

Rainbow Warrior reveals Underwatergate

The Rainbow Warrior Affair
Richard Shears and Isobelle Gidley Irwin
by John Watson

The sinking of the Rainbow Warrior, previously Greenpeace's flagship, was termed France's "Underwatergate". Though the incident is bound to have an effect on French elections this March, it's doubtful it will be as pronounced as were the political ramifications of Watergate.

The *Rainbow Warrior Affair* by Richard Shears and Isobelle Gidley Irwin shows the French to be remarkably unconcerned about international opinion. Not only do they ignore International Court decisions, but they have thumbed their collective noses at a decade of protest against their nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

However, they are not totally

impervious to protest because, as Greenpeace prepared to send a flotilla of ships to Mururoa (the site of French nuclear testing), the French set out to infiltrate the organization.

Their intent: "to predict and anticipate the actions of Greenpeace." In this quote from a report by former commander of the centre of nuclear experimentation, Admiral Fages, the word "anticipate" garners a lot of attention in *The Rainbow Warrior Affair*. Somewhere in the French secret service (DGSE) the word "anticipate" is interpreted to mean "stop".

The book follows in great detail the actions of the French secret service (DGSE) as they prepare to stop Greenpeace.

An obnoxious but dependable French woman shows up at Greenpeace offices in Auckland, New

Zealand to lend her support. Four Frenchmen arrange to rent a yacht in the middle of the New Zealand winter. And a newly-married Swiss couple spend a lot of time travelling around the New Zealand coast. Interestingly the newly-weds, according to the maid at one hotel, do not sleep together.

On July 10, 1985, the Rainbow Warrior was bombed and sunk to the bottom of Auckland harbour. Less than 36 hours later the newly-weds were at a rental office to return their vehicle when they were arrested.

From there *The Rainbow Warrior Affair* documents the getaway of the French officers and the war of words between the French and New Zealand governments.

The pro-environmental (perhaps anti-French) attitude of the authors is evident. Recounting the effects of American testing at Bikini Atoll in the 1950's seems to be tenuously related to the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior. But it certainly adds credence to the environmentalists' concerns.

At times the authors can't help but poke fun at the French: "In case any of the military personnel stationed at the atoll for a one-year

tour of duty have been listening too carefully to the ecologists... headquarters in Tahiti has produced a glossy holiday-style brochure which Club Med would be

proud of."

Overall the entire book is balanced in the information that it provides and both sides of the issue are given fair treatment.

Allan Lefever

MEDIA LAW SEMINAR

Barrister and Solicitor, will be speaking on newspapers and the law. Questions to follow.

Room 282, SUB at 5:00 p.m.

Today - all welcome

Pro-choice vigil

Abortion by Choice and ASWAC are sponsoring a Candlelight Vigil next Monday "in memory of the millions of women who have died from illegal abortions all over the world," said Sheila Bailin, the president of Abortion by Choice.

Similar vigils will be held all over the country.

The vigil to focus attention on the reproductive rights of women is aimed at the provincial government, says Bailin.

Organizers also want the vigil to show support for International Women's Day on Thursday.

Anyone is welcome to attend the vigil. "We don't exclude men or children... although the issue affects women a great deal."

The vigil ties in with a pro-choice tribunal on March 27.

Abortion by Choice is a chapter of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League.

The vigil will be held on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. on the north steps of the Legislature.

Wanna job? Go east...

People interested in obtaining employment in Hong Kong or the People's Republic of China should consider attending Hong Kong-China Careers Day to be held Saturday, March 1 in the Arts Court lounge in HUB.

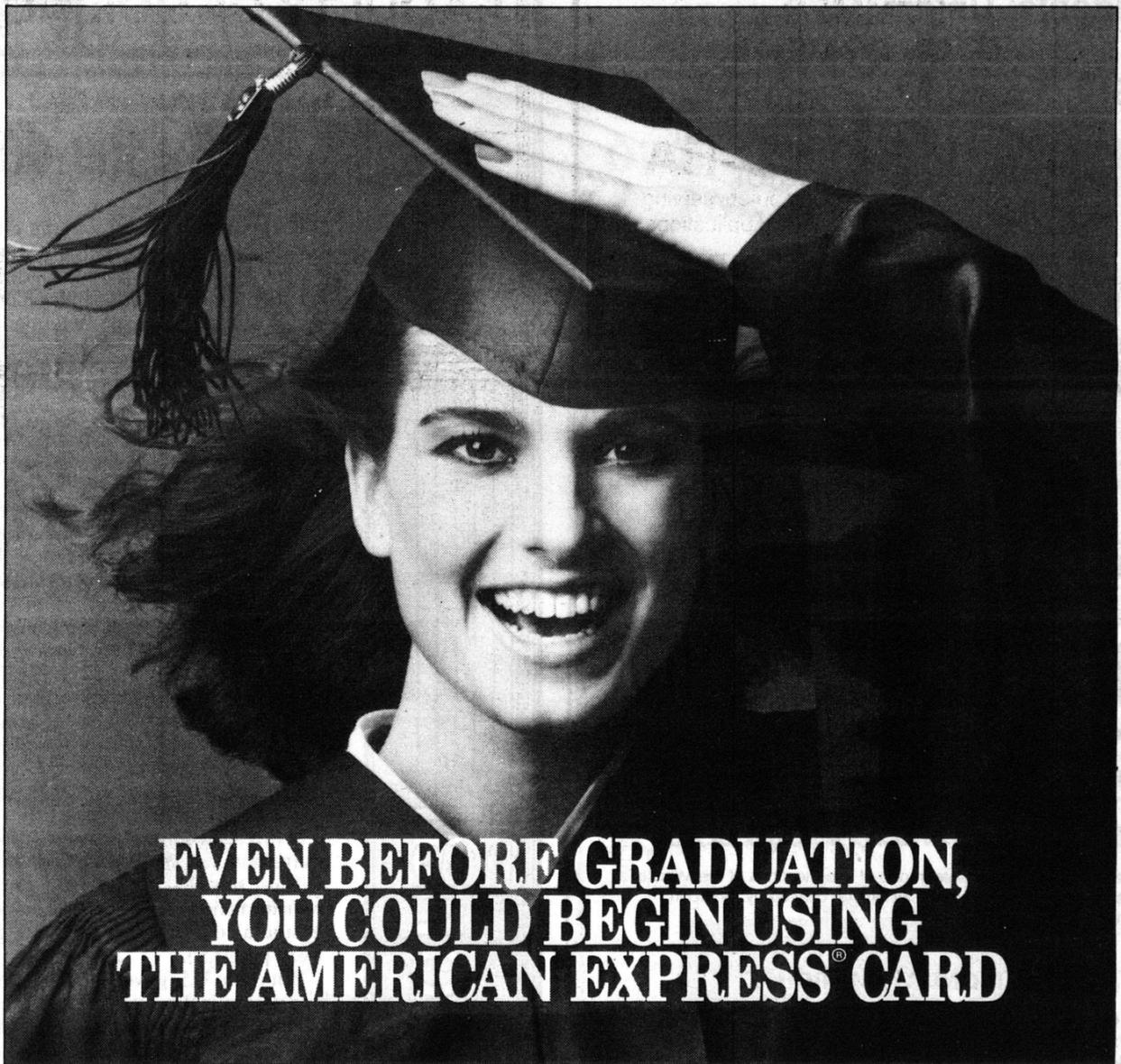
"We can't guarantee people a job in the Orient, we hope that our information display board and guest speakers will make their job hunting easier," said Wei Chou Ouyang, Vice President of External Affairs for the Hong Kong Graduate Students' Association.

Talks on business opportunities, living and working conditions in China, and on teaching opportunities - especially in Harbin, Heilongjiang, Alberta's sister province - will be provided by guest speakers from the Alberta government, the university, Edmonton Economic Development, and Canadian Pacific Air.

"The signing of the Sino-British agreement on the future of Hong Kong assured the continuity of its present economic and social lifestyle for another fifty years," explained Ouyang.

Renewed confidence in Hong Kong could be seen in the surge in hotel construction, he said, and the four modernizations program introduced in 1978 in mainland China have made foreign investment there more welcome.

"Hong Kong and China will become Canada's future area of attention for investment. East Asia overtook western Europe as Canada's second largest market in 1983 and the balance is never likely to shift back," he said.



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