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The NEWS and VIEWS Letter about  
people and happenings at  
Vancouver Community College  
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# VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# INTERCOM

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## Minister visits VCC Langara campus

On Friday, February 15, Education Minister Jack Heinrich met with the Vancouver Community College Board, the Langara Faculty Association and representatives from the Langara Student Council. The minister and members of the college board exchanged information and views of the college's situation for the coming fiscal year. Seated in the foreground is the Minister with VCC Board Chairman Peter Hebb on the left.

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Left: Nicole Kirk is the winner of a Commodore 64, compliments of Continuing Education. CE sponsored a contest in the winter flyer to introduce its new Telecollege course "Bits and Bytes." Here Kirk is seen receiving her prize from the Acting Director of Continuing Education Tom Towilson.

Below: Tony Pletcher (left), a Langara Campus biology instructor, is winner of the 1984 AMTECH Achievement Award for his audio tutorial system for teaching biology.



## Everything you wanted to know about computers — but never had a chance to learn.

Those of us who don't know bits from bytes have a chance to learn right here in the work place. A look around bears witness that computer technology is invading both the classroom and the office. Here's your opportunity to find out just what a microprocessor can do for you.

Continuing Education's computer programs co-ordinator, Bob Lajoie, is mounting this inside education campaign in three phases. First, starting in early spring, the Telecollege program "Bits and Bytes" will be broadcast on all three campuses.

"I don't know what the times will be," Lajoie explains, "but we'll certainly try for maximum convenience. I would think we'll probably go for the noon hour, or right after work. Each of the 12 hour programs will air more than once. Everyone should have a chance to catch the broadcast."

This series is what Lajoie calls an introduction to "computer literacy" — you learn the terminology, the different kinds of systems, what they can and can't do.

To supplement the television lessons, reserved readings will be available at each campus library. And there will be phone-in tutor to sort out problems or misunderstandings.

Phase two is a more indepth look at the technology, through 23, half hour programs in the "Introduction to Computers" series. Again, lessons will be broadcast at a number of times on a number of different days.

"Here we're taking a wider look at the applications for computers," Lajoie says. "This series explains the principles of programming and entails some systems analysis and program design."

**The final phase of the program would offer "hands on" seminars, where participants could try out a variety of applications — word processing, programming, electronic spread sheets — during a four hour instructor-lead seminar at King Edward Campus.**

**This program, Lajoie stresses, is open to anyone at the college who would like to get some basic familiarity with computers. And — best of all — it is absolutely free.**

**As yet, final details on dates and times aren't pinned down. But if you are interested in this program, give Bob Lajoie a call at 875-8200.**



## Award to Langara instructor

Langara Campus biology instructor Tony Pletcher was recently awarded the 1984 AMTEC Achievement Award. The Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada presents this award in recognition of outstanding ability in promoting the use or creative development of audio visual materials in the classroom.

AMTEC President and Award Chairman Bill Hansen called Pletcher's development of the audio tutorial method of teaching biology "most impressive."

Pletcher brought the method to Langara in 1969, after seeing its successful use in American universities. In his classes he combines the audio tutorials with a classroom lecture and a small group tutorial.

"The advantage of the system," he explains, "is that it lets the student integrate theory with lab work. And, of course, in biology there is a lot of lab work. The tapes, too, can be played over a number of times, unlike a lecture. This lets students work at their own pace."

Pletcher has been actively involved in the International Congress for Individualized Instruction, an organization that looks at means of tailoring instruction to the needs of the individual student.

Pletcher says he is "very pleased" to receive the award. Instructional Media Services Director Bruce MacLean nominated him. Pletcher does not know whether he will be able to go to the AMTEC National Conference at London, Ontario, in June, to receive the award.

"I'd like to say it is not just my award," Pletcher says. "Some of my colleagues at Langara have worked extensively with me on this. One is Alma Peterson, who is now retired. The other is Carl Floe. We have taught as a team for a number of years. They should take a good deal of the credit, along with the administration and IMS."



The Vancouver Community College Board 1984-1985. Front row, left to right: Elizabeth Jarvis, vice-chairman; Peter Hebb, chairman; Pam Glass. Back row, left to right: Dr. John Chapman; Colleen Miller; John Pearkes; Barry Irvine; Barbara Spitz. Absent: Virginia Giles.

## New Board meets Feb. 15

The inaugural meeting of the Vancouver Community Board for '84-'85 was February 15. New appointees to the board, through order-in-council, are: Dr. John Chapman, a professor of geography at the University of British Columbia; Barry Irvine, area general manager for Genstar Structures Ltd.; Colleen Miller, controller for the Medical Services Association; and Barbara Spitz.

Remaining on the board are Peter Hebb, Elizabeth Jarvis, Virginia Giles, Pam Glass and John Pearkes.

Retiring from the board is Art Lee, an order-in-council appointee and school board appointees from Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond: Bill Brown, Karl Erdman, Bryan Hannay, Sheila Veitch and Tilly Marxreiter.

The provincial government made the decision last year to make all board appointments for colleges and institutes through order-in-council, rather than allocating a portion of seats for appointment by local school boards.

## President tours far east

Vancouver Community College President Tony Manera returned February 12 from a three week tour of Pacific Rim countries. He was a member of a six-person delegation of representatives from Canadian colleges and universities sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency. The delegation was looking at methods and means of providing resources and expertise to colleges and institutes in Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The college has a successful record of involvement with international education in several quarters. For four years students from Takushoku University in Japan have come to study English at Langara Campus from August to February through the Continuing Education's Canadian School of Takudai. Three Chinese interpreters are currently studying English at King Edward Campus so they can work with Canadian instructors who will be teaching at the newly created Chengdu Management Centre in China. At Vancouver Vocational Institute, students from Zimbabwe get instructional skills training in vocational fields.

## Sounds of Spring

That annual rite of spring — the 1984 Vancouver Community College Music Concert Series is here. Concerts are at the music school, 225 West 8th Ave., 8 p.m. (except the March 2 concert). Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Here is the schedule:

- February 24 Recorder virtuoso Peter Hannan in a program of recent works for recorder and electronics
- March 2 Jon Washburn directs the VCC Madrigal Singers and the Vancouver Chorale in a repertoire by Victoria, Britten, Schafer and others. This concert will be held at Ryerson Church, West 45th Ave. at Yew St.

Tickets are available at the music department, call 873-2461.



## Langara launches new Sports Lottery

The indefatigable athletes of Langara Campus are at it once again! They've launched a new lottery to help keep men's and women's basketball and badminton competition alive at VCC.

This round prizes are two pairs of tickets for the National College Athletics Association championship basketball games at Seattle's Kingdome March 31 and April 2, plus \$100 spending money.

Athletics co-ordinator Duncan McCallum reports the tickets were donated by a former student of his.

Tickets are available at \$2 apiece through the physical education and recreation department at Langara.

The college board recently agreed to cover any costs over and above what this lottery and the fall lottery bring, so the men's and women's basketball teams — both currently in first place in the Totem conference — can go to the national championships, if they maintain their standing in the league. The national championships are in April.

While fund raising efforts and board support will carry the teams this year, Career Division Chairman Linda Fennema says she doesn't know where funding will come from next year. The budget to support team and individual competition was cut in the last spring's budget paring.



## VCC welcomes back Gerry Sylvester

Gerald A. R. Sylvester, whom many will remember from the ten years he spent as teacher and administrator at Langara Campus, takes up his new post as dean of student and administrative services at the college's King Edward Campus, effective March 1.

From 1969 to 1979 Sylvester, 53, was a history instructor, division chairman and dean of instruction at Langara Campus. He is coming to KEC from the College of New Caledonia where he was dean of instruction and policy planning. From 1979 to 1981 he was president and chief executive officer of Malaspina College.

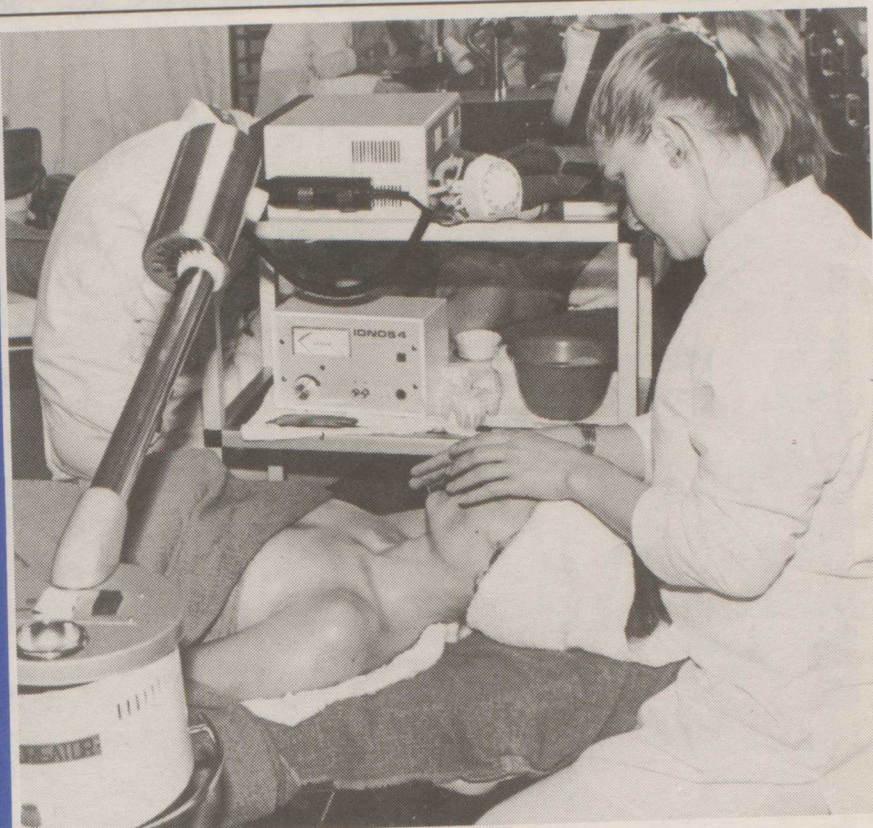
Sylvester has a B.A. from the University of Ottawa and a M.Ed. from St. Louis University. He has extensive experience in education and business.





## VVI Swings Open Doors

Mark Mar. 14 and 15 on your calendar. Those two days, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., the VVI is holding open house. Come get a firsthand look at how the technicians and tradespeople of tomorrow are "learning a living" today. And if you haven't had a look at our new, streamlined quarters this is the time, as there will be activities and displays everywhere. Minister of Tourism Claude Richmond will officially open the dining room the evening of Mar. 14.



# Mall for SERVICES TRAINING a B.C. first!

This is the dawning of a new age at VVI. Most of the dust, drilling and hammering is past and that campus's services programs, resident in a new mall, are running Pacific Centre a little friendly competition Mondays through Fridays.

On level one you can get the total salon experience where hairdressing, barbering and the esthetician program are in new, integrated, streamlined quarters. As well as cutting and styling, students in hairdressing do perms, streaking, colouring and scalp treatments. Clients can go in at 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on a first come first served basis. Though it is possible to book appointments for special treatments such as colouring or perming. Barbering takes clients starting at 8:15 a.m. In the morning students do shaves and traditional haircuts, afternoons they move into perming, colouring and contemporary styling. The estheticians in training do manicures, pedicures, facials, eyebrow shaping and waxing. Appointments here are at 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. As pampering goes Elizabeth Arden couldn't do better!

If all this beautifying makes you hungry, you have a number of options. The cafeteria, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and coffee break snacks in the new, airy 550 seat quarters. At noon yet another option opens when Chinese cuisine students prepare oriental food between 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. They are located on the south side of the cafeteria, level II.

For more formal dining the 104 seat restaurant serves breakfast from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and dinner from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. There is a full range of appetizers, entres and desserts, along with full bar service at dinner.

"With the new dining room we're finding a number of people drop in here for dinner before an event at B.C. Place or a concert or play at the Queen Elizabeth," Service Division Chairman Tony Wood notes.

By mid-march the new lounge, just off the dining room will be open from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., serving a full range of drinks and canapes.

And for bread, rolls and any number of other baked goodies, a stop at the bake shop, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., is in order.

Shoe repair too is now on the mall. Shoes can only be dropped off on Wednesdays, but they can be picked up any week day from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The mall, the first of its kind in a British Columbia college, initiates a whole new concept in services industry training, according to Wood. "In our area we spent about 25 percent of the students' time on theory and another 75 percent is spent in practice," he says. "Our objective then is to make the practice, practical. For that we need to bring the general public in. They are the only ones who can make our training situation 'real world.' In the dining room alone our cooking students and restaurant and lounge service students meet the demands of more than 200 customers a day. They couldn't get any better preparation for getting and keeping jobs once they've graduated.



## In Memory of Jim Nowacki

VVC lost an esteemed member when Jim Nowacki, head of VVI's food trades department for 16 years, passed away early in January. His friends and associates at VVI have chosen to honor him by naming the new dining room "J.J.'s".





## VCC Bids Farewell to Doug Brown



Not many people retire with a fan club. Doug Brown, KEC's dean of administrative and student services, is that exception. Those who work with him and for him never qualify their praise with "but."

After overseeing the several years' gestation of KEC's new facilities and ensuring the administration wheels rolled along smoothly under conditions that weren't always optimum, Doug Brown is retiring at age 57 to meet new challenges. "I want to go on and try something different," explains Brown, whose life's work, to date, is in education, first as a teacher then as an administrator. "I would really like to enjoy, while I'm still young enough, some of the things I've always wanted to do but never before had the opportunity."

When he leaves KEC at the end of the month, he'll head off on a Caribbean cruise. Then there are a number of options open to him. He may become a stock broker. "It is an area that's always interested me and I've done some of the preliminary course work toward getting my licence."

Another possibility is the Canadian Executive Services Overseas, an organization that provides the expertise of Canadian executives and businessmen to Third World countries. The appointments, Brown explains, are short-term and the work is voluntary, with the service covering only travel and living expenses. As many who have witnessed the growth of KEC over the past decade would attest, there could hardly be better field preparation for advising developing nations!

Brown's first introduction to the college and KEC came in 1971 when he got the job of Saturday supervisor at King Edward, when it was still the adult education centre for the Vancouver School Board. "I was doing graduate work at UBC and I needed a part-time job," Brown explains. The move to adult education was a matter of being in "the right place at the right time," says Brown, who spent most of the sixties as head of the English department at Lindsay Place High School in Pointe Claire, Quebec.

In the early years he divided his time between the classroom and administrative duties as chief instructor, eventually moving to administration full time. "When the divisional system came in January of 1975 I was supposed to become chairman of college foundations. But just prior to that I'd been asked to fill in for Jake McInnis, who had gone to VVI as principal. A number of months later I took over permanently as dean of administrative and student services."

Coping with the woefully inadequate facilities at the old campus was one of Brown's biggest challenges. "When I first went into the job, there was almost no telephone system at what was then the special programs division," he says. "And then the fire necessitated a move to Langara for six months and then back into renovated quarters."

Probably no one at KEC knows more about the trials and tribulations of bringing the new campus from paper to reality. Brown was involved in planning for a new campus on at least three different occasions. "At one time we almost wound up on property on the north side of False Creek," he says. "In fact, we were only one vote away."

"Certainly working on the plans and seeing the move here to the new campus has brought a tremendous sense of accomplishment."

**King Edward Campus grew from about 1,000 students in 1971 to 7,000 students today. Getting funding for this ever-expanding program base was another challenge Brown contended with.**

"The demand for the kinds of programs we offer here burgeoned over the years," he explains. "I suppose one of the reasons is that we were able to offer courses that met special needs, for instance, the Individualized Educational Program for Adults, that helps those with learning disabilities. These programs don't exist anywhere else."

Brown returns the accolades his colleagues pay him. "The staff we've built up here over the years is exceptionally effective and dedicated. I'm very proud of that and proud of them."

"It sounds like a cliché, but this has been a great place to work. The associations and friendships I've formed here are fantastic. I feel very positive about the place. But I feel positive about leaving too. The time is right."

**Doug Brown's legion of friends at VCC will honour him the evening of February 24, with a testimonial fun night. For more information, call Shirley Girvan at KEC at 875-6111, local 731.**