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# INTERCOM



THE NEWS & VIEWS LETTER ABOUT PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS AT VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## College Council elects new chairman

The inaugural meeting of the new college council was held February 22. New is perhaps not the exact word for this year's college council as the faces are all the same with the exception of Lisa Hobbs who has departed for Ottawa. The provincial government had not named a replacement for her at the time of the inaugural meeting.

Elected chairman of this year's council, following the announcement that outgoing chairman Jim Kennedy would not seek re-election, was J. C. Melvin Scott.

Presently serving his third term as a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointee to College Council, Mr. Scott is well known to the College having previously served eight years as a trustee of the Vancouver School Board and as Chairman of the Vancouver Community College Council in 1969. Mr. Scott officiated at the turning of the first sod at Langara. In 1975 Mr. Scott served as a member of the Public Inquiry Commission which examined the affairs of this college.

A graduate of U.B.C. in Commerce and Economics, Mr. Scott is today General Manager of Yorkshire Insurance Managers Ltd. and a Director of Yorkshire Trust. Following his election as chairman, Mr. Scott offered Intercom some insight into his views of education and community colleges. He began by emphasizing that he is a strong believer in the comparative cost-benefit



approach to management.

"Any Community College, particularly Vancouver Community College, the oldest and largest in B.C., should and must justify the cost of its operation in terms of both the quality and the relevancy of the educational opportunity it offers to the community it serves.

"As long as it does so, it will command the respect not only of its students and staff but of the taxpayers of the community who support it.

"Moreover, in so doing it will assist its students achieve success both for themselves and for the society in which they live.

"All community colleges have a very real role to serve in the educational hierarchy. To serve it effectively they must work at upgrading the social and economic value, in terms of acceptance, of a college diploma.

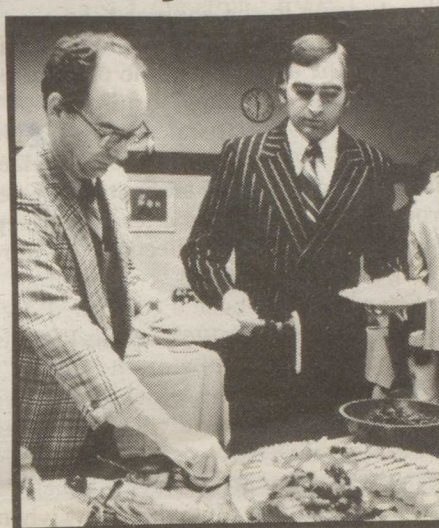
"They (community colleges) should work at achieving the same degree of acceptance B.C.I.T has had of its diploma."

## V.V.I.'s St. Patrick's Day feast — a treat for the eyes and mouth

A spectacular display of culinary delights greeted the eye on St. Patrick's Day when the student chefs of the Vancouver Vocational Institute prepared a sumptuous buffet to commemorate the occasion.

Many special guests were on hand to sample some of the delectable dishes which included goodies like King Crab Lorenzo, Melton Mowbray Pie Cumberland, York Ham Tropicana, Duckling Mandarin and Baron of Beef. Two sittings were held to accommodate all the people wishing to partake in the buffet.

Both the students and instructors in the Food Trades Department deserve a round of applause for the work they did in making the buffet so special.



V.C.C. Falcons won the men's basketball competition at the 4-West Interprovincial Championships in Brandon, Manitoba, and advanced to the Canadian Community College finals, which were held March 24th in Montreal. Above, V.C.C. Principal Tony Manera is seen presenting a trophy to two members of the Falcons, after the team captured their fifth straight Totem Conference Basketball Championship at Langara.



## K.E.C. students benefit from instructor's hobby

By Rita Shelley

If you happen to be at Figure Head Point in Stanley Park at 11 p.m. some evening and see a group of people in hip waders with lamps and a 25 foot seine net, it will probably be K.E.C.'s Peter Ballin and his biology class collecting specimens in the inter-tidal zone.

Why the strange hour?  
It's low tide of course.

The specimens they collect will go into a six foot long tank Peter has had made to order for his class. It is about five times larger than the old one, said Peter, but more important, the system is more stable in a larger tank. "In a small tank if something goes wrong, like the water gets too warm or turns too acid," explained Peter, "it will likely affect everything in the tank. In a larger tank like the one we have now, problems are more easily absorbed." The undergravel filter system in the new tank was built by the students in the shop at K.E.C.

Peter finds the tank useful for illustrating specific examples in Bio 061 (Introduction to Ecology) and Bio 071 (Evolution of Natural History). He needed the larger tank to accommodate all the specimens the students can't get from tidal pools — the ones from deep waters, which Peter collects while pursuing a favorite hobby — scuba diving.

Peter, who has been a confirmed diving enthusiast since 1967, recalls that his career almost ended before it began. "I nearly drowned in three inches of water the first time I tried diving. I'd never used a snorkel before and had always seen the ocean as an outsider — usually a seasick one at that. But what I saw when I looked underneath has hooked me on diving ever since." Peter said some friends urged him to try it while he was an undergrad at the University of California. After the first look, he said, he immediately went out and enrolled in a SCUBA diving course. "I still got seasick the first few weeks while I was swimming," said Peter, "as you had to swim out over some very big swells. Once



you're below the surface, you never feel sick.

"You really see a lot underwater," explains Peter. "It's so different from land. When you walk through a forest you know there are millions of organisms there, but you only see a few of them with the naked eye. Underwater you see everything. It's very crowded with little things. It's a real zoo."

Peter says the waters around Vancouver are excellent for SCUBA diving. He usually goes diving off White Cliff Park, near Horseshoe Bay. The best diving, he says though, is only accessible by boat — Sechart, the Gulf Islands and the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

The main problem with diving in these waters, says Peter, is staying warm. "With a wet suit on you can stay down for one hour in a depth of 40 to 50 feet. The deeper you go the colder it gets because the pressure compresses the wet suit providing less insulation."

Peter usually carries lightweight bottles and bags for collecting specimens while he dives. He also keeps a manual

in his truck for identifying his finds. His truck is also equipped with a CB radio, just in case of emergencies.

Peter often collects mussels along the shore on his trips to feed the fish in the tank. He keeps them in the freezer and defrosts them as needed. The mussels supplement the live brine shrimps purchased from a nearby pet shop.

"The class is learning a valuable lesson in ecology right now," explains Peter. "On our last field trip to Ucluelet, they collected quite a few sea stars. Right now the sea stars are eating everything in the tank, even things they wouldn't normally eat in nature. They're out of balance, so they're upsetting the whole environment. We'll have to reduce the concentration of sea stars until the proper relationship is restored," said Peter.

Learning how to SCUBA dive has obviously been a worthwhile experience for Peter and especially for his students, who have two words to describe their wet-suited instructor — Just Great!

## Notes from College Council

The inaugural meeting of the 1978 college council was held February 22 at the Council Chambers in the Regional Offices. The agenda of the meeting was brief and the highlights are as follows:

### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

As noted elsewhere J. M. Kennedy, chairman of council for the past two years, reiterated his intention not to permit his name to stand for re-election to a third term as chairman. Councillors Brown and Scott were nominated and following a ballot Councillor Scott was declared the new chairman of college council.

After taking the chair Councillor Scott thanked Councillor Kennedy for his service as Chairman for two years. He then welcomed Mr. Manera to his first meeting as college principal and wished him well in building Vancouver Community College into an even greater college than it is at present.

### ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillors Baker and Brown were nominated for the position of vice-chairman and following a ballot Councillor Brown was declared vice-chairman of council for 1978.

### DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council will continue to meet as before on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Meetings will be held at the Council Chambers on the sixth floor 675 West Hastings until further notice as space is not available at either Langara or King Edward Campus to hold council meetings on the rotating basis used in the first half of 1977.

### COUNCIL LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES

The following are the liaison responsibilities for members of council for the coming year. Councillor Baker, King Edward Campus; Councillor Brown, Vancouver Vocational Institute; Councillor Fenwick, Community Education Services; Councillor Kennedy, British Columbia Association of Colleges and the Management Advisory Council; Councillor Scott, Langara (pro tem until appointment of fourth Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointee).

### K.E.C. MUSIC

Councillor Baker inquired about the status of the search for space for the K.E.C. Music Program.

Dr. Denholm reviewed his latest conversations with the Deputy Minister concerning the replacement of "lost educational space".

Councillor Baker indicated it seemed a shame that the K.E.C. Music program could not be put together with the Community Music School as the community school space was busy during much of the day but should be available during the evening.

Councillor Kennedy pointed out that council had been through the exercise last June or July and had at that time a letter from the community music school that said "No thanks, we don't wish to share space with you". He suggested that before council opened it up again they should know whether there was any new information which might alter the decision council had previously made.

Dr. Denholm suggested that there was very little which could be done to influence the Ministry at this time and the College was in danger of finding ourselves twelve or twenty-four months on the road still without satisfactory space for Adult Basic Education, Pharmacy Assistant and other programs that need it — such as Music.

Chairman Scott concluded there was little to be done at this stage but to leave it (the original plan) to be worked on by Ministry officials.

Like many people at the Vancouver Vocational Institute, student Sharon Hutchinson is working hard to complete her chosen program and get out and join the work force.

However, two things make Sharon's case special. First, she enrolled in the welding program and second, she is doing this at 37 years of age. Sharon's not letting her age or the fact that she is a woman deter her in any way. She's determined to become a welder and waited two years for the chance to take the course at the V.V.I.

This determination has helped her cope with life and the many problems that have arisen since a divorce almost 9 years ago. She has been on welfare for many years trying to support herself and her 3 children. Determined to get off welfare and find work that would enable her to provide a good living for her family of one boy, 14, and two girls, 13 & 9, she went to a Manpower pre-employment orientation class where the counsellors talked about what jobs were available and how to go about getting them. Sharon admits she is more adept at fixing things than doing office work, so she looked at jobs traditionally held by men. "After all," she said, "there are few jobs for women that would enable me to support my children comfortably."

The welding description caught her eye and after a chat with a counsellor, who confirmed that women can become welders, she decided to look into the possibilities. Sharon first enrolled in a night school welding class to get the feel of the work and did not fare badly in the course. Next came signing up with Man-

## She doesn't mind getting dirty — after all it's part of the job



power to take the program at the V.V.I., then came the wait. After two years she finally made it and has now completed 8 months of the 10 month course.

Sharon is very enthusiastic about her program. "It kind of gives me a lift being around young people and the guys really are very nice," she said. "They tend to treat me like one of the fellows. I haven't had any problems getting along with any

of them, Sharon said, "in fact, a bunch of guys are probably a lot easier to get along with than the same number of women. They treat you as an equal. Of course there is quite a bit of swearing, but after awhile it just goes over your head."

Sharon is doing fairly well in her class — not the best, she says, but not the worst either.

Her children are very proud of their mum, especially her boy, who likes to tell other welders he meets that his mum is going to be a welder too. "In fact, says Sharon," almost everyone the children talk to are told about me and my course, including the postman. My boy wants to follow in my footsteps and plans to take a course when he gets out of school."

Sharon is looking forward to starting work, as she really likes what she's doing and is anxious to improve her family's living conditions. She is confident she will be able to handle her job as successfully as a man, and says she probably won't have to lift anything too heavy. "Even if I have to do some heavy work," she says, "I believe your body can adjust physically to what is demanded of it."

"When I first started my welding course I went home dead tired every night. All I wanted to do was crawl into bed," she said. "Now I'm in good condition. It can be quite a dirty job at times," Sharon explained, "but I don't mind going home dirty. It shows me I've accomplished something today."

Sharon said that it took her a long time to get on her feet after the divorce, but says she has gained a new confidence in herself. "We're finally on our way up again," she said, "and there will be no more empty cupboards or going without if I can help it."

Sharon said learning to be her own person is the most important lesson she learned, but admits she couldn't have accomplished what she has without all the help and support she has received from various agencies and a handful of people at the V.V.I.

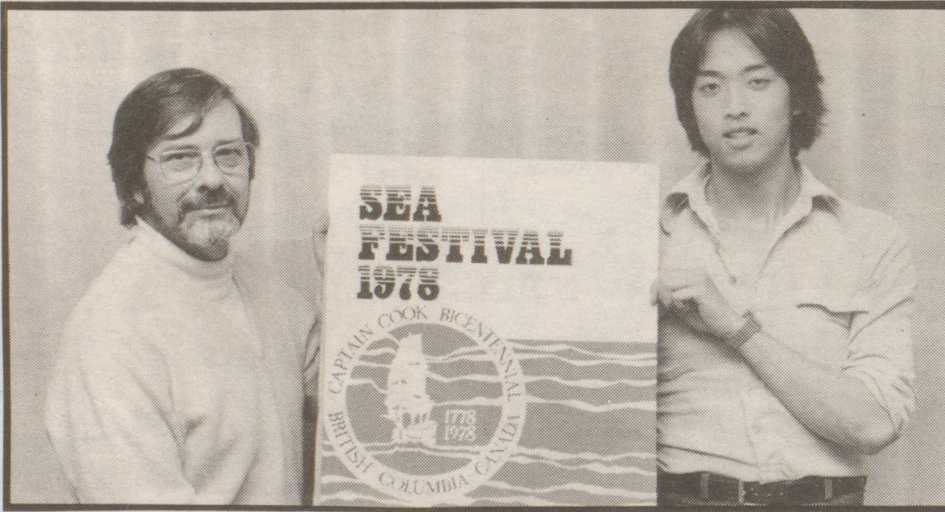
## Student wins \$200 in poster contest

This year's Sea Festival is going to be a little more special for Langara Art in Merchandising student Sid Cho.

His poster was awarded first place in the recent Vancouver Sea Festival Student Poster Design Competition, sponsored by the Vancouver Jaycees and the Graphic Designers of Canada. His design will be the official poster for the festival and will be distributed throughout the Lower Mainland for display in store fronts and public areas. For his prize winning effort he took home \$200.

Another Langara student — Monika Schmidt took third place and won dinner for two at either a Keg Restaurant or the English Bay Cafe. Second place went to the Vancouver School of Art, while Douglas College took fourth.

The contest was open to all students



Art in Merchandising student Sid Cho displays his prize winning Vancouver Sea Festival poster. With Sid is his instructor Bob Nabours.

enrolled in art or design programs at universities or colleges in Greater Vancouver. Almost half of Langara's Art in Merchandising second year students participated in the contest. The Vancouver Sea Festival is an annual event involving the greater Vancouver com-

munity and the aim of the poster is primarily to create an interest and active participation of the community in a people oriented fun festival. In designing their posters, the students had to incorporate both the Sea Festival logo and the Captain Cook Bicentennial logo.

## Langara hosts Impaired Driving Program

If you're ever charged with drunk driving you might just end up at our own Langara Campus.

Beginning this month Langara will be operating a special program for impaired drivers, once a week for four weeks at a time. Each session will be two to two and a half hours long.

Langara got involved in the program when Stan Smith from Corrections called up C.E.S.'s Lawrence Fast and asked if they would be interested in running an Impaired Driving Program. Fast

agreed and after numerous meetings, a tentative program outline was formed.

During the four week course participants will see shock films and the effects of alcohol on the driver and will talk about alcohol in general and the problems it causes both on and off the road. During the final session participants will be asked to do a summary to assess change of attitude, if any.

One problem coordinators of the program have been having is in acquiring resource people. According to one

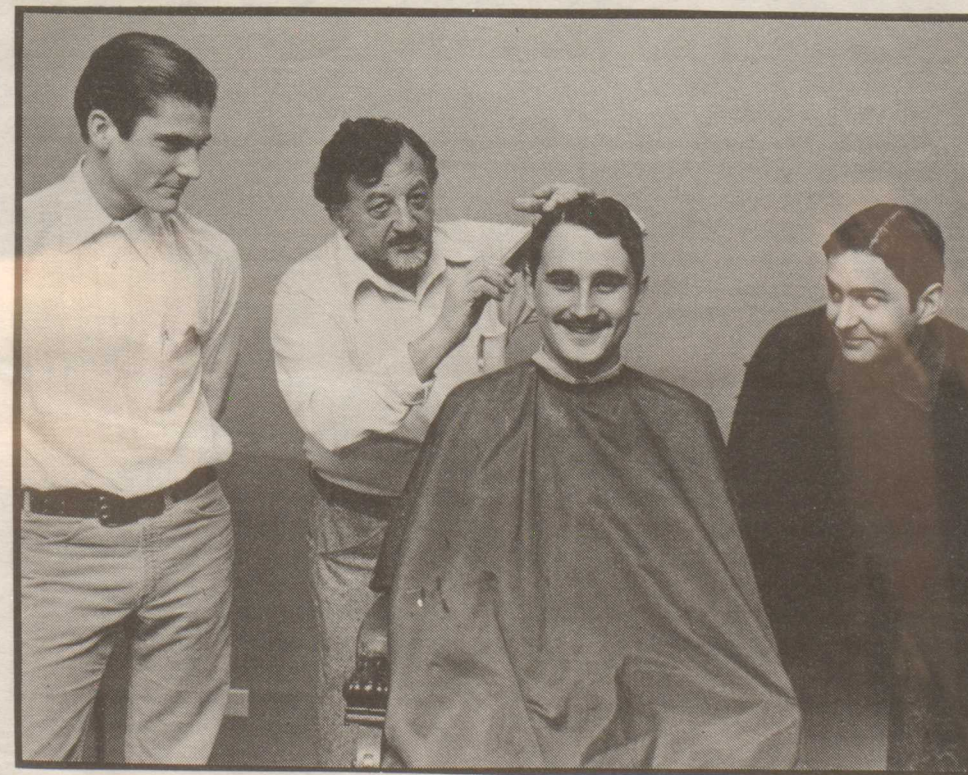
instructor, there are so many programs running that we're having to fight over resource people.

Coordinators did manage to line up a group of people but plans had to be altered due to the transit strike. In fact the first course scheduled to begin March 14, had to be cancelled. None of the participants had valid drivers licenses, so no buses — no class.

Barring any further action by the bus drivers, classes should run on schedule from now on.



Hair today, gone tomorrow should have been the motto for Langara theatre Arts students Earl Kline, Steven Aberle and Peter Yunker, preparing to have their hair cut by Al Prince for their roles in the 30's play Blithe Spirits, a recent Studio 58 production. Above, the Dry Look — below, the Wet Look of the 30's.



## Dancing & exercise help keep Rita fit

If you ask most people what they wear after a long hard day at work, the majority will reply: jeans, something long and slinky or old and comfortable. Ask K.E.C.'s Rita Shelley what she does after a long day and ten-to-one she'll say, "tights and a leotard" — the uniform of a self-confessed keep fit nut!

Keeping fit and active is very important to Rita. She walks to work regularly and plays racquetball whenever she can find the time, and has taken countless Keep Fit classes at the Y. For the past month, Rita has been substituting for a teacher in a Keep Fit class, sponsored by our own C.E.S., held in York House School. A job which she has enjoyed immensely. She is also presently enrolled in ballet classes at Mara McBirney Ballet School.

Exercising is a vital part of Rita's day. It not only keeps her more alert and productive in her job as administrative clerk, but also keeps her body fit and limber for her first love — dancing. Ballet lessons at seven years of age, followed at nine by lessons in modern dance, whet her appetite for dancing, but she decided not to pursue a career in the field. While living in New York City, she took yoga lessons and then later taught Keep Fit



classes at the Y.

More recently she has taken a disco dance course, ballroom dancing and a six month jazz course at Kitsilano Community Centre. She has also spent a year studying modern jazz with Vancouver's Prism Dance Centre. Beginning April 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Kitsilano Secondary School, she will be teaching a disco dance course for adults, sponsored by the Vancouver School Board.



Food Services representative Terry Parr, left, recently presented K.E.C. with a cheque for \$500 for scholarships and bursaries. Above, Rita Shelley and Doug Brown accept the money on behalf of the campus.



## Langara students participate in exchange program

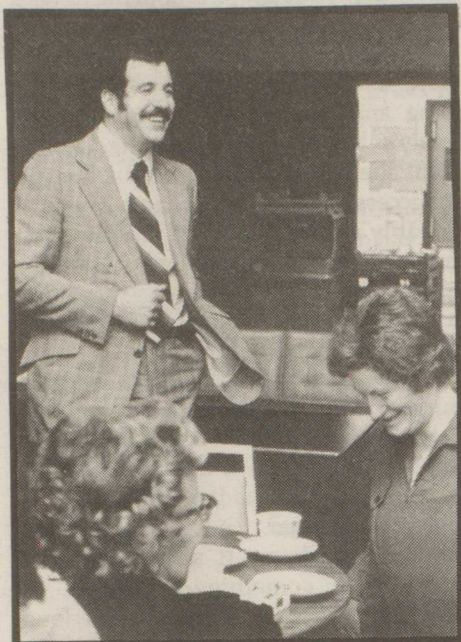
Students from V.C.C.'s Langara Campus recently participated in an exchange program with 18 students from Montreal's Dawson College.

The exchange was sponsored by the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada as part of its National Youth Exchange Program entitled, Open House Canada.

The visiting students were billeted at homes of the 18 Langara students participating in the program, who had the favour returned when they visited Montreal March 12 to 19.

One of the pre-requisites for participation in Open House Canada is that activities should involve visitors in community life, as well as family life, including the history and geography of the area, its traditions and heritage and its cultural, social and political composition. While in Vancouver the Dawson students visited numerous industrial and recreation areas and ferried to Victoria where they toured the Parliament Buildings.

The Dawson College students had nothing but good to say about their visit and their hosts, and left for Montreal with a better understanding of what life is like in Vancouver.

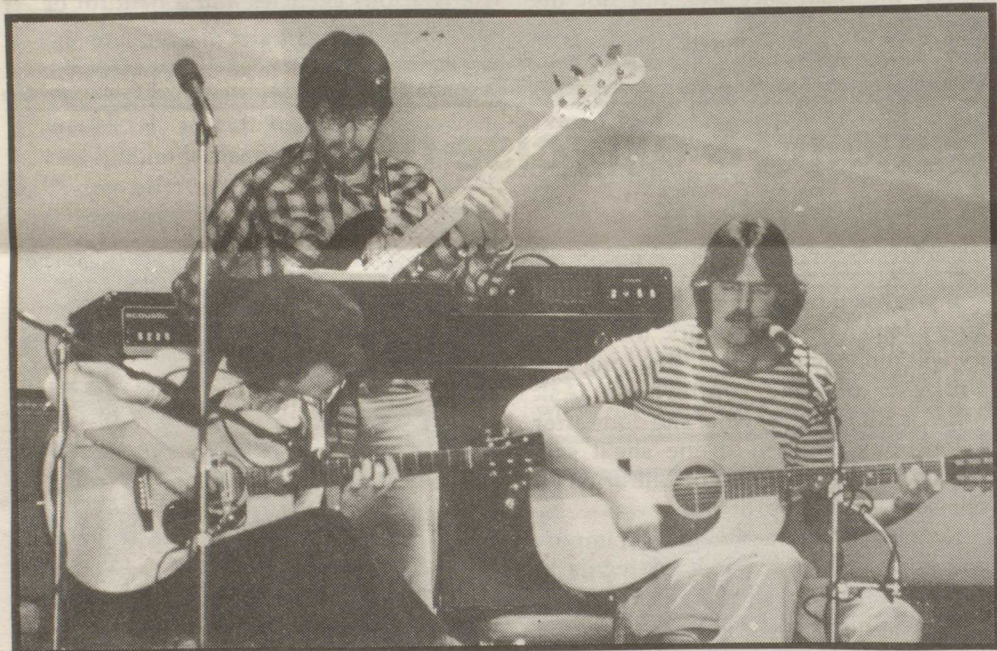


M.L.A. for Vancouver South, Stephen Rogers, attended a special buffet supper for the Dawson exchange students, hosted by Langara's Faculty Association.

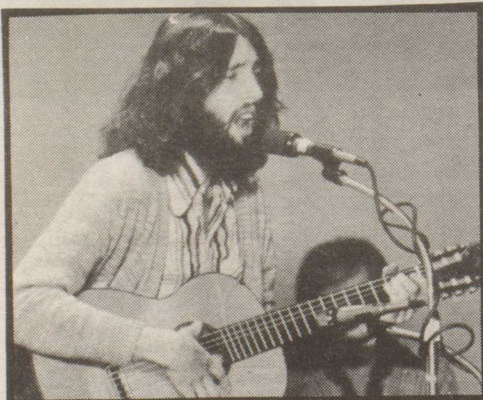


Dawson College students with Langara instructor Betty Stubbs got a lesson in how to use chopsticks when they visited Deans Way Lam Restaurant, the home of the V.V.I.'s Gourmet Chinese Cooking Program.

## V.C.C. Music Festival — a success!



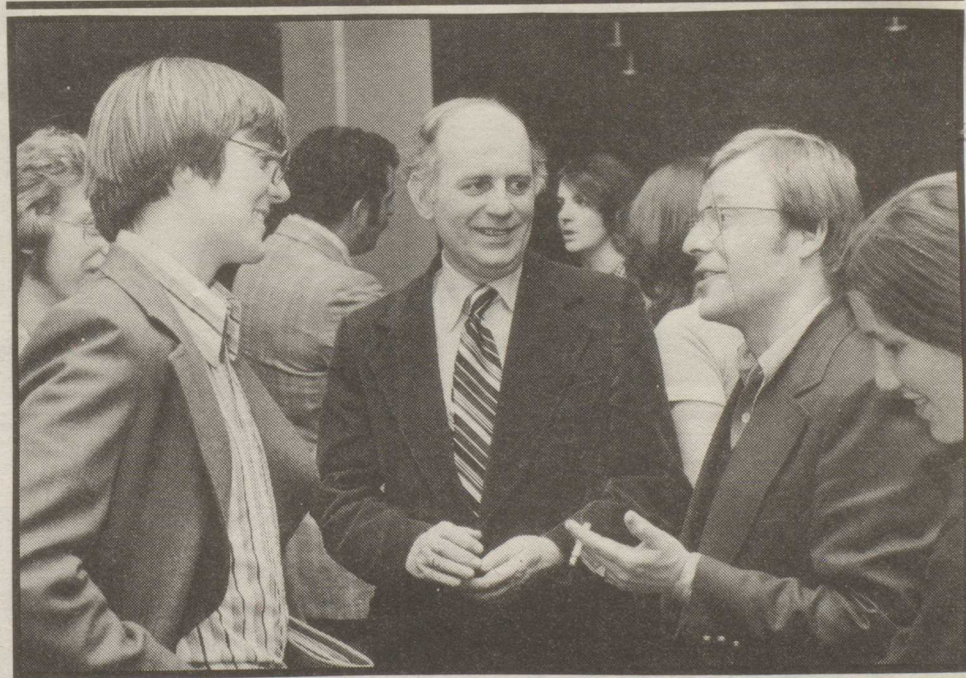
V.C.C. Music students perform at a Coffee House held in Langara's Faculty Lounge as part of this year's fourth annual Spring Festival of Music. The night was dedicated to jazz, folk and pop music.



Fine performances by the V.C.C. Festival Orchestra, V.C.C. Choir and special guests, the Vancouver Chamber Choir, highlighted the third night of the Music Festival, which was held in Langara's gymnasium.



Escort for the Dawson College students, Dr. Al Valteau, right, chats with a couple of his charges at Deans Restaurant.



Langara exchange student Ross Mullen, left, chats with George Kallis and Barry Brill at the Faculty Association's supper.



Langara students bound for Montreal take a minute to pose for a group picture.