

**VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

for 1982-83

We occasionally get the feeling at Vancouver Community College that who we are and what we do are the best kept secrets in town. To help solve this problem we are taking this unique method of getting our story across, in the least expensive way we can, by including it in our regular Fall Directory of Courses, delivered to over 265,000 homes in Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond. Please take the time to read it ... we think that you'll find some interesting facts and stories that will give you a better insight into who we are and what we do. After all, we're your college!

See photo captions on Page 'D'





Joey Thompson
AWARD-WINNING
REPORTER

Joey Thompson works out of the press room at B.C. Supreme Court. As the Province's court reporter she translates volumes of legalese and hours of trial transcripts into comprehensible newspaper stories. Through her and other reporters we find out how legal decisions affect the way we live.

When the '76 graduate of Langara Campus applied to the journalism program, her motivation came, she says, from a mid-twenties life crisis and an inclination to write poetry. "I'd been doing office work for a number of years," she explains, "and I'd had it with that. I knew I wanted a change. I'd written some poetry. I liked doing that. But I really didn't know much about journalism."

Two rigorous years in the program, honed her basic reporter's skills. "I think the journalism program was excellent," she says. "The program stressed a sense of team work, working with other people to put a story together or get the paper out. Your training gives you a feeling for meeting people, making contacts, and gathering news. Your field work gives you good exposure to the people who are your potential employers."

Joey's internship led to a job at the Province after graduation and she's been there ever since, working her way from lifestyles to cityside, covering education, labour and now the courts. This fall she leaves for Queen's University as a recipient of an important journalism award, the Louis St. Laurent Fellowship. This enables her to study law for a year, increasing the knowledge and understanding she can bring to her work as a reporter covering the courts.



Gwenda Elwood
VCC TURNED HER LIFE
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Gwenda Elwood's enthusiasm is infectious. This month she graduates from Langara Campus's data processing program. Taking the program, she says, turned her life around.

"Before I came to school I'd been on welfare for five years," the 33-year old single mother explains. "It is an incredibly demoralizing experience. You lose a lot of your self-esteem. You are always a receiver. You're always taking and you're never giving anything back."

With the help and encouragement of friends, who told her she could break out of the rut, she registered for the data processing program. "I'd done some part time secretarial work but I didn't find that satisfying," she says. "I wanted something that would use my office background and something challenging and interesting that would provide me with a decent income to support my daughter."

Getting through four school terms and the two work experience terms that she opted for wasn't easy.

"I've been fortunate in getting support from the Ministry of Human Resources and getting student loans," she says. That, and the backing of friends and family, got her across some of the tougher times.

"When you come to register you feel like one tiny, insignificant, lost person," she explains, laughing. "But you soon see you're not alone. Everyone feels like you. It is not long before you get together to help and support one another. The friendships you make with other people is really one of the most wonderful things you get from this whole experience."

As a co-op student Gwenda successfully competed for placement in two work terms giving her eight months experience working in the computer industry.

"The opportunity to put what I learned to work was enormously valuable," Gwenda says. "You find out you are capable and can do the work. You learn so much from those already in the industry. It is such a rapidly growing field everyone in it is constantly having to learn new systems and technology. I know now I can go out and get a job and handle it well."



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For 42 year old Janice Taylor, the single mother of a 10 year old son, the demands of 10 months in KEC's program to train para-professional workers with the visually and hearing impaired, had to be juggled along with the emotional needs of her son, the financial pressures of making ends meet and the need for some time to call her own.

Before she entered the program last September, she had sorted out her life, reordering her goals and priorities. She'd done part-time office work for two years and she knew she didn't want to do that for the rest of her life.

"I knew I wanted to work directly with people," she explains, "and I felt I didn't want to go into a four year university program. I was looking for something fairly short term."

Janice frankly admits she underestimated the demands of the program. She knew, though, going back to school would put strains on her life. "The program is very intense," she says. "It gives you an amazing insight into the world of the deaf. It is rather daunting, really."

"We didn't just learn skills. We spent a lot of time on ethics. When you are working with a disabled person it is very easy just to take over and to wrest the controls away from that person. You have to know when to step back, to stay out of the way and let people make their own mistakes. You really have to develop an awareness of just where to draw the line."

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Janice graduated in May after a tough, but rewarding ten months. Like so many, she is looking for work. But she is philosophical about the situation, conceding, "I guess I'm in the same boat as just about everyone else." She would like to work as an interpreter in the school system or to teach disabled people life skills and help them get into the mainstream.



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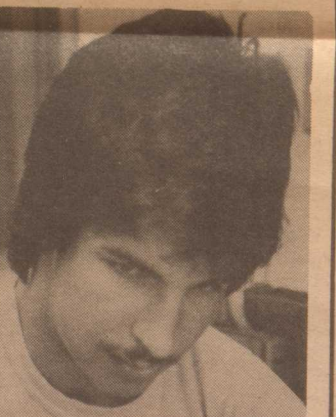
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Davis says she and the other nine graduates found the 10 month program a lot of work. "As well as dealing with Native issues we had to cover all the other subjects you would in any early childhood education program."

One of the highlights of the experience, Joanne says, was the support and friendship people in the class got from one another. "We all got one another through and our instructors were great. They always had time to talk with us, to answer questions or help with a problem."

Right now Joanne is working at Granny's 'Y' downtown, a drop-in care centre for children from three months to five years. In the fall she is going to Langara Campus to take further training in child care for children under three years. She hopes to get work in a new Native daycare centre slated to open early in the new year.



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"I wanted to try something that was a challenge, to use my brain," 20 year old Mike Nahirny says, explaining why he came to take industrial electronics at Vancouver Vocational Institute. He'd done carpentry work at home in Osoyoos but he found that wasn't his niche.

"I'd tried to get in the union but they told me to take pre-apprenticeship," he says. "So I asked around at the apprenticeship branch and at the union hall and they told me the electronics program here was the best one in the province."

Mike is seven months into the 10 month program. When he's finished he'll have to go out to work for four years, returning to school for six weeks each year until he can write provincial exams and become a journeyman electrician. Eventually he would like to do maintenance electronics, perhaps for a large plant or dam.

"We get a lot of practical experience at VVI," he says. "If we spend the morning in class talking about wiring and transformers, we'll go down to the shop in the afternoon and try it." Occasionally he and the 11 others in his class get to go out on a job site and get some experience there.

"The program is tough," Mike says. "You've got to use your head. But we all work together and help one another out and the teachers are pretty good guys."

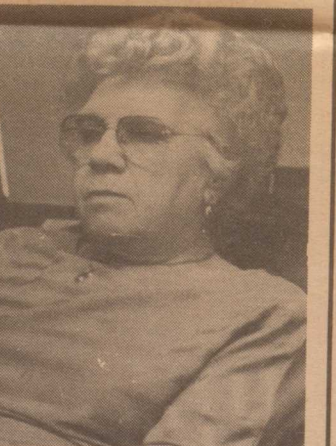


Marian Berreloth
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Marian Berreloth has been an RN since 1964. She works out of Royal Columbian Hospital, as a member of the transport team that takes high risk newborns - premature babies, those with respiratory distress or heart problems - from small hospitals in the Fraser Valley to major medical centres that can cope with these cases.

She recently graduated from the first neonatal intensive care program offered by Continuing Nursing Education at Vancouver Community College. "I have been in this field since 1967 and I found the further I progressed the more I needed to know," Marian explained. "The program was great. It gave me a real foundation of knowledge to supplement my experience."

The program ran from January through May. Like most of the other nurses in the course, Marian had to fit classes and clinical experience around other commitments. "I had a job and a family," she says, "so I couldn't take off for a few months to Calgary or Toronto to take specialized training. I've been waiting for a course like this for years. It was excellent. It was tailored to meet the needs of the working nurse, the person who is in a specialized field and wants more training."



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FREE SPIRIT

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"I keep very busy," Mrs. Taylor explains. "I'm involved in a lot of activities. So I don't like to be tied down to going to class on a particular day at a particular time. The Telecollege is perfect for me. It gives me flexibility. I don't have to give up something else to take my lessons."

At the moment Mrs. Taylor is taking Guten Tag, learning a bit of German. "I took a trip through Germany about ten years ago," she explains. "We went all through the Black Forest. It was wonderful. I had one of those phrase books, but really I had to get by with sign language. I hope I'll be able to talk with the German people."

Another plus with VCC Telecollege is that people learn in the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere of their homes. "I'm not really shy," Mrs. Taylor says. "But I think I

might be a bit nervous in a classroom full of younger people. Here I don't feel at all pressured."

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Recently graduated from VVI, the Kitimat native travelled to New York, where, as a prize winner, she was introduced at the Glemby show to the cream of that city's stylists.

She laughs and readily admits she was more than a little surprised when her avant garde punk style won out over others from across Canada and the United States.

Monika says she knew in high school she wanted to be a hair stylist. She even worked part-time at a salon her last two years of school. The owner was a graduate of VVI so when it came time for Monika to choose it was the natural choice.

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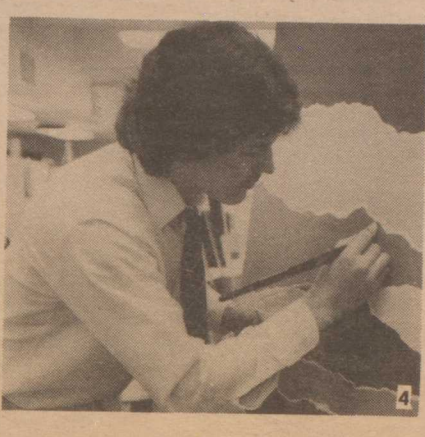
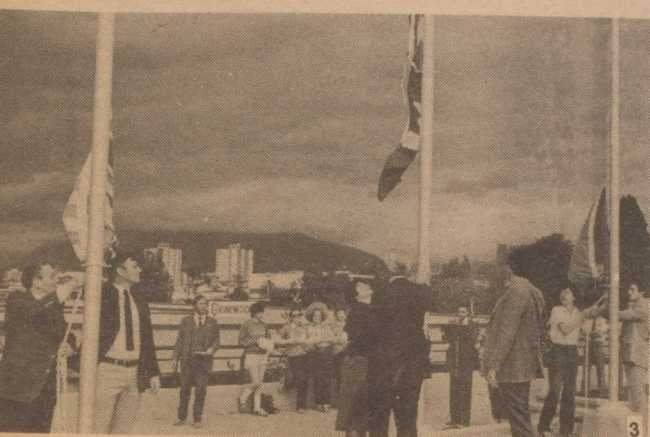
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Monika Prause's mom may just have to make good that promise before too long.

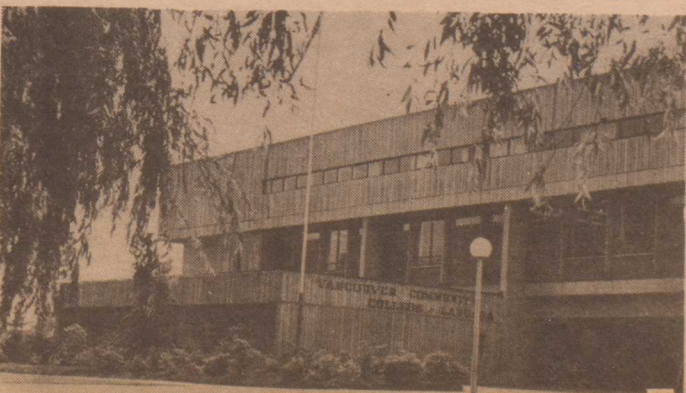
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8. Studio 58, Langara Campus, in action
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12. VCC "No name running club" includes students, faculty and staff and runs for charity
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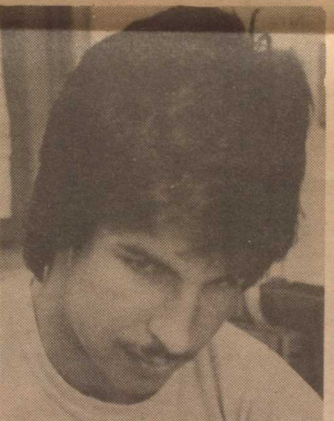
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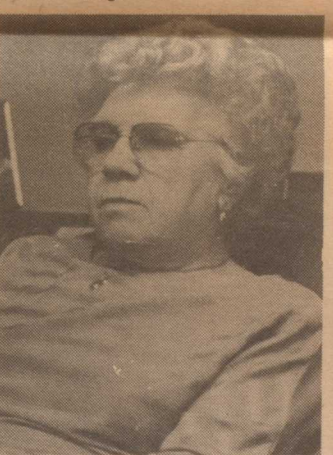


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