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VANCOUVER
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spectrum

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In the Spirit of Christmas...

As I look back on it, 1988 has been a tough, hectic and, at times, frantic year. But it has been a year too of progress, many achievements by many VCC people, and much excitement.

Some of our progress has certainly been visible but much more is not readily apparent — yet. There is more to come.

I'm encouraged by the many examples of individual accomplishment but our finest achievement is that, despite less than ideal facilities and funding, we continue to offer an excellent quality of education. We can all be proud of this and, for this, all deserve credit.

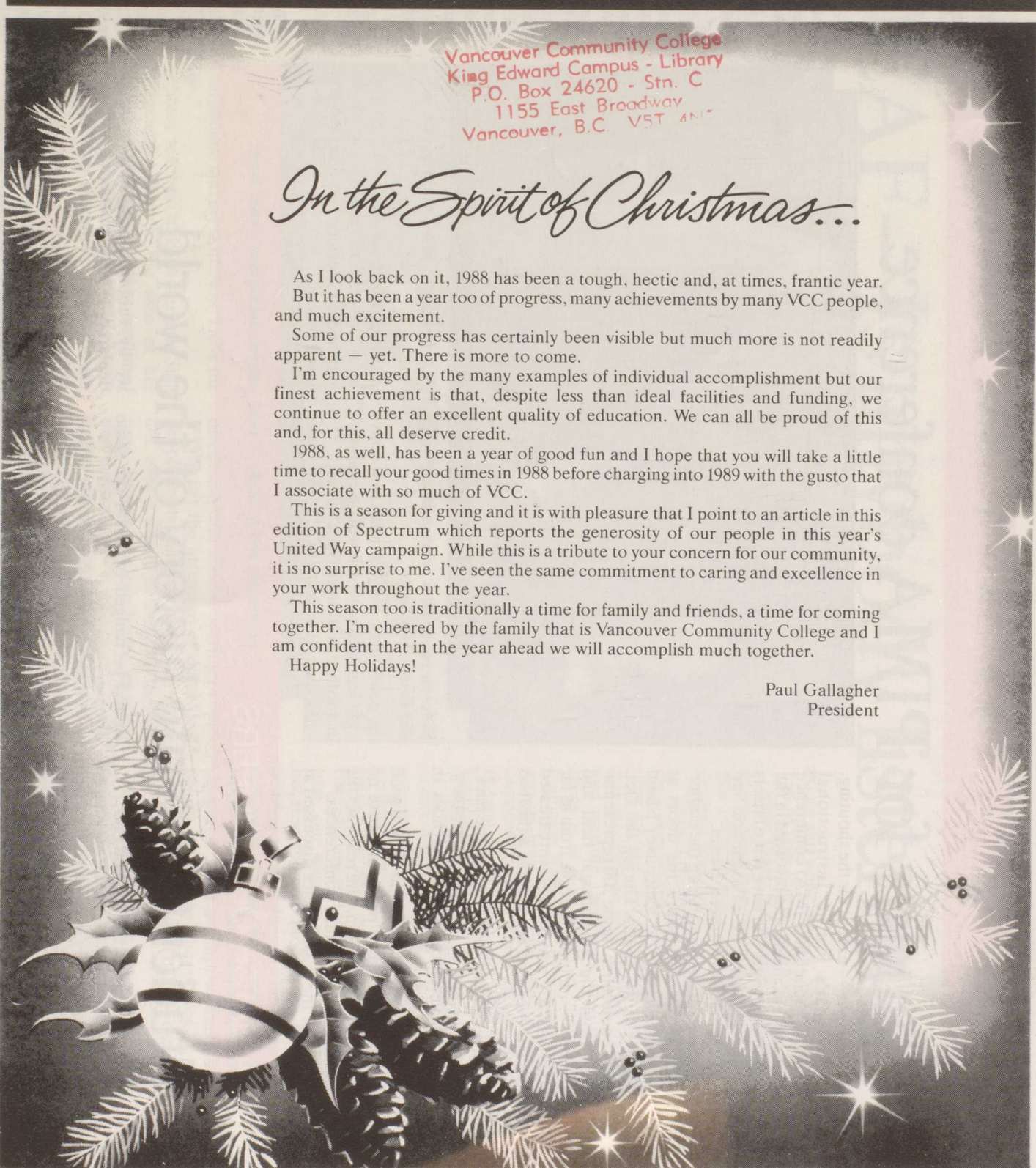
1988, as well, has been a year of good fun and I hope that you will take a little time to recall your good times in 1988 before charging into 1989 with the gusto that I associate with so much of VCC.

This is a season for giving and it is with pleasure that I point to an article in this edition of Spectrum which reports the generosity of our people in this year's United Way campaign. While this is a tribute to your concern for our community, it is no surprise to me. I've seen the same commitment to caring and excellence in your work throughout the year.

This season too is traditionally a time for family and friends, a time for coming together. I'm cheered by the family that is Vancouver Community College and I am confident that in the year ahead we will accomplish much together.

Happy Holidays!

Paul Gallagher
President



FALSE CREEK

New campus proposed

The VCC Board has proposed the establishment of a fourth college campus to be located in Vancouver's False Creek North development.

In a brief to Stan Hagen, B.C.'s Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training, the Board said the current overcrowding and lengthy waiting lists at VCC's three campuses have become "intolerable" — and that population projections for the Lower Mainland will soon necessitate the new campus.

"Vancouver's Mayor (Gordon Campbell) would very much like to see a new regional library headquarters come out of the False Creek North Development," said the brief. "Libraries represent large capital outlays for college campuses. Could we envision a facility which combined the headquarters of the Vancouver library system with a college campus?"

"... we could consolidate a number of programs which enjoy a certain affinity with one another, but which are now in different locations."

The Board said that while this is a long-term opportunity, the college "urgently" needs rented facilities to alleviate the overcrowding.

Welcome aboard

VCC has appointed two new communications officers.

Barbara Cameron will be handling external public relations duties and Chuck Poulsen will have responsibility for internal communications, including the production of *Spectrum*.

Barbara has been at CBC Radio in Vancouver for the last eight years, most recently as producer of *The Early Edition*. Previously, she had worked in community television in Burnaby and taught elementary school. She has a B.A. from the University of Regina and obtained her professional teaching certificate at SFU.

Chuck is a former Vancouver Province reporter and columnist. He has spent most of the past eight years in Kamloops, producing employee newspapers and marketing brochures. Chuck is a graduate of SFU.



Ever since he took the fashion course here, he's been calling himself Santa Chic.

Dorothy Moutter retires

"This was always more than a job to me," says KEC Administration Manager Dorothy Moutter. "I always had the feeling that I was involved with something that was very important; the college and all of the people, staff or students."

The feeling is mutual, Dorothy. Now that you're retiring after 20 years of going above-and-beyond the call of your job description, *Spectrum* thought a long-time friend and co-worker might add an appropriate anecdote to the story.

"Dorothy's contribution always went beyond her job," said Labour Relations Assistant Sharon McClure. "She took a personal — almost maternal — interest in people and their problems. My best memory of Dorothy was when she was



Dorothy Moutter

up to her elbows in chicken wings. She had arranged a going away party for a retiring staff member, and ended up cooking curried chicken for a hundred people.

"She was always caring and involved." All the best in retirement, Dorothy!

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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 the Public Relations Department.

Write On, John!

CAN we compete with Americans under the free trade agreement?

Meet John Parker, Langara English instructor who is helping teach thousands of Americans how to write.

John is Canada's free trade fears in reverse. He has published four books on English composition, including the first Canadian books on the subject to be Americanized and sold in the U.S.

It all started the day he decided to take a rest from teaching.

"I began at the old King Ed in '65," said John. "By 1977, I had had it with teaching English in the traditional ways; I was simply burned out by the thousands of essays I had to mark."

John had been involved in theatre locally and struck out for the British stage on a six-month leave of absence.

"I had some success and a great time so I brought my family over," said John. "In only my third day there, I was involved in the movie *A Bridge Too Far*, directed by Richard Attenborough. Most of the actors were Belgian so I had to dub in the voices for 22 of them ... all with different American accents."

"I also had a speaking role in the first Superman movie, playing a reporter named Gil Friesen who sat between Clark Kent and Lois Lane."

"Acting was a lot of fun, but the life of an actor is a precarious one. After 2 1/2 years I returned to the college ... when they said 'return or quit'. When I

came back I was determined not to get in the same slump as before; not to kill myself with the marking system."

The key was textbooks that allow students to become more independent learners. That independence of learning — with total Canadian content — became John's mission.

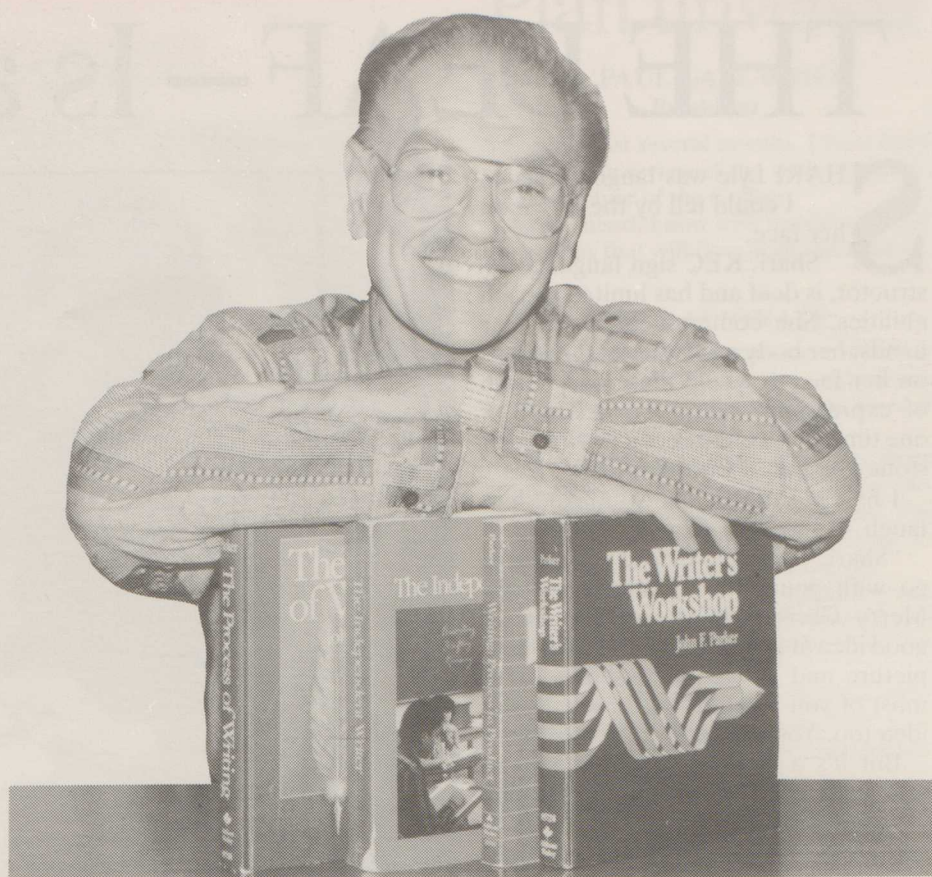
"I was sick of pure American textbooks on composition. And I wanted a textbook that would speak to the students rather than a textbook that needed to be taught. I think my system allows stu-

dents to work independently or help one another; that allows me to spend more time on one-to-one tutorials."

His first two textbooks — *The Writer's Workshop* and *The Process of Writing* — were so well received that they caught on in the U.S. At least in theory.

Says John: "If the task was to learn basic sentence patterns, I might use Terry Fox for model sentences. Of course, Terry Fox does not mean that much to Americans, so I had to change the chapter themes to American heroes such as Martin Luther King. Another chapter would touch on all of the prime ministers of Canada, so I had to change them to U.S. presidents along with new information that was relevant to U.S. history."

John doesn't know how many of his books have sold in the U.S., but his publisher has told him that *The Writer's Workshop* has done about \$1.5 million in business.



Two of John's textbooks are teaching Americans how to write.

His latest effort is *The 20 Minute Workshop*, now being piloted in manuscript form in New Brunswick. "It has to be tested, because what works for me in a classroom may not work for other teachers. There's always a massive rewrite after the piloted manuscript comes back."

His work in active learning throughout the curriculum has recently been acknowledged with an award from the Association of Canadian Colleges. And in May, he'll be honoured during the International Conference on Teaching

Excellence at the University of Texas (Austin).

In a letter of recommendation for the award, VCC President Paul Gallagher mentions the contagious effect of John's teaching innovations:

"(His) outstanding attribute is his ability to inspire teaching colleagues. People leave him correctly convinced that they can do more and better than they had thought. Above all, he loves students."

"He is a superstar teacher."

A RECORD \$32,983 RAISED

We topped our United Way goal!

VCC employees and students have scored a winning goal for the United Way Campaign.

The college achieved 101% of its United Way goal, raising a record total of \$32,983 — \$4,452 more than last year.

Langara led the way by reaching 118% of its target (83 people contributed \$8,333); VVI, 98.3% of target (47 contributors — \$7,374); KEC, Central Administration and Continuing Education, 95.4% of target (120 donors — \$17,276).

"The target for this year's campaign was a real challenge for everyone," said VCC United Way Chairman Harry Pankratz. "But we set records in dollars raised and the number of people who participated. I want to send my most sincere thanks to the volunteers and donors."

In addition to the cash or pledged donations, the campus committees sponsored a variety of special events to raise funds ... and — as you can see from these pictures of the wrap-up festivities at KEC — had a lot of fun along the way.



Gail Rochester (left) and Paul Gallagher helped us reach our "target".



Dale Jones (left) and Vi Bienert teamed up in the slave auction; Cam Avery, the auctioneer, helped to hype the price.



"Slave" Richard Pearse came complete with flowers and wine.

THE DEAF—Is anybody listening?

SHARI Lyle was laughing at me ... I could tell by the frown on her face.

Shari, KEC sign language instructor, is deaf and has limited speech abilities. She communicates with her hands, her body and by the expressions on her face; a whole dictionary worth of expressions, often two or three at one time. Marcel Marceau has a face of stone compared with Shari Lyle.

I had not told a joke to make Shari laugh — I was the joke.

"Shari," I said, "we need a picture to go with your story. Could you 'sign' Merry Christmas?" It seemed like a good idea at the time. If I had taken that picture and it was on this page now, most of you would think it was a good idea too. You would think it was cute.

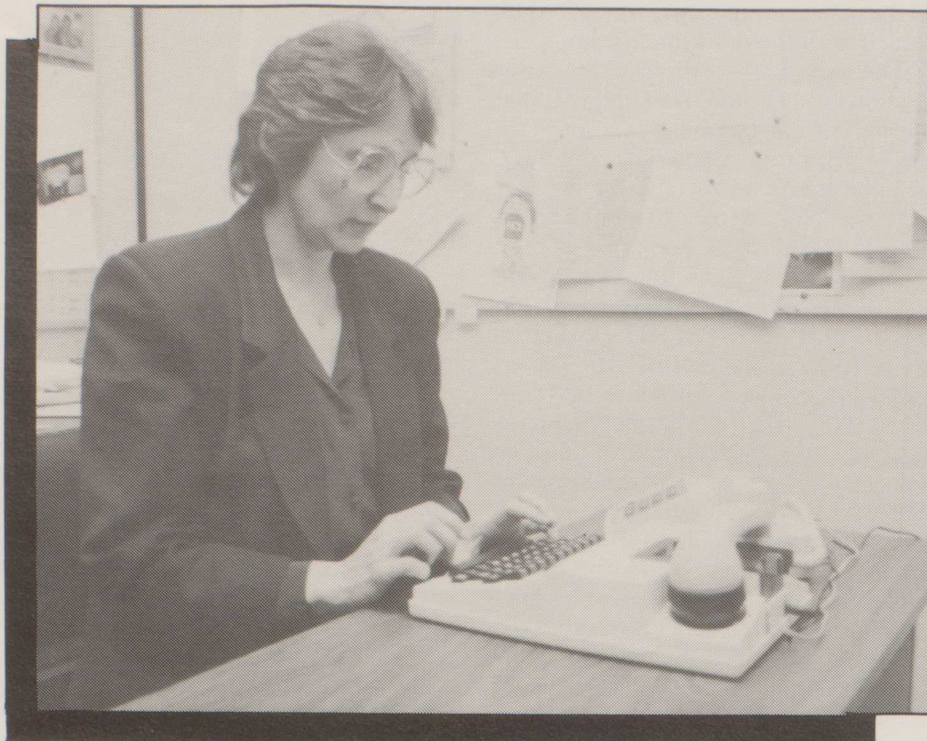
But it's a stereotype that is all too familiar to Shari and other deaf people.

"Most hearing people think the deaf should be copies of the hearing," Shari signed (KEC's Roger Ofield was the interpreter). "But the deaf have more than their own language. We have our own culture. We are a minority group just as Indians or blacks. You wouldn't try to scrub the colour off a black person, would you?"

Shari grew up in Halifax and Ontario, living in dormitories in schools for the deaf. She was eight before she understood that she could not hear.

Shari: "The older students would sit me in a chair, stand behind me and scream. They were trying to prove to me that there was such a thing as sound and that I couldn't hear it. One day they got me to scream. I can scream very loud and when I did, the teacher came running in from another room. Of course, he couldn't have known I had screamed unless he had heard it. That was the first time I understood what hearing is."

Shari is one of the few deaf people teaching sign language. She started by filling in one night for a teacher who was away ill. It was a big step, all the way from the one culture into another. "I was worried sick about facing hearing people," signed Shari. "But I had a lot of encouragement and just plucked up my courage. I looked at it as a duty, not just to myself, but to other deaf people. It took awhile to build my



Shari uses a telephone for the deaf ... right at her fingertips.

confidence and my skill. Now, I love the job."

Shari teaches ASL (American Sign Language). That is the face of her culture and it's perhaps best explained by telling you what it is not. It is not English.

'Shari has an electric spark that has allowed her to cross cultural barriers and have a strong impact on hearing people.'

It is a language of visual subtleties with its own syntax, a language of concepts rather than words. A pencil is not a word, but a motion of how it is used. ASL is no more English than it is French or German. Put it this way: ASL is also referred to as Native Sign Language.

The deaf culture is as different as its language. For example:

"Hearing people are sometimes shocked by how direct and straight up we are," signed Shari. "Everything is on the table because we are a small group and can't waste time playing games. If I saw a deaf person who had put on a lot of weight over the holidays, I might tell her that she looked fat. We are very

each other, over and over. Just as the Indians pass down stories, our stories are part of our folklore."

"My husband (Cameron, also deaf) and I were talking with his family about the differences. It was interesting how much our own families, who are hearing people, don't understand about us. The deaf are our family; brothers, sisters, parents ... they are sort of our second family."

(Part of the Lyle family is their dog Shonie, who knows ASL when he sees it.

Says Roger Ofield: "Shari brought the dog in one day and a student 'finger-spelled' w-a-l-k, w-a-l-k. The dog jump-

ed up and went berserk. So the student had to take him for a walk.")

Shari thinks the biggest problem facing the deaf minority is the same threat that faces all minorities: the loss of her cultural heritage.

"One of the problems is mainstreaming," signed Shari. "Instead of separate deaf schools, it is becoming popular to mix students in with hearing students and provide them with a tutor. And there is also an effort to change our language from ASL to English (there are at least two sign systems which duplicate English words and grammar: Pidgin Sign Language and Manual English).

"There is a great misunderstanding about ASL; that it is a low level language. It is not. The vocabulary is as endless as any language. If you mainstream the deaf and teach them only English, you rob them of the deaf culture, our ways, even our role models because the role models are all adult hearing people. It is my language and culture that gave me a sense of self-worth, and I am concerned that hearing people — in an attempt to make deaf people more like themselves — are going to blow the deaf culture right out the window."

If anyone can make those concerns understood, it is Shari Lyle.

Says Ofield: "Because of what she has accomplished, Shari has a strong influence, not just in the deaf community, but also at the college. She is a glowing example of the richness of the deaf culture."

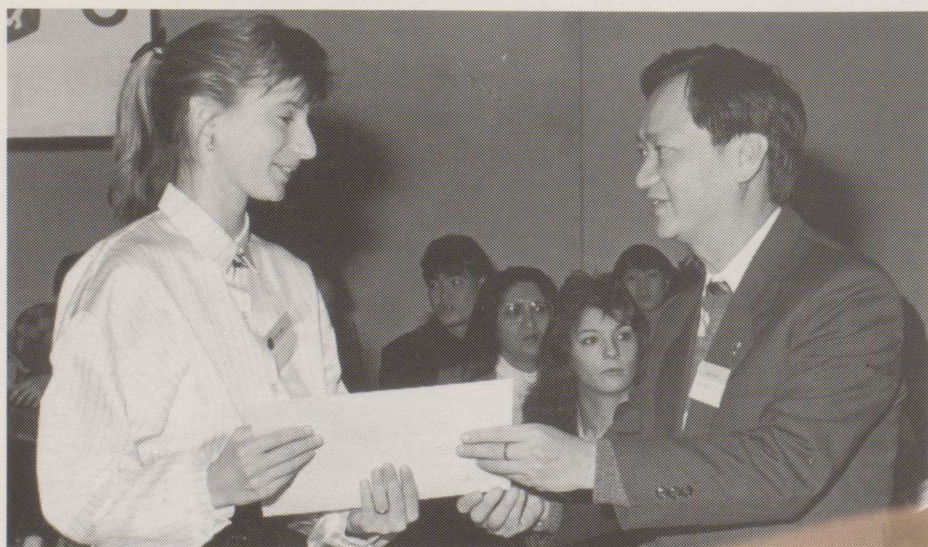
"Shari is warm and has a great sense of humour. She also has an electric spark that has allowed her to cross those cultural barriers and have a strong impact on hearing people."

The picture in this story is not one of Shari signing Merry Christmas. She's typing over the telephone lines to another deaf person.

"There is a myth that the deaf want help from hearing people," signed Shari. "We do need to be facilitated with things such as qualified interpreters and technology like this phone. That will make us more independent."

"We also need our culture and our community."

— Chuck Poulsen



The KEC Fall Awards Day was held November 24, and two of the recipients pictured reflect the way worlds come together in education at KEC. Julia Ratkay, receiving her award (above) from Mr. Hansen Lau, was a dentist in Hungary and is perfecting her English to practice in Canada. Olive Sabo (right with Roger Ofield) was raised in the hills of the Douglas Lake Ranch, started school at age 12 and left at age 16. She raised a family, drove a school bus and worked 15 years in a sawmill. After completion of her BTSD program she plans to enroll in a business program at the VVI.



Plaudits for PIMA conference

It's all over — except for the shouting.

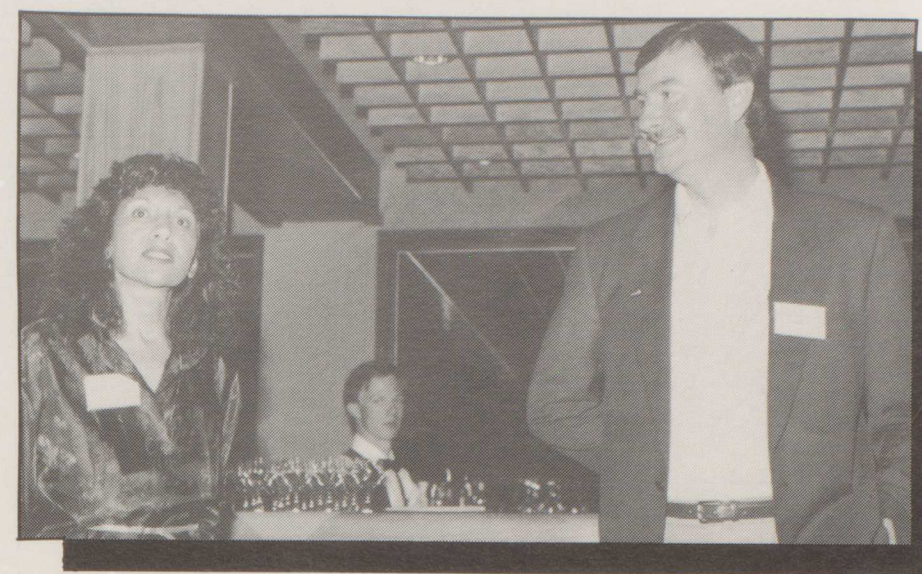
This year's Pacific Instructional Media Association (PIMA) conference is history, but the people involved in the semi-annual event still have three cheers for its organizer, VCC's Production Services Supervisor Parveen Jiواني.

Parveen started setting up the conference 18 months before the doors at Dunsuir Lodge on Vancouver Island opened to the guests. During the Oct. 26-29 conference, some 200 representatives from the educational field and industry — including people from as far afield as P.E.I. and Iowa — were treated to what everyone agreed was a flawless performance.

Parveen won't pat herself on the back, so we'll leave it to June Landsburg, SFU's director of applied sciences in continuing studies.

Says June: "Parveen did such a good job that even when problems arose no one knew about them. She really set the standard for all future conferences."

One of the major topics discussed at



Parveen received a service award from PIMA President Mike Reddington, as did Bruce MacLean.

the conference was Canada's new copyright legislation, which will be explored in another edition of Spectrum.

Parveen, along with VCC's IMS direc-

tor Bruce MacLean, were both honoured at the conference with awards for outstanding service in professional development.

A BATCH OF BLOOPERS

Students rewrite history of the world

By RICHARD LEDERER

One of the fringe benefits of being an English or history teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have, pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers from eighth grade through college level.

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain area of the desert are cultivated by irrigation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, once asked, "Am I my brother's son?"

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments.

Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns — Corinthian, Doric and Ionic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Styx until he became intolterable. Achilles appears in the *Illad*, by Homer. Homer also wrote *The Oddity*.

Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java.

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Geeks. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garbics in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harold mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings and Joan of Arc was canonized by Bernard Shaw. Finally, Magna Carta provided that no free man

should be hanged twice for the same offense.

In midevil times most of the people were alliterate. The greatest writer of the time was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses and also wrote literature. Another tale tells of William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull. It was the painter Donatello's

Then there was the day Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world.

interest in the female nude that made him the father of the Renaissance.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper. The government of England was a limited mockery. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted, "hurrah." Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. Shakespeare never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived at Windsor with his merry wives, writing tragedies, comedies, and errors.

The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote *Paradise Lost*. Then his wife died and he wrote *Paradise Regained*.

Christopher Columbus was a great navigator. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe. Later, the Pilgrims crossed the Ocean, and this was known as Pilgrims Progress.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary Wars was the English put tacks in their tea. Also the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally, the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original thirteen states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electric-

ity by rubbing cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin dies in 1790 and is still dead.

The Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution, the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. He said, "In onion there is strength." Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He also freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Meanwhile in Europe, Voltare wrote a book called *Candy*. Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the Autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear children.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for sixty-three years.

The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thought. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code of telepathy. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the *Organ of the Species*. Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

This article, originally entitled "Student Bloopers," appeared in *Verbatim, The Language Quarterly* (1987).

Management Plan unveiled

By PAUL GALLAGHER
President

For the past several months, I have been conducting a review of the senior management structure of the College.

As promised, I now wish to advise you of the actions that will flow from this review.

THE RATIONALE

I first wish to reinforce my conviction that we have real strengths that ought not to be threatened or weakened by any form of administrative reorganization.

While preserving and enhancing those strengths, we should try to improve our performance in several other areas. The actions listed below are calculated to achieve improvements in three areas:

1. Our ability to respond better to community demands for our educational services, in the context of better, but still limited, resources.

2. Our ability to serve our students, wherever improvements may be achieved.

3. Our ability to obtain and retain increased community and thus governmental support for our objectives and activities.

ACTIONS

To retain our strengths and achieve these objectives, the following actions will be taken:

1. We will retain the position and title of Campus Principal. However, the responsibility of Campus Principals to serve as college officers as well as senior campus administrators will be made more explicit.

2. We will proceed immediately with the search for a Campus Principal-Langara.

3. I will ask all the Deans, and their CE counterparts, to meet as soon as possible to identify specific areas in which cross-campus coordination of instruction, support services, and administrative services might be studied with a view to achieving the objectives listed above. From this agenda, I will ask the Deans to set a timetable for study of, and recommendation on, specific issues they have identified.

The Deans will be asked to involve Division Chairs, department heads, College Resources personnel and others to participate actively in what could become a major and extended process.

In addition, specific terms of reference and areas of responsibility for the Council of Deans will be established shortly. However, the individual Deans will retain their campus-based responsibilities.

4. I will continue to pursue the idea of a College Advisory Committee as a college-wide forum. However, I do not wish to diminish in any way the role or effectiveness of existing consultative bodies on campuses or within divisions; the unique spheres of activity appropriate to such a college-wide committee are not yet clear to me.

5. The Executive Committee of the College will remain the senior co-ordinating body for the College. However, we will examine in the months ahead ways of reducing the workload of this committee and its mystique.

6. By April 1989, I plan to regroup activities of the Public Relations office, the VCC Educational Foundation, and the VCC Alumni Association into a single "college development" function, without disturbing the independence of the two latter organizations, with the primary objective of increasing our impact on government decisions which affect the objectives and activities of the College.

7. The college-wide planning and budgeting processes will be reorganized with the objective of increasing participation in and knowledge of the college-wide decisions that influence planning and budgets for all components of the College.

As a separate matter, a major reorganization of the VVI should be anticipated in the next few months, as a consequence of the establishment of a Tourism and Hospitality Centre at that site.

As I indicated earlier, we do need to change to suit new circumstances as much as we need to preserve our traditional strengths. Accordingly, more change should be anticipated in the future.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation during the past months of review.