

## BCIT Events to Come

### Wednesday, February 16

■ Educational Council, Administration Building Boardroom, 1230-1430

### Saturday, February 19

■ Open House fundraising car wash, Chevron service station at Lougheed and Bainbridge

### Monday, February 21

■ Bookstore extended hours, 0800-1900

### Tuesday, February 22

■ Bookstore extended hours, 0800-1900  
■ School of Electrical and Electronic Technology career information session, BC Tel Theatre, IBM Technology Building, 1830-2030

### Wednesday, February 23

■ Selecting and Planning Test Tools, LRU workshop, 1200-1315  
■ Bookstore extended hours, 0800-1900

### Thursday, February 24

■ Elite '94 Exploring Alternatives, Stephen Brookfield guest speaker, BC Tel Theatre, IBM Technology Building, 1830-2100  
■ Harassment and Discrimination workshop, Town Square Conference Room C, 0830-1030  
■ Open House fundraising Dating Game

### Friday, February 25

■ Elite '94 Exploring Alternatives, Town Square Conference Centre, Registration 0800, Panel discussion 0900-1130, lunch and exhibits 1145-1300, and workshops 1315-1600, Reception 1600-1700

If you would like your event in Update's calendar contact Ronaye Ireland by telephone at 8738, by PROFS RIRELAND or internal mail. Deadline is one week prior to publication.

### Today's chuckle

It's hard to work in a committee when you are omnipotent — from *Star Trek the Next Generation*

## As heli-logging picks up, helicopters need more maintenance, operators more training

The Sikorsky S-61 helicopter, which can lift loads as heavy as 4,500 kilograms and take logs off rugged terrain with ease, is one of the workhorses of heli-logging with a workload that is steadily increasing.

While it's pulling huge logs from the bush, maintenance engineers across Canada are earning endorsements to work on the aircraft.

"Industry is saying it needs this training," says Dave Mitchell, associate dean of aviation. "With changing forest practices, there's increased demand for a heavy-lift helicopter like the S-61. More use means more maintenance — and more training."

With an ever-competitive market leading aircraft manufacturers to trim factory-sponsored training, industry was



A Sikorsky S-61 helicopter sits outside the Sea Island campus hanger during a special maintenance course. Mike Gdowski photo

quick to work with schools like BCIT for such specialization. Sea Island campus is the only location in Canada offering the approved S-61 course.

Attracting aircraft maintenance engineers from as far away as Newfoundland, BCIT's S-61 course routinely fills well in advance.

Demand likewise remains strong for the school's part-time evening and weekend courses, open to pilots, aircraft owners and others.

### Talking tough on academia

## Perpetuating the great lie

On January 28 Gary Morrison, the new director of Industry Training, spoke to about 200 secondary school industrial education teachers and counsellors. In a stirring speech he talked about the necessity of changing our current academic-based education system towards a more integrated blend of academics, trades, technology and applied knowledge. Here is an excerpt from his presentation:

I was lucky to grow up in a trades culture. My mother used to say of my dad, somewhat apologetically for his lack of academic sophistication, "He is a very practical man." What an understatement. My dad knew everything about how anything worked. In the course of his career, he was a power engineer, a machinist, a mason, a carpenter, and a cabinet-maker. And he was a master at each of these trades in turn. He couldn't explain what he knew, he just knew. He used to watch me with frustration as I attempted to make or fix things, finally pushing me aside saying, "Here. Give me the gall darn wrench."

Knowing everything about anything obviously transferred from technical skills to broader economic applications. The same authority of doing; the same capacity to recognize and respond to the practical requirements of any situation made my father a very



"You are society's most faithful purveyors of its most sacred lies," says Gary Morrison to a secondary school audience of teachers and counsellors. Terry Jordan photo

successful businessman, who is very self sufficient in his retirement, without the aid of a pension plan.

I learned a lot from my dad, including how to cuss. The only thing he couldn't do was wiring. I recall my satisfaction when once, a few years ago, I watched him in frustration trying to rewire some circuits. Finally I said to him, "Here. Give me the gall darn pliers."

Over the recent Christmas holidays I met one of my nephews, who I had not seen since he was a toddler. Today he is married and working as an apprentice sheet metal worker. In fact, at this very moment he is on a course here at BCIT. I talked to him about his career choice and I was impressed with the practicality of his response

— practically which is so endemic to the trades culture.

His trade is to be a stepping stone. In his words, "It is a great place to start but I am not going to stop there." The knowledge he will gain in his apprenticeship, not just as a sheet metal worker, but of the larger context of industry, will be the foundation for a future leadership role in business and industry. I have no doubt of his future success.

I also have two sons who went directly to university and are now in graduate school. Two days ago my older son — he's 28 — called from Toronto, in a highly distressed state. He has been studying design and development in the York University Graduate School of Environmental Studies, and has

come to realize that it is not leading to where he wants to go; he wants to create living environments based upon archetypal design elements or patterns.

He said to me, "Dad, I have just got to go out there and start doing it. It is the only way to get to where I want to go. First, I have to learn to be a good builder. Then, I can start making this knowledge work." He is coming back to B.C. next week and will be looking to indenture as an apprentice carpenter. I now have no doubt of his future success. I fully expect that he will realize his dreams to actually design and build living environments in which all of his acquired knowledge of the humanities and social sciences will become knowledge that works.

## Letters to the Editor

### Fire damages student's home

Our students face many difficulties and hardships in order to complete their education and sometimes fate delivers an extra hardship.

Irene Mulder is a second-year Computer Systems Technology student who has been a counselling workstudy student for two years. On January 20 tragedy struck.

Early that morning smoke and fire damaged her home in the Hoy Creek Co-op in Coquitlam. The fire department believes an electrical problem started the fire.

She is a single parent, mature woman retraining for a non-traditional area and the fire has meant that she has lost many of her uninsured possessions. She had to live in a make-shift arrangement with her family while completing her diploma.

I thought that publication of this information may generate a relief fund to assist her in replacing some of her possessions.

Jean Spence  
Counselling Department

### More on Accountability

I was intrigued to learn about the Accountability Framework as reported in Update (November 8, 1993)

I write this letter as a member of the community served by BCIT, as a part-time instructor at BCIT, as a hirer (and promoter) of graduates of BCIT and as a past full-time instructor at BCIT. I admire your initiative in wanting to be accountable to the people you serve, and the seven basic

questions that have evolved. But, I firmly believe that there is an eighth question that absolutely must be asked.

That question should be: "Is BCIT communicating in an open and tripartite manner with government, industry and the supplier of incoming students (ie the high schools), so that BCIT may optimize its resources?"

In other words, the government is providing funds for education, but also has its own agenda regarding development of industrial and service oriented initiatives. Industry has its own short and long-term goals, but can clearly state the type and depth of training required for new hires, and quantify the fields of expertise needed over the longer term. Currently school curriculums are going through a redesign phase, but goals can be set that provide minimal standards and prerequisites to mesh with BCIT goals. Yes, I do realize that many of your current students are disillusioned workers who have turned to BCIT for further education. Again, open discussion with industry will help the student be better prepared.

Only by coordinating the efforts of three groups, and having them move in the same direction, can BCIT efficiently serve its public.

Tony Gould  
Safety and Recruiting  
Coordinator Weiser Inc.

### Send us your letters

We encourage Letters to the Editor as well as guest editorials. We want your viewpoints, opinions and gripes. Your thoughts are important to us. We reserve the right to edit for brevity, accuracy and libel.

## Open House '94 approaching quickly

Meet two students working hard to plan "The Leaders of Tomorrow" Open House '94 happening April 8-9.

**Dia Richardson** is the director of external promotions. She is an honors graduate of the Broadcast Communications, TV option and she is now working on an advanced diploma in business administration.

As director of external promotions, Dia is responsible for media relations, advertising, coordinating TV and radio remote broadcasts, and setting up interviews with the media for student open house committee members.

Besides Open House, Dia works at the *Link* student newspaper, works part-time and cares for a two-year-old daughter. After graduation she plans to work in television or in media relations for the federal government.

**Liane Echlin** is director of special events and fundraising. She is in the final term of the Marketing Management program, tourism option. Her job

involves organizing various monthly events leading up to Open House and arranging entertainment and other activities during Open House.

During the past two summers she has worked for the BC Ferry Corporation and before that Fiesta West, Budget Rent-a-Car and Famous Players Theatres.

Prior to coming to BCIT, Liane was a student in the Travel Agent program at Vancouver Community College.



◀ Dia Richardson



◀ Liane Echlin



Liberal leader Gordon Campbell and Richmond East MLA Linda Reid are interviewed by radio students for CFML. During the morning visit January 25 Campbell and Reid toured the IBM Technology Building, Plastics Technology, Geographic Information Systems, the Machine Shop and the construction trades areas at the Burnaby Campus.

Bert Schendel photo

## The Update Index

In the tradition of the famous Harper's Magazine index here are some interesting facts and figures about BCIT.

<b>\$949,865</b>	- total gifts-in-kind received since January 1, 1993.
<b>2,220</b>	- number of BCIT students who applied for one form or another of student financial assistance.
<b>\$10,000</b>	- value of a Canon color copier, donated recently by Kodak Canada to the Automated Business Equipment Program.
<b>121</b>	- number of students currently placed in on-campus work-study jobs.
<b>20,100</b>	- total number of work hours carried out by work-study students.
<b>24.4</b>	- average age of a full-time BCIT first-year student.
<b>20 percent</b>	- the percentage of full-time first-year students who said their main reason for enrolling at BCIT was to "get a job."
<b>8,159</b>	- number of reference questions asked and answered by the library between September and November 1993.
<b>740</b>	- total number of years of service by staff recognized during a November long service dinner.
<b>\$18,772</b>	- total money raised by the BCIT Alumni Association during several casino nights.
<b>8-12</b>	- number of job orders received weekly by the Employment Placement Office.

### Update

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Pioneers Club formed

Anyone on staff at BCIT in any capacity at the time of the June 1966 graduation ceremonies can now call themselves a BCIT pioneer.

The BCIT Pioneers Club was officially created February 2 during a lunch meeting in what old timers refer to as the Food Training Centre.

Gordon Harris was elected chairman, while Stephen Berghold became vice chairman and archivist. Helen Cartmill will be secretary and Dave Johnson will be compiling a pioneer membership list.

"I kept saying to myself, 'Gee, I wonder what happened to all those people,'" said Gordon Harris when asked why he got the ball rolling to form the club. He says the original idea for a pioneer reunion came from Sid Anderson who organized reunions in 1979 and 1984.

Those in attendance at the February 2 meeting were, Don Bannerman, Gerry Berkenpas, Roger Campbell, Victor Heath, Sid Anderson, Pat Noel, Stan Richards, Reg Ridsdale and Bill Sims.

The club's next meeting will be on April 8 at 1000 in the Town Square Conference Room C. An evening social event is also being planned for October.

Anyone interested in joining or who knows the whereabouts of original staff should contact David Johnson at 432-8330 or Helen Cartmill at 432-8719.

### Maggie Ross presents workshops

Maggie Ross will be presenting a series of Understanding Harassment and Discrimination workshops this month and next. These workshops are open to anyone. Attendance is limited to 20 people so pre-registration is necessary. Workshops will be held on February 24, March 10 and 24 in the Town Square Conference Centre at 0830-1030. To register call Linda Schroer at 8841.

### Runners and walkers sought for Sun Run

If you are planning to run or walk in the 10th Annual Vancouver Sun Fun Run on April 17, Electronics Instructor Ian Ross wants to hear from you. Last year BCIT fielded a team of about 20 runners with Tony Barren posting the fastest time. Call Ian at 8374 for more details and a training schedule.

### New baby for Chi and May Wong

Chi Wong, from the School of Electrical and Electronic Technology, and wife May are celebrating the birth of their new baby boy Brandon Matthew Wong. He was born January 17

at Grace Hospital and weighed eight pounds three ounces. Congratulations!

The BCIT UPDATE is published weekly throughout the school year by the Information and Community Relations Department within Marketing and Development.

Ideas, tips, Fax or written submissions should be forwarded to the editor by 3 p.m. Fridays, five working days prior to publication. The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity, libel and accuracy.

UPDATE is produced on Aldus Pagemaker Desktop Publishing software and printed on recycled paper.

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