



VANCOUVER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



# Connections

Vancouver Community College  
King Edward Campus - Library  
Box 24620, Station F  
Vancouver, BC V5N 5T9

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## Dale Dorn appointed President



I am pleased to announce, on behalf of the Board, that Dale Dorn has been appointed President of VCC.

On Thursday, November 25, the Board unanimously endorsed the recommendation of the President's Search Committee.

As many of you know, Dale joined the College as an ESL instructor almost 20 years ago. He has since worked in several capacities at the College, as Division Chair, Vice President Instruction and Student Services King Edward Campus, Vice President Education and has served as In-

terim President since February 5, 1999. I am confident that with Dale's experience as an instructor and administrator and with his leadership ability, he will serve the College well. We are pleased to welcome him as our new President.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the President's Search Committee who spent many months committed to making the right selection for the College. Their hard work is much appreciated by the Board.

**Cathy Agnew, Board Chair**

### Celebration Events

There will be two celebration events on Wednesday, December 1. Please join Board members in welcoming Dale to his new position at 11:30 a.m. in the Four Corners Lounge at City Centre or at 3:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge at King Edward Campus. We hope to see you then.

## VCC on "The Drive"

### Move & Open House

On December 6, 1999, the Job Readiness Programs based at Terminal Avenue will move to "The Drive." The Job Readiness Programs will be in Suite 206 - 2555 Commercial Drive (next to Starbucks at Broadway and Commercial). VCC will be sub-leasing from the Vancouver East Community Skills Connection, although the Skills Connection will retain an office.

Over the past few years, the Vancouver East Community Skills Connection has offered computer/job search access to East Vancouver residents. VCC's Basic Ed and CCA Departments operated a Learning Centre and the Business and Computer Studies Department ran a keyboarding course. The College is in discussion with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology to continue this access in January, 2000.

The Job Readiness Programs are contract offerings under the government's BC Benefits initiative which is in the last year of a three year plan. The following programs are running in 1999-2000:

#### 1. Computer Basics and Employment Training Options:

Nine - 4 week programs, with 10 seats per program; currently at Terminal Avenue but will move to the Drive. Instructor - Anita Henderson (Business & Computer Studies Department, KEC)

#### 2. B.E.S.T.:

Two - 16 week programs with 16 seats sponsored in base-funded program at KEC  
Coordinator - Doug Buck; Instructor - John Shayler

#### 3. E.E.A.W.:

Two - 16 week programs with 8 seats sponsored in base-funded program at City Centre.

(Instructor - Sylvia Patey)

#### 4. Technical Training Career Options:

One program offered through the Diesel Department, KEC  
(Department Head - Dave Niessen)

#### 5. Receptionist/Office Assistant Program:

One - 6 month program offered through the Office Management and Communications Department, City Centre  
(Department Head - Roberta Collins)

#### 6. Computer Applications Support Assistant (in partnership with PRIDE Centre and SFU)

Two - 6 month programs; Located at PRIDE Centre

#### 7. Computer Hardware Support (in partnership with Tradeworks Training Society)

One - 5 month program; Located at Tradeworks  
From September, 1999 - March, 2000, an "itinerant" counsellor is also available (Linda Duarte, Counselling).

The Job Readiness Programs receive wonderful support from people across the College and in the community.

Please join us on December 16, 1999 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. for an **OPEN HOUSE** at Suite 206 - 2555 Commercial. It's an opportunity for us to say "thank you" and for you to see VCC on "The Drive."

Linda Duarte, Anita Henderson,  
Mary Waddington, Adrienne Westwood

## Notes from Kathmandu

*The following is an email from Rick Vanheyst, a full-time instructor in the Computer Technology department. He is currently nearing the end of a six week backpacking trip to Nepal.*

Hi folks, Just a little note from Kathmandu.

We have just finished our 30 day trek through the Himalayas, with all of our crew making it through happy and healthy and without incident or injury.

We were delayed in getting into the high mountains for a couple of days by a freak heavy snowfall, but since then the weather has been excellent.

We made it up to a place called Gokyo Ridge, elevation 5500 meters (17,500 feet), from which Everest and three other 8000 meter peaks are visible. It was a spectacular vista.

We had to be careful about the altitude—our itinerary had us ascending gradually to avoid altitude sickness. At 5500 meters there is only about 55% of the oxygen compared to sea level and you can sure feel it.

We have just returned to Kathmandu after 30 days of not seeing any cars or roads and it is a bit of a shock to return to that. Especially as it is rather dirty and noisy here.

Anyway, we are killing time here for a couple of days before we head off to Thailand for 10 days or so of snorkelling, kayaking and relaxing on the beach. I look forward to getting together after we get back. Hope you are well.

*Bye for now, Rick and Nicola*

## Homophobia—what is it, anyway?

The reason lesbian and gay men are still discriminated against is complex. However, one indisputable fact is that the world we all know and live in is based on a heterosexual model. Society as a whole, whether it be the medical profession, the school system, the judiciary, the mainstream media or the Church, often assumes that everyone is heterosexual and exists within heterosexual relationships.

As a result, other forms of sexual orientation then become something that is "other" and of which people become afraid. Thus heterosexism translates into **homophobia** (the fear of lesbians, gay men and bi-sexuals) and therein lies discrimination. It is no more acceptable to tolerate heterosexism than it is to accept sexism or racism.

### IS THERE HOMOPHOBIA AT VCC?

Many gay, lesbian and bi-sexual employees at VCC feel that VCC is a safe environment to work and be open about their partners or their sexual orientation, however, that is not the case for all. There are differences and challenges to overcome.

In the past two years, VCC's Safer Campus Committee has held workshops,

provided information booths, literature and videos, and hosted a poster contest in an effort to raise awareness regarding how homophobia affects the lives of gay men, lesbians, and bi-sexuals. The posters advertising these previous events were often torn down, slashed and had derogatory comments written on them.

In an ongoing attempt to increase awareness around the issue of homophobia, an art contest is being advertised for next February. Posters have been placed at both campuses to encourage participation from students and employees. The posters have also been posted at other colleges in the Lower Mainland, as the competition is not restricted to VCC.

Unfortunately, an individual called to express his opinion on how he feels the poster is a ploy to "recruit" black people to be gay and lesbian. The individual didn't identify himself other than to say that he was a black male from another college. He was very angry and said that he and his friends would be tearing down the posters in several colleges. As a consequence, we have recommended to the participating colleges that whenever possible they place the posters within glass cases.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO COMBAT HOMOPHOBIA?

- Educate yourself and become more sensitive to lesbian, gay and bi-sexual coworkers and students. There are many gay, lesbian and bi-sexual employees and students at VCC. Be willing to share some of the positive aspects of their lives. Inquire about their partners and include them in conversation when talking about spouses.
- Show leadership and courage when lesbian, gay and bi-sexual co-workers or students come to you with problems.
- Examine language to include lesbian, gay men and bi-sexuals.
- Go to your library and ask for books that include lesbian, gay men and bi-sexuals.
- Support lesbian and gay and bi-sexual campaigns, especially those that fight homophobia
- Just like anti-racism work, we must not tolerate humiliating or harmful jokes.

**Our college should be a safe environment for all people.**

### Put your talent to work

**RESPECT & DIGNITY:  
Confronting Homophobia  
through art**

**1ST PRIZE: \$1000**

**2ND PRIZE: \$500**

**3RD PRIZE \$300**

**PLUS: Gift certificates**

On February 23 and 24, 2000, VCC Safer Campus Committee, in partnership with community businesses, is sponsoring an art competition to promote awareness of the issue of homophobia.

The competition is open to any student or employee of any community college in the Lower Mainland.

**Deadline for submissions: February 16, 2000, 10:00 a.m.**

Art will be displayed, demonstrated and judged on February 23 at 12:15 PM, City Centre Campus. On February 24, 2000 a selection of art will be displayed at KEC.

#### Judges for the competition:

- Joe Average
- Keith Wallace,
- Contemporary Art Gallery
- Persimmon Blackridge

- Marcus Bocott
- Nora Randall
- Dale Dorn

For more information about the competition or information about homophobia please contact Wayne McNiven at 443-8434 or the Human Rights Coordinator-Rob Henderson at 871-7040.

Thank you to Smith & Hughes, VCC Safer Campus, Opus Framing & Art Supplies, Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium, Dr. Penny Thompson, Bayside Chiropractors, VCC Student Associations (KESA & CCSA), CUPE Local 15, and VCCFA for their donations.

## VCC Music Department Presents Fall Concerts

Advance tickets (\$10 general /\$8 students) are available through the music department.

**VCC Wind Ensemble (conductor, Jerry L. Domer) and New Music Ensemble (director, Peter Hannan).**

- Sunday, December 5, 2:30 pm, KEC Auditorium. Admission: Free

**Willan Choir performing Vivaldi's "Gloria" and seasonal selections from around the world (conductor, Patricia Plumley).**

- Friday, December 10, 8:00 pm, Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard Street

For more information contact: Anne Johnson at 871-7297

## Articulation agreement signed between University of Guelph and VCC



Nick Rubidge (seated left), from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and John Walsh (seated right), Associate Dean of Business and Director of the Hotel and Food Administration program at the University of Guelph are shown signing a formal articulation agreement allowing graduates of two-year diploma programs in Hospitality Management to be able to enter third year of a Bachelor of Commerce in Hotel and Food Administration, offered at the University of Guelph. Also shown in the photo (l-r) are Emma Head, VCC President Dale Dorn and Amy Tipton. Emma and Amy are students of the Hospitality Management program at VCC.

## 2000 Board Meetings

The College Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July), and the December date is subject to Board approval. The meetings alternate between King Edward and City Centre Campus. Please note the new starting time for the Public Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### Room 5025, KEC

- January 27
- February 24
- May 25
- June 22
- October 26
- November 23

### Room 240, CC

- March 23
- April 27
- August 24
- September 28

\*December 14, subject to Board approval, and location to be announced.

If you would like a copy of the Board Agenda, or need any information about the College Board, please call Vivienne Garrott at 871-7159.

## Books make great presents

Looking for a great way to do your holiday gift shopping? Check out the book display tables at the KEC campus near Second Cup (4th floor) for some great gift ideas.

New books from popular publishers are available at 70% off regular prices. You'll find cookbooks, kids' books, toys and more.

A percentage of the proceeds goes to VCC Library, so shop 'til you drop!



## City Centre Cafeteria and J.J.'s Dining Room closures: updated information

Please note that the submission on closures (November 12 issue) contained incorrect information about the cafeteria hours of operation. The following is the correct information.

### Cafeteria:

- Open Friday, December 17, December 20 and 21.
- Closing at 5:00 p.m. on December 20.
- Closing at 2:00 on December 21. Open for breakfast and lunch only on December 21.

### Cafeteria will reopen:

Tuesday, January 4, 2000 for lunch and dinner services

### J.J.'s Dining Room closes:

Friday, December 17, 1999 after dinner

service. Tuesday, January 4, 2000: classes are in session but there will be no lunch or dinner service.

### J.J.'s Dining Room will reopen:

Wednesday, January 5, 2000 for normal operations.

Thank you for your attention to these closures. We look forward to serving you in the coming year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2000!

## CUPE job postings now on the Web

Now you can view all CUPE Job Postings on the VCC web site. These postings will no longer be distributed through the campus mail systems.

To view job postings, go to the VCC web site: type [www.vcc.bc.ca](http://www.vcc.bc.ca) in your internet browser. This will take you to the VCC web page. Click on "Job Opportunities," and then click "Available Positions."

For your convenience, CUPE Job Postings will also be available at:

- KEC Mailroom
- CC Mailroom
- CUPE Bulletin Boards
- Job Posting Binder at CC
- Job Posting Biner at KEC

## It's that time again: Where to tune in for info on college closures

As winter approaches, it seems appropriate to remind everyone of procedures to be followed, in the event the College is closed due to heavy snowfall. Please advise your students accordingly.

For notice of **DAYTIME CLOSURE**, please listen to the 6:00 a.m. news on CKNW (98.4 FM).

For **EVENING CLOSURE**, we will make an announcement internally prior to 3:30 p.m. Please also listen to CKNW.

## Services for Students with Disabilities—what do we do?

There are many students with disabilities at VCC. Some disabilities are visible, others are hidden. The services we provide in the Counselling Department for students with disabilities include:

- information about the college
- getting to know the campus
- educational/career planning
- assisting with registration
- meeting instructors
- accessing equipment, if eligible

- accessing brailled, taped, or electronic texts, if eligible
- accessing interpreters for deaf or hard of hearing students/applicants
- assessing if the students needs/is eligible for a tutor
- accessing exam accommodation, if eligible
- providing counselling support
- workshops
- referral to community resources

Another aspect of the services we provide is information and collaborative problem solving for faculty and staff. This includes individual inquiries, visits to departments, and in-services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ron Kee at CC (443-8445, TTY 443-8323) or Karin Steichele at KEC (871-7206, TTY 871-7195).

## The Role of the Interpreter

Staff and students alike at Vancouver Community College are faced with interpreters in the classroom—often for the very first time. At Interpreting and Braille Services (IBS), education of the staff, faculty and other students is our main focus. IBS has undertaken several small projects in order to accomplish this objective (ie. meetings with faculty, meetings within the classroom, publishing articles, composing and distributing information packages, etc). However, this focus has recently moved in a new direction.

Last April, IBS conducted a survey of 36 Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing students which asked a variety of questions such as their education growing up, the number of languages they have learned, and their experience of using interpreters. We came across some startling numbers related to how many students had never or just recently experienced using an interpreter in the classroom. IBS' assumption that the students were well versed in our role as post-secondary interpreters was apparently just that, an assumption.

With this new knowledge, IBS realized that the focus also needed to include educating Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of

hearing students who use interpreting services. Our first step was to hold an orientation meeting on September 22 which gave the students a chance to meet other Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing students. It was also an opportunity for the students to meet the interpreting team and for each member of that team to give a short explanation of the various aspects of the interpreter's role. The meeting was a success. However, there were still some unanswered questions. We found that we could explain our role as post-secondary interpreters, but when it came to identifying in depth how our role differed from interpreters in the secondary school setting, we found that we didn't have all the answers.

On November 23, IBS hosted an event inviting interpreters from secondary and post-secondary settings to discuss our roles and differences. In some respects, our role as post-secondary interpreters can be similar to that of a teacher compared to an instructor. In high-school the students may still be quite dependent on the teacher. The students are just starting to learn about their responsibilities and trying to gain independence. Once they come to the post-secondary setting, there are new ex-

pectations of the students with regards to taking responsibility for their own learning and less dependence on the instructor. Similar changes occur for interpreters and their relationship with students. Look for an upcoming Connections article for insights on the discussions that took place.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Interpreting and Braille Services Dept. at 8583 or 7089.

*Tania Bailey and Michelle Decaire,  
Interpreting and Braille Services.*

## Employee Recognition Reception

Employees reaching the 20, 25 and 30-year milestone at VCC in 1999 were honoured at a reception on Thursday, November 19 at the KEC staff cafeteria. Food, memories, jokes and stories were shared, with a background provided by five talented VCC music students.

Dale Dorn thanked the faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to the College and presented the invitees with a gift in appreciation of their long service.

We are indebted to Human Resources for helping with the mailing list, Media Services for the snazzy invitations and the photography, City Centre Food Services for the catering, Continuing Education for organizing the flowers, the Music Department for the entertainment, the Book Store for purchasing the gifts, and Bill Miller and KEC's Beaver Foods for once again putting up with a disruption of the cafeteria. Thank you, everyone. We'll do it all again next year!

The photos will be ready soon, so watch for an announcement in Connections.

For those invited guests who were unable to attend, a gift is waiting for you in the administration offices on KEC's fifth floor. Please call Della at 871-7016.

## Education Council Schedule for 2000

**NOTE: All meetings are scheduled from 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

DATE	CAMPUS	LOCATION
Tuesday, January 11	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, February 1	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, March 7	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, April 4	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, May 2	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, June 6	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, July 4	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, August 1	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, September 5	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, October 3	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, November 7	King Edward Campus	Room 5025
Tuesday, December 5	King Edward Campus	Room 5025

## Get your tickets soon for the VCC Holiday Buffet

The plans for the Holiday Buffet on December 10, 1999 are now finalized and tickets are selling quickly.

On Friday, December 10, the Culinary Arts Department will transform the lower cafeteria at the City Centre campus into a smorgasbord of seasonal delights (see menu elsewhere). This extensive buffet will be complemented by no-host bar.

The evening promises to offer a number of highlights, including: the buffet provided by the students and faculty of the Culinary Arts department; seasonal music provided by carollers; a Music Department brass ensemble; silent auction items for that perfect gift, ranging from restaurant meals to ski tickets to hotel stays; a chance to relax and celebrate the holiday season with VCC friends.

Tickets are available at the book stores at both campuses and at the Continuing Education office and J.J.'s restaurant at City Centre. Net proceeds from this event will go towards the J.J.'s renovation.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., the silent auction begins at 6:00 and the buffet begins at 7:00 p.m.

## BUFFET MENU

### Appetizers

- An Array of Freshly Baked Breads & Rolls
- Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese Spread
- A Variety of Crisp Raw Vegetables with Sour Cream & Dill Dip
- Pickles, Olives & Assorted Relishes
- Italian Style Antipasto with a Selection of Crackers
- Iced Pacific Shrimps with Cocktail Sauce
- Marinated Mussels

### Salads

- Mixed Greens with a Choice of Dressings
- Tomato & Red Onion Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Potato Salad with Eggs, Bacon & Pickles
- Marinated Mediterranean Vegetable Salad
- Creamy Cabbage Slaw with Honey & Pineapple Dressing
- Penne Pasta Salad with Sun Dried Tomato & Garlic Vinaigrette
- French Green Bean & Shallot Salad with Lemon-Lime Vinaigrette

### Cold Platters

- Salmon Fillets stuffed with Spinach & Scallop Mousseline with Creamy Herbed Mayonnaise
- Chilled Slices of Slow Roasted Garlic Roast Beef & European Style Cold Cuts with Dijon Mustard Sauce
- Veal and Pork Pate en Croute
- Chicken Gallantines with Cumberland Sauce

### Main Courses

- Traditional Roast Turkey with Sausage & Sage Stuffing
- Baked Virginia Ham with Brown Sugar & Spice Glaze
- Fanfare of Pacific Seafood with Tomatoes, Herbs & Cream
- French Canadian Meat Pie
- Saffron Rice Pilaf
- Roasted Garlic & Goat Cheese
- Mashed Potatoes
- Honey Glazed Carrots
- Brussels Sprouts with Pecans

### Desserts

- Assorted Christmas Cakes, Cookies & Pastries (Stollen, Shortbread, Minced-meat Pies, Fruit cake etc.)
- Warm Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

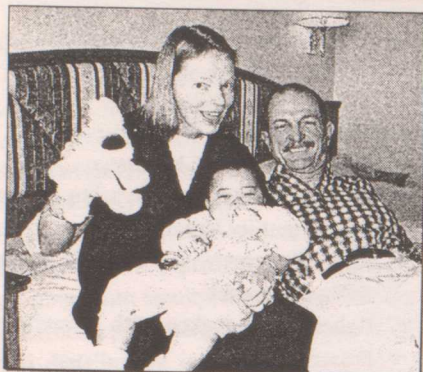
- Yule Logs
- Minted Chocolate Mousse
- Rum & Cinnamon Bavarian Cream with Chantilly Cream
- Apple Squares with Streusel Topping & Vanilla Sauce
- Baked Cheesecakes with Strawberry Preserves
- Lemon Flans with Raspberry Sauce
- Assortment of Sliced Melons & Fresh Fruits

## A Sobering Thought .. ICBC's Get Home Safe Guide to the Holidays

Joy to the World . . . Christmas is fast approaching! Most holiday festivities will include lots of eggnog and good spirits - hence VCC and ICBC's GET HOME SAFE campaign.

On November 30 and December 1, ICBC will visit VCC to show how to come home for the holidays safely. The Get Home Safe Program raises awareness for alternatives to drinking and driving. City Centre will host the event on November 30. Be on the lookout for our Hospitality Management Students, who will be blending and mixing mocktail samplers. King Edward will have the Vancouver Police Department on campus, and both events will include lots of freebies for staff and students. Watch for posters around campus and get involved in looking out for someone's life!

## Announcements



### Ted and Shannon Hougham proud parents of a new daughter

Ted and Shannon Hougham would like to announce the arrival of their new daughter, Katjia Girvan Hougham, known as Jia. We became a family in Guangzhou, China on November 1 and spent the first ten days together doing official paper work and sight seeing in Guangzhou and Beijing. We climbed the Great Wall together and became "lucky heros." We arrived back in Canada on the 10th.

One translation of Jia's name is "return home of triumphant Asian girl." We kind of like the tone of that one. Katjia is big, strong, healthy and strong-minded. Our lives have changed completely and we are very happy.

Thanks to everyone in the VCC community who have been so supportive during this process. Your help has been invaluable.

*Ted Hougham, CCA Department*

### Mexico/Chile and Asia Pacific Awards

Are you a student planning to study, or a faculty/staff member planning to work for a minimum of six weeks in a post-secondary institution in either Asia, Mexico or Chile? If you are interested in developing your international knowledge, skills and

abilities, as well as forging friendships and working relationships with people from Mexico, Chile or the Asia Pacific region, you could qualify for a B.C. *International Grant* or a B.C. *Asia Pacific Award*.

Deadlines: faculty/staff: December 1; students: February 1. For application forms with attached information, contact Cecily May at 871-7178 voicemail or email [cmay@vcc.bc.ca](mailto:cmay@vcc.bc.ca). Instructors, please tell your students of this opportunity.

### Did you attend the United Way play "sponsor this?"

If so, please note: the audience member who objected to the play's content was part of the play. Connie Gibbs, Director of Continuing Education, says she is not normally considered to be uptight or humourless, except by her teenage daughters from time to time.

### A Foundation by any other name

At its Annual General Meeting in June the Board of Directors of the VCC Educational Foundation approved a motion "...that the Constitution of the Society be altered by changing the name of the Society from "VCC Educational Foundation" to "Vancouver Community College Foundation."

### CC Bookstore now has jewellery

We have the privilege of carrying jewellery designed by graduates of the Jewellery program at City Centre. Stop in to see the one-of-a-kind rings, necklaces and pins.

We have four artists displaying their work so far.

The pieces are priced by the artist and they are very pleased to be the first chosen. Remember ... Christmas is coming.



### Music alumni to perform at Hot Jazz Club

On January 7, 2000 the Hot Jazz Club (2120 Main Street) presents the *Michaela Richards Quartet*, performing originals by B.C. composers, in addition to standard repertoire.

Featuring the warm, rich voice of Michaela Richards, backed by pianist Dorothy Dittrich, bassist Twyla Brooks and drummer Jenny Beech. These young musicians met as award-winning students of the Vancouver Community College Jazz Studies Program, and are a fabulous combination. This is a show you won't want to miss.

### The envelopes, please . . .

The KEC Mailroom desperately needs more interoffice envelopes. If you can spare some, please let Helen in the Mailroom know (7026), or deliver them to the Mailroom. Thanks very much.

### Notice: VCC Planning Document

The Summary of the October Board Meeting in the last edition of Connections announced Board approval of the Planning Document. If you have not seen the document and would like to receive a copy, please call Sarah Lucas at local 7158 or Vivienne Garrott at local 7159.

## Celebrate Our Differences

### Racial Discrimination as told through Images and Stories

Racial discrimination (racism) is when someone is bothering, threatening or treating a person unfairly because of the colour of their skin, ethnic or cultural background, religion or the country that they come from. Some people may experience racial discrimination everyday, while others may experience it in specific situations. Racial discrimination is sometimes experienced in restaurants, government offices, schools, and at work—whether it is in hiring, firing, or the general treatment someone receives. People sometimes also experience racism when renting or buying a house or other type of property, and may be exposed to racist material when reading the newspaper, posters, signs or other written messages. Sometimes the discrimination is done on purpose, while other times it is more subtle and may even be done by accident. Regardless of the intent, racial discrimination is unfair, hurtful and illegal.

*Racial Discrimination as told through Images and Stories* is an opportunity for people who have experienced racism to share their experiences through images or stories and to have these displayed so others might learn from them.

Since this event is planned in recognition of the "International Day for the Elimination of Racism" it will be held from **March 20-24, 2000**.

Students and employees of Vancouver Community College are encouraged to participate by writing a short story (two pages or less) or creating an image such as a drawing or painting, which describes or illustrates a situation in which they experienced racism. In addition to describing the experience of racism, the stories should identify what was done to positively deal with the situation, or what could have been done to deal with the situation. Submissions may be made by individuals or by groups of people. All of the stories and

images will be displayed on panels at VCC (both campuses) and will be available for the college community to view.

All entries will be eligible for a draw to win one of six certificates valued at \$100 each. The certificates are redeemable towards educational expenses at VCC (e.g. tuition fees & books).

Entries are to be given to the college's Human Rights Coordinator, Rob Henderson, who has offices in the counselling departments at both campuses. **Entries must be submitted by March 10, 2000.** For the purpose of awarding prizes, the entries need to identify the name and contact information of the person who submits the story or image. Names do not need to be included when the story or image is displayed.

Questions regarding this event can be directed to:

- Rob Henderson at 871-7040 or 443-8310
- Robert Kiyoshk at 871-7020
- Brenda Andrews at 871-7059 or 443-8638

## Web site access for the visually disabled

Copyright 1999  
Dana H. Shultz

Have you thought about how the visually disabled might perceive your web site? Until recently, I surely had not. The visually disabled can use devices called screen readers, which convert the words on the screen into spoken form so the user can hear them.

Screen readers work well with straightforward text, such as e-mail messages and word processing documents. web sites, on the other hand, can cause problems.

### Creating Confusion

Just think about the visually-oriented capabilities that web sites include nowadays. Displays are divided into frames that

scroll independently. Tables appear everywhere. Graphics abound. These features, and more, confuse screen readers.

In May, the World Wide Web Consortium issued Version 1.0 of its Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ([www.w3.org/WAI/GL/](http://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/)). The guidelines explain how web site authors and designers can make web content accessible to people with disabilities.

If you are interested to know how well your web site complies with the guidelines, go to the Center for Applied Special Technology web site ([www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org)). CAST provides a free service called Bobby that analyzes web pages for compliance with the W3C guidelines. Bobby also provides additional recommendations

regarding accessibility and identifies browser incompatibility problems.

I submitted the home pages for my two web sites to Bobby, which approved the first but not the second. The second home page failed because I had included two images without alternative text ("alt=" tag).

The images are not particularly significant—one is a logo, the other is a decorative photo. Nevertheless, Bobby made a point that I had not considered: Whereas sighted users immediately understand the significance of the graphics, visually disabled users do not have a clue—they just know that they cannot perceive those graphics.

## 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

VANCOUVER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



KING EDWARD CAMPUS  
1155 East Broadway  
Box 24620, Station "F"  
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T9

CITY CENTRE CAMPUS  
250 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1S9

# classifieds

## HOUSING



### Apartment sublet for fall 1999 into 2000

Suite in character building at English Bay.  
One block from beach and one block from  
Stanley Park. Phone 669-2029.

## Upcoming Program Info Session

DIGITAL  
MULTIMEDIA  
TECHNOLOGY  
Tuesday, December 7  
7:00 p.m.  
Room 721, CC

## FOR SALE



### 1996 Pontiac Sunfire

Four door, manual transmission. Excellent  
condition. 10CD player, new front tires.  
Brakes and muffler done recently. Driven  
94,000 kms. \$9,900 OBO. Call Azim at  
7440.

### 1992 F150 truck

Red, extra cab, five speed manual, one  
owner, mint condition, must see to appre-  
ciate. Only 118,000 kms. \$9800. Phone  
Ian at 984-7514.

### O Christmas Tree

Artificial Christmas tree for sale. 6 1/2 feet  
tall, includes 2-foot tree. Used only once.  
\$70. Contact Angela Abbinante, Counsel-  
ling Department, 443-8441.

## Counsellors' Corner

### WORKSHOPS

December "Skills for Success" workshops  
offered for students at KEC on Thursdays  
in Room 4001 at 10:30 - 12 noon:

*December 2: Anger Management*

*December 9: Job Search*

For a list of workshops and learning ac-  
tivities offered in partnership with the  
Learning Centers and Library, please con-  
tact Wayne Avery at City Centre Campus,  
local 8449, or Thorne Husband at King  
Edward Campus, local 7203.

### STUDENT COMPUTERS

Three computer workstations for students  
wishing to do career and educational re-  
search are located in the KEC Counselling  
Resource Centre. These computers include  
access to the National Job Bank.

## EDITOR, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

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## UPCOMING PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Dec 10

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the filename); **OR**
3. through the VCC Connections On-  
line website. Go to "Submit Your Ar-  
ticle" and follow the directions.
4. text only on an IBM-formatted disk,  
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