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SPECTRUM

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CKNW endowment our largest ever

Single parent students at VCC will find it easier to get ahead with the creation of a new trust fund, the result of a \$150,000 donation from CKNW Radio.

Earlier this month, the CKNW Orphans' Fund presented VCC's Educational Foundation with a cheque for \$150,000, the largest single endowment that the college has ever received. The donation, as well as a matching contribution from the provincial government, will be used to establish a trust fund. Interest earned from the fund will go to VCC students who are single parents.

"It might be possible for us to help up to 500 students a year, based largely on financial need."

"We are very pleased to do something for this group of students," says CKNW Orphans' Fund Board Chairman Judge Tom Fisher. "Caring for their families while also improving their skills is really an awesome challenge. The majority are also mature students, with the added difficulty of resuming something that they have left for some time."

"We have a significant number of students who are single parents," says VCC President John Cruickshank. "It is a growing trend. Many see Vancouver Community College as being the best way to better their situation, by gaining a practical, career-oriented education. For them, we're the point of re-entry into the work force."

According to CKNW Orphans' Fund Administrator Hal Davis, a fund for



Check out this cheque! CKNW Orphans' Fund official Gerry Magnault (left) and Judge Tom Fisher (right) help VCC President John Cruickshank and College Board member Gerald Schwartz hold up the \$150,000 endowment gift from the radio station.

single parent students makes a lot of sense. Says Davis: "For 45 years the Orphans' Fund has been helping children, and this is an extension of that. Hopefully, this funding will help single parents to break out of the welfare/poverty cycle that many find themselves in."

"The need is certainly there," says Educational Foundation President Sheilah Grant. "It might be possible for us to help up to 500 students a year, based largely on financial need."

VCC Press is on a roll

VCC Press finished its second year of operation near the break-even point, one year ahead of schedule. Revenues for 1991-92 were \$103,294, or only \$4,500 less than expenditures.

Projections for 1992-93, estimated conservatively, predict a profitable year, said VCC Press Managing Editor Raymond Bendall. He added that the debt of VCC Press will be completely retired by the end of 1992-93.

Among this year's highlights was the signing of a contract with Prentice Hall whereby this major educational publisher acquired the rights to print and market an edition of the Professional Bakers' Manual outside Canada. In exchange, VCC Press will earn an expected \$20,000 annually in royalties on those sales.

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Langara memories happiest of all for MLA

You might think that a newly-elected MLA in B.C. would rate the past six months as the highlight of his career. But Ujjal Dosanjh, the NDP member for Vancouver-Kensington, turns the clock back to his days at Vancouver Community College for the time of his life.

"My days at Langara were the happiest of all," says Dosanjh. "I would spend a lot of time in the library reading area and in the cafeteria chatting with my fellow students."

"That was the early '70s and there were still a lot of debates going on in the social sciences area. I enjoyed the teachers, like Ross Johnson and Barrie Brill, who are still there. I remember the faculty fondly because I could discuss with them those issues that were going on in people's minds."

"We were able to sample everything at Langara from the extreme right to the extreme left. There was a whole range of opinions you could interact with. It was a fascinating and enlightening time."

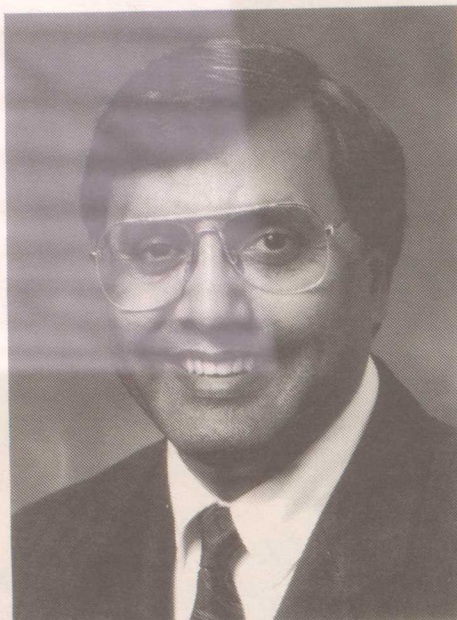
Dosanjh earned a BA in political science and sociology from SFU in 1973, then went on to UBC for his law degree. He specialized in family and personal injury law.

VCC has played a role in Dosanjh's life in many ways. He taught ESL in the Special Programs Division at the old King Edward Campus for two summers while going to law school. He met his wife, Raminder, at Langara; she has gone on to teach ESL at KEC. Today, their son Pavel, attends classes at Langara...the campus is literally no more than a stone's throw from the Dosanjh home on East 50th Ave.

"I've lived within two blocks of Langara for the last 14 years," says Dosanjh. "When I attended classes there were only about 1,500 students so it was much less congested then. There were study spaces all around the hallways."

Although there are about three times as many students at Langara today--plus the occasional side-street gridlock of cars--Dosanjh still sees the campus as a plus for the neighbourhood.

"The neighbourhood is very stable and the college has enhanced the area," says



Former VCC-Langara student Ujjal Dosanjh

Dosanjh. "I like to see the young people walking around. They give the region some life!"

Dosanjh takes a thought-provoking view of today's students compared with those of the late '60s and early '70s.

Dosanjh: "I do not mean to demean or criticize the present crop of students, but I just find they are much more conservative with the larger issues of poverty, social justice, general trends in education and the issues of war and peace. My concern is that they don't seem to exhibit a sense of commitment to some of those issues."

"We've come through the 'me' generation in the last 10 years and it's going to take some time to get over that. But when this crop of students faces the harsh reality of trying to find a job, trying to maintain their standard of living and trying to address the creation of wealth and jobs, it's not going to be as easy for them as it was for their parents who graduated in the middle of an economic boom."

He adds, however, that it may turn out to be a good thing that today's students are less vocal than the last generation.

"They may examine issues with a cooler head. When they face the challenges in the social, economic and political arenas, they will begin to question what we are doing now in perhaps a more fundamental way than in the '60s. The '60s was, to a certain extent, a parent-financed counter culture, whereas the students of today may not have the comfort of knowing that they can fall back on their parents because parents themselves are going through difficulties in the economic climate of the '90s."

"So the students may have to fend for themselves and that may make them stronger and much more effective than we ever were."

Dosanjh says he is not goal-oriented in a specific sense, although he hopes his part in government can enhance educational and job opportunities while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

"People's goals are often the result of a certain event that galvanizes them. With me that is not the case. I grew up with politics."

"My father was very involved in India with the nationalist movement that gained independence for the country. My grandfather was also very much involved; he spent 18 years in British jails fighting for that independence. My mother was politically active--in fact my mother was to the left of my father and they had continuing discourse at home on political matters. I was raised in that kind of environment."

"Politics for me is a very noble calling and an important commitment."

Dalton's the name, learning's the game

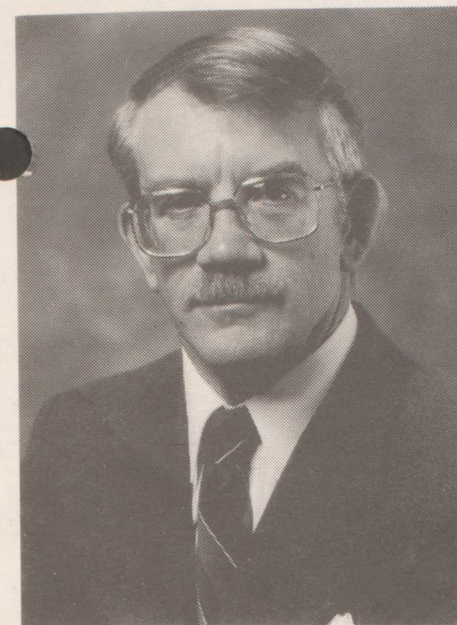
Just over a year ago at this time hardly anyone thought that Jeremy Dalton would become the first VCC employee to be elected to the B.C. Legislature. Including Jeremy Dalton.

The Liberal MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano concedes that most of his party's candidates were pleasantly surprised by their elevation to Official Opposition status. However, he says he

became aware of the trend before the pivotal leaders' debate which saw Gordon Wilson send his party's fortunes soaring.

"We began to notice after knocking on doors late last spring and early summer that people were fed up with Social Credit," said Dalton. "I think people's attitudes had started to change even

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Jeremy Dalton...from Cub Master to MLA

before the debate." Dalton, who is on leave from VCC, began teaching in Langara's Business Administration Department in 1974. As a lawyer, he was instrumental in developing many of the legal courses offered at Langara, such as Business Law, Real Estate Law and the Court Reporting Program.

Other than an unsuccessful bid for a school board seat in 1986, this is Dalton's first experience in public politics. If it hasn't exactly turned his life upside-down, he is still spinning a little from the experience.

"There is a lot of learning to be done," says Dalton. "There are a lot of new MLAs and just learning the rules of the House is a big job. I'm quite happy with it, but I never get my desk in Victoria cleared off. And even if I do get a bit ahead, I'll go to my office in West Vancouver where I can find a thousand more things that need to be done."

"Being away from my family has also been a big adjustment."

Dalton, 49, is a former Cub Master and soccer coach. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of North Vancouver and an honorary life member of the Capilano Rugby Club. He and his wife, Leah, have three children: Steven, 13, Candace, 10 and Karman, 7.

He recently had a down home experience of what it's like to be a political newcomer.

Says Dalton: "I was attending my son's soccer game and a young guy came up to me and said 'you're the mayor...no, wait, our MLA, right?'"



Jason Villareal...his face lights up in front of the computer.

Jason's magic computer

For many people, a computer is an everyday necessity; a modern tool taken for granted. For Jason Villareal, it's the key that has opened up his future.

Villareal is a 24-year-old from Steveston currently taking Introduction to Microcomputers at City Centre Campus.

For people with disabilities, this is just one of a number of courses offered through the college's Community & Career Education Program.

Says Department Head Holly Cole: "We have students such as Jason, who have physical disabilities, as well as students with learning disabilities, mental handicaps and brain-injury. This part-time course is for individuals who want to learn how to use a microcomputer, but find other courses too fast-paced. We also offer small class sizes and lots of opportunity to practise and review. He has a keen sense of humour and a ton of charm. He also has cerebral palsy."

"With Introduction to Microcomputers, students can develop useable computer skills like everyone else. They not only gain some career training, but also improve their life skills and self-esteem."

Villareal's face lights up as he sits in front of his classroom computer terminal. "It's great for me," he says. "I can do a lot more. It's challenging, and it's fun, too."

Villareal admits that he wasn't all that serious about computers back in

Steveston Secondary School. These days he spends 10 hours a week in front of one.

According to Cole, it's only been in the last two years that they have been able to offer this type of computer training to people with disabilities. "We've relied heavily on donations of computers and equipment from several large groups. The Vancouver Foundation, The Hamber Foundation, The Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Woodward Foundation, The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation and Molson's have all donated to make this computer lab a reality."

"This is a good program for me," says Villareal, who is now learning basic DOS, WordPerfect and data entry. "It's only a beginning program, but it will help me a lot. And in the future, I hope to work in computers somewhere."

"Today, almost everything is computerized. That's why this is so important to me."

Correction

A recent issue of Spectrum incorrectly identified an instructor presenting a brief to the College Board as Mary Waddington. The person pictured should have been identified as Sonja Alton. Our apologies for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

College calendar

* Practise your swing and get ready for the 5th Annual Bruce Nicoll Golf Tournament, July 29 at Hazelmere Golf and Country Club.

All proceeds from the tournament, which starts at 1 p.m., will go to the VCC Educational Foundation and the Bruce Nicoll Memorial Endowment Fund, which now stands at \$232,250.

The Educational Foundation is entering a team(s) in the tournament. You don't have to be a scratch golfer, just willing to have a lot of laughs, good food and prizes. Call Sheilah Grant at 871-7174 for more details. (Your entry fee will be a fully receipted donation to the Foundation.

* The annual VCC Educational Foundation Truck Lottery is on the road again. The grand prize, a 1993 Freightliner Truck, has a retail value of over \$100,000. You can purchase a ticket individually, or as a group, by phoning the Foundation, 871-7175, or through a ticket seller in your area. (No more than 3,000 tickets will be sold). If you wish to sell tickets, you can earn \$10 for each ticket sold.

Draw date is October 16.

We want you!

Your comments are the most important part of Spectrum. If you have thoughts on a story you've read in Spectrum please send them to Chuck Poulsen at College Administrative Services. Your signed Letter to the Editor will be published in a future edition.

Spectrum is published for the faculty and staff by the public Relations and Development Department. Please contact: Chuck Poulsen (Editor) 7151; Gayle Thody 7078; David Wiebe 8459; Constance Brissenden 8458; Doreen Chui-Chai 7010; David Reyecraft 7167. Production by Lynda Hurst.



Three recent graduates of VCC's Music Program who are members of the West Coast Blues will perform in September before an audience of 100,000 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The concert is being staged to promote "Visit ASEAN Year". Pictured above (left to right, starting in the middle) are Susan Mundy, VCC grads Jim Ewanchook, Martin Tanaka and Graig Robertson, and Sherri Leigh and Brooks Kenna.

VCC-Malaysia share students-faculty

A new venture between VCC and Kolej Damansara Utama in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, promises to open the doors to Malaysian students hoping to study in Canada, while also fostering stronger international ties between B.C. and Malaysia.

The agreement means the Malaysian college, in conjunction with VCC, will now offer a two-year university transfer program, much like the one currently offered at Langara Campus.

"This is very exciting for us," says Terri Hew, director of Kolej Damansara Utama. "It is our first contact with a Canadian institution. There are a lot of Malaysian students interested in Canada. This agreement will give our students early exposure to the Canadian way of life, and certainly a chance to improve their English. It is a tremendous opportunity for them."

Kolej Damansara Utama is a private institution which offers courses ranging from academic to technical training. The college currently has a similar transfer program preparing Malaysian students for American colleges and universities.

Malaysian students will undertake the first year of the program in their home-



Terri Hew

land, and the second year at VCC. Successful graduates will then be able to enter third-year programs at Canadian universities.

"This agreement has been developed over two years," says Fred Wuhrer, Regional Director of International Education and Contract Development Services for VCC. "It's a departure from the standard recruiting that colleges do. It leads to the internationalization of the college. It provides opportunities for our students and faculty to travel, experience different cultures and make lifelong connections."

The program will begin this fall, says Wuhrer. "We'll have three or four Malaysian students here, and a full-time VCC faculty member will be working in Malaysia. Following the first term, the two institutions will exchange greater numbers of students and faculty."