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The Friends of CJSR 88.5 FM present their
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plus guests IBS
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8:30 p.m.

Tickets:
Jubilee Box Office
Varsity Drugs
HUB & SUB Info Booths
& CJSR (432-5244)
NO MINORS — Age I.D. Required



DINWOODIE LOUNGE
SUB - 2nd Floor
New Hours: 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

SU ELECTION 

NEED SOME EXTRA CASH?

The Students' Union requires staff for the election March 11, 12, 13. Help us out and earn \$5.50/hour. For further information and application forms, please contact the SU Returning Office (Room 234 SUB) or the Receptionist, SU Executive Offices (Room 259 SUB).

Deadline: February 27th, 1600 hours.

GFC ponders failures

by Ken Hui

A question was raised by the General Faculties Council (GFC) executive: Why should a student be required to repeat an entire year, if only one course was failed, especially given that in the courses already passed, the student's grades could be excellent?

The recent GFC executive debate on pass-by-year system is simply a confirmation of the status quo policy, according to Amy Zelmer, Associate Vice-President Academic.

The Academic Development Committee (ADC) examined the pass-by-year requirement of the Faculties of Dentistry, Law and Medicine and resolved to support the principle of the pass-by-year system.

ADC stated that students in professional programs can understand and cope with every learning phase only if they have a reasonable understanding of the total body of knowledge in each phase.

A result of the pass-by-year system is that medical students are required to achieve a minimum GPA of 5.0 and in addition a grade of 5.0 in each course. The stipulation is to ensure that the Medical students will have a thorough understanding of all subjects. The students might not obtain a passing GPA with a deficiency in one or more areas.

Craig Cooper, SU V.P. Academic, said he approves the system in principle. "However, special cases

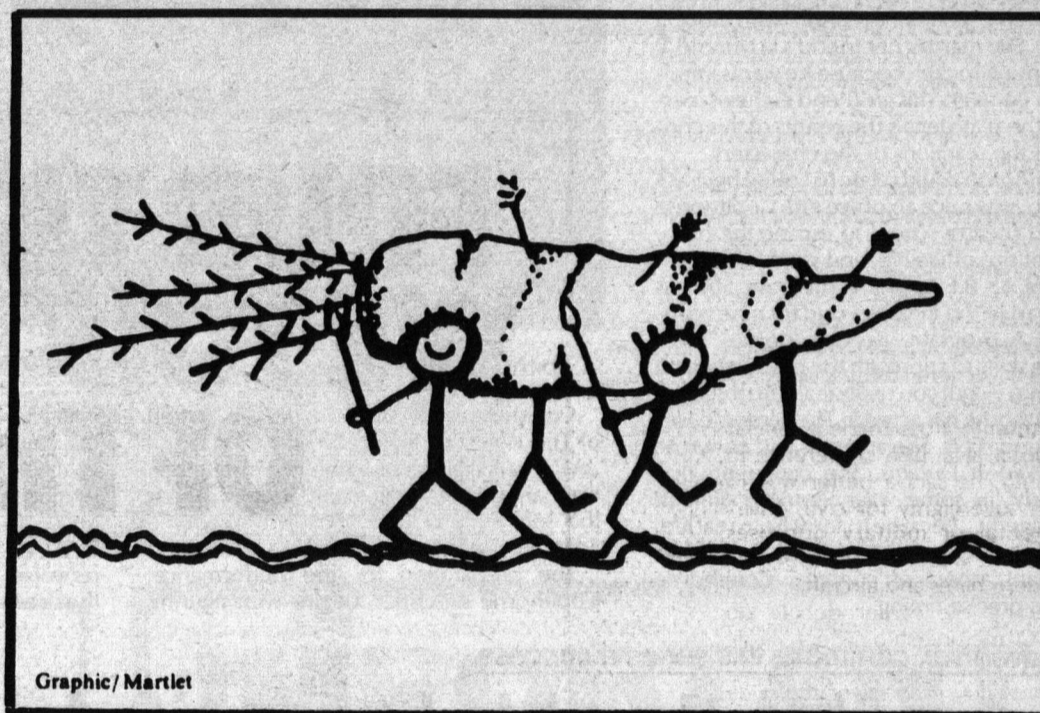
do sometimes arise and a mechanism is needed to ensure fairness," he said.

At present the GFC Academic Appeal Committee, in addition to individual Faculty Appeal Committees, take the role to ensure carriage of justice especially in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Students who do not meet the qualifications can appeal to these committees to carry on in their studies.

A Pharmacy student who wished to remain anonymous said, "We students in professional studies do not have much of a choice. There are certain academic requirements to be met before we can practise."

High tech veggie factory producing in high gear



Graphic/ Martlet

J.K./L.T.

by John Michell

Reprinted from Canadian Science

A Calgary firm is producing about 25,000 ripe tomatoes and 25,000 English cucumbers every day of the year in a controlled-environment 'factory'.

The cucumbers grow to full size in just six days, following flowering, in a soilless nutrient medium, free of insecticides and herbicides. On a typical Canadian farm, cucumbers would take several weeks to mature, depending on the weather.

The key to the system's success is that all the factors that affect plant growth, including nutrients, temperature and air quality, are under precise computer control and are adjusted automatically to suit different sunlight conditions.

"We have the opportunity to make Canada self-sufficient in vegetable crops by using this system," says Vern Olsen, Vice-president of Sprung Enviroponics Limited. This would have a big impact on Canada's foreign exchange, he adds.

To form Sprung Enviroponics and produce the greenhouse system, Sprung Instant Structures Ltd. of Calgary, which builds controlled-environment structures for many purposes, from hospitals to warehouses, combined its technology with that of a British firm, Girocrop Ltd. Girocrop has expertise in the science of 'biophotics' and in soilless growth of plants (hydroponics).

"Biophotics is the study of the effect of light on plant growth and production," says Sprung's general manager Dawn Sprung. It is possible to provide the optimum conditions for a plant to utilize any light that is available, she explains.

The controlled environment is contained within a modular, prefabricated structure in which a weather-resistant cover is stretched

over aluminum frames. The cover is translucent; no artificial light is used.

Temperatures inside the greenhouse are carefully controlled, using a solar-energized cooling system when necessary, rather than venting with fresh air from outside the structure. Since most of the required energy for the greenhouse is solar, costs are remarkably low.

The greenhouse is a star-shaped complex, with a horseshoe-shaped structure at the centre. Each segment of the star is a 'production zone' where the plants grow to maturity.

The central horseshoe is the pre-production zone, where the seeds are germinated. After germination the plants, referred to as 'units', are

moved into the production zones where they grow while being fed with nutrient solution which flows through the root systems.

Meanwhile, new plants are being germinated in the pre-production zone, to replace production plants that have matured and borne fruit.

Sprung is prepared to build these controlled-environment systems for the growth of food anywhere in the world. The smallest viable unit would employ about 150 technicians.

The Calgary unit is already selling all the tomatoes and cucumbers it can produce in the Alberta market.

Sprung recently signed an agreement with BRO Resources Ltd., of Lambeth, Ontario. BRO is planning a world-wide franchising campaign for the system.

Grad students' Forum

The Graduate Students' Association is once again organizing an Employment Forum. "The response to last year's Forum was very positive. We considered it desirable that the event be continued," said Annette Richardson, President of GSA. This year's Forum will be a public event held on Wednesday, March 4 in the Power Plant. For undergrads, the Forum will be of interest to 3rd or 4th year students.

"Graduate students have devoted a great deal of time to their studies. GSA has tried to support its members in a number of ways. It seems important that we offer opportunities for them to prepare for the transition from student to career professional," Richardson continued. The Forum will focus on a variety of valuable topics. During the day, speakers from industry,

Alberta Manpower, CUSO, and the U of A will discuss career planning, interview techniques, services available for graduate students at the Campus Placement Office, overseas opportunities, what employers look for in prospective professionals, the realities of the workplace, and sessional employment. The sessions will feature both individual speakers and panel discussions.

Dr. F. S. Chia, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, will open the Forum with a talk on "What can I expect my degree to do for me?"

The March 4 Forum begins at 9:00 a.m. in GSA's "Back Room," located in the Power Plant. Refreshments will be available throughout the day, and a cold plate luncheon will be served at noon.