

# THE Summer JUBYSSEY

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## Excellence fund called inadequate

By EVELYN JACOB

The B.C. government's Fund for Excellence in Education program is inadequate and does not guarantee a long-term financial commitment, an NDP MLA said Friday.

Lorne Nichol森, MLA for Nelson-Creston, said funds allocated to universities — part of the \$110 million Excellence in Education Fund — are a cut in constant dollars and will not help operations of B.C.'s universities and colleges.

"The money may be used to start up new programs, but it isn't known if the government will continue funding them. There is nothing more

than moment to moment planning," said Nichol森.

The provincial government announced in June it would allocate \$271 million to the universities' operating budgets, the same amount as 1985-86.

UBC's budget of \$163 million — the same amount received last year — will be supplemented by part of \$26.7 million in excellence money to be shared with Simon Fraser and the University of Victoria.

But Nichol森 said the additional funds will not even cover the cost of inflation. "There have been decreases in funding going on for the last few

years. We're 20 per cent behind at this point. To tack on an extra four per cent doesn't even begin to help the financial problems of the universities," he said.

But UBC president David Strangway dismissed allegations that the excellence fund lacks long-term commitments as untrue.

"If you look at base operating money, there is a clear understanding that the government is continuing its commitment to improve the financial situations of the universities," he said.

Strangway said separate funds — \$2.4 million and \$6 million for gra-

duating assistantships and cooperative education programs — will increase the universities' operating grants by more than 10 per cent from last year.

The president did not specify how much UBC's total allocations will be, but stressed his most urgent priority is to improve faculty salaries, even though Premier Bill Bennett said previously that "the government's priorities must be to improve services and create new jobs rather than pay additional money to those British Columbians who are working."

UBC faculty has not had a salary increase for the last four years.

Strangway said he is pleased with the additional \$4.6 million UBC will receive for specific programs in microelectronics, engineering, biotechnology and tourism policy.

But a microbiology professor involved in the biotech lab program which received the largest portion of

ment. "People view academics as bottomless pits, but it is impossible to start anything if we don't have the funds," said Dr. Douglas Kilburn, acting head of microbiology.

"I think we can make a start with the funds, but we could certainly do with more. We need a long-term commitment in funding and the provincial government should support us in this area," Kilburn said.

Still, Nichol森 insists the excellence fund will not be sufficient to improve the quality of education in B.C.

"We talk about excellence in education when we're not even in the ballpark anymore. I've been around for 14 years and have seen the gradual deterioration of the educational system. Strangway has to be positive. What else can he do?"

the funds (\$2 million), said what the universities really need is ongoing financial backing from the govern-



BEWILDERED UBC STUDENT tries to find right slot for quarters in desperate B-lot escape attempt.

## Student aid criticized as miserly

By EVELYN JACOB

The provincial government's infusion of \$1.2 million into student aid from the Fund for Excellence in Education is inadequate and miserly, a spokesperson for the Canadian Federation of Students said Monday.

Post-Secondary Education Minister Russ Fraser said the funds will create aid programs that "recognize high scholastic ability," and "alleviate the extra financial costs facing students who live outside metropolitan areas."

But Marg Fartczek, CFS Pacific Region chair said the funds do not address the financial needs of students in B.C.

The money will be added to \$10.9 million already set aside for students in B.C. colleges and universities.

According to Fartczek, the additional funds will go to aid programs based almost solely on achievement, and will not help the majority of students in B.C.

\$1.15 million of the funds will go to scholarships for the top grade 12 students. The remaining money will go to a needs-based auxiliary fund, in which the provincial government will match dollar-for-dollar, funds raised by university student societies, up to \$100,000.

But Fartczek said asking student societies to raise money for student

aid is making students do what the government isn't.

"We shouldn't have to do this. The government only wants recognition that it is doing something to help students. It's an insult to students," she said.

Student societies at Simon Fraser, UVIC and UBC were asked to submit proposals to the excellence fund at the urging of Fraser's office in a new spirit of "consultation."

SFU student society called for the re-implementation of the grant program — eliminated in 1984 by the Bennett government — but their request was rejected by the education minister's office.

Lorne Nichol森 (NDP MLA Nelson-Creston), said the government's rejection of the grant portion of student aid is unfair to students. "The government is not facing the reality of the true cost of student aid. It's absurd that students pay \$20,000 for an education. I can't imagine beginning life that way," he said.

Simon Seshadri, Alma Mater Society president, said only programs which assist top grade 12 students were accepted by the education ministry. He said the AMS did not ask for the return of the grant portion of the student aid program.

"It would have been unrealistic," said Seshadri. "If our proposal did not involve excellence it would not

have been accepted by Fraser's office. "Excellence is the name of the fund, and the AMS had to deal with it. We played by the new rules and got the extra money for student aid," he added.

Seshadri admits however that the proposal will not help the vast majority of students who do not fall into the top 10-20 per cent range.

"The key to the student aid problem is in the terms of loan repayment and in successful remission terms," Seshadri said.

The loan remission program proposed by student council was rejected by the Socred government.

"It was just too hard to sell to the government," the AMS president said.

\$1 million of the fund will go to the top 10-20 per cent grade twelve scholarship winners who must relocate more than 50 kilometers to attend a B.C. post-secondary institution on a full-time basis. A one-time award of \$500 will go to students who rank just below the scholarship level.

In addition, \$75,000, will provide a \$500 one-time award to B.C. college students who have completed a minimum of one year's full-time study in the university transfer or technology program and who have transferred to another post-secondary institution in the province.

## B-lot toll blasted

By SVETOZAR KONTIC

Come September 1 students will be charged 25 cents to exit B-lot.

Gates have already been installed at all B-lot exits.

The B-lot parking system change, implemented without student consultation, has angered Alma Mater president Simon Seshadri.

"When the committee decided to go ahead with the proposed changes they never consulted the students who are 99.9 percent of the users of B-lot," said Seshadri.

Vice-president finance Bruce Gellatly said the change will not hurt students. "The 25 cent fee is based on the 32 dollars charged last year. Twenty-five cents a day, five days a week works out to 32 dollars so there is no increase in fees for students."

But a quick calculation reveals paying the fee five days a week over a 32 week academic year works out to \$40.

## Enrollment down

By SVETOZAR KONTIC

Students would rather work at Expo than go to UBC this summer UBC's director of extrasessional studies said Monday. Norman Watt expects about 400 less students to enrol in summer session this year than last, and is a large factor in the anticipated drop.

"Expo's on and kids have jobs. In previous summers when they didn't have jobs they would attend classes. But if they are working they won't go," said Watt.

Last year, 4,438 students enrolled in summer session. This year approximately 4,100 have enrolled to date. Watt expects about 100 people will drop out after the course deadline date, but says he is not worried about the decline of about 10%.

Watt said summer enrollment has gone up and down for the past twelve years. "A decrease was not unexpected," he said.

In 1976, the total number of students enrolled in summer session was 6,531. Enrollment figures remained above 5,000 each year until 1985, when they dropped to 4,438, representing a 30% decrease from 1976.

Spring session enrollment also dipped, below the 4,000 mark for the first time in three years.

Watt said that cutbacks and budgetary restraints were mostly responsible for the decline over the past two years.

"If the courses are not available then the students simply cannot enroll in them," said Watt.

Kevin Brewster, a porter at UBC's Health Sciences Centre, said he dislikes the system. "It will not be convenient at all to constantly have to fiddle around with change," said Brewster.

Yasim Visram, architecture 2, estimated the new system will cost him about \$75 in parking fees this year because he must travel to and from the campus several times a day.

But Seshadri said he will wait and see how students react to the new system this fall. If he receives enough complaints he will consider petitioning for the use of a card detector system in place of inserting a quarter.

Last year, parking rates jumped 25 percent from \$24 to \$32.

Seshadri said the system penalizes more people than it helps. "For the person who is in a car pool the system is great but for people who must leave several times a day the system is unfair. Nursing students, medical students and pharmacy students, for example, will have to pay a lot more money and will be really inconvenienced," said Seshadri.

## Program funded

The department of political science will expand teaching and research in the area of military and strategic studies this fall at UBC.

The federal Department of National Defence has given the University a grant totalling \$450,000. Part of the money will be spent on research work, but most of the funds will be used to pay the salary of a new political science associate professor over the next five years.

Professor Mark Zacher, director of UBC's Institute of International Relations, insists there is nothing sinister about the grant. "The defence department wants only to improve the teaching of international issues in Canadian universities," he said. According to Zacher, the Department of Defence has been giving money to different universities since the late 60's. UBC's grant is quite generous, he said. Dr. Douglas A. Ross, an expert on Canadian foreign policy, will teach graduate and undergraduate courses in strategic studies as well as a new course in Canadian foreign policy. Zacher said it is an important step to have a permanent position created in this field.

The political science department will use the fund to examine everything from Canada's continued participation in NATO to her role in the United Nations' peacekeeping forces.

# Excellent?

Just how excellent is the provincial government's Fund for Excellence in Education?

The funds were allocated to introduce new programs and help B.C. educational institutes build upon their "existing excellence," but it is hard to see how \$110 million will even begin to improve the deteriorating quality of education in the province.

How will funds as small as these help universities and colleges which have suffered at the hands of Sacred budget cuts, experienced eroding operating budgets, and have been forced to lay off faculty?

The government has allocated a pittance to special science programs in the hopes of improving B.C.'s economy.

But the idea that the economy will boom from these allocations is nothing more than Sacred P.R. What educational institutes in the province need is a long-term commitment from governments — both provincial and federal — to help them recover from the damage that has been done since the introduction of the Bennett restraint program.

What or who the funds will actually help is a mystery that educators in the province have yet to uncover.

# Señor Fellow

This year UBC may witness a strange Spector on campus.

For the first time in UBC's history the president has, without departmental consultation, hired a civil servant to the previously unheard of position of senior fellow. Norman Spector, the deputy premier and mastermind behind restraint, has been offered a part-time teaching position running for three years.

The day after the Spector appointment, UBC was finally granted its allotment from the Fund for Excellence.

By hiring Norman Spector, administration president David Strangway and the board of governors have outraged faculty and jeopardized university autonomy.

Faculty members are enraged because under restraint orchestrated by Spector, provincial government funds for education have been miserly. This has resulted in closed departments, frozen salaries for four years, an exodus of faculty for better paying universities, larger classes and reduced support staff.

Faculty was especially startled by the way Spector was hired, or rather appointed, by President Strangway.

According to Faculty Association president Barrie Morrison no senior fellow has ever been appointed at UBC. Faculty members voted unanimously to question the appointment, saying it gives the appearance of the university "bending to strong political pressure and violating university autonomy."

It is in cases like this when appearances and timing are so vital. When the university licks the boot that has for so many years stomped on it, questions arise. Whose idea was it to hire Spector? Did this idea come from UBC or Victoria? Why didn't they go all the way and appoint Spector to the board of governors? Now there is a part-time job he could feel at ease with. He wouldn't even have to move his office.

Spector has not yet said whether he has accepted the post or not. Strangway, for his part, has only explained the appointment as an "interesting opportunity to bring in an interesting person." Although he said "it would be quite sensible to have an advisory committee" to study future appointments.

Together they make strange senior bedfellows indeed.



Too Little Too Late

JL UBC

# Policy discriminates

By JENNIFER LYALL

Another blow has been dealt to post-secondary education in B.C., this time by UBC's senate, which voted April 23 to limit to 750 the number of transfer students accepted into 2nd and 3rd year arts programs at UBC.

The decision, ratified by the Board of Governors, will have no direct effect on students already enrolled at UBC, who only have to pass their courses in order to be accepted, but it could hinder many college students hoping to eventually transfer to UBC. About 50 students who transferred to UBC last fall would not have been accepted under the new policy.

## freestyle

Transfer students must now achieve a higher standard than UBC students in order to be accepted into the same programs, a requirement which discriminates unfairly against college students and clearly signals UBC's lack of support for B.C.'s community colleges.

It's hard to tell just how much damage the decision will do to the colleges. The immediate effects felt by college students are minor, but the door has been opened for more serious restrictions in the future.

What will really hurt the colleges is the message that the transfer system and spirit of co-operation shared with post-secondary institutions has broken down. For the past five years the colleges have been struggling against drastic cutbacks in government funding, and now it seems even UBC is set against them.

UBC, of course, has also been experiencing funding cuts in recent years and the decision to limit access is obviously a political statement to protest the lack of money. Unfortunately, the statement has backfired in that it has caused more damage to B.C.'s community colleges than to the Social Credit government's educational policies.

Post-secondary education in this province is in bad enough shape already; it is an area in which the different institutions obviously need to co-operate to survive. If UBC's senate had been willing to consult with college administrators before taking unilateral action, perhaps they could have made a joint statement which would have had a greater impact on the public and politicians of B.C.

In 1962, UBC president John Macdonald wrote a report outlining the direction to be taken in post-secondary education in British Columbia. His plan was based on a system of community colleges located in small

cities throughout the province. The more conveniently located institutions in the plan were meant to make education affordable for more people, and allow universities to concentrate on third and fourth year education and research programs.

The years since the publication of the Macdonald Report have seen the development of something similar to what was envisioned in 1962: students who cannot afford to move to Vancouver can choose to take academic courses at a community college before transferring to a university to complete their degrees. These people do not deserve to be discriminated against simply because they cannot afford to come to UBC in their first year.

It is ironic that a UBC publication initiated the integration of community colleges into our educational system and that a UBC senate decision is now playing a part in the colleges' gradual deterioration. The time has come for UBC to become more aware of the environment in which it operates and to begin to work with B.C.'s other post-secondary institutions rather than against them.

*Jennifer is an independent Ubyyssey staffer who paints herself purple. The freestyle section is open to Ubyyssey staffers to express their opinions.*

# Letters

O.J.  
not O.K.

The Citrus Boycott committee is asking all Canadians not to buy any citrus fruit or juice, fresh or frozen as support for the Canadian forest workers being put out of work by existing or proposed tariffs.

There are several reasons for targeting citrus, one being Congressman Sam Gibbons who wrote the bill to curb lumber imports being from Florida, and another is that citrus fruit is almost all from the U.S., so no Canadian producers will be hurt by accident.

Anyone interested in joining our Committee or wanting more information should call me at 883-9666 or write to PO Box 2390, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0.

Ian A. Vaughm

All letters must be brief and typed on a triple-spaced, 70-character line. They must be delivered in person with identification shown by 4:30 p.m. the Friday before publication to the Ubyyssey office, SUB 241k. The summer Ubyyssey reserves the right to edit for brevity, spelling and grammar, and libel. Sexist and racist letters will not run. If you have any questions or comments, or just want to shoot the breeze, drop by SUB 241k, or call us at 228-2301/05.

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# UBC denies access to college students

A senate decision to restrict the number of college transfer students to UBC discriminates against colleges, says a Canadian Federation of Students spokesperson.

"The Social Credit government is responsible for the continual underfunding and increased class sizes of colleges. The senate has responded in a cowardly fashion. They want students to pay for a deteriorating quality of education," said Stephen

Scott, CFS Pacific Region executive officer.

UBC's Senate decided April 23 to restrict the number of college students entering university to 750. Last year, a total of 749 college students transferred to UBC in first and second year.

John Waters, president of the Institute of College Educators, said the senate decision runs contrary to the entire principal of maintaining col-

leges to increase accessibility to universities. "Colleges were designed to increase student access to universities. UBC's new policy hurts that access," said Waters.

Waters said that colleges have spent 15 to 20 years creating university credit courses. "Now students can't be sure of the integrity of the entire transfer concept," he said.

But arts dean Robert Will said the restrictions do not discriminate ag-

ainst college students.

Student senator Neil Benson said the majority of student senators did not support the resolution. "The whole thing is a mystery. There is no evidence that the cuts will be needed," said Benson.

Waters said the restrictions will prevent people from attending colleges. "First of all, college courses and programs will be cut, and then faculty will be laid off," he said.

According to Will, 68 percent of college students transferred to UBC in first year. Last year, 500 college students transferred into second year and only 249 entered third year.

Langara Student Society president Andrea Robertson said the Senate decision will also cut off university access to students living in the interior. "What happens to these people?" Robertson asked.



CREATURE FROM LAGOON emerges from UBC tarpit. Terrorized locals escape obliteration by adding more chlorine to water. Creature, red-eyed, retreats slurpily.

## Challenge 86 ignores AMS organizations

By EVELYN JACOB

Challenge '86, a government scheme to create jobs for students, is a farce, a spokesperson for CITR radio said Friday.

"The federal government told us that because we are a non-profit organization, we'd get more funding by applying directly to the Challenge program rather than through the university. We did, and they ignored our job proposals," said CITR station manager Nancy Smith.

The employment program, jointly funded by the federal and provincial government that was to create 18,000 jobs for students and youth in B.C., provided only two jobs for AMS student service organizations this summer at UBC.

Smith said CITR sent over 50 protest letters to Liberal opposition leader John Turner's office in protest of the government action.

Neil Risebrough, associate vice-president of student services, said his only explanation for the change in government priorities was that more jobs can be created in the industrial than in the non-profit sector.

"The government only has to pay \$2.50 per hour to subsidize wages in the private sector, but must pay \$3.65 per hour in the public sector," said Risebrough. "It's a numbers game. The government's main priority is to create jobs. Politicians are always being quoted on the number of jobs they have created," he added.

UBC received \$1.7 million from the Challenge program, approximately the same as last year. The funds created 840 jobs on campus this summer.

Speakeasy was the only AMS service organization to receive funds, subsidizing two jobs.

Jamie Collins, AMS director of finance, said he is "distressed" that most service organizations did not receive grants, but did nothing to protest the government action.

"By the time the information was available, it was too late to protest. The organizations who were really concerned protested. I had no information as to why our jobs were turned down compared to other jobs, and I still don't know why," he said.

## Foreign students must pay more

REGINA (CUP) — A decision by the University of Regina Board of Governors to introduce a 50 per cent differential fee leaves only two provinces that do not extra bill international students for their education.

The move to charge the university's 445 visa students more than other students points to a grim future for international students and the university, forses Sel Murray, U of R student services advisor.

The decision leaves Manitoba and Newfoundland as the only provinces that don't charge differential fees.

Murray says fewer visa students will enrol at the university. "This will mean that the university will get even less money from this source. I don't think that charging visa students differential fees will increase

the university funds by any appreciable amount," he said.

The Board of Governors is believed to have introduced the differential charge to beat back a \$6 million deficit. General tuition fees were raised almost six per cent.

Most visa students already enrolled in programs will be able to complete their studies, Murray says, although some will invariably have to leave. "What the (board hopes) to gain — i.e., hard cash from students — will be more than offset if a student decides not to come to Regina," he said.

The decision will diminish Regina's standing among international students. "Visa students don't come to Regina for the beautiful weather

and the vast cultural exposition here. They come here because there was a welcoming spirit, and because they weren't treated as being different," he said.

Regina may have started the fees because of common misconceptions about international students, according to Kurt Tischler, international student advisor at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

"There is a misconception that the international students who come (here) are wealthy. I wouldn't say that the majority of them are wealthy. They're struggling," he said.

"I'm really concerned that putting barriers in the way of free movement of students from one country to another would hurt universities in the long run," he said.

## Homosexual professors refused benefits

WOLFVILLE (CUP) — Two gay professors are launching a grievance against Acadia University because the Board of Governors has refused to pay the lovers' medical bills.

Matt Hughes and Bert Verstrate say it is bewildering to fight for benefits that have already been won.

"Our collective agreement states there shall be no discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation

and/or discrimination of benefits," said Hughes, a music professor.

"We have fought to have benefits in our collective agreement (and) now we have to fight for them again," he said.

Hughes and Verstrate, a classics professor, received tuition benefits in November after a year of informal negotiations, but medical benefits are not yet resolved. The decision to grant those benefits has been delayed because of a third party, Maritime Medical Care, which provides insurance to the university.

J.M. Tillotson, chair of the committee that reviews the university's medical plan, has told his group "both verbally and in writing that it is company policy not to cover the partners of gays."

The committee recommended that the university look for another insurance company, and split the cost of a new insurance policy. But Hughes and Verstrate said

they see paying a higher premium as a form of discrimination. They also say the university knew of the company's policies before it renewed its contract.

Vice president academic Ron MacDonald said the Board has not reached a decision, and the recommendation from the review committee was informally suggested. He said he will not make a statement until the issue is settled.

Ralph Stewart, Acadia's faculty association president, said the university's lack of enthusiasm for the committee's recommendation was economic, and not ignorance of a social issue.

"It is possible (the Board) and Maritime Medical Care have acted out of homophobia, but I'm not sure that is the case," Stewart said.

But Hughes and Verstrate said the extra costs are minimal, and it is unfair for them to pay higher premiums than other faculty.

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**TESTIMONIAL**

I used to write coherently in full sentences, with no grammatical errors, and I never misquoted anyone.

Then I joined The Ubysey. My life will never be the same.

— Bert Smegg  
Fashion Editor

# Weill's Berlin to Broadway a big bore

By ANGELA MARIE

Berlin to Broadway is neither a play, nor a musical. It is simply 39 songs, performed by four singers and a narrator. And it's a bore.

**Berlin To Broadway**  
By Kurt Weill  
Directed by Elizabeth Ball  
Waterfront Theatre  
until July 19

The production chronicles German composer Kurt Weill's career writing scores for musicals, first in his native Germany and then in the United States. The 39 songs are presented chronologically and grouped in the plays from which they come. Best known of these plays are *Threepenny Opera* and *Happy End*.

Berlin to Broadway is strung together by a witty and charismatic guide, Bruce Dinsmore, who gives the production most of its vitality, but whose role is too small to save the ship. He, like the orchestra on the *Titanic*, plays well and bravely, as the ship goes down.

Three of the four main singers are weak and boring: Margaret Ball, Joanne Hounsell, and Blaine Hendsbee. Baritone Jim Schiebler is just

boring. None of the four can act at all. The performance creates no sense of drama. The audience is sung at for 39 songs by singers who do not appear to be having a very good time at all.

The guide comes out to relieve us every four or five songs, singing beautifully with strength, confidence. His enchanting presence teases the audience, for too soon does he cruelly depart, leaving his audience in the clutches of the bland four.

Visually, there is nothing to look at but horribly tasteless costumes (prostitutes and yuppies), and a shameful, barely adequate set. Douglas Welch bravely accepts credit for the sets while Kim Brown takes the fall for costumes.

Where was director Elizabeth Ball while all this was happening? Why did she choose such dramatic songs and not get actors to sing them? Why did she try to glitz up such political, socially-conscious songs? Is she trying to compete with Oklahoma in Stanley Park this summer?

When I leave a discotheque I crave the sound of a guitar. When I left these 39 songs, I craved theatre.



Dinsmore, Schiebler, Hounsell, Hendsbee...Bruce and the Bland family

# Racism runs rampant in Vancouver harbour (1914)

By COLIN STACEY

Based on an actual incident which occurred in Vancouver harbour in 1914, Sharon Pollock's *The Komagata Maru Incident* reveals how racism functions in a so-called democratic society. This is the third of Freddy Wood's four-play summer-stock season.

**The Komagata Maru Incident**  
By Sharon Pollock  
Directed by Catharine Caines  
Dorothy Somerset Studio  
until July 12

The play deals with the arrival of a ship in Vancouver harbour, the *Komagata Maru*, carrying over three

hundred East Indians, British subjects, many of them veterans, who desire to live in Canada. Canadian law at the time allowed them immediate entry, but the racism of white Canadians and their government managed to starve the ship out of the harbour and send it back to India.

Bruce Harwood is brilliant as the personification of the mysterious source of open and state-sanctioned discrimination. As one watches him, one cannot help but be reminded of *A Clockwork Orange's* psychopathic Alex. His every move is in complete, graceful control, while his facial expressions exude evil.

Harwood plays T.S., an omnipotent ringmaster who can stop time with a movement of his cane, and who directly or indirectly controls the lives of all other characters on stage. He delivers constant misery to Vancouver immigrants through William Hopkinson, the local head of Immigration, whom he manipulates through quiet threats and promises of career advancement.

As Hopkinson, Michael Fera is a wonderful toadie. His speech, stance and dress and mannerisms give an excellent portrayal of an ineffectual man possessed with power he holds over other people's lives. The flaws of

Hopkinson's personality are apparent in Fera's every motion as he grasps for the respect of his peers, and, unable to achieve it, settles for their fear.

The interplay between Harwood and Fera is well staged by director Catharine Caines. Harwood, the ringmaster, repeatedly stops the action

and pulls Hopkinson from the scene, only to cut him down and demonstrate his full control over the entire situation. Meanwhile, Fera covers

and crawls wonderfully, and then returns to the scene to take out his frustration on the other characters.

In general, the rest of the cast does a very good job. Tanja Dixon-Warren is particularly delightful in the role of a hedonistic prostitute who is contemptuous of the starving East Indians out in the harbour.

Sharon Pollock's *The Komagata Maru Incident* is an important play both for residents of British Columbia, and for anyone interested in the mechanics of applied racism.

# Bard measures up

By RONALD STEWART

Yes, Bill is back, and Kitsilano's got him.

The Vancouver Conservatory of Theatrical Arts Society has mounted an involving and witty production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*. For those of you who've forgotten Engl. 365 already, the plot goes something like (in fact, exactly like) this:

Isabella (Lee Van Paassen), about to become a nun, discovers her brother Claudio (Nicholas Tattersall) faces execution for impregnating his betrothed. Isabella pleads for his life before the man who took this dim view of pre-marital sex, the Duke of Vienna's deputy, Angelo (Tracey Olson). Angelo proposes that if Isabella surrenders her chastity to him (which involves sex, by the way), he'll let Claudio go. However, the supposedly absent Duke is actually hovering about disguised as a monk, and he gets to work on saving the day and keeping everyone from dying like they did in *Hamlet*.

**Measure For Measure**  
By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Greg Kramer  
Kits House  
until August

Don't let the lengthy explanation fool you; this is one of Shakespeare's least complicated plays, and one of the few that does not feature women dressing up as boys.

A production of Shakespeare has to be relevant to modern times to justify the effort. Happily, the Conservatory does a fine job. Doug Cleverley's minimalist lighting is outstanding. The dominating darkness

and sparse light, which last until the final cathartic scene, suggest a darker immorality beyond sexual permissiveness. This effect lends a greater resonance to the innuendoes of the lines, and therefore to the performances.

All of the actors do very good jobs with difficult roles. Tracey Olson plays Angelo properly, not as a villain, but as a complex man felled by his hypocrisy. Stephen Courtenay renders a Duke of the old school: always in charge, and a little pompous — in a modern role Courtenay might be accused of over-acting.

Robert Wilson as the incompetent constable Elbow, Brad Gogh as the clown Pompey, and especially Gordon Harvey (who also produced) as the smart-ass bawd Lucio, all play up the sexual jokes for marvelous comic effect.

Van Paassen as Isabella presents the production's only serious flaw, and the fault must be shared with director Greg Kramer. Isabella follows a rigid code, and it would be improper to have her as animated as the bawds. However, Van Paassen plays her too stiffly.

By suggesting a greater darkness beyond that immediately apparent, the Conservatory production makes the play relevant. There is more to this sucker than just sex; the play

becomes an examination of keeping to an ethical code — some can (Isabella), some can't (Angelo), and some make sure everyone else does (the Duke). In an age when hypocrisy seems all the rage, *Measure for Measure* is rather topical.

# Nancy Drew discovers deadly double

By MICHAEL GROBERMAN

"Gasp! Are you Roy Surette, artistic director of Touchstone Theatre?" Nancy asked, slightly startled at the imposing figure with which she nearly collided rounding the corner outside the Firehall Theatre at 280 East Cordova.

Nancy Drew, an attractive titian blonde, smirked shyly at the dark haired, bespectacled man who stood in front of her.

"You're late for rehearsal, Nancy," Roy said. "Now get up those stairs to rehearsal." He indicated the door to his right.

Nancy gasped. She had never met him before. Nancy Drew, girl detective, daughter of handsome lawyer Carson Drew, had spent the last two weeks visiting an elderly aunt out in the country. While there, she met an attractive young man, about her own age, who had recognized her from Vancouver. Nancy had never been to Vancouver, so she decided to visit and investigate. Now, clutching her magnifying glass, she had stumbled on a major clue. Staying calm, she pretended to be this other Nancy.

"Sorry, sir," she stuttered. "It won't happen again."

Roy gave her a wry grin. "Alright —" he began, but suddenly a large stage light fell from the window above them, and crashed two inches to Nancy's left.

"Oh my goodness," exclaimed Roy. "Someone tried to hurt you. What's going on here?"

The girl sleuth immediately went into action. Magnifying glass in hand, she ran through the door beside her and up the stairs. "Frank, Joe, what are you doing here?" Frank and Joe Hardy, sons of famous detective Fenton Hardy, were standing in the middle of the floor. Frank, with dark hair, was taller than his blond brother Joe, who was taller than Roy.

"Nancy," both boys chimed in unison, "where have you been, you're late. And what was that crash?"

Nancy looked up and saw the poster: *Nancy Drew, Clue In The Fast Lane*, a mysterious comedy in three parts with everyone's favourite teen detective. July 9 to August 16, call 689-0926. Nancy looked at Frank and Joe. "Someone just tried to hurt me," she said, "and what's this play thing?"

Just then, Roy ran into the room. "I just got a call from the police," he panted, "and they said there are two Nancys. One is really Beverly Cooper, an unemployed actress." Nancy gasped.

Just then a young woman who looked exactly like Nancy walked into the room. "Frank! Joe!" she yelled. "Grab her. She's the imposter."



Nancy Drew...or Bev?