

Debts put hopefuls out of election

...DIE board ruling

The appellants were candidates for the 1986 Students' Union election. Each appellant was a member of the 1986 slate "Students Working For Students" (SWFS). Each of the appellants filed his 1987 nomination form in order to run in the current Students' Union election. On 26 February 1987, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Shelley Chapelski, declared each of the appellants ineligible for the 1987 election due to an outstanding debt owed by the 1986 "SWFS" slate to the Students' Union. The appellants claim that this debt was paid and seek an order to be allowed to run in the 1987 election.

(1) Evidence of the Students' Union's past practices would indicate that it guarantees the financial obligations of each slate. Therefore, a slate's unpaid campaign expenses become a debt of the Students' Union. The (SWFS) slate incurred a debt of six hundred ten dollars fifty cents (\$610.50) for printed pamphlets during the 1986 election. The Students' Union issued a cheque for \$610.50 dated 21 March 1986 payable to Mr. Brosseau for the purpose of paying Central Web Offset Limited (Printer). The cheque was cashed 24 March 1986. Mr. Sesek testified that he paid this debt to a Mr. Cartwright of the Printer some time during the month of February 1987. Mr. Sesek was unable to provide any evidence that the debt was paid prior to 27 February 1987.

The Chief Returning Officer testified that on 24 February 1987 and 26 February 1987, a Mr. Cartwright of the Printer confirmed an outstanding debt of \$610.50 in the name of the (SWFS) slate and the Students' Union. This was the same man Mr. Sesek claimed to have

paid at some time during February 1987.

The Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board found the Chief Returning Officer a more credible witness than Mr. Sesek throughout the proceedings.

Bylaw 300 s. 7(b) states that: Any person who has an outstanding debt owing to the Students' Union at the time nominations close shall not be eligible to be nominated for any position.

Nominations closed at 5:00 p.m., 24 February 1987. On the basis of these findings, the D.I.E. Board affirms the decision of the CRO declaring Messrs. Sesek, Brosseau, and Shinkaruk ineligible for the 1987 Students' Union election.

(2) A second issue was raised by Mr. Shinkaruk in that he should be permitted to run in the 1987 election even if a debt was outstanding in the name of the 1986 (SWFS) slate of which he was a member.

Bylaw 300, s. 18 states: Each candidate shall keep, or

ensure that his/her campaign manager keeps, an up-to-date and accurate account of all campaign expenses.

This section imposes a duty on each candidate on a slate to take reasonable steps to ensure the debts of that slate have been paid. The D.I.E. Board found that Mr. Shinkaruk did not take reasonable steps in this

regard. Mr. Shinkaruk testified that he assumed the debt had been paid and he did nothing to ensure that it had actually been paid.

The purpose of s. 18 is to prevent candidates from shifting their responsibility for campaign expenses to another person in order to absolve themselves of liability.

The D.I.E. Board found that Mr.

Shinkaruk cannot claim immunity to s. 7(b) of Bylaw 300 on the basis that he assumed the (SWFS) slate's debts had been paid without any investigation.

The Board further recommends that Bylaw 300 be amended to clarify the responsibility of all candidates with regard to debts incurred by their slate.

Chernobyl dumps on Vancouver

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Vancouver received some of the highest levels of radioactivity fallout in North America from the April 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, a Simon Fraser University marine biologist said recently.

Louis Druehl said a study he conducted with nuclear chemist John D'Auria showed levels of radioactive iodine of 450 becquerels per kilogram of seaweed in samples taken from locations along the B.C. coast last summer.

A becquerel is a measurement of radioactivity which represents the disintegration of one atom. Levels above 70 becquerels per kilogram are considered unsafe by Canadian

standards, although some European countries allow higher levels.

Druehl said samples taken from Vancouver in May 1986 contained more radioactive iodine than any found in Alaska, California, the eastern provinces or Japan. They were comparable to some samples taken in European countries such as Germany.

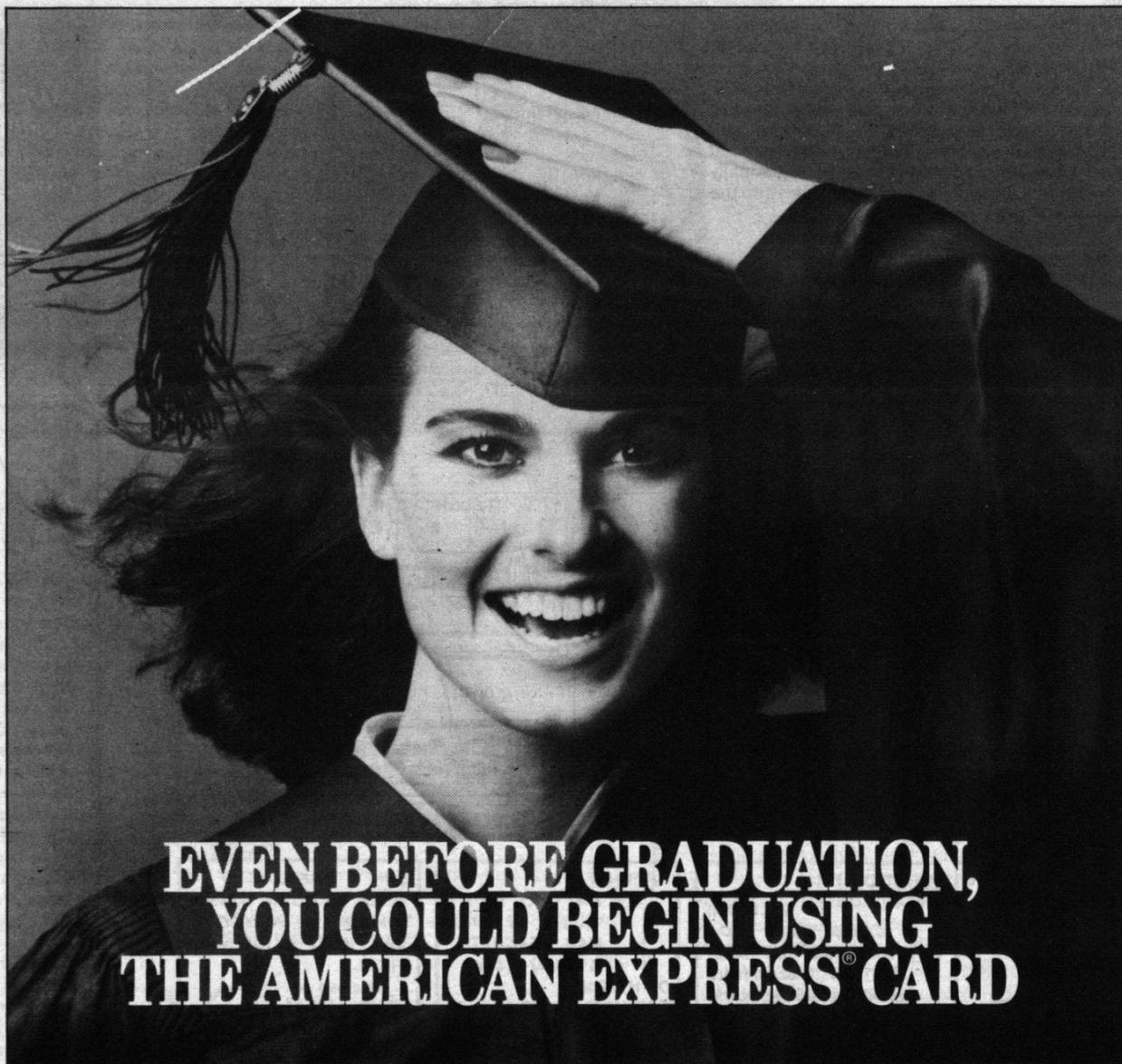
Druehl said the seaweed samples, known as Fucus or rockweed, is inedible and unlikely to have posed any health threat. This type of seaweed takes up iodine more readily than other plants so it is uncertain how other plants were affected, he said.

The threat of a much greater

amount of radioactive material falling on Vancouver is very real because of the proximity of Canadian and American reactors, he said.

"I'm not saying stop nuclear power," said Druehl, "what I'm saying is that this is a pollutant and that it belongs in reactors, not on our beaches or dinner tables."

Mike Cackette, an SFU chemistry graduate student who worked on the study along with undergraduate Karen Moore, said though the amount of radioactive iodine in the seaweed is now negligible, there may still be isotopes of elements with longer half-lives present.



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