

U.B.C. CAMPUS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

P R E S S   C O N F E R E N C E

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1983

11:00 a.m.

ROOM 212 STUDENT UNION BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The following representatives of the Alliance  
will be present to answer your questions:

Ted Byrne	AUCE - Local 1
Horacio de la Cueva	Teaching Assistants Union
Frank Frigon	Graduate Students' Society
Lisa Hébert	Alma Mater Society
Geroge Hermanson	Co-operative Christian Campus Ministry
Larry Keuhn	B.C.T.F./Solidarity Coalition
André Sobolewski	U.B.C. Campus Community Alliance

Refreshments will be available

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P R E S S   R E L E A S E

RALLY/A.M.S. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th

at

12:30 p.m. outside SEDGEWICK LIBRARY

The first portion of the event will proceed with all members of the university community as an information rally with a panel of speakers from the community. The second portion will be a general meeting of the student body provided that a quorum of 2,581 students is reached.

AGENDA:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 11:45 - 12:30   | Registration and Entertainment  |
| 12:30 - 12:33   | Brief Introduction - Campus Community Alliance  |
| 12:35 - 1:15    | Dr. Dennis Pavlich, President, U.B.C. Faculty Association                                 |
|                 | Horatio de la Cueva, President, Teaching Assistants Union, on minorities and human rights |
|                 | Fairleigh Wettig, A.U.C.E. Representative, on women's issues                              |
|                 | Katy Young, A.U.C.E., on employment standards   |
|                 | Larry Keuhn, President B.C.T.F., Solidatiry Coalition                                     |
|                 | Dr. Robert Smith, on behalf of U.B.C. President George Pedersen                           |
|                 | Lisa Hébert, Alma Mater Society, on student issues  |
| 1:15 - 2:10 (?) | A.M.S. Special General Meeting, chaired by Mitch Hetman, A.M.S. President                 |
| 2:10 - 2:15     | Closing remarks and announcements by George Hermanson, Campus Chaplain                    |

THE PRESS IS INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT

U.B.C. CAMPUS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 1983

STATEMENT:    CAMPUS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The July 7th, 1983 provincial budget and legislative package has united many different groups at the University of British Columbia. The U.B.C. Campus Community Alliance fears that the future looms dark for the universities of this province.

"The Alliance was formed by unions, students and other associations opposed to the proposed government measures. Our membership includes the Teaching Assistants Union, OTEU-15, AUCE-1, the Alma Mater Society, the Graduate Students' Society, BCGEU (Firefighters), and the Co-operative Christian Campus Ministry (including the Anglican and United churches as well as the Student Christian Movement at U.B.C.) We also have support from the Faculty Association and CUPE-116. Many segments of this university have been badly hit by the budget and legislative package", explained André Sobolewski, chairperson of the U.B.C. Campus Community Alliance.

"Faculty and students are worried about the threats to academic freedom, even with the amended form of Bill 3. Unions on campus are threatened by Bills 2 and 3, and by the proposed amendments to the Labour Code. We are all deeply concerned about Bill 19 which takes away student, staff and faculty representation (the only elected positions) from the B.C.I.T. Board of Governors; this removal of democracy sets a very dangerous precedent", said Sobolewski.

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"Many students are renters, and are not pleased that anyone can be evicted without cause, in addition to the impending closing of the Rentalsman's office", said Lisa Hébert, A.M.S.'s student coordinator of external affairs.

Sobolewski said, "Everyone will be affected by the dissolution of the Human Rights Branch and Commission, be they members of minority groups, foreign students, women or workers." "We cannot stand back and see our human rights taken away", said Hébert.

The combination of an overall decrease in funding, a hiring freeze and increased enrolment, have created larger class sizes. Already over forty students may be forced to drop a necessary first year chemistry course (CHEM 103) because of the shortfall in funding. If all wages remain frozen, U.B.C. will be short approximately \$3.9 million, according to U.B.C. President George Pedersen.

"Along with the previous cutbacks, the measures that the provincial government has taken are again decreasing the quality of education in this province. If you add to that the high student unemployment rate for this summer and the 40% cutback in student aid, you can't help but conclude that this provincial government does not see education or access to it as a priority. These measures will have long term impacts for the province, as the students of today form the workforce of tomorrow", said Hébert of the Alma Mater Society. "The decrease in the quality of education will also be felt 10 to 20 years in the future when the graduates

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of U.B.C. are not prepared to make the important decisions that will most benefit the economy, the environment and the cultural heritage of British Columbia", said Horacio de la Cueva, president of the Teaching Assistants Union.

The services which are an integral part of our institution are also very important as the Alliance represents many campus unions. Ted Byrne, union coordinator for the Association of University and College Employees - local 1, said "our opposition to Bill 3 is absolutely unconditional. Bill 3 still allows no contracted limitation on the reduction of staff, eliminates seniority protection and permits management to relocate, reclassify or reassign any employee, so that organizational changes can be used as a means to lay off people. Restraint can be practised without this kind of heavy-handed, autocratic exercise in power", he added.

Although each individual group has a particular concern, the broad impacts of the provincial government's measures remain the rallying point of the Alliance.

"The issue we are dealing with is not restraint, but the undermining of the basic institutional structures which have been fashioned over many generations. The legislation which has been introduced threatens to destabilize our society. It attacks many of the achievements we have made in creating a more humane and just society. The spirit and direction of the legislation are contrary to the deeply embedded values and principles of an underlying Canadian consensus concerning how society should be governed and upon which all major political traditions in Canada have agreed and relied. It

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has taken us time to enshrine and protect principles and values of human rights, equal protection to all, due process, and education as a right rather than the reserve of the few. It is not necessary to place these principles in jeopardy in order to achieve economic restraint", communicated George Hermanson, the U.B.C. campus chaplain.

"The university has always tried to uphold the standards of fairness for all, and has always worked towards alleviating human suffering, wherever it lies", said Sobolewski. "It is small wonder that all the university campuses in this province have formed coalitions such as the U.B.C. Alliance". He said that the Alliance hopes to take various actions to protest the budget/legislation package, starting with a Rally of the university community and an A.M.S. General Meeting planned at U.B.C. on Thursday, October 13th, 1983 at 12:30 p.m.

For further information, contact:

Andre Sobolewski, chair U.B.C. Campus Community Alliance at 228-4829 (lab) or [REDACTED] (home)

Lisa Hébert, A.M.S. Coordinator of External Affairs at 228-2050 (office) or [REDACTED] (home)

Fairleigh Wettig or Ted Byrne, representatives of the Association of University and College Employees - Local 1, at 224-2308.

LH:val  
October 6, 1983