

Brief cases

B.C. gov't ignores fast



VANCOUVER (CUP) — A University of B.C. chaplain has urged the Social Credit government to respond to UBC student Andre Sobolewski's 40-day fast to protest attacks on human rights in the province.

"If there is righteousness out there, please contact Andre," George Hermanson told 60 people attending a fund raising luncheon for the

the B.C. Human Rights Coalition Jan. 17.

The \$10 a plate, or what you can offer, luncheon menu consisted of a glass of fruit juice, the same diet Sobolewski has had for the duration of his fast.

Sobolewski is nearing the final days of his fast, and despite feeling weak, remains strong in his quest to talk to government officials about human rights.

He plans to go to Victoria

soon to try to meet with the government but they refuse to answer his letters.

"No one has even acknowledged receiving any of my letters," Sobolewski said.

Sobolewski started his protest to get others to acknowledge that human rights should be elevated above the political realm.

"This issue should not be embroiled in a political arena," he said. "Human rights define what we believe

in and our dignity. There's no reason why we can't have the best human rights in the country."

Law professor Bill Black, speaking at the luncheon, applauded Sobolewski's efforts and the government's recent withdrawal of legislation which cut the B.C. Human Rights Commission, for redrafting.

"It shows people and actions like Sobolewski's can make a difference," he said,

No grenades please

(RNR/CUP) — It's just fun any more going to the Vista movie theatre in Hollywood, California.

Patrons who recently called up to find out what time the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" was playing got a recorded announcement. "All patrons," it said, "will be searched. No drug, alcoholic beverages, knives, guns or hand grenades will be allowed in the theatre."

Ministry an "inexpensive ploy"

OTTAWA (CUP) — A confidential report presented to the federal Cabinet last July says the newly-created Ministry of Youth is largely a public relations gesture.

The report, prepared by influential Liberal Senator Jacques Hebert, recommends establishing a Ministry of Youth to "restore hope" to young Canadians.

But Hebert admits "in spite of all its efforts the Canadian government cannot solve the youth unemployment problem." He promotes the creation of the Ministry of Youth as "a simple and inexpensive way" of restoring hope to young Canadians.

The report calls youth unemployment "a serious social problem" but concentrates on the political consequences of such a large group of disaffected voters. A major function of the Ministry of Youth, Hebert writes, is to "make public opinion aware of the problems of youth."

Minister of Youth Celine Hervieux-Payette, named January 10, denied her ministry is an exercise in public relations.

"These are Senator Hebert's views, my view is that I have the portfolio," she said.

"If we were pessimistic enough to say we were just created to appease youth, I'm not sure I would have taken

the job," she said. "I had a leadership role to play."

"I intend to do something else than just PR," she said. She did not elaborate on what new programs the ministry would be sponsoring.

"I don't think the Prime Minister would have created a ministry just for the pleasure of having one," she said.

The report said the primary function of the ministry is to coordinate the "many generous and often effective job creation programs offered by the federal government. No new job creation funding will be made available through the ministry."

"I will do more than just coordinate the effort of the government," said Payette, although such coordination was a good place to start addressing youth problems.

"I have the dollars for existing programs and I intend to make the best use of them," she said.

Payette said more job creation by the Ministry of Youth was unlikely because "if I enlarge the budget for job creation or youth unemployment, I'm taking from somebody else's pocket."

She said the \$170 million existing job programs under her jurisdiction is "a good start."

"The problem is huge," she said, but "I think we can do something."



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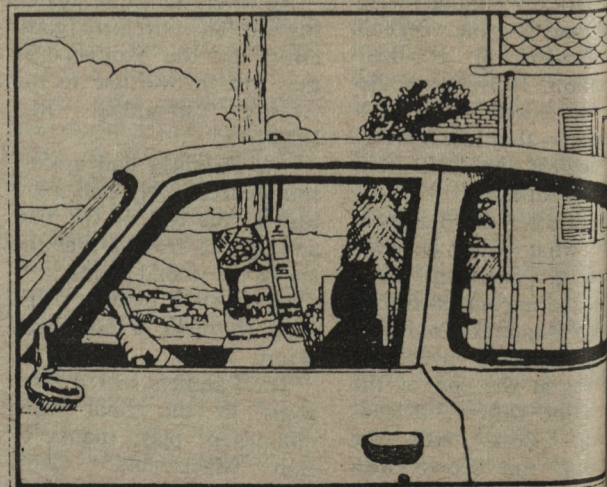
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