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Faculty OCT 22 1991  
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u p d a t e

October 1991

# Have we got a deal for you!

The bad news is that when it comes to United Way support, VCC was near the bottom of Lower Mainland colleges and institutes last year.

The great news is that for only \$2 off each month's pay, VCC employees will rocket to the top. This is not a typo: just \$2 off each monthly cheque, or a minuscule \$1 off each bi-monthly cheque, will easily boost us from near-last in dollar contributions (Douglas was last) to first place honours, now held by Kwantlen.

Participation rate is the key.

Last year, VCC was tied for last place with Douglas at only seven per cent participation. This compared with the highest rate, again at Kwantlen, of 31 per cent. Because those at VCC who did donate last year tended to be more generous than employees at the other colleges, a substantial—but readily obtainable—hike in our participation rate would solve the problem.

There is no minimum requirement for the payroll deduction at VCC. A dollar every two weeks is greatly appreciated. And even at that, the amount is really less than a dollar because the donation is tax deductible.

The United Way supports 89 agencies which provide service to 500,000 people in the Lower Mainland. But if you feel charity begins at home, your pledge may



KEC's Sandra North tests her technique for a United Way car wash



Don Hume - City Centre



Leni Gelten - Langara

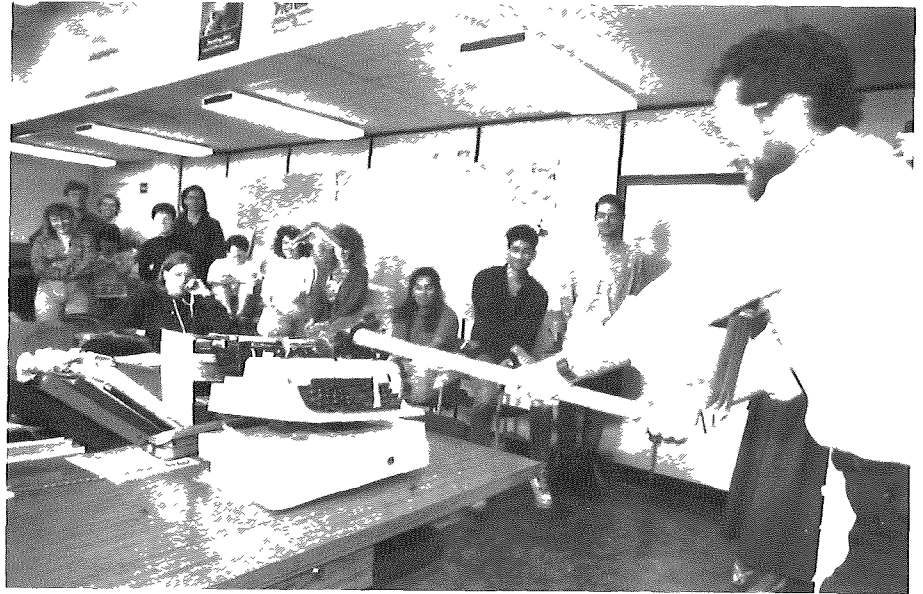
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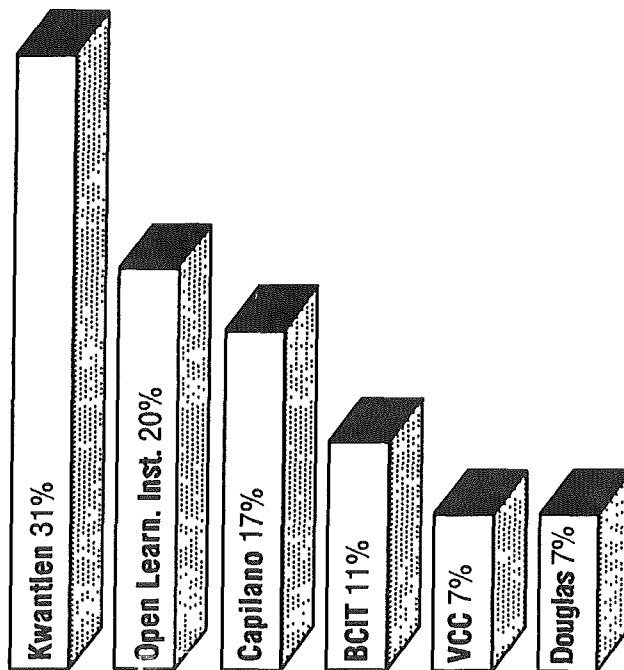


# A breakthrough in journalism!

Principal David Cane pounds out the final story on this typewriter, one of the department relics that has given way to a computer. Program Co-ordinator Rob Dykstra said many of the typewriters were goners, while the rest were judged "not worth maintaining" even by the company that was contracted to do the work. Students will now have access to the campus computer lab.



## College / Institute United Way participation



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be directed specifically to the VCC Educational Foundation, or any other agency of your choice. Remember that only two per cent of your donation goes into administrative costs.

There will be plenty of opportunities to give in ways other than by payroll donation. Check your local bulletin board or campus paper for events planned on your campus.

And a special thanks to all of the VCC United Way volunteers, particularly the three campus chairs: Sandra North (KEC), Don Hume (CC) and Leni Gelten (Langara).

# UPDATE PROFILE: George Clark

By Dave Wiebe

Last month Building Services Manager George Clark made one last round at City Centre, then turned over the mass of magical keys that only he seems to know the secrets to.

For many campus employees, Clark, who retired after 15 years service, is City Centre. His hard work, caring and pride have permeated the building. Beyond his job description, Clark put his time, sweat and heart into the place and its people.

Ask Clark, and he'll understate his role. Ask long-time co-workers from all areas of the campus, and you get a truer picture.

"He is one of the finest people I've had the pleasure to work with, one of the truly good people who have made this campus what it is," says Technical Division Chair Jerome Schatten.

"As a boss, I will never have anyone as good as him," said Laundry Keeper Dobril (Debbie) Jadranin. "He was always behind me 100 per cent...I just don't have the words."

Hans Rerup, the college's Director of Strategic Planning who was a member of the committee which first hired Clark, says his value was particularly evident during the major reconstruction work done in 1982-83 and in 1989-90. "He has been instrumental and extremely valuable," offers Rerup, "and he's probably worked far beyond what he should."

Rerup continues: "We never used to have a Christmas tree here. It was George who started that. And the "Care and Share" fund. Last year was the first time we actually had staff, administrators, faculty and students get together for half a day. George has probably the biggest heart of any person I know."

Care and Share, a fund for needy students and their families at Christmas time which Clark built through his own efforts and finances, provides his fondest memories.

"That will be one of the many special memories for me," says Clark. "It's been very, very satisfying to get notes of



George Clark

thanks from the little kids who participated in that. I have kept a number of those cards as mementos."

VCC recently acknowledged his efforts when the Educational Foundation set up the George Clark Care and Share Trust Fund of \$15,000.

George Clark has been part of City Centre. And now through the fund he always will be.

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## PROFILE: Jerry Domer

By Doreen Chui-Chai

Imagine yourself accepting a teaching appointment in another country. You leave your job, sell most of your belongings, pack whatever's left and truck 1,500 kilometres to your new home. You rent an apartment, settle your family and report for work.

Then the surprises start. You are greeted by a principal who was not expecting you, a department head who had not informed the principal of your assignment and an announcement that no funding had been established for the position.

These were just a few of the many trials Jerry Domer faced and overcame in his 15 years with KEC's Music Department. Domer, who came to KEC from the University of Monash in Montana, has stepped down as head of the department to return to teaching.

"I've succeeded in finishing what I started and can now return to my love of teaching and working with students," said Domer. "Systems are in place, the scholarship fund will continue to grow



Jerry Domer

without me, other people are ready in their careers to take over the position; the department has never been better." He adds: "It feels wonderful because I am not leaving a sinking ship!"

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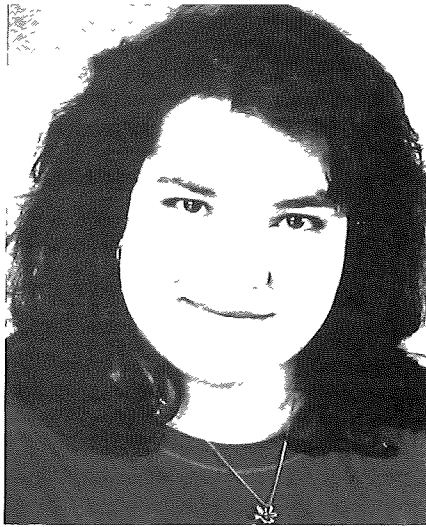
# Langara grad shoots...she scores!

Once Langara Photography Program graduate Lee Ann Burgess put her future into focus, she moved faster than a shutter on a bright, sunny day.

Last spring, Burgess entered a portrait photograph in the first Canadian students' photography competition, which is held in conjunction with the annual awards sponsored by the Professional Photographers Association of Canada. Her entry not only took first prize among students, but astounded association members when it was also graded in the top five per cent of the professional entries.

As a fifth generation photographer, Burgess has had... well, a lot of exposure to the profession.

"My great, great grandfather took up photography in the 1850s in Germany when it was just becoming an art form," says Burgess. "When my great grandfather came to Canada in 1907 he set up a studio in Nanaimo which is still in the family. As a little girl I used to spend a lot of time in the darkroom making prints from old black and white negatives."



Lee Ann Burgess

Although she has the business in her blood, Burgess had to really put her mind to her studies.

"The program at Langara was the hardest thing I've ever had to do in my

life," says the 31-year-old who had previously worked in various jobs in the hospitality industry. "I found the physics and chemistry really daunting. I didn't get more than four or five hours sleep a night because I wanted to prove to myself that I could get the assignments done to a high standard."

Burgess worked briefly for a portrait photographer in White Rock before recently opening her own business in conjunction with Ad-Vision Graphics Inc. of Richmond.

"The owner, Stephen Manzi, is giving me some space for portrait photography and the use of all his professional equipment," said Burgess. "Most people would have to work years or have been born into a lot of money to get into that position. It's a dream come true."

Thanks, in part, should go to the Langara Photography Program.

Says Burgess: "I wouldn't have been offered the position in White Rock or this new opportunity without it."

*Domer from page 3*

The department has long been beset by funding problems. How did Domer and the program finally achieve relative financial security? "The people I hired were largely responsible for our success," said Domer. "They taught in church basements or someone's living room. Both the faculty and students were intensely loyal and hard working."

Domer feels that the time has come for him to move on. "The first 15 years of my professional life were devoted to oboe playing and the middle 15 to the growth of this place. I would like to spend the last 15 writing, conducting and learning musically."

He plans to teach at VCC, work with youth groups, and help build the Pacific Youth Wind Ensemble. He'll also focus more energy on the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra and complete the writing of instructional books on the oboe and other woodwind instruments.

## Kreiser plugs students into conservation

Instructor Vince Kreiser has received B.C. Hydro's Powersmart Award for teaching energy conservation in Langara's Recreation Facilities Management Program.

Kreiser has included energy conservation instruction in recreation management programs since 1984 when he taught in Abbotsford. A year earlier he had implemented an energy management system at an Abbotsford ice rink that saved \$12,000 annually.

The Recreation Facilities Management Program at Langara is the only one in B.C. There were only eight students in the program when it was transferred from BCIT in 1979, compared with 45 students this year.

## Recycling ready to go

The VCC Recycling Committee is back in business again following a postponement of its activities over the summer.

Watch Update for reports on the committee's plans as they develop.

# Irvine sold on VCC

By Constance Brissenden

Barry Irvine admits that convincing him to serve as VCC's new Educational Foundation Board Chairman "wasn't a hard sell."

For one thing, his three daughters are all Langara grads. For another, his role in college management goes back to 1983 when he was first appointed as a member of the VCC Board. That same year he also took on a four-year term as Director of the Educational Foundation, serving as President from 1984 to 1985.

A professional engineer, his career then took him to Alberta, returning to Vancouver in 1990. Within months he was back at VCC, working hard to achieve the college's fundraising goals.

"It sounds hokey, but I really do want to put something back," he says. "I am also impressed at how VCC runs the business. It is always aware of what the educational needs are in the community and adjusts its curriculum to keep up with the times."

A man who finds he works best "when slightly overcommitted," Irvine will assist Educational Foundation President Sheila Grant in raising more than \$1 million this year.

"VCC's profile is much higher now than it was ten years ago. We expect to exceed our goal and that gives me a feeling of satisfaction." On the other hand, Irvine adds, "We don't want to be too happy. We want to do better next year."

# Rocky knows

No one knows his textbook better than Langara Economics Instructor Rocky Mirza. He co-authored it.

Mirza became involved with the second and third editions of *Explorations in Microeconomics*, originally co-authored by two economists from San Jose State University and published by CAT Publishing of California. When it came time for the third edition, he was asked to include more of his own perspectives.

"The third edition is written more to my style and I've included examples that students at Langara can more easily relate to," said Mirza.

The text also is being used by fellow Economics Instructor Ray Kroecker.



*For former KEC/City Centre Vice-Principal Patricia Groves, spearheading the renovation of the KEC Learning Centre was one of her last duties at KEC. Groves, who has taken the position of Academic Vice President at George Brown College in Toronto, receives a corsage from English Tutor Karen Jane Hills during the recent opening of the centre.*

*The Learning Centre has been remodelled into one large room with direct, inside access to both the library and the student computer lab.*

## Malaysian partnership explored

A recent visit by a delegation from Malaysia has resulted in a possible partnership with the Women's Institute for Management, Malaysia (WIMM). The delegation, which included Datuk Napsiah Omar, Malaysia's Minister for National Unity and Social Development, is considering a proposal by VCC's International Education Division to provide training and programs for their new institute.

"Our meeting went extremely well," says Fred Wuhler, VCC's Director of Corporate and Professional Training. "They were very impressed with our presentation, and have now returned home to take a further look at our proposal. We haven't sealed a deal, but we seem to be very close to it."

WIMM's mandate is to develop programs for Malaysian women that will help them to become successful entrepreneurs.

## Peace talks

There are three lectures remaining in this fall's Peace and Conflict Series at Langara, all of which are free and open to the public. They are:

October 17-Canadian Defence Policy, Mary Collins, Associate Minister of National Defence. Room A322, 15:30-17:00.

October 29-Religion and Violence, Jim Roberts, Religious Studies, Langara. Room A322, 15:30-20:00.

November 12-Arms Control in the '90s, Professor Michael Wallace, UBC. Room A307, 19:00-20:30.

Spectrum is published for the faculty and staff of Vancouver Community College by the Public Relations and Development Department.

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Production by Instructional Media Services