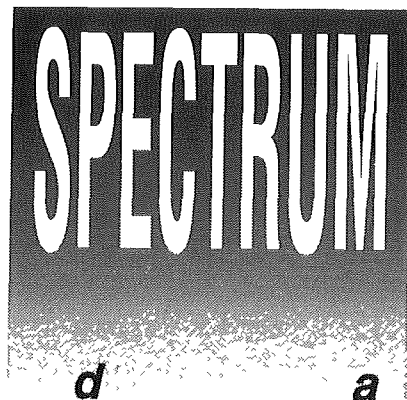


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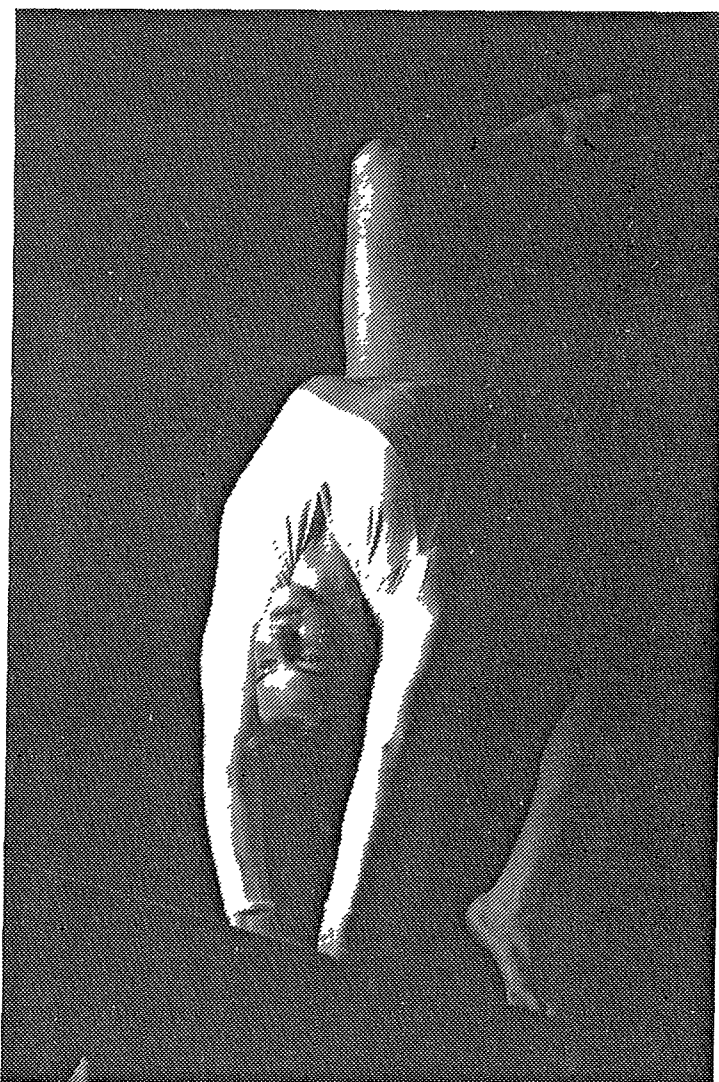
## 'Straining for success' top photo

This picture by former VCC photography student Andras Dancs, entitled *Straining for Success*, appeared on the cover of *V* magazine last year and was recently selected Best Photograph in the Western Magazine Awards.

Dancs, who attended VCC in the mid 1970s, is the President of North Light Images Ltd. of Vancouver.



Andras Dancs



Vancouver Community College  
King Edward Campus - Library  
P.O. Box 24620 - Stn C  
1155 East Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4N3



Eloah Giacomelli

## Books gain in the translation

Eloah Giacomelli of the ESL Department at KEC has received a glowing review from the New York Times for her translation of work by Brazilian author Moacyr Scliar.

The New York Times, in its review of Scliar's collection of short stories, said, "The rhythmic prose of the Enigmatic Eye has been beautifully translated by Eloah F. Giacomelli, who manages to make Mr. Scliar's voice speak eloquently to us in English."

Giacomelli's effort, the seventh book she's translated for the Portuguese writer, is a labour of love.

"His (Scliar's) writing is described as magical realism and he has an imagination that I find very appealing," said Giacomelli. "I first wrote to him six years ago with the idea of translating his work and since then seven of the books have been published, two in paperback.

"I suppose you could say I've introduced him to the North American reader, although he's not yet what you could consider a popular author."

Giacomelli has been given complete control over the translations, although she corresponds by writing with the author during each project.

Adds Giacomelli: "I haven't met him yet, but that's something I'm looking forward to."

## Sober thoughts for holidays

A long summer weekend like B.C. Day puts all of us in a sunny mood, but along with it comes parties and, of course, the consumption of alcohol.

The following stories are not happy. But Update is printing them for you, your family and friends in the hope that everyone will give serious thought to the dangers of drinking and driving. These are actual case histories from police files. The names are fictitious and some of the information has been altered to protect the identities of the families left behind.

**Case One:** Sam had been working hard for long hours to buy his flashy new sports car. After several drinks at a friend's barbecue party, he headed home in an uncharacteristically daring, almost invincible mood. His first accident of the night, observed by a policeman in a patrol car, came when he weaved too far to the centre and struck a cement median. His second was when he bounced off the median and struck another car. His third accident came when he tried to outrace the patrol car, striking a power pole. The crash was his last; at point of impact, Sam went through the front windshield, cutting his throat on the glass and bleeding to death in minutes. With a blood alcohol reading of .27, Sam may not have felt much pain. But Sam's wife and two children will feel the pain of his loss for the rest of their lives.

**Case Two:** Anne a single parent, had two small children at home. It was a warm summer evening and she decided to join some friends for a couple of drinks after work. Time lingered and Anne, not being used to alcohol, let one drink lead to another. And Another. Just one more. Her co-workers phoned a cab to take Anne home, but when the cab was late, she stumbled to her car. Normally a cautious driver, on this night Anne would speed out of the parking lot and press the accelerator to the floor as she headed home. In only three short blocks she managed to turn her vehicle into a deadly weapon, striking down and instantly killing a pedestrian in the crosswalk. Anne is jailed for the night and charged with numerous Criminal Code offenses which will follow her for the rest of her life. For Anne's two children, this night was spent without their mother. For the children of the

pedestrian, all of their nights will be spent without their father.

**Case Three:** It was late at night when police observed Bill making an illegal turn on East Broadway. When they pulled Bill over, he had a hard time finding his registration and driver's licence. In fact, he thumbed past his driving papers three times before the police asked him if he had been drinking. "Just two drinks at a beach party, honest," said Bill. He was taken to police headquarters where - out of fear for his reputation - he refused to provide a breath sample. Charged with impaired driving and refusing to provide the sample, he was later fined \$400 and had his licence revoked for six months. For that same period, Bill, a teacher, either took a bus to work or had his wife drive him. On several occasions, his oldest daughter had to drive him. It didn't take his students or colleagues very long to figure out why.

Drinking and driving is not a social misdemeanour. It is Canada's most widespread and devastating criminal offence. The weapon: usually our family car. The victims: us and our families. Drinking and driving poses a greater threat to Canadians than all other crimes combined.

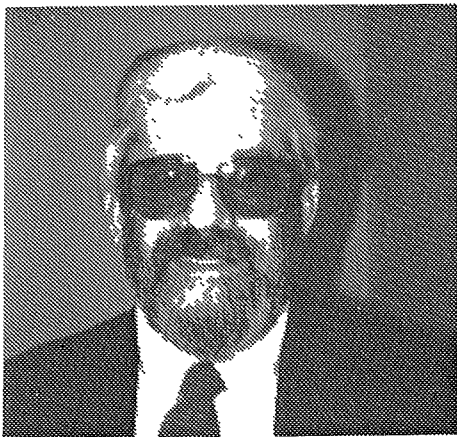
Every year in B.C. drinking drivers are a factor in:

- Over 250 deaths (40% of all highway deaths in B.C.).
- Over 24,000 criminal charges.
- Over 8,000 hospital admissions.
- 60% of traffic crashes resulting in serious disability.

One in four drivers on the road between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday has been drinking. Count 15 cars that go by you, and one of them is being driven by an impaired driver.

Police have a valuable piece of advice for party goers: Make a plan **before** you go to the party, and then stick by it.

This may include taking cab, bus or arranging for a non-drinker to drive. Perhaps you may consider going as a group in someone's van or motorhome, and arrange to have one non-drinker do the chauffeuring. Everyone can chip in \$5 for that person's time (hire a non-drinking student to do the driving). It's the best money you'll ever spend on yourself and your family.



Ray Haynes

## Haynes named VMREU Business Manager

Well-known B.C. labour leader Ray Haynes has been appointed business manager for the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union (VMREU).

He comes to the VMREU from the position of senior Labour Relations and Negotiations Officer with the B.C. Nurses Union.

Haynes was the secretary-treasurer of the B.C. Federation of Labour from 1965 to 1973, when he left to operate a fishing resort on Vancouver Island and serve as a consultant to various unions. He accepted the position with the nurses union in 1980.

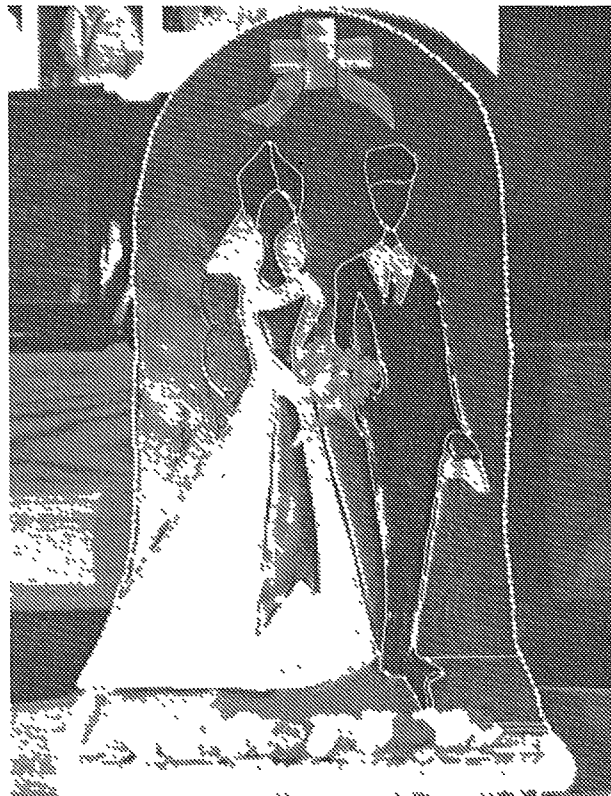
## More Retirees

The names of four retirees were omitted from the June 29 Update article on VCC's annual retirement dinner. Our apologies to: Joan Anastasiou, Eleanor Bradshaw, Dick Grooms and Melvin Kero, all of Langara. And the very best in your retirement.



The VVI students won best overall display award. Pictured (top row, left to right): Catherine Mitchell, Dean Roberts, Jo Hollick and Alister Pollock. Bottom row, Yolanda Donayre, Maria Zimmermann, Albert Kwan, Bobbi Jo Robertson, Luisa Parodi and Elizabeth Ko.

## How sweet it is!



VCC's student bakers were really cooking during the recent B. C. Pacific Bakers Exhibition. Students from several colleges and high schools competed in nine categories, with students from the VVI Baking Program winning medals in five divisions:

Wedding cake, Dean Roberts-gold medal, Catherine Mitchell and Elizabeth Ko-bronze medal; chocolate, Jo Hollick-silver; French pastry and petit fours, Maria Zimmermann-gold and Tanya Mickenko-bronze; bread, Elizabeth Ko and Albert Kwan-gold and Kwan, Shek Chan, Yolanda Donayre and Luisa Parodi-silver; puff and Danish pastry, Bobbi Jo Robertson-gold and Alister Pollock-silver.

The VVI students also won the best overall display award.

Alister Pollock won a silver for his sugar work.

# Shovelling your way to a degree

By Graeme Decarie

IT WAS A BEAUTIFULLY written exam. It was the sort that really stands out when you're plowing through 150 of them. They were the final exams for my Canadian history course, and most of them weren't bad at all. I was really pleased at how much the class had learned. Most of the exams showed a pretty solid grasp of the material and how to present it in an orderly manner. But this one really stood out. I read through its twenty pages of impeccable prose with delight. It soared; it sang with conviction and logic.

Well, it did have one weakness, one small weakness, though I was so captivated by the style that it took me some time to notice it. It was such a little weakness, really. The student didn't know a thing about Canadian history.

Now there are always a couple or so papers like that in any large class. I wrote plenty of them myself when I was a student. But mine was pretty feeble stuff with lines like: "lots of people were getting concerned about many things back about then, so they started doing something about it and speaking out and things." Usually, it was obvious that I hadn't a clue what I was talking about. But this one was different.

## Her talent deserved recognition

It reminded me of a speaker I had listened to at Hyde Park Corner in London. He held a large crowd enraptured with his passionate oratory. After an hour, he paused and asked, with compelling sincerity, "Do you see what I'm getting at?" A hundred heads, mine among them, nodded in response. Not until much later did I take time to think it over and realize he wasn't getting at anything. Nothing he had said made any sense. He was brilliant.

That's why it's so frustrating to be a teacher within the hidebound limits of

our universities. I couldn't give that student a passing grade because she didn't know anything about history. Isn't that silly? It was frustrating because she had a talent that deserved recognition and could take her far in the world. It was frustrating because universities aren't doing anything for people like her.

Think about it. Haven't you noticed how all those speeches by politicians, executives and institutional administrators never make any sense. Important leaders like that never know what they're talking about. Yet they can rise above their ignorance to inspire the devotion of thousands, even millions, of followers. That is what leadership is about.

(Here we should dispose of the canard that such people are lying when they make statements. They aren't lying when they make statements. They aren't lying. They really aren't. They just don't know what they are talking about.)

## Knowledge creates wrong image

As a rough rule, it can be said that the first quality of a leader is ignorance of the facts. Coupled with that must be the ability to speak and write convincingly on all topics of which one is completely ignorant. This is not simply an opinion. It is a scientific finding based on several years of study. The study began when I was given a book by Brian Mulroney outlining his principles. It was called *Where I Stand* (it's quite a small book). Further research material has been supplied by the government of Canada which for the past two years has been sending me free copies of Joe Clark's speeches. The evidence is conclusive.

Leaders, real leaders, rarely know what they are talking about. People who do know what they're talking about rarely become leaders. Limited by their knowledge and hesitant in straying

beyond it, they project an image of uncertainty that is fatal for a leader. They can serve usefully looking after detail work, but leadership is beyond them.

The woman who wrote that examination for me has leadership talent. She could be the next prime minister of Canada. If that happens, she will jokingly tell audiences how old man Decarie failed her just because she didn't know anything. Audiences will get a laugh out of that image of fuddy, picky old man Decarie - and they will be right to laugh.

We should be offering courses - maybe even a whole new degree - to develop the leadership talent that woman showed. It wouldn't require any new teachers. We already have plenty on staff who are experts in the subject. And if it is to be a faculty all its own, may I modestly suggest we look no further than me for dean?

This is an idea that could put Concordia on the map. Other universities offer such training, but only at the graduate level. This is a waste because few people with Masters or doctoral degrees become leaders at anything. Take a look through any list of world leaders. Most have only bachelor's degrees. Genghis Khan, William the Conqueror and Attila the Hun didn't even have that.

Concordia could be the first to offer this new degree where my research has shown it counts - at the undergraduate level. I even have a name for it.

We would call it a B.B.S.

*Graeme Decarie teaches Canadian history and is Chair of Concordia's history department. The preceding article appeared in the Concordia University Magazine*