

# DEVELOPMENTS

A newsletter of information and opinion published by the Information Services Department for the BCIT community

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APRIL 4, 1979

## Over 12,000 attend Open House

Over 12,000 visitors came in from the sunshine over the March 23-25 weekend to tour the Institute during the sixth bi-annual open house.

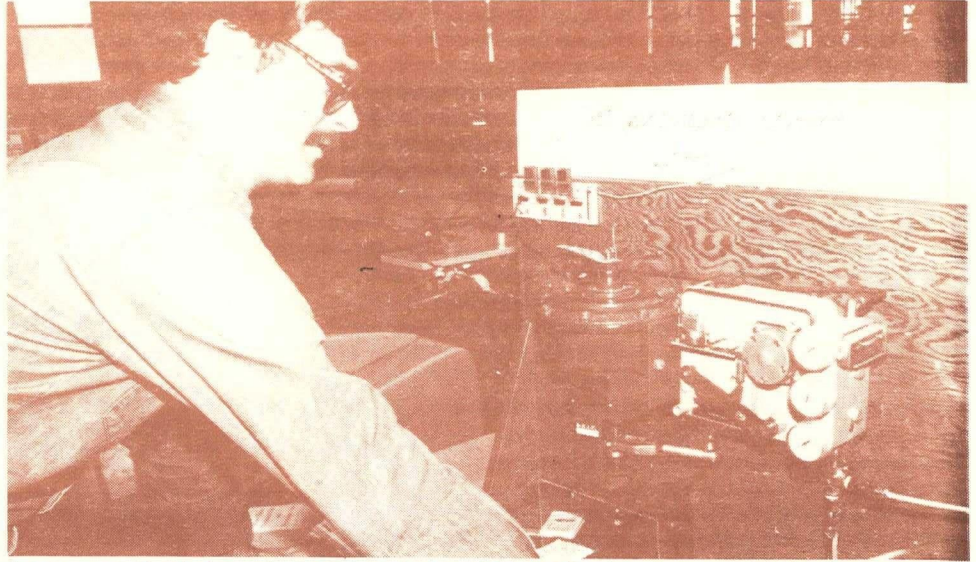
The Student Association Award for the best display went to the Building Technology with honorable mentions to Fish, Wildlife and Finance. Judging was done by Michael Hobbs, chairman of the Board of Governors and Ian Robertson and Martha Fraser of the Alumni Association. The SETBC award was won by Instrumentation with honorable mentions for Landscape Horticulture and Fish Wildlife. (See separate story.)

The Computer Programming and Systems Technology appeared to draw the largest numbers of visitors with their offers of computerized horoscopes, Snoopy calendars and Star Wars games. Other crowd-pleasers included the plastic gear-making demonstration in Mechanical, Financial Management's stock market game, the automated passport-stamping gizmo in Instrumentation, the free trees at Forest Resource and the free back rubs at the General Nursing display.

Students had worked through the night on Thursday to complete their displays. Visitors remarked they were impressed not only with the quality and ingenuity of the displays, but also with the professional and assured manner in which demonstrations and explanations were carried out by the students.

Over 1,000 high school students toured on Friday which was designated Careers Day. On Saturday, a continental breakfast hosted by the Board of Governors and the Students Association for advisory committee chairmen and industry VIPs packed the SAC cafeteria.

Open House coordinator Cathy McMahon said: "There are so many details that go into Open House. The students did a super job this year and deserve to be congratulated. But I'd also like to say that I know that many, many faculty and staff worked flat out the last week and over the weekend—doing moving and setting up and offering moral support—and the Open House Committee and I really appreciate that. It created a real community feeling on campus."



Instrumentation's ingenious passport-stamping mechanism was one of the features of a display which won the SETBC special award. Don Wright photo.

## SETBC presents new award

The Society of Engineering Technologists presented a special award to the engineering, physical or resource technology with the most outstanding exhibit in this year's open house.

A large wall plaque was presented the first day of Open House and became part of the winning display erected by Instrumentation.

A delegation appointed by SETBC chose the winner.

Following Open House, the award will be engraved and displayed until the next BCIT

Open House when it will be returned to SETBC to be presented again.

"The BCIT Open House is an excellent method of educating the public and industry about BCIT, the capabilities of the graduate, and ultimately the professional technologist," said Wally Quarry, Coordinator of Special Projects for SETBC.

"To encourage greater participation by the students in technologies we certify and to promote really professional exhibits, we offered this special Open House perpetual award."

### CORRECTION

In the March 24 edition of "Developments," there was an error in the story on submissions from constituent groups on the Education Council.

The story should have stated:

"The Board was advised of a time-frame for contributions from all constituent groups on the formation of the Education Council. It was stressed that quality of contribution and time for groups to make adequate presentation was more important than the time schedule; however, the following dates were set as ideal for the

reports.

March 28: Full documentation on all proposals, together with the Principal's recommendations to be sent to all Board members with a request for comments and suggestions to be sent to the Tech Ed Committee.

April 4: Meeting of the Tech Ed Committee to consider the proposals. All Board members are invited.

April 12: Meeting of the Tech Ed Committee to finalize recommendations to the Board."



# The Forum—a column of opinion

By SID ANDERSEN

POTPOURRI

The sixteenth annual BCIT golf tournament—the oldest annual event at BCIT—has been booked for Friday, June 1, 1979. It will be held at Meadow Gardens where it took place last year. Mark the date down now and dust off your golf clubs. The tee-off time will be between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. with the banquet taking place around 7:30 p.m. I'll keep you posted and will be asking for your fees sometime near the end of April.

## BCIT ON STRIKE?

The word *strike* has reared its ugly head lately and a few staff members asked me to voice my personal opinion about it. There are several ways to defeat any enemy without resorting to a strike or violence. Here it comes, like it or not.

No, I don't believe in strikes. Unlike some staff members, I have experienced numerous strikes during my early years while working in the coastal logging industry. Emotions run high, tempers flare, and the end result benefits neither union or management. If there are any naive BCIT staff members who think that all picket lines are controlled and well-organized, then I must warn them that such is not the case. A violent act can occur spontaneously and it's over before anyone knows what the hell it was all about; a street fight lasts but a few seconds. Such memories are deep-rooted in anyone who has experienced or witnessed uncontrolled human violence.

Proposed strike action is the end result of poor union-management negotiations. "Sack the lot!" wrote Lord Fisher in 1919. BCIT is an educational institute and our first priority and responsibility is to the student body. However, I do not like being used as a pawn by anyone—union or management. Remember, during any strike, union executives and management still pull in their top salaries. We may get strike pay, but to qualify we'll be expected to parade up and down Willingdon Avenue like idiots carrying ridiculous signs. Perhaps you will, but I won't! In any case, I don't think we have a strike fund and we'll have to rely heavily on the generosity of other unions for donations. It could be a lean, hot summer for many staff members.

The easiest way to win a disputed point is to first achieve public support and approval. We can realize this overnight by staying on the job, instructing the students and graduating them without incident. But we do it under protest without administration interference. We would have to draw a line somewhere and as much as I respect many department heads, they are classified as management. This means we will not acknowledge any directives, memos or orders given or circulated by any administrator from the department head level up, classes as usual and we hold the marks

committee meetings and graduate the students on time.

Naturally, we will feed and receive local and national coverage by all media. Such a move will demonstrate to all that BCIT can operate smoothly without administrators. The general public, the students and those bandwagoned politicians will make sure our graduating students are accepted and their diplomas registered officially. B.C. tops all strike records in the Western world, so why should we add to such insanity? Somebody has to break union tradition and we have the public reputation and built-in clout to do it.

Management will be violently opposed to us working under protest because they will not appreciate being made a public focal point. But I, for one, will vote "no" if a strike vote is put forward. If this takes

place, I will then call upon other staff members to work under protest and will refuse to honor any picket line. Kick the idea around a bit.

There are a lot of apathetic people around, but perhaps the threat of a strike and the prospect of a few months without pay will make them think and come to realize that there is more than one way to skin a cat. Why should we be led down the garden path by union and management executives who, due to poor labor-management negotiations, were instrumental in placing us in such a predicament in the first place? And don't let anyone brainwash you about the legality of such a protest: when you want to do something, you do it! The greatest advantage we could gain would be if the administration tried to lock us out.

## Final exam scheduling set

As approved March 6, 1979, by the Deans' Committee, Monday, May 28 will not be a final exam day; thus, final exams for terms 2 and 4 will be held on Friday, May 18; Tuesday, May 22; Wednesday, May 23; Thursday, May 24; and Friday, May 25.

Daily exam periods will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., noon to 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The exam days May 22 to 25 will be scheduled first with Friday, May 18 as an overflow to permit students time to prepare for final exams.

Classes will be cancelled except those

absolutely required on Thursday, May 17 and Friday, May 18.

Technologies who need the teaching or clinical time can make alternate arrangements for the previously scheduled days of Thursday, May 17 and Friday, May 18. These technologies will be given priority in final exam scheduling on May 22 and 25, if Thursday, May 17 and Friday, May 18 are used for classes.

Alternate arrangements are to be confirmed by the appropriate Deans by April 6.

## "Now" listing discontinued

By TRISH LABONTE

During the past eighteen months, the Library has published an annotated list of new books known as the green "Now." Production of this "Now" proved to be quite expensive in the time and dollars it took to select and annotate materials, type,

photocopy and distribute. The "Now" was tested in two forms, the Institute-wide "Now," and recently, the divisional "Now." Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we have measured little impact on our circulation to justify the expense of the service.

## Cap and gown day June 15

The fourteenth annual Convocation will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Friday, June 15 at 2 p.m.

The Convocation Committee is encouraging the faculty and staff to participate enthusiastically, and share this important day with our students on June 15.

We would like to thank all the members of the staff and faculty who kindly responded to our questionnaires for assessing the green "Now." As a partial replacement, the Library specialists will be sending individual instructors copies of book title pages as they are received. This alerting service will be most effective if instructors and staff continue to keep their specialist informed of new and established subject interests.

## Play it again, Glenn

● Building's Glenn Hardie says he doesn't do requests unless he's asked. That's why he is doing "Life in China" again.

"So many people who missed the earlier presentations on contemporary life in the People's Republic of China have asked me

if it could be repeated that I have made arrangements to do so," he said.

The hour-long presentation will be made today in room 126 Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

"I invite anyone interested to bring lunch and enjoy the show," Hardie said.



# "Bulls and bears" replace birds and bees

B.C. high school students are going to learn about the Bulls and the Bears, but this is no nursery rhyme nor is it an update on the birds and the bees.

Through BCIT and the Vancouver Board of Trade the students are going to learn about the mysterious world of stocks, shares, certificates, earnings, security and all the rest.

There was some concern that students eligible for shares in B.C. might not be familiar with what it is all about. Alex Hart, President of the Vancouver Board of Trade, contacted Dean of Business Ernie Iannaccone, who just happens to be chairman of the Board's education committee. Ernie, in his usual explosive way of getting things done, put the package together with the help of the Broadcast Communications Technology.

Specifically, 100,000 brochures containing information about the stock market have been made available to B.C.'s high schools. A video tape of a panel discussion between three Vancouver stock exchange experts and five randomly-selected high school students, moderated by BCIT's Terry Garner, is being distributed to 250 high schools. The tape depicts the kind of questions students have about the stock market and the answers they got from the experts. It is being distributed through PEMC.

The program goes further. Starting this fall, a stock market game is being introduced. The game, another idea of Ernie Iannaccone, will allow teams of students to work with a mythical \$100,000 on a daily basis. A coordinator in the school will feed the information weekly to BCIT where it will be analyzed in conjunction with

information on discs supplied by the Vancouver Stock Exchange. The student portfolios will be updated on a regular basis. At the end of the three months, prizes will be awarded for both regional and provincial performances by the high school teams.

It sounds like fun and already enthusiasm is prompting some adults to want to play Bulls and Bears also.

## Number, please

An updated BCIT telephone directory has now been completed and is ready for distribution. Copies of the directory can be picked up at the telephone exchange, building 2E.

The new directory contains two separate listings: a complete alphabetical listing and a departmental listing. If there are any local or personnel changes, or if there are any suggestions regarding the directory's format, please call Gil Moore in Physical Resources, local 783.

**DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS.** The directory contains errors in the listings for the Personnel Department. Please make the corrections below.

Anweiler, B.	Benefits Assistant	893
Baldwin, D.	Records Clerk	898
Recruitment Office		897
Holden, J.	Wage and Salary Administrator	896
Matthes, J.	Receptionist	384
Parry, C.	Benefits Coordinator	894
Shergold, C.	Secretary to the Director	824
Spindler, L.	Director of Personnel	380
Stewart, E.	Contract Administrator	899
Hall, L.	Secretary	895
Night line		434-5747

## Broadcast students blitz prospective employers

By BRIAN ANTONSON

Pack 100 first-year Broadcast students into two buses (one a double-decker "super bus") and head 'em for the interior on a five-day "look-see" at Interior radio and television stations, and you have the annual Broadcast field trip under way.

This year's trip began Sunday, March 4, with an eight-hour bus trip to Sorrento and the Anglican Church Retreat Centre on the shores of Shuswap Lake where the students stayed for three nights. Early Monday, Journalism and Radio students headed for Kelowna radio stations CKIQ, CKOV and CHIM-FM, while Television students toured CHBC-TV. The tours introduced stud-

ents to the operations of various departments in the stations, and gave them a first-hand look at how Interior radio and TV stations work. Journalism and Radio students stopped off in Vernon at the province's newest radio station, CKAL, for an evening visit.

Tuesday, it was in to Kamloops for tours of CHNL, CFJC, CFFM and CFJC-TV. Wednesday was a travelling day—to Prince George—with a stop for radio students at CKWL, Williams Lake. Thursday was another tour day, with visits to CJCI, CKPG and CKPG-TV. The Prince George stations hosted a luncheon for the students on Thursday, attended by key station personnel who talked with students about broadcasting in their city. And it was a weary crew that boarded the buses for the trip home Friday.

The field trip has many benefits—both for students and staff. Students are exposed to the stations where they may begin their careers and instructors are able to maintain contact with station management and keep up an on-going dialogue with them, finding out their reactions and suggestions on course content and methods, and determining their specific needs when it comes to employment possibilities. As well, the trip gives station personnel a chance to view the current crop of students who will be knocking on their doors applying for jobs in another year. And the social aspect of a week spent together on a bus cannot be overlooked—a very beneficial result of the trip is the camaraderie that is evident in classes when the trip is over.

Once again—a success!

## Real Estate Council grants student awards

A \$2,625 grant has been given to the Institute by the Real Estate Council of British Columbia.

In a letter to Jennifer Clemmons of Student Financial Services, Demot Murphy, secretary of the Real Estate Council, said: "The Council was pleased to learn of the establishment of the Real Estate Option and its award is an indication of its support of the real estate program at your Institute."

The Real Estate Option was offered for the first time two years ago as part of the Marketing Technology.

The income from the grant will provide for an annual cash award and a silver medallion.

**ACTION  
B.C.  
Wednesday,  
May 2  
SAC lobby  
... save your  
lunch hour**



# Consultation? Participation? Either ideal here

By RUSS CURTIS

Ever since his installation as principal in 1974, Gordon Thom has made a distinction between "consultative" and "participative" management. He has said repeatedly that consultative management was appropriate for the Institute while participative management was not appropriate. This approach seems to have been embraced by a succession of Board members and Board chairpersons.

In view of recent initiatives taken by the principal, it is now timely to open a discussion of consultation versus participation at BCIT. The context in which the terms are used here is in the management of the Institute. Management is a process, which is both defined and differentiated by decisions and decision-making. The Principal has often asserted his "right" to manage as if there is a distinction between managing and being managed; i.e., that managers are involved in decision-making, while non-managers are not involved. This raises the following question for me.

To what extent and in what manner are non-administrative members of the Institute to be involved in the decision-making process? The answer to this question lies in the distinction between consultation and participation. Consultation is a relation in which information is exchanged. Consultative management, if it is to be meaningful at all, demands that such exchanges of information take place prior to decisions being taken. There is abundant evidence that such exchanges rarely take place here at BCIT. Instead, what normally happens is that members of the Institute are informed of decisions after the decisions have been taken. And it is not at all surprising that every one of these decisions could have been improved, many of them improved immensely, with prior consultation with the members of this Institute.

Participation is also a relation but it is distinct from consultation in that both information and advice are exchanged. In exchanging advice, the advice is heeded by those advised. In "heeding" advice, the recipient either accepts the advice and acts on it, or gives his advisor full and sufficient reason why no action (decision) is taken. In this way, both parties are involved and by this mutuality of involvement, both parties are equally committed to the outcome (decision) of the process.

In summary, participation is distinct from consultation in that participation involves the exchange not only of information but also of advice.

That neither condition exists at BCIT is painfully obvious. Paper policies to the contrary notwithstanding, there has been little if any meaningful consultation at the Institute on major decisions in recent or living memory (Sid Andersen, please

correct me if the "old days" were any different). Instead, the members of the Institute, through the Staff Society, must beg, fight and steal before consultation is arranged at all, and often by the time arrangements have been made, we discuss a *fait accompli*. It is like painting the barn door after the tractor is stolen, and wrecked in the process.

Meaningful consultation, or even better, participation, has been proven time and again to be a superior approach to decision-making than other, more traditional approaches. The BCIT environment, composed as it is of highly-trained and experienced members, is an ideal environment for such an approach to the decision-making process. It is an approach whose time is long overdue at BCIT.

The Education Committee being touted

## Says President Walter Pitman

# Ryerson crippled by lack of funds

Ryerson President Walter Pitman used BCIT as a comparison in a public plea for funds after he accused the Ontario provincial government of "savaging" his grant system.

In a Toronto Star story, Pitman said Ryerson was being crippled by the lack of money to the point where it can no longer function effectively and the 1980 budget would result in the dismissal of 52 full-time instructors and 17 support staff.

The Star said Pitman compared the "newly-founded British Columbia Polytechnical Institute (sic) which has only two-year programs and, unlike Ryerson, no degree-granting courses—Ryerson has a current annual budget of \$40 million for 10,000 students while the B.C. institute has \$33 million for 4,000 students."

"They have a student-faculty ratio of 8 to 1 while we have a student-faculty ratio of 17 to 1," Pitman said.

The article goes on to quote the Ryerson president:

"The politicians in this province have never realized what a polytechnical institution is all about," Pitman said. "Right now we're getting financing in the equivalent of a university's arts and sciences faculty.

"But there's just no comparison. We have numerous technical courses, extensive communications programs (in radio, television and print journalism) and a large number of programs such as teaching students who will make a career

now by the administration will not function as a committee; it is too large. If implemented as proposed with a membership of 40 to 50 people, rather than producing decisions, it will produce nothing. Decisions cannot be processed by so large a group—any trained manager knows this and accepts it as fact.

Further, it is not possible to change a pattern of management without addressing and modifying the structure of the organization. The committee proposed now by the administration will not function, even if it is of proper size, without some reorganization. If the administration and the Board are sincere about changing the pattern of management at BCIT, they might begin by heeding some good advice. As the saying goes: "A change is as good as a rest."

out of caring for retarded persons."

Because space is limited on its downtown campus—and expansion ruled out—Ryerson must reject about seven applicants for every student it accepts, Pitman said.

"Canada has been importing its technologists for the past 20 years.

"Here we have one institution in Ontario that provides technologists trained to a level where they're ready to enter industry the moment they graduate, and we're slowly being strangled, financially.

"We'll soon be at the point where we won't be able to maintain our reputation or our standards, unless there's a turnaround or some kind of financial relief," Pitman said.

He noted Ryerson needs \$2 million a year to repair and replace equipment, "but we haven't been able to spend a quarter of that annually for the past five years. We're wearing out."

Polytechnical institutes are gaining in popularity, Pitman said.

He noted that more than two dozen polytechnics have been started or planned in England and New Zealand in the past two years.

"And in Ontario, at the same time we're going through this, the ministry (of education) is saying it wants more polytechnical education—that it wants to make use of any under-utilized instructors or equipment we might have.

"Yet it's allowing the only polytechnical institution it has to go down the drain."