



Computer games pay off for these language students. See inside.

Times call for action

We've come to the end of another term, but we are also about to launch into what I hope will be a new VCC era for all of us. Thanks to so many of you, we have taken a very careful look at ourselves. We have also invited our external community to pass on their views and recommendations.

The time for action started last September. You may have already noticed some subtle changes in how we are trying to manage the college. This publication is another example of a new start that will, I trust, be well received. But we have not yet begun to

(Continued on back page)

A new look for a new year

To reflect changing times at VCC, the College has remodelled its vehicle for news and views.

Spectrum will be rolling your way every month except July and August, carrying reports on interesting people and events on our three campuses.

Newsletters will arrive by internal mail around the end of each month. The primary audience is VCC's 1500 employees, including 300 part-timers in Continuing Education.

Wayne Decle, CE program coordinator, joins three other correspondents from individual campuses. They are John Howard-Gibbon (Langara), Stephanie Jewell (VVI) and Bruce Watson (KEC).

Cam Avery, VCC director of public relations, developed "the look of the book" in consultation with David Dunsmuir of the Publication Arts Network.

"I felt it was time to close down *Intercom*," Cam says.

"It served a useful purpose at earlier stages, but its contents and format tended to be a bit remote from the interests of those of us who work here.

"We need something livelier, focusing on the people who work and study at VCC, so that we can all get to know each other better.

"This first issue came into being through the involvement of an enthusiastic team from different areas of the College. It's a sign of even better things to come in the New Year."

INSIDE

* June Piry (right) and other VCC-ites clean up for the United Way.

* Nora Hall helps with careers, too.

* The Orient likes us.

* An unusual student gears for more films.



Christmas at the College

Christmas will be celebrated in many ways on college campuses this season.

Lunches, skits, parties, draws, carols, dinners, and gifts are the order of the day as employees in all divisions begin their festive season by celebrating with their colleagues.

At King Edward Campus the season was started with what is sure to become a tradition on campus. In an event organized by the Music Department a large tree was erected and all were invited to help in decorating it. Carol sheets were distributed and music students provided a hand as Santa Claus assembled in a round of carols. Several hundred took part — many of whom were English language students participating in their first Canadian Christmas ceremony.

(Continued on back page)

ESL program yields rich harvest



Bookstore manager Karen Kelly adds another new title to her ESL book supply.

Christmas at the College

(Continued from cover)

The Vocational Instructors' Association has scheduled their annual Christmas party for December 23 from 12:30 to 4:30 in the King Edward Campus Lounge and Cafeteria.

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The Langara Faculty Association has scheduled their Christmas Presidents' Bar for December 18 with the bar starting at 2:30 in the Faculty Lounge and dinner scheduled for 5:15.

CA, CE join forces

Central Administration and Continuing Education are joining forces to hold their Christmas lunch December 19. There has been much speculation about their Christmas skit which this year is being put together by Continuing Education.

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At the VVI, employees will gather for lunch after closing the campus at 11:00 a.m. December 24. Prior to that will be the December 19 draws for the Care and Share Bear - the proceeds of which will pay for 40 hampers to go to needy students selected by the Financial Aid Officer.

However you plan to celebrate this holiday season, all of us wish you peace and good fellowship. We would also encourage partygoers everywhere to use moderation in their bottled spirits—we want to see you all in the new year.

At last count, KEC's ESL Division has produced 56 ESL titles and the list continues to grow as more instructors submit manuscripts. The KEC experience is not unique for educational institutions, but a community college campus seldom produces so many publications in one field.

As the ESL population here varies between 2500 and 5000, the campus has an unusual opportunity, because of its accumulation of ESL expertise under one roof, to pool and publish its knowledge. In 1979, the Campus set up an editorial committee, responsible to the Dean of Instruction, to oversee standards. The primary intention was to publish material to sell at cost to the students. The secondary intention was to fill the gaps in what was then an underpublished field, rather than go head to head with existing publishers.

When manuscripts started pouring in, submissions fell into four categories: curriculum guides, resource books for instructors, student work-

books, and readers. To the delight of the Division, new publications were snapped up as soon as they came out.

Some titles have already been reprinted a dozen times and have sold in the thousands—a major achievement, as the Campus does no marketing other than displaying the books at conventions.

Orders have come in from all across Canada and from the United States, Japan, Australia and Thailand. The provincial government has also put several titles each year on its textbook list and sponsored several of the publications.

As the authors do not expect royalties, they see publishing at KEC as an opportunity to field-test their work. Several, as a result, have been approached by commercial publishers who have expressed an interest in more publications. All the titles now in print can be seen at the KEC Bookstore.

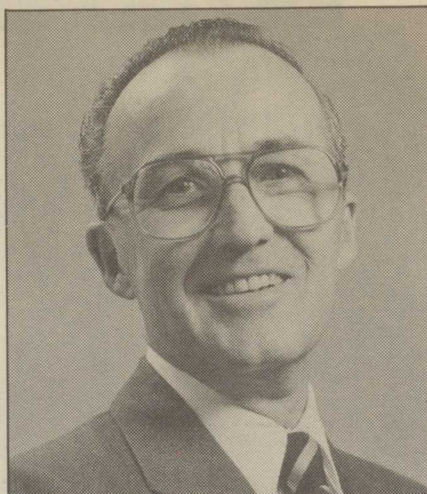
Times call for action

(Continued from cover)

tackle the big issues in earnest; that task should start early in 1987. I look forward to it.

This is the time, however, to thank you—something that is done all too infrequently. I express my personal and professional thanks to all of you, especially for the unrewarded extras you have given day after day to your students and colleagues as your contribution to making VCC a truly outstanding institution. Have a good rest, though a brief one. And Happy Holidays!

— Paul Gallagher, President



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spectrum

Spectrum is published 10 times a year by the Public Relations Department of Vancouver Community College for our 1500 part-time and full-time employees. Information for news, features and coming events should be directed to:

Wayne Decle, Continuing Education
John Howard-Gibbon, Langara Campus

Stephanie Jewell, VVI
Bruce Watson, KEC

Our correspondents welcome your comments and suggestions.

Nora lends a helping hand

Nora Hall is known to everyone at KEC. During her working day, you might see her crossing the KEC cafeteria with cupcake and candle in hand, singing happy birthday to some member of the faculty or staff. As a cashier of KEC's food services for the past nine years ("I've stayed because I like the people contact"), Nora is one of the unsung heroes of the Campus.

Nora singlehandedly started a fund drive to send Sharon Musto, severely handicapped with cerebral palsy, to New York to have computer chips implanted in her neck. Sharon now is back at her studies at KEC in a vastly improved condition.

Nora has a special interest in the annual United Way Campaign because of its funding of the CNIB, which has done a tremendous amount to help her blind husband. She pays back the United Way by baking food for the 24-hour relay as well as the bake sale. Most runners don't realize that all the pies and chili, a welcome break after their run, comes from Nora's house.

Students have been talked into staying and studying because of KEC's cashier-cum-counsellor.

"Some don't get much support at home," says Nora. "If I can help one student during a semester, then I've accomplished something." She also tries to help the new Canadians and finds it particularly satisfying, after

their first months of struggle with a new culture, when they can address her by name.

As one of the food services staff said, "By being there, Nora helps make our work a little easier."



Nora Hall hands out good advice as well as collecting cash.

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spectrum

Once around the College

The Special Education Assistant Program at Langara will stage a conference in May on "Sources and Resources in Education." Manuela Durling, program coordinator, tells us that the project will be a first in her field.

Since February 1, VCC has trained more than 100 supervisors in the Provincial Program Management Skills for Supervisors. It is committed to training another 125 by the end of April.

Some welcome financial news has reached Langara's Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and Special Projects. It was recently awarded a \$1000 grant from the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation to support the Robson Square Lecture Series from January to April. Let's hear a round of applause for square lectures!

KEC community liaison team covers new ground

College President Paul Gallagher indicated in his recent "Vision For The Future" statement that "the College must actively and publicly seek out partnerships with business and community organizations to broaden the base of our service." This was no surprise to members of the KEC Community Liaison Team.

The team is a small group of faculty whose work takes them out into

the community—from Continuing Education, English as a Second Language and Career Divisions—and representatives of community organizations and agencies. It has not yet been in existence for a year, but already it has helped to create a new awareness of Vancouver Community College.

The College has gained new links to ethnic groups needing business assistance and community groups needing marketing support. It reports a growing interest in small business and community economic development.

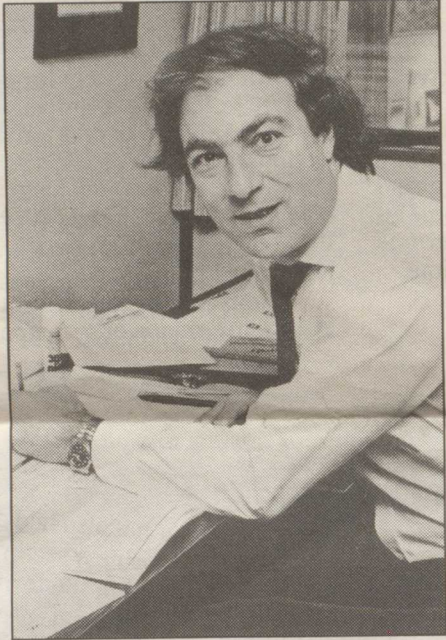
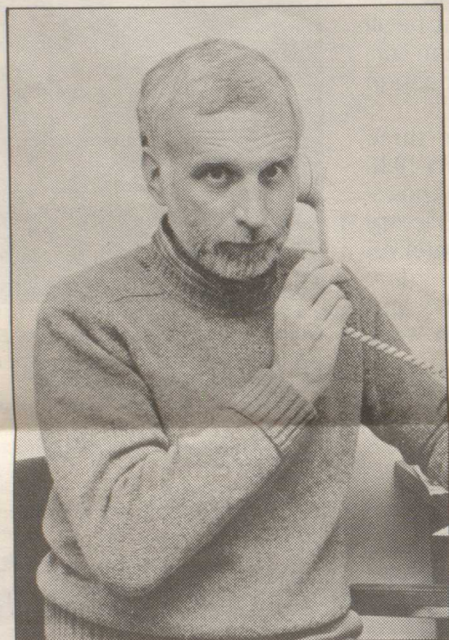
Main Street projects

This latter interest has resulted in a partnership with the Vancouver Planning Department, the Neighbourhood Association and the Neighbourhood House in an advisory group supervising UBC graduate Social Work student Leslie Kemp in her thesis research on "Community Economic Development in Mount Pleasant."

A working partnership between King Edward Campus and the Mount Pleasant Business Association has also been established. A College representative, Howard Turpin, is secretary of the board of directors of the MPBA, currently undertaking a downtown revitalization project on Main Street at Broadway.

We are in a unique position to provide a range of services to local business. For example, the Langara Campus Marketing Program, through Keith Murray and his students, has already become involved in a market survey for several businesses. Plans centre around community workshops and training activities based on the Thunder Bay Model, in which learning takes place in the workplace and college resources are deployed in the community.

Community Liaison sparked interest in a community recreational facility on the King Edward Campus. The increasing population concentration in the KEC area of Mount Pleasant led to a suggestion by the Vancouver Planning Department that KEC is an attractive site for a satellite community centre, a mini-Britannia.



Two of Spectrum's intrepid correspondents are Bruce Watson, King Edward Campus (left) and Wayne Decle of Continuing Education. Others are John Howard-Gibbon (Langara) and Stephanie Jewell (VVI).

ESL and computers: These games really pay off!



What do the computer games "Hot Dog Stand" "Chivalry" and "Raise the Flag" have in common? They are all used as part of KEC's large English as a Second Language training program.

Since September 1985, these and other items of grammar and spelling software have helped familiarize ESL students with the language. And the students love it. They find working with computers entertaining, engaging and challenging.

What is it about computers that captures the imagination of students? First, they can work at their own pace. But that doesn't mean working alone, for students are paired at the terminals. This produces realistic dialogue that a teacher cannot hope to duplicate in the classroom. One can only imagine the frustration of students faced with a pre-programmed blank composition to be built from single words into a full story.

The fun begins with the puzzles and games—really problem-solving simulations. Students seek to match wits with the computer and develop analytical skills at the same time. One very practical spin-off, which will prove valuable in the job market, is the students' mastery of typing and word processing. This enables them to turn out quality resumes and handsome (and readable) essays.



Hans Rerup, Principal of VVI, does his bit for the United Way and his sweet tooth with a major investment in candy floss.

★ A star is born ★

Look lively around the VVI administrative offices after January 5 --- here comes Jerome Schatten!

Straight from a successful run to packed houses in the Electronics Department, Jerome is to be congratulated for securing the position of chairman of the recently amalgamated Industrial/Technical Division.

Jerome has paid his dues! He was born in the Bronx and brought up in the New York borough of Queens. Following a tour of duty in Uncle Sam's army he attended a vocational school and landed a plum position as research technician for IBM.

Not content to be a member of the white shirt/black tie brigade, Jerome

attended the University of Waterloo, completing a degree in mathematics. He arrived at VVI in 1971 as an instructor until 1982 when he was appointed head of the Electronics Department.

Jerome is understandably proud of the four years spent in bringing his department up to date.

True to form, he is brimming with ideas and goals for his new position but warns that they will undergo several transmutations as he gains new insights. We may be sure that Jerome will knock'em dead in the Big Time.

A letter from Langara

As you might expect at a place with such a diversity of programs, recent Langara developments cover a wide variety of things—from the expected, like publications, to some unusual and ground-breaking offerings.

Langara does not seem a likely prospect to field university-level programs in Europe, but we have 50 students doing a four-month first-year academic program there in literature, history, and art history.

They will visit England, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Greece, while attending regular lectures given by Langara instructors accompanying them.

This program is largely the work of Bruce Hanbury of the Langara History Department; he is supported by the English Department's Jon Furburg and Del Myles from Counselling, who is reportedly checking out European ceramics? A plumbing. (Perhaps a book on utilitarian ceramics? A Dantean descent into the bowels, or bowls, of the earth?)

Closer to home, we have the Borderland's project involving our Journalism Department. This will link Langara Journalism students with the University of Western Washington in joint production of a tabloid newspaper. Students will research and write stories and forward camera-ready pages for the paper, to be printed in Bellingham. Distribution of the tabloid will be handled through dailies and weeklies on both sides of the border. The only routine aspect of this venture is the difficulty the College faces in securing regular funding.

It is no longer new, but the College's Pacific Rim Program is another example of creative response to community needs. This program has been financed chopstick-mouth from its inception—very frustrating for its senior mouth, Gordon Jones of History and Glen Witter of Accounting.

The program has survived its early famine and has begun to receive the top-level recognition that it deserves. Mark Earle Jr., the International Director General of the Pacific Rim Basin Economic Council, has invited four yet-to-be-named Pacific Rim students to attend the PBEC Conference in San Francisco in May as student aides.

This year's United Way Campaign was one of the most successful and varied campaigns VCC has ever had. Apart from the mainstay pledging, funding came from events that ranged from an Administrators' Auction to a White Elephant Sale.

KEC staff and students were asked to buy an administrator at the auction, pledge a runner in the 24-hour relay, guess the total pudge to be lost by 22 weight-watchers, get fat by eating pancakes at the Pancake Breakfast and home baking at the Bake Sale, or buy someone else's treasures at the White Elephant Sale.

VVI's events were also food oriented. Seven hundred breakfasts were served at a very successful pancake breakfast - and what a lot of pancakes that was! Dr. Marvin Lamoureux came up with his own unique method of raising money. He charged \$2 to every person wanting to see or talk to him as well as charging people for just being in his department. Understandably, he did quite well.

Langara used another approach. A \$20 Langara "donator" depicted a Langara prof on the front and the campus on the back. Bills went to all staff and faculty as limited-edition currency that could be kept for a donation to the United Way Campaign.

Pledges and events on the three campuses helped VCC exceed its 1986 goal. This achievement was acknowledged at the United Way Victory Party held at the Pan Pacific Hotel on November 26.

Coordinating the volunteers and events for this year's campaign were

Ross Carter (College Coordinator), Joanne Bydal (Central Administration), Gail Barry (Continuing Education), Linda Prince (Langara), Stephanie Jewell (VVI) and Bruce M. Watson (KEC).



Going, going... Bruce MacLean, Director of Instructional Media Services, kept the bidders spellbound at the Music Department's auction for the United Way. They came out of their trance to find they'd paid real money.

United Way drive hits the heights



VCC recipients of awards of merit and community service awards at United Way victory celebrations were (left to right): Myrna Louie, VVI Students Association; Marvin Lamoureux, VVI; Lee Clements, United Way; Bruce Watson, KEC; Stephanie Jewell, VVI.

"VCC has an excellent name in the Orient"

(Dr. Richard Pearce, Director of Continuing Education, reports on a recent visit to Japan, Taiwan and China with Jindra Repa, Program Director of CE's international programming.)

One of our objectives was to visit some of the Japanese universities, colleges, and high schools that have been sending us summer students over the past seven years.

Another objective was to see the Japanese educational system in operation: a complex of mainly private and some public institutions.

A third focus was to increase VCC's overseas presence as a Canadian institution interested in responding to educational needs with quality programs.

Itinerary

Three weeks in Japan were spent in a number of the larger centres—Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Tokushima, Hiroshima, Fujioka and the city of Sendai, north of Tokyo.

We both flew to Okinawa; then Jindra went on to Taiwan while I visited our four VCC students at the North China University of Technology in Beijing, China.

Here we come, Jane Fonda!

Sweat, strain and low-impact discomfort are back at VVI. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, deep in the bowels of the building, at least 20 intrepid souls struggle to come to grips with flab inspired by the raucous strains of "Lover Boy."

Through the persistence and patience of Wynn Keenan (Admissions) and Jackie Sandy (Counselling), aerobics are again available to faculty and staff. Co-educational classes began October 20. By popular demand, Friday classes were added a month later.

The price is right: 20 sessions for \$20 and an additional \$5 for five Friday sessions. Drop-in rates are \$2 a class.

The reasonable price is the direct result of VVI Management Committee support. Lobbying by Wynn and Jackie brought in a generous donation from the committee that went a long way to reduce financial stress.



Instructing is Maureen McBride, a fourth-year kinesiology student at UBC who has her YWCA Fitness Instructor Certificate. Her approach is "bounce free," as the carpeted concrete floor of the exercise room is brutal on knees.

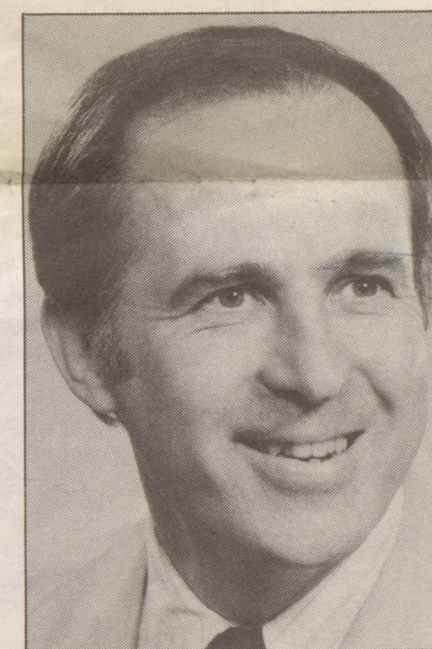
Classes offer a low-key group activity for people from all over the Institute—people who would normally not see one another. Sick days go down; morale goes up, as does productivity. No wonder the WCB lists an aerobics class as a job benefit for employees of their organization!

It's not too late to join the Friday class as a drop-in if visions of Christmas excess loom on your horizon. Better yet, make it one of your New Year's resolutions and beat the rush!

We also spent several days with the nine VCC students attending Takashoku University in Tokyo.

Results

An increase in the number of summer students is very likely; last year we had approximately 380. We



Dr. Richard Pearce

are now being asked to supply experienced English language teachers to a number of universities and schools.

One of the exciting proposals is to have us offer a number of summer institutes for teachers in Japan, building on the model being developed here. We'll be having discussions with both Langara and King Edward Campus.

Throughout our travels we were treated very graciously. Many of our hosts had already visited VCC, usually with their students, so meetings were based on these established relationships. Consequently, we were cordially received and often allowed to see aspects of Japanese culture unknown to the tourist.

Recommendations

On December 5 we presented a report to the College's International Education Committee. Our recommendations will be reviewed and the outcome of our discussions forwarded to the President and College Board.

We feel very positive about the trip in retrospect: VCC has an excellent name in the Orient. Our Division will continue to participate with other International Committee ventures to maintain and strengthen our College's role overseas.

Student seeks new viewers

Mei Shang Hu, now studying ESL at KEC, is one of those interesting VCC students that slip through the system almost unnoticed. A script writer/movie director and a 62-year-old father of two, he has over twenty

films to his credit and can hardly wait to get on with making films in Canada.

Mei Shang began his life in the arts at the Shanghai School of Arts and Drama between 1945 and 1949. In 1949 he went to Hong Kong where he

started as an actor and later turned script writer/director.

During the next 18 years, he scripted/directed more than 20 films that ranged from ancient Chinese operas to modern adventure and love stories. On each film he would work with a budget between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000. His viewing audience was estimated at several million in the Asian market alone.

About ten years ago, around the time of the death of Hong Kong actor Bruce Lee, the production company found it necessary to work more sex and violence into its films to maintain its audience. Mei Shang didn't like this direction and left the company to work as an independent.

In his first independent film, he employed Bruce Lee's girlfriend as the leading lady. He found, however, that too much time went into other activities like teaching stagecraft, projection techniques, script writing and editing. So Mei Shang decided that he wanted a change. As he wanted to be with the rest of his family and had visited Canada and liked it he decided to accept his children's invitation to come here to live.

Right now Mei Shang is studying English to improve his communication with Canadians when making films in Canada. He already has one script in hand and is working on another while he seeks capital to finance the projects.

He hopes to sell his future films—about Chinese immigrants in Canada—to Canadian audiences, but the ultimate market will be southeast Asia. With Mei Shang's tenacity, he can't help but succeed.



For Mei Shang Hu, English studies at King Edward offer a road back to his life-long career as a movie-maker. He already has a new script drafted, with hopes of selling films about Canada to Asian audiences.

Future reading well for Project Literacy

King Edward Campus has again demonstrated its strong commitment to adult literacy by jumping feet first into the Project Literacy campaign.

"Right now it's paying off for 75 new students," says Cindy Onstad, who coordinated the KEC participation. "Do you know that 17 percent of Vancouver's population, or 140,000 people, are functionally illiterate - which means they have less than a grade nine education? Often these people can't read directions on medications, warning signs or notices at work."

These functionally illiterate adults are the focus of a provincial campaign, Project Literacy B.C., to promote an awareness of the need for adult literacy.

Project Literacy B.C. was created as an outgrowth of Project Literacy U.S., a joint ABC-PBS campaign to confront illiteracy in the United

States. A Project Literacy B.C. Task Force was struck in April, 1986.

The task force represents community groups, educational institutions and concerned individuals. Participants come from community colleges, school boards, community educational centres, educational television networks, libraries, the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and the Movement for Canadian Literacy.

In four months, at least ten local TV programs have examined illiteracy. (When a program is aired, PLBC activates a phone bank at KEC to refer potential students to literacy programs in their community and to respond to any queries.)

Cindy Onstad and Paulette Maglaque have organized a system for continuous intake of students who respond to media coverage.