

Total eclipse of moons at King's

By Greg Dennis

Throughout the ages, men have studied the moon, fascinated by its mystery and iridescent beauty.

When two celestial spheres rose at a University of King's College variety show on January 27, the Dean of Men, upon a quick study of their less-than-beautiful forms, made it clear that in the future nights at King's would be illuminated only by the stars.

Two UKC students have been suspended from residence for displaying what Dean Tom Curran termed "extreme tastelessness" at the show last Tuesday. Fascinated, he was not.

Besides baring their asses to the audience — Deans, Dons, and president John Godfrey among the ranks — Bruce Murphy and Tom Markin are reported to have thrown beans and fish guts into the crowd, drank onstage, and used vulgar language.

Initially, Murphy and Martin, the show's masters of ceremony, were permanently expelled from residence by a disgusted Curran following exhibition of the twin orbs. But, an appeal to the King's College Board, which is comprised of students, faculty and administration, resulted Thursday in a unanimous decision to suspend for 10 days the two third-year students.

"We have a variety show every year," said Curran. "And generally everyone is invited: it's not just for students. Somewhat unfortunately, someone selected Bruce Murphy and Tom Martin for MC's. They were supposed to fill in the gaps between acts and were, we thought, to have some responsibility. Their impression was to be the most outrageous act. The

intent was to offend the audience and they succeeded.

"One said he had an irrepresible urge to show his dick," continued Curran. "He managed to suppress it. Their final act was to pull down their pants, turn around, and bend over. They called it hanging a moon; I call it an obscene gesture. I went backstage and told them I didn't want them around residence anymore."

Curran said that in accordance with King's Regulations concerning standards of conduct, which state that a King's student must conduct him/herself with respect to the rights of others in the university community, Murphy and Martin "had been neglectful of my rights and other people's — all the people's" and thus deserved the expulsion.

"I've attended five or six of these shows. They tend to get raunchy but this was the worst. It was a thing in which men and women, administration, and even some children were present. If they invite us, certain standards should be maintained."

Student reaction to the expulsion was divided. Curran said roses were delivered to his wife by members of Alexandra Hall in apparent sympathy for any embarrassment caused by their fellow students. He also said letters were received that stated agreement with his decision.

Many other students thought the original expulsion was too severe. A petition signed on paper towel by about 80 students was presented before the College Board in defence of Murphy and Martin. Student Union president Bruce Klinger said the toned down 10 day suspension "was the best we could have hoped for."

Klinger, who did not attend the show, said that as far as he knew, the King's student population was generally not offended by the infamous duo's performance. "The basic comment was that it wasn't that good a show and that it lacked taste. But it didn't cause the uproar it did in the administration."

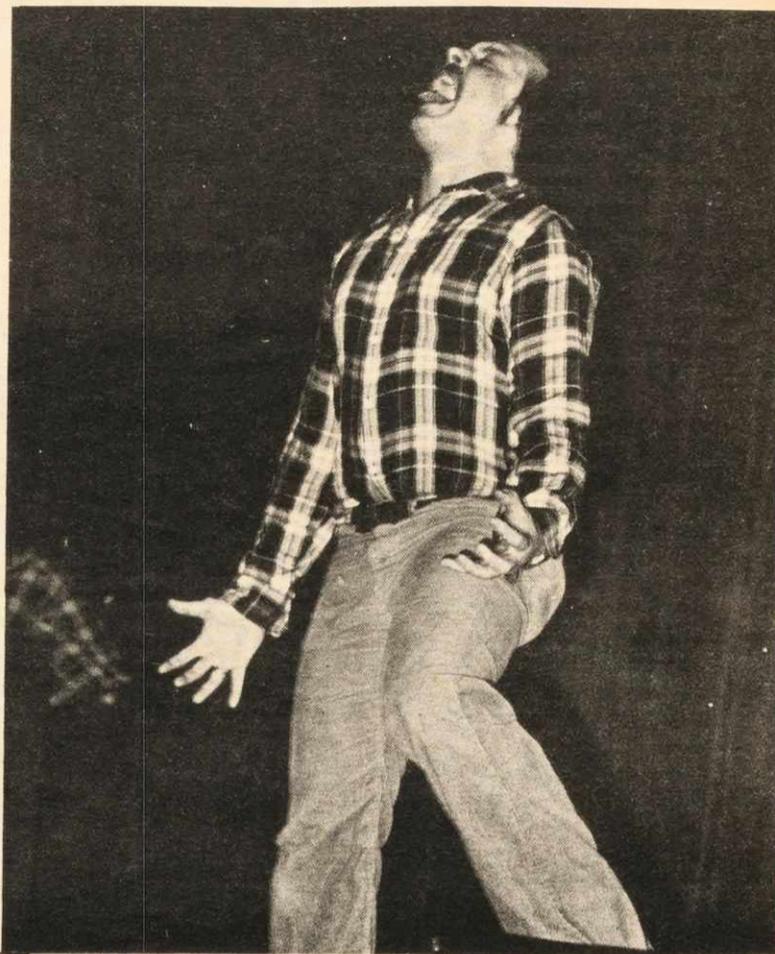
Some students said Murphy and Martin were unfairly singled out; the MC's were only as vulgar as other performers. One male student said that just prior to the fatal moonshot, three Chapel Bay residents, performing in a ballet parody called 'Swan Pond', exposed as the skit ended their collective derrieres. "Being suspended from residence for hanging a moon is ridiculous," he said.

"As the show degenerated, so did we", said Curran quoting a remark made by one of the accused at the appeal hearing, adding that this excuse was not acceptable. "An MC is supposed to restore order," the Dean said.

"They weren't out of place," said a female student. "They were pretty bad and so was the show. Being kicked out for good was drastic but I do think they deserved some sort of punishment."

I think the majority of students thought something should have been done," conceded the male student while another said that particular sentiment was expressed only because of who was in attendance. "It would've been fine if only students were there," he said.

Murphy and Martin return to residence on probation February 9. A repeat showing, presumably, will result in their being phased out of residence for good — with no ifs, ands or butts about it.



Unlike King's variety show, Dalhousie's talent night offered no bird's eye views of students' glistening underparts. Extreme tastelessness, however, was on display in copious quantities.

University funds may be halved

by Thomas Vradenburg

1982 could be a very bad year for universities across Canada, if the federal government keeps its promise to cut its share of university funding by about half.

In a proposal now before the Cabinet committee on social development, the government has made it known it plans to reduce its portion of university funding from \$3 billion to 2 or \$1.5 billion.

The funding is arranged under the Established Programs Financing Act, which allows for the negotiation of such federal provincial cost-sharing programs every five years. The next period, to be negotiated soon, begins in 1982.

There has been no timetable set for the federal-provincial negotiations, said Gail Kun of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

The first sign of the cuts was made in the budget speech last November. A more recent speech by Health and Welfare Minister Monique Begin narrowed things down, Kun said. The budget had promised cuts in federal-provincial social programs, and Begin promised this would not include health or welfare programs. That leaves universities standing alone before the guillotine.

Prince Edward Island Tory MP Tom McMillan has done the talking for the opposition. In the last week and a half, he has had a few exchanges with the minister responsible, Secretary of State Francis Fox.

"We have inside information that the decision has already been made," he said.

Although the federal government usually negotiates with the provinces, it can technically make the decision unilaterally, he said.

In the House, Fox defended the government, saying it doesn't get any public credit for its contributions to these social programs, and that though the costs of social programs have been rising rapidly through the 1970's, the government is locked into them for 5 years at a time.

The federal government has given the Nova Scotia government \$108.6 million this academic year, compared to \$74.8 million in academic 1978.

The poorer provinces will have more trouble making up the difference when the cuts come, McMillan said, and there will be significant effects on the economies of university towns.

The federal government is looking to save \$1.5, maybe \$2 billion, he said.

We stand alone before the guillotine.

Task force report useless says NUS

Ottawa (CUP) — The recently released report on student aid "makes a mockery of student input and hides the real concerns with the existing programs," according to John Doherty of the National Union of Students (NUS).

The federal-provincial task force on student assistance released their report January 27. While the study does admit the current system does not meet students' needs, says Doherty, no fundamental changes are proposed.

"We had hoped for something that would deal with the real problems of the student aid program," he said. "We didn't expect them to pat themselves on the back."

The task force, established by the Council of Ministers of Education, has been reviewing student assistance programs in all provinces except Quebec

(which administers its own

program) since February, 1980. The document recommends that:

- the present use of arbitrary ceilings be dropped in favour of limits and allowances which would determine financial need by taking inflation, and regional and institutional differences into account.
- more information about aid programs be provided to secondary schools and primary schools and to lower socioeconomic families.
- aid programs be extended to part-time students in financial need.
- there be a special procedure for students who are having difficulty repaying their student loans.
- students who decide to study in other provinces or abroad not be denied the opportunity because of lack of money.
- the present approach to determining whether a student

is self-supporting be changed to prevent problems for students whose parents refuse to make the necessary contribution.

• diversifying the present range of aid programs by providing on-campus part-time work for financially needy students.

Doherty feels the recommendation regarding ceilings is misleading. While it appears that the government is concerned with student needs, the removal of ceilings would "shift the burden to those least able to pay. This would force low income people out of the system," he said.

NUS is planning a spring campaign on student aid. "We have to continue to press for an all grant system," said Doherty. "Students have to force the government to work at breaking down financial barriers to education with a good student aid policy."