

April 10

1997 C2

THE VCC COMMUNITY INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



Connections

Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus - Library
P.O. Box 24620, Station F
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T9

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Decisions, decisions: a few helpful hints to get over the hurdle.

Skills Canada BC Competition — April 23, 1997

Trades and technical students get set for vocational Olympics

Catch scores of secondary and post-secondary students from over a dozen different trades areas as they compete in this year's Skills Canada BC Competition, at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre on April 23. This combination skills competition and career fair runs from 9:00 to 4:00, with the awards presentation at 4:30.

As in previous years, VCC will have a strong presence at Skills Canada BC. The College's Automotive Technician Department, a 1995 Gold Medal Winner, will once again sponsor the Automotive Secondary, Post-Secondary and Apprenticeship competitions, chaired by VCC instructor **Fred Grimann**. He and Department Head **Glen Johnston** clock many an hour of volunteer time and do a lot of friendly coaxing in preparation for the competition. "I arm-twist until finally my own arm aches," laughs Fred. The Automotive Technician program practically relocates to the Trade and Convention Centre for one entire day, as the Department supplies all the material for that particular competition.

Beth Callahan, Department Head of Computer Graphics and Printing Production, has been involved for the last two years, and is Chair of the Electronic Publishing component, currently for



(from right) VCC Automotive Student Larry Lapointe receives the Automotive Gold Medal from former Skills, Training and Labour Minister Dan Miller at the 1995 Skills Canada BC competition

secondary students only. Last year, Beth served as Electronic Publishing Chair at the National competition in Montreal. Beth works with others in her committee

...see Skills, on page 2

ICS INFO CORNER

ICS and BCTel reach agreement on cause of technical problems

Over the past several months, VCC has experienced major problems with BCTel services. In particular, the College's Internet service was inoperable for a total of two and a half months. After BCTel eventually agreed that their equipment was causing the problem, VCC received a rebate of over \$5,200 to compensate for the lack of service.

We continue to experience problems with the BCTel T1 data service that connects KEC and CC. This service has been going up and down on a regular basis, creating havoc with such crucial cross-campus systems as Banner and Email. Again, it took some time before BCTel would take responsibility for the problem. They currently have their Technical Services group (made up of their top engineers, according to BCTel) working on resolving the problem.

In addition to the disruption in daily services, these outages have also contributed to frustrating delays with such projects as Internet access, the VCC web site and student Email.

We will keep you posted on further developments.

Helpdesk stats

From August 11/96 to April 6/97 the Helpdesk has:

- logged 3037 calls (1327 at CC, 1607 at KEC and 103 at other locations)
- 2676 of these calls have been resolved

Skills . . . from page 1

in creating test documents and arranging the panel of judges for the component.

VCC's Culinary Arts Department will supply food and expertise for the Food Preparation competition, with *Settimio Sicoli*, Associate Dean of Tourism, Hospitality and Services Programs helping to design the Food Prep component.

Strutting their stuff

The Skills Canada BC Competition is an excellent opportunity to watch students in action. Rather than a controlled lab setting, students will compete in an environment that more closely resembles an actual worksite, where skill and timing are of the essence. Students of academic upgrading and ESL programs, as well as high school students, will find the exposure to the trades invaluable in helping them make their own career choices.

Trading up

The terms "vocational" and "trade" now encompass a broad range of career choices. How about TV and video production, mechanical design and computer aided drafting, or electronic publishing? And with surges in technology, many vocational career grads need thorough knowledge of computer systems. Automotive Technician grads, for instance, must possess excellent computer and diagnostic skills in order to work on today's advanced engines. "Skills Canada wants the general public to recognize that the trades area is a crucial part of the workforce," says Glen Johnston.

Siezing the day

Even though Skills Canada's primary focus is greater visibility for vocational training, VCC will take the opportunity to market its entire compliment of programs. Community Liaison Brenda Toporowski will staff her own booth and provide general information about all VCC programs. Carpe diem, indeed.

Skills Canada also gives the private sector an opportunity to show off and position

themselves as good corporate citizens. Snap On Tools will donate first, second and third prizes in the Automotive competition, and many other companies donate materials used in the various competitions. For example, last year Autodesk lent the computers and software used in the Architectural Design contest.

Most of the competitions work like this: students are given projects to complete in a set time frame, usually about three hours. For instance, carpentry students are given a diagram of a project to complete (last year's was an elevated doghouse).

This is Skills Canada's third year of competitions in BC; other provinces, such as Ontario, have been holding Skills Canada competitions for about the last six or seven years. BC also holds regional competitions throughout the province, to enable students to compete in their region without having to travel to larger centres. Winners of regional competitions go on to compete in the provincial competitions, who in turn go on to compete in the national competition. (This year's Nationals will take place in Red Deer, Alberta, on May 29-31.) The ultimate finish line is the International Vocational Training Competition, held in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Next year's Skills Canada National competition will take place in Vancouver, with VCC being one of the major sponsors of the event.

Skills Canada BC is open to the public and it's free. Bring your class and make it an all-day field trip, or just show up and have a look. You could be pleasantly surprised at what makes a "vocational trade."

Dale Rasmussen, College Advancement

Skills Canada BC is a non-profit society and registered charity composed of business, labour, government, college and K-12 educators. For more information on Skills Canada BC or to find out how to compete in upcoming competitions, contact Dale Oleschko at the Skills Canada office at telephone 430-2204 or fax 435-8181.

April winner says College 50/50 easier than 649

Maureen Nurse, instructor in the ESL Outreach Department, has won the April 1997 50/50 draw! Maureen, who was off campus when her number was announced, drove back in to pick up her cheque for \$591 and to smile for our camera. "The Lotto 6/49 was never this easy," says Maureen.

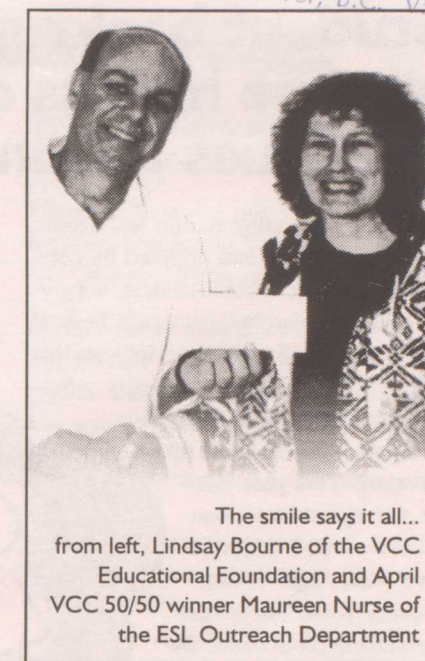
When asked how she will spend her winnings, Maureen told us that she has a daughter who is attending the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York, as an exchange student from Emily Carr. "This money will certainly come in handy for her. However, I may just keep a bit for me, too," Maureen laughed.

You could be next month's big winner. A draw takes place the first Tuesday of every month, alternating between the cafeterias at City Centre and KEC. The next draw is scheduled for City Centre on May 6 at 12:00 noon.

May Day! May Day! Volunteer at CityFest

Once again, this May long weekend CityFest will celebrate Vancouver's diverse cultures at VCC's King Edward Campus. For festival newcomers, CityFest is a free, family-oriented intercultural event of the performing arts, featuring music, dance, theatre, crafts and food from a variety of countries.

Last year, CityFest attracted over 900 performers from 30 different cultures, including the Aztlan Mexican Dancers, the Greek Community of East Vancouver Dancers, the Indo-Canadian Cultural Association Dancers, Los Pipiles of El



The smile says it all... from left, Lindsay Bourne of the VCC Educational Foundation and April VCC 50/50 winner Maureen Nurse of the ESL Outreach Department

If you haven't yet signed up to play 50/50, what are you waiting for? It's so easy to play. Your entry is deducted from each month's pay by automatic payroll deduction, and can be as little as \$2.00 per pay period. Contact Jane Westheuser in the Educational Foundation at local 7237 to join in the fun.

Salvador, the Squamish Dance Troupe, the Vancouver Italian Folk Chorus and the Filipino Dancers and Singers.

Dedicated volunteers and generous donations of money, services and equipment keep CityFest a free festival. If you'd like to experience this event and gain invaluable volunteer experience at the same time, please call Lisa Kwan at 872-0081.

Celebrate CityFest May 16, 17 and 18 for three days of the sights and sounds of Vancouver's fascinating cultures.

Step out in the right direction

One in four Canadians has difficulty reading and writing. You can help change that by supporting the second annual *Walk for Literacy* on Sunday, May 25. Created to generate awareness of literacy issues, the Walk also raises much needed funds to help Vancouver students returning to school to further their education.

Last year the Walk for Literacy raised \$5,500 for local literacy programs. These funds also assisted students with educational expenses such as school supplies, texts, assessment fees, application fees and transit passes.

The Walk will begin at City Centre Campus and end at King Edward Campus, followed by speakers including VCC President John Cruickshank, Carol Bossio (Founder of the Walk for Literacy), Mary Thompson Boyd (Literacy BC Coordinator, Training and Regional Development) and Blue Mankuma (actor) along with many more surprise guests. Door prizes (including four cash prizes) will be drawn, and refreshments will be available for the walkers.

All faculty, students, staff and family members are invited to join in the fun. For information contact *Brenda Lee Giles*, coordinator, at 437-6065 or *Ted Hougham* at 871-7359.

1997 Board Meeting dates

KEC, Room 5025:
April 24, May 22, October 23,
November 27

CC, Room 240:
June 26, August 28,
September 25, December 11*

*pending Board approval

Make every Friday a "chair day"

Many of KEC's classrooms have broken or damaged chairs, through normal wear and tear. To help us efficiently replace these chairs, every Friday at KEC will be "chair day."

At the end of your class on Friday, please place any broken or damaged chairs in the hallway outside your classroom. These chairs will be replaced with new or repaired chairs prior to classes beginning on the following Monday morning

Thank you for your assistance.

Bill Miller, KEC Building Manager

Get updated on this year's Budget at Forums

Budget Forums will take place at both campuses on Thursday, April 24, in order to provide the VCC community with an update on budget information and to allow for questions of the College executive.

The forums are scheduled for:
City Centre

Thursday, April 24th
11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.
Theatre

King Edward Campus

Thursday, April 24th
2:00p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Faculty Lounge

Student bankruptcies hit all-time high as debt load continues to climb

Facing sky-rocketing tuition and declining job prospects, and crippled by debt, more and more Canadian students are giving up and declaring bankruptcy. Federal statistics (excluding Quebec) indicate that 7,850 post-secondary students went bankrupt during 1995-1996. Five years ago, 4,500 declared insolvency. This past year the average student loan debt was \$14-16,000. Five years ago it was about \$9,000. However, the worst is yet to come. By 1998 it's estimated that the average debt load will soar to \$24,000. In the meantime, the cost to government for defaulted loans has vaulted 133 per cent - from \$30 million in 1991-1992 to \$70 million last year.

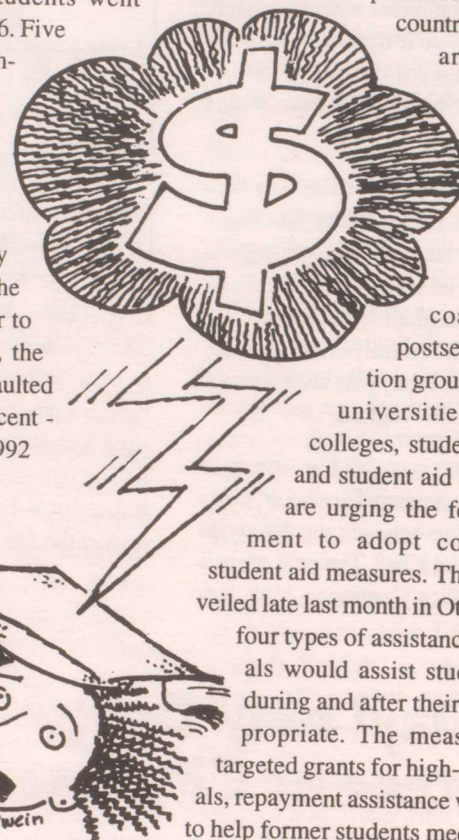
"Twenty-five per cent of full-time students at SFU are supported by student loans and they couldn't pursue their educational goals without this support," reports Charlotte French, SFU's director of student academic resources. "Every student we work with intends to repay their loan," she adds. "However, living and education costs have risen significantly in the past decade and salaries for new graduates haven't kept pace with debts over the course of an education. The nature of the present student loan program does not let students properly plan for the level of debt they'll face on graduation," French explains. Rates of repayment and interest rates are not assigned

until after the debt has been accumulated and there is no flexibility in the timeline or the rate of repayment.

The crisis has led to the creation of a new partnership within the country's post-secondary community, which has made an urgent call for new student aid measures. In a groundbreaking coalition, seven postsecondary education groups representing universities, community colleges, students, professors and student aid administrators, are urging the federal government to adopt comprehensive student aid measures. The package, unveiled late last month in Ottawa, proposes four types of assistance. The proposals would assist students prior to, during and after their studies, as appropriate. The measures include: targeted grants for high-need individuals, repayment assistance where required to help former students meet their obligations, a national work-study program to provide opportunities for students to earn while they learn, and tax measures to help Canadians save for their children's education.

"We should keep in mind that through the Canada Student Loan program, \$1.2 billion was loaned to over 330,000 students who otherwise would not be able to pursue postsecondary education," says French. The federal budget was released

...see Bankruptcies, page 5



New policy announcements

Policy on Fee Deferral

Effective Date: January 14, 1997
Policy Category:

Purpose: to defer due date of fee payments.

Policy:

1. All fees are due and payable at time of registration in accordance with the fee payment schedule.
2. Fee deferrals, approved by the Registrar or delegate, may be permitted under special circumstances.
3. Students who do not apply for funding in a timely manner may not qualify for a fee deferral.
4. Fee deferrals for BCSAP purposes will authorize payment of all outstanding fees directly to the College.
5. Default of a fee deferral will result in the denial of further instruction or services until all outstanding fees are paid.

Applies to: Students of Vancouver Community College. This policy does not apply to students registered in Continuing Education courses.

Procedures:

1. A student requesting a fee deferral must complete a fee deferral form.
2. The Fee Deferral form may be recommended and signed by the Financial Aid Office, where applicable.
3. The Registrar or delegate will confirm the amount of payment and the date on which the balance will fall due.
4. The student will present the fee deferral form to the Cashier, who will verify the amount to be deferred and give a copy of the form to the student.
5. In the case of default, the Cashiers Office will notify the appropriate departments.

Policy Sponsor: Registrar

Policy on Tuition Fee Waiver

Effective Date: January 14, 1997

Purpose: To waive tuition fee payments for some members of Vancouver Community College's community.

Policy: Some members of Vancouver Community College's community may register into courses and have their tuition fees waived providing that:

- they are not displacing a fee paying student;
- proof of status is available;
- applicable pre-requisites are met;
- a sufficient number of fee paying students are enrolled to warrant running the course or program;
- all other applicable fees are paid by student.

Applies to: college employees who are entitled to benefits; permanent residents of B.C. who are 65 years or older; and, members of the College Board.

This policy does not apply to students registered in Continuing Education courses.

Procedures:

1. A request for a fee waiver will be completed by the applicant and submitted to the Registrar for approval.
2. Application for fee waivers will be accepted on the first day of class or when all fee paying students have had an opportunity to register.
3. Anyone who registers as a fee payer to ensure a seat in a course or program, may not be entitled to a refund.

Policy Sponsor: Registrar

Policy on Refund

Effective Date: March 1, 1997

Purpose: To apply a fair, consistent and easily understood refund policy.

...see New Policies, page 7

Bankruptcies ... from page 4

as SF News went to press. The government promises new tax breaks worth \$137 million next year to help fund higher education. Students facing hardship will now get an additional year of interest free deferrals on loans. And the contribution limit for registered education savings plans doubles to \$4,000. Effective Aug. 1, the loan deferral period goes from 18 months to 30, with the federal government paying the interest. Combined with a six-month grace period after graduation, that means students will have up to three years of help before they have to start paying.

reprinted from Simon Fraser News

Music Department Concert Series

Wind Ensemble presents rare concert

Join the VCC Music Department Wind Ensemble on Sunday, April 20 in the KEC Auditorium for a showcase of outstanding talent. This FREE concert will feature music by Gianinni, Debussy, Curnow and Dvorak. And the early time will enable concert-goers to get plenty of shut-eye for Monday morning.

- Sunday, April 20
- 2:30 pm
- KEC Auditorium
- Admission is FREE

PS: Don't forget that tickets are still available for the Choral/Concerto concert on April 11 and A Night of Song (April 13) featuring Contemporary Voice students. For details see the March 27 Connections or phone the Music Department at 7297.

announcements

New books at KEC Library

- Challenge and Opportunity: Canada's Community Colleges at the Crossroads
- Civilizing Cyberspace
- Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning
- Educational Computing
- The Evaluation of Higher Education Systems
- Teaching Mathematics to Students with Learning Disabilities
- Inside the Brain: Revolutionary Discoveries of how the Mind Works
- Examining your Doctor: a Patient's Guide to Avoiding Harmful Medical Care
- Family Trusts for Tax and Estate Planning
- A Traveller's Guide to Aboriginal British Columbia
- Staying Afloat: Lifeskills and English for ABE and ESL College Students
- The Web Page Design Cookbook: all the Ingredients you Need to Create...
- Teach yourself Java in 21 Days
- Microsoft Office Essentials

The envelopes, please

If you have any extras, please drop them off at the KEC Mailroom. Thank you.

A special thank you...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out during my maternity leave. Special thanks go to Corinne Schollie, Larry Waddell and Dana Merritt for all of their work when they were acting as main contacts for the Finance and Administration Division.

I will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and on vacation on Mondays and Fridays for the month of April 1997. Beginning in May, I will be back to work full-time. As usual, please contact my secretary, Doreen Sharan, at 871-7163, for appointments or, if you are in the area, drop by and say hello.

Mary Hoekstra
Vice President,
Finance and Administration

Open invitation to upcoming meetings

Members of the public and VCC community are invited to attend the following meetings:

Finance and Administration Committee of the Board

- Tuesday, April 15, 1997
- 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Room 5025
- King Edward Campus

Budget Advisory Group

- Wednesday, April 30, 1997
- 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Room 5025
- King Edward Campus

Education Council

- Tuesday, May 6, 1997
- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Room 240
- City Centre Campus

Please call Doreen Sharan, Confidential Secretary, at 871-7163 for further information.

institutions are being asked to be more learner-centred. We are responding to the challenge.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to join your colleagues at AECBC '97.

Fees:

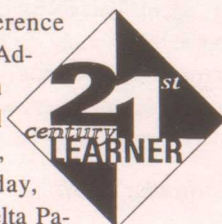
Full conference: \$370 (before May 9), \$425 (after May 9)

Day rate: \$240 (Sunday, June 22), \$240 (Monday, June 23)

For more information contact Sarah Lucas at local 7158.

VCC to host 1997 AECBC conference

The annual conference and AGM of the Advanced Education Council of BC will take place Saturday, June 21 to Monday, June 23, at the Delta Pacific Resort and Conference Centre in Richmond.



This year, VCC plays host to the AECBC conference, with an exciting program that showcases the innovations and initiatives taking place in all AECBC institutions:

- Use of Technology
- Changing Learner Characteristics and Demographics
- Learners and Learner Success

- Changes in Governance and Management
- Partnerships for Success

As the 21st century draws near, technological, economic and social changes are placing greater demands on societies around the globe. These changes have had a considerable impact on the characteristics and expectations of potential learners.

In BC, our system's strategic plan, "Charting a New Course," will act as a guide to our institutions as they respond to these changes and challenges. With the major goals of Access and Quality, Responsiveness, Affordability and Accountability,

New Policies ... from page 5

Policy:

1. Students who withdraw from a course or program may be entitled to a partial refund.
2. Registered students who drop a course prior to the first day of term or drop a program prior to the first day of class will be entitled to 100% refund less the administrative fee and deposit.
3. Within each term or program installment period, students who withdraw on the first, second or third day will receive 80% refund (less non-refundable fees).
4. Within each term or program installment period, students who withdraw on the fourth or fifth day will receive 50% refund (less non-refundable fees).
5. Students who withdraw after the fifth day of a term or program will not receive a refund.
6. Students who withdraw from programs where shop/ material fees are charged will receive a refund of those charges for each full month of the balance of the program.
7. Students who withdraw from continuous intake programs will receive a full refund for each month paid for but not utilized (less administrative fee).
8. The following fees are non-refundable:
 - Application fee
 - Assessment fee
 - Administration fee charged for each withdrawal
 - Pre-paid deposits on career programs
 - Students Society fees (As of first day of term or program)
 - Co-op placement fee (As of payment due date)
 - Fees paid by inserted students (as of first day of study period.)

Applies to:

Students registered in Vancouver Community College courses and programs.

This refund policy does not apply to all courses or programs. An example of the

exceptions are differentially funded courses/programs or those with advanced registration deadlines.

This policy does not apply to students registered in Continuing Education courses or programs.

Procedures

1. Requests for refunds must be made in writing.
2. Refunds will be determined by the date the written notification is received in the Registrar's Office.
3. Refunds will be by College cheque only and mailed to students, sponsors or appropriate lending institutions within four to six weeks of withdrawal.
4. No refund cheques will be processed for refunds of less than \$20.00.

5. An Administration fee will be charged per each withdrawal.

Policy Sponsor: Registrar

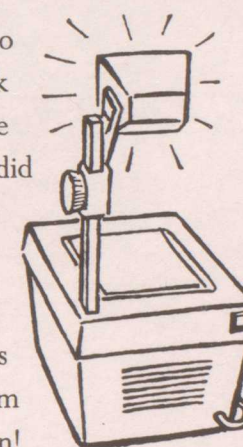
Teaching

If you plan for a year, plant a seed. If for ten years, plant a tree. If for a hundred years, teach the people. When you sow a seed once, you will reap a single harvest. When you teach the people, you will reap a hundred harvests.

Kuan Chung,
ancient Chinese philosopher

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

- Published Thursdays
- Bi-weekly January-May and September-November
- Monthly June, July, August and December

Produced by the College Advancement Department,
Vancouver Community College

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1S9

classifieds

FOR SALE



Ikea Ted folding plastic chair, yellow. \$7;
Osterizer 10 speed blender. Very good condition. \$12. Call 871-7361

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Employment Opportunity: Office Clerk,
C, temporary. Financial Aid Office, KEC.
Closing: Apr. 14.

ACCOMMODATION



Safe Passage Homestay

In family home - Huge bright master bdrm,
private bath, walk-in closet, phone, cable,
w.d., utilities, shared kitchen, parking for
one car. Available now. 5632 Donovan St.,
Burnaby, 15 min. from VCC, on bus route
5 min from Skytrain. \$500/month. Call
Susan McDonald 521-1005 (leave a message).

Problem solving

Tough decision to make? Try this technique

Try this problem-solving strategy the next
time you have a tough decision to make:

- **Gather all the information** you can and lay it out in front of you.
- **Scan the material** very quickly for the broad outlines of the situation.
- **Read it again**, this time very slowly, underlining important points, facts and figures.
- **Concentrate on the specific problem** and put it into one sentence on a blank piece of paper. Be sure the paper is blank—anything written on it will distract you.
- **If you can't reduce** the problem to a single sentence, go back and start over again.

- **Look at your sentence.** Begin to list possible solutions.
- **Question yourself.** Would your toughest critic make the same list? How would someone else approach the problem?
- **Consider the alternatives.** Ask yourself the worst that could happen for each alternative. Then ask yourself what the best possible outcome for each would be.
- **Choose the solution** with the maximum benefit and the lowest possibility of damage from the worst-case scenario.

Michael Korda, *Success*

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KEC: Sue Devison, Administration

Produced by the College Advancement Department
Lilli Milder, Executive Director

Please recycle this newsletter

1997 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

April 10 and 24
May 8 and 22
June 5

Please provide your article through email,
the I:\common\connect directory or on a PC
disk with hardcopy (text-only if non-email).
Your submissions are welcome, but please
be aware that space limitations may prevent
publication. Material may be edited for clarity
and length. Deadline for submissions is
Thursday of the week prior to publication.