

Audio-visual collection offers new directions for teaching, research

Prof. Peter Oberlander, the pro tem director of UBC's new Centre for Human Settlements, believes the University committed a considerable act of faith in agreeing to serve as custodian for the hundreds of audio-visual presentations shown at last summer's Habitat conference.

He also believes that the material now in the hands of the University offers an extraordinary opportunity for exploring new directions in the use of audio-visual materials for teaching, research and public education.

Late in May UBC announced the creation of a Centre for Human Settlements to act as the custodian for the 10,640 audio-visual items. They make up the 240 presentations that were made by the 140 countries that participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — commonly referred to as Habitat — in Vancouver in May and June.

"The Habitat conference," Dr. Oberlander says, "has to be seen as one of a series of UN-sponsored events on specific issues rather than discussions of abstract issues on a grand scale.

"In the late 1960s it became obvious that the UN, as an action-oriented organization, had to cut across the specialized interests of its offshoot organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labor Organization, and set in motion a series of theme-specific meetings.

"The result was conferences on the natural environment in Stockholm, food in Rome, population in Bucharest, women in Mexico City, human settlements in Vancouver and, next year, water in Buenos Aires.

"At Stockholm, we argued that the next UN conference ought to concern itself with the way in which the countries of the world are attempting to solve problems of human settlement, such as housing, urban blight, sewage disposal, energy — the whole range of problems that man encounters as he uses the environment more densely and intensively.

"Canada also proposed that the UN should use such a conference as a means of breaking away from the print



PROF. PETER OBERLANDER

medium and employ audio-visual presentations," Dr. Oberlander says.

"At most international meetings, delegates are drowned in paper. Much of it simply doesn't get read and most of it gets shipped back to its point of origin after the conference and is destroyed.

"An audio-visual presentation has some obvious advantages — it breaks the language barrier to some extent and when each of the presentations is transferred to a videotape cassette it can be carried around in your back pocket or easily shipped to any part of the world, where it can be shown on closed-circuit TV to a select audience or on a local or national television network."

The UN accepted this approach for the Habitat conference and also endorsed the concept that the audio-visual presentations should emphasize solutions to problems involving human settlements rather than dwelling on the ills of the world.

"It wasn't until a couple of months before the conference opened," says Prof. Oberlander, "that the Canadian Habitat secretariat realized that it would have a unique collection on its

hands and that at the very least it ought to be kept together after the meeting so that it would be a continuing asset.

"There were suddenly a whole host of problems to consider — what machinery should be set up to deal with the presentations and what form should they be in to allow for global access by those countries who contributed to the collection."

There were other complications. "No one knew what the collection would be like in terms of method of presentation, whether each item would be in the form of slides, film or videotape cassettes. There is also very little expertise available for cataloguing and maintaining a purely audio-visual library and, finally, no one at that point was prepared to give any guarantees about space needs and financing," says Prof. Oberlander.

"So the University, as an act of faith, offered to act as custodian for the collection, provided the UN was prepared to leave it here and vest the international copyright of the material in UBC, and provided the federal and provincial governments were prepared to give assurances of financial support."

UBC set up its Centre for Human Settlements and on June 12 representatives of the UN, UBC and the federal and provincial governments signed an interim agreement vesting the audio-visual materials in UBC until the end of this year and assuring the University of substantial funding.

Prof. Oberlander said he expects that the UN General Assembly will shortly approve an agreement naming UBC as custodian of the material for five years.

Since acquiring the material, UBC has begun the long and difficult process of assessing all presentations — films, slides and videotapes — and preparing an inventory of the presentations as a first step in the production of an annotated catalogue that will include an evaluation of each presentation.

"We've also put a lot of effort into coming to grips with distribution of the material and who is to pay for that

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Reunion of women veterans benefits UBC groups

Mrs. Helen Dunbar is a different type of veteran.

First of all, her grandson received an "honorary degree" from UBC before he was born.

And although she served in the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force during the London blitz in the Second World War, she rejects the natural reaction many of us have of wishing others could somehow experience the bad times we went through ourselves.

"The war was awful and I hope young people today never have to go through something like that themselves," Mrs. Dunbar says.

"I hope they never know what it was like."

Mrs. Dunbar, of UBC's Copy and Duplicating Centre, was chairman of an organizing committee for a reunion at UBC this summer of women who served during the



HELEN DUNBAR

Second World War in the RCAF and Royal Air Force. She and other women veterans spent three years organizing the event.

The reunion was such a success that the group is donating its surplus of \$16,000 to local causes — \$5,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society, \$5,000 to the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, \$4,000 towards UBC bursaries for cadets, and \$2,000 to UBC's Crane Library for the blind.

"Cancer, arthritis and rheumatism are major diseases now afflicting veterans," Mrs. Dunbar says. "Some women we served with couldn't attend the reunion because they were crippled or had fallen victims of cancer."

"The donations to UBC are to help young people who have a connection with the forces and to help the handicapped."

Although organizing the reunion was a women-only affair, a number of honorary memberships in the RCAF's Women's Division were made to a number of men who helped make the event a success, including Ted Leather of Traffic and Security, Ray Herbert of the Faculty of Law, President Emeritus Norman MacKenzie, and UBC Chancellor Donovan Miller.

About her grandson: Mrs. Dunbar's daughter, Mrs. Laurie Quist, was pregnant when she received her BA degree in 1972. When Allen McGavin, then UBC chancellor, noticed her condition during the Congregation ceremony, he said that he admitted both her and her unborn child into the graduate body of the University.

Ceremonies director Malcolm McGregor later had an honorary degree made up for young Julian.

CENTRE

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aspect of the centre's operations," Dr. Oberlander says, "because the UN has insisted on open access by the countries who made presentations."

"We've had a great deal of help in this regard from the National Film Board, which is working out the operational details of how we go about lending and selling the material over five continents."

The centre has already started circulating some material. "We've responded to any reasonable request," says Dr. Oberlander. "Some of the films have been shown in Europe and Asia and to select student audiences at UBC. We've also begun Thursday noon-hour showings, followed by discussions, in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, where the collection is housed."

A whole spectrum of uses for the Habitat presentations can be envisioned.

"The UN emphasized to Habitat participants that it wanted audio-visual presentations that dealt with solutions — what participants were doing to solve problems related to water, sewage, housing, transportation, energy and the associated problems involving the poor, the unskilled, the migratory and the dispossessed. Problems that many countries have tried to solve with greater or lesser success.

"I can see courses in geography, political science, economics, engineering and planning utilizing the material to illustrate social and

economic change on a global basis and leading to comparative analysis," says Prof. Oberlander.

A more complex and exciting use of the material is to use it to illustrate the "state of the art" in a wide variety of areas. "The films could illustrate how various problems are being solved under different social, economic and political conditions in terms of construction techniques, wind-generated power, new-town policies, irrigation problems, to name only a few.

"One could look at housing progress on a global basis in terms of how it is handled in poor countries, in centrally planned economies and in industrialized societies."

Ultimately, because the presentations will be on videotape, it will be possible to build a whole new set of presentations. "From many tapes, one will be able to take out all the material on water or on land use and create a new set of videotapes showing what is happening in these areas in various parts of the world."

Prof. Oberlander said discussions are being held with the Provincial Educational Media Centre, which develops audio-visual materials for B.C. schools, with a view to using the centre's collection throughout the province.

"We're also working with our own Centre for Continuing Education in the development of programs that could be shown anywhere in B.C. The public will have a new way of looking at old problems with this material, which will be supplemented by a discussion led by trained people."

The centre is governed by a board of management chaired by Dean Peter Larkin, of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, who emphasizes that the presence of the collection at UBC will not mean any new degree or training programs.

"The centre is an organization that will provide a service to existing disciplines at UBC," says Dean Larkin. "It will also draw to this University students and scholars from all over the world who will utilize a unique collection of material."

Dean Larkin said one of the main concerns of the board of management has been drawing up a realistic budget for the future operations of the centre. The current agreement between UBC, the UN and the federal and provincial governments calls for the federal government to match the combined contributions of UBC and the provincial government. Recently, the federal government provided \$40,000 to enable the centre to carry on its current work.

At a recent meeting of the board it was agreed that the centre should initiate three campus programs to make specific use of the audio-visual collection immediately.

Early in January the centre will start a public screening and discussion program jointly with the Centre for Continuing Education on four themes — environment, water, transportation and governance.

In addition, the centre will hold an invitational seminar on the topic "Arable Land: the Appropriate Use of a Scarce Resource." This will bring 25-30 leading academics and

professionals to UBC to evaluate Habitat recommendations in this field in relation to a pressing B.C. issue.

During the next term the centre will also initiate a scholar-in-residence program to bring specialists to the campus for a month or more to review the audio-visual library from special points of view and to assess its relevance for Canadian development policies.

The first scholar-in-residence will be sponsored jointly by the centre and the School of Community and Regional Planning under the theme "Land: the Canadian Delegation's Position at the UN Conference; a Comparative Analysis of Ideas and Ideals."

In the final analysis, Prof. Oberlander believes that the centre's collection could provide an opportunity for moving in new directions in the use of audio-visual materials.

"For some 400 years, civilization has been the lucky recipient of the benefits of Gutenberg's press," he says. "The first book he printed was the Bible. It meant copying a document that had been handed down in hand-lettered form for the previous 2,000 years.

"In a sense, we are in the same position now with the new electronic technology. We have yet to find ways and means of producing for the new technology that are commensurate with the opportunities it offers.

"That's the real opportunity this material offers us. The possibilities for teaching and research at UBC are incalculable."

know your campus

This is the first of a series of articles on major campus buildings that will appear in *UBC Reports*. The series is designed to inform members of the University community about the history and occupants of some of the 391 buildings on the Point Grey campus. Readers who have uncommon or anecdotal information about any UBC building are invited to send it to the editor of *UBC Reports*:

UBC's old Civil Engineering Building on Agricultural Road just west of the Bookstore got a new name this week. From now on it will be known as the **COMPUTER SCIENCES BUILDING**.

Built in 1950 at a cost of just over \$1 million, it originally housed all the departments of the Faculty of Applied Science and was intended to grow to four times its present size.

Instead, the University decided to provide individual facilities for the various engineering departments on a site to the south centred on the intersection of the Main Mall and Stores Road.

Over the years, other UBC operations moved into the building. The first intruder in the mid-1950s was the Computing Centre with its first-generation machine. Today, the centre boasts one of the most advanced systems in Canada — an IBM 370 Model 168 system. In 1967 an addition was built on the west end of the building's north wing to provide space for students. The centre annually provides services to more than 3,000 students and faculty members. The next intruder in the building was the Department of Computer Science, which was organized in 1968.

Over the summer of '76 the Department of Civil Engineering and the office of the dean of the Faculty of Applied Science vacated the building for new quarters in the recently completed Civil and



Mechanical Engineering Building to the south.

Renovations are now underway in the building to provide suitable space for the Computing Centre, which will centralize its staff on the fourth floor, and the computer science department which will occupy the second and third floors. The basement floor of the building is being taken over completely by the Computing Centre to provide additional user space.

Most of the classroom space in the building will remain as it is, including the building's largest lecture hall, Room 200, which seats 210 persons.

As the former home of UBC's Gears, the building was often the scene of tumult, particularly during Engineering Week. The building's lecture halls and corridors have been the scene of numerous water fights and other encounters between Engineers and rival Aggies and Foresters. Presumably, those days are gone forever.

the music box

SUNDAY, NOV. 21

8:00 p.m. **UBC OPERA WORKSHOP.** French Tickner directs *Music of Verdi, Mozart, Moore and Salieri.* Old Auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

12:30 p.m. **NOON-HOUR CONCERT.** John Rapson, clarinet, and Robert Rogers, piano, play *Music of Schumann, Hindemith and Glick.* Recital Hall, Music Building.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

12:30 p.m. **UNIVERSITY SINGERS.** James Fankhauser conducts *Music of Scarlatti, Schutz, Praetorius and Healey.* Recital Hall, Music Building.

8:00 p.m. **ALUMNI CONCERT SERIES.** *Music of Beethoven, Chopin and Franck.* Recital Hall, Music Building.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

8:00 p.m. **UNIVERSITY SINGERS.** James Fankhauser conducts *Music of Scarlatti, Schutz, Praetorius and Healey.* Recital Hall, Music Building.

NEXT WEEK AT UBC

Notices must reach Information Services, Main Mall North Admin. Bldg., by mail, by 5 p.m. Thursday of week preceding publication of notice.

FINE ARTS GALLERY. Exhibit of works by British sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi. Continues until Dec. 11. Tuesday through Saturday — 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Basement, Main Library.

LOST AND FOUND. The campus Lost and Found is located in Room 208, Student Union Building. Hours are 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SUNDAY, NOV. 21

3:00 p.m. **MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY.** Dr. Alan Sawyer, Fine Arts, UBC, on *Pre-Hispanic Andean Musical Instruments*. Rotunda Lounge, Museum of Anthropology.

MONDAY, NOV. 22

12:30 p.m. **CANCER RESEARCH SEMINAR.** Dr. Jim Hudson, Medical Microbiology, UBC, on *In Vitro Models for Latent Herpes Virus Infections*. Library, Cancer Research Centre, Block B, Medical Sciences Building.

3:45 p.m. **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR.** W. Edwards, graduate student, Mechanical Engineering, UBC, on *Simultaneous Heat and Mass Transfer in Wet Wood Particles*. Room 1215, Civil and Mechanical Engineering Building.

4:00 p.m. **MANAGEMENT SCIENCE SEMINAR.** Prof. T. Var, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Simon Fraser University, on *Optimal Investment Policy for the Tourism Sector: Single and Multiple Period Analyses*. Room 321, Angus Building.

4:30 p.m. **CANCER CONTROL AGENCY SEMINAR.** Dr. Bruce Douglas, Cancer Control Agency, on *Rationale and Results of Superfractionation Treatment of Glioblastoma Multiforme*. Second floor conference room, Cancer Control Agency of B.C., 2656 Heather St., Vancouver.

8:00 p.m. **IMMUNOLOGY SEMINAR.** Dr. Denis Burger, University of Oregon Medical School, on *Characterization of Transfer Factor*. Salon B, Faculty Club.

TUESDAY, NOV. 23

4:30 p.m. **CHEMISTRY SEMINAR.** Dr. D. G. Clark, Chemistry, UBC, on *Triosephosphate Isomerase: Isolation of Isozymes and Chemical Modification as a Structural Probe*. Room 250, Chemistry Building.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

12:00 noon **DENTISTRY SEMINAR.** Dr. Ravindra M. Shah, Oral Biology, UBC, on *Teratological Safety Evaluation of Drugs*. Room 388, Macdonald Building.

12:30 p.m. **HISPANIC AND ITALIAN STUDIES LECTURE.** Prof. Olga Ragusa, Department of Italian, Columbia University, on *Pirendello's Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Room 202, Buchanan Building.

PHARMACOLOGY SEMINAR. Dr. E. R. Anderson, Pharmacology, UBC, on *Effects of Lithium and Other Cations on Rabbit Platelet Aggregation*. Room 221, Block C, Medical Sciences Building.

2:30 p.m. **APPLIED MATHEMATICS SEMINAR.** Dr. R. C. Riddell, Mathematics, UBC, on *Planetary Models in Ptolemy, Copernicus and Kepler*. Room 202, Mathematics Building.

3:30 p.m. **STATISTICS WORKSHOP.** Dr. Arthur Ralph Hakstian, Psychology, UBC, on *Inferential Procedures with Multiple Correlations*. Room 321, Angus Building.

4:00 p.m. **HEALTH CARE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR.** Dr. Mark Elwood, Health Care and Epidemiology, UBC, on *Approaches to the Etiology of Congenital Malformations*. Room 146, Mather Building.

4:30 p.m. **ANIMAL RESOURCE ECOLOGY SEMINAR.** W. Clark, Animal Resource Ecology, UBC, on *Dispersal, Spatial Heterogeneity, and the Population Dynamics of Spruce Budworm*. Room 2449, Biological Sciences Building.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

12:30 p.m. **CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.** Habitat film preview. Three films from Latin America. Discussion led by Prof. Peter Oberlander. Room B79, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES COMMITTEE LECTURE. Prof. Joseph Meeker, Athabaska University, Edmonton, on *Wooing Worlds: Charming Science and Scientific Art*. Room 229, Geography Building. Prof. Meeker will also hold a workshop on *Reflections on the Public Conceptions of Science and Technology* at 3:30 p.m. in the Penthouse, Buchanan Building.

GREEN VISITING PROFESSOR. Prof. H. W. Janson, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, on *Images of the Human Soul*. Lecture Hall 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

SLAVONIC STUDIES LECTURE. Dr. Andrew Donskov, University of Waterloo, on *The Peasant in Tolstoy's Thought and Writings*. Room 2238, Buchanan Building.

1:00 p.m. **MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY.** Roy Vickers, Tsimsian artist, describes his work. Orientation Centre, Museum of Anthropology.

2:30 p.m. **CONDENSED MATTER SEMINAR.** Dr. N. J. Stone, University of Oxford, England, on *Ion Implantation: A Boon or a Bane for Sample Preparation?* Room 318, Hennings Building.

3:30 p.m. **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR.** A. Watanabe, Nara Women's University, Japan, on *Electrocapillary Emulsification and Spinning*. Room 206, Chemical Engineering Building.

3:45 p.m. **APPLIED MATH AND STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM.** Dr. Fausto Milinazzo, Mathematics, University of Victoria, on *The Saffman Turbulence Model Predictions for the Inhomogeneous Two-Dimensional Mixing Zone Between Two Fluids*. Room 2449, Biological Sciences Building.

4:00 p.m. **PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM.** H. Meyer, Physics, Duke University, on *Solid H₂ at High Pressures*. Room 201, Hennings Building.

8:00 p.m. **CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.** Habitat film preview. Dr. H. Peter Oberlander of the Centre will lead a discussion on a series of films on *The Public Interest in Private Land*. Lecture Hall 3, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

9:00 p.m. **BEYOND THE MEMORY OF MAN.** Prof. Robert Jordan, English, UBC, on *The Pilgrim in Literature: Chaucer*. Channel 10, Vancouver Cablevision.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

9:00 a.m. **PEDIATRICS GRAND ROUNDS.** Prof. Sydney Segal, head, Division of Maternal, Fetal and Neonatal Medicine, UBC, on *Pediatrics in China*. Lecture Room B, Heather Pavilion, Vancouver General Hospital.

10:00 a.m. **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES COMMITTEE.** Prof. Joseph Meeker, Athabaska University, Edmonton, on *The Planning and Implementation of Science and Technology Studies Programs*. Penthouse, Buchanan Building.

3:30 p.m. **COMPUTER SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM.** David Kirkpatrick, Computing Science, Simon Fraser University, on *Recognizing Graph Properties from Adjacency Matrices: A Survey of Recent Developments*. Room 326, Angus Building.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

8:15 p.m. **VANCOUVER INSTITUTE LECTURE.** Prof. H. W. Janson, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, on *The Role of Chance in Artistic Creation*. Lecture Hall 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.