

# BUSINESS SOCIETY

As I sit here and write this column I am very pleased to say our policy project (written portion) is over. The remainder of the Senior students will, I imagine, completely agree with me. (Rumor hath it that the one and only Toby Nantau was driven to drink by his policy project partners.) A great deal of time and effort went into each project and as far as I am concerned, it was a learning experience never to be forgotten. I wish the Juniors lots of luck next year and, contrary to rumors, policy projects will never cease to exist. Presentations begin Tuesday, 5th of December and prove to be most interesting.

Exam schedules have been released and quickly students rush to the lists to see when the time and place of the all-important exams occur. Much to the dismay of many Junior Business students, they very quickly find out that 3 months of hard studying is behind them

and now they have 3 of the toughest Business exams in 4 days. This totally amazes this writer. How can the exam schedule be so tough on a group of people? The answer very quickly is the same echoed throughout the past, "the computer did it." One must remember that the computers are programmed by human beings and whoever made the final decision never had the experience of writing marketing, finance and accounting in a 4-day period. The juniors will have it tough and it will continue to be difficult unless they start expressing their opinions. Here is where we enter the picture. The Business Society represents the students and if we receive a legitimate complaint then we will try to do something about it. The professors are behind us 100% but we (professors and society) can't react unless we have a form of feedback.

I am sorry to say that the pub planned on Dec.

8th had to be rescheduled but it will work out for the better. We are presently looking at Dec. 19th (last exam day) for the event and feel this is an excellent time.

Now for the biggest piece of news that has rocked the student population. Next semester we will be without the services of the one and only Gerald McKenna who will graduate from this institution. The grapevine estimates Gerald has been registered at UPEI for somewhere between 5 and 8 years but only he and Mike Hennessey know for sure. He has held almost every position available and volunteered for anything which has been raised. I personally feel there should be a building named in his honor. If 10% of the 1400 or so students had as much school spirit as this gentleman, then UPEI would be the most exciting university to attend east of U.B.C. Good-bye, Gerald; too bad after all these years you didn't

see the light and enrol in the B.B.A. program. (P.S. You did a remarkable job as editor of the SUN.)

As the semester comes to a close one must look back and see whether it was put to use. As far as the Business Society is concerned, we accomplished a number of our objectives and are looking forward to next semester activities. The businesspersons' dinner in February, ordering of Business Society shirts, pubs, intramurals and other events which will be exciting are in the planning stages.

I think this is the first time I ever showed any sympathy to a professor who was giving an exam. In this case I feel it is warranted because nearly all business exams are scheduled near or at the end of the year which is close to Christmas. There will be a big rush on their part to correct the many exams written and present them to the Registrar at a specified time. This will definitely effect their performance because they are only human but I will offer a suggestion: lots of check marks because they are easier to make than an X and put 80 on all exams you don't have time to correct.

See you next issue.

Brian Gaudet

EXCHANGE - DECEMBER 6

Why not finish this term the right way by taking a night off and enjoying the last Exchange Coffee House of the year!

It's going to be a great night of music supplied by such fine musicians as Ray Peltier, Mary and Ron Bourdon, Jim Stright, Scott Parsons, Len Machalik and Paul Allen, Paul Broadbent, Lennie Gallant and Roy Johnston. And of course lots of hot chocolate, hot coffee and tea, and delicious cookies. All the ingredients are here for a relaxing evening. You just have to add yourself!

This extra special night of entertainment will begin at 8 p.m. sharp, so be sure to make plans to be there with your friends on time because there is only seating for 95 people.

Have a nice day.

Al Ward

## Soft Energy

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conservation and renewable-energy areas. "There are incredible opportunities to make money right now", he says. "I have eight products ready to go."

Nevertheless, Swain does not think that a renewable-dominated energy economy is an immediate prospect for Canada. "There are some who assert that we can fill the gap (between future domestic supply and demand) with renewable resources. I don't think we can. During the next 50 years we are not likely to find substitutes for liquid hydrocarbons in many areas."

Making haste slowly, in fact, seems to sum up the attitude of most energy planners toward the development of renewables. Many caution that such development should not be allowed to become uneconomical, in a report on solar energy prepared for the federal government, Professor M.K. Berkowitz of the University of Toronto points out that "while self-reliance is a major objective, Canada might also aspire to self-sufficiency in coffee, tobacco and, for that matter, anything else. The abundance and desirability of solar energy is evident. The problem is utilizing the sun in an economically viable way." In the same vein, Dr. E. P. Cockshutt of the National Research Council has warned: "The basic feasibility of solar heating has definitely been established, but there exists a wide diversity of imperfectly proven hardware systems... The commercial outlook for the next 10 or 15 years is far from certain."

Nor do those charged with the planning of Canada's energy future share the view of some supporters of the conserver society that nonrenewables and renewables are mutually incompatible. Dr. Robert Durie, who as director of the federal environment department's Advanced Concepts Centre played a major part in the establishment of the Ark, has considerable experience in both areas. "Renewables and nonrenewables", he says, "are often seen as adversaries. I try to argue against that. There need be no conflict. In fact, there are a lot of opportunities for improving the environment in nonrenewable energy development."

Similarly, in another government study on renewable energy, R. J. Templin of the National Research Council, and one of Canada's leading wind experts, says that "no energy source is perfect, and it is probably misleading to think of the various sources, renewable or nonrenewable, as being competitors for future application."

This view is reinforced by a recent study by National Economic Research Associates, a U.S. economic

consulting firm that has been engaged for many years in various aspects of energy policy. Its authors, Harry Paery and Sally H. Streiter, see no evidence that the "hard" and "soft" energy paths are mutually exclusive. "Enough evidence does exist", they write, "to conclude that hard and soft technologies can exist side by side, both being used to the extent that they provide the lowest-cost...source of energy."

"Until now, however, the soft supply technologies have been unable in most instances to compete with the hard ones. In fact, a transition from mostly soft technologies — biomass (wood), windpower, solar energy to a more limited extent, and hydroelectric — took place worldwide in the past hundred years. This occurred not because the two types of energy are mutually exclusive — in fact, they continue to exist almost everywhere — but because under the existing conditions and under the constraints in operation, at least up until now, the hard technologies were generally less costly."

Fortunately there is no reason why Canadians need be unduly dismayed by the collective opinion of our energy experts that a totally renewable economy is not just around the corner. While Canada's storehouse of nonrenewable fossil fuels is finite, it is by no means exhausted. Our traditional sources of energy supply — oil and gas — are likely to play a diminishing role in the future, but even here the results of aggressive exploration suggest grounds for cautious optimism. Improved technology and more attractive economics have already resulted in a start being made on tapping the vast potential of western Canada's oil sands. In addition, coal — of which we have a plentiful supply — will play an increasingly important role, and hydro and nuclear power will also make important contributions.

When, to our still-extensive nonrenewable energy sources, one adds the effect on energy demand growth that more efficient use and conservation can have (and which are already beginning to show), it becomes apparent that Canada does have the time to make an orderly and economic transfer to a renewables-based economy.

We may, indeed, be headed for some kind of conserver society, in the sense that today's values and standards will be replaced by other more in accord with future living conditions. But there is no reason, in the view of many informed observers, why that kind of society cannot function in a world that, with a new-found prudence, employs both renewable and nonrenewable sources for its energy needs. □