

KING EDWARD TIMES

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WE MADE THE LAST HURDLE!!!

WE PASSED THE \$4,000.00 MARK AND WON THE RACE!

A very generous benefactor contributed the last large dollar amount and, with all of YOUR generous donations, we really made it.

Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness and help in making this the best campaign ever!

ONWARD AND UPWARD IN MAKING GOOD THINGS HAPPEN!

Mary Griffith,
United Way
Campaign
Representative

OFFICIAL VISIT

As today's Times is going to press, the Honourable Grace McCarthy, Minister of Human Resources and Deputy Premier has just arrived at King Edward Campus. On this whirlwind tour of the College, Mrs. McCarthy has already visited Langara Campus this morning and after her visit here, she wants to visit VVI as well - all before 1:00 p.m.

We appreciate her interest.

H.E.P.

FROM THE LEARNING CENTRE

The Learning Centre will be closed for the holidays from December 24 to January 1, inclusive.

The Centre will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. on December 22, 23 and January 2.

Learning Centre staff will be enjoying a well-deserved break and I want to take this opportunity to extend cordial holiday wishes to one and all.

J.G.K.

COLLEGE BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Vancouver Community College Board is scheduled for next Wednesday, December 3rd in the sixth floor board room at 675 West Hastings Street at 7:00 p.m.

H.E.P.

B.C. COUNCIL FOR LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

A copy of BCCLEA's October newsletter has been posted on the bulletin board in the administration office.

H.E.P.

HOLIDAYS

I will be on holidays until January 2nd.

Cheryl Jibodh

TESL ONTARIO CONFERENCE

Rose Marie Watson will be attending the Symposium on South-East Asian Refugees and the TESL ONTARIO Conference December 3-6. During her absence, Maureen Sawkins (local 76) will be in charge.

R.M.W.

V.C.C. DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESS RELEASE

V.C.C. Department of Music announces a forthcoming performance:

FEATURING: Madrigal Singers and the Willan Choir

Conductor: Jon Washburn

DATE: December 5, 1980

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Unitarian Church, 49th and Oak, Vancouver

ADMISSION IS FREE

J.D.

LIBRARY LUNCH TIMES

Every first and third Tuesday each month, the Library offers a special lunch time program, inviting you to bring your own food and get a free cup of coffee in the library.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd at 12:30 - - 2 FILMS

THIS IS YOUR MUSEUM SPEAKING

A museum watchman discovers that museums are very much part of the community...

SKI EAST ... FOR THE FUN OF IT

The mountainous snow-belt of the Eastern Townships area of Quebec offers enticements few skiers can resist, including interchangeable tickets...

ADMISSION FREE

WATCH THIS PAPER FOR
FUTURE PROGRAMS

P.C.

"Vancouver Sun"

Mar. 21/80

The 'street fluent' are discovering joys of reading

By SHELLEY FRALIC

THEY RANGE in age from 18 to 80. Some have been in B.C. for a whole generation, some for just a few years. Many work, others are high school dropouts and still others are housewives whose children have grown up and left home.

They all have one thing in common. They are known as the "street fluent" — and they are part of the large chunk of the Canadian population that is functionally illiterate.

Which means that while they have some rudimentary language skills, they find it difficult to read a newspaper, write a letter, join a conversation or help their children with homework.

CLAIRE BLOCK came to Canada from Germany in 1952, when she was 17.

Hers is the classic scenario — she went to work, got married and had five children. She's now 45, and says it took her several years to work up the nerve to enrol in an English language course.

"I finished school in Germany," she says. "But I never went to English school. My youngest is 14, and now I decided I'd better do something. I can write and I can read — I taught myself — but it's a little embarrassing not to be able to write a proper note to my child's teacher."

MARIE JOHNSON, 28, returned to school for the same reason.

"I have a three-year-old daughter. I might be going to school for another two years, but when she is ready for school and needs help in her homework, I want to be able to help her."

Johnson has a Grade 10 education, and says her goal is to get enough training so she can give up social assistance and move on to a more promising future.

ROB CROMPTON, 18, dropped out of Point Grey secondary school in Grade 8.

"I never got along in high school, so I quit. I worked for three years and then decided I wanted to become a carpenter."

Crompton says he needs Grade 10 before he can enrol in a carpentry course, but he plans to complete Grade 12 if he can.

And when you find yourself having problems reading a magazine, he says, you know it's time to do something about it.

"It took me 3½ years to decide to come back," says Crompton. "But I was really having a hard time. Every second word, I couldn't read."

BLOCK, Johnson and Crompton now are attending an adult basic education course at the Mount Pleasant campus of Vancouver Community College. They join close to 150 others who attend morning and evening classes at various VCC campuses to upgrade their literacy achievement to a minimum Grade 8 level.

And they, along with hundreds more attending basic English courses at universities and local school boards around the province, are typical of the one out of every six people in B.C. who is severely undereducated.

While that figure is said to be improving, education officials say it's still a problem that requires top priority in the school system.

BARBARA BOWMAR of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. says that about 18 per cent of B.C.'s population

has less than a Grade 9 education, but "that's down from the previous census, which was about 23 per cent."

She said things are changing for several reasons.

"It is becoming more and more acceptable for adults to return to school. There is pressure in our society to become literate, it's almost assumed that everyone is literate. And the kinds of jobs that don't require literacy are becoming more scarce."

Bowmar says illiteracy is basically a social problem, and one that can take root at any stage in a person's life.

She cites the example of a 25-year-old woman who grew up in northern Ontario, and who, because of weather conditions and family obligations, never really went to school. When the woman recently showed up in Bowmar's class, it was as a functional illiterate.

PAULETTE MAGLAQUE has been teaching adult English language classes at VCC for five years, and says instruction ranges from basic grammar to practical skills such as answering a classified ad and gathering information from a library.

"It's a bit of an anomaly that we live in such a media world — and I don't mean just print media — that it's in many ways unnecessary for people to become literate."

Maglaque says many of her students return to school out of career necessity, but "for others it's more or less their own self-image. There's more of a thrust for people to return to school, and I think that's a growing phenomenon."

But Vancouver school board spokesman Chuck Gosbee says there are several factors still working against a rising literacy rate.

One is the increasing number of ESL (English as a second language) students coming into the education system.

Gosbee says more than 40 per cent of the students now enrolled in Vancouver's elementary and secondary schools are ESL. "Ten years ago it would have been 20 per cent, and it's growing by leaps and bounds."

ANOTHER problem is the high dropout rate at the secondary school level. "We lose, in the Vancouver school system, probably 1,000 or more as dropouts in the senior year."

And he says educators are still trying to pick up the pieces from the last two decades. "We went through the so-called permissive generation in the '60s, where courses had to be relevant. In that period, education got away from teaching the basics."

He adds that the VSB's four-year-old Project BUILD (Bringing Unity Into Language Development) has been bolstered by several new projects designed to upgrade the province's literacy level.

One is the recently published handbook entitled *Some Suggestions For Parents*.

It is an instructional manual covering the years from kindergarten to Grade 7, and is printed in eight languages to encourage improved literacy habits in the home.

Another project in the works is a "first language library collection," for the use of non-English-speaking children as they enrol in the system.

Gosbee says he recently did a survey of Roberts elementary school in the West End, and of 601 students in the school, 304 spoke a language other than English as their first language.

"There were 64 separate languages and dialects, even Swahili and Djakarti," says Gosbee.



MARK van MANEN

MARIE JOHNSON and her daughter **Erika**: wants to be able to help with the homework

A REMINDER

Please remember that ALL duplicating orders will be run BACK-TO-BACK unless you specifically state that you do not want it done.

Reams of paper are saved and your departmental duplicating costs will be reduced. So - unless absolutely necessary - please check back-to-back on your work orders.

M.G.

FROM THE MUSIC LIBRARY

"A Musical composition is a poem.

Read it.

Let it touch your soul with heavenly fire"

E.E. Ayres.

.....and with this thought, let the music touch your soul this weekend, and the weekend of December 6-7. Whatever your music pleasure, the music library has it, and will be open at your special request, for the next two weekends only:

Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

P.C.

VACATION

I shall be taking Annual Vacation for the month of December 1980. During my absence, please refer all library problems and requests, etc., to Phyllis Butler, who will be acting on my behalf.

Paul Cook

POSITION OPENINGS

V.C.C. King Edward Campus requires a Program Assistant I for the ELT Night School and English 099 programs. Closing date for applications is December 2.

V.C.C. King Edward Campus requires a Student Services Assistant in the Counselling Services Department. Closing date for applications is December 2.

V.C.C. requires a Payroll Clerk II at Regional Offices. Closing date for applications is November 28.

V.C.C./V.V.I. requires a full-time Instructor in their Dental Auxiliary Department. Closing date for applications is November 28.

For further details, please see postings on bulletin boards.

H.E.P.

K.E.C. FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES

ATKINS, Elizabeth	I.D. 101 at V.V.I.	Dec. 1-4
CHEUNG, Steve	To compile the Intermediate Vocabulary Manual Part II	April 10/81 to Apr. 16/81
CHEUNG, Steve	To compile a Vocabulary Manual for the Intermediate Level	Dec. 8-12

