



photo Ray Giguere

Joan Borsa, SUB Art Gallery Director moves on to flatter pastures after five years with the Students' Union.

"A wonderful challenge"

# Gallery director quits SU

by Greg Harris

The director of Alberta's fourth most-attended Art gallery will soon be filling a new position in Saskatoon.

Joan Borsa, SUB Art Gallery director, will end five years of service to the Students' Union in March.

"It's certainly had its ups and downs and trials and tribulations but it's been a wonderful challenge," she says.

Borsa was hired in 1977 when the gallery was reopening after a two year closure. She says that the gallery was closed because of "nervousness about art being an elite luxury."

"The debate will continue forever (on whether the gallery) is a legitimate service to students."

"In terms of people having all aspects of their humanity looked after, art galleries are absolutely essential, like books are essential, like music is essential...like clothes are essential," she says.

The gallery suffered immensely during the two year closure, but Borsa says that she and her staff have managed to "develop it to the same format as before."

"We've managed to develop the professional standards to what they should be," she says, citing such things as expansion of staff, development of professional contacts, and cultivation of ethics.

Serious recognition from other galleries, she says, does a lot to secure and further the good reputation of SUB Art Gallery.

As well, the gallery now tries to originate its own shows instead of booking from other galleries.

Borsa says the philosophical mandate of the gallery has evolved into a "progressive and education" presentation of "contemporary Canadian art from a wide range of media and styles."

The diversity of the exhibits is appropriate for the university

setting, she says.

Borsa says that in her five years with the SUB her skills in diplomacy have been "tested to the maximum...but in a positive way."

She says her successor will have to learn the system and understand the expectations placed upon the Art Gallery Director.

SU President Phil Soper says the search for a new director has begun with a target of early summer as a hiring date.

"Anyone whose been able to stay with the Students' Union for five years deserves more than a gold watch," says Soper.

He says that the gallery has definitely taken on a new character in Borsa's term as director.

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dependency he'd built on the group.

"The insiders are a very insular group. It was like a life-support system," says Stuart.

His relationships with people weren't working because he hadn't been contributing to them.

"When a TM meditator has problems, he basically ignores them and they seem to disappear.

The problem re-emerges later and you're worse off than you were before," says Stuart.

TM deems that "you never learn through pain". However, it one experiences pain from his own hand he usually learns from the mistake.

Yet, for the average college student TM seemingly generates a sound plan. What else can give you higher grades, social graces, and a cohesive mind for a mere 150 dollars. The whole structure even appears to be mainstream and conservative, attracting politicians and military leaders. The instructors are pressed to maintain a clean-cut appearance, dressing conservatively with gold TM pins emblazoned on their jackets.

Stuart says the organizational structure is extremely hierarchical with the Maharashi at it's peak. Resting it's program on scientifically validated data (that has been found to make no conclusive statements), TM is currently in over-drive to sell it's techniques. They claim that with the increase of TM meditators in our world, the quality of society will improve drastically and lead to "world harmony", or as TM calls it "the age of enlightenment".

"The little brown man, as we called the Maharashi, wants to disappear into the mountains after he has completed his goal of world harmony," Stuart says.

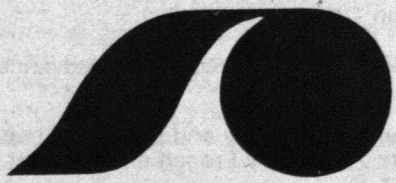
With the establishment of over 1500 TM centres throughout the world and the push to sell the TM method of meditation which reveres "His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi" as it's leader, perhaps one should forecast the inauguration of 'his holiness', or his successor, as something more than the leader of TM.



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*\*Robert Service*

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