

The NEWS and VIEWS Letter about people
and happenings at
Vancouver Community College

October 1982, Edition No. 38



RESTRAINT:

A Board Perspective

It was the summer of our discontent.

We squeezed. We sweated. We slashed. Everyone was in on the act in an unprecedented fashion. Information meetings were held between management and all employee groups as we searched for ways to meet the stiff requirements of the provincial government's restraint program.

In the end we cut more than \$900,000 from the college budget — without sacrificing any of our programs.

On September 16, Board Chairman Peter Hebb advised Education Minister Bill Vander Zalm that VCC had made the necessary reduction.

In his letter to the minister, Hebb pointed out that VCC has "a record of efficiency unmatched in the B.C. college and institute system," and that for the next fiscal year "efficient institutions such as VCC must be rewarded!" He asked that future budget changes not be made on an across-the-board basis and that greater lead time and flexibility to transfer funds across council boundaries be granted.

InterCom recently talked with Board Chairman Hebb about restraint, what it means to VCC and how the board is coping with its effects.

INTERCOM: WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST TO PARE THE BUDGET A REASONABLE AND NECESSARY MOVE?



College Board Chairman Peter Hebb

HEBB: "This is a time of severe restraint, imposed by world conditions rather than purely local ones. I think all members of the board are conscious of the fact that there is a limit to the amount of funds available to education, specifically to community colleges and to VCC. What we as a board want is the maximum possible allocation for VCC from the amount available in the education pie."

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He went on to say that the government has said there is no money to make that education funding pie any larger, so the board's first task is to make a strong case for an optimum share of the available funds.

INTERCOM: HOW HAS THE BOARD GONE ABOUT TAKING VCC'S CASE TO THE GOVERNMENT?

HEBB: "We've done this at meetings, through phone calls and letters to the minister, departmental officials and members of the government. Ceremonies such as the recent ground turning for the student building at Langara Campus give us a chance to make our case directly to those in government."

He added that senior administration at the college, as well as the board, have worked hard to educate the government on the value of investing educational dollars in VCC.

INTERCOM: HAS THE STRATEGY WORKED?

HEBB: "Working quietly behind the scenes has undeniably brought results." He pointed out that VCC's share of funds was larger this year than in years past, with an above average increase in critical funding from the Management Advisory Council, the body that funds instructional support services.

INTERCOM: WOULD YOU NOT HAVE A STRONGER CASE IF YOU TOOK A MORE VEHEMENT STAND?

HEBB: "The board has not felt it is advantageous to the college's interests to send nasty telegrams to the minister to try to communicate with the government through the media." He went on to say that confrontation, in his opinion, might bring political gains, but it brought little in the way of tangible results.

INTERCOM: WHAT IS THE KEY MESSAGE YOU ARE TAKING TO THE GOVERNMENT?

HEBB: "Simply that VCC is the most cost effective post-secondary institution in the province and our success should be rewarded. We produce a greater return per dollar on the educational investment."

INTERCOM: WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE SYSTEM AND FOR VCC IN PARTICULAR?

HEBB: "The amount of money available to education is not limitless. We are not the only ones to feel the effects.

"Once we've made our case and we've been given our funding I think we will have to roll up our sleeves and make decisions on how best to allocate those resources."

Hebb added that he would like to see the trend toward rationalizing programs among institutions in the Lower Mainland not only continue but expand.

He pointed out that the three council system of funding was awkward and in these times of tight money it was particularly important to give colleges the flexibility to allocate funds to where need is greatest.

"VCC prepares young people for the future. The kind of role the college plays is very important. I think we are an obvious priority for educational spending."

Laughter is the Best Education

A telegram to VVI

V V I V C R

ESTEVANFLR EST

PLEASE SEND OUR TWELVE PACKAGES OF EGG-SHELL LEAVES

I BELIEVE THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN PAID FOR
CORRECT ME IF IM WRONG AS OF RIGHT NOW AND
NEAR FUTURE WE DONT NEED ANYTHING ELSE

THANK YOU

ESTEVANFLR EST

**A letter to KEC from a student in Lagos, Nigeria
addressed to Vancouver, NEW BRUNSWICK.**

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR FORMS

I sincerely wish to apply for the application forms and other informative units.

I have immense interest to study in this school because of her lofty achievements especially towards the development of manpower, unity and friendliness among various countries of the world.

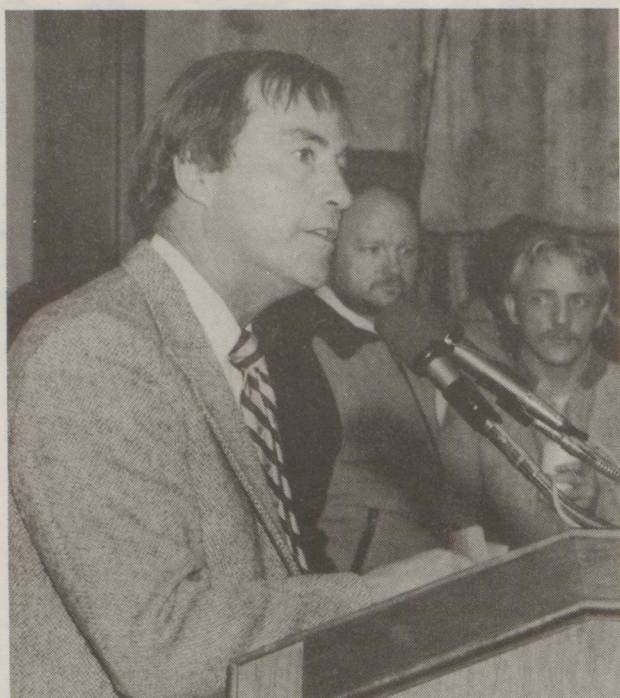
Besides, the attention paid to foreign students fascinates me the most.

etc.

INTERCOM

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Langara Student Building Gets Off the Ground



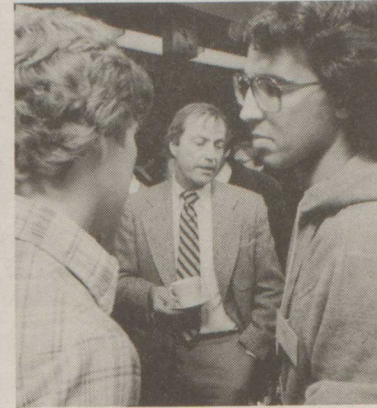
Premier Bill Bennett tells the crowd at Langara Campus that the government must set careful priorities for spending during this time of economic downturn.

With television cameras humming and cameras clicking, the machine lurched and sputtered and then, with Premier Bill Bennett at the controls, it scooped up a mound of wet earth in its large jaws, marking the official start of construction October 6 on Langara Campus's \$1.2 million Student Building.

The 9,000 square foot building, designed by Downs/Archambault Architects and slated for completion next summer, will house a lounge, auditorium, club and games rooms, as well as a number of student services



Left: Project Manager Ken Flanders shows Premier Bennett a model of the new Langara Student Building. Centre: A power shovel, with Premier Bennett at the controls, scoops up a mound of earth to mark the official start of construction on the Langara Student Building. Right: Premier Bennett chats informally with Langara Campus students at a reception following the ground turning ceremony.



such as a food bar and convenience store. The wholly student-funded project has been in the planning stages since 1972.

At ceremonies in the Langara quad Bennett spoke to several hundred students, staff and guests about recent cutbacks to educational funding, responding to concerns voiced by Langara Student Society President Meldon Ellis. He acknowledged these were difficult times for the province's economy and priorities for public spending had to be carefully weighed.

"Now is not the time to protest," he said, looking at a scattering of anti-cutback pickets. "It is time to work together to make better use of our resources." He pointed out that in this time of economic decline VCC had seen its funding grow from \$39 million last year to \$43 million this year and the province's educational system had gone from \$247 to \$277 million.

"Young people are our best investment for the future," he said.

Board chairman Peter Hebb praised Langara students for their initiatives in planning and financing the

new centre. Alderman May Brown brought congratulations and good wishes from the Vancouver City Council. Also on hand for the ceremonies were Vancouver South MP John Fraser and Environment Minister and VCC graduate Stephen Rogers.

Commenting on the new centre, project manager Ken Flanders said, "For the first time Langara students will have a place of their own on campus. I think that will naturally increase student involvement with the campus."

He went on to say the centre would provide a forum for political involvement, a place where clubs could meet and where students could mingle socially, seeing a movie, playing pinball or having a beer.

All the centre's funding comes from students' pockets. Since 1978 there has been a \$1 surcharge on each course to provide start up funds. With the start of construction that charge has gone up to \$3 per course.

Because support for the centre has come from students over a number of years, Flanders says alumni will be welcome to use the centre's facilities.

Jobs For Your Future

Unemployment is at record high levels. It is not unusual to hear of 100 applicants for one job. With these grim statistics how can students plan for the future?

In a recent noon hour talk at KEC, Ted Brown, metro Vancouver economist for the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, gave about 150 interested students advice on their best job bets. The talk was part of an ongoing series on topics of interest to students, organized by KEC's Counselling Resources Centre.

The first point Brown made was that none of us should get too discouraged. The economy's current malaise will come to an end — probably by 1984 — and then the job scene should look a lot healthier.

There are a number of factors to look at in determining where jobs are apt to open up. First, he said, you have to look at what services and products are in demand. For instance, many offices are converting to wordprocessing systems so it is logical to assume there are openings for operators, trainers, sales and repair staff.

"You have to keep up with any shifts in the composition of demand as well," he warned the audience. Over the last 20 years, for example, plastics have taken over from metals as a material of production bringing in an obvious shift in job opportunities away from the one industry and into the other.

Next, he said, technology is radically changing the employment picture. "Where once you might have had a room full of bookkeepers working on desk calculators," he said, "now you have the same work handled by a computer."

A further consideration is the size of any occupational field. Areas that employ large numbers of people, such as clerical support or retail sales, obviously have more employee turnover and consequently more employment openings.

Geography plays a role in employment opportunities. There may be fewer job opportunities in a more remote part of the province, but there are fewer competing for the jobs available. A person who is willing to relocate stands a better chance of getting a job.

A final consideration in career planning, Brown noted, is to find out what barriers there are to entry in a

particular field. For example, in skilled trades there are quotas that limit the number of apprentices and union halls control hiring.

Once all the considerations are weighed, what does the crystal ball forecast for British Columbia job hunters?

As the economy starts to improve, Brown said, opportunities will open in the sectors that traditionally have been the mainstays of the province's economy, those related to the natural resource development.

Brown said there is a chronic shortage of technologists and technicians in the areas of applied science. This would cover draftsmen, surveyors, geological technicians and foresters.

Skilled trades will be in demand too. The construction industry will need electricians, carpenters and plumbers. Mechanics, machinists and metal workers for the tool and dye industry will be needed.

"Developments such as the energy projects in the north aren't going ahead tomorrow, but they haven't been shelved," Brown said. "When they do go ahead

there will be a huge demand for skilled trades."

"B.C.'s workforce is relatively old," Brown noted. This means retirements will bring openings across the board over the next decade. And, this relatively old population makes for higher than average demand for health care services, which in turn makes for job opportunities for medical and dental professionals and technicians.

Competition in the market place demands all businesses run efficiently and maximize their profits. Accountants are crucial to their operations so this will continue to be an area of high demand. For the same reasons jobs related to the computer industry, from operators and repairmen to analysts and programmers, will open up.

The hospitality industry too will provide fertile ground for job seekers. "This is part of a general employment trend away from production occupations and toward service jobs," Brown said. Following this trend there should be good opportunities for restaurant workers, barbers, hairdressers and like occupations.

Enrolment '82

As of the end of September our enrolment at VCC was up 1.5 percent over last year, with a total of 23,199 students registered. But this percentage doesn't accurately reflect the real level of demand.

At Langara Campus there are 5,890 students enrolled, up 8.5 percent over last year. Estimates from that campus indicate about 800 prospective students were turned away prior to registration and 103 more students attempted to register in Arts & Science but could not find space in any courses appropriate to them.

At KEC the total enrolment this fall is 6,980, up 4.1 percent over last year. The most dramatic increase is in College Foundations, where registrations are up 30 percent over last year. There are 620 students waitlisted for English language training programs.

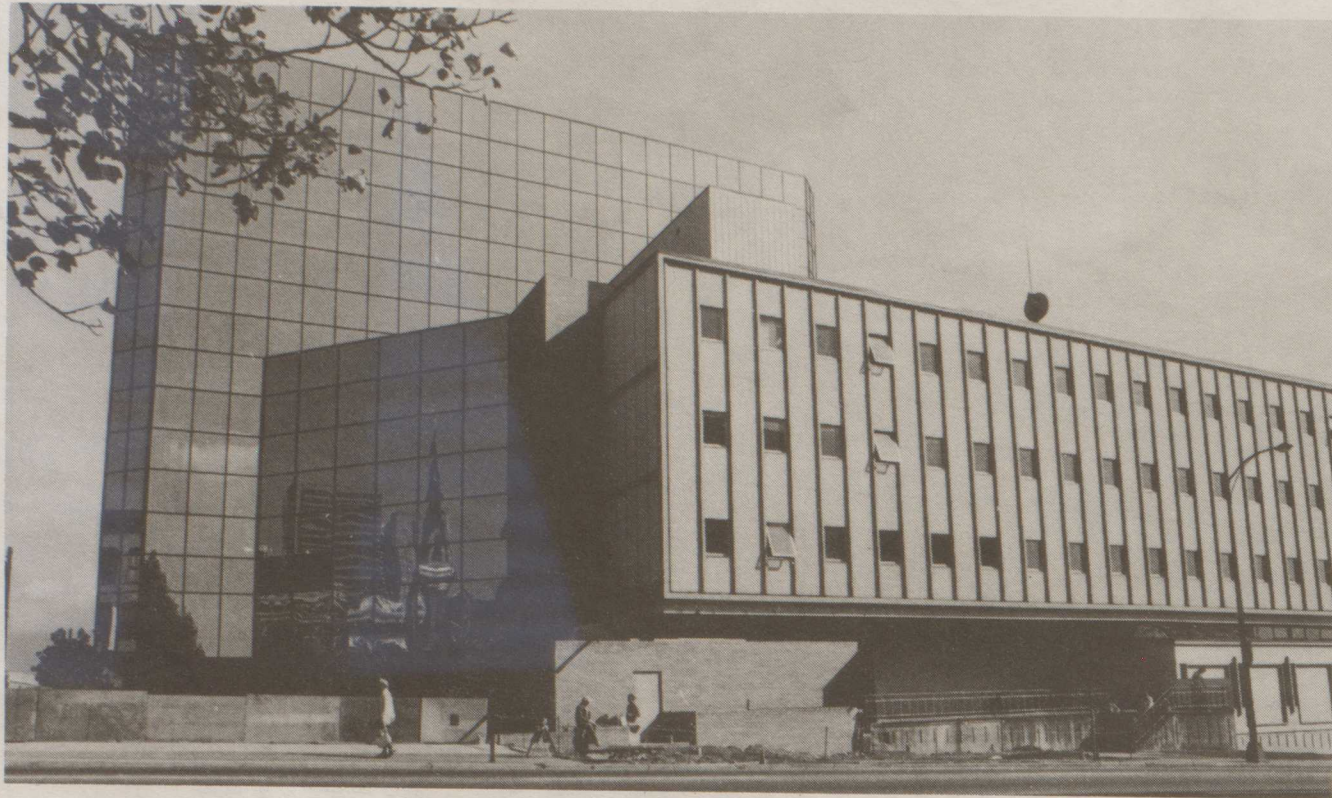
At VVI fall enrolment is 1,610, about the same as last year. Part-time enrolment is down 18.1 percent to 1,224. This fall is the result of decreased capacity due to budget cuts. There are 2,897 fee-paying students waitlisted for entry to VVI programs, an increase of 66.3 percent over last fall.

Continuing Education's enrolment is down slightly to 7,495, a drop of 7.1 percent, due to reduced employer sponsorship.



The crush of students in this fall's registration lines at Langara Campus tell the story for VCC generally, with student enrolment well up in most areas over last year.

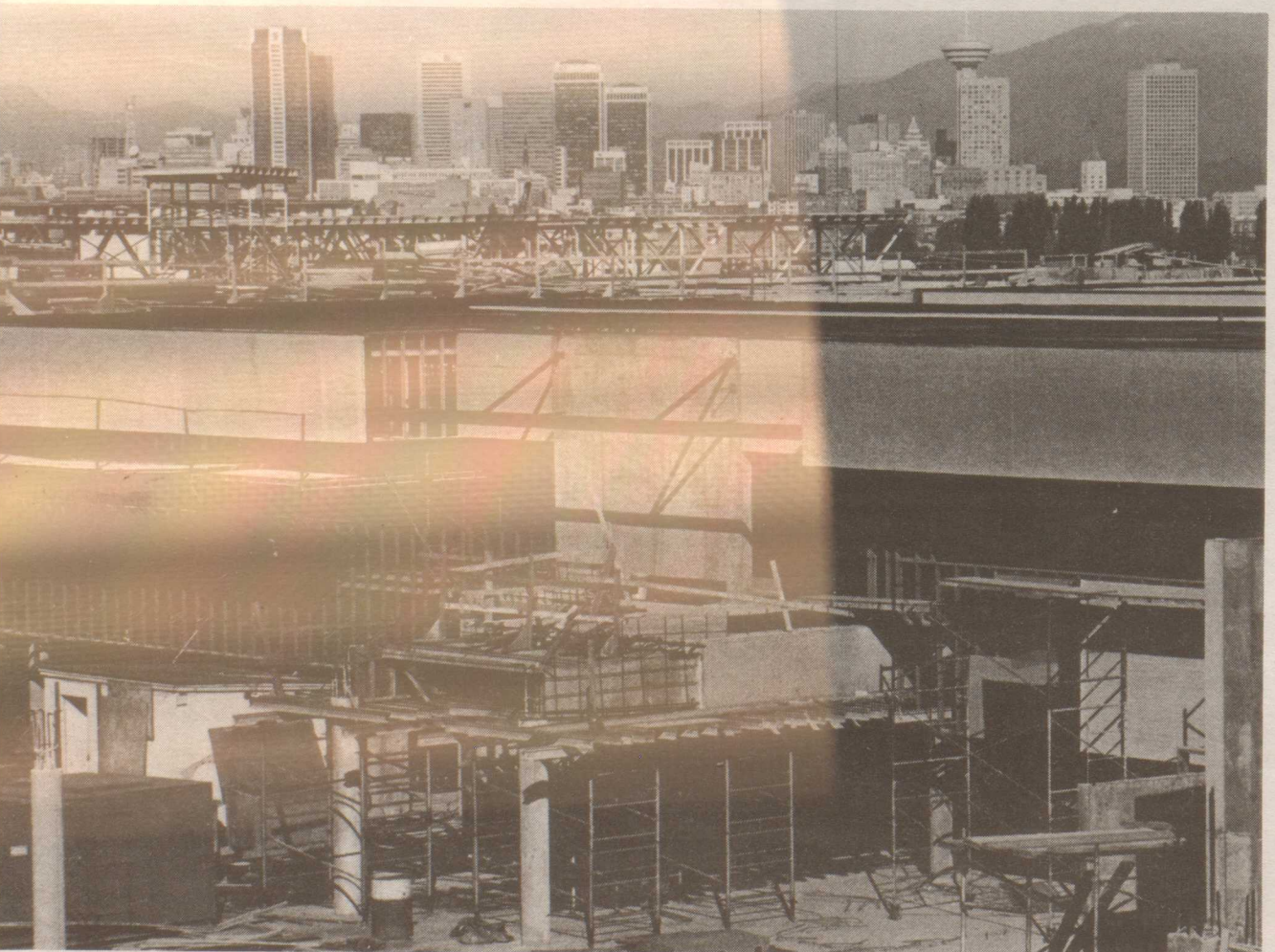
A Glimpse Into the Future



The newly completed tower addition to VVI



Facilities Planning Co-ordinator John Lauder explains the layout of the new King Edward Campus as he leads college members on a tour of the new facility.



Work progresses on the new King Edward Campus at China Creek.

Recently about a dozen members of Vancouver Community College got a sneak preview of the new facilities at VVI and KEC China Creek. Site-seers were taken on a tour of the new mirrored tower at VVI and the concrete and steel at the new KEC by Facilities Planning Co-ordinator John Lauder.

Some floors in the new VVI tower are already occupied by students. Each classroom floor has its own color scheme. Lockers are not crowded into corridors but in alcoves off the main halls. Gone, too, is the harsh glare of fluorescent lighting in favour of softer, indirect light. Wash-rooms are done in ceramic tile, and, in Lauder's words, they are "virtually graffiti proof."

Students in business programs, one of the prime tenants in the tower, have individual power outlets for equipment such as wordprocessors, typewriters, computer terminals and calculators. This "clean power" has the advantage of not affecting the flow of power to the rest of the campus.

On the upper levels of the tower are some of the best views of the city and the north shore mountains to be had anywhere.

On the entry level, slated for completion in December, there will be student lounge facilities, a games room, offices for the student society, a new library and an auditorium with seating for 250.

Early in the new year work will begin on extensive renovations to existing VVI facilities. Immediately north of the new tower and one level up will be a mall where all service programs, such as hairdressing, barbering and shoe repair will be centered. The cafeteria will be relocated in larger facilities, as will the dining room. The mall concept will provide easy access for the public and the situation will be similar to conditions those in service occupations will encounter in the business world.

All counselling, registration and student services will be located at the front on the building entrance on Pender St., making for easy student access. And administrative offices will move up one level at the north end of the building.

These changes will come in phases so none of the programs will have to shut down to accommodate renovations. Facilities should be complete toward the end of 1983.

At the new KEC the parking lots are paved, the white lines drawn and the lighting standards in place. The building's five levels are poured, but not all walls yet in place, so it takes some imagination to visualize what the building will ultimately look like. Taking advantage of the slope from Broadway down to East 7th Ave., the north side of the building provides a panorama of downtown and the mountains to the north, without blocking this same view to traffic along Broadway.

On the first level are heavy trades — diesel mechanics, auto body repair and auto mechanics. All have good vehicle access through a rear courtyard. Auto mechanics will have a road simulator room to test cars for their road worthiness. Also off the rear courtyard are loading docks, building services, printing and the boiler room.

Half a level up are classrooms and offices for the heavy trade courses. Instructors can look down on the shop area and observe students at work.

On level two are classrooms and offices for training and development and college foundations. Because hearing impaired students in training and development could be disoriented by the reverberations from the heavy trades activities directly below, sound absorbers have been built into the ceiling to insulate them from the noise below. At the west side of this level will be student and staff cafeteria facilities with an outside terrace, a student lounge and a book store. The rest of the floor is taken up by the library, an area for instructional media services and a 250 seat auditorium with a stage and projection room.

On level three is more classroom space for college foundations and English language training, further space for the resource centre and student services. There is access to this level from a ramp off Glen Drive.

The main entry way to the campus is from Broadway into level four, which is home to KEC's administrative office. On level five will be the college's central administration offices.

KEC students are scheduled to move into the new facility in January. Central administration staff will follow in March.

Summer Employment Project Coordinated by VCC...



The Trio Con Brio, a guitarist, violinist and flutist from KEC's music school, dressed in Elizabethan costumes, this summer brought songs and stories to children in day-care centres throughout the Vancouver area. This was one of several student summer employment projects funded through the Ministry of Labour and co-ordinated by College Resources Director Ross Carter.

Lend a Hand the United Way!

**JUST
ONE DAY'S
PAY GOES A
LONG LONG
WAY.**



the United Way

Once again all of us at Vancouver Community College are being asked to share a little of our good fortune with those who haven't been as lucky. The theme for the 1982 United Way Campaign is "Just One Day's Pay Goes a Long Way." Never has this held so true.

The economic downturn we are now experiencing has put record numbers of our neighbours and friends out of work. While the college hasn't been untouched by these harsh economic realities, none of us is facing the grim prospect of unemployment. And from our relatively fortunate vantage point we can do a good deal to make life a little easier for those less fortunate.

If you haven't been contacted already by one of the college's volunteer campaigners you soon will be. Max Fleming is chairman of the college's fund raising efforts and he is being helped by four centre co-ordinators: Ross Carter at Central Administration, George Clark at VVI, Mary Griffith at KEC and Mary Perry at Langara Campus. The college is aiming for a contribution of \$17,833 toward the campaign's overall goal of \$8.6 million.

This money goes to 84 different agencies, from crisis centres and the Red Cross, to Boys' and Girls' Clubs and the "Y". If there is a particular agency you would like your money to go to you can designate your pledge.

Your day's pay is needed as never before. While the basic needs of those out of work are met by U.I. or other government programs, agencies that provide other kinds of help rely heavily on the United Way. For instance, the Crisis Centre, which offers counselling to people experiencing problems coping with unemployment, personal or family

difficulties, has seen demand for its services grow by 30 percent this year.

Contributions can be made by pledge cards provided by your centre co-ordinator. You don't have to give in one lump sum. Your contribution can come as a small deduction off your pay cheque, spread throughout the year.

Your support will assist the more than half a million people in the Lower Mainland who will look to United Way agencies for help this year.

Lend a hand. You're one of the lucky ones.

Puffing, Munching and Exchanging — the United Way!

Getting into the spirit of giving, VCC is a beehive of activity in support of United Way 1982.

The VCC No Name Running Club stages its second annual challenge run against the High Steppers from the YMCA, Saturday, October 23. Half of the \$2 entry fee goes to the United Way. Once again, the race course will take runners through Stanley Park from the Vancouver Rowing Club parking lot to Second Beach. This year there are three different routes, one of a mile and a half, another of three miles and one of five miles so even those who aren't distance runners can take part. The starter's gun will fire at 2 p.m. and the awards presentation begins about 4 p.m. at the Century Plaza Hotel. Along with the famous Golden Sneaker award each club will contribute 25 additional prizes. Organizer Dave Grenall is looking for people to contribute "personal" prizes such as a ski lesson or a bike tune-up.

There is still time to book in. Notice boards are up in all centres. Or track down your running club rep: Dave Grenall at KEC; Dalton Kremer, John Spencer or Bill Edwards at VVI; Richard Vedan, Bob Hamoura or Pasquale Pascucci at Langara; Max Fleming at Central Administration; and Bob Lajoie in Continuing Education. Your centre will be credited with your registration fee toward its United Way goal.

Another second annual event will be the KEC United Way chili testing party, Wednesday, October 27, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. — but get there early to avoid disappointment. The chili went hot and fast last year!

This year KEC United Way co-ordinator Mary Griffith has recruited 16 cooks who will turn their talents to the task of producing 13 varieties of spicy chili. On the menu are:

Wayne Decle's "Sallie Chisum's Chili"
Ginger Chang's "Bali Chili"
Chian-Li Hsu's "The Tongue Burner"
Ajita Sharma's "Fijian Fire!"
John Griffith's "Chili Wack!"
Marion Farmer's "Halloween Fireworks"
John Lambert's "Great Pan-American Sinus & Drain Cleaner"
Myrna Redman's "Bandito Chili"
Ron Meyer's "Blazing Ladles"
Angie Abbinante's & Pam Owen's "Chili Saporita"
Shannon Girvan's & Karen Malcolm's "Meatless Wonder"
Jean Cranstoun's "Chunky Chili"
Noreen Green's & Ihia Class's "Tijuana Terror"

You can sample these gourmet tongue scorchers for only \$1 a cup, with proceeds to the United Way. There will be music provided by the music school and Versa Food Services is donating the soft drinks which, for 50 cents, can extinguish any chili-related fires.

Rainbows will be doing their bit for United Way at KEC on November 1. Rainbows are close relatives of white elephants — those treasures and goodies hidden away in attics and basements. In keeping with KEC's United Way theme "Over the Rainbow" the rainbow sale, from noon to 4 p.m. in room 110, will give people the opportunity to clear out closets of old goodies and bring home some new. All contributions are gratefully received. Contact Beryl Preston, room 319, KEC.