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**VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE** *VCC*

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER 1987

spectrum

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Vancouver, B.C. V6P 1N3



After signing United Way challenge documents, BCIT President Roy Murray (left) and VCC President Paul Gallagher square-off in arm wrestling contest. Amused observers include Campaign Chairs' Tony Wood of VCC and BCIT's Carol Dion.

VVI Plays Host to Super Cooks

The VVI Culinary Arts Department is on a roll, so to speak. Following their smashing success with the International Culinary Arts Festival in July, the department played host to the Dairy Bureau of Canada's Fourth Annual Foodservice Competition in September.

The event was awarded to VVI after judges ruled the institute offered the most modern and appropriate facilities. Thirteen finalists from across the country came here to cook up a storm — using dairy products, of course — in a bid to capture the top prize for the best recipe. The competition, held for the first time ever in Western Canada, featured both amateur and professional cooks.

Presidential Challenge Kicks Off Campaign

They may be committed to work together under the Protocol of Co-operation, signed this past March, but the presidents of BCIT and VCC came out scrapping over this year's United Way Campaign.

At a United Way meeting held September 30, BCIT President Roy Murray, and Paul Gallagher, President of VCC, hurled challenges at each other ... as an incentive to see which school can raise the most money in this year's campaign drive.

The presidents, acting on behalf of their school, helped hatch secret plans that were inexplicably made public during the meeting. For its part, the BCIT team presented campaign guidelines that seemed to emphasize style over content. They're calling for a game plan that will:

- Appoint an independent audit team (unbriable!)
- Not use slanderous terms when referring to one another

(Continued on back page)

No Conflict on Dates

College Week has been set for November 23-29 in B.C. and Canada.

The B.C. Association of Colleges, and the Council of Principals, agreed that College Week in this province should coincide with the dates set for the rest of the country by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. Concerns had been expressed that the dates conflicted with Grey Cup Week activities.

College Week will be announced to the public with major newspaper ads placed by the Council of Principals. VCC is planning a series of smaller ads highlighting our contributions to the community.

INSIDE

- **Mary Trivisano (below)** serves up classic French cuisine
- **Educator** supports government initiatives
- **A new vision** For China
- **Student** Advocates



Distance Programs Should Move Beyond Border

(Continued from inside page)

community college, bribing the college perhaps, to provide funding for new programs.

Too many colleges become frozen over; the innovative spirit becomes dried up because the personnel ages and starts looking out only for their own security. Even college personnel are starting to talk about tenure. There are some valuable aspects about tenure, but there are some evil ones as well. It would be a pity if those evil aspects get enshrined in the operation of a college. If you look to see the way in which social and economic change has been incorporated through programs in community colleges from the very beginning, it has been government that has taken the initiative and the leadership. Governments have then asked the colleges and the college commissions at the various levels to bring in changes, but frequently these changes have died on the vine — within the college structure. It's outside forces . . . frequently fiscal, often authoritarian dictates by government that bring some kinds of change.

SPECTRUM: What are your thoughts about distance learning?

CAMPBELL: It's very significant that the suggestion about a distance learning centre in Canada be made available to the Commonwealth — came from our Prime Minister. It's also significant that the press picked it up on the basis of a plea from the Prime Minister of Barbados. It requires that kind of leadership and funding to make it happen.

The distance learning program in B.C. stops at the border. That's wrong. I indict the leadership of learning distance commissions in B.C. for confining their programs to the citizenry of B.C. The same is true for other distance learning institutions in Canada. I'm saying we have these pockets of ideas throughout the country producing totally valid concepts for the next age. We have to be able to connect these learning centres, via satellite, with the planet. I'm happy to see, however, that the government is finally forcing these innovations to come about.

SPECTRUM: What about the concept of the college coming to the people? Do you see college programs being taken to the workplace in the near future?

CAMPBELL: Absolutely. In the early days in the prairie it was called the lighted schoolhouse. There would be a kerosene lamp in the schoolhouse at night where a few people gathered who wanted to learn. There in truth was a college. In that sense learning went to where the people were.

So now, in the industrialization of this country, where there is learning that needs to be taken somehow . . . on shift, off shift, four-hour shift, or whatever . . . there can be co-ordination of that learning activity with colleges. We need to break down the administrative barriers and go to where the people are, and meet their needs on their terms. It's easier to run an institution like a military camp or a Roman Catholic church, but that isn't what learning is about.

Campaign Challenge

(Continued from cover)

- Not approach Victoria for special funding
- Solicit funds in a professional manner (harassment committee to monitor)

- Encourage participation from all staff members in accordance with rules as set out in Gentlemen's Quarterly

In a more serious vein, the VCC version got straight to the point. The winning school will be judged in terms of:

- Total dollars raised by each institution
- Percentage of employee participation in the campaign
- Total dollar increase over last year's amount

As a matter of protocol, the losing school will publicly acknowledge the winning one. And the losing president will make a "special additional contribution to the fund".

Immediately following the official signing, 'Gentlemen's Quarterly' rules appeared to be breached when the

presidents kicked off the United Way Campaign with an arm wrestling match — and both instantly claimed victory!

Carol Dion, BCIT campaign chairman, expressed confidence her school would win. So did VCC chairman Tony Wood (VVI), who'll find solid grassroots support from Walter Benke (KEC), Richard Vedan (Langara), and

Super Day

(Continued from inside page)

an opportunity to get involved. If you have any suggestions, or want to join the planning group, please contact one of the following representatives: Bob Worcester, 324-5395 (Langara); Jackie Sandy, 681-8111 (VVI); Harold Turpin, 875-6111 (KEC); Jill Tyndale, 875-8200 (CE).

Marilyn McLaren (CE). They'll be looking for your help and financial support. So will the United Way.

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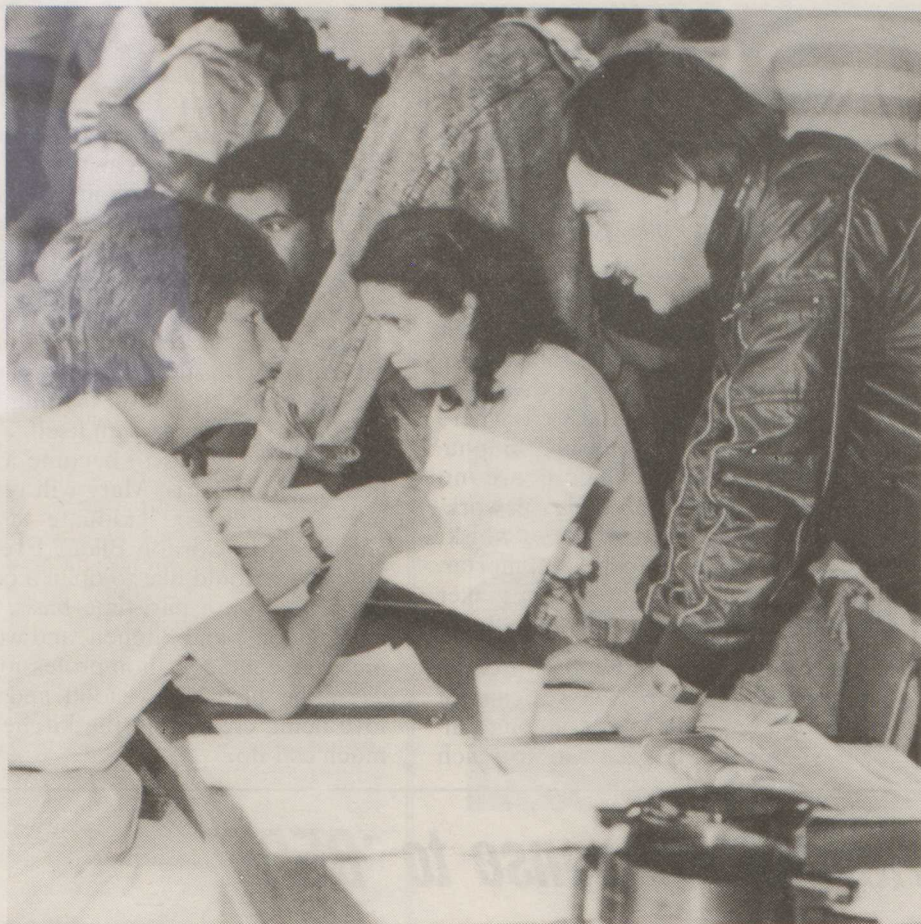
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Spectrum is published 10 times a year by the Public Relations Department of Vancouver Community College for our 1500 part-time and full-time employees. Information for news, features and coming events should be directed to:

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Our correspondents welcome your comments and suggestions.



Student advocates were invaluable in helping new KEC students become acquainted with college programs and services.

Student Advocates Giving Moral Support as Well as Information

Students registering at King Edward Campus these days are being greeted with a smile, as well as coffee and cookies. But the introduction of student advocates is perhaps the single biggest reason for the friendlier, more personalized atmosphere.

Students advocates are, in fact, KEC students familiar with school policy who've been hired to help new students get adjusted. Since its inception, the role of the student advocate has grown immensely. They're now assisting in student aid workshops, acting as guides for ESL orientations, helping students with their homework, and even working as translators for the college physician. Student advocates aren't just giving advice and information — they're providing the moral support many new students desperately need.

The advocate program came about as a response to the Institutional Evaluation Report, which noted new students weren't getting enough accurate information and personal attention. Handicapped people in particular were uneasy about the registration process.

Donna Barreca and Rose Geiger of the KEC counselling department initiated the pilot project this past April. Out of 80 people that volunteered, they selected 21 to begin training as student advocates. Barreca said she was looking for a cross section of people that accurately reflected the make-up of the student body. "So we've trained students of all ages, as well as two visually-impaired and two learning-disabled people."

Students were schooled in a variety of registration and orientation procedures. Attending twice-weekly classes for almost three months, the advocates received a big boost when the provincial government agreed to pay them an hourly wage.

Currently, student advocates are planning to bring in a theatre group that works specifically on increasing the self-esteem of disabled students through drama.

There's no doubt the advocate program has functioned even better than most people expected, but its future is still in doubt. "You must remember this is a pilot project, so we're going to evaluate the program in January. I think it's worked very well so far, but whether the program continues or not is really a matter of time and money," explained Barreca.

Cheng Du Project Symbolic of New China

On September 15, KEC hosted a luncheon for high-level Chinese government officials who were here to oversee the second stage of an extraordinary educational program. The Cheng Du Project, established in 1984, was designed to give the Chinese a solid understanding of Western-style management techniques. Up till now, both countries agree the program has been a resounding success.

The Cheng Du Project is symbolic of China's new direction in policy. Following 33 years of Soviet-style management based on Marxist-Leninist political and economic theory, the Chinese began looking to the West for new ideas about five years ago. What they found was a

system that emphasized decentralized government, a market-driven economy, and management responsibility.

In order to be able to grasp Western business methods, China first established their own management training centre, and then sought assistance abroad. In 1982, officials from the China Enterprise Management Training Centre, located in the city of Chengdu, made contact with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Two years later, a six-year technical transfer program between the countries was put in place. The Cheng Du project was co-ordinated by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, International Bureau (ACCC-IB).

From the beginning, it was evident the greatest number of students could be served by sending more Canadian trainers to China. To date, ACCC-IB has recruited at least 48 teachers, consultants and interpreters — from both the public and private sector — to teach new skills to more than 1,000 Chinese management personnel. VCC instructors Audrey Findlay and Don Nucich, and Joan Horsley, now a VCC administrator, are among the talented group who have taught at the training centre in Chengdu.

By contrast, China has sent only a handful of managers over here, and most of them have been trained as interpreters.

Promotional Campaign Breaks New Ground

Continuing Education has put a little *schpritz* into their promotional campaign. In mid-September, 27 department members set up shop at the Oakridge Mall for two days to discuss the fall program with hundreds of people.

CE director Dr. Richard Pearce and a complement of support staff and program co-ordinators fielded dozens of questions about the division with the help of an on-line computer hook-up. It seems people were so impressed, they began registering for courses in droves.

September Move

The Home Support Aide program has a new address on the ninth floor of VVI.

As of September 14, co-ordinator Marian Sylvester and the rest of the program staff had been transplanted from their previous home at KEC. The sudden move caught just about everyone by surprise. And the relocation was especially difficult because major renovations were already underway when the staff arrived at their new quarters.

"For the first few weeks here I felt like spaghetti out of a dish," said Sylvester. "There was absolute bedlam, with walls being pulled down and workmen all over the place. But things are getting back to normal now, and everyone's getting settled in."

The three-month Home Support Aide program trains students to look after elderly and terminally ill patients who want to spend their remaining years in the comfort of their own home. "Our students have to be able to cook and present food in a proper way because they're dealing with people from many nationalities. But they also have to be knowledgeable in many other areas such as nutrition, food storage, budgeting, health care, good communications and so on," explained Sylvester.

The department is looking forward to the day they can invite all their new co-horts and friends at VVI, as well as their former colleagues at KEC, to Cultural Food Day. This tasty event is usually staged once a semester to give students an opportunity to prepare a variety of different cuisines. The culinary feast was so popular at KEC, people had to be put on a waiting list to get an invitation. The department hopes they'll be just as popular, and well-received, in their new home.

Feedback from both the public and CE contingent was very favorable. Some staff members said the exercise was invaluable in breaking new ground for the division and the college. As a result, plans are now afoot to stage another mall display.



"and furthermore... we have over 750 courses of action for you..."



"How will your fee structure stand up against Simon Reisman's hardball clause when the free trade deal kicks in?"

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Be nice to people on the way up because you'll need them on the way down. — Jimmy Durante

Peak Periods Turn Comic

Harried staff members from the various counselling and admission departments have once again survived the autumn onslaught of students clamouring for services.

Registration wasn't exactly a piece of cake for switchboard operators either. During such peak periods, they'll handle anywhere from 700 to 1,000 calls a day. Lila McFadden, a full-time operator at VVI, says the job can be exciting when you're dealing with police calls, fire drills, ammonia leaks, and even bomb threats. The switchboard also functions as the command post for all security calls.

Lila said she enjoys the daily contact with people, and the feeling of being at the core of things in the institute. She concedes, however, that the job can be a little frustrating at times, especially when the same questions are asked 50 times a day. Placing several long-distance calls at once is another time-consuming irritant that can frazzle the nerves of any operator.

Peggy Cole, an operator at the King Edward Campus switchboard since last December, said she's heard some good comedy on the phone. "One of the funniest calls I got was during registration. Someone called wanting to know if I could find, and then give a message to her friend — who was milling about in a crowd of several hundred people! Another funny call is from people who only ask for the time of day."

Some of Peggy's calls are more puzzling than funny, especially when she's hearing from students who phone in sick, and then offer detailed descriptions of their illnesses or injuries.

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ESL Instructor Brings Joy of Cooking into Classroom

Outsiders may know Mary Trivisano as a bubbly ESL instructor at VCC, but students and close friends know her as a *bon vivant par excellence*. In other words, Mary is becoming a master of French classical cooking in the great tradition of Cordon Bleu.

Ironically, Mary says her love for French cuisine was inspired by Italian parents. "I grew up in a very busy Italian home with a great mom who loved to cook. Our house was always full of people. I love eating good food ... and I love creating something from nothing."

The monumental change in Mary's eating habits took place in 1983, when she enrolled at the world-renowned Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. "I took both level-one and advanced courses, spending mornings preparing and



Mary Trivisano

cooking, and afternoons learning demonstration techniques. All classes are held in French, so it helps to know at least a basic knowledge of French cooking terminology."

In 1986, Mary indulged in a second session, this time to complete her second-level courses. "It's such a completely different world over there ... not only Paris but the school, where hand-cooking methods are emphasized at all levels. There are no machines where hand tools will work. Egg whites are beaten with a whisk; force-meats are pounded in a mortar. In fact, an electric ice cream maker was the only machine I saw."

Mary has brought her joy of cooking to the classroom as a means of sharing a common bond among cultures. "It's an effective way to reach

the students and experience a common love for food. I can't think of a better way to find out about a person's background."

When she's not busy with students, Mary is usually at home preparing yet another of her *ne plus ultra* dinner engagements. "Everything has to be taken into consideration; the menu, the shopping, the table setting, the wine and the preparation itself."

When she leaves to become a student again in Paris, Mary will return here a full-fledged graduate of "La Cusiniere du Cordon Bleu". Eventually, Mary would like to open a cooking school on a part-time basis. "I'd use my home and kitchen, and would aim the course at non-professionals ... at people who love food, and who love being creative in the kitchen as much as I do."

Robot Builder Draws a Worldwide Response to 'BERT'

From a distance, it appears to be nothing more than a yellow salad bowl mounted on tiny, fat rubber tires. As you get closer lights begin to flash, the bowl begins moving forward and backward, and words like "ready" and "cookie" emanate from its shell. He's been christened BERT, (Basic Educational Robot Trainer) and he's the brainchild of VVI electronics instructor Karl Brown.

In recent months, BERT has been gaining an international reputation. Earlier this year Karl submitted an article to the very popular computer magazine "Byte", detailing the history and construction of the robot. The magazine, which has world-wide distribution, published the story in two parts in the April and May editions.

The reader response to BERT was

fantastic. Byte's editors received hundreds of positive reviews and comments on the story. As a result, the publication awarded \$100 extra to Brown for writing the most popular, and highest quality feature in the issue.

Brown said the conception of BERT was indirectly inspired after a visit to Vancouver's Science and Technology

Centre. As a longtime fan of robotics, Karl was very disappointed when he didn't see any robots that children could actually program. Very little learning takes place when a child simply pushes a button, and the robot responds.

So with a child's perspective in mind, Karl set out to construct his own robot. He said his main interest in designing BERT "was to enable other, less-experienced experimenters to build their own talking robot with a minimum amount of fuss. It's a robot even a child could build and pro-



Karl Brown and Bert

gram." Brown's own two kids, aged four and six, were the first to try BERT out, and they instantly fell in love with him.

Brown is still receiving about a half-dozen letters a week from fans as far away as India, New Zealand and the USSR.

Client Based System Reflects Real World Approach to Business

Langara Campus English instructor Amanda Goldrick-Jones believed students in business writing courses could learn more effectively if their assignments reflected the 'real world' requirements of businesses and institutions. So with the help of several former Douglas College instructors, and Langara colleague Debra Scott, a plan was formulated this past summer to give students from the Recreation Facilities Management Program practical training in the working world they'll soon enter.

The Killarney Community Centre, Pacific National Exhibition, and YMCA South Slope are among the sponsors, or 'clients', participating in this innovative program. Under the client's direction, small groups of students are given writing assignments in a variety of administrative areas. In this kind of environment, students gain invaluable first-hand experience, and receive an evaluation report on their writing before the end of the term.

Goldrick-Jones refers to the new approach as a "client-based, contextual system of teaching writing." Early reports indicate teachers, clients and students alike are enthusiastic about the assigned projects.

As time goes by, Goldrick-Jones hopes to attract even more clients to make the program available for students in other courses. Ultimately, she would like to see a publication that showcases reports produced by the student teams.

Super Day in the Works

You've seen VVI Day, King Edward Day, CE Day and Langara PD Days; now it's time for Super Day! Super Day, also known as VCC Day, is a one-day event for all VCC staff, instructors and administrators to get involved in professional development. Combining the serious elements of education with a number of social activities, Super Day is also designed to help VCC personnel overcome some of the campus barriers, and to get better acquainted with each other. It's tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 1988.

A small group of volunteers from each of the four campuses met recently to start planning the event, which already has the endorsement of VCC President Paul Gallagher. So far, a number of ideas regarding entertainment, activities and speakers have been kicked about, but nothing is finalized.

That's because we want to give you (Continued on back page)



Steve Odwin takes charge in 800 metres final at Canadian Masters Track and Field Championship, held in Richmond, B.C.

Odwin Sprints to National Titles

While most of us were basking in record-breaking summer temperatures pursuing that elusive bronze tan, Steve Odwin, an instructor at VVI's Dental/Technician-Mechanic department, was breaking records in his pursuit of gold.

Odwin was one of the stand-out athletes competing in the Canadian Masters Track and Field Championship, staged this summer in Richmond, B.C. He strode to victory in the Master's 50-plus class with a time of 57.93 seconds in the 400 metres event, and claimed the gold medal in the 800 metres run with a clocking of 2:16.45 — a new B.C. record.

Masters competitions are broken down into five-year age groupings: from 35 to 39 years of age, and from 40 to 45 years old for women; and from 40 to 44, 45 to 49, and 50-plus years of age for men.

Steve prepared for the Canadian championship by entering the B.C. Masters event held earlier in the summer. Though a dedicated marathon runner, he stuck with his sprinter's instincts and walked away with a third-place finish in the 100 metres, a win in the 200, second-place in the 400, and another second in the 800 metres.

A long-time aficionado of the track and field challenge, Steve has been a competitor since his high school days. He said his winning performance was the culmination of an arduous training schedule than began in early spring.

Steve has one more big event left this season. He'll compete in the upcoming Masters Mile, a true test of

stamina and speed that will draw at least 18 runners. "Running is fun," he says, and then with a twinkle in his eye

and a short pause, "but when it comes right down to it, I run for the beer at the end of the road."

New KEC Administrator Promises No Surprises

Colin Sutherland's youthful looks and reserved manner belie an impressive list of accomplishments. This past summer he was appointed KEC's new director of Administration and Finance, after working in a number of increasingly responsible positions in the province of Alberta. At just 34 years of age, he's a proven performer in the field.

After graduating with an honours commerce degree from the University of Manitoba, Colin headed west to analyze and manage budgets for institutions such as Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower, Grant MacEwan Community College, Alberta Treasury, Alberta Recreation and Parks, and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). In 1986, shortly after obtaining an MBA in finance, human resources and international business from the University of Western Ontario, he rose to the position of assistant to the Vice-President at NAIT.

Colin has also found time to teach, train managers, and participate on collective bargaining teams.

When he's not busy with numbers, you might catch him jogging, or in his own words, "trundling", through the streets of Mount Pleasant at noon hour. Within the next couple of months the Winnipeg native hopes to be hitting the slopes, feeling the brisk mountain air of his first West Coast winter. It's obvious he'd rather risk the threat of coastal rains than spend another winter in the prairies, where minus-thirty degree temperatures are a certainty.

Right now Colin's principal focus is to open up communications with other administrators and faculty in an effort to make the finance and budgeting process more understandable. In the meantime, he promises "no surprises or dramatic upheavals" from his end of the administration.



Colin Sutherland

Improvements Coming to KEC

In his first ever 'State of the Campus Address', KEC principal Dr. Lawrence Fast drew a rousing ovation when he said improvements will be forthcoming to the air and ventilation system in the huge campus building.

Speaking before a sizeable crowd of faculty, staff and students last month, Dr. Fast's address focussed principally on KEC's future. Among his most important concerns:

- Do follow-up work on initiative to build a recreational complex on campus.
- Carry through plans to improve communication links among faculty, staff and administration.
- Establish a performance evaluation system for all personnel connected with college. (Administration employees have already been evaluated.)
- Continue efforts to spruce up KEC building.
- Re-evaluate budget and educational plans to ensure they reflect true needs of each campus and division.

Following Dr. Fast's remarks, Vocational Instructors Association President Roy Wren expressed confidence that co-operation between the administration and faculty will be continued.

Educator Feels Government Must Push for New College Programs

In the last issue of Spectrum, we featured a story about VCC President Paul Gallagher and his thoughts on redirecting college education in the next five years. Because the future of community colleges is inextricably linked to the future of our country, we decided to explore this issue further by talking to another expert on higher education, Gordon Campbell. Currently, Mr. Campbell is professor emeritus at the University of Lethbridge.

SPECTRUM: Paul Gallagher has suggested the college education system should focus more on the learning process than the actual content of programs. He also said students must become competent communicators before they can succeed in their careers. Do you believe students entering college should be schooled in the fundamentals first?

CAMPBELL: Yes I do. Many college students are usually pursuing, in the first instance, a course in trivial pursuits. But that's where they're starting from. They have to move from some place — and colleges are there to provide that opportunity.

Many have had, perhaps, an unfortunate experience in the secondary school system, or they've been out for a while working. These people know they've got to refurbish their mental chambers. Even if they've just graduated from high school, students may still have to be taught on a fairly elementary level. But I am thrilled the community colleges of Canada give opportunities to suit all ages, and all stages of attainment. I'm with Paul Gallagher entirely when he says the best preparation for a vocation is a broadly-based liberal education.

SPECTRUM: How do you perceive college education in relation to a university education? Is there still a big difference between the institutions?

CAMPBELL: There are many needs for learning stations in every culture. And there has always been a technological institution where there has been a university. Sometimes they've been close together, and sometimes quite apart, but each has gained distinction. For example, BCIT is a very distinguished technological institute. Only the mean-minded would say it (the institute) is of a lesser order. Our society is just too filled with its own importance about universities. Many people have a wrong-headed view of the significance of them.

SPECTRUM: What do you think of Gallagher's contention that four or five colleges and institutions in the country should take the lead in redirecting education?

CAMPBELL: I'm a little wary of the problem of elitism that can develop within such institutions. The real problem is how to keep institutions fluid ... and sensitive to the needs of the economy. I'm also concerned about the bureaucracy of colleges. They should be responsive in relation to the needs of a society and the students, instead of responding to their own internal mechanisms.

SPECTRUM: You're saying then, that there's a danger such colleges may not serve the public interest?

CAMPBELL: It's entirely possible. Every once in a while we see colleges that become ossified. Their walls bind them like prisons. Frequently, however, we find leaders like Paul Gallagher who are anxious to tear down walls and let some sunshine in.

Our world is coursing as fast as Niagara Falls in terms of technological development. I just attended a conference dealing with the rapidity of technological change in its relationship to higher education. We can hardly imagine the astonishing pace of change that's going to be required in our society just to keep up with the Japanese. For example, in car manufacturing the Japanese have made an end run around us. They're soon going to be doing that to us in computers. Other societies may surpass us in different directions. We've got to move very, very fast just to stand in the same place.

SPECTRUM: So where do we turn to get back on track?

CAMPBELL: I believe that community colleges are perhaps the most flexible instrument society currently has. I would never suggest that a university is a flexible institution. There's not too much wild red blood coursing through university faculties. Fundamentally, many universities are oriented to the past, or struggling to keep up with the present. They conserve and preserve knowledge very well, but do not necessarily keep up with changing technologies like colleges do.

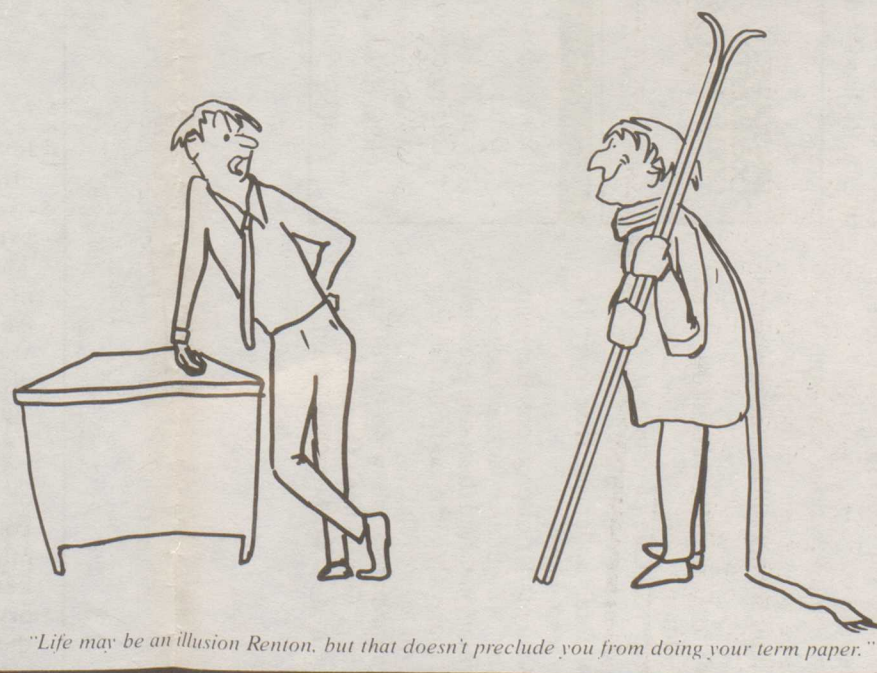
SPECTRUM: You say the technology is changing quickly, but how are colleges going to incorporate that new knowledge into new programs quickly?

CAMPBELL: Well, it's about as hard to change a program from an institution as it is for a city to change a grave yard. The entrenched feelings and vested interests are so immense, that any proposed changes require incredible leadership. It's very difficult to change programs ... but change we must. We can only allow so much of the public dollar to go into education. The much of the public dollar is very great in British Columbia, and there's no doubt colleges and universities have suffered considerably. But I'm of the opinion that pruning and leanness does not have to adulterate the quality and viability of an institution.

SPECTRUM: But you still haven't explained how colleges are going to get this new knowledge into the classroom before it too, becomes obsolete. Is there a fast track we can take?

CAMPBELL: Yes there is, but I think what I say will be an unpopular view. I'm of the opinion that most of the significant, fast change that takes place in community colleges in Canada comes from government action. Outside sources ... forcing the government ... forcing the

(Continued on back page)



"Life may be an illusion Renton, but that doesn't preclude you from doing your term paper."