

KING EDWARD TIMES

VOLUME VII, No. 9

May 29, 1981

COLLEGE BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Vancouver Community College Board is scheduled for next Wednesday evening, June 3rd at 7 o'clock in the sixth floor Board chambers at 675 West Hastings Street.

H.E.P.

ABSENCE OF PRINCIPAL

I shall be absent from campus from this afternoon (Friday) until next Wednesday (June 3rd) in order to attend this year's joint convention of the A.C.C.C. and the C.V.A.

H.E.P.

V.V.I. GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

College President, A.S. Manera advises that V.V.I.'s ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for this afternoon (Friday, June 19th) at four o'clock, followed by a reception.

Interested faculty, staff and administrators are invited to attend.

H.E.P.



King Edward Campus

University's not the only choice

Rather than intellectual enlightenment, many of today's students are looking for down-to-earth training and secure jobs. Thousands of working adults, too, want to switch occupations, learn new skills or keep up with changing technologies. Most of them find what they're seeking — at Vancouver Community College.

What's the largest educational facility in British Columbia? UBC? SFU? As a matter of fact, it's Vancouver Community College, with a yearly enrolment equal to both Lower Mainland universities combined.

At any given time, more than 20,000 students will be attending classes at VCC. Almost 64,000 of them register every year.

And to teach, help and feed those students, new campuses will be built at a cost of more than \$50 million — the price of the first estimate for the Flat B.C. project in Vancouver harbor.

VCC really started with adult-education classes in 1959, when Vancouver High School and McGill University got together and sponsored a community arts course. There were six undergraduates enrolled that year.

By
TED LATURNUS
(Part One of a series)

Today there are 1,695 faculty and support-staff members, three main campuses, numerous off-campus facilities scattered around the city, and a budget exceeding \$55 million per year.

Each of the three main campuses, King Edward, Langara and the Vancouver Vocational Institute, has its own ballwicket.

The King Edward campus is mainly a centre for remedial English and continuing education; Langara deals with arts and sciences, and the Vocational Institute is for job-oriented upgrading courses. But all three facilities are hopelessly inadequate, both in terms of space and operating budgets.

Langara, for example, was built in 1970 to accommodate 3,500 students. It has 5,000. VVI has waiting lists as long as four years for some courses, and King Edward, the busiest of the three, is housed in a building some 70 years old. Apparently, if you bounce on the gymnasium floor too vigorously, parts of the ceiling will rain down on you.

The King Edward campus is, in fact, living on borrowed time; by April of next year, it won't be there. It must be cleared to make way for a new wing of

the Vancouver General Hospital, which owns the land. The King Ed facilities will move to China Creek Park in East Vancouver, where a \$28-million complex is scheduled to open its doors in October, 1982.

Lack of space is a very real problem for VCC; complaints from students and faculty regarding overcrowded classes, inadequate library resources, nonexistent parking facilities and insufficient student services are commonplace.

College Principal Tony Manera describes conditions at King Edward and parts of the vocational centre as "pitiful."

"When you consider what an incredible bargain the King Edward Campus is," he adds, "you appreciate what a real shame it is that it's so rundown. Considering what you start with and what you end up with, what takes place at the King Edward facilities is remarkable."

"Since we offer English as a second language and basic remedial English programs there, we regularly get new Canadians who may have been professionals in their old country but are illiterate here. A year and several classes later, perhaps a new teacher or technician will enter the work force."

"Or maybe we'll get a housewife who has been out of the work force for 25 years, or a man who dropped out of school in grade 8, 30 years ago, and lost his job as a janitor because he can't read the labels on the cleaning solutions he uses. Getting these people back on track is probably the most rewarding

experience there is."

VCC's space problems, fortunately, may soon be at an end; as well as the new campus at China Creek, a \$19-million tower expansion for business and health-oriented programs at the Fender Street Vocational Institute will more than double the space there, and Langara is due to have some 3,250 square metres of space tacked on to the campus within the next two years.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Vancouver Community College is the range of its curriculum. Everything from homemaker courses to shoe repair and journalism is offered, and some of the courses are unavailable anywhere else in the province — court reporter and dental assistant, for example. Others, such as welding, machine shop and diesel mechanics are going on literally around the clock. Some courses are being taught 24 hours a day, with perhaps one hour off to clean the place up. Demand simply outstrips supply.

The most popular programs tend to be in the arts and sciences, with 4,000 students enrolled — usually to accumulate first-year university credits.

"Many students are getting their feet wet, so to speak," says Manera. "They want to see if they can handle university-level programs and maybe discover what they're interested in. English-language training is also very much in demand."

Manera suggests that the recent influx of Vietnamese refugees in Vancouver is a partial explanation, but hastens

to add that the illiteracy rate in Vancouver is still appallingly high.

"The incredible ethnic variety we have here is part of it, but you'd be amazed how many people out there simply dropped out of school too early and now have to come back to learn basic English."

But what kind of person goes to VCC? "It's difficult to generalize," says information director Cam Avery, "but I'd say that he or she is either training for a specific type of employment, or taking training that leads to further education. Usually, they've got a pretty clear idea of where they want to go. The average age here is 28."

"In the word-processing field, for example, the technology is moving along so rapidly we have people coming in who already hold jobs, but have to upgrade their skills to keep up." This is leading to what Avery calls "modular" courses. "What we do there," he explains, "is reserve a block of time during the days, where the student comes in — while he's on the job — gets the upgrading and goes back to work."

"We're also getting into Tele-college, on the Knowledge Network on cable TV. Now, anyone can get a converter and tune in, and we'll provide the tutoring and certification. Right now we're offering business-related courses, like advertising and sales management, as well as interior design, but we're going to be getting into some non-credit courses, such as gardening or yoga. This kind of thing is really going to open up in the next few years."

The immediate future is also going to see an extreme shortage in what principal Manera calls the "para-professional" industries.

"You wouldn't believe the demand for data processors right now. Ninety per cent of our graduates get jobs almost immediately, but that waiting list is very discouraging for the rest."

The same is true in the tourism industry; Vancouver is on the verge of becoming a major tourist centre, and the hospitality industry is going to boom. We can't train people fast enough. I could go on for hours... Nursing is another one. We simply can't keep up with the demand. There's plenty of work out there, believe me."

In an effort to relieve the congestion, the college has instituted a "co-operative" learning arrangement whereby

students spend equal amounts of time at school and on the job.

"We're just getting the co-operative program underway," says Manera. "It's very effective but tremendously expensive. We've had to hire someone just to keep track of it, and if the employers aren't 100-per-cent committed, it won't work."

The basis of the co-operative process is that VCC keeps a record of all its students, while they're attending the institution and when they leave it. They then run periodic checks on those students learning while in a job situation and evaluate the feedback they get from employer and employee.

"We are going to be getting into this type of program evaluation in a big way," says Manera.

Predictably, the future of Vancouver City College is dependent upon cash flow. "There's never enough," sighs Manera. "We have no complaints regarding money for expansion of facilities, but in terms of operating funds, the government's contributions are totally insufficient."

The problem is, any money kicked in by the provincial government has certain strings attached. "When they give us the money, they more or less tell us where it's to go; we're not allowed any flexibility when it comes to moving funds around, and the government is simply too far removed to really know our needs."

Since 75 per cent of the College's annual budget is for salaries, that tends to leave a fairly meagre reserve of money for things like audio-visual services, libraries, administrative costs and student services.

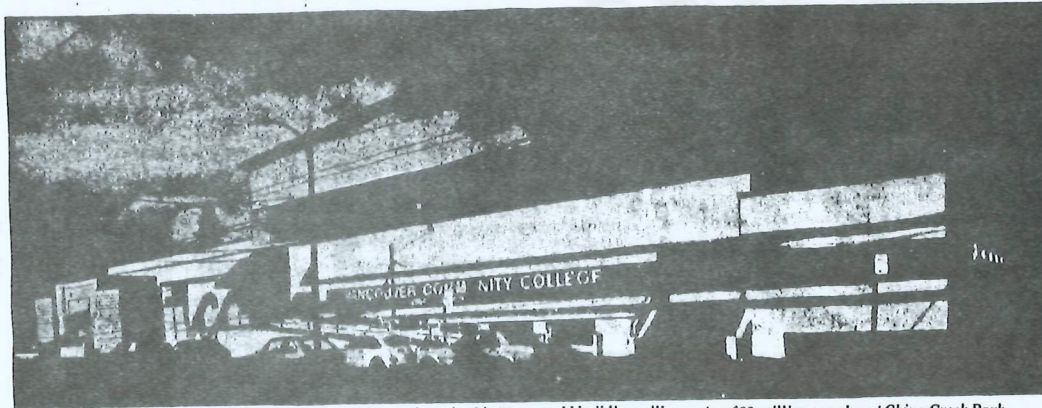
The future, however, looks good for Vancouver City College. The jobs are there, and so are the students. All that's needed are the facilities to keep up with them.

"People tend to see us as another provincial institute," says Manera.

"However, we are not... We're a community college, geared towards fulfilling the needs of people in the surrounding area. That doesn't mean we won't take anyone from out of Vancouver, but our major market is the Lower Mainland. We're here to help people improve their education and perhaps define their goals a little more clearly."

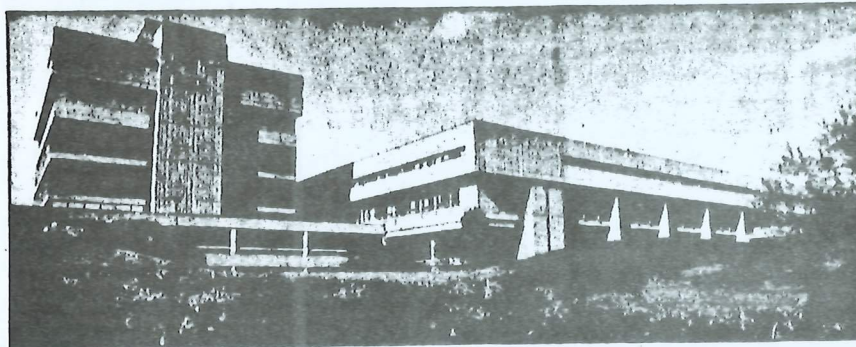
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Ted Laturnus is a Vancouver freelance writer.



■ VCC's King Edward campus: In October, 1982, students in this 70-year-old building will move to a \$28-million complex at China Creek Park.

David Clark



■ Langara campus of Vancouver Community College: Built in 1970 to accommodate 3,500 students, it now has 5,000.

Wayne Laidlaw/Post

VANCOUVER PROVINCE - 1981 May 27

GOING TO COLLEGE AND HOLDING A JOB GO WELL TOGETHER

Ted Laturnus' excellent story about Vancouver Community College makes a timely contribution to the public's knowledge of post-secondary education in B.C.

One or two items in the story, however, require clarification. While VCC delivers by far more instruction than any of the province's 20 colleges and provincial institutes, we are not as large as UBC, yet. Additionally, while several of VCC's programs are not available elsewhere in B.C., dental assistant programs are in fact offered at a few other colleges.

The "co-operative" concept has been implemented initially at our Langara Campus where students in two-year programs such as data processing and food services will alternate periods of college instruction with periods of employment in a related industry. We hope eventually to convert as many of the 20 career programs offered at Langara Campus as possible to a co-operative mode, but, as indicated in The Province story, such programs tend to be more costly than more conventional offerings.

The program evaluation system is intended to apply to all employment-oriented programs, and should result in further improvement.

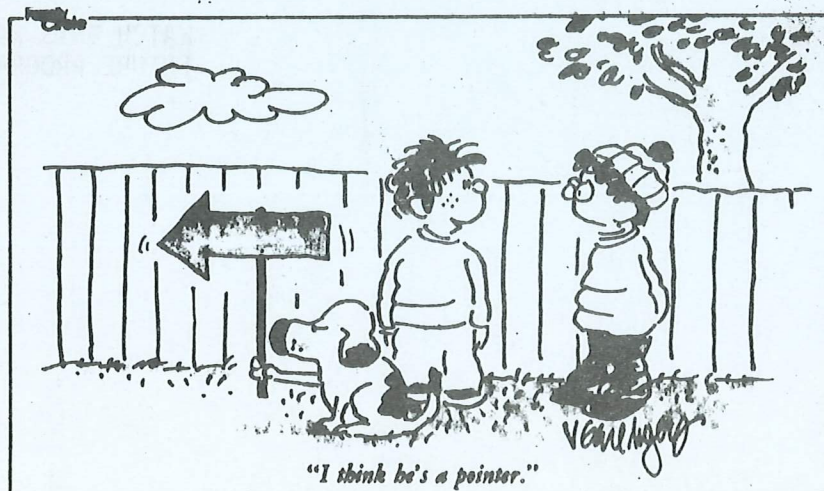
Finally, I would like to underscore the need for a substantial improvement in operating grants to VCC. Space deficiencies are now being rectified, but the lack of sufficient operating funds continues to be a problem for us.

Tony Manera
President and
Chief Executive Officer
Vancouver Community College

STAND-IN

Wayne Declé will be in charge of routine business at the KEC Learning Centre for June and July while Grant Kelly is on holidays. Wayne's hours will be 9 - 12 noon Monday through Thursday.

J.G.K.



FROM THE LIBRARY

Life is one great symphony. From the cradle to the grave one finds in music an expression of his highest, richest, divinest life. Music lulls the infant to peaceful slumbers; by its aid the lover woos and wins the maiden of his choice. Music heightens the joy of the wedding; stimulates the flagging footsteps of the soldier in the weary march; is the expression of joy and thankfulness for the harvest season; aids by its voice the merrymaking after toil; glides with healing sympathy into the funeral rites; and in death, had we but ears to hear, the music from the other world might roll in upon us and resolve in heavenly harmonies all discords of earth's jangling life.

Lyman Abbott.

JUNE IS THE CELEBRATION OF MUSIC IN KEC LIBRARY.

THERE'LL BE CONCERTS AND CONTESTS. KEEP WATCHING!

G.L.

LIBRARY LUNCH TIMES

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

TUESDAY, June 2nd at 11:45 a.m. --- 1 Film:

MUSICANADA

With no commentary other than the music and words of the performers themselves, this fast-moving film presents the grandest Canadian concert of them all. Here, the performers include both the great and the unknown from across the country, the musical styles span the centuries, and the artists are involved in all stages of musicianship - learning, teaching, conducting, recording, performing. Among the film's stars are Edith Butler, Beau Dommage, Maureen Forrester, Glenn Gould, Paul Horn, The Huggett Family and Gilles Figneault.

ADMISSION FREE

WATCH THIS PAPER FOR
FUTURE PROGRAMMES

P.C.

Position Openings

The B.C. Ferry Corporation has an opening for a Clerk Steno III in Victoria. Closing date for applications is June 8th.

The B.C. Ferry Corporation also requires a Third Cook for Tsawwassen Crews. Closing date for applications is June 3rd.

The B.C. Ferry Corporation requires a Hull Maintenance Man for the Deas Dock. Closing date for applications for this position is June 10th.

V.C.C./Langara Campus requires a Library Assistant II. Closing date for applications is June 1st.

V.C.C./Langara Campus requires Full-time and/or Part-time instructors of Computer Science and/or Statistics starting September, 1981. Closing date for applications is June 8th.

V.C.C./Langara Campus requires a Duplicating Equipment Operator II. The closing date for applications for this position is June 3rd.

V.C.C./King Edward Campus has an opening for a Clerk II - Student Services (Counselling Resource Centre). Closing date for applications is June 3rd.

For further details on the above positions, please see postings on the bulletin boards.

H.E.P.

SOFTBALL NOTICE

Our KEC Softball team, the OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH will be starting off the season with an exhibition game against the Vancouver School Board

at noon

Sunday, May 31st

at Churchill High School (1 block east of Oak Street on 57th Avenue).

Please come to cheer us on as we get into the swing of things.

Linda Murdock
Captain



K.E.C. FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES

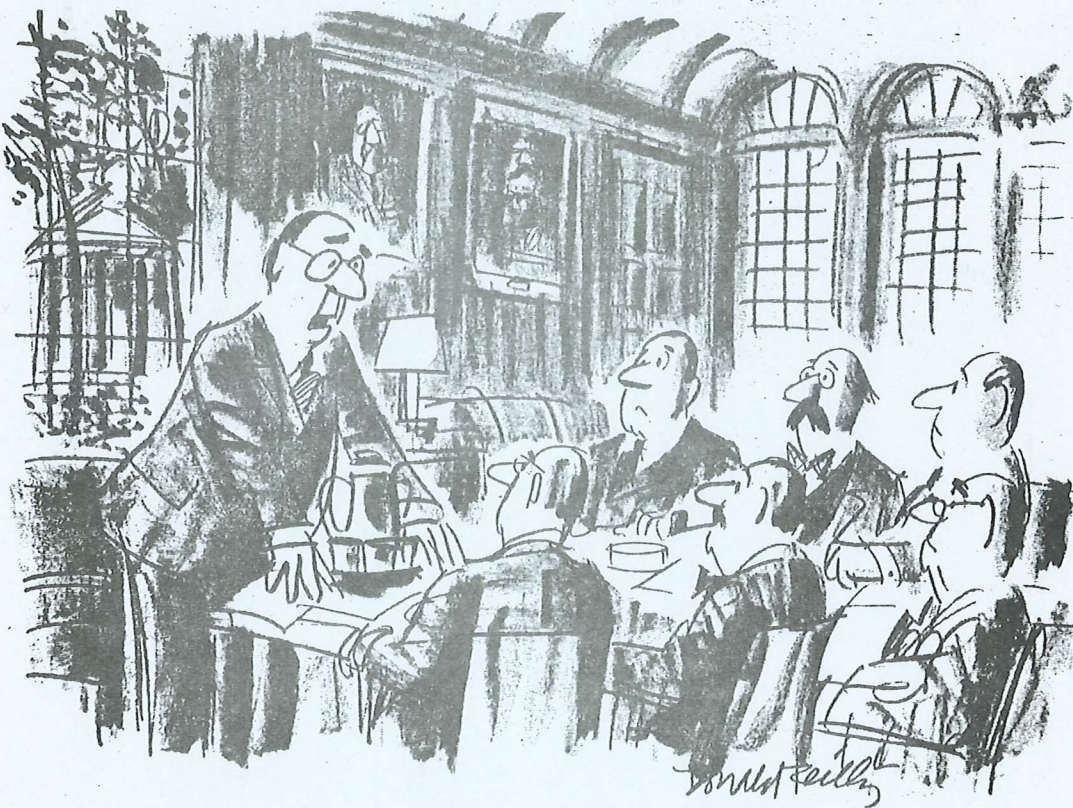
Atkins, E.	P.D. - Journal Reading; Vancouver	May 27
Bennett, M.	1) Conference - Annual CVA - ACCC Conference; Winnipeg, Manitoba	May 29-June 3
	2) Conference - VIA Representative at Colleges & Institutes Educational Conference; Vancouver	May 21-23
Bottlinger, W.	1) On Duty/Off Campus - Presentation of Workshop for Professionals; Integration of Blind & Visually Impaired; C.N.I.B.; Vancouver	June 11,12
	2) P.D. - Management Skills Workshop; UBC, Vancouver	June 8-10
Darville, R.	Seminar - "The Classroom Fix: Exclusion from Literacy"; Canadian Sociology & Anthropology Ass'n. Mtg.; Dalhousie University, Halifax	May 22-31
Funk, J.	Ass'n. Bus. - Annual ACCC/CVA Conference; VIA Representative; Winnipeg	May 29-June 3
Jibodh, C.	P.D. - Management Skills Workshop; UBC, Vancouver	June 8-10
Lee, E.	On Duty/Off Campus - Mtg. of Federal Government Officials Re Settlement Issues; Vancouver	May 22
Littleboy, P.	P.D. - Management Skills Workshop; UBC, Vancouver	June 8-10
Meyer, R.	P.D. - Instructional Skills Workshop; "Retreat", Camp Potlatch, B.C.	June 1-3
Petersen, T.	Conference - VIA Representative at CVA-ACCC Conference; Winnipeg	May 29-June 3
Smith, T.	P.D. - Management Skills Workshop; UBC, Vancouver	June 8-10
Turpin, H.	Seminar - M.H.R. Staff Orientation Workshop (Panel Member); Vancouver	June 4

VANCOUVER INDIAN CENTRE

The Vancouver Indian Centre is asking for \$25.00 donations to support their work in the new Vancouver Indian Centre at 1607 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Donators will become founders and their names will be entered on a plaque to be mounted in the new Centre. A certificate will also be given. All donations are tax deductible.

E.C.C.



"In sum, and in conclusion, gentlemen, the finding of the university's Futures and Directions Committee is that somebody, somehow, had better come up with the scratch."

