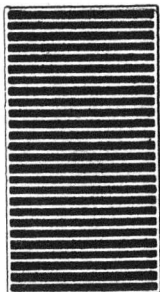


The Gateway

Tuesday, October 8, 1985

THE PARTY

"Eek, get off of my knee..."



...she hissed angrily at the snorting rhinoceros.

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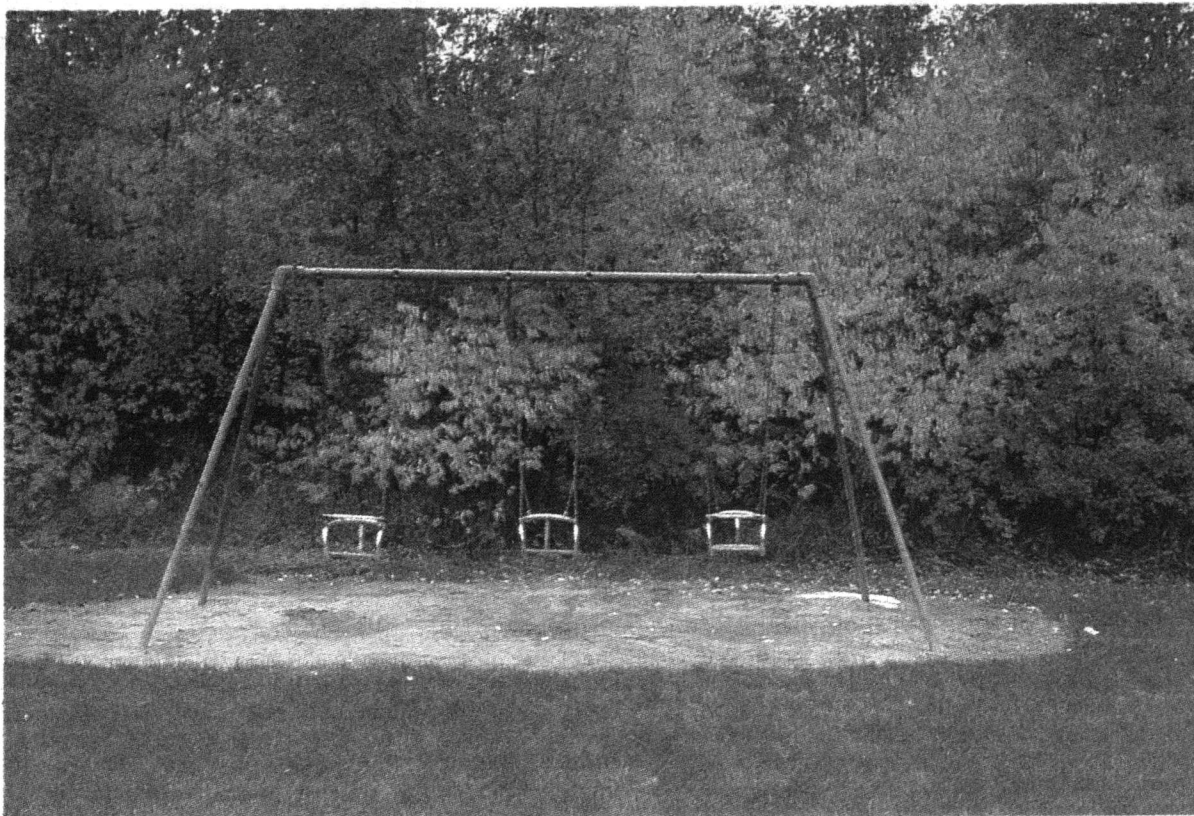


Photo: Bill N. Johnson

That's what you get for blinking! Fall is gone! Keep this picture. Look at it in a couple of months and ask yourself why you didn't apply at U Vic, where this is as bad as it gets.

Sex harassment task force: smoke but no fire

by Kathleen Beechinor and Bill Doskoch

After two months the Students Union sponsored Task Force on Sexual Harassment is off to a slow and disorganized start.

"I've been slow on it, I gotta admit because I've been doing other things, but the wheels are finally starting to turn," said S.U. president Mike Nickel, "I'm doing it slowly so that I do it right the first time, I want to make sure there are no mistakes."

The task force was first proposed by Nickel, a week long series of articles in the *Edmonton Journal* on

sexual harassment at the U of A.

It's supposed to be comprised of two members each from the SU, NASA (NonAcademic Staff Association) GSA (Graduate Student Association) and AAS:UA (Academic Staff Association: U of A) plus a chairman. To date, however, a chairman or delegates have not been named.

With the use of a questionnaire, the task force is to investigate the prevalence of sexual harassment on campus and to make recommendations based on their findings, and on Sept. 10th Nickel set a letter to that effect to the above groups. But

representatives claim that that has been the only formal communication thus far.

In fact, concerns about organization seem to center on communication and the lack of information from Nickel about the purpose and direction of the Task Force.

"Mike has chosen not to delegate any negotiations with other groups to either Connie (Uzwyshyn, Academic Commissioner) or myself, so when he was busy, including working on Bear Country, the Task Force idea was not moving as quickly as it should have," said VP Academic Caroline Nevin. "A lot of stuff that's

happened is solely Mike's responsibility."

"They blame me for the lack of communication, I blame them for not raising the questions," countered Nickel. "I'm the president and I'm not at liberty to start asking council to ask me questions or to ask me for information."

"Besides, what did we debate (in the last two council meetings), really? Beer prices. No one asked me about sexual harassment but maybe it's not their fault, it's an intangible issue."

Nickel went on to say that based on his conversation with NASA on

Monday morning that "the direction of this whole thing might change radically because of some new information presented to me — some very very good arguments that NASA has presented."

Nickel would not comment further on the arguments presented by NASA but he did indicate that it would be discussed in council today.

"I can't give a specific time table," said Nickel.

"This thing will go on for some time, there's no denying that."

Disabled, but not down

by Audrey Djuwita

Philip Taylor is an education student who lost his hearing when he was 4½ years old. He is in his 30s now, and during all these years, he has never lost his cheerful outlook on life.

He has a vibrant personality that instantly captivates those who meet him. He laughs a lot, at himself and life in general.

"It helps to have a sense of humour to laugh at yourself," he mused.

He once played a trick on one of his instructors:

"She was showing a tape and asked if the sound was loud enough. I told her it wasn't. She forgot that I was deaf, so she kept on turning up the volume..."

Although his hearing impairment causes him some problems, Taylor said: "I'd rather be deaf than blind or crippled. Deafness is one of the mildest disabilities that a person can have. In some ways, I'd rather be deaf than hearing."

"Why? I am free from noise pollution and I sleep well at night," he explained with a grin.

Taylor communicates with other people through lip-reading and sign language.

"Deaf people have different levels of communication skills. Personally, I don't have any trouble interacting with people because I am normally friendly and outgoing. And once people get over the initial apprehension about deaf people, they wonder why they were afraid in the first place."

"I want to encourage everyone to take sign language classes at local programs because that would help more hearing people to reach out to the deaf community. A good grounding in sign language, deaf culture and so on will reduce the barriers of ignorance and make the

world a better place for the deaf people."

Taylor's education is supported by the Vocational Rehabilitation program. He hopes to be the first deaf person to graduate from the U of A.

"Academically, it is very difficult being a deaf person. There are some modifications to be done. I have a sign language interpreter who helps me in my classes, and I also have two notetakers in each class. That's an invaluable help."

"My professors have also been very accommodating and helpful."

Taylor has high praise for Marion Nicely and her support staff. Nicely is the Coordinator of Services for Disabled Students.

"They help steer me through the different aspects of academic life," said Taylor.

"The Office of Student Affairs began responding to the requests of the disabled students in 1977. We provide services such as pre-admission advising, priority-registration, volunteer services and equipment rentals," said Nicely.

"Currently, we have more than 90 disabled students on campus," Nicely said.

"Yes, four years ago, it was a really small service," Art Shea recalled.

Shea is a drama student. He came from high school with the stigma of being dumb because he has a learning disability. He is a poor speller and has troubles with numbers because he reverses letters.

He originally went to university to prove that he could succeed in his studies despite his disability. Now, he sets out to become a teacher.

"I haven't encountered any prejudices because of my disability so far; however, as a teacher, I see that

it can pose some problems. But I also believe in modern technology and one day perhaps we would have more audio and visual learning aids in the classrooms," Shea said.

"I sometimes feel inferior. It's stupid, but I am getting over it now. It's just that you grew up with the idea that you are not as good as other people."

"I am paranoid about people looking at my notes. I'll spell a word four different ways and I am quite embarrassed about it," Shea said and laughed.

Shea, like Taylor, also thinks that Nicely is doing an excellent job.

"Marion is a really nice person. She is a friend. She is always there when you need her. She goes out of her way to help people."

"Anyone in high school who's got problems, such as a learning disability, should not hesitate if he wants to attend the U of A. Student Services will help."

Shea pointed out that the Student Services provides him with help in exam-writing.

"I'd dictate and a volunteer would write it."

"We rely on volunteers a lot," Nicely said.

The volunteers are primarily recruited on campus. They do note-taking, typing, exam-writing, taping of assigned texts or articles, library research, tutorial help and wheelchair pushing for the disabled students.

"I enjoyed doing it. It's helped me a lot in dealing with disabled people," said Sylvia Leong, a volunteer who has been with the Student Services for three years.

Tim Herbish, also a volunteer, said "during the past six years, in helping the disabled, I've come to appreciate other people's values. It

continued on page 2.

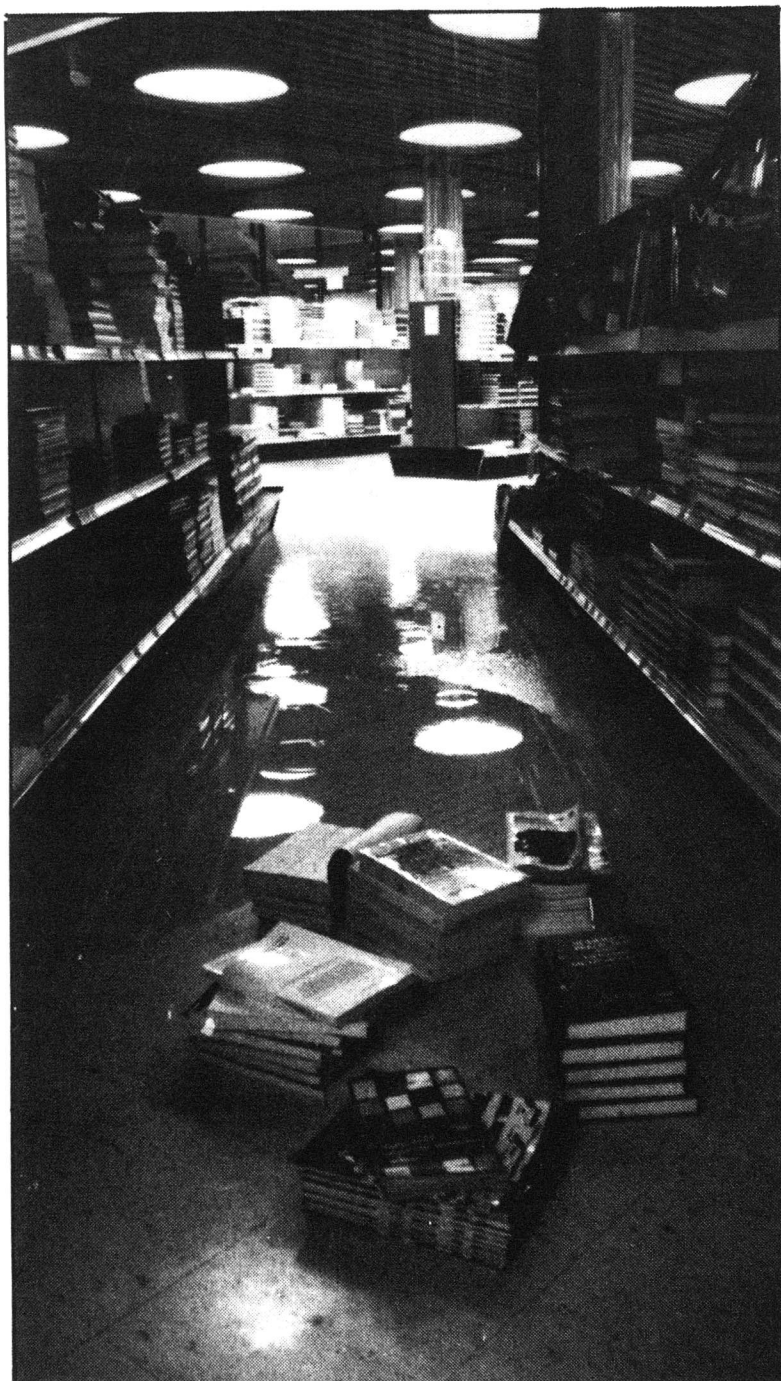


Photo: Bill Doskoch

Here's a scene from the Great Bookstore Flood last Thursday. Store manager Jim Malone had no damage estimate.