal transplantation, are other centre priorities.

Courtright hopes that in addition to creating links with other UBC training and research units, the centre will be able to collaborate on establishing eye care programs with a medical school in a developing country.

Several of the centre's associates have been engaged in eye research and training projects in Korea, China, India, Nepal and Malawi.

Study finds that enzyme may cause nerve cell death in ALS

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

An enzyme commonly found in the central nervous system may lead to the development of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a team of UBC researchers has found.

The study, conducted in collaboration with Kinetek Biotechnology Corp., indicates that increased levels of Protein Kinase C (PKC) may cause the death of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord which leads to paralysis and death in ALS.

Protein kinases regulate cellular function by modifying the structures of various critical proteins, explained Ruth Lanus, a UBC medical student and member of the research team.

"These enzymes are the molecular equivalent of computer chips in the cellular circuitry, making PKC a particularly important element in cell-to-cell communication in the nervous system," she said.

"Our data raises the possibility that overabundant activity of PKC may be toxic to certain cells in the spinal cord, leading to cell death."

The research team, which also includes Steven Pelech, an associate professor of Medicine and president of Kinetek Biotechnology Corp., Dr. Charles Krieger, an assistant professor of Medicine, and Christopher Shaw, an associate professor of Ophthalmology, analysed PKC activity in post mortem samples taken from the spinal cords of ALS victims and from control subjects who did not have neurological disorders.

Different cellular components were isolated from the samples and analysed for the types of PKC present and their degree of activation.

In each case, the tissue from the ALS victims showed increased PKC activity in comparison to the tissues from the control group.

"Our research indicates a 100-

to 300-per cent increase in the activity levels of PKC in the spinal cords of patients who have died from ALS," Pelech said.

"It is the first study to demonstrate a kinase abnormality in the sporadic disease."

The scientists are currently trying to identify the types of cells in the spinal cord in which abnormal PKC activity occurs, and the stages in the molecular cascade leading to nerve cell death.

Approximately five in 100,000 people suffer from ALS, which typically strikes between the ages of 50 and 70.

Marked by muscular weakness and atrophy due to a progressive loss of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, there is no known cause or cure for the disease.

It is often called Lou Gehrig's disease, after the New York Yankees baseball player whose career and life were prematurely ended by the disorder.

Results of the study will be published in a future issue of the Journal of Neurochemistry.

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