

Hard work not evident

To the editors,

Like many people interested in trying to write about the arts, I am possibly over-sensitive to criticism and editing. However, when one writes an article, it is one's hope, indeed, one's assumption that a true semblance of the thoughts, ideas, style and, most importantly, hard work contained in the article will survive the ravages which lead to publication.

Yers-sin-seer-lee
Michael Hymers

Cartoons a bomb

To the Editors:

It is with extreme distaste that I view the recent appearance of a series of 'KA-BOOM' cartoons in your paper. Not only do these sensationalist drawings appear totally out of context, unsigned and without any attribution to their underground origins, but they advocate violence as a legitimate response to political disputes in Canada.

To advocate violence in this manner is an inappropriate action for a newspaper, which is trusted by society to act as a forum for ideas. Unbalanced coverage, unsigned graffiti, and propaganda-cartoons are hardly the attributes of an exchange of ideas.

So, in closing, you can put this gratuitous drivel back up on the washroom walls where you undoubtedly obtained it from. Until then, I will continued to assign the *Gazette* to its proper place in the scheme of things—the bottom of the cat litter box.

Paul Davis
Political Science

Thanks to Fox runners

On behalf of the Dalhousie Student Union and the organizers of the Dalhousie Terry Fox Run '84, I would like to thank all those students, members of the Administration, Faculty and the community who supported and participated in this years Terry Fox Run. It was through your generous contributions that we raised about \$1,700 which will go directly towards Cancer research. The highest individual contribution was made by Dean Pietrantonio who collected \$322.50 in pledges. About 130 people ran the 10 kilometers course of which about 80 people were from Howe Hall.

A special note of thanks to the Inter-residence Society, the Commerce Society, the Arts Society, the student council members who helped organize the event and to the *Gazette* for publicizing the event.

Obviously, the Terry Fox dream continues...thanks to all of you.

Sincerely yours,
Reza Rizvi
Organizer,
Dalhousie Terry Fox Run '84

Recruiters flock to UBC to drain faculty

T By PATTI FLATHER

The University of British Columbia is in a state of siege. Headhunters from all over North America are flocking to this financially stricken campus looking for professors worried about wages, job security and academic freedom.

Cuts to UBC's budget by the provincial Social Credit government, totalling five per cent this year and another five per cent next year, mean 77 faculty and 113 support jobs have been cut to cope with the resulting \$18 million deficit. Faculty have accepted a wage freeze for the second year in a row and have forfeited bonuses for good teaching.

Panic set into B.C.'s college and universities in 1983 when the Socreds effectively abolished tenure by passing Bill 3. Under Bill 3, any public employee, including tenured professors, can be fired where there are insufficient funds, a reduction or elimination of specific programs or a shortage of work. B.C. universities minister Pat McGeer has long opposed the granting of tenure and believes universities can attract and keep top scholars without it.

Word is out UBC is an undesirable place to work and raiders from other campuses are scooping up its more brilliant professors.

"The whole continent knows we're in trouble," says UBC commerce dean Peter Lusztig. "The academic environment is in a state of siege."

Lusztig says articles on UBC's financial problems, which have appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, are attracting American faculty raiders to UBC.

"We lost an unusual number (of faculty) this past year," Lusztig says, seven compared to three. "The seven people we didn't care to lose."

Those professors cannot be replaced, Lusztig says, because no one is willing to replace them. UBC imposed enrollment limitations in commerce last year at Lusztig's request, partly because so many professors left.

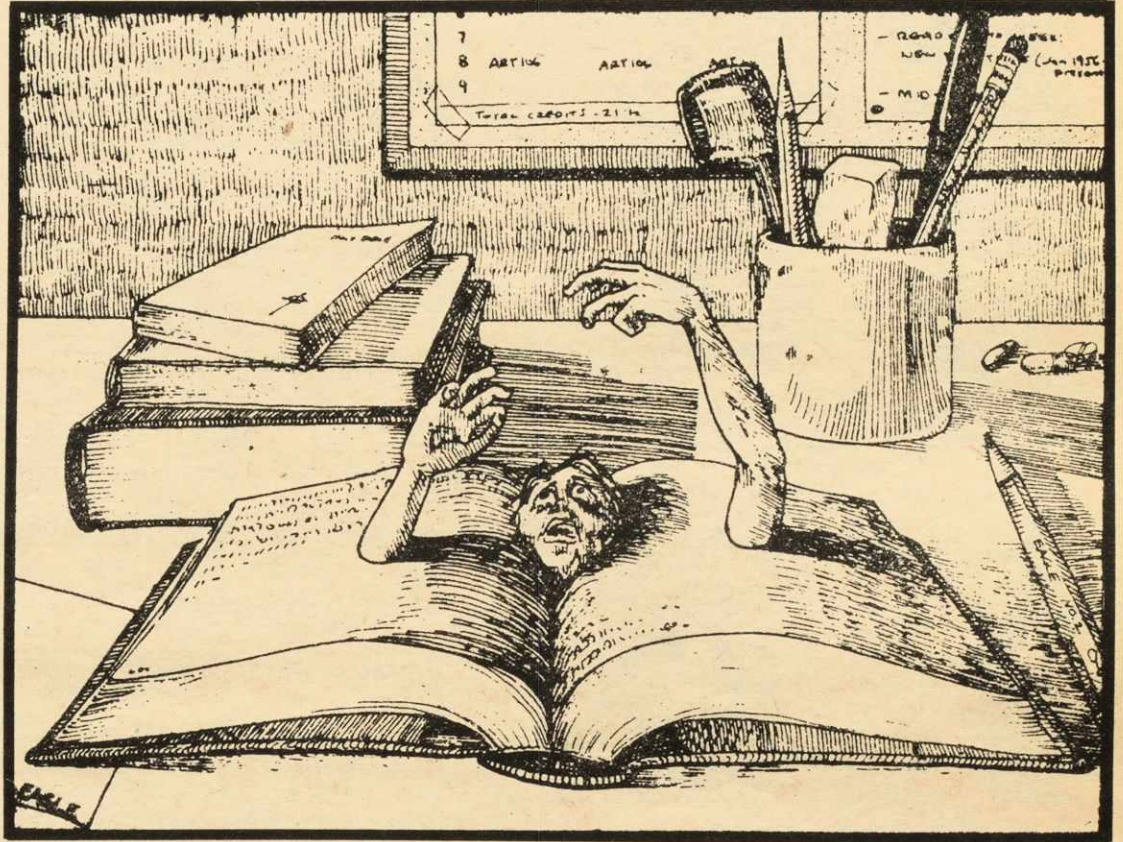
It is difficult to attract new commerce faculty to low-paying UBC, Lusztig says, because there are so many unfilled posts at American business schools.

Associate commerce professor Michael Gibbins says two weeks after the Socreds abolished tenure the first phone calls came to commerce asking: "Hey, anybody out there unhappy?"

"It doesn't take them long," says Gibbins. "By the end of the summer everyone (in commerce) was getting phone calls."

Gibbins, sitting in his emptied office, tries to explain why he is leaving UBC for the University of Alberta in five days.

"The political situation is part of it. The financial situation is part of



"Every one of the inquiries was for a significantly higher salary and better working conditions. I don't think I'm a mercenary, but it made it easier to go."

it." Then he adds smiling, "Maybe it was just time."

Gibbins thought seriously before putting himself on the market last summer.

"Every one of the inquiries was for a significantly higher salary and better working conditions. I don't think I'm a mercenary but it made it easier to go," he says.

Gibbins is one of a growing number of UBC faculty deciding they will enjoy work better at a university that is not stricken by severe government cutbacks. In Gibbins' department, accounting, five full-time professors and more part-time lecturers left this year. He said many remaining professors have been receiving offers continuously and adds he does not know how accounting can cope.

Gibbins predicts a bleak future for UBC in the short term: departing faculty being replaced by less experienced part-time lecturers, program cuts and enrollment limitations.

"There's an anti-education spirit in this province that I find very disturbing," he says.

Gibbins points out other provinces have financial problems but B.C. is different. "Other provinces seem to be managing these problems without the class warfare going on in B.C."

Gordon Walter, another commerce professor, has more stories about discontented faculty finding better opportunities elsewhere. Walter tells of his friend and colleague, Ron Taylor, who left UBC

last year for Rice University, Texas.

"He teaches 50 per cent of what he taught here, is paid twice as much, has ten times the clerical support, and four times the travel support."

He pauses, looks out the window.

"And his children are given free tuition where it costs \$5000 a year. Well, he's a very talented guy and I just ask if we decided to hire his tomorrow, what are the odds of getting him back?"

Walter says Taylor told him from Texas, "Gee, it's nice to be in a place where we're planning what to do for the students rather than what to cut next."

Commerce is not the only faculty suffering the "restraint" side effect of faculty loss, says Lusztig. He says the yearly cuts to UBC's budget will severely affect computer science, engineering, physics, and economics and "It's not going to be long before it becomes a university-wide phenomenon."

Lorna Gibson, an assistant civil engineering professor, resigned from UBC this year for a position at the prestigious Michigan Institute of Technology. She says she left for two reasons.

"One, I got a very good offer. And I find the financial situation at UBC very discouraging," Gibson says.

"I haven't had a raise since I got here (two years ago). It doesn't look like I'd get one next year. Or the next year."

Gibson says she will be paid

more money and has better prospects for a raise at MIT, though she will probably work harder.

Gibson, who was the junior faculty member of her department for two years, saw an advertisement for the position and responded. "I think the provincial government has a lot to do with it...I wouldn't have looked if things were better," she says.

Applied science dean Martin Wedepohl says discontent is a real problem among junior faculty. If salaries at other universities increase, a big gulf will open between them and UBC, he says.

Wedepohl says Gibson's resignation and an early retirement have been the early departures so far from his faculty. He says if headhunters are raiding, he would not know until a resignation arrives on his desk. Headhunters discreetly seek out the top people, he says.

Physics department head Llewellyn Williams agrees junior faculty restlessness is serious but says no one in physics has left yet. "I shouldn't discuss this," he adds, "there are people considering this option."

Peter Lusztig says the serious problem now is maintaining a quality faculty and discouraging discontented staff from leaving. But he warns if faculty see UBC's financial crisis as ongoing, "It is likely they will succumb to the sirens from abroad."

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