

## Job loss provokes tragedy

**VANCOUVER(CUP)** — A part-time University of British Columbia post-graduate student and government fisheries worker upset about losing his job to federal cutbacks killed his family and himself in his suburban home March 6.

Joe Cheng, a biochemistry doctoral student and scientist at the federal fisheries lab at UBC, took the life of his wife, Mabel and children, Oty and Janny, by stabbing them and beating them with a baseball bat before turning the knife on himself.

Cheng was going to lose his job Mar. 31 because the lab was slated for closure. Its shutdown is part of the \$4 billion in cutbacks outlined last fall in finance minister Michael Wilson's Nov. 8 financial statement, said federal fisheries spokesperson Eric Alexander.

Cheng's co-worker Glen Gibbard said: "He wasn't a quiet guy, not a

gregarious guy, just a good guy." He noted government cutbacks affect not only programmes but people.

"Somebody has to tell (the federal government) what they are doing to people, and I hope they realize what it does to some of them," Gibbard said.

Don Dutton, a UBC psychology professor specializing in applied social psychology, said studies show as the unemployment rate increases in a linear fashion, the pathological effects increase exponentially.

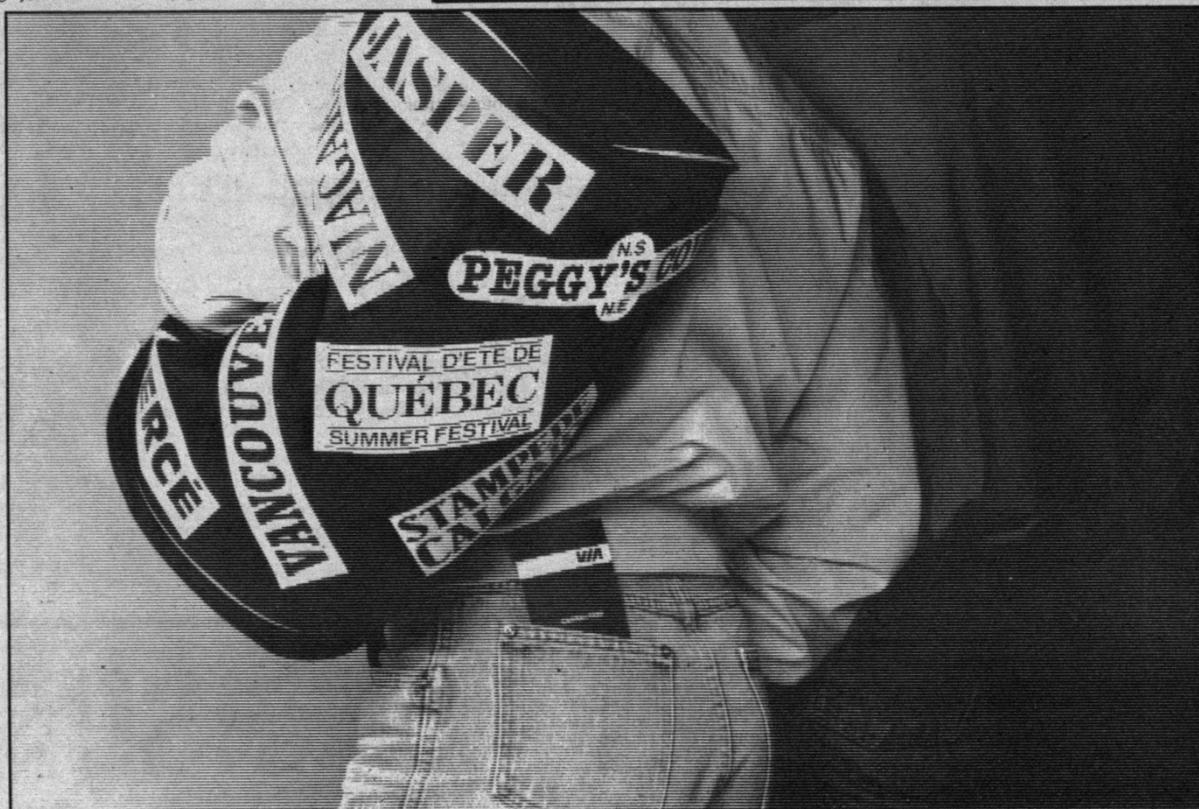
"Every time you get a one per cent increase in the unemployment rate, you get a four per cent increase in the number of admissions to mental institutions for the first time," he said.

B.C.'s unemployment rate reached 16.4 per cent last January, the second highest in Canada, according to Statistics Canada.

## Special Meeting for 1985-86 Gateway staff

Thursday, April 3, 4 p.m.

We will discuss everything from the CP stylebook to the CUP Statement of Principles. Please bring up points of discussion at the beginning of the meeting. Those who wish the time to be moved must contact Suzette at 432-5168 or in 282 SUB — but remember: there are many things that must be discussed immediately and the Building is locked on Friday.



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