

# BCIT UPDATE

YOUR CAMPUS BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1991

## UPDATE SURVIVES THE SNOW!



Welcome back everybody and sorry this edition of the *Update* is rather late. Snow closures, etc. delayed the process but we are now back in business and looking for interesting items from you — the people that make BCIT tick!

Life at BCIT is now under the influence of the GST and new fiscal restraint policies. Bargaining is also in full swing.

Gary Lake, director of Financial Services, has tried to clarify the GST for us, very good of him considering all the headaches it must be causing.

The Editor



## NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

On December 3, 1990, the Institute entered into contract negotiations with the B.C. Government Employees' Union, Local 57 (instructional unit) in anticipation of their contract expiry on December 31, 1990. The bargaining teams met for nine sessions in December before adjourning for Christmas. Negotiations resumed on January 7, 1991.

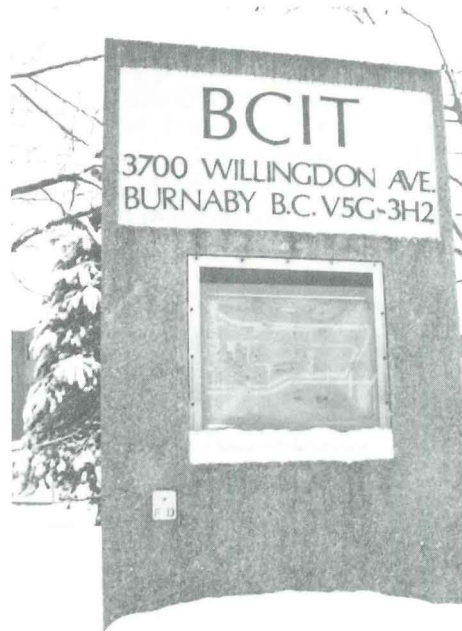
The Institute negotiating team includes Susan Ney, Ray Walton, Dennis Duffy, Bill Foyle, and Terry Milligan. On the Union team are Tom Kozar, Barb Offen (union rep, to be replaced by Joe Whitman as of February 1, 1991), Paul Ehni, Rick Dohl, and Gary Norgaard.

The BCGEU Support Staff Local 59 and the BCIT Staff Society collective agreements expire on February 28, 1991 and May 31, 1991 respectively. Negotiations with both bargaining units will commence in advance of those dates.

## STAFF NEWS

**Susan Murray** of Landscape Horticulture has been seconded to Kwantlen College until June 30 to act as the curriculum development specialist for the new provincial horticulture training centre. Werner Hooge is acting program head in Susan's absence.

**Roy Strang**, associate dean of Renewable Resources is now also responsible for Landscape Horticulture, Biotechnology, Biological Sciences and Fish Processing. These programs were formerly administered by Ron Hyde who retired last year. As reported in the last issue of *Update*, Tom Neilson is now associate dean of Process Technologies.



**Snow closed BCIT for two and a half days at the beginning of January.**

Communication instructor **Rudy Spence** is a founding member of the new Advisory Council on Multiculturalism, recently announced by provincial secretary Howard Dirks.

**Geri Karlstrom** has joined the Development Office as clerical support to the campaign coordinator Cathy Daminato. Geri worked in Physical Plant as an auxiliary for four months and prior to that assisted Marie Taylor and Jerry Lloyd with the Aerospace Project at Sea Island.

Condolences to **Anna Haydu** of Computer Resources whose husband Leslie passed away January 8.

## OBITUARY

### **Frank Cassetta, Program Head, Natural Resources Management**

Frank Cassetta's death at 5 a.m. on Monday, January 14, from a heart attack, has left his friends and colleagues at the Institute in a state of shock. Frank, 64, had been due to retire in a year and a half and was looking forward to spending more time on his hobby of rose gardening.

Associate dean, Roy Strang, and a personal friend of Frank's, was particularly saddened to hear the news. "I first met Frank in 1975, the year after he joined BCIT and in all my years of knowing him he has always been a perfect gentleman. He was always ready to go that extra mile for people, especially his students, and was always courteous, polite and well respected."

Frank was instrumental in setting up a bursary/scholarship fund in memory of the late Bob Chisholm, who ran the Forest Resources Department until his death in 1985. The FRANK T. CASSETTA MEMORIAL FUND has been established to provide an annual scholarship or bursary to second year students in Renewable Resources programs. Contributions to this fund are welcome and should be sent to the BCIT Development Office. Please make cheques payable to the FRANK T. CASSETTA MEMORIAL FUND.

The Institute extends condolences to Mrs. Marguerite Cassetta.

## Sign Up Now For the NEXT BCIT TALENT SHOW

February 22, 1991

If you, or someone you know, can do anything that will entertain staff for five minutes or more on a cold February day, please get in touch with Mark Angelo at local 5711 or Michele Becket at local 8628.

## ASK THE PRESIDENT

The following question comes from Rick Jonasson and Rick Leipert of the Broadcast Centre:

*Campus facilities. Why aren't they clean and sparkling?*

### RESPONSE

Five factors affect the level of cleanliness of campus facilities:

1. The amount of money budgeted for cleaning and maintenance.
2. The age and wear of floor and wall surface coverings.
3. The attitude of staff and students towards the facilities.
4. The management of our cleaning and maintenance resources.
5. The extent of accumulated neglect and deferred maintenance.

In order:

1. We have budgeted more for cleaning and maintenance. Those budgets have been increasing at a rate which exceeds the growth in our grant and will do so until they are adequate. There are, however, many competing priorities. In addition, BCIT has a physical plant which, because it consists of a large number of discreet and aging buildings, is particularly expensive to maintain.
2. Many surfaces have worn out and appear dirty when in fact they are not. (The rate of wear is higher when maintenance is poor, so the problem gets worse quickly when budgets are inadequate.) We need funding to improve the interiors of our facilities, including replacing floor coverings and painting walls. Funding has been requested, but we are not alone in having this need.
3. When cleaning and maintenance are allowed to slip, attitudes slip too and people quickly lose respect for the facilities, adding to the cleaning and maintenance woes. It is a snowball effect. To overcome that problem takes time and resources. When the facilities look good, staff and students treat them with respect (and feel better about the whole institution too). The irony is that it possibly takes more money to overcome the problem than was saved by making the cuts in the first place.
4. We have had some concerns expressed about the supervision provided by contractors. As a result, changes have been made and we have seen a significant improvement. My own sense is not

## FRED BAILEY REACHES 65!

Congratulations to Electronics chief instructor Fred Bailey who celebrated his 65th birthday on Thursday, January 17. Fred, who has been with the Electronics Technician program for about 30 years, is approaching another milestone this year. August 31, 1991 marks his retirement from the Institute where he has spent almost half a lifetime.

to lean too heavily on this issue as the cause of our problems (contractors are easy targets for criticism). The main problem is that we have not contracted for frequent enough cleaning (back to finances). Our own facilities management staff are working to improve their communications with users so that we hear about problems sooner.

5. BCIT has a significant accumulation of deferred maintenance to deal with. This is in part a time-versus-money problem, i.e., the more money made available, the less time it takes to solve the problem. I am hoping to provide some one-time funds to Physical Plant to help them catch-up in this area.

I assure you that dirty stairwells, smelly toilets and dusty corners are not a permanent feature of BCIT. I want us all to regain our pride in our campuses. Things have improved in the last year or so, but they are not yet at the level they need to be.



**ROGER SMITH OF MEDICAL RADIOGRAPHY DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY AT THE ANNUAL STAFF DINNER-DANCE ON DECEMBER 14. MORE REVEALING PICTURES NEXT PAGE!**



***Ho! ho! ho! Was that Santa Claus we saw before Christmas driving around campus? Actually it was the creation of Kevin O'Shea, BCIT's new mail delivery person; the "sleigh" was his mail cart, "jazzed up a bit for Christmas."***

***Kevin has been with the Institute for four years; the past three as a shipper/receiver in Central Stores and the Bookstore. Prior to that he worked in various tool cribs on campus. Gregarious by nature, he enjoys his new job, running the Coverall Department in the morning and delivering the mail to the north campus in the afternoon. "It keeps me in touch with both staff and students," he says.***

***Kevin intends to follow in predecessor Peter Brunning's steps and decorate the mail cart on seasonal occasions.***

***That's the "campus spirit" Kevin!***

## ASI VISITS BCIT FOR THE FIRST TIME

by Norman Streat

On December 14 the Technology Centre hosted a meeting of the B.C. Advanced Systems Institute (ASI), an organization which supports research and technology transfer in artificial intelligence, robotics, computer science, telecommunications and microelectronics. ASI provides fellowships to university professors and scholarships to students, and organizes a number of events and activities to bring together researchers and the industrial community.

More than 50 people from the three B.C. universities, advanced technology companies, and others toured the campus and were shown our educational and applied research facilities including the microcomputer, robotics, electronics and interactive videodisk labs, and the ARCS and Automated Reasoning lab. This was a particularly good turnout, probably because many of the visitors had heard about BCIT's mandate to become involved in applied research,

cont. over . . .

and were interested to see how the Institute was responding to its new role.

ASI has met previously at UBC, UVIC and SFU; this was the first time the group had visited BCIT. Presentations were made by Ken Takagaki, associate dean of Computer Systems Technology, Jeff Skosnik, head of the Automated Reasoning Lab, and Bruce Kenny, ARCS Lab coordinator.

*Norman Streat, director of BCIT's Technology Centre has recently been appointed to the board of trustees of ASI.*

## GST (OR THE GOOFY, SILLY TAX) AT BCIT

*by Gary Lake, Director  
Financial Services*

As you know, the Goods and Services Tax is now in effect.

Almost all the goods and services that BCIT purchases will be subject to the tax. In some cases BCIT will be able to deduct the GST when we pass it on to our clients. Because most of the services we provide will be in regard to exempt tuition, we cannot deduct all the GST we pay; we will be eligible for a 67 per cent rebate.

The net effect of the GST will be increased costs which may be as high as 2 per cent. Each area will be affected differently due to the elimination of Federal Sales Tax. It is possible that if your department purchases a lot of FST-included goods the effects of GST will be minimal.

The GST will have a considerable impact on the Accounts Payable Department as nearly every transaction has a GST implication. Accounts Payable has set up a process to track the GST. Most of the coding and recording will be centralized in Accounts Payable in order to minimize the effort that departments must make to cope with the GST.

After we have had some experience with this new tax and, we hope, before we get into the 1991/92 budget cycle, financial services will analyze the effect of GST on the various budget units. Adjustments will then be made to your 1991/92 budget to allow for increased costs due to GST.

The majority of services we provide at BCIT will be GST exempt. The easiest way to give you an idea of how GST will affect revenues is to look at the list below. The rules that apply to our revenues are quite complex in some areas and cannot adequately be explained in this article.

Anyone who is involved in a revenue producing activity and has not been advised of GST requirements by Financial Services, should call either Jim Lok (Local 8630) or myself (local 8772).

## GST REVENUE FACT SHEET

GST does **not** apply to the following:

- All credit courses
- All non-credit courses that have met Revenue Canada criteria
- Application fees
- Withdrawal fees
- Transfer fees

- Graduation fees
- Transcripts
- Duplicate diplomas
- Tax receipts
- Student Association fees
- Library fines
- Calendars
- Residence rents (30 days and over)
- Meal plans (minimum 10 meals per week)
- Shop work orders

GST **does** apply on the following:

- Text books
- Parking
- Industry services seminars and conferences
- Food services with the exception of meal plans
- Lab and room rentals (under 30 days)
- Equipment rentals
- Some short-term residence units

## RESIDENCE ADVISORS NEEDED FOR MAQUINNA RESIDENCE

Maquinna Residence is now recruiting people who would like to be residence advisors during the 1991/92 academic year. If you are interested, information packages and applications may be obtained from the Housing Office located in Maquinna Residence.

BCIT full-time students, staff, faculty and alumni are eligible. In the case of

BCIT staff, preference will be given to those interested in student residence life and who have demonstrated involvement with young adults and with student activities and who have completed a diploma, degree or equivalent program. Both married and single applicants may apply. However, applicants with children cannot be considered due to lack of facilities.

Application deadline is Friday, March 1, 1991 at 4:30 p.m.

## BCIT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CLUB

A new club for students interested in:

- meeting new people
- being involved with BCIT international students
- international study opportunities
- social events

**First Meeting: January 30, 1991, 12:30 in the S.A.C. Boardroom, across from Medical Services.**

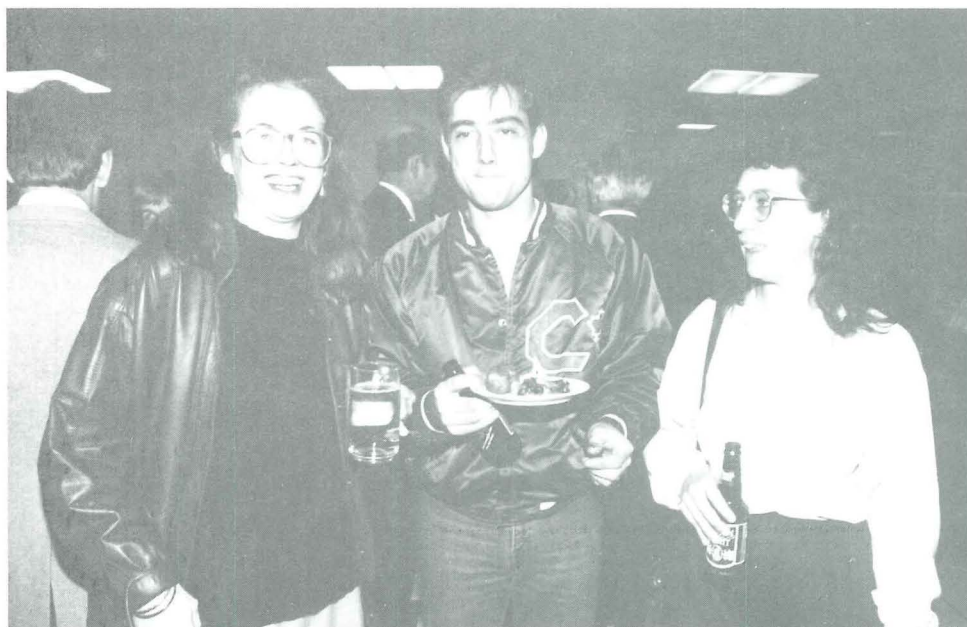
Request to instructors: Please pass this information on to students who may be interested in joining the club. For more information call the International Education Office at 432-8475.

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

BCIT staff donned their glad rags and got into the Christmas spirit — BCIT style — during the annual Board of Governors' Reception on December 11 and the Staff Social Club dinner dance on December 14. Thanks to Mike Gdowski for taking such great photos, some of which are included here.

All other pictures taken during those two events are currently on display in the main corridor of the Administration Building.

### Board of Governors' Christmas Reception



**Lynda Bennett, Neale Jones and Sherry Arnold of Print Services.  
More pictures over . . .**



Staff Social Club  
Dinner Dance



The BCIT UPDATE is published by the Public Affairs and Marketing Department every second week September through May. Deadline for all submissions (verbal or otherwise) is 4 p.m., Tuesday.

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