

u p d a t e

June 1991

Off the wall Olympics

From start to finish, the first KEC Keyboarding Olympics was an event of fun and games. Organized by the Computer and Business Studies Department, the contest set records for dubious achievements.

Awards were presented for accomplishing the most errors, "Bloopers and Blunders", the most backspaces, "Backward People", the slowest, "Party Animals" and the slowest, "Turtle People"

The competition did, however, also determine the fastest keyboarders in the West. The winners, both at 77 net words per minute, were Doreen Sharan, secretary to the administrative manager, and Shona Moody, data entry clerk with Institutional Research. Winning the relay event were the "Flying Fingers": Moody, Pat May, administrative assistant to the College Board and president, and Cheryl Agoston, secretary with Public Relations and Development. Sande Lee came out on top in the student event at 62 words per minute.

Some of the rules were developed along the way. When the department found it had insufficient funds to present a medal to every winner, the relay event winners were given medals with ribbons long enough to go around the necks of the entire team.

The winning teams loved it.

"Watch out for our next Keyboarding Olympics," says Department Head Cathy Tolsma. "We make our own rules, so we don't have to wait for four years!"

And that's a new rule too.



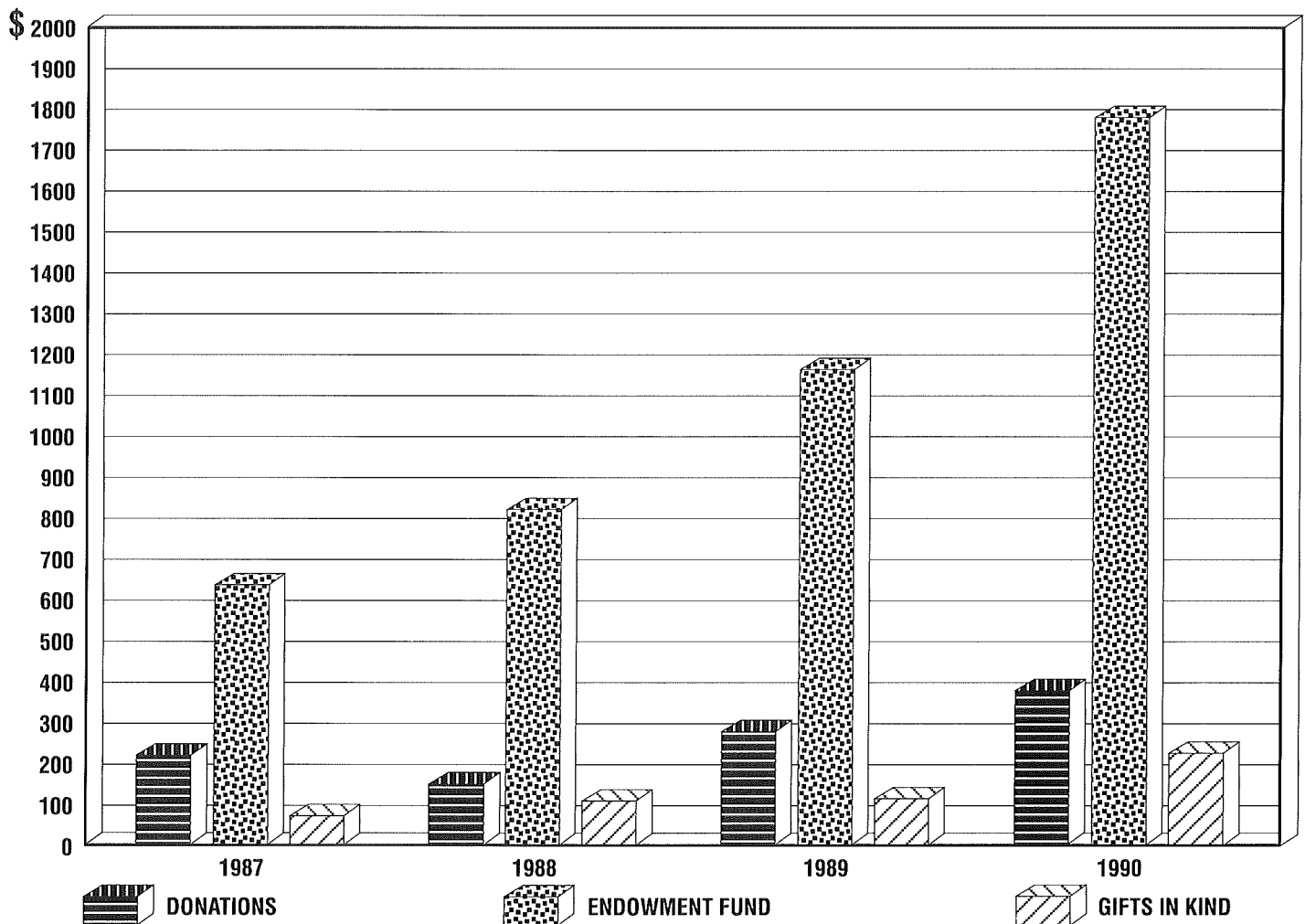
Fastest Fingers in the West winners of the relay event were (L to R) Shona Moody, Cheryl Agoston and Pat May. Lorne Malo, Business and Computer Studies Instructor, presented the award.

Budget Bulletins

Because of the week-long turnaround time in the printing of Spectrum Update, we will attempt to keep VCC employees up to date on the college's budget situation through Spectrum Bulletins. The Bulletins can be produced

much more quickly. In the event of fast-breaking information, we will further attempt to speed up the communications process by posting the Bulletins rather than waiting to distribute them through the internal mail system.

'90 fundraising tops \$1.2 million



The good news from the VCC Educational Foundation is illustrated by the above graph: consistent and substantial increases in fundraising over the past four-years.

During 1990, the Foundation raised over \$1.2 million in donations, interest, gifts-in-kind and government grants. Of this amount, \$570,000 was disbursed by way of awards and transfers of gifts. The remaining \$630,000 was added to endowment allowances.

One of the objectives of the Foundation is to increase the endowment funds to \$5 million within a five-year period. At \$2 million, the Foundation is slightly ahead of that target.

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The Foundation board has several new members: Oksana Exell, Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the B.C. Trade Development Corporation; Barry Lloyd, Vice President of Sheet Materials, Seaboard Lumber Sales Company; Bruce Moffat, Senior Account Executive, B.C. Group National Accounts, Sun Life of Canada; Heather Shannon, partner in the accounting firm of Ernst and Young; Jim Simpson, Manager, Treasury Services, Cansulex Ltd. and Grover Sinclair, DC-10 Captain, Canadian Pacific Airlines.

And congratulations to Barry Irvine, President of Tilbury Cement, on his election as the new chairman of the board.

Food for thought as college gets \$200,000 worth of computer power

(Reprinted from the Vancouver Sun, April 10, 1991)

Everybody benefits Neptune Food Suppliers of Richmond had outgrown its mainframe and was ready for something bigger Vancouver Community College, like every college in North America, would give its academic eye teeth for some prime hardware. A deal was struck - and the college gets a \$200,000 Prime mainframe.

"We've grown a lot and were ready to upgrade our own equipment," says Peter Whittall, president of Neptune. "Rather

than trade it in, we decided to give it to someone who could really use it "

"It's great," says Jim Goard, director of information and computer services for VCC. "We needed to do something, but weren't expecting this at all. It will be a huge gain for both students and faculty."

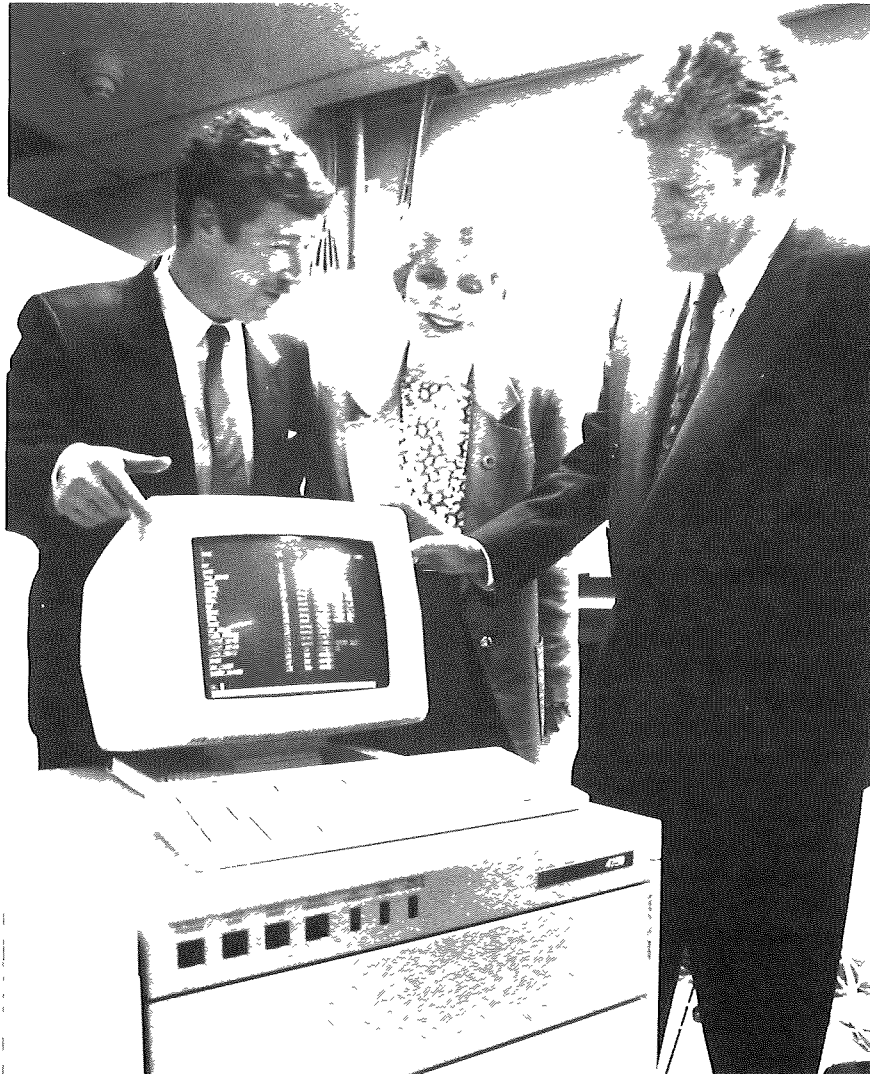
The Prime CPU 4150 computer will modernize classroom instruction in the college's computer information systems program, and will later be used to support the college's library system.

But a mainframe computer is not the

kind of thing you throw into the back of a truck and drive across town. Prime Computer of Canada agreed to handle the transfer - and threw in \$53,000 worth of software to run the machine.

"Everyone benefits," says Bill Thompson, account manager for Prime Computer, "especially the students I've got two college-age kids myself VCC needs support like this."

The entire relocation process is expected to take approximately one week Goard says he expects to have the system up and running by May.



Prime President Guido Smit presents computer to VCC Educational Foundation President Sheilah Grant Neptune president Peter Whittall looks on

Clowning around . . . for fun and profit

By Dave Wiebe

Today, John Karmazinuk looks like a clown. He has the red nose, funny face, padded belly and all. It's a costume he's donned to help sell goodies at a trade fair, and it's indicative of how far he and others in the VCC Small Business Program will go to be a success.

The program, offered through the Small Business Development Centre at City Centre, is a six-week pilot project "designed to create entrepreneurs." It looks at all the technical aspects of running your own show—accounting, cash flow, staffing, marketing—with emphasis on thorough planning. Guest speakers offer their expertise, stories of both success and failure, and the ever-important networking contact. As a team, students create mini-businesses and go through trial runs.

The program is headed by Joy Davies, a former successful entrepreneur and now the small business development officer at the college. In February, she and others in the Small Business Development Centre decided to test the waters with a full six-week practical course on business start-up. They ran an ad that brought startling results. Davies had hoped for 20 or so responses. She got 300.

"We offer something that really steers away from the theory and deals more with the reality," says Glen Witter, Director of Corporate Marketing Services for VCC and one of the creators of the program. "Often in the real marketplace it's the instincts that matter most. We want to give them (students) a chance to test their instincts."

Syd Hartley, division chair of the Business Department at City Centre, is another driving force behind this project. Says Hartley: "I think the philosophy is that most entrepreneurs who start small businesses do not support formal education, and that's a premise of this program."



John Karmazinuk gets serious about business by donning a clown outfit

The program leaders have tailored the formal education system to better suit the entrepreneurial spirit. The course content remains extremely practical, the structure very flexible.

"We were trying to give them 'real world' experiences," says Davies. "The statistics show that you fail four times before you succeed, so what we are saying is 'Fail here. Be open to the process. Success can be modelled.'"

Davies says many of those who jumped at the ad already have a post-secondary education, which goes against all the accepted statistics about entrepreneurs, but does reflect a more recent trend.

While Karmazinuk may look a tad silly in his clown get-up, it isn't the first time he's looked foolish. It wasn't long ago that he successfully established his own business, investing in real estate in Ontario. But, like many, he got caught when the market took a dramatic downturn, and took a big loss.

"Half a million dollars," he shrugs. "Now I have to start again." Karmazinuk says he is "building a lifestyle." Like several of his class-

mates, he too has a family—a wife and three children. Rather than an added burden, he looks at a family as an advantage to the entrepreneur. "We have to succeed. We are prepared to take the calculated risk to succeed, and to work hard doing it."

Business, ideally, means profit, and already the program is looking to realize some of its own. Fifty per cent of all earnings gained through the mini-businesses established over the six weeks are deposited into a newly-created micro-bank. This money will in turn be made available to the students when they head out to start their real businesses.

It's another way of exposing the students to the real world approach at every turn.

Politicians share stage on education

By Constance Brissenden

"The two-day session was very successful, one of the best yet," said Michael Sharzer, past president of the Langara Faculty Association. An estimated 265 faculty and staff attended the association's annual professional development days, April 23-24.

On the hot seat at the kick-off panel were three of the province's top education spokespersons: former Minister of Advanced Education, Job Training and Technology Bruce Strachan, Advanced Education Critic Barry Jones of the NDP, and Gordon Wilson, head of the B.C. Liberal Party.

"In the past, faculty have generally felt politics or government didn't influence their situation very much," says Sharzer. "They could basically do their job isolated from political factors. But it's become very apparent that political decisions regarding funding, priorities and capital expenditures have a dramatic influence on working conditions and opportunities at a community college. We felt it would be educational for faculty to hear the political leaders who are most connected to advanced education so they could make some judgements about the kinds of policies and programs the parties represent."

Not surprisingly, the further the three speakers were from holding power, the more concrete their answers became.

Standing behind his government's "six-fold increase" in capital spending since 1986, Strachan called B.C.'s university-college system "unique in Canada compared to other provinces." While revenues for the province are down, Strachan noted that education spending will be "maintained, but not increased as over the past four years." On the other hand, science and technology funding will be cut in the fall, but "as far from the classroom as possible." Future plans include the opening of additional institutions in Cranbrook and the Fraser Valley.

Taking the offensive, Jones com-



Provincial politicians (L to R) Bruce Strachan, Gordon Wilson and Barry Jones

mented: "For the past ten years, the province has not had an education plan. Without a plan, you fly by the seat of your pants."

Citing "strange messages" from such societal decisions as closing degree-granting institutions, temporary appointments for support staff, roll backs of increases and the lack of a grant system for students, Jones said that college administrators are very frustrated. "They need an increase of nine to ten per cent to maintain the status quo. The four per cent level is seen as a disaster."

'For the past ten years, the province has not had an education plan. Without a plan, you fly by the seat of your pants.'

-Barry Jones

As for lowering the funds to science and technology, Jones said: "Talented math and science students are already being turned away from higher educa-

tion because of poor financial aid from the province. As far as aid goes, we're still in the Maritime range in terms of student support."

Wilson, a former chief negotiator for the Capilano Faculty Association, made his biases known off the mark. "Educators are used as pawns," said Wilson. "The only way to avoid polarization is to ensure a wider range of representation in Victoria."

Wilson stressed that "colleges must be returned to the community" through the implementation of an elected college advisory council. Representatives from governments, unions, faculty, students and the community would sit on the council.

Formula funding also came under Wilson's attack. "This is not an effective way to recognize priorities in an educational institution," he said. "Sometimes small class sizes are what is needed in B.C."

If the Liberals were elected to power, the party would set a fixed election day. "This will help the government to plan and plan effectively. Post-secondary education is critical. It is also very expensive. But it is the most important investment we can make."

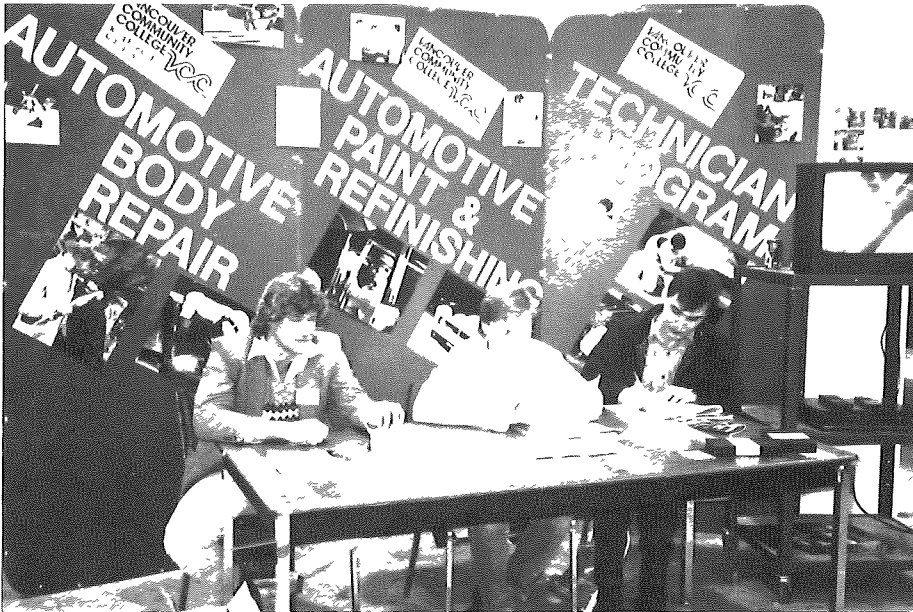
Equipment show among best in N. America

The two-day Transportation and Equipment Technology Show at KEC's technical training centre was attended by more than 2,500 guests and 130 participants. A representative of Sherwin Williams, exhibitor of the popular

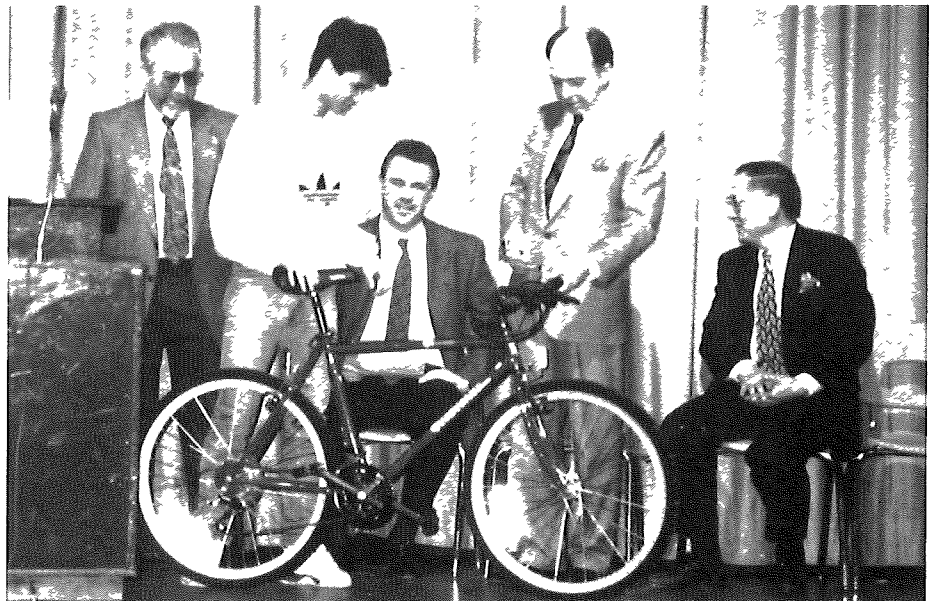
mobile paint-refinishing classroom which has travelled the U S and Canada for the last two years, said the attendance and quality of the show were equal to the top trade shows of its type on the continent.

The show was presented by KEC's Automotive, Auto Collision and Diesel departments to offer a unique gathering place for industry, educators and students. Professionals demonstrated the latest in technological know-how, educators provided information on training for industry's needs and students previewed job prospects with potential employers.

Richard Tamm of Windermere High School and John Hui of Britannia were winners of incentive door prizes. Tamm, who won a 21-speed mountain bike, and Hui, a portable stereo, visited the show to study career training opportunities.



Current students helped sell the program to visitors



Mountain bike winner Richard Tamm takes the stage along with (L to R) Sam Lewindon, division chair of careers, Dan Kowal, Windermere Secondary School vice principal, Mike Gregory, Windermere teacher and Min Sugimoto, Windermere principal

International Education Scholarships



Ken Thomas

VCC International Education Scholarships

Ken Thomas, a student at VCC's Langara Campus, has received a \$9,000 scholarship from the college to study in Japan and research the early contributions made to that country by Canadian explorer Ranald McDonald.

McDonald arrived in Japan in 1848 - five years before the arrival of Commodore Perry hastened the end of Japan's isolation - and eventually taught English to Japanese statesmen, military officials and even samurai warriors.

To be eligible, students must be a citizen of a Pacific Rim country, satisfy appropriate academic standards and have a documented interest in cultures other than their own. One scholarship of \$9,000 will be awarded annually.

**Scholarships to study
and/or work abroad are
available to VCC faculty,
staff and students.
Here are the stories
of three recent winners.**



Brian Pendleton

Asia-Pacific Scholar's Award

Brian Pendleton, Vancouver Community College's Pacific Rim Co-ordinator, will spend six months in Japan teaching and learning the ways in which students in that country are "internationalized" to meet the expanding global trading patterns.

The Asia-Pacific Scholar's Award will also allow Brian to help guide VCC in providing a global perspective to the hundreds of Pacific Rim students who attend classes at the college.

This award is administered by the B.C. Centre for International Education on behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education



Peter Lear

VCC International Education Scholarships

Peter Lear, Vancouver Community College's Math and Science Co-ordinator in the Basic Training for Skills Development Department, will spend two months in India's high tech city of Bangalore, giving workshops on chaos theory and fractal geometry. For those of us asking 'what the heck is that': chaos theory is an inventive mathematical approach to predicting natural disasters such as earthquakes or avalanches, while fractal geometry measures the roughness of surfaces-everything from rocks to leaves on a tree. The unique structure of a crack on a rock says a lot about how it was formed; the roughness of the surface of a leaf provides insight into how it may be affected by pollutants in its environment.

To be eligible for this award, the VCC instructor, staff member or student must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and a permanent resident of B.C., studying or working full time in a public post-secondary institution.

For more information and application forms, contact International Education, 875-1131.

Take advantage of the 25th Anniversary

If you weren't able to attend VCC's 25th Anniversary party, you can still take advantage of the celebration

A commuter-style coffee mug emblazoned with the 25th Anniversary logo is available to every employee who hasn't yet received one. To get your mug, contact Saraj Kumare (KEC), Margo Lupien (Langara) or Suzanne Paterson (CC).

There are also bottles of the anniversary wine, red or white, available at \$6.50 per bottle or \$72 per case. The wine comes with the anniversary logo or with the logo and an "overprint" which says Langara Private Reserve. To purchase the wine, contact Karin Giron at 324-5511 (Local 249).

The anniversary party was a rousing success



Acting President Ross Carter cuts the cake

"The turnout exceeded the organizing committee's expectations," said committee chairperson Joan Hoisley. "It was very nice to see faculty, staff and administrators come together from every corner of the college to enjoy each other's company."

"A special thanks should go to all of those who served the wine and worked at the cash bar."

The celebration also provided enjoyment for the community, with the flowers being delivered to a local hospital and employees who were away from work ill. The remainder of the cake was sent to the Dogwood Intermediate Care Lodge.

This day belonged to the environment



The first Environment Day at Langara May 30 featured the launching of an "island" to encourage the breeding of ducks in what is now officially named Walden Pond. Activities also included the planting of an Environment Day tree, a litter pick-up



project on campus and in the neighbourhood, a lengthy list of prize draws and food and entertainment. The event was a rousing success with plans already being considered for a repeat performance next year.

Wong means business in Swaziland

By Doreen Chui-Chai

Alice in Swaziland!

Alice Wong, Co-ordinator of the Centre for Small Business at KEC, was among the first group of eight B.C. educators to be awarded the Commonwealth of Learning Fellowship. The only woman recipient in her group, Wong's award took her to Swaziland where she assisted in the development of instructional materials for the management of small businesses.

The Fellowship Program is a joint venture by The Commonwealth of Learning and the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training. Under this program, ten educators from developing countries are brought each year to educational institutions in B.C. to study methods and techniques in distance education. The B.C. award winners are then sent abroad.

"When the University of Swaziland requested guidance in course development for small businesses, we invited Ms. Wong, who is well-recognized for her achievement in this field," said Susan Phillips, senior program officer for the Commonwealth of Learning.

Wong feels that being part of the program has made her more aware of the workings of international aid for developing countries. "UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Operation) did a needs assessment of a small business material development project in Swaziland and recommended the assistance," she said.

Swaziland, a small country in southern Africa, is slightly larger than Vancouver Island. Although rich in agricultural and mineral resources, approximately twenty-five percent of its 750,000 inhabitants are unemployed. To encourage a more varied economy, the government decided to stimulate the growth of small businesses. Swaziland is the designated business training, resource and development centre for SADCC (Southern African Development Co-ordination Centre), which consists of ten member countries.

In Mbabane, the capital, Wong visited government agencies, chambers of commerce, educational institutes and business professionals to survey business needs and research training materials used in Swazi education and in



Alice Wong

the private sector. Her findings resulted in a small business development program proposal for the University of Swaziland.

The proposal included guidelines for "training the trainer", development of distance education models in siSwati (the national language of the Swazis) and the development of small business resource centres in towns and rural areas.

Wong said the Swazis are talented home-based craftworkers, but they lack basic marketing skills. She suggested the development of "an open market day concept".

The adaptation of Canadian training models and systems to the Swazi context proved simple because of built-in similarities such as bilingualism and the level of English of participants.

"The growth of small business is universal and so is the need for training," said Wong.

"It was a good learning experience to exchange resources. I did not just give, I learned." Wong finds the program "valuable experience for someone wanting to work overseas." She encourages anyone interested in the program to contact her for application details.

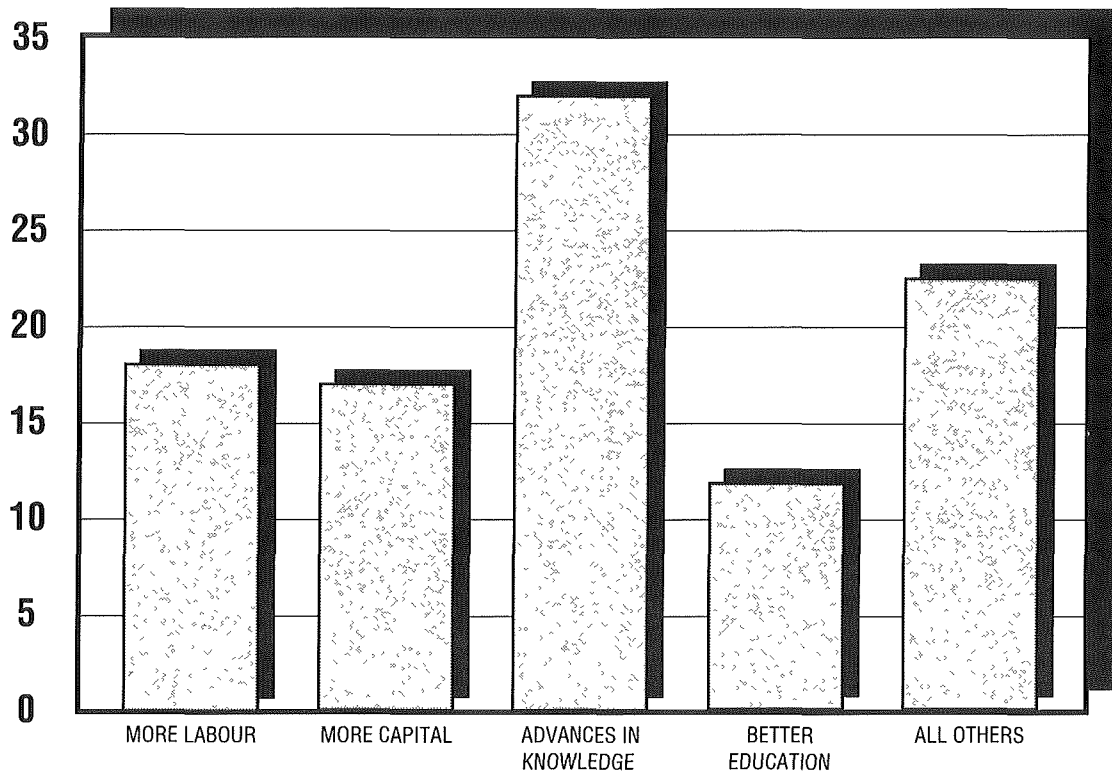
Time did not permit her to take in the scenic Swazi sights, but she brings home lasting memories of friendly and courteous black Africans keeping traditions alive against a backdrop of European-owned pulp mills and Western imports.



An out going (far out going?) group of participants at the recent Management Skills for Supervisors' course yucked it up during the final photo session. In the back row, Langara Bookstore Assistant Manager Susan Reynolds (left) and Director of Educational Telecommunications Bob Lajoie use Langara Dean of Student Services Linda Holmes to demonstrate how to karate chop an employee who has asked for the day off. Holmes, meanwhile, practises a cost cutting gesture on seminar leader Diane Kerr and Langara Library Assistant Neil Kelly. On the left is City Centre Librarian Eva Sharell.

Factors Contributing to Economic Growth

Contributions of Selected Factors to Real Economic Growth in the U.S.A., 1948 - 1978



This graph from an American study, clearly indicates that advances in knowledge and education are key factors contributing to real economic growth

HRD Project plots economic future

It may become the Sullivan Report of advanced education.

B.C.'s Human Resource Development Project, headed by former VCC President Paul Gallagher, has been compared to the Sullivan Report on primary and secondary school education. But when the Human Resource Development Project's mandate is completed in two years, its steering committee will have produced a blueprint for advanced education and job training—and beyond that, a blueprint for the province's financial and social future.

"Human resource development refers to the development of the people of our province, and—many would say—the development of people is the real key to the individual, social, and economic

future of any society," said Gallagher. "B.C.'s Human Resource Development Project is challenged to propose the most effective ways in which our human potential can be realized."

The goals of the project are to:

- * Provide an open process involving all of the stakeholders in all aspects of post-secondary education and job training. Steering committee members include representatives from industry, labour, education, student groups, native people and community groups.

- * Focus on a long range strategy for human development—economic and social—and arrive at some consensus-based decisions that will ensure the needs of B.C.'s citizens in a comprehensive and affordable manner;

- * Prepare a set of framework policies and strategies for consideration by the Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, after public consultation

B.C.'s current standard of living is mainly the result of the richness of its natural resources. Competitiveness in the future, however, will depend much more on human potential as successful economies around the world become increasingly knowledge-based and innovation conscious. (The above graph indicates the importance of knowledge and better education as contributors to economic growth in the U.S. from 1948 to just 1978).

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Gary Mullins, the Advanced Education Ministry's deputy minister and steering committee chairman, said. "The project is necessary because of changing economic and social realities. For the first time, Canadians are experiencing a decline in their standard of living. At the same time, we are expected to compete in a global environment of advanced technology, demanding increased innovation, productivity and quality."

Technology and economics are only part of the picture, however. Success is also tied to Canadians' ability to think critically and rationally, communicate clearly, understand and work with diverse cultures, develop shared values, and remain flexible and tolerant in dealing with social issues.

One of the committee's tasks is to implement a process that will ensure future resource needs are met despite limited tax revenues.

"If education and training are the building blocks on which we construct Canada's economic future, then employers and institutions must meet the challenge of providing world class employee upgrading and student innovation," said committee member Keith Gray of the Business Council of B.C.

The project is relying on various stakeholder groups to find ways for public and private sector organizations to ensure that the need for education and training is satisfied.

"Our members have high expectations of both the process and the results," said committee member Ed Lavalle, President of the College-Institute Educators Association.

Hundreds of people are expected to be involved in a variety of sub-projects over the next two years.

Printing Production aids Michael Dunahee search

Even though it's been over two months since the disappearance of five year old Michael Dunahee from a Victoria playground, corporate and community groups continue their search efforts.

Recently the VCC Printing Production Department students and faculty have teamed up to produce a massive distribution of posters depicting the missing boy.

"It all happened very quickly," says Doug Gordon, Co-ordinator of the Printing Production Program. "It started with a phone call. We got it all in place in one morning."

That phone call came from Sharon LeClair, who, along with June Eplett, has been operating the Michael Dunahee Search Centre out of LeClair's home. After talking to Gordon, it didn't take long to get the ball rolling.

"We brought it into the production control department, and the decision to go with it was immediate," says Gordon. "It was a student project and we are a community college. It is our job to help the community."

Gordon went to industry for paper stock, plates, film and ink. Paper was

donated by Island Paper Mills, Mitchell Press, Hemlock Printers and Benwell Atkins. Reger and Company and Canadian Fine Color contributed ink, and Running Graphics pitched in with film and printing plates.

The production of the poster was done by VCC printing students. For them, this job meant more than just great training.

"We had three classes of 20 people working on it, as well as some part-time students coming in," said Technical Assistant Nancy Rose.

"It's been a student project from the word 'go'," says Gordon. "Every student in the department was involved. They were coming in early and finishing up late. They were getting tired, but were just great."

One and a half million posters came off the presses.

The 8 1/2" by 11" poster, which has two versions, shows a picture of Michael Dunahee, his description, information on his last sighting, and phone numbers. "And they deliberately specified 'Canada' on it," points out LeClair. "This thing is now on an international scale."

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