

# Windsider

VOLUME 3 : NUMBER 38 : NOVEMBER 29, 1985

## THANK YOU POWER ENGINEERING

A pat on the back to the Power Engineering students and faculty who saved the day on a cold and frosty Wednesday, November 26.

Central Heat, the company who normally supplies steam to the College, had a serious problem and could not supply their regular quantity because of the severe weather conditions. It would have meant closing down the college because of the lack of heat!

Within 45 minutes of knowing about the problem, the Power and Process students, under the supervision of Ross Carviel and Hal Peters, had fired up the B & W watertube boiler in the Steam Lab, to provide the College with a good supply of steam.

We may need their "services" again before the winter is out!!

JB

## GRADUATION TIME AGAIN

Just a reminder that the next graduation ceremonies will take place Thursday, December 5, 1985. For more information contact Judy Weiss at Local 431.

JW

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Well Christmas is drawing near - it's just a little over three weeks away and one thing that Christmas time seems to bring around the campus is an unfortunate increase in the number of thefts of personal belongings and valuables.

Whatever the motive, such thefts are violating - don't let the spirit of the season be compromised by being the victim of a theft. Remember that the best protection against these types of thefts is to prevent them from happening in the first place.

Anything that is personal or valuable or easily movable must be locked up for safekeeping. Always lock doors if you are leaving a room empty and be sure to secure purses in locked cabinets. Do you carry a wallet in the pocket of your topcoat? Then take the wallet with you if you leave your coat hanging on a coatrack!

We have a large student population and a myriad of visitors through the campus everyday -- don't trust your valuables to someone else's integrity - they might not have any!

JV

## WHAT GOOD IS A BLOOD DONOR

The following is taken from an Ann Landers column. It tidily sums up "what good a blood donor is". . . .

A blood donor is good for people who go through windshields and red lights.  
For somebody with leukemia.  
For people being operated on.  
For barefoot kids who aren't careful.  
For victims of violence.

For hemophiliacs so they can live as normally as possible.  
For daredevils.  
For someone undergoing dialysis while waiting for a kidney transplant.  
For people who fool around with guns.  
For little kids who manage to uncap a bottle of something poisonous.  
For people who are badly burned.  
For new mothers needing transfusions.  
For a new baby who needs a complete change of blood supply.  
For someone having open heart surgery.

For cancer patients.  
For someone with a severe case of hepatitis.  
For kids who fall out of trees or anywhere else.  
For anybody any age with bleeding ulcers.  
For people in the wrong place at the wrong time.  
For the very tired with severe anemia.

For people who run into things.  
For all the people who are in a lot worse shape than most people you know.

A blood donor is good for life.

Our next blood donor clinic is Monday, December 9. You probably have a family member or a friend or know of someone who fits into one of the above categories. Do your part for them - donate a pint on December 9.

GC

## VVI OPEN HOUSE

Open House has always been successful in attracting students to the V.V.I., the reason being the community awareness of what V.V.I. does.

The Management Committee has decided that V.V.I. will have another Open House in 1986. A committee will be established to organize it and will consist of the four division chairmen, Dalton Kremer, and John Vandenakker as chairman.

However, it can't be successful without the full cooperation of people at the V.V.I. If you have any ideas or wish to assist in the organization of this event please contact John Vandenakker at Local 430.

JV

## FROM INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

Parveen Jiwani, Production Services Supervisor for the Instructional Media Department, will be away on maternity leave from January 2 to March 2 1986 during which time Kees Hof will be acting in her stead. Kees will be operating out of the Langara Office for that time.

PJ

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- KEC      Instructor - Adult Special Education for the Visually Impaired Program. Commencement date is January 2, 1986. Term is until June 28, 1986 with a possible extension. Apply in writing by December 6, 1985.
- VVI      Instructors in Computer Electronics, Data and Telecommunications, and Consumer Electronics. Starting date is March 1986 for a one year term with possible extensions. Apply by December 15, 1985.
- VVI      Relief Power Sewing Instructor to cover for sickness and holidays. Closing date is open.

Keyano College requires a College President (Chief Executive Officer). Apply to the Presidential Search Committee, c/o/ Keyano College, 8115 Franklin Avenue, Fort MacMurray, Alberta, T9H 2H7 prior to December 20, 1985.

## FIRST AID COVERAGE

Please make note of the following First Aid emergency contact numbers:

In case of emergency:

Monday thru Thursday - 7:30 am to 7:00 pm - Dial 275  
Friday - 7:30 am to 5:00 PM - Dial 275

For Security and First Aid:

Monday thru Thursday - after 7:00 pm - Dial 227  
Friday - after 5:00 pm - Dial 227

## LIBRARY A/V ADDITIONS

### Care for the Caretaker Videos

Burnout - The energy enemy  
Energy is your magic fuel  
Pooling our energy resources

### Semiconductor Devices Lessons 1-11

Semiconductor materials  
Silicon diodes  
Special purpose diodes  
Bipolar transistor fundamentals  
J-FET fundamentals  
J-FET characteristics  
MOSFET  
Thyristors  
Integrated circuits  
Optoelectronic devices

JH

# The Globe and Mail

NEWSPAPER ■ WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1985

## Course profile disputed

# Flunked student to sue Ryerson

BY MARINA STRAUSS  
The Globe and Mail

Students dissatisfied with a university or college course could collect money for their displeasure if an Ontario court case is successful.

Provincial Court Judge Pamela Thomson Sigurdson has ruled that Hughes Chicoine can sue Ryerson Polytechnical Institute after he flunked the first year of a photography course.

Mr. Chicoine, who will be 37 next week, is taking the unusual route of suing Ryerson for breach of contract because, he says, the instructor did not teach or follow the course outline as offered and advertised.

He had exhausted all internal college appeal procedures.

Frank Hubscher, lawyer for Mr. Chicoine, said in an interview that professors or instructors often devise their own curriculums despite course profiles in university calendars. "The students are a captive audience," he said.

"He was given the opportunity (by Ryerson) to repeat his year," Mr. Hubscher said about his client. "But he wanted a refund."

Mr. Chicoine, a professional

photographer living in Quebec City who had attended Ryerson to try to advance himself, is seeking damages for tuition fees and a student loan he took out for his studies.

Ryerson was concerned that the case "would open up the situation for students to make claims against universities and colleges if the students are dissatisfied with the instruction they are getting," Mr. Hubscher said.

Judge Thomson Sigurdson, however, said in her ruling that she was not "swayed by the arguments of the defendant (Ryerson) that allowing this action to proceed will open the floodgates to unhappy students.

"Nor is the court concerned with the motives or attitude of the plaintiff at this juncture. . . . We are not here dealing with an allegation of the breach of a statutory duty but with a simple allegation of a breach of contract to educate according to certain described parameters," she said.

The judge ruled that Ryerson's purpose is to provide programs and courses of study — not to adjudicate complaints arising

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## Student to sue school

### ● From Page One

from student-university relations.

The school's academic council would have no jurisdiction under its rules to decide whether there was a breach of agreement, nor would it have authority to return the money paid for the course, Judge Thomson Sigurdson ruled.

Alison Young, lawyer for Ryerson, said in an interview

that courts have been reluctant to interfere with decisions made by universities.

Courts are not in the position to assess students' performance, Ms Young said. "Would university professors be looking over their shoulders as they mark papers?" she asked.

She said, however, that she sees no cause for alarm now. Mr. Chicoine has a tough case to prove, she said.



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**NOTICE TO ALL PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

November 27, 1985

Under the stewardship of the "Plan Administration Committee," The V.C.C. Employee Benefit Plan is alive and well. For the calendar/taxation year 1985, more than 30 permanent V.C.C. employees are member contributors to the plan by payroll deduction.

All present and prospective plan members/contributors must file with the undersigned, newly completed and signed Letters of Agreement for the entire calendar year 1986. The member's Letter of Agreement must be submitted no later than December 23, 1985 and shall designate for each month of the calendar year 1986, the amounts to be deducted from remuneration for that calendar year. Plan membership and contributions by payroll deductions for the calendar year 1986 may not be authorized and accommodated after the foregoing deadline, December 23, 1985.

The plan Administration Committee has determined that the minimum monthly contribution to the plan is \$100.00.

1986 contributing members may, under special circumstances with the approval of the Plan Administration Committee, supplement or amend by written agreement, their designated contributions.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the plan, the following brief description should be informative:

What is the Employee Health Benefit Plan ?

The Employee Benefit Plan is a vehicle through which eligible V.C.C. employees can defer a portion of their monthly income for the purpose of supplementing their retirement income or to finance a future sabbatical leave.

Who can become a member ?

All full-time permanent employees of V.C.C. are eligible to apply for plan membership through the "Plan Administration Committee."

Income Tax Implications

Amounts contributed to the Employee Benefit Plan by payroll deductions are not taxable until the amounts are paid out of the plan to the employee. As a result, the employee obtains a deferral of income tax on the amounts contributed to the plan much the same as a registered pension plan or registered retirement savings plan.

November 27, 1985

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NOTICE TO ALL PRESENT & PROSPECTIVE  
MEMBERS - EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN

Some Employee Benefit Plan Features

1. The plan allows employees to defer the taxation on their employment income to a future year. This is especially attractive for those employees whose income is more than sufficient to meet the present cash needs and who wish to "save" a portion of this income for future years to supplement their retirement pension or to finance a sabbatical leave.
2. There is no statutory restriction on the amounts that can be directed to the plan from your earnings and thereby deferred. Other deferred compensation arrangements such as registered retirement savings plans restrict the annual amounts that an individual can contribute.
3. The plan has received an advance income tax ruling from Revenue Canada thus ensuring its acceptability.
4. The amounts contributed to the custodian of the plan, Montreal Trust, will be invested with interest earnings accruing in the name of the member/contributor.
5. The Employee Benefit Plan is funded outside of Vancouver Community College. As a result, employees are assured that the funds are held by an independent custodian.
6. Plan members/contributors have the discretion to elect to receive their payout from the plan in a predetermined number of instalments or in a lump sum. This could also facilitate income tax planning by spreading the taxation of the amounts over the retirement years or throughout the period of a sabbatical leave.
7. You should be aware that Revenue Canada - Taxation takes the position with respect to such plans that the plan cannot provide for payments to the contributor except under the following conditions:
  - (a) Retirement
  - (b) Death
  - (c) Voluntary or involuntary cessation of employment
  - (d) For demonstrable financial need
  - (e) For sabbatical leave purposes

Full details governing the plan are described in the "Plan Rules." Copies are available from the office of your local Campus Principal or the Personnel Department along with the enrolment forms (schedules).

If you are interested in participating in the E.B.P. for 1986, kindly obtain the aforementioned forms and direct any subsequent enquiries to the undersigned.

  
D.D. Jones

Chairman, Plan Administration Committee

# Quality circles in the classroom

by Len Robbins

*As a manufacturing manager in industry prior to coming to Georgian College, I developed a keen interest in performance of personnel in a factory environment. Employees in my plants tended to perform better and be more innovative than those in other plants of the same company.*

To determine why that occurred, I examined all the management styles in use, and discovered my style most closely approximated that of the Japanese. Although not formally using Quality Circles, my method included responding to employees' concerns (both social and work-related), recognizing individual achievement, decision-making by committee and providing goal-oriented management and feedback.

### Teaching role

Following my career change to faculty in the community college system, I examined possible teaching styles within my course areas (Plant Layout, Time and Motion Study, and others). While the traditional teaching techniques of knowledge transfer and assignment practice could be used competently, I questioned how well this method would motivate students to participate and excel. In an endeavour to encourage student self-motivation and improve teacher performance, I searched for ways to exploit my management style in industry.



## Motivation

Following a period of observation, I concluded some formalized feedback method would be beneficial. The decision to attempt adapting Quality Circles Techniques to the classroom was inspired by an issue of *Innovation Abstracts* (Vol. VI, no. 2) combined with my experience with the method in industrial applications.

## Class selection

At the time, two of my five classes were enrolled in an Applied Statistics course. Since they were all second-year students, and the course was a prerequisite for a Quality Assurance course, the situation seemed ideal. I would establish one class as a control group, while trying the Quality Circle Technique with the second.

## Program name

Since I was interested in improving the level of learning, my teaching methods would also have to improve. To encompass the entire concept, I came up with a catchy name.

Better  
Education  
for  
Everyone's  
Future

I then developed the framework of my BEEF Program to accomplish my goals, and presented it to the class to elicit the students' co-operation. The following is an outline of the presentation.

## Overview

A Quality Circle Technique will be employed with the expectation of involving students in the progress of their own education.

## Purpose

- To conduct an experiment in the use of Quality Circles in the classroom, primarily by keying on the instructor's presentation techniques
- To emphasize the importance of the individual in a group setting
- To improve teacher and student performance

## Expectations

- 1) One half of a good idea by an individual can be improved upon by a group. All suggestions and ideas are important.
- 2) Students will learn the importance of the individual.
- 3) Passive class members may become more active.
- 4) Students will develop trust, loyalty and mutual commitment.
- 5) Students will develop responsibility and decision-making skills.
- 6) Individuals in the Circle will develop a bond.
- 7) The instructor will develop innovative teaching methods.
- 8) The instructor will find the most suitable presentation method.
- 9) Students and instructor will develop team participation skills.

## Structure

The group leader is the class instructor. A member of the Circle is chosen for every 4 or 5 students in the class, on a volunteer basis. Circle members can be rotated if desired.

## Rules of conduct

Professional conduct is required at all times, including presenting constructive criticism only, maintaining a positive approach, and sticking to the business at hand.

The course content as presented in the course outline must be addressed.

## Procedure

- 1) Instructor reviews next week's material with circle, soliciting opinions on optimum presentation method.
- 2) Students present problems and solutions to Circle leader for inclusion in next meeting.
- 3) Meetings follow a formal agenda, and are one hour maximum in length.
- 4) Implementation of unanimous decisions.
- 5) Circle members feedback meeting results to students.
- 6) Group leader makes all final decisions.

## Results

Although impossible to measure, from my observations I concluded that the expectations of the Technique were met. The students acted like a team, became more responsible, passive members became more

participatory, and they presented me with alternative delivery methods.

My "experiment" was so well received, that the control group requested I use the improvements with them. In granting their request, I lost the benefits of comparison such a control group would have provided.

Implementing the Quality Circle Techniques required one extra hour a week of my time. This I felt was time well spent. I received presentation ideas, a renewed sense of competency as an instructor and satisfaction that the class would benefit from this "industrial" exposure.

Initiating such a technique may not be either necessary or beneficial in every class situation. However, I plan to implement the Quality Circle method in any class I judge requires improved communication skills.

Len Robbins is a Teaching Master in Mechanical Engineering Technology at Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology in Barrie, Ontario.

