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ALUMNEWS

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A LANGARA FIRST: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES INTRODUCED

by Barbara Cameron

Government, industry and concerned citizens are gearing up to deal with the issue of the decade, the global environmental crisis. And that's exactly why an Environmental Studies Program will be launched at VCC's Langara Campus, possibly as early as the fall of 1990.

Biologist Ray Baynes chairs the multidisciplinary committee planning the program: "We have increased public awareness and we have students beating down our door wanting more ecology courses. This will be the only full Environmental Studies program to be offered at any B.C. college. They all have ecology and environment courses, but nothing of this scope. We'll be the very first."

Chemist Chuck Sigmund is also a member of the program's development committee: "People have a gut feeling that something has to be done about the environment, but it's difficult to make decisions. What is a safe level or an unsafe level of this or that? Is a PCB worse than a dioxin? Are both worse than something else?"

The innovative new program is designed to train the kind of people who can help politicians, community groups and businesses make complex decisions where the facts are not clear and where there is no agreement on solutions.

As well as courses in biology, chemistry, geography, philosophy and environmental law, the program will offer contemporary issues seminars. Says Baynes, "The idea here is to bring in experts in their field from industry and government. This will keep us current and will give potential employers a chance to look over the students."

Another interesting aspect of the program is the planned field school, possibly at an outdoor recreation centre at Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island or at a site near Squamish on Howe Sound.

"Both have a full range of instructional facilities, everything you would need including room and board and a cleaning staff - the whole works," says Baynes. "And what's more, the sites work. In Squamish for example, you've got a full range of biotic communities all the way from salt water to an estuary and a river. Then there are the altitudinal zones from coastal forest to the sub-alpine and alpine forest. You've virtually got an entire microcosm of all British Columbia within about 15 miles."

Both Baynes and Sigmund are adamant that the generalist approach is right for this program. "We don't need more experts," says Sigmund. "We already have trained biologists, chemists, etc. What we do need are people with a broad general education who can make those very difficult policy decisions."

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FORUM: ALUMNI SHARE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

In the last issue of ALUMNEWS, readers were invited to share their environmental concerns. Here is what they had to say.

What am I doing to help preserve the environment? That's an easy question to answer - or so I thought. I'm environmentally conscious. I recycle bottles, cans and newspapers. I ask for paper bags at the grocery store. I thought I was doing my part, but after reading some of the astonishing statistics on how much waste our society produces, I realize how little I actually had been doing.

British Columbians generate an above average amount of trash - about 4.5 pounds each per day compared to the national average of 3.5 pounds. Yet only 10% of our garbage is recycled.

I decided I needed to start doing more to reduce my trash production and the easiest way seemed to be to separate the recyclable items out of my waste.

While Burnaby, Delta and West Vancouver already have recycling programs, Vancouver has just begun to provide the "blue box" recycling containers in certain areas.

After reading about a neighbourhood that had started its own recycling program, I decided that I wouldn't wait for the city. I went to the Strata-Council of my condominium and asked them to set up a recycling program for our building. Although everyone thought it was a good idea, no one wanted the responsibility of disposing of the recyclable trash.

I have made some progress. The Strata-Council did agree to allow me to survey the residents of our building to see if they would even be interested in sorting and recycling their garbage.

The apathy I encountered from the Strata-Council is quite common. People talk about "saving the environment" and yet they don't want to actually do much that will help. If we are going to take better care of the environment we have to start somewhere and the best place to begin is at home.

Diana Ellis



Diana Ellis graduated from the Pharmacy Technical Assistant program at King Edward campus in 1988. If she has to buy bottled, canned or boxed products, she recycles the packaging at the City of Vancouver's recycling depot.

Over the last year and a half I have found it difficult to be positive about the future of our world. I joined several environmental groups which send me newsletters, notices of events and other information. I support these organizations by donating my money, attending events and volunteering my time.

It wasn't long before my head was spinning with slogans about the urgency to "save the trees" or "save the wolves". And it's espe-

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Bulletin Board

Alumni Association Annual General Meeting: Tuesday June 5, 6:30pm, Langara Faculty Lounge.

Alumni Association membership cards are still available. Call for details on discounts.

Interesting volunteer opportunities are available in accounting and event planning. Call the Alumni Association office at 875-1131.

The strike by Vocational Instructors Association has not affected Alumni Association operations. We are governed by an alumni board of directors independent from the College.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS: Your Alumni Association is putting together a display of photos from the past 25 years. We want to see your old pictures! We plan to have the display together for an anniversary celebration event. Write or call us at 875-1131.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Carole Wilson, President, VCC Alumni Association

The urgency of environmental issues is evident all around us. Your Alumni Association has also put them at the top of the agenda. This ALUMNEWS looks at just some of the ways former students and Vancouver Community College are responding to the need for change.

This issue of ALUMNEWS is the first to be printed on recycled paper. Our Events Committee is insisting on glass and china instead of plastic or styrofoam cups at events like the wine and cheese theatre evening on March 29. Our members responded to the call in the last ALUMNEWS to share their environmental concerns and their letters are published in this issue.

Your input is vital to the Association. Please continue to keep us informed with your concerns and happenings, environmental or otherwise. What do you call recycled students? Alumni, of course! Please recycle this newsletter by sharing it with others.

The Vancouver Community College Alumni Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday June 5, 1990
Langara Faculty Lounge
100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver
6:30pm Business Meeting

- Nominations to the Board of Directors accepted from the floor.
- All graduate and individual Association members may vote.
- Presentation of donations from fundraising activities.

7:30pm Speaker: David Bond, Vice President,
Marketing & Public Affairs, The Hong Kong Bank of
Canada

• Refreshments

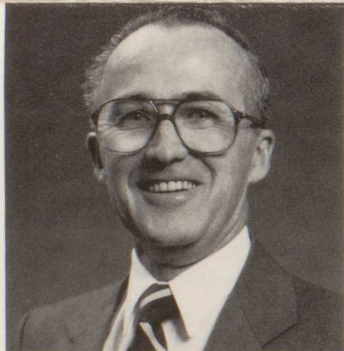
- A table will be available for your business cards, et cetera if you'd like to participate in an alumni networking opportunity.

David Bond has taught at the Universities of Western Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec and authored numerous academic and popular articles on economic topics.

He's a colorful and dynamic speaker and was nominated "Best Instructor" at UBC.

He entered the public service of Canada in 1972 and served in several departments including Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Statistics Canada and Regional Economic Development. From 1982 to 1985 he was the Federal Economic Development Co-ordinator in British Columbia.

GALLAGHER'S NOTEBOOK



Paul Gallagher, President, Vancouver Community College

We have truly special students. They are bright, hard-working and socially concerned. One of their immediate, active concerns is our environment.

I remember being invited to a workshop organized by Langara's Geography students in March 1989. The students had prepared an audio-visual display on the values of recycling on campus, as a specific example of what each one of us could do to become part of the solution to the growing environmental crisis.

Happily for me, they invited me as well as administrators, faculty members and students. After a discussion of the display, the Geography students invited questions, comments and criticism. The meeting was quiet for a moment and then the students were deluged with a whole set of questions of a "yes-but" kind. It's a good idea, but we've tried it before; what makes you think it can work this time? It's a good idea, but won't it be more costly? It's a good idea, but shouldn't the faculty (or somebody else) take the initiative?

I was glad to see that the students were not discouraged, although some of them were dismayed by the cool reception their ideas seemed to receive.

A repeat of that event would not be possible this year. At King Edward and City Centre as well as at Langara, there are now environmental committees of various kinds. Faculty members and students are showing real initiative and leadership. Recycling is now happening. The replacement of styrofoam and plastic utensils seems virtually inevitable. People are carrying around their own cups. Lectures, discussions and workshops on larger environmental issues are on the increase.

At the March 1989 Langara workshop, I commented that Langara (and it could apply to King Edward and City Centre as well) could become a model for environmentally sensitive public buildings - if Langarans wanted to make it so. I still believe that and see signs of such a possibility.

As I think about other dimensions of our College life, it strikes me that many of our Alumni members are probably as environmentally concerned as our students and faculty. What about some form of partnership between alumni and students on environmental issues? I think it could be a great opportunity for alumni and students to work together, to their mutual advantage and to our community's advantage.

If you are interested in such a partnership with students, would you please take the trouble to call Barbara Alldritt (875-1131, Loc. 353) and let her know of your interest?

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Laura Jackson graduated from the Library Technician program at Langara campus in 1989. She acts on her environmental concerns by volunteering with the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society.

cially depressing to learn about all the different ways we humans are damaging our earth.

But I have managed to keep a positive perspective. I go for walks, smell the flowers and spend time with the folks at the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society. NWPS began when doing something about how we are treating the world's wildlife and our wilderness areas moved to number one on Executive Director Sherry Pettigrew's list of what makes life worthwhile. She quit her job, lived on credit and worked fulltime to build the society. Three years later I am constantly surprised at the number of issues and programs in which NWPS is involved and at what it has been able to accomplish in such a short time.

Best of all is the positive feeling I get spending time with other members in the office at

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2150 Maple Street. Sherry's philosophy is that it is important to share our views, to look at the issues from all sides and respect everyone's viewpoint. As a result, the volunteers feel not only wanted but needed. In a world where there is so much indifference, it's great to know and work with people who really care!

Laura Jackson

When I think of the environment, I think of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine in the USSR. I work as a pharmacy technician at the B.C. Children's Hospital and I've seen many children suffer with cancer. When I heard about the nuclear reactor blowing up, I felt angry and helpless inside knowing that as a result innocent people would get cancer and die.

Many children are hospitalized and others are still losing their hair or developing enlarged thyroids. Proper medications and treatment, even vitamin tablets, are not available. One-time dose disposable syringes and needles are being used over and over again. Many children now also carry the AIDS virus as a result.



Zonia Hadym graduated from the Pharmacy Assistant program at King Edward campus in 1986. A first generation Ukrainian-Canadian, she writes songs accompanied on the bandura to raise awareness of the Chernobyl environmental disaster and the needs of the victims.

Ukraine is known as the "Bread Basket" of Eastern Europe because of its rich agricultural land. It also has 16 nuclear power plants that put its land and people at risk of more

suffering and contamination. That's like having 16 nuclear reactors spread out across B.C. By 1995 electricity from nuclear plants in the USSR is to be triple what it was in 1985 and one-third of these plants will be in Ukraine.

I worry about the future of those young children affected by the 1986 disaster in Ukraine. I don't lose hope though. We can help ourselves, but we all need to get involved. Once we realize and appreciate how lucky we are to be healthy, rich and free to do or say what we want, we can turn the world around and help others in attaining new hope and life.

Zonia S.T. Hadym

"Changing the World" was the title of a public forum on the environment at Langara campus in March. The most valuable piece of advice offered by both the panellists and the audience was to stay informed about the issues and to push both industry and government to act on their promises. They cannot survive without public support.

The questions, "What do we want?", "Where are we now?", "How do we get there?" were tackled by panels of representatives from the universities, industry, native and environmental groups and concerned citizens. The philosophical approach of Chief Joe Mathias of the First Nations Congress provided beautiful imagery for a model of a society that doesn't take the environment for granted and balanced the technical lectures on toxic wastes and the greenhouse effect. The jobs versus the environment issues were debated extensively by panellists and members of the audience.

Whatever their differences on specific issues, the panellists all agreed on the importance of public participation in solving environmental problems. The theme "think globally and act locally" echoed through all three sessions. Andrea Miller, founder of the Worldwide Home Environmentalists Network (W.H.E.N.), stressed the need for individuals to realize they do have the power to change the world, one step at a time. While we "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle", according to Miller we also have to "Refuse" environmentally unfriendly consumer products. Our

STUDENTS LEAD RECYCLING AT CITY CENTRE

It started with one concerned board member at the City Centre Student Association, according to Association executive director Tammy Roberts. After asking the College Board to eliminate styrofoam usage in the cafeteria, the Student Association launched a "Bring your own cup" campaign.

They followed this by hiring someone to research the campus waste stream and come up with a plan to implement recycling on campus. This plan was presented to the administrative council in fall, 1989. It was accepted and the Administrative Manager was asked to oversee the process.

"Our priority right now is paper," says Roberts. "When we did a waste stream analysis - this means you schlep home bags and bags of garbage and go through them - we found that of the 80% that was recyclable, the vast majority was paper and good quality paper too. We have really good garbage! And paper is one of the easier things to deal with compared to other materials."

It hasn't all been smooth sailing since then. There have been difficulties finding a company that could regularly pick up the paper from 25 collection points on the campus. There has to be a volunteer monitor in each department to keep an eye on the collection bin to make sure it's not getting contaminated. But Roberts is enthusiastic about the desk top containers that should soon be in place. Every desk will have a box labeled with what can go into it.

Resources are always a problem says Roberts. "There's a lot of enthusiasm and support on campus, but it takes resources too. Ideally someone would be paid to do what the committee members do in their spare time. About 30% of my workload has become the recycling program and that's not part of my job description."

"This is important from an educational perspective too. Students will be going out into workplaces where they can take this knowledge to be able to implement a program like this."



Betty Ing was in the College Foundations program at King Edward campus from 1986 to 1987. She was one of 150 students, alumni and concerned citizens attending a public forum on the environment at Langara campus.

consumer demand power can change the way corporations and governments do business. The growing number of environmentally friendly products now available in stores and the City of Vancouver's planned curbside recycling program are just two examples.

Betty Ing

ALUMNEWS ON RECYCLED PAPER

In keeping with the environmental theme of this issue, the Newsletter Committee planned a switch to recycled paper stock for this and all future issues. We found the choices for environmentally friendly paper are complicated and limited. These are the results to date.

According to a representative of Paperboard Industries, a large Vancouver recycling company, only industrial grades of recycled paper are produced in British Columbia. Any high quality recycled paper has to be imported into the province from eastern Canada, the United States or off shore. The stock we chose for this newsletter, "Save-a-Tree", is made in California from 50% recovered material, says Barber-Ellis Fine Papers marketing representative Doug Schuberg. 45% of that is post-commercial, for example envelop cuttings or butt ends of rolls of paper which traditionally have been recycled by the paper industry. Only 5% of the fibre content is post-consumer, or the material that we recycle from our homes and businesses.

Schuberg also advises that papers coated with the clay based material that gives the glossy finish are recyclable. However, the coating does have to be removed which makes the process more difficult.

The content of paper is not the only issue, though. In the process of making the paper, the pulp is bleached to break down the fibres and produce its typical white colour. In all of Canada and most of the USA, chlorine is used in this process producing the dioxins we hear so much about. This paper has still contributed to this pollution problem, although the extent of the problem claimed by many environmental groups is disputed by the pulp industry. In Europe, less toxic processes such as oxygen bleaching are well established. According to a recent Barber-Ellis report however, Canadian mills will not be switching to these processes for several years. ALUMNEWS has added its weight to the pressure for change.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1970 King Edward Arts & Science - **Ed Rubin** survived the cuts and is still a mechanic and carman helper with Via Rail Canada.

1973 Langara Arts & Science - **Gail Dodson** is now a financial planner and broker with the Investors Group.

1973 Langara Arts & Science - **Carole Wilson** has been selected as an assistant coach and guide for blind runners for the World Championships for the Disabled to be held in July, 1990 in Assen, Netherlands.

1977 Langara Arts & Science - **Louis Kwong** went to UBC and completed a BA and graduate studies in Chinese literature on a student exchange program in China in 1980/82. He's now a realtor with Keystone Realty.

1977 Langara Arts & Science - **Thomas Hatchen** completed a BA in Political Science at SFU in 1987. He is now retired from a career in accounting.

1978 Langara Arts & Science - **John Yue** has been a farmer, a logger, a landscaper and more since he left VCC. He's big on athletics and is now working on the new Softball BC complex.

1983 VVI/City Centre Travel Agent - **Sharon Campagnaro** is now a managing partner in the Marlin Travel franchises in Delta and Surrey, BC.

1987 KEC College Foundations - **Betty Ing's** poetry has been published in the 1988 American Poetry Anthology and in Can-Pharm Drugs advertising.

1989 VCC Con't Ed Counselling Skills Certificate - **Abad Carrillo** is working as a project coordinator for the Burnaby Multicultural Society Welcome Centre in developing services for the Spanish and Korean communities.

1989 VVI/City Centre Building Service Worker - **Norberto Vargas** is now a building maintenance supervisor with Vancouver General Hospital.

1989 VVI/City Centre Telecommunications Electronics Technician - **Jean Norman** is now working as a cyclotron operator at TRIUMF.

A LANGARA FIRST continued from page 1

They are also convinced that as soon as the program is under way potential employers will be lining up to hire the graduates. "We're already hearing that companies are scrambling for people to talk to the press or the public or to work on internal education programs about the environment," says Baynes.

When the new program gets under way, Ray Baynes and his colleagues will have their work cut out for them, but they wouldn't

have it any other way. Baynes believes the need for the program is urgent. "I see ecology education as a growth industry worldwide. There are so many things that must be done for the environment. There's growing evidence that the world's natural systems are breaking down. We can do it... we just need to show some leadership."

Barbara Cameron is Assistant Director of Public Relations and Development at VCC.

STUDIO 58'S "CHORUS" A HIT WITH ALUMNI



30 Alumni Association members and friends got to know one another better over wine and cheese on March 29. Playing to a full house that evening, Studio 58's production of "A Chorus of Disapproval" lived up to its excellent reviews. Here Alumni Association executive director Barbara Alldritt introduces President Carole Wilson and alumna Barbara Clague. Barbara graduated from the VCC Continuing Education certificate program in Volunteer Management in 1982. She is now acting executive director for the B.C. Association of Colleges.

KEC INSTRUCTOR TAKES EDUCATION TO THE NEWSPAPER

1990 is International Literacy Year. **Laurie Gould**, an instructor in the Basic Education Program at King Edward campus, is making a significant contribution. Gould, along with Joan Acosta from Capilano College, are writing a weekly page called Newsreader published in The Province for beginning adult readers.

According to The Province article announcing the project on March 29, studies show 360,000 people in B.C., 17% of the adult population, cannot read, write or use numbers well enough to cope in today's world. Province Editor-in-Chief Ian Haysom says he is delighted to be involved with "an innovative project that will help countless people in the community."

Also at KEC, **Lew Bloomingdale** and **Ross McPherson** of the Automotive Collision Repair Program were recognized for their outstanding contributions by having student achievement awards named in their honour. Their names have been immortalized with plaques in the program area at KEC.

ALUMNI GAMBLE FOR STUDENTS

Vancouver Community College Alumni Association hit the jackpot February 26 to 28. The Association was granted a three day licence for a casino at the Holiday Inn on West Broadway.

Over the three days, twelve alumni volunteered until 3:00am counting cash and gaming chips and reconciling the paperwork with the Great Canadian Casino Company. Their work netted \$18,668 for student scholarships and bursaries and other Alumni Association projects. Appreciation for their outstanding efforts is extended to **Leo Mol, Diana Ellis, Micheline Miller, Karel Chamber, Gordon Mueller, John Yue, Bob Ross, Michael Alldritt, Christine Svenhard, Delia Martin, Art Hoeckh** and **Elizabeth Burnyeat**.

The B.C. Gaming Commission regulates all gaming proceeds in the province. Last year the Association was able to establish the Alumni Scholarship and Bursary Trust Fund with \$4000 from casino proceeds. Only the interest is disbursed from this type of fund. However, this year all casino proceeds will have to be disbursed directly within six months. A Board committee has been struck to make recommendations for an annual Scholarship and Bursary Program. Please call the Association's office if you have any input for them.

WHAT IS NEW IN YOUR LIFE?

Keep in touch. Write and tell us about new jobs, accomplishments, degrees, marriages or births. Also be sure to send a change of address if you have moved.

Thank you to Instructional Media Services for their assistance in the production of ALUMNEWS IMS E16152

New Address? Please let us know:

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

New Address: _____

What's New In your Life? _____

ALUMNEWS

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Alumnews is published by the Vancouver Community College Association. The association represents former students and graduates of Langara, City Centre, and King Edward Campus, as well as the Continuing Education Programs. Readers comments are welcome. Please write the Executive Director.



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association