

# Let's take care of one another the United Way

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VCC

## INTERCOM

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



## Board Takes Middle Ground in Budget Exercise

There was standing room only in the board chambers at central administration the evening of October 28 when more than 80 people crowded in as the Vancouver Community College Board debated its response to a Ministry of Education budget planning exercise where the college was asked to outline the impact if funds were frozen at the '81-'82 dollar level.

Feelings ran high during the four hour meeting, with the ten board members present and the audience of instructors, staff, students and community representatives generally united in their belief that all VCC programs met community needs and the college's operations were already highly cost efficient, with VCC providing 29 percent of the instruction in the province with only 18 percent of the funds. However, they were divided over what response to give the Ministry of Education.

At the end of the evening, after nine individuals had made submissions and members had talked the issue through at length, the board adopted a compromise motion calling for a letter to go to Education Minister Brian Smith outlining the general impact of a freeze on the college. The motion rested on middle ground, between the position of telling the minister VCC simply had no excess to cut and the position of fingering particular programs or jobs that possibly could be curtailed or eliminated.

The points the board wanted made to the minister were:

- A funding freeze at VCC would create a greater reduction in educational services than at any other college in the province. This is because VCC's costs for delivering a unit of instruction are less than half the provincial average. We estimate a funding freeze would require a cutback of more than 1,400,000 students contact hours. This is a greater reduction than the total instruction delivered by the five smallest institutions in B.C. Reductions at VCC would be equivalent to closing the five smallest colleges in the system. It has been said before, there is nothing more inequitable than the equal treatment of unequals. This maxim certainly applies in this instance.
- Several new institutions have been created in the past few years. This is inconsistent with a funding freeze. If funds are scarce, the same increment in instruction could have been delivered by already existing institutions.
- Both the Ministries of Education and Labour acknowledge B.C. is caught in a shortage of skilled tradespeople. New space in the Lower Mainland will soon be available and much of the justification for creating it was to provide this training. To cutback just as new space is coming available seems inconsistent with combating the shortage.
- The Ministry of Universities has advised B.C. universities they must be more selective in the students they take in and the programs they offer, particularly because colleges offer a wide range of programs to students who may not be suited to university studies. While acknow-

ledgement that colleges provide a meaningful alternative to universities is welcome, a funding freeze on colleges seems inconsistent with the advice given universities.

- There is scope for rationalization of programs and institutional mandates, particularly in the Lower Mainland. The multi-college districts, as are common in the U.S., could reduce administrative costs without necessitating a freeze that would drastically reduce instruction.
- Colleges obviously do not exist to provide their employees with a means of livelihood. However, the ability of a college to deliver high quality instruction depends on attracting and keeping well qualified instructors and staff. An exercise such as this one, involving the reduction of a large number of positions, generates anxiety and complicates the delicate task of maintaining a productive learning environment for students. This cost can't be quantified, but it is nonetheless real.
- VCC has made a number of suggestions to the Ministry of Education designed to achieve more productive use of available funding. These cover the need for more lead time to ensure intelligent planning, greater flexibility to allocate funds internally and simpler budget procedures.
- According to VCC calculations, a funding freeze at this year's level would equate to a 15.6 percent reduction. This year's budget of slightly less than \$40.2 million would be equivalent to approximately \$34.25 million of today's dollars by next fiscal year.



# Office Survival

Managing time and managing paper are two of the biggest hurdles anyone in the work world has to contend with, whether clerk or corporate manager. Many of us get caught in a bind where we swing from periods of frantic, and often unproductive activity, to times of inertia and procrastination. How do we find the road out of this rut?

According to the experts, there are three essentials to any daily time management plan: a day-by-day appointment calendar; a pocket-size spiral or loose leaf notebook to jot down errands and tasks as they occur; and a daily TO DO list which puts the whole system into motion.

Drawing from items on your notebook and follows up in your daily calendar, put ten items on your TO DO list. Rank these items in order of importance — #1 is an absolute must, #2 medium urgency and #3 something you'd like to get out of the way but isn't that critical.

TO DO's should be narrow and specific. A complete report, for instance, is likely too broad a prospect for one day. Break it into components such as "research," "planning," "statistics" or whatever breakdown the topics lends itself to. Tackle these one at a time. If you slate a whole project for one day, not only are you not apt to complete it, you're apt to be overwhelmed by the prospect and never even begin.

Timing is another important consideration. Schedule work that requires concentration for the time of day when you get the least interruptions or distractions. Take into account, too, your own energy rhythms. Morning people operate at optimum early in the day, while a night person may be just ready to start a big project when the morning person is dropping off to sleep.

Tackle the tough assignments at your particular "best" time. Leave routine tasks, such as returning phone calls or looking at correspondence for your low energy hours.

If fate intervenes and you find yourself at an important meeting during your "down" time, give yourself a boost with a high energy snack — a bit of cheese, some nuts or a glass of orange juice — about 15 minutes before the meeting. This will up your blood sugar level and combat your fatigue.

Surprisingly enough, knowing when to stop a project is as important as knowing when to start. Just as one person's energy levels differ from another, so do powers of concentration. One person may be able to concentrate on a task for several hours at a time, while another will become irritable and distracted after an hour. If you come to a point with a project where your muscles ache and you can't think straight, stop. The only product you're genera-

ting is frustration. If you've broken your project into manageable parts you should have enough flexibility to back away when you aren't getting anywhere and make a fresh start later.

Procrastination is a work-related disease that hits most of us at one time. Usually putting off work is the product of setting impossibly high standards for yourself. No one wants to tackle the impossible. So you ignore and delay. This brings on recriminations and soon you've locked yourself into a pattern.

You could be a victim of the "clearing the boards" syndrome. "I'll start the report as soon as I've \_\_\_\_\_." The only way out of this is, by an act of will, to put blinders on, ignoring other demands, and plunge into the task at hand. Even getting out files or making a rough plan can give you the impetus to go ahead.

Another blocking technique is the "big Picture" approach. Here you are simply scared off by the magnitude of your task. Again, this can be avoided if you break the task into smaller, less intimidating parts and tackle these one at a time.

# VVI Moves Toward Computer Drafting

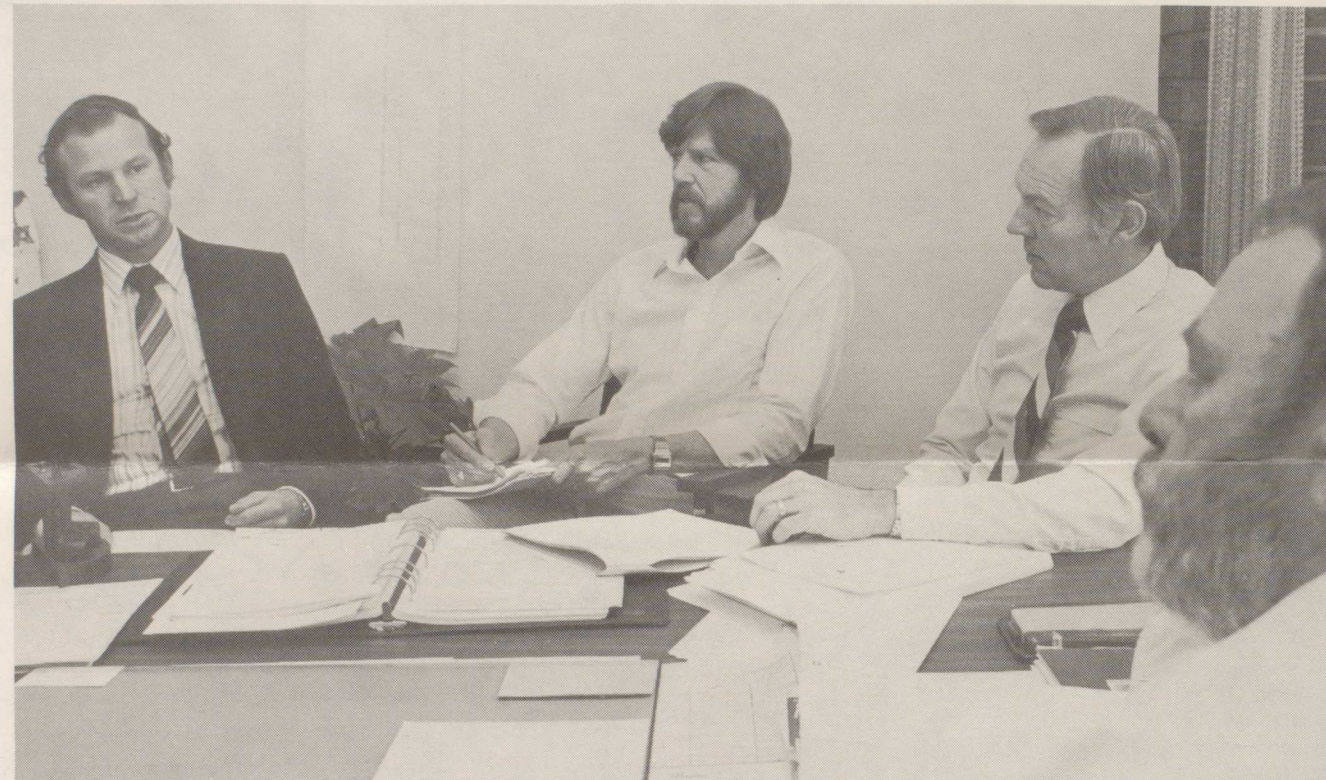
We are rapidly moving towards a "wired world," where people will do their banking or order groceries from the local supermarket by plugging into home computer terminals. Technology is influencing all aspects of our lives and education is no exception.

Recently members of VVI's drafting department met with Dr. Terry Clement, director of college and institute programs at the Ministry of Education, to discuss bringing computer-assisted-drafting into VVI's program.

This new technology allows the draftsman to expand or reduce the scale of a drawing or to emphasize its detail. Corrections can be made by keying a code into the terminal. Computer drafting systems are already in place at many organizations in the Lower Mainland, among them City Hall, B.C. Hydro, and H.A. Simons Ltd.

As a result of discussions with Dr. Clement, Division Chairman Roy Wren, department head Ron Atkinson and instructor Brian Humphreys recommended a short-term course to familiarize VVI students with the system's capabilities.

With completion of VVI's renovations and expansions the drafting department will expand the scope of its CAD offerings. Space has been allotted in the new facilities for the technology, which requires temperature and atmospheric controls.



Dr. Terry Clement (left), of the Ministry of Education, discusses the future of computer assisted drafting at VVI with instructor Brian Humphreys, department head Ron Atkinson and Industrial Division Chairman Roy Wren.

# Farewell to a Gentleman



CE staff held a retirement party for Director Alf Glenesk his last day on the job. Here he is seen with his secretary Betty Larkin and Steve Stafford the new director of CE. Alf Glenesk's colleagues in the administrators' association had earlier honoured him at a dinner at the Arbutus Club.

It is not unusual for an organization, through the passage of time, to evolve into an institution. Though it is rare for an individual within an organization to become an institution. At VCC Alf Glenesk was that rare individual.

He became a vice-principal at KEC when the college opened its doors as this province's first community college in August of 1965. For two decades before he was a teacher and administrator in Vancouver secondary schools. From KEC he went on to become founding principal of North Vancouver's Capilano College, overseeing it during its first five years. VCC then had the good fortune to see him return as director of Continuing

Education, a post he held until his retirement October 1st. Though he worked in many areas of education during his career, CE was particularly dear to his heart. He spoke often of learning as a life-long pursuit, where each person's interests and goals change over the years.

The description his colleagues use most often when they talk of him is a "gentleman" . . . a person who is considerate, thoughtful and fair. On behalf of his friends throughout the college, we urge him to keep his ties with VCC, to return from time to time to recall the past and talk about the future.

## INTERCOM

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## Let's take care of one another the United Way



# Let's Take Care of One Another



KEC's recent United Way Chili Tasting Party brought them \$170 closer to their campaign goal of \$8,000. Cooks for the noon hour bash were Ginger Chang, Wayne Declé, John Griffith, Grant Kelly and Rita Shelley and a combo from the music school provided melodies for lunch time listening. Pictured here are cook Grant Kelly, KEC Principal Harry Pankratz, cook John Griffith, KEC United Way co-ordinator Mary Griffith, taster Ron Meyer and cook Wayne Declé.

The United Way Campaign is in full swing at V.C. and King Edward Campus is leading the way.

The College campaign is really four campaigns centered around our four major locations. As of November 9 the campaign totals were: Central Administration and Continuing Education — \$1413.96; King Edward Campus — \$5801.88; Langara Campus — \$2974.10; and Vancouver Vocational Institute — \$1710.48. Last year's final campaign totals were: C.A. & C.E. — \$2162.96; K.E.C. — \$4000.40; Langara — \$3144.36; and V.V.I. — \$2709.12.

United Way organizers and volunteers are hoping that final campaign figures will be considerably higher than last year's because last year's fell considerably short of meeting the minimum needs of the more than 80 community ser-

vice organizations which depend on the one annual campaign for funding assistance.

These service organizations face the ravages of inflation plus an expected surge in real need for their services by people suffering in difficult economic times.

We are asked once a year to take care of each other by contributing to the United Way. If each of us pledges a small monthly deduction from our payroll we can make life so much better for many of our friends and neighbours in the community.

And, the real winners may be us. One person commented early in the campaign, "I had never pledged one day's pay before but I decided to do it this time and when I filled it out and signed it I felt really good."

# VCC Instructor Sees New Book Off the Presses

Instructors throughout the college are increasingly exchanging their teaching hats for authors' caps. Recently Allen Andrews, of KEC's English Department, saw his new book "The Scottish Canadians" come off the presses of Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd.

Part of the publisher's Multicultural Canada Series, the book is a pleasant surprise to those who haven't spent time in a high school classroom in the last ten years. Gone are dry prose and pages of minuscule print. Geared to social studies students in grades eight through ten, "The Scottish Canadians" takes what Andrews calls a "modified Michener approach".

With the help of colour pictures, maps and illustrations, the book traces the saga of successive generations of a Scottish family from their landing in Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1773 to the present day. The book hooks students on the fictionalized experiences of the family, while teaching them about the Scots' language, clan system, migration patterns in Canada, food, handicrafts and traditions.

Highlight pages focus on particular aspects of Scottish life and culture . . . Gaelic phrases, Canadian tartans and how to make a pair of Scottish Mogsans or a plate of oatcakes. Along with the book, Andrews put together an extensive teacher's guide, providing supplementary historical detail and a broad range of activities to help

students develop their skills in reading and interpreting maps and charts, research, comprehension, communication and creativity.

What led Allen Andrews to give up three years of spare time to the book and guide? Obviously, his years as a teacher had given him a well-tuned sense of what students respond to and he was intrigued by the prospect of gathering original research for the book.

"I have a Scottish name myself," he said, "and I used to teach at Xavier College in Sydney, Nova Scotia when it was affiliated with St. Francis Xavier University, an institution with strong Scottish ties."

Andrews and the editors searched out diaries, documents and artifacts to give his book its rich detail. This was time consuming. Collecting all the Canadian tartans took thirty letters.

"The Scottish Canadians" is one of a series of such books published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd. Others detail the Japanese, Mennonite, Ukrainian, Italian, Chinese, and Jewish experiences in Canada. Not only does the series offer an interesting approach to social studies, it gives students insight into the diversity of Canadian culture and puts rest the notion that our heritage comes strictly from the two founding peoples.

Andrews and another KEC colleague Diane

In that case, there must be a crowd of people at King Edward Campus who are feeling good these days. Already 45% ahead of last year's final figure, Mary Griffith has been getting everyone in on the campaign. Contributions have been coming in from faculty, staff, administration and the students' council. A noon hour chili tasting party with live music provided by the music department raised more than \$170 and could have raised more if the chili hadn't sold out so fast.

If you have not yet made your pledge, please contact your campaign co-ordinator: at Central Administration — Cam Avery; K.E.C. — Mary Griffith; Langara — Mary Perry; V.V.I. — George Clark.

Let's all help to take care of one another — it's guaranteed to make us feel good.



A combo of KEC music students added to the listening pleasure at that campus's United Way Chili Tasting.

Thompson, head of College Foundation's English department, have another book slated for publication in February, an anthology entitled "Canadian Viewpoints" containing articles and poems that deal with this country's government, people, history and literature. As both explained, this is a project particularly close to their hearts. The anthology is aimed at meeting the interests of adult learners, an area where they say there is a scarcity of good classroom material.

"The books you would use in a classroom full of teenagers just aren't suitable for adults," Thompson said, "Returning to the educational system is a big challenge for most adult students. You certainly don't want to condescend to them or to bore them. Though their reading level may only be tenth grade, their life experiences and their interests are broader than most teenagers."

Andrews and Thompson would like to have seen the anthology's copyright stay with VCC, but in these times of financial restraint they had to look to the Ministry of Education for financial support and consequently the ministry holds the copyright.

## Christmas Brings Famous People Players

At this time of the year most of us begin to anticipate the upcoming Christmas season's entertainment treats — the Nutcracker and Handel's Messiah. This yuletide Vancouverites have the chance to enjoy the talents of a unique theatre troupe, Canada's own Famous People Players.

The troupe is unique because it works in the demanding medium of black light, using black velvet to make the performers invisible and fluorescent paint and ultra-violet light to bring the puppets and props to life, and because nine of the troupe's performers are mentally handicapped.

The Famous People Players, who established an international reputation performing throughout North America, premiere their new work, Ice Skaters, during their one night appearance, December 18, 8 p.m., at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The piece is based on the music of Meyerbeer and features original costumes and sets.

The troupe's performances, which delight children and grown-ups alike, feature impressions by Famous People mannequins, such as Liberace, Barbara Streisand and Anne Murray. The giant props are manipulated by troupe members.

Tickets for the Vancouver performance are available through Vancouver Ticket Centre.

# College Notes

The provinces have upped the charges to Canada Employment and Immigration Commission for seats purchased in community colleges across the country, and CEIC has responded by cutting the number of seats purchased for training students. Though VCC overall enrolment hasn't been affected much, fee-paying students now make up a larger proportion of the student body.

VCC's Program Evaluation Process has born its first results. With 1200 graduates, 635 drop-outs and 289 work supervisors of Langara Campus career programs graduates surveyed, respective response rates were 57.8 percent, 45 percent and 55.7 percent. Department heads and program advisory committees are now looking at the results to determine program strengths and weaknesses and where improvements can be made. Results should soon be available on VVI programs and PEP is being adapted to provide data on some non-occupational programs at KEC.

The new King Edward Campus should be ready in January of '83 and there is a possibility some of the space might be ready for occupancy before then. The daycare centre at the new campus, originally designed as an attachment to the gym, had to be revamped as a free standing structure when escalating construction costs scuttled the gym. Because it can't share services with the gym, daycare centre costs have increased by \$70,000 over the available \$120,000 funds. The college is mounting a campaign to obtain private contributions for the centre.

Vancouver Vocational Institute was recently host to the British Columbia Colleges and Institutes Counsellors' Association conference. The theme of the two day conference was "Conscious Change." Counsellors from across the province talked about their roles and function, student services for the handicapped, cross-cultural counselling and the counsellor's role as an agent of change, among other concerns.



# New Program to Aid KEC Students

VCC's King Edward Campus is to get the largest dollar funding under a new \$300,000 Ministry of Education program to financially assist students in adult basic education.

The majority of KEC's programs fall into the adult basic education arena and financial officer Rita Shelley reports KEC will receive a block grant of \$50,000 under the new scheme, which will see 23 B.C. school districts and 18 post-secondary institutes funded under the program. This is the first Ministry of Education program to provide assistance to English language training students.

Shelley said the block grant is a new approach to assistance funding and it should cut down on the red tape involved in processing applications. She explained that processing aid applications through Victoria usually takes from six to eight weeks, while this program, administered on campus, should complete the task in one week.

Students in basic literacy, pre-vocational, academic upgrading or ESL programs, who aren't receiving support from Canada Employment, the Ministry of Human Resources or Aid to Handicapped, and who can demon-

strate financial need, are eligible for assistance to help cover the costs of tuition, books and other school expenses.

KEC instructors in adult basic education have explained the new program to their students and given out applications. Because of the large number of potential applicants, instructors have been asked to comment on their students' applications, rather than the evaluation being done through the aid office.

Shelley said a student is eligible for a maximum of \$240 in assistance over four months. Anticipating that all applicants would not qualify for the maximum figure, she estimated the program could help between 220 and 400 KEC students. So far, she said, 30 students have applied.

Program funds cover the balance of the fiscal year, Shelley explained, but KEC could apply for additional funding if a need was indicated.

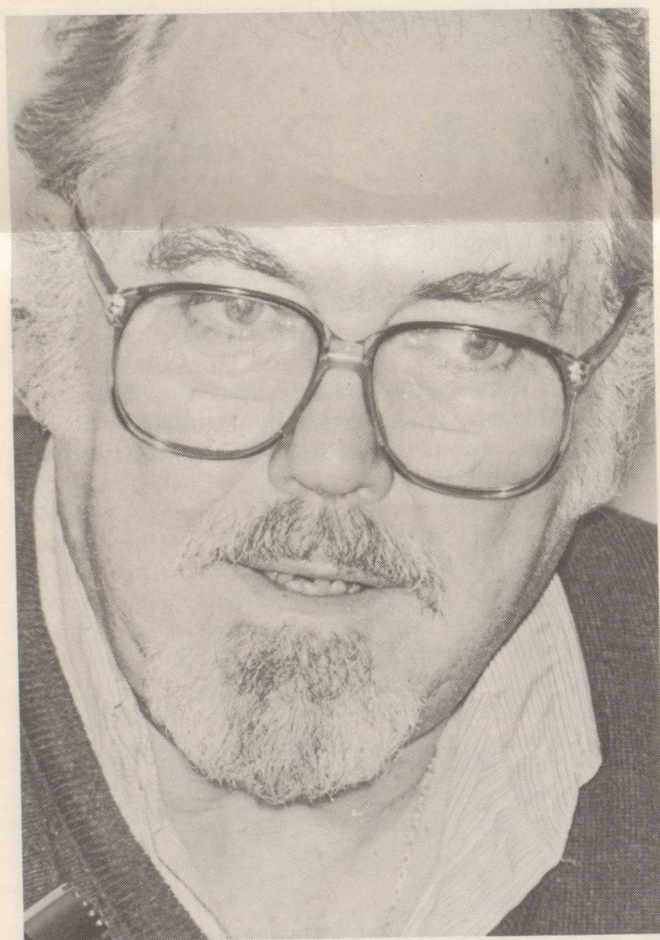
According to the Ministry of Education, more than 40,000 residents took part in adult basic education classes last year.

## GRANNY RESCUES WORKING PARENTS

Among the fears that plague working parents are the dreaded days when the babysitter falls ill, fails to show up, or the day care centre furnace breaks down. When these catastrophies happen parents scramble about trying to put little ones with friends or family for the day. Baby is upset by the dashing about and mom's and dad's nerves are worn thin before they reach the office.

Granny's Y, a joint project of the Vancouver YWCA and Variety Club women, now provides insurance for those days when your usual child care arrangements break down. Located in St. Andrew's Wesley United Church, downtown at the corner of Burrard and Nelson, the centre's professional staff offer short term child care when unforeseen problems arise. The centre can accommodate 20 children from 6 months of age to six years. It is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$2.00 per hour. For more information call 689-5324.

# Altman Comes to VCC



A touch of Hollywood came to Vancouver Community College October 16 when film director Robert Altman, creator of, among others, *MASH*, *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*, and *Nashville*, was brought to town by Continuing Education for a screening of his unreleased film *Health* and a question-and-answer session with the audience.

*Health* is a satire about politics, power and the mania behind health fads. Former VCC health programmer Carol Anne Rolfe contacted Altman's Los Angeles business office in the summer to arrange for Altman and the film to come to Vancouver because the film takes a rare humorous look at health, a topic usually weighted down with seriousness.

The film is what Altman calls an "essay." It takes a satirical view of the political struggles at a national health food convention where an 83 year-old, senile health devotee, played by Lauren Bacall, is pitted against an androgenous, robot-like opponent, played by Glenda Jackson, in a bid for the organization's presidency.

The film, slated for release in early 1979, was never put out for commercial distribution because of a dispute between Altman and the management of 20th Century Fox, who didn't think the film could make money. Altman has taken his own print and shown it at a few film festivals and it has had short runs in a few independent theatres in North America.

The screening and talk drew a standing room only crowd to Robson Square Media Centre. There were even a few determined gate crashers. Though the film had arrived from Los Angeles the day before, it wasn't known until late Film Director Robert Altman. Photo by Darrel Dugas, VCC Langara Campus.

afternoon if its maker would get out of the fogged-in Spokane airport for his appearance here.

Altman, who opened a play off-Broadway only two days before, predicted the audience would be split over the film, about 60 percent liking it and about 40 percent not. An unscientific applause rating showed, in fact, the audience was split about 50-50. Altman likes to refer to moviemaking as "creating arena" and in *Health* the arena was one for a carnival of cartoon-like characters that included a chorus of singers a la Cabaret, dancing tomatoes and Henry Gibson as a professional backgammon player cum political dirty trickster. The audience may have been divided over the gambit's success, but certainly no one seemed bored.

In the question-and-answer session after the showing, Altman dressed down the "jerks" in Hollywood for not knowing good movies from bad.

"These people are crazy. They don't know — what they're doing."

Of the film community he said, "I don't know much about it. I'm not really welcome there."

Will he make more movies in Canada? "There is a good chance I'll do more films here... There is a lot of know-how here. There is more expertise and film artistry in Canada than in any other country..."

Who is he trying to reach with his films? "I am trying to find one person who is thrilled by what I show him. We all have a point of view. I say, 'Hey come and look at things through my distorted window.'"

## Studio 58 Offers Two War Plays

Next on Studio 58's slate at Langara Campus are two World War I plays, "*Hamp*" by John Wilson and R.C. Sherriff's "*Journey's End*."

"*Hamp*" is the story of an innocent's murder. A slow-witted Lancashire private is found guilty of desertion and "cowardice in the face of the enemy." For this he is shot. The play is both a simple and a fierce experience.

"*Journey's End*" is a classic war play, looking at the effect of trench-warfare on a group of young English officers. Though the tale is tragic and moving, there is an element of comedy in this gruesome portrayal of war.

"*Hamp*" previews November 20 and opens the next evening. It runs November 26 and 27, as well as December 1, 2, 5, 10 and 11. All performances are at 8 p.m., except Saturday, December 5 when there are performances at 6 and 9 p.m.

"*Journey's End*" previews November 24 and opens the next evening. Performances are November 28, and December 3, 4, 8, 9, and 12. Performances are at 8 p.m., except November 28 and December 12 when there are performances at 6 and 9 p.m.

For ticket information call 324-5227.

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