

Council Cashes-in

The Alma Mater Society executive unexpectedly swept the lists at the annual AMS award banquet Saturday.

In a surprise move that brought lumps to the throats of ordinary students, the executive awarded themselves all major trophies and honours, as well as several merit pins, activities pins and athletic awards.

Traditionally, however, friends and members of the executive council were awarded pins symbolic of their close ties with the political leaders.

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The story at the top of this column was lifted from the 1968 *Martlet* parody. I think it's still topical, but I'm unsure because I wasn't invited this year

Profs fired at regional college

PRINCE GEORGE (CUP) — Only six months after its opening, the College of New Caledonia, one of British Columbia's new community colleges, is already in the middle of its first crisis over the firing of outspoken professors.

Charles Boylan and David Drake, fired along with Nigel Kent-Barger and registrar Abraham Enns, were given no reasons for their dismissals in February. All were on one-year contracts, and CNC has no tenure.

Students at the college, are circulating petitions demanding

an explanation for the dismissals.

Administration president Wolfgang Franke, wholly in charge of hiring and firing at the college, told students he didn't "think first year students can judge the professors after knowing them only four months," and refused to give reasons for his actions.

But English lecturer Boylan, a former Communist Party member and student activist at the University of British Columbia, charges that his firing is "overt political discrimination."

Both he and anthropology and mathematics lecturer Drake have

been outspoken radicals throughout the year, and both have criticized the American pulp and paper companies which control this northern B.C. town.

Boylan, backed up by student council, has charged that Franke has ignored both student and faculty wishes — a majority of students in his and Drake's courses have already indicated in course critiques they would like to have the profs next year — and says Franke is backing up "local well-off merchants, political wheeler-dealers, bureaucrats" and the pulp and paper companies in firing the two trouble-makers.

UVic to welcome youngsters

VICTORIA, B.C. — Students from 49 secondary schools throughout B.C. will spend 2 days of their Easter vacation at the University of Victoria, for a preview of the university approach to learning.

The annual Humanities and Science Symposium, now in its fourth year of sponsorship by the University (and assisted this year by Vancouver Foundation, will be held April 3 and 4. The symposium will give selected senior students an opportunity to discuss their work in a wide variety of fields.

Any student completing grade XI or XII in B.C. schools were invited through their principals to submit a paper on a subject

of their choice, or examples of their work in the arts. The best of 162 papers submitted will be presented by their 26 authors, who receive expenses for their visit to the university campus.

In the discussion groups that will hear the papers are 54 runners-up, attending as observers. Also in the audience will be 25 teachers who sponsored top projects among their own pupils.

Papers cover many subjects from social sciences to creative English taught at the university level.

As well as discussing their own material, those attending the symposium will hear several special lectures and see something of

university life. Sessions were arranged for the Easter vacation to permit out-of-town students to attend.

Colquitz cleanup

The next big clean up happening at Colquitz creek will occur on April 4th and 5th at the Trans-Canada Highway and Interurban Road. Everyone is invited to join, students, dropouts and what have you. The word is that if this last one cleans it up some Victoria Big Wigs will see to it that the place is made into a park (trees and the like). For more information call 388-7182 and ask for Joe Pilot or Craig Matthews.

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An open letter to the Board of Governors



One of two signs recently erected in the fields across from the SUB. We don't think the Administration put them up.

Gentlemen:

As you are probably aware, the recent Teach-In sponsored by the Biology Club at the University was successful in informing many concerned individuals of the problem of environmental degradation and destruction. One of the main themes which was emphasized by almost every speaker was the urgent need to reassess our values towards our environment. Surely the University operating as a community within itself should be instrumental in changing our present value system by encouraging an attitude of ecological awareness whenever and wherever possible. If in every aspect of University life we sponsored an attitude of care-taking rather than of exploitation, future graduates would leave the University better equipped to make decisions which would ultimately affect our quality of life.

It seems to any elementary ecology student that the ploughing of fields about the campus to

pave the way for plush lawns is in direct violation of the basic principle of diversity of life. Not only does this destroy the natural habitat of the Pacific skylark, found nowhere else in Western North America but in the Saanich Peninsula, but this tendency towards a monoculture is economically unsound. For one thing, these unnatural "grasslands" require constant care so as to maintain a state of limbo.

We beseech you then to use your judgement and influence to put a stop to this senseless destruction of our last remaining natural grasslands on campus. Hopefully, those which have already been ploughed will be allowed to return to their original state. May this be the beginning of the development of a land ethic on campus and a suitable follow-up to our very successful Teach-In program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, Sir;

I feel compelled to take steps to rectify an error presented in your journal. I speak, of course, on behalf of my SHU brethren who, although usually in support of the student newspaper, feel obligated at this time to arise in righteous indignation.

On page 5, under the heading of "The Cry of the Anarchist" you have stated "The following... John Bentley's speech...". Granted I was given the honour of presenting the speech to the Imperialist R.A., however, it was the official SHU Spiritual Adviser Mr. Nicholas Hall-Patch who created the speech and therefore he should receive all plaudits for his obvious brilliance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the gallant efforts of the White Pan-

ther Party who stand shoulder to shoulder with their SHU comrades in our struggle to free the masses from oppression by the dominating student government clique.

We call upon the proletariat to break free from the unjust shackles of the "in-crowd."

Courage and Solidarity Comrades! The Revolution is beginning!

John Bentley
Vice-President
SHU

The Editor, Sir;

Just wish to express my pleasure with the way five hundred drunken natives handled themselves at Friday's Beer Festival. Things are looking up. Let's have more! Congratulations to Bert Weiss and staff.

'Drunk'

The Editor, Sir;

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all those people who got involved in the Kite Festival this year. If it was a success, it can only be credited to you.

To those who participated or just came to watch, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Thank you all.

Yours truly,
Brad Mundy

P.S. Any suggestions for improving the Kite Festival would be greatly appreciated. Please submit them to the SUB general office.

The Editor, Sir;

I have just witnessed large advertisements for a local movie

Lost: At Beer Festival. Hand-sewn ¾ length Afghanistan sheepskin coat. Mustard color outside with white embroidery, black curly sheep wool inside.

Reward offered: phone 365-9823 – no questions asked.

The Family Planning Association of B.C. is now operating a Birth Control Clinic in Victoria. Qualified advice is available on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 1947 Cook Street. For further information and appointments phone 384-0574.

employment questionnaire

THEY'RE FINALLY OUT (ON APRIL 2ND)

If you receive a questionnaire, please answer it. It's important! The employment problem, both for grads and undergrads, looks bad. We need to know how bad in order to prepare for the summer. Your assistance in completing the questionnaire would be of great assistance to the employment committee.

PLEASE HELP

help!

News flash

At Tuesday's R.A. meeting, the R.A. refused to ratify Bob Higinbotham's appointment by the Uvic Publications Committee to the editorship of the *Martlet*.

The vote was a 14:14 tie and speaker, Alastair Murdoch broke the tie by voting against ratification.

The reasons for the refusal were not made clear in the debate preceding the vote. Publications Director, Deryk Thompson commented, "It's obvious that people are not voting on qualifications or competence; they are voting on who they like or dislike, or else they are voting on the basis of political views."

Higinbotham was selected by the Pubs. Committee last Thursday over Mike Farr and George Manning, who applied to be co-editors of next year's *Martlet*.

The R.A. referred the matter back to the Pubs. Committee and at press time George Manning was circulating a petition to get a Publications Committee meeting as soon as possible.

Late news flash

Mike Farr is now the official Publications appointee to the position of *Martlet* editor.

In a sudden manipulative move Wednesday, George Manning, who accepted a "high paying job" at Review Publishing Monday, withdrew his name from candidacy. This left Mike Farr.

The Publications Committee met Wednesday at noon with every member but Ray Kraft, a Higinbotham supporter, attending. George Manning, by virtue of his withdrawal, also regained his seat on the committee. Rick Calderbank, absent from last Thursday's meeting was also there. This meant two more votes for Farr and one less for Higinbotham due to Kraft's untimely absence.

The matter of selecting an editor had been returned to the Pubs Committee after Higinbotham's rejection by the R.A. on Tuesday.

The meeting was over in minutes as Amrit Manak opened with a motion to appoint Mike Farr. It came to a quick vote. The result was 5:4 in favour. If Kraft had attended a tie would have resulted.

In addition to selecting Farr, the publications committee also passed a motion criticizing the R.A. for its dishonourable behaviour in rejecting Higinbotham's appointment the day before.

Committee member, Mary Bigelow pointed out that this motion was mutually exclusive of the motion to appoint Farr. She stated they were incongruous.

George Manning maintained that this was not necessarily so.

The meeting adjourned with committee members, Green, Hume, Harper, and Bigelow disgusted and angry.



Pubs Committee Member, Amrit Manak and George Manning



Higinbotham awaiting the decision.



Pubs Director, Deryk Thompson

Latest news flash

The decisions made regarding the selection of next year's *Martlet* editor were nullified by Order-in-council at last night's executive council meeting.

After a lengthy discussion on the procedures used in selecting the *Martlet* editor in addition to a discussion on the motives behind the R.A. decision to reject Bob Higinbotham's appointment to the editorship, the executive decided to re-open the job and advertise once again for applications.

The deadline for applications has been set for Thursday, April 2 at 5:00 P.M. Written applications should be placed in Deryk Thompson's mail box in the SUB.

The applications will be considered at a meeting of the Publications Committee at noon in the SUB board room on Friday, April 3.

A letter from the editor: Jeff Green

It became obvious on Tuesday at the R.A. meeting in the Cornett building that the R.A. contains a number of very sick, very fucked up, very petty, and very stupid people. I am not referring specifically to the fact that the R.A. rejected the publications committee decision to choose Bob Higinbotham as next year's *Martlet* editor; I am more concerned about the way in which the rejection was conducted and the reasons for it.

The meeting itself was conducted in a ludicrous fashion under the (Julius) Hoffmanesque directorship of Speaker Alastair Murdoch. His inability to run meetings in an orderly fashion frustrates him, and so, periodically, he screeches for order and hammers his gavel; the fact that his legs dangle from his throne, not quite touching the floor, only adds to patho-surreal atmosphere of the Holy Council Chamber.

When the debate around the motion to ratify the Pubs Committee decision came up, the R.A. members, none of them possessing any of the cognitive skills necessary to produce a newspaper, asked Higinbotham to give an accounting of himself, which he did. They then asked Mike Farr, who was defeated in his bid for co-editorship with George Manning at last Thursday's meeting, what his ideas were. He said, "I agree with Bob. Bob's and my ideas are about the same." Then they voted. The vote was 14:14 with some abstainers, among them Mike Farr, indicating that he did not respect the decision of the Publications Committee. Murdoch used his speaker's prerogative to break ties and hastily voted against. This was a surprise to the *Martlet* staff. I remember last year when my ratification came up before the R.A. and there was some question of it. My opponent, Bob Higinbotham, stood up and said that if I was not ratified that he would not take the job as he respected the decision of the Publications Committee then chaired by George Manning. Neither Farr, or Manning exercised that courtesy on Tuesday.

After the vote was taken four more R.A. members arrived, Zak, Nagel, Bentley, and Armour. Armour and Bentley moved to reconsider the decision on the basis that they were not present for the vote. Murdoch delayed their motion until almost all the time was up. Then at the end of the meeting the motion was brought to the floor. It turned out that according to the rules that a motion to reconsider can only be made by someone on the winning side of a vote. Then Ron Armstrong, in the interest of fairness, moved to reconsider. This was in order, as he had voted on the prevailing side. This caused a furor among his co-anti-Higinbothamists. Gus Agostini called the question. Murdoch, with characteristic ineptitude, interpreted this as a motion to move the previous question which requires a majority of two thirds. Calling the question is simply that; 'let's vote' is all it means. The motion to move the previous question, which had never been really moved, clearly failed. Confusion at this point was rampant. No one knew what they had just voted on and Murdoch was in high gear. Armstrong thought his motion had been defeated when in actuality it was still on the floor ready for debate. Calderbank yelled out, "I move adjournment." Murdoch did not recognize him. Newell screamed hysterically, "A motion to adjourn takes precedence over everything!"

He could see that if there was a vote the decision would have been reversed. Murdoch recognized the motion to adjourn. The motion was voted on and passed by a bunch of mixed-up kids who were tired, bored, and confused. Many of the Higinbotham supporters voted to adjourn because, like Armstrong they thought the motion to reconsider had been defeated. Murdoch knew all along that people were confused but it was in his interests that they be confused. The meeting was over.

The really evil thing in the meeting besides personal animosity towards Higinbotham was that the R.A. refused to respect the decision of a duly authorized committee because the committee did not pick their man or men. The R.A. has failed to realise the importance of an autonomous campus newspaper and has done all it can to try and control the policies of the *Martlet*. Their theory is that if they can control the editorship of the *Martlet*, then they can prevent the kind of criticism from the campus press that exposes them as the gang of incompetents and know-nothings that they are.

A letter from Bob Higin- botham

As you can well imagine, I am somewhat unhappy about the Representative Assembly's decision at the last meeting. I feel I have good grounds for dismay.

What should have been a discussion of the Publications Committee's ability to come up with the most qualified *Martlet* Editor, became a political inquisition as to whether I was going to be critical of the Students Council or as they term it, "objective."

My reply was that I believed in fair news coverage, and that if there were any criticisms of my ability to write fair news, I would be happy to hear them. There not only were no criticisms, the person who questioned me replied that my news coverage was fair. He voted against me.

I state quite clearly right now that I will be critical of the Students Council. I can see no reason why the people who spend \$65,000.00 of our money every year should be above criticism.

Another member who voted against my appointment told me later he was "very impressed with what (I) had to say," yet he too voted against my appointment. He further stated that he was sure I could do a good job but that perhaps Mike (Farr) would be good also.

Instead of discussing whether I was qualified or not, the assembly asked Mike whether or not he was capable of putting out a paper. It was quite some time before a member pointed out to Speaker Alistair Murdoch that such questioning was improper. Murdoch ruled that member's point out of order. The assembly then overruled the Speaker, ruling that questioning of Mike was improper.

When the motion to ratify my appointment was finally voted upon, the result was a fifteen to fifteen tie. Speaker Murdoch then voted against to break the tie, thereby breaking another of the rules of parliamentary procedure he is empowered to uphold. In case of a tie, the speaker's

duty is to uphold the status quo, in this case, the decision of the Publications Committee. It is only on motions of procedure that the speaker is required to vote to give the greatest possible latitude. (for example, on a tie vote to cease debate, the speaker should vote against). The speaker's decision was clearly a political one.

The representative assembly allowed the Publications Committee to go through a charade of choosing an editor. When the committee chose somebody the council didn't like, they overruled it. Why didn't they inform the Publications Committee that I was not eligible because of political reasons. No one yet has questioned my qualifications and I don't think they can.

I promised a student newspaper next year that will be one of the finest in the country, and there are some excellent ones. There is no doubt in my mind that I can do this, and I would be willing to stake my job as editor on it.

My qualifications are intact and I refuse to compromise my integrity by writing editorials agreeable to those on the council who voted against me. Furthermore, I refuse to campaign for the position among the council members.

George Manning, who said when he was publications director that he would not tolerate interference in his department, has changed his tune. He was blatantly campaigning for the editorship, and although he had never even written a news story, told people he would win because he had the committee sewn up. When he lost, he continued to campaign in order that the Representative Assembly might overrule the committee.

In this he was successful, and probably at no loss to his conscience. My position is this; in no way have I tried to influence any council member to vote for me. I was naive enough to believe that my qualifications plus the smallest portion of fairness and justice by the council would be enough, and I'm still naive enough to believe that this position is correct.



A past editor criticizes the procedure

Steve Hume, currently a co-editor of the *Absolute Cannon Review*, is former editor of the *Martlet* and sits on the publications committee. He was present during the second meeting of the committee, at which a split vote resulted in the committee's dropping of Higinbotham as a candidate for the editorship.

One of the more exciting aspects of the Imperial Roman Empire during the period just prior to its decline was the way in which heads of state were selected.

Emperors got the nod, at sword-point, by whim of the Praetorian Guard or whatever other well-equipped, well-led legion happened to be in the immediate vicinity.

Candidates had no choice: they accepted or they were killed on the spot for refusing. Once they had accepted, candidates were faced with the fact that as soon as the army thought they were fucking-up, they were politically and physically dead.

What was nice about it was the straightforward and honest way in which dishonourable political activities involving the procedures of succession were carried out.

There was no pretence of democracy masking feversih machinations behind the scenes.

There was no pretence of objectivity covering the incestuous popularity contest, the political back-slapping, the pompous self-congratulation, the phony concern with nit-picking over rules of order.

There was no pretence of delegation of authority as a smoke-screen for repressive paternalism.

The whole stinking cess-pool of politicking was out in the open. You knew where the shit was being done, why it was being done and how it was being done.

The University of Victoria's student government, by comparison, is still evolving through the tedious political swamps of dishonest procedure. The Alma Mater Society, like a ponderous brontosaurus governed by two stupid brains, goes crashing through the undergrowth in a rising tide of ignorance.

And like a primeval beast with a brain in the head and a brain in the hips — both feeble and neither connected to reality with many links of communication — the AMS has crashed into the operation of

the *Martlet* with typical destructive force.

Traditionally, the *Martlet* editor has been selected by the paper's editorial board, ratified by the publications committee and passed on to the representative assembly for a rubber-stamp ratification.

The reason the R.A.'s ratification has been a formality in the past is because the authority and responsibility for selecting an editor by the criteria demanded by the position has been delegated to the publications committee.

It is a rational and logical step to take. The publications committee consists of former editors of the *Martlet*, editors of the literary magazine, ranking people from other publishing organs under the sanction of the AMS.

The reasoning behind the delegation of authority is that the committee knows who's best for the position because most members have an immediate and relevant frame of reference to draw upon.

It was a procedure that worked well in the past. You got your editor with a minimum of hassle. If the editor fucked up, the publications committee was best qualified to work things out, hire, fire or otherwise chastize the editor.

Things appeared to be smoothly heading in the direction of appointment of a successor to Jeff Green, current editor. Two candidates came before the publications committee, one was selected as best qualified, and the routine motion of ratification was made before the R.A.

At that point the R.A.'s propensity for stupidity, crude intrigue and gearbox politics jumped to the fore.

Bob Higinbotham was rejected as potential editor by the R.A.

It was that simple. And what it meant was the the R.A. was saying the assorted editors, past editors and heads of other communications activities on the publications committee were incompetent to reach a decision regarding the upcoming editorial appointment.

What it also meant was that they had picked a candidate (or a degree of effective lobbying had

assured) without regard to the publications committee's delegated authority in the matter.

And implicitly in their decision was a feeling that they, as duly elected members of the R.A., naturally knew better than any goddamned committee they cared to appoint.

The first move of a political shark, of course, is to make sure his moves have been within the letter of the legislated rules. That is, the assumption lies in a belief that honourable behaviour is that which complies with the rules.

It's an assumption which has been demonstrated in higher and more sophisticated political arenas than Uvic's inept platitudinous R.A.

What the R.A. was saying, in exercising its constitutional right to reject the publications committee's proposal, was: As a committee you are incompetent to select an editor. We are competent. We have selected our man regardless of your decision. The matter is referred to you as a committee. Recommend our man as editor. The waters of political procedure can then close quietly over Higinbotham's head and we can get on with the affair.

Then came the great cop-out. The publications committee, instead of rejecting the R.A.'s decision and repeating its recommendation that Higinbotham was clearly the superior of the candidates, voted to place before the R.A. for ratification the second choice in candidates.

In effect, the committee said, we are incompetent to make decisions regarding editorial positions, we comply with the R.A.

One smooth move in the committee, and again, a slick move that is within the letter of the law, was George Manning's (one of the original duo, along with Mike Farr, that was primarily rejected by the committee) withdrawal of candidacy and subsequent re-seating on the committee. He cast the deciding ballot in support of Amrit Manak's motion to offer the R.A. Mike Farr as a candidate.

It was smooth politics. And we all know that Brutus, despite the bad publicity he got from Shakespeare and Marc Antony, was really an honourable man. As are we all, honourable men.



The Martlet

Editor Jeff Green
 Managing Editor Bob Higinbotham
 Workers Tony Brown, Mike Farr
 Contributors Steve Hume, Ernie Harper, Gordie Price, Ron Pododworny
 Photography Robin Simpson, Jeff Green, Bob Jones
 Business Manager Mr. Tony Brown

Member of the Canadian University Press

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Rochdale PHD's selling like hotcakes

TORONTO (CUP) - The only bright spot on the past week's still-slumping market at stock exchanges here and at New York has been Rochdale College, fledgling Toronto educational firm

Tuesday (March 17) the Toronto stock market declined moderately in light trading for its third consecutive downward plunge in the past month.

But Rochdale, previously considered by industry observers to be an "anti-establishment firm" - surprised everyone last week with a daring and imaginative campaign that caught other education marketers flat-footed.

In a slow season, with more than 300,000 college and university students just beginning to study for year-end exams at Canadian institutions, Rochdale offered \$100 no-questions-asked doctoral degrees as part of a package campaign to put their college on the map.

With National Rochdale week more than a fortnight away,

Admin granted token rep at U of O

OTTAWA (CUP) - In an effort to head off possible unrest among campus administrators, the Student council at the University of Ottawa March 4 offered to grant their administration a voice in student union affairs - but only a token one.

In a "Pink Paper" on student government at the self-styled "bilingual" university, councillors proposed that administrators be given representation on the four commissions handling student affairs on the campus.

Campus authorities, says the paper, "have shown themselves worthy of this responsible role" - but councillors gave the statement a hollow ring by further declaring they could not "justify parity representation for the administrators."

Rochdale executive secretary R. (Bob) Nasmith said Wednesday, "the response has been phenomenal."

Within six hours of announcing the campaign, Nasmith said, the switchboard was overloaded. "We took more than \$3000 in orders the first day," he said.

"Just the other day," he said, "we got a letter from a management consultant firm, saying they would buy 14 M.A.'s for their staff if the scrolls looked good."

"All kinds of people are phoning us to ask whether our degrees will help them get a better job," Jeff Coutts, another member of the college's national sales team, said.

Nasmith - also publisher of a number of newspapers and bulletins at the college - pointed out that the degree sale should not be seen as the whole campaign.

"It isn't just our troubles with the Canadian Mortgage and

Housing Corporation," Rochdale national co-ordinator Ian Argue said Wednesday. The college is more than \$100,000 in arrears on a \$4.5-million mortgage from CMHC.

"We want to show everyone that our programs are just as good as any in other educational institutes," Nasmith told reporters.

"I think Rochdale has shown they can compete in the same market with any of the more traditional schools," said the president of one of Canada's larger mainstream student organizations at Ottawa, Wednesday.

There was little comment at the stock market on the Rochdale "cheapie" degrees and their possible effect on the current recessionary market.

Observers said the current slump appeared to be caused by a lack of leadership from Wall Street, and an adverse reaction to the Canadian government's recent budget speech.

NDP endorses AMS

The Uvic NDP Club met Thursday, March 19, and decided they were in favour of continued compulsory unionism at the University of Victoria.

The motion, which unanimously passed, read "that this club expresses its confidence in the Alma Mater Society and that the club encourages all its members to vote in favour of compulsory AMS fees."

The club also elected a new executive: President, Rodney Smelser; Vice-president, Kevin Rhodes; Secretary, Brian Dobing; Treasurer, Sandra Havard; Censor, John Duder.

The club announces that Mr. Larry Ryan of the Victoria Labour Council will be speaking on campus April 2.

Student gov't returns to Glendon ----- after five months

TORONTO (CUP) - If the best government is the least government, then students at Toronto's Glendon College gave up the ideal political system Friday (March 13), electing the first student council the campus has seen since October, 1969.

The new council, led by acclaimed president David Phillips, will work through the summer to draft a new constitution for the

student union at Glendon, and will resign in October, 1970 to allow new elections.

Glendon's entire student council, the two senior editors of the student newspaper, the *Pro Tem*, and the council's chief returning officer resigned en masse on October 15, 1969, after students defeated a referendum calling for a \$10 increase in student fees.

The resignations left the college in a constitutional bind, since a new student council could not be elected without a chief returning officer, and a new CRO could not be appointed without a student council.

Students finally broke the circle in February, passing a referendum sponsored by Phillips which asked the former CRO to begin student council elections under the terms of the old council constitution.

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ZABRISKIE POINT

Zabriskie Point is Michelangelo Antonioni's latest movie, and because it is an Antonioni movie, the viewer, to appreciate it fully, should have some knowledge of both the director and his previous pictures (principally, *L'Avventura*, *La Notte*, *The Red Desert* and *Blow-up*).

Antonioni arrived on the post-war scene in Italy after the initial batch of neo-realist films (*Bicycle Thief*, *Open City*, *La Strada*, etc.) which dealt with the poor and pathetic in naturalistic settings such as the streets of Rome. Though affected by these Antonioni directed pictures about the Italian upper-class, emphasizing social awareness and human emotions as depicted by their behavior. By using the nature of film to its fullest extent Antonioni attempted to demonstrate visually the feelings underlying people's actions. Without the predominate use of spoken words or 'interior monologue,' yet still with the utmost clarity, he attempted to 'describe' the characters' emotions but refused to 'explain' them artificially. The audience had to draw their own conclusions, even to the extent of the resolution of the plot. In *L'Avventura* a girl from the Italian upper-class is lost on an island; her girlfriend and lover search for her and begin an unstable relationship. The girl is never found and we never know what happened to her. Antonioni was concerned with human behavior, not neatly constructed plots. *The Red Desert*, for the unprepared, was a drag — nothing seemed to 'happen.'

Blow-up signaled a change for Antonioni, (possibly affected by the New Wave of French Directors) not only in place (which is always a vital emotional factor) but also of emphasis. "Antonioni here (in *Blow-up*) sets out to examine how a man can try to live in the more 'advanced' environments of modern civilization, instead of starting out with the assumption that he can't."

The male protagonists in Antonioni movies have been primarily artists (architect, novelist, photographer) characterized as purposeless, commercially emasculated, unfulfilled and, above all, defeatist. The hero was given a defeatist context either before the film actually started or by some act performed near the beginning of the picture which set the tone for the rest of the film. The women were generally frustrated as a result of the male's sexual inadequacy usually caused by his defeatism.

Zabriskie Point indicates another development by Antonioni, once again in place (the deserts of Los Angeles and Mojave), in plot construction (Hollis Alpert said about early Antonioni films that, "There is no inexorable march in the plot towards an explosive climax," which is just the literal opposite in *Zabriskie Point*), and, most importantly, in characters and in characterization.

The key to the film is the understanding of Mark's character and how he differs from previous Antonioni 'heroes.' Mark is a rebellious loner. At the beginning of the film in the radical caucus he is criticized as a "bourgeois individualist," yet he rejects the radicals guilty-liberal bullshit and insists on going his own way until the movement reaches his level of 'seriousness.' Rather than being a complacent defeatist he is an active fighter, maybe resigned but with recognition: "When it gets down to it, you've got to choose between one side or the other... you've got to recognize the villains before you can destroy them." To this end he is prepared to shoot a cop, any cop. Ironically, he misses his chance by seconds but is implicated in the murder of a cop at a campus strike.

Critics have generally declared the movie "disappointing"... for a film that is professedly about what goes on inside the heads



and hearts..." Or others have been fasciated with the truly ugly, terrible picture of the urban wasteland and corrupted American Dream as represented by the Sunnydune Development Corporation, enchanted with the symbols of dying America right up to the final sunset over the desert. But, I think, the proper analysis involves a synthesis of the usual character study of Antonioni's early films and his increased social awareness when confronted with America (and reflected in his more structured plot). The anti-hero in his post-war films has been replaced by the western civilization as a whole and it is now America that is purposeless, commercially emasculated, unfulfilled and, above all, defeatist. *Zabriskie Point* is thus the study of a new generation of people in conflict with this land and what they intend to do about it, what they intend to risk, (Mark: "I want to take risks" as he flies back to Los Angeles after stealing a plane).

The woman, now, is not sexually frustrated as in previous films (indeed, Antonioni makes us only

too aware of that in the scene where "a mini-host of twosome and threesomes accompany the couple in their love-making"). Rather, the woman (Daria) is naive but sensual. With Daria, Antonioni is the most explicit with his visual images of motivation and emotion. There are three scenes of seemingly pointless or ambiguous meaning. One of the scenes is possible on the level of reality established by the film (the emotionally disturbed children in the small town in the desert), the other two are 'impossible' (the mass love scene and the climax). But these scenes are good examples of Antonioni's precise visual equivalents of thoughts and emotions — in this case, Daria's. What the camera sees represents what Daria thinks and feels. The viewer must draw his own conclusions.

It is Daria's relationship with Mark that changes her and that change is the core of the film. While in the desert, she suggests that it would be wonderful if 'they' could externally induce thoughts and emotions so that everyone would have "a happy

childhood and groovy parents." Mark replies, "So that we wouldn't see how terrible it really was." She turns to him, exasperated, "But that's just the point, nothing's terrible." What happens to Mark, and what happens to Daria leads to the remarkably logical but devastating ending.

Zabriskie Point has certainly indicated a further change in Antonioni's development but how successfully he has managed to capture both the social environment and the spirit of the characters is open to question. I think that the visual description of Los Angeles is the best ever; it avoids the cliches but terrifies. I could not get into the characters as well as, say, *Easy Rider* and indeed one feels little sympathy for Mark in the end. It is the process that Daria goes through — her naivete, confrontation and recognition that makes *Zabriskie Point* relevant and stimulating. If you see the movie, try to remember to examine your feelings towards the climax; if you really 'enjoy' what Daria is 'thinking' then I would think that Antonioni succeeded with *Zabriskie Point*.

The Coming Scene BY MIKE FARR

Thursday, March 26

CONTINUING EDUCATION FILM
Mac 144 "The China Story: One Fourth of Humanity." Tickets \$1, (students 50c).

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Continues at the Langham Court Theatre.

PROF. A.J.M. SMITH
MacLaurin 144. 12:30 Prof A.J.M. Smith will lecture on "Nonsense Poetry and Romanticism." Prof. Smith was awarded a Canadian Governor General's award for poetry in 1943 and published the Oxford Book of Canadian Verse in 1960. He edited Modern Canadian Verse in 1967 and was awarded the Canada Council Medal for Service to Canadian Letters in 1968.

Friday, March 27

SOCCER
The Norsemen take on Saanich at Reynolds Park starting at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28

KILL AND BRUMMER'S
These are the two films that The Theatre Department is showing in MAC 144 at 8:00 p.m. The charge will be \$1.00.

JAMPOT
Two left after tonight. In the SUB Lower Lounge starting at 9:00 p.m., the charge will be 50c per person.

Sunday, March 29

SOCCER
The Vikings take on the Royals at Topaz starting at 2:00 p.m.
Norsemen vs. Labatts at Gordon Head. Same time.

Tuesday, March 31

NOON CONCERT
In Mac 144 at 12:30 there will be the student ensembles of the Department of Music.

MEDITATION DISCUSSION
There will be a discussion by Eric Williams and Cliff Brown in COR 263 at 12:30 on "Using the Energy Gained from the Experience of the Absolute and Effects of Meditation on the Nervous System."

LARRY RYAN
Larry Ryan, Secretary of Victoria Labour Council, will speak in the SUB Upper Lounge at 12:30. His topic will be on Canadian Trade Union Development and their role in Canadian Society Today. He is being sponsored by the NDP Club.

FOLK DANCING
Regular meeting in the SUB Upper Lounge at 8:00 p.m.

MEDITATION SOCIETY
Student night, 7:30 p.m., 1270 Pandora.

CHINESE CLUB
At 12:30 in CLE 207, the Chinese club is sponsoring their weekly Chinese Chess instructions. If you're interested please attend. All are welcome.

CONSERVATIVE ANNUAL MEETING
There will be a Progressive Conservative Student Federation Annual Meeting and election of officers at 12:30 p.m. in Cor. 115.

Wednesday, April 1

SILENT SPRING
The Department of Chemistry will show "The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson" at 12:30 p.m. in Elliot 167.

OUTDOORS CLUB
Gather in CLE 106 at 12:30.

Thursday, April 2

INTRAMURALS SOCIAL EVENING
There will be a fun intramurals social evening starting at 7:15 and going on till 11:00 tonight at the gym. The dress is very casual and there will be games, skits, refreshments and a dance. No charge.

JOHN DE WOLF
He will speak in Craigdarroch Lounge Room 209 at 12:30 p.m. He wishes to meet anyone interested in contributing towards the creation of policies leading to a new political and social direction for the people of British Columbia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

STARGAZER DANCE
This is another Craigdarroch College activity and it will take place in the Commons Block. The charge will be \$1.25 per couple and 75c for singles. Come as you like and dance to the DAYBREAK. April 3.

DR. ERNEST BECKER
Dr. Becker, currently a member of the Sociology Department at Simon Fraser University, will lecture on "The Current Controversy Over Human Nature: Is Man Inherently Good or Evil?" It will be in MAC 144 at 12:30.
Dr. Becker has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley, where the student body voted him, "the unprecedented honor of a chair financed by student funds which he did not accept. He is the author of numerous books including: "Beyond Alienation: A Philosophy of Education for the Crisis in Democracy" and "The Structure of Evil: An Essay on the Unification of the Science of Man." April 3.

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