

KING EDWARD TIMES

VOLUME V, No. 28

October 12, 1979

1) GRAND OPENING OF MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRE

The official opening of our newest off-campus facility - the Mount Pleasant Centre - took place last Friday morning. Everything went smoothly - the brief congratulatory messages; the ribbon-cutting by Board member Jonathan Baker with the ribbon being held in place by four "heavies"; the totally supportive "toast" by Assistant Deputy Minister Andy Soles; the refreshments prepared and served by the Basic Ed students and staff; and the mini-concert in the recital hall.

Included in Mr. Manera's comments were words of recognition of a number of people who were involved in Mount Pleasant Centre becoming a part of the College. To his list of names, I'd like to add Doug Brown's. Doug kept tab on the whole operation for K.E.C. and provided overall direction for the details of preparation for Friday's ceremony. He was ably assisted in "opening day" preparations by Shirley Girvan; Chuck Joy and Bill Hill; Bill Deegan and his people; Mary Waddington, her staff and students; Terry Smith and a number of student assistants; Steve Baker, our always helpful Receiver; Al Urich and his men; Bruce MacLean and members of his department; and the girls from Tony Wood's Waiter/Waitress class at V.V.I. To one and all, my thanks and appreciation.

The event was an unqualified success. We had many visitors, a number of whom indicated to me personally how happy they were for us that we had at least one new building - albeit not too large - for two of our programs.

The next step is a new campus for K.E.C. I hope it doesn't take too much longer.

H.E.P.

HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN. The United Way.



King Edward Campus

2) COLLEGE BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Vancouver Community College Board was held on Wednesday, October 10th and the following items were covered in the public session:

1. The College Principal's report touched on a variety of matters, some of which will be of particular interest to this Campus:
 - a) The overall enrolment of V.C.C. at the end of September was up 8.4% over September 30, 1978. King Edward's enrolment went up from 4618 to 5353, or approximately 16%.
 - b) The difficulty we're experiencing in lining up additional space for full-time E.L.T. classes was drawn to the Board's attention. There was, however, no immediately apparent solution.
 - c) A number of new "contract services" involving K.E.C. were brought to the attention of the Board: the Provincial E.S.L. Bulletin, E.L.T. in Industry at Alcan at Kitimat, and B.T.S.D. at the Musqueam Indian Reserve.

Mr. Manera's full report on the above, plus the other items included therein, has been placed in the Library for the perusal of those interested.

2. Facilities Report. Mr. Manera reported on progress that had been made respecting Langara's and V.V.I.'s building programs and it is anticipated that these projects will go ahead. In his report he stated that: "The King Edward Campus relocation continues to be the critical issue for which a breakthrough is needed. I have advised Ministry officials and the Minister of the consequences of not taking action very soon.... Meanwhile no further useful work on the King Edward Campus relocation can be done." The Board subsequently approved planning funds for the re-design of the V.V.I., including the space to be vacated by the E.C.C.A. I sensed the frustration of Board members respecting their apparent inability to resolve the site question for this Campus and therefore, the Board may request a meeting with the Minister to resolve the matter.
3. The Board approved the "folding in" of the Citizenship Trust Fund moneys, amounting to \$1,415,000 for the current fiscal year, into the College's operating budget. Until now the Trust Fund has been "outside" of our budget.
4. Purchasing policies and procedures as recommended by C.E.C. were referred back for further study and clarification.

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Minutes of the Board meeting of September 12, 1979 and supporting material and documentation related to the agenda items have been placed in the Library for the information of those interested.

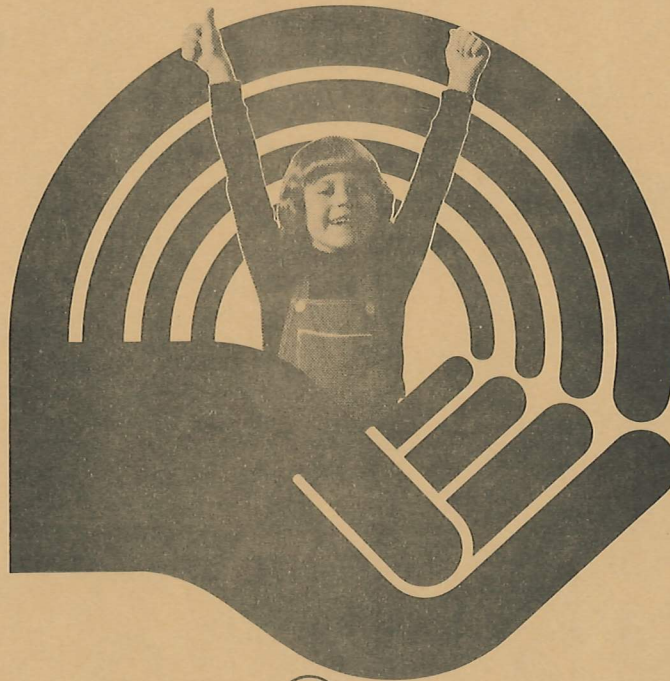
H.E.P.

3) DO IT THE UNITED WAY!

Hopefully, everyone has received the United Way pledge card and information concerning donations.

We would like to complete our campaign within the next two weeks. Please return your donation to Mary Griffith, your United Way representative for K.E.C. and be one of the contributors who will help make OUR percentage the biggest of all!

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4) DEAN OF INSTRUCTION - LANGARA CAMPUS

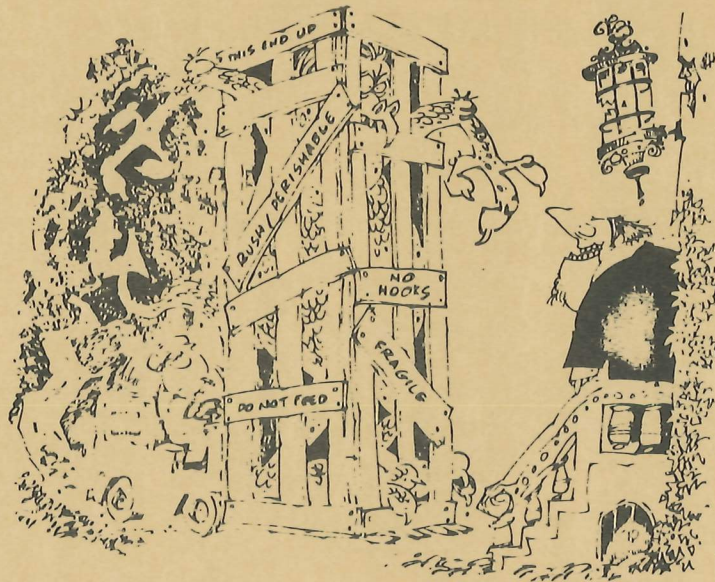
The appointment of Dr. Lawrence Fast as the new Dean of Instruction, Langara Campus was announced at Wednesday's College Board Meeting.

Dr. Fast has been associated with V.C.C. even before V.C.C. came into being, having taught English at the King Edward Senior Matriculation and Continuing Education Centre from 1962 to 1965. In 1965 he continued at K.E.C. (although it was now a part of V.C.C.) and then to Langara when that campus was built. Since 1974, he has been responsible for the Community Education Services program at Langara.

In announcing Dr. Fast's appointment, College Principal A. S. Manera stated: "I am sure all members of the College join with me in congratulating Dr. Fast on his new appointment and wish him every success in this new challenge."

Congratulations, Lawrence!

H.E.P.



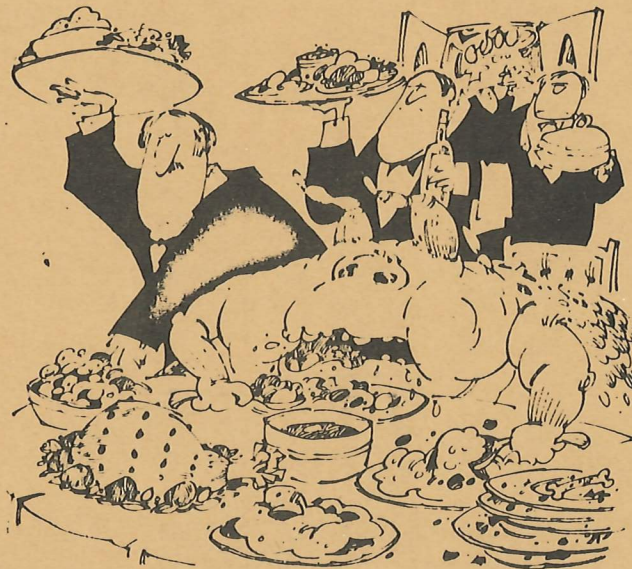
Receiving A STANDING OVATION

5) KING EDWARD DAY

There is an urgent need for faculty and staff involvement in the planning for a successful King Edward Day in February.

Your active help is sought. If you feel that you can work with your colleagues in the planning, please contact me as soon as is possible.

R.F.C.



Serving A SUMMONS

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your support to* **United
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6) POSITION OPENINGS

V.V.C. Langara Campus invites applications for a Counsellor. This is a one year, temporary position. The appointment date is January 1, 1980. Closing date for applications is Oct. 15.

V.C.C., V.V.I. has vacancies for an Assistant Department Head in the Business Education Department and a Department Head in the Program Development Department. Closing date for applications is October 15.

V.C.C., V.V.I. requires a Clerk Steno III. Applications to be in by October 16.

The Regina Plains Community College has an opening for Director of Adult Basic Education. Closing date for applications is October 15.

Fairview College in Fairview, Alberta requires a Dean of Instruction. This position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been selected.

Details on the above positions are posted on staff bulletin boards.

H.E.P.

7) CIDA

Please see CIDA's posting on the bulletin board for Spanish-speaking technical/vocational teachers for assignment to Latin America.

H.E.P.

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8) PROPOSED COURSES

As K.E.C. representative, I have been attending meetings for proposed courses known as the Downtown Series; CES will be mounting the courses in cooperation with all VCC's campuses.

The purpose of the series is to raise the profile of VCC in the downtown business sector through 3/4 hour noon-time lectures, films, presentations and so on.

The committee wishes to draw on the expertise and talents of the faculties from all campuses. If you have ideas and recommendations, I would very much appreciate hearing them so that I may pass them on to the committee when it meets again next week.

David Brown



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Support
Helps People
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- Arthritis
- Blindness
- Cerebral Palsy
- Child Beating
- Children's Diseases
- Deafness
- Delinquency
- Disasters
- Drownings
- Elderly Loneliness
- Epilepsy
- Family Break-up
- Loss of Blood
- Mental Illness
- Mental Retardation
- Parkinson's Disease
- Suicide
- Wife Battering
- (And many more)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

King Edward campus seeking new site

Vancouver Community College's King Edward Campus (formerly Special Programs Division) is in danger of extinction as a single entity. Our non-renewable lease with the Vancouver General Hospital for the campus at 12th and Oak expires in 1981 and we have no place to go. After much discussion with city hall and Vancouver School Board officials, the college began to narrow its search for a new campus, aided by \$60,000 in pre-planning funds from the education ministry to develop specifications. Finally, after a great deal of time and effort, the college board took an option on the proposed 7.8-acre China Creek site, but to no avail. The entire exercise has

been a waste of time and money because the ministry of education has not approved the site and has not suggested any alternatives.

King Edward Campus enrolls nearly 20,000 Lower Mainland citizens a year, offering comprehensive programs that no one else offers. We have pioneered basic education for adults in this province, catering to the upgrading needs of thousands of illiterate and semi-literate adults with program offerings from Grades 1 to 8. In Grades 9 to 12 we offer academically and technically oriented programs that are feeder bases for Langara, Vancouver

Vocational Institute, and other upper-level academic and technical institutions. Such programs provide an invaluable second chance for high school dropouts and adults seeking a new direction in life. The programs are horizontally and vertically integrated with other special programs including employment opportunities for women, basic educational skills training, vocational and secondary training, homemakers training, pharmacy assistant program, and multi-level English language training for new Canadians. It is vital to keep these integrated and interdependent programs together on one campus.

A case in point. In 1960, at age 20, I had a Grade 5 education. I enrolled in the basic education program of the King Edward campus night school. In 1961 I took a day program and in 1962 the college foundations program. In 1963 I transferred to second-year education at the University of B.C. In 1964 I was out teaching in the elementary schools. To me, those four years were a miracle, although they certainly involved a lot of hard work. I now teach college foundations mathematics at King Edward.

My older brother benefited in a similar fashion at King Edward, upgrading from Grade 6 at age 25 to a BSc in physics and astronomy. He now teaches physics at King Edward.

There are many other success stories. There must be thousands of graduates who feel the same sense of gratitude to King Edward for being instrumental in changing their lives and expanding their career opportunities.

Now they have an opportunity to return the favor. They can write a letter to their MLAs and to Dr. Pat McGeer, minister of education, indicating their support for the immediate approval of a new campus site.

If the King Edward story is not publicized quickly, we may no longer exist. Students interested in forming an alumni society are invited to telephone 731-4614, local 11.

WAYNE WILSON
Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus

The accompanying letter appeared in the Vancouver Sun, Thursday, October 11, 1979. Thank you for writing, Wayne. You said it well.

H.E.P.

Learning a new language

HOT OFF FROM THE
PRESS FROM KITIMAT!!

You can detect the early signs of autumn in the cooler air and in the children, carrying shiny new lunch buckets as they parade into schools armed with pens, pencils and books.

However, school days are not just limited to those young and anxious faces but include some of their parents as well.

It's back to school for students in Alcan's English language training program as of October 1. They'll be attending classes at Nechako shopping centre, above the site of the former Coghlin's hardware store.

The program, sponsored by Alcan, CASAW and Northwest Community College, will provide instruction for the fourth consecutive year for employees and their families, Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Classes are free of charge but students are required to attend on their own time. [Anyone interested in enrolling should fill out the application form on this page.]

Last year 35 students registered in the course, 60 percent of whom had attended classes one or two years previously -- an indication of the enthusiasm and warm feelings that have developed between the students and the instructors, Christel and Norman Dooley.

"Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounce it to you, trippingly on the tongue." -- Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Emil Jensen came to Kitimat 13 years ago to work as a crane operator but was told he would have to accept a different job. "I was so angry I was only going to work a week, just long enough to be able to buy the gasoline to leave. I'm still here," he says, laughing.

"I always had trouble spelling, even back in Denmark where I was born. But as an acting foreman, I have to make out reports and I need to be able to spell correctly. I can read English as easily as my native tongue, but I seem to have a hard time spelling. That's why I took classes last year and will again this year," says the senior cell operator.

Emil's wife Maria often kids him about the fact that his classes are not nearly as difficult as hers will be

since her native Greek language has a different alphabet. She will start her first classes this October.

Emil appreciates how helpful Christel Dooley has been as a teacher, knowing which aspects of the English language he needs to study more diligently.

Two students who will be returning to classes this year are Manuel Batista and his wife Leonete. Manuel came to Kitimat in 1966 and has worked at the plant for 13 and a half years.

"With the help from Norman, I studied better; without him, I couldn't have passed the test."

-- Manuel Batista, welder A

Like many of his fellow students, Manuel was born in Portugal and has found classes very helpful to his work. "I was a maintenance welder B, and I had to write a test in English in order to earn a welder A ticket. I was given a textbook to study for the welder exam and I took it to my English classes. With the help from Norman I studied better; without him, I couldn't have passed the test.

"Without his help there is no way I would be able to say today that I am a maintenance welder A. The classes saved so much time. There was a lot of pressure for that welding A test -- I'm just glad it's over now," says Manuel.

"The Dooleys are the best teachers for me. They are very sympathetic and it's not so much a teacher-student relationship but more of a family," he says.

The Batistas have two children, Manuel (16) and Nella (18), who worked as a summer student for Alcan in shipping. Manuel says that, although the children speak Portuguese, he couldn't keep them interested in learning to read and write the language once they began high school.

Wharf general foreman Joe Goncalves has, with other foremen, encouraged the people he works with to register for English classes.

"We had three people here who had to fill out log books as part of

their jobs, but they didn't have a good grasp of the English language. They've been going to classes for two years now and the improvements in their work are just incredible," Joe says.

Others agree. For example, Joe Chan from operations 3B-8 and Eric Skyes of reduction materials keep in close contact with the school on behalf of their employees who are interested in the classes.

"Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact -- it is silence which isolates."

-- Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*

"I encourage all foremen to keep communications open with the Dooleys to indicate to them what their employees' jobs include so that the classes can be relative to the work," says Joe Goncalves.

"We had a fellow here at the wharf who was shy, but since he has taken classes, he's really opened up. Mind you, there are some people who attend those classes that can't shut up," he jokes.

Wharf employee Victor Rocha, as some would say, had it made in Portugal. "I was working for the post office there and owned two houses and a farm. I had talked to an old friend of mine who had moved to Canada and was told while he was on a vacation in Portugal that people were making at least 10 dollars an hour. So I figured why not give it a try."

However when Victor arrived in

Joe De Lima of the wharf says that there is an obvious good change in one's working conditions after taking the English language course.

Emil worked in Australia as a crane driver for power dam construction before arriving in Kitimat 13 years ago. Although the English language is very different from his native Danish tongue, he has accepted the challenge of learning a new language with a positive outlook.

Toronto he suddenly realized that all was not glittering with gold on the North American continent -- at least not at first. "I started my first job as a janitor for \$1.75 an hour," he recalls.

Employees working for the post office in Portugal are eligible for an unlimited licence to travel to other countries for a minimum of one year. As a result, Victor was stuck at the \$1.75 an hour job, but eventually did find a better-paying position before the end of the year. "It got to the point where I really liked living in Canada," says Victor.

His employment before coming to Kitimat was primarily with other Portuguese workers, which limited his exposure to the English language. "I learned more English in the first two years with Alcan than the four years I worked in Canada before coming to Kitimat. And that was before I attended the English training classes."

Victor has attended classes for two years now and intends to continue them this year as well.

Joe De Lima, who works at the wharf, has been with Alcan for five years. He is also from Portugal, but did spend two years in France before coming to Kitimat.

"I picked up the French language while in France, but I have forgotten it now. I never did learn to read or write in French though," he explains.

Last year, his second attending the course, he went to classes four days a week, two hours a day.

One of the best lessons students learn through the English training program, apart from the language skills acquired, is that mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, workers, sons and daughters are still open to learning long after the last school text book was closed years ago in another country.

Victor Rocha who works at the wharf attends extra classes when he has free time. A number of students drop out of classes after a few weeks which gives students like Victor an opportunity to accelerate their studies.

It's an unusual world when one doesn't have a good grasp of the language he or she works in, especially when an individual wishes to learn a trade. Manuel Batista was determined to get his welder's ticket and did with the help of a friend and teacher.

The above article, reprinted from the September issue of "Ingot", the newspaper published by Alcan in Kitimat, relates some of the good work being done by our friends, Norman Dooley and Christel Nierobisch.

R. Meyer

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