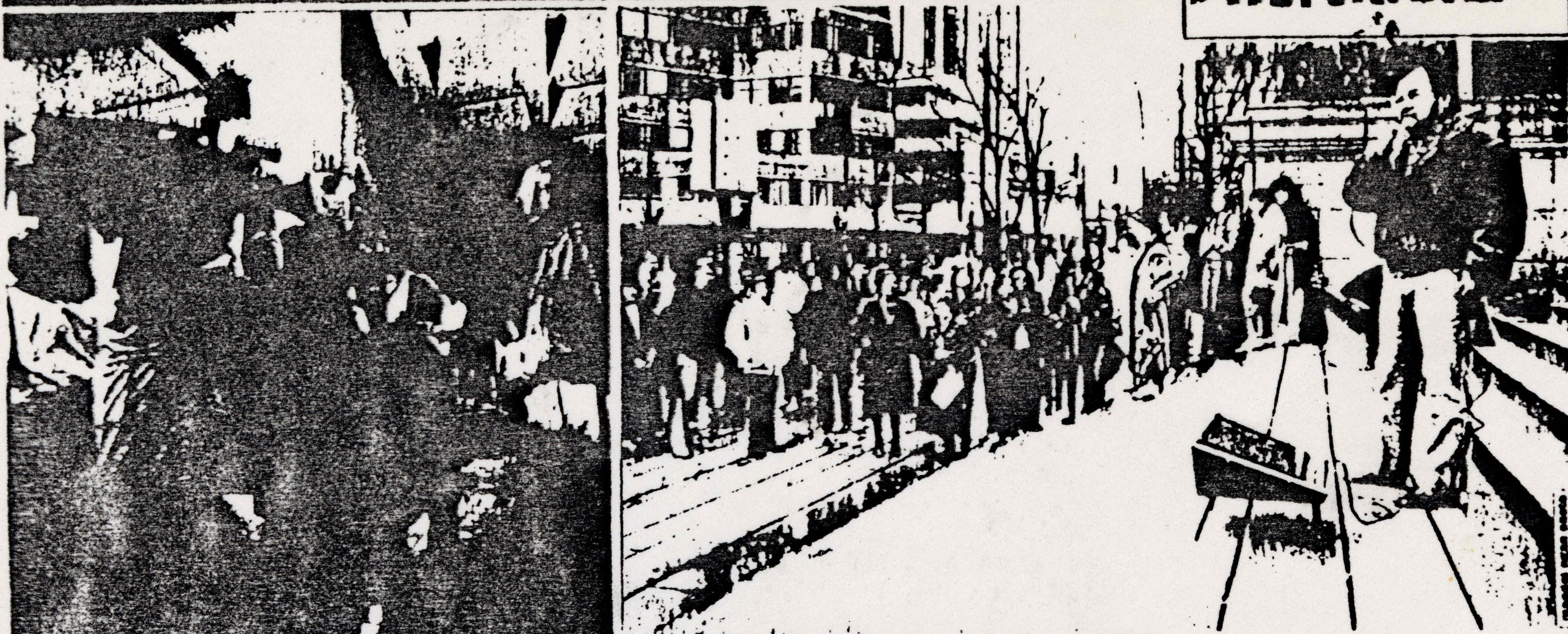


THE UBYSSEY

WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE
see election coverage page 6 & 7



Local newshound interviews UBC losers. But the media was absent at the native students' protest against cutbacks on Friday, Jan 22.

Native students rally

Cutbacks spark call for "Parity, not parody of education"

by Mike Gordon
VAN(CUP)—Federal cutbacks to native education funding are another act of legislative aggression against native people, said leaders during a protest in downtown Vancouver last Friday.

About 100 people demonstrated against the department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's "capping" of post-

secondary education funds, a move that limits the number of qualified native students who receive aid.

The government has provided full financial aid through its post-secondary education assistance program since its inception in 1973. But in 1986, the government put a cap on funding, along with further restrictions in 1987

limiting the number of students funded.

The PSEAP guidelines now group students in five categories, with those currently enrolled getting guaranteed funding. With funding now limited, qualified students in lower priority categories, such as post-graduate students, will be left out if the money runs dry.

According to the ad-hoc native student group that organized the rally, recent changes in PSEAP guidelines, or E-12 Circular, meant 37% of qualified native applicants were denied funding in the fall of 1987/88.

"These cutbacks are going to have a very serious impact on native people striving for a more equal place in this society," said Beverly Scow, coordinator for the Intern campus native students' ad hoc committee on native education concerns, and president of UBC native Indian students union.

Scow said the hardest hit by the cutbacks will be single mothers, mature students, and people from

poorer conditions on reserves.

Most of the speakers at the rally called the government's move a deliberate attempt to hold back the progress native people have made towards self-government and resource management, and called for the resignation of DIAND minister Bill McKnight.

"They are afraid with the education of native people that we're going to become stronger in their ways... so they are cutting back funds," said Saul Terry, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Colleen Copeland, a student at the Native Education Centre, says her education is being sponsored by Employment Canada.

"It's not very much better than welfare. Since they just give you enough to live," Copeland says.

Though enrollment through the PSEAP program has jumped from 3500 to 12,000 since 1977, less than 2% of native secondary students go on to complete a post-

see 'Native' page 8

Pick a politician!

As spring approaches, young hearts are turning to...to...student elections. Yes, once again, the eagerly awaited AMS executive elections are upon us. This Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, jocks, geers, artsies, fartsies and intellectuals from every corner of campus will storm the polls, eager to vote for some of the most powerful politicians west of Blanca.

Pages six and seven examine the candidates' views, so if you missed the last elections, now's your chance. Get out there! Exercise your democratic right, and vote, vote, vote. It's up to you!!

And remember, if you don't vote, some very scary things may happen...you'll get hundreds of chain letters in the mail, big hairy monsters will attack you in your sleep, or your cat may throw up all over your favorite sweater...
...aaaawoooooh.

Native students rap cutbacks

from page 2

secondary education.

Out of 54,000 students at UBC, there are roughly 150 natives. To reach parity, said Ethel Gardner of First Nations House of Learning, 1200 native students would have to be enrolled each year.

A delegation from the rally presented a petition against cutbacks to the local DIAND office. Director of education Ron Penner said a higher DIAND officer in Ottawa told him the original draft of the PSEAP restriction had been withdrawn, and will be revised. "Some things aren't going to change because of constraints from the conservative government," but the department is opening the consulting process to

students, said Penner.

Scow said, "They're basically buying time, because of the 37% of students denied funding."

Scow said the group planned to network with other native student groups and tribal councils across BC and Canada in united effort against the cutbacks.

For more info on Native Student Net
Beverly Scow: 224-4005
Sharon Shorty: 524-0473