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Vancouver Community College  
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Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4N3

JUNE 29, 1989

## All the best!

VCC's annual retirement dinner was recently held at Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club, where a fond farewell was wished to:

Jock Denholm, Langara, Sept. 15/88\*; Art Griffith, VVI, Nov. 30/88\*; Ruby Kerr, VVI, Oct. 31/88\*; Boen Thee, Langara, Aug. 31/88\*; Kathleen Wotten, C, Dec. 31/88\*; Harry Pankratz, KEC/Canada Place, Jan. 31/89; Myrtle Knull, Langara, Feb. 28/89; Jack Scott, Langara, Mar. 31/89; Wayne Bottlinger, KEC, Mar. 31/89; Sam Greenwood, VVI, Mar. 31/89; Betty Leung, VVI, Mar. 31/89; George Whitton, Langara, May 31/89; Hugh Harper, Langara, June 30/89; Ken Weaver, Langara, June 30/89; Maria Brown, KEC, Aug. 31/89; Sylvia Bristoll, Langara, Aug. 31/89; Gordon Caruso, Langara, Aug. 31/89; Fraser Taylor, Langara, June 30/89; Mi Ying Woo, VVI, Feb. 28/89; Barbara Lowden, Langara, June 30/89; Ellen Bateman, Langara, July 31/89; Nadine Delaire, Langara, April 7/89; Jacqueline Philip, Langara, May 31/89; Kathleen Quigley, Langara, Aug. 31/89.

\* Denotes retirees who missed the 1988 dinner.



# Journalists probe journalism programs

For more than two decades, VCC's Journalism Program has been training the men and women who help shape and colour your world -- yes, your world.

And in October, when the Task Force on Journalism Education winds up its work, the program's ability to continue to train B.C.'s best and brightest entry-level journalism graduates will undoubtedly be strengthened. In what way, it is too early to tell. But in the long run the Task Force will have dramatic impact on B.C.'s oldest journalism program.

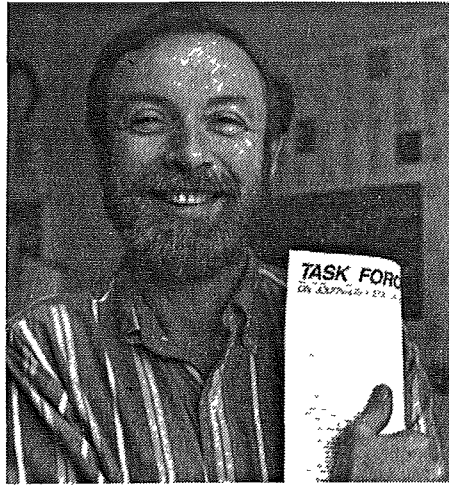
In fact, the Task force's recommendations might offer a blueprint for a new approach to journalism education in B.C.

In this electronic world of ours journalism has become a power unto itself, society's agenda-setter. What we know today, or think we know today, about the world around the corner or across the seas, is told to you by a journalist. TV has made the global village a reality, and journalists are its high (and low) priests.

More and more they tell us what to think about, select viewpoints of how you are to think about it, and exclude things they don't think you need to know. An awesome power, equivalent to the power of the medieval church to censor and control information. And as the tools and techniques of mass communication improve, so too must the talents and training of journalism grads.

Do journalists really shape and colour the world? Yes. Take a look at China today, with its state-run radio and television networks telling people that only soldiers died in Beijing. That's real power, Big Brother power, wielded by the state through its state-employed journalists. Any modern despot knows the first target of any attempt to seize power or to consolidate it is not the army but the newspapers and their shock troops, the journalist.

Closer to home, student reporters on the



Jerry Porter

VCC Voice newspaper pester busy student reps, deans and teachers to find out what is going on, and why. The student-reporters do it because they realize, and are taught to realize, that their prime role as journalists is to keep the gates of communication between the governed and the governors open, and to keep those in power accountable. That is the prime purpose of VCC's journalism program -- to train the next generation of reporters and editors to act as the eyes and ears of society and, on occasion, its conscience.

And that's what the Task Force is all about, to look at how well B.C.'s existing journalism programs are doing and to make recommendations to the Minister of Advanced Education, Stan Hagen, on what, if anything, should be done to improve them.

The seed money came from the Langara Research Committee, last spring, in the form of a \$400 grant to develop a survey of B.C.'s news media to determine how they felt about B.C. journalism grads, jobs, the future, and what they wanted in the way of entry level skills. Committee Chairman Murray Besler helped with the survey design and encouragement and eventually helped spin off another two surveys -- of graduates and others in the field -- to complement the main survey work.

Last Fall, the BCYCNA (B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers' Association), to which more than 90 of B.C.'s community papers belong and the largest single employer of Langara grads, formally endorsed the Task Force concept and contributed funds and other support to help it along. And at its annual general meeting in Vancouver last fall, the BCYCNA formally elected two members to serve on the Task Force steering committee.

After that, the dailies, television and radio were added. And on Feb. 2, the Task Force was formally launched at a press conference held at Langara. VCC President Paul Gallagher welcomed the members at a luncheon to mark the occasion, and wished them well in their deliberations.

I have the honour to be the chairman, a duty I share with my co-chairman, Ron Robbins of Victoria, the former head of CBC television news for Canada and the man who built Western Canada's first degree program in journalism at the University of Regina.

In March, our efforts were formally acknowledged and financially supported by the Ministry of Advanced Education in the form of a \$20,000 grant and operating terms of reference.

So far we have surveyed the news media, more than 450 grads of B.C. journalism programs, and B.C. members of the CIJ, the Centre for Investigative Journalism. We have also called for and received briefs from the universities and colleges on their plans for journalism education. In short, we are taking a hard, critical look at how the industry rates the province's journalism programs, at what the universities and colleges feel about it, the grads, and others.

In early June, the Steering Committee met to consider what the surveys and the schools had to say, and to cobble out

initial recommendations on the future of journalism education in the province. We will be reconvening on July 10 in Vancouver to hammer out the final recommendations.

What has the Task Force found out? Well, basically that some changes are needed; that what should be done about it needs more discussion and debate; that certain areas of journalism are definite growth areas; that journalism education is too important to society to be left strictly to the academic, or the industry.

We have had a vigorous debate on which direction to go, a positive result, because new light was shed on some of the oddities inherent in B.C.'s existing journalism education system. One of them is: How is it that journalism education here has been broken into two neat halves, with print and broadcasting being taught in two different places, seen as two separate things, when in fact there is only journalism, of which print and broadcasting are applications.

A few other things of interest to emerge: one of the two Langara journalism streams (the two-year diploma and the one-year certificate for degree holders) was rated higher than the other by industry; at least one journalism program in B.C. received a failing grade from both industry and grads; and...but you'll have to wait for the final report.

The Steering Committee consists of Gerald Haslam, Vice-President of Marketing for Pacific Press and the father of the tabloid Province; BCYCNA members George Le Masurier, Publisher of the Comox-Courtenay District Free Press and a founding member of the B.C. Press Council, Andrew Lynch, Publisher of Victoria's Monday Magazine; Cameron Bell, former News Director of BCTV; Rand Walford, a Vancouver lawyer interested in media affairs; and George Garrett, veteran radio reporter with CKNW.

- By Gerry Porter



KEC's Irene Romaniw won the bike raffled off by Domco Food Services, although she was away on the day of the draw. So just to make certain everything was in safe working order, Principal Lawrence Fast gave the bike a spin around the cafeteria. Contestants could enter the draw with an order over \$2.



Sarah Rogers

## First in first aid

Sarah Rogers, VCC's Program Co-ordinator for First Aid and CPR at VVI, will be part of a six-member Canadian team competing in an international first aid competition in London, England in October.

Rogers' team placed first in the recent B.C. competition sponsored by the Workers' Compensation Board.

## Touring your college

Many of us have worked at the college for years, but have not had the opportunity to tour the different campuses. The tours listed below will give staff members a new insight into what people at the various campuses do, where they work and the facilities available. There will also be an opportunity to meet the administration at each campus and other college employees. Space is limited and seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Request permission from your supervisor to attend and then call Human Resources Development - 875-1131, local 337 to confirm a spot.

Langara - July 19/89. 2:15 to 4 pm followed by a wine & cheese get together. Allocated seats: VVI = 6, KEC = 6, CE = 2, CA = 1.

VVI - July 26/89. 10:15 to noon followed by a light lunch at JJ's. Allocated seats: Langara = 6, KEC = 6, CE = 2, CA = 1.

KEC - July 27/89. 2:15 to 4pm followed by a wine & cheese get together. Allocated seats: Langara = 6, VVI - 6, CE = 2, CA = 1.



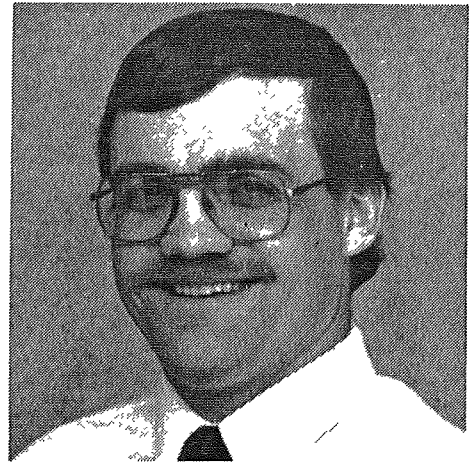
Photo by Stephanie Jewell

## Olympian effort by VCC runners.

VCC's "No Name" runners are The Winners in our book. The college's entry in the Labatt's Lite 24-Hour Relay for Crippled Children raised \$4,200 in pledges, \$200 over their goal.

The annual event also exceeds its goal of \$1 million by raising \$1.1 million.

The No Name roster included: From CA: Dan Cram; From KEC: Peter Hopkinson, Thorne Husband; Langara: Jeremy Dalton, Gregg King Keith Murray, Ken Schmunk; From VVI: Lilia Cardosa, Curt Gislason, Sheena Graves, Stephanie Jewell, Don Kazakoff, Dalton Kremer, Liz Lindsay, Greg Miller, Jun Peralta, Barbara Smith; Alumni: Avtar Brasheda, Harry Wong; Friends: Brent Hunter, Jaylene King, Stuart Somerville, John Wong-Hen.



Vince Kreiser

## Kreiser Honoured

Vince Kreiser, Co-ordinator of VCC's Recreation Facilities Management Program at Langara, has been recognized with an award of merit from the Recreation Facilities Association of B.C. It is only the third time in the association's 40-year history that a member has been honoured for going "above and beyond the call".

Kreiser also received his "keeper plague" for the R. J. Muir Award he won last year for outstanding achievement.

VCC grad Susan Boeschoten was awarded the Joe Dukowsky Memorial Bursary for excellence in the Recreation Facilities Management Program.

## Chen leads seminars

The Centre for International Communication at SFU has appointed Ted Chen, VCC's Assistant Dean of Administrative Services at Langara, to lead a series of management seminars in Mandarin for distinguished groups from China.

Twenty senior executives from the China National Non-ferrous Metals Industry Corporation in China compose the first group. In hopes of facilitating

exploration of joint venture opportunities with Alcan, this group is being trained by both SFU and Alcan Pacific Ltd.

Mayors, deputy mayors, secretary generals and senior municipal government bureaucrats, sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, make up the second and third groups.

## WE NEED YOU!

Update is your publication.  
If there is a coming event you would like mentioned, contact  
**Cathy Nishikawa**  
at 875-1131  
loc. 333