

# See no art gallery, here no art

by Andrew Watts

Students returning to the university campus will undoubtedly notice the lack of the Students Union Art Gallery from its once familiar position in SUB.

Last May 18th, student's council voted to close the gallery after voting against a motion to maintain it for at least one more year.

"In speaking for the entire executive, we were really pissed off," says Ray Conway, v.p. internal.

The motion in question

would have seen a \$3 levy assessed on top of regular Students' Union fees. This would have generated sufficient funds to enable the gallery to remain open.

The issue would have gone to a student referendum this year to decide whether the levy should be continued indefinitely.

"We thought we had a viable alternative to closing it (the gallery) down that would have given students a say," explains Conway.

The Students' Union has leased the entire gallery area to

the university administration, who will be converting it into offices to handle their overload problems.

According to SU Business Manager Tom Wright, the rental of the area will bring in \$67,000 to the SU coffers annually.

Arguments against the motion centered around the fact that at that time (May 18) the majority of the students would not be around and aware of the levy being assessed them.

At that same meeting a representative of the gallery equated the levy to "less than two beers in RATT, a couple of packs of cigarettes or four rides on ETS."

However, v.p. Internal Conway did leave the door open for future considerations into the reopening the gallery.

"It depends on our finances," he explains, "if we get five or six years of good executive we may reopen it."



The Students' Union Art Gallery fell victim to the cost of living

## UBC numbers game

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The University of British Columbia's administration "deliberately misled" the Board of Governors about the university's finances earlier this year, a former student Board representative now charges.

After the administration predicted a \$7.4 million deficit for 1982-83, the Board voted in January to increase tuition fees by 32.8 per cent, lay off support staff, reduce physical plant spending and place hiring freezes on many departments.

In June, the administration revealed a \$6.4 million reserve.

"I feel we were deliberately misled by the administration into justifying the 32.8 per cent tuition increase when it's apparent that the fee increase could have been spread over two years at the very least," said the former rep Chris Niwinski.

The administration claimed the reserve resulted from "unusually high short-term interest rates" last fall, financial retrenchment by various faculties and "uncertainties associated with the medical school expansion budget."

BKUT University spokesperson Jim Banham denied that the Board was misled.

"I think the president (of UBC, Doug Kenny) has kept the Board informed," he said. "The Board at its meetings gets monthly financial reports about what is happening at the University."

And it (the Board) has a finance committee which meets before every Board meeting and goes over the report. I don't think the administration can buy that argument that the Board is not being informed."

But Niwinski and Alma Mater Society vp Cliff Stewart pointed out that the \$2.7 million generated from the short-term investments could have covered the amount raised by the fee increase.

And Niwinski and Stewart with current student board member Dave Dale, said that because interest rates peaked in October and November, the administration had ample opportunity to inform the Board of its short term investment earnings.

"I think it (the information) would have shed a different light on such things as tuition fee increases," Dale said, adding that he learned of the extra money at the end of April.

Stewart said he thinks the administration's failure to report the high investment earnings demonstrates "either gross stupidity or gross misrepresentation on the part of the administration, either of which is totally unacceptable."

Banham said the surplus resulted from an attempt to soften the impact of the \$7.4 million retrenchment in the 1981/82 budget, made to deal with the projected shortfall.

Dale said that although he found out about the reserve at the end of April, he didn't want to make it public then because "it's a

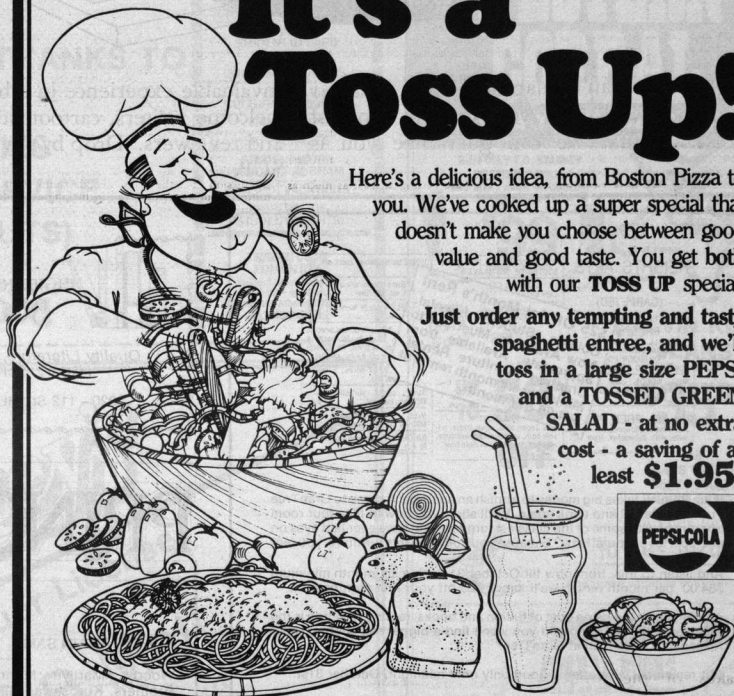
pretty complicated thing." But he said he and other Board members pushed for an announcement.

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