

# B.C. valley to be flooded for Seattle hydro

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Slowly but surely Seattle City Light Company is moving closer to the "development" of the Skagit Valley in the southern portion of British Columbia.

The hydro development, which would raise the level of Ross Dam 122 feet, and extend the head of the present reservoir 10 miles into Canada has been given the go-ahead by Washington state ecology department.

Department spokesman Howard Big said the proposal is still in process of examination, but declined to comment on any further action.

"A development permit has been issued to Seattle, and until our examinations findings are released, there is nothing I can say," Big said.

Federal fisheries minister Jack Davis will be in Washington D.C. situation at an international environmental conference.

A spokesman for the Ottawa office said Davis would do everything in his power to stop the development should the findings prove the site ecologically detrimental to the area.

B.C.'s agreement to develop the site, signed in 1967 by the Social Credit government, could be nullified by provincial repudiation of the agreement, but premier W.A.C. Bennett recently said he feels the matter should be in Ottawa's hands.

A spokesman for Seattle mayor

Wes Uhlman said the mayor hopes Canada will reap as much benefit as possible from the site.

Society for pollution and environmental control secretary Sue Vanlaar said in Vancouver the power development must be halted immediately for more than ecological reasons.

"The project can only meet Seattle's needs for at most 18 months," she said.

"Exploitation of Canadian land

to keep Seattle's hydro rates down for less than two years when they are already less than half of ours is just unthinkable," she said.

At present, Seattle citizens pay \$8.15 per 1,000 kilowatt hours.

Vancouver residents pay \$16.50 for the same amount of power.

"Before they would even get this site completed, they would have to start looking for another site," Vanlarr said.

Under the present agreement

Seattle Light would pay \$15 per acre remuneration to the Social Credit government.

Seattle Light PR man Joe DeLeon said the company is considering several other sites for future development, but feels the Skagit development will not be outdated in 18 months.

"A power site of this magnitude would provide an infinite source of power to this community," he said.

He said the American cor-

poration plans to develop any type of recreational facilities the Social Crediters want at the north end of the reservoir, even though he feels such a move is not necessary because of limited tourist use of the area in the past.

To call attention to the potentialities of the Skagit Valley area, Dick Betts, a University of British Columbia student hopes to hold a free rock festival at the site in late spring.

## 10 million tons of oil spilled in oceans

ROME (CUPI) — Up to 10 million tons of oil are spilled every year into the world's oceans and there is no effective way to either clean up the oil or reduce the effect it has in poisoning all forms of ocean life.

In a paper delivered to an international conference on oil pollution here, Max Blumer of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, Mass., USA, estimates that oil pollution of the ocean involves anywhere from one to 10 million metric tons of crude oil and oil products a year. In the United States oil accounts for three-quarters of the 10,000 pollution incidents reported each year in the country's water supply.

Blumer says that counter measures are effective only if all of

the oil is recovered immediately after the spill but the technology to do this does not exist and all proposals to clean away the oil, such as dispersing it or sinking it to the bottom are inefficient since the oil continues to poison the marine life in one form or another. The use of detergents and dispersants harm in various degrees the environment even when they are supposed to be non-toxic.

"All crude oils are poisons for all marine organisms," Blumer says. "...Long term toxicity (poisoning) may harm marine life that is not immediately killed by spills, and oil can be incorporated into the meat of marine animals making it unfit for human consumption. Crude oil and oil products may cause cancer in

marine organisms. Even at very low concentrations oil may interfere with processes which are vital for the propagation of marine species.

Most toxic oil compounds are water soluble, making recovery of oil slicks futile except for aesthetic improvement, Blumer says. Treatment with detergents, even the non-toxic ones, is dangerous because it exposes marine life to higher concentrations of soluble and toxic hydrocarbons and because it disperses oil into droplets that can be ingested and retained by many organisms.

Natural bacterial action eventually decomposed spilled oil, but the most toxic oils disappear much slowly than the less harmful ones

and the possibility exists that the products of bacterial oil degradation may be more toxic than the oil itself.

Blumer denied that marine animals will naturally avoid spills. Lobsters, for one, are attracted to crude oil, which leads to severe contamination or death.

Speaking of the damage done to Lake Erie by American and American-controlled corporations in the US and Canada, Blumer said that the same could happen to the ocean except it would take longer.

"A polluted small lake can be reclaimed within a few years. Lake Erie may or may not be restored within 50 years, but a polluted ocean will remain irreversibly damaged for many generations," he said.

## Faculty may let students write sups

York business students may soon be able to write supplemental exams at Christmas for the first time if a motion to that effect passes through the Administrative Studies faculty council.

The motion will ask for supplemental exams for students who have failed one course but who retain standing in their other courses.

Business courses, restricted to third and fourth year students, are run on the semester system. Before this year any business student with a course mark below a C or an average below a C plus was rusticated.

Enrolment in business courses rose 100 per cent from last year, and the failure rate of 11 per cent pointed up the need for supplementals.

In previous years a formal method of appeal did exist but the provision for supplementals did not. A four-year pass degree will be given to a student who passes all courses but who fails to maintain honours standing.

John MacKinnon, president of the Undergraduate Business Council, felt confident that the motion would pass. "The faculty have been generally responsive to our desires in this area," he said.

MacKinnon also said business students should have a system "equal to that in the arts faculty" where a student can appeal to write supplementals at the end of the year.

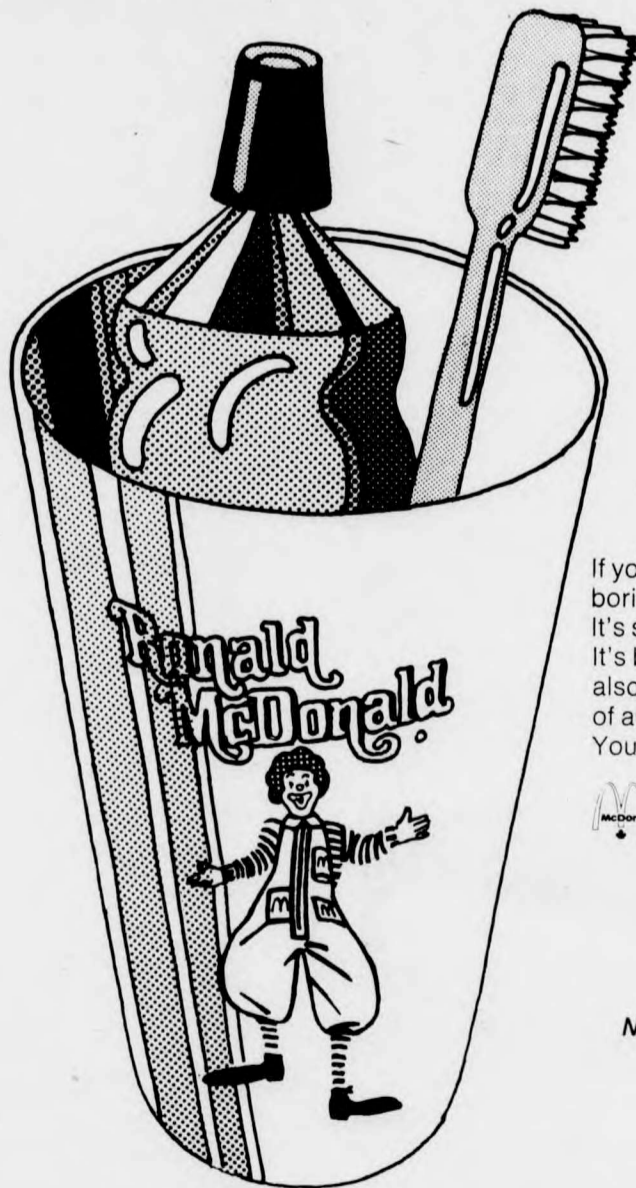
Friday the Student Affairs Committee of Faculty Council approved the appeals of six students in third year courses.

## P.C. leader from York U. touring Ontario

Douglas Jure, president of the Ontario Provincial Conservative Student Association and York University Student is embarking on a province wide tour to stimulate discussions concerning Ontario and its leaders.

While on his tour Jure will meet with delegates and the public through meetings and the media.

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