

## Educating the Human

### The Human Spirit and the Crisis of the University

MONDAY APRIL 10, 1989  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

EXPRESS LOUNGE  
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING

Dr. Myer Horowitz, Keynote  
MLA Gordon Wright

with a panel of respondents from the University community

For Faculty, Students, and Staff  
who are concerned about the future of the University

Sponsored by the Chaplain's Association

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### Chief Returning Officer

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Performs the duties normally required by a Chief Returning Officer (staff recruitment and hiring, organization of polls, oversees counting procedures, etc.)  
- Conducts elections in accordance with Bylaw 300 and 350 for such election or referenda as designated by Students' Council.  
- Act as arbitrator in any dispute arising during the course of an election/referendum.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Must possess excellent organizational and administrative skills.  
- Familiarity with previous Students' Union elections a definite asset.

**SALARY:** \$1500 plus according to scheduling established October 1984

**TERM OF OFFICE:** 1 May 1989 to 30 April 1990

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** 4:00 pm Fri. Apr. 7, 1989

Applications available from the Receptionist, Students' Union Executive Offices Room 259 SUB. For further information, contact Paul LaGrange, 492-4236.

## Wading thru Nom-Comm Hell

by Martin Levenson

They call it "The Nom-Comm from Hell."

No, it's not a noncommissioned officer gone crazy. It's the SU's selection and screening committee, known formally as the Nominating Committee.

Around this time each year, NomComm sifts through a couple of hundred applications for SU involvement, short-lists the best, and conducts interviews with the candidates. The committee's decision is then ratified by SU Council, usually a rubber-stamp process.

The procedure is long, arduous, and often tedious. Nom Comm is known to have eight hour sessions, during which they might interview thirty candidates.

Positions to be filled include the paid directors of various services, the four paid commissioners, and a multitude of volunteer student-at-large members of the administrative boards that shape the decisions of the SU.

The procedure is intimidating for the candidates. As many as 12 people to face, the committee as they furiously scribble notes and listen intently while interviewees presents their credentials and answers the committee's questions.

Decisions made by this year's committee affect the operations of next year's SU, making it an important committee. Representation on NomComm favours executive (president, vice-presidents) members, with two incoming and two departing executive members. As well, there are up to five SU councillors and two student members-at large.

Depending on who was selected last year to sit on NomComm, the upcoming year's executive has a lot of control over who gets what position. This has led to charges of patronage in the past. The recommendation of some candidates over other, apparently more qualified candidates, raises questions about the selection criteria used. Job descriptions are sketchy, and the committee has little, if

any, training in interviewing techniques.

SU president Paul LaGrange admits that the size of the committee is intimidating, pointing out that corporate and government hiring boards have three, or at the most, five members.

Mark Seemans, a candidate for the Registries directorship, suggested that the size was necessary, so that the committee could be "representative of the various political factions on campus."

Anne Kaplan, candidate for the position of External Commissioner commented, "my assumption is that [the interview] is carefully timed... only five people ask you questions... [the other people] are there to intimidate you."

Most candidates interviewed last Thursday expressed satisfac-

tion with the conduct of their interviews. There were "... no jokes, no smiles," said Benula Bunjun, adding, "they were very serious."

Jason Forth, another candidate for External Commissioner, commented that "they could have had more questions... and drawn out more about the candidates." However, he noted that "they were taking notes when I thought they should."

Kaplan suggested that "it's a hell of a good way to find out if someone can think on their feet... The questions they threw me, people could write a thesis on."

On the other hand, she expressed some skepticism about the process. "I answered all the questions, but I'm not going to get the job... I'm not enough of a political hack."

## Scientists study shrub that thrives on acid rain

by Pippa B. Wysong

reprinted from *Canadian Science*

An arctic shrub that thrives in areas with high levels of natural acid rain is able to neutralize drops of acid rain that land on its leaves.

Related to the chrysanthemum, *Artemisia tilesii* is a small shrub that grows in the Smoking Hills near the Beaufort Sea. The Smoking Hills are so named because they are actually perpetually smoldering away — organic shales in the Hills themselves are burning. They also cause natural acid rain.

The shale contains large amounts of sulphur, says Dr. Tom Hutchinson, a professor of botany and forestry at the University of Toronto.

When sulphur is burned, it is released into the atmosphere where it mixes with moisture and air, forming the sulphuric acid that occurs in acid rain.

The shale at the Smoking Hills has been burning continuously for more than 10,000 years. Sulphur and other chemicals in the rock react and spontaneously combust.

As a consequence of the burning, not only is there a lot of acid rain in the area, but also local ponds are very acidic. Hutchinson describes them as "a real chemical soup. Some of the ponds there have got a pH of about 1.8." (The lower the pH, the higher the acid. A normal or acceptable pH level for rain and pond water is between 5.0 and 7.0.)

Most plants would not be able to live with water that has pH levels of 1.8, but *Artemisia* seems to have adapted to the hostile conditions in the Smoking Hills. "It has a leaf surface which seems to be capable of neutralizing acidic droplets," Hutchinson says. "It's able to pump neutralizing bases from the soil through its root system onto the surface of the leaf."

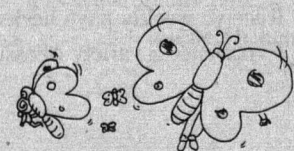
The plant pulls traces of calcium and potassium up from the soil and sends them to the leaf surface to combat the effects of acid rain.

Many plants have the ability to neutralize acid this way, but not as well. *Artemisia* has "an extreme from of what many plants will do," says Hutchinson.

He speculates that the plant has developed its strong ability through natural selection. "It's had 10,000 years maybe to adapt," he says.

The studies of *Artemisia* were supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

On The Wild Side



ATTACK OF THE MAN-EATING BUTTERFLIES

## Student Help

Ph. 432-4266  
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Drop in or call us

### Recipe

Take 1 student  
½ cup mixed emotions  
2 exam failures  
1 overdue term paper  
¼ lb. discontent  
3 cups all-purpose sifted frustration  
4 oz. misdirected motivation  
a pinch of thyme

Combine all ingredients, roast before class, stew in own juices, drain off excess emotions and garnish with shattered confidence. Wrap in red tape. Serve hot.

For relief:  
STUDENT HELP consumes 47 times its weight in excess problems.

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

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