

PAULSEN & behind the facade

by Jay Willis

"What is Pat Paulsen really like beneath that calm exterior?" This is what I tried to find out last Friday in a luncheon interview-and-fieldtrip with the comedian of the now-defunct Smother's Brothers' television show and two-time ex-presidential candidate.

I was told by a PR man from Studio City Ltd. that Mr. Paulsen was staying at The Chateau Lacombe, that he had been on a two year concert tour of colleges (about two hundred of them) throughout Canada and the U.S., and that yes, I had an appointment with him for two o'clock. In other words I didn't know what to expect.

When I met him in the lobby of the hotel, he appeared almost waif-like in a baggy sweatshirt with big letters reading DARTMOUTH on the front, baggy courdoroys and baggy gray sweatsocks stuffed in star-spangled running shoes. His head, covered with a good crop of graying hair, seemed too large for his body. Even his eyes looked baggy.

He told me, in a nice way, that he didn't know who the hell I was but to come along for some lunch anyway. We were soon accompanied by his manager, Neil Rosen, and three commerce students, whose names shall never be known. Rosen said to go ahead with the interview and that they wouldn't interfere.

I asked first about his kidnapping by the U of A Engineers: what were the terms, had it happened before, could he relate any atrocity stories, etc. His sun-baked face crinkled a bit into a shy grin, "They just hauled me out and made me do a routine with a kickline in the lobby...no, not too many things like that happened at the other colleges." Oh.

The PR man from Studio City told me that Paulsen was a learned man and that I had better know what I was talking about:

"Learned?!" Paulsen said, "I'm not learned. I was a drop-out in college for two years; I was studying to be a forest ranger but then I got involved in acting. Learned, no; an intellectual, no; I'm just a comedian." He went on to say that he had gone to a preparatory college in San Francisco on a three year program in hopes of making it to another school in California; but the lure of the little theatre and nightclubs was too strong.

I learned that he did not want to talk much about his career at this time: "It's down right now and it's gonna stay there."

What about his campaign for the presidency? Was that just a big joke? "In '68 and '72 I ran just to see what it was like; not as a put-on. I wrote a book about the experience called, *How to Wage a Successful Campaign for the Presidency*... even though I lost; just so the average guy could know what was going on."

But he did mention, while we were ordering lunch, his activities in Vancouver: "Well, that was a long time ago. I was a cranial painter; I had a goatee and I painted pictures with my face. But people made fun of me and it got so I couldn't do it in public."

"I had a tripod and I had a rope tied around my foot on a pulley and I used to swing back and forth with the paint brush (his beard). I got about seven-and-one-half bucks for each picture. Sometimes I'd do about three of four a night. I had to support my family that way."



**WE CANNOT
STAND PAT**

"I was doing it one afternoon and the traffic got stuck...everybody was stopped. So the mounties came along and told me to get down because I was causing a nuisance. So, I went to traffic court and eventually they told me to leave Canada. They didn't tell me to go to jail or anything but that I was corrupting the public. A terrible thing to say to an artist."

The lunch arrived: sirloin steaks, salads, shrimp cocktails and booze for the commerce boys and myself. Paulsen had some clam chowder soup and a coke. At one point, while describing the wonderfulness of his order, Paulsen leaned back in his chair, flexed a few chest muscles and growled, "Nowwww, that's what I call a real MAN'S SOUP!" As our stomachs expanded, so did the range of topics for discussion; anything was fair game.

Paulsen told how, in the off-season, he liked to grow grapes, three kids, and twenty head of cattle on his hundred acre ranch in Northern California. Wine, however, is something that did not really turn him on.

Well then, what did he think of marijuana? "I don't care much for legalizing it. I'd like to see it decriminalized. I don't think the law should throw people in jail for such long periods of time."

What did he think about the Queen? "What else can she do? She couldn't go out and get a job as a waitress, could she? She's just an ordinary person and she goes to the bathroom just like you do. She seems like a very lovely lady to me. I bet she'd be fun to talk to... if you could swing it."

And so the discussion went: statistics on the fire hazard in L.A. and college enrollment were supplied by Pat's manager and the eating habits of Albertan farmers who have hemp patches by someone from the commerce gallery. Finally, someone asked a question about the 'youth-of-today' in relation to our foreign defence policy, or something. Paulsen said that ideally, "...I'd like to see an attitude developed in the young in all the countries of the world so that they could just laugh at these characters who believe in developing things like a strong defence policy...eventually we'll be able to laugh these people right out of office."

His plans for the future? "I'd like to make sure that the career is one of longevity... some people hit it big and then they go downhill because they don't plan ahead. Right now I'm gonna go back to the ranch and develop some more club stuff. I plan to do some more nightclubs, and some more concerts and some more summerstock. I don't have to jump at every offer that comes along; I can work in other areas."

When the meal was over, Paulsen invited me to come along on a pre-showtime inspection of the Jubilee Auditorium in order that he could get the 'feel' of the place. I accepted and then he, with quiet resolution, paid for everyone's food. Now this, I thought to myself, is a great man.

On the way over in the car he recalled some exciting moments in his career: "At a club up in Reno a lady threw a glass of beer in my face. I was really surprised and so was the audience... she just stomped out after she did it. A big Samoan tried to get up on stage once to give me a hit... I guess... Threats of violence..."

"I'm ready for just about anything that can happen 'cause I've worked for about twenty-five years on stage. There are some things that I can't handle: there was a drunken lady once and I made a couple of cracks to her and before you know it I had her up on the stage... the audience was really digging it; then I tried to get her off and couldn't. She took off her bra and everything... I just couldn't get her off the stage... I had to leave myself. What are you going to do with a drunken lady, right?! Drunken ladies are worse than men; they don't care what kind of asses they make of themselves."

And then in a more serious vein... "Comedians are so screwed up. I don't think I'm screwed up, but most of them are... I may be screwed up somewhat, but most of them are bad-news-screwed-up. I mean they are terribly unhappy... always looking for attention."

As soon as he stepped out of the car and saw the Auditorium, Paulsen was impressed. For the most part of his tour he had been working in gymnasiums. He meandered down the aisle leading to the stage exclaiming, "Who's this for, a King?!" And, while his manager haggled with the floor manager to get a crew assigned to that night's performance, a projector and other fundamentals, Paulsen danced and skipped around the stage, checked the podium and assured the manager that his show would be "easier than doing *A Midsummer's Night Dream*."

Before leaving I wished him good luck and a gigantic audience. He grinned and said, "Well there'll be Tommy Banks and his wife-that's two...and you, that's three..." I never went.

women only 1/6 U staff

Women represent less than one-sixth of the full-time academic staff of the University of Alberta, according to a preliminary report on the status of women released last summer by a study group under the auspices of the CAUT status of women committee.

The study reveals that women make up a disproportionately small percentage of the academic staff compared with female undergraduate and graduate enrollment, and compared with the potential pool of academically trained women-power in Canada; that women on the university staff are clustered in small number of traditionally "female" fields; that women are concentrated at the lowest academic ranks and in non-teaching positions, and that the rank of women teachers and thus, their average salary, tends to be substantially lower than that of their male colleagues.

\$1740 separates men, women

The Women's Action Group at UBC released a report last Tuesday documenting "the discrimination women experience as employees and students" at that university.

Women are getting the worst deal whether they be faculty, non-academic staff or students, claim the Action Committee, who have figures to back up their statements.

The Group did computer analysis of staff salaries and produced some amazing results. Women of the same age, same highest degree, same number of years at the UBC, same rank, same appointment time, same term of contract, earn \$1740 less than their male counterparts.

When women have all the same qualifications etc. as men, but are of a lower rank, they earn \$3071 less than the men. Percentage statistics indicate that men have by far the higher paying positions in academic work, while women are more often relegated to lower pay, lower status assistantships. Men have much better chances of being made full professors and associate professors than do women. Even the total number of women who are hired onto UBC's academic staff make up no more than

18.1% of the faculty.

Of UBC's non-academic staff there are more women hired than men but they also seemed to be classed in lower paying categories. For example:

Male book shelvees make \$467 per month while female catalogers and book checkers make a mere \$336 per month. Women are not found at senior and supervisory levels of the UBC non-academic staff in proportion to their members; no women make the highest salaries.

Statistics on enrollment at UBC indicate that men and women choose different areas to go into. Men are more often in engineering and commerce, women in education and nursing. However, women were only 39% of all undergraduates at UBC in 1971-72. A more obvious indicator of discrimination against women appears in the number enrolled in graduate programmes. Even in faculties where women are the majority they form a smaller percentage of graduate students. For example in Education at the UBC women are 77% of the undergraduate body only 40% of the master's candidates and 29% of the Phd's.

Women's Action Group claims that women do better than men in Arts and Science Faculties. In Arts, 10.5% of the women were in the top percent while only 8.6 percent of the men were on the same level. In Science, women again appeared to do better with 13.2% being in the top decile compared to only 9.2 percent of the men.

To improve the status of women on the UBC campus, Women's Action Group recommends "a program designed to correct all practices which discriminate against women students in recruitment, admissions and curriculum and women faculty in appointment, position, promotion and salary levels. This program must take in to account the difference in female life rhythms. Women may not want to spend the years from 18 to 26 in the same way men do, the group asserts, but they should not be discriminated against when they wish to re-enter career patterns later on in life. Women's Action Group feels they could move towards solving discrimination against women if UBC would give them a budget of \$74,500 for research purposes.