



Into Focus

By Roberta Franchuk

Suntans are hot stuff. In Canada, the U.S. and Europe, thousands of white-skinned people are flocking to tanning parlors and beaches to toast themselves to a "healthy" brown color. A suntan is the newest status symbol. In cold climates, it means you have the time and money to go to tanning sessions year round. In warmer climates, like California, it means you either have the leisure time to lie on the beach or you go to tanning sessions so everyone thinks you have the leisure time to lie on the beach.

This status-through-skin-color is a relatively new development. In the past, the wealthy caucasians of Europe and North America spent a lot of time making sure they did not get a tan. A tan did not stand for wealth and leisure. It meant you worked from sun-up to sundown

in a field, and was definitely not chic. Pale skin was the mark of good breeding, gentility and wealth.

Many of the first cosmetics were designed to bleach or whiten the skin. In the age of Louis XIV, women used arsenic as a complexion powder. Effective, but the FDA would never pass it today. Freckles were a fashion disaster. Southern belles wore broad-brimmed hats to keep the hot Georgia sun from marring their lily-white faces, and gloves to protect their hands. Lemon juice was used as a facial. Bleach in the unhappy event of exposure to the sun.

Fashion gradually changed, however. As the twentieth century progressed, people worked less and had more time to lie around in the sun. Eventually the ultra rich spent

most of their time lying around in the sun, and those who weren't ultra rich but wanted to look like they were hit upon the idea of tanning themselves artificially, without the expense of flying to the Bahamas or the French Riveira.

Since not all climates were suitable for year-round basking, the tanning bed was developed as an environment where the amount and kind of radiation you receive can be monitored and controlled.

Thus the tan evolved from a symbol of hard manual labor to a symbol of rich indolence.

Now, in some circles, it is just as important to have a good tan as it is to have the right clothes. Few up-and-coming people go to Hawaii before getting a base tan in a tanning salon at home. We wouldn't want to show up in Hawaii looking all white and icky like tourists, would we now? Heaven forbid!

An interesting question comes to mind. With Caucasians trying to darken their skin, does this mean that people who are naturally dark-skinned will no longer be discriminated against, and will indeed be envied for their natural pigmentation?

Somehow, I don't think that it's likely.

B.C. hopes

BURNABY (CUP) — Premier Bill Vander Zalm's decision to replace Post Secondary Education minister Russell Fraser with newcomer Stan Hagen has given university administrators another chance to push for better management.

The presidents of B.C.'s three universities met recently to plan their lobbying strategy before meeting the new minister.

SFU academic vice-president George Ivany said top-level administrators will emphasize the importance of university autonomy at a meeting with Hagen.

"We believe we serve society very well when we are left to our own ends," he said.

Neither Ivany nor SFU president Bill Saywell have met Hagen, but Ivany said they are optimistic after having heard "some good things" about him.

"We will insist on base funding, student aid and salary improvements," Ivany said.

The government's practice of funding the university through "excellence funds" for special initiatives is detrimental, said Ivany.

The ministry's name change to Continuing Education and Job Training amplifies Ivany's fears that the university is being seen strictly as a tool of economic recovery.

SFU faculty association vice-president Stanley Shapiro was guardedly optimistic about the changes.

"Maybe, and I emphasize maybe, with the new set of ministers and an admittedly idiosyncratic premier there might be an improvement," Shapiro said.

Hagen, president and owner of a ready mix cement firm, received a university degree from the Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. He served as chair and vice-chair of the local school board in Comox Valley, and is an active member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Courtney.

When he appointed Hagen to the cabinet, Vander Zalm specifically assigned him to review the student aid program and look at ways to improve access to post-secondary education for rural students.

REPORT ON BUSINESS — from your Students' Union Executive

PRESIDENT

— David Oginski

I have worked on many projects since May 1, 1986. Some of them were small, some of them were big, however, they all were interesting. At this time I will not go on talking about history, but I will tell you about some of the projects I am presently working on and on where they may lead.

CUSEC

The Canadian University Student Executive Council (CUSEC) has been an on-going project of the last two and a half years. CUSEC is being established to create a national forum where the leaders of student associations across the country can gather to exchange ideas. These ideas include political positions, services offered/to be offered, techniques of communication and more. It is hoped that CUSEC will create good communication amongst students across Canada.

Presently CUSEC is also supported by the Universities of British Columbia, Calgary, Manitoba and Toronto and has been looked into by a group of the larger Universities in Ontario. If everything goes as planned, the first Conference should be held in February or March of 1987.

CAUSE

Along with our initiative to create a national student body, we have also been trying to establish a provincial body, CAUSE. This would be the organization that would look after the welfare of Alberta students. CAUSE has met informally twice in the last six months and hopes to be formalized in January of 1987. Although the colleges and technical institutes have ACTISEC, we hope to be able to discuss common issues with them.

All Else (Misc.)

Some other projects have included working with Alumni Affairs to get to build a stronger Alumni and better university pride. This also includes the class gift project.

If You Need Me . . .

The other main (and most important) function of the President is to be your representative to the University Administration. This is done on various boards and committees including General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors. Don't forget that I also sit on most of the Students' Union Committees and Boards. So if you have any concerns, questions or complaints, please bring them to me at 259-E SUB or call me at 432-4236.

VP INTERNAL AFFAIRS

— Barb Higgin

This has been one hectic portfolio for the past six months!

At the present time I am working on the *S.U. Entertainment Week* which will be January 5-9. As well as indoor Beer Gardens held in Dinwoodie Lounge from noon to 4 p.m., there will be double bill movies in the theatre during the evenings featuring the Pink Panther, James Bond, Monty Python and more! I am also planning a comedy night in the theatre for Wed., January 7 featuring some high energy comedians. More information will be available once all the dates are firmed up and the contracts are signed, so watch for advertising in the near future!

The Telephone Directory should be here anytime. We have had trouble getting them back from the printer on time. Of note is the fact that student addresses have been deleted from the directory this year in order to protect female students living alone from "surprise visitors" of a nasty nature. This measure was taken as a result of several women expressing this concern.

As most students already know, Dinwoodie Lounge has been renovated to create more of a "night spot" atmosphere. Most cabarets in Dinwoodie have done well this year, and we hope that at least part of this is due to the time and effort we put into it.

The Information Desk in HUB was installed early in September and is completely functional. Both the HUB & SUB Information Desks have been very well used and we are currently expanding the services there to include various ticket sales and other suggested services. Your input would be appreciated if there is something you feel is lacking.

The Students' Union and Building Services Board are still looking at the feasibility of enclosing the SUB courtyard on the south side of the building facing Physical Education. Incidentally, your S.U. Executive will be serving eggnog there at noon on Nov. 28 — free of charge to students!

The Students' Union is also still looking into changing the Students' Union logo. Unfortunately, due to all of the other meetings and projects I have had, little time has been left over to pursue this lately. Hopefully, I will be able to pursue this in December and January.

Finally, I have set up two committees, one of the student service

directors and one of the Student Union Business Managers, for the purposes of increasing communication between the Students' Union and the Managers/Directors and between the Managers/Directors themselves, and also to get increased feedback on making the services-businesses run more efficiently.

In closing, I would like to say I would love to hear your two cents worth (either positive or negative) on the entertainment and services the Students' Union is providing for you. If I am in a meeting, please leave a message so I am able to get back to you.

VP EXTERNAL

— Michael Hunter

Today, the future of education in Alberta is on the line. With our politicians attempting to reduce the province's deficit, education budgets seem to be large and inviting targets. Unfortunately, the consequences of these cuts carry little weight with our leaders. There appears to be no recognition of the disaster that could develop in both the education or business sectors.

So, it is up to the people in Alberta to alter this perception. It is up to us to show our leaders that students are worth investing in, that education can help to diversify the economy, that an investment in education is an investment in the future and not just an unnecessary expenditure.

It will take a lot of work, however, before our provincial government understands this reality. And it will take a lot of work by a lot of people. So the apathy which now exists must be replaced by involvement. The commitment to securing the future must be total. Gone are the days when Albertans could afford to sit back and watch. Now that attitude could cost students and the province an unbearable expense.

What this all means is that you, as an individual, will have to get involved as both a student and a citizen. When we get enough of these people calling, talking and writing our government, then maybe, just maybe, we will be able to avoid a repeat performance of what happened in B.C. a couple of years ago. Unless, of course, you like the idea of even bigger classes, fewer T.A.'s and a 50% increase in your tuition fees.

Think about it. Then call me at 432-4236 when you're ready to get involved!

VP ACADEMIC

— Craig Cooper

Well, I've finally got my own column. I've always wanted to be a journalist . . . really. My topic for today is . . . (surprise) Academics.

My main activity lately has been recruiting students to represent the student body on University committees. Involvement is a key aspect to having policy decisions made in the students' best interests. If the University doesn't know what the students want, how can they cater to us? If you want to get involved, contact me in Room 259 SUB.

The Book Registry concept has been finalized, after many proposals, and an operational program proposal is being submitted to a student computer company to see if they will produce it.

The University has published a document outlining their plans for the future. Undergrad students are affected by this, and a response is being prepared. Perhaps you remember the Education Survey on the back page of the *Gateway*. This information will be incorporated into the response, as there is a section suggesting a liberal component in every degree. Thanks to all of you who answered, especially those who took the time to write out comments, they were greatly appreciated.

Other duties I have been performing include: watchdog on the Academic Development Committee (with another student, D. Stanley), and on the General Faculties Council Executive; helping Batman fight crime in the streets; intense socializing at home and abroad; and Christmas shopping.

My final message to you: get involved! Academic development is much more than books and essays; people skills and an open mind are qualities that will help you on the road to success. Learn lots, have fun, contribute back to the University, and have a Merry Christmas.

VP FINANCE & ADMIN

— Tim Boston

At this time of the year the Student's Union's budgeting is cast for the 1986/87 year. The budgeting process consumes a great deal of review time and meeting time to come up with our final budget. The Budget will hopefully be approved at the Dec. 2nd meeting of Students' Council and will be condensed and put in the *Gateway* for your perusal early in January.

As some of you may have heard, the Students' Union is looking at setting up a 5¢ copy center. I've been working on this with Tom Wright (the Students' Union's Business Manager) for some time now. This center would be located in the southwest corner of the games area in the basement of the Students' Union Building. The plan is to have 12 self-serve 5¢ copy machines and a full service area that would handle enlargements, reductions, transparencies, mass copying, coil binding, laminating and perhaps two color copying. Due to the full service area you will find that the machines will be tended to much faster in case of breakdown than in other areas of the University.

I hope that everyone has been taking advantage of the new University Placement Office. Their 'Resume Writing and Job Interview Seminars' are very professional and worth attending. The University Placement Office was formed this summer with the Students' Union funding well over half the cost of the center. The UPO provides you, the student, with free seminars, free career information, and are advertising U of A students across Canada to potential employers. Try to take advantage of the UPO when it can help you most. BEFORE you graduate!

If you have any questions regarding the final budget, the SU Copy Center or the University Placement Office, please feel free to contact me and I will answer all your questions.



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