



A Newsletter for the BCIT Community  
January 20, 1992 Issue 2

## ***BCGEU support staff continue job action***

As everyone is no doubt aware, selective strike action began January 8 at BCIT during contract negotiations between the Institute and its support staff.

Between 70 and 80 of the over 480 British Columbia Government Employees Union support staff did not report to work on January 9, 10, 11 (as of Update deadline) following a study session at the BCGEU headquarters January 8.

The selective strike action began after BCIT's most recent offer was rejected by the BCGEU which represents the secretarial, clerical, maintenance, food service workers and others at BCIT's four Lower Mainland campuses.

The rotating strike affected operations at Kaslo Campus, DEC, the main switchboard in Burnaby, the bookstore, cashiers/revenue, registrations, student services, financial aid, the print shop and Business part-time studies. Management and excluded staff filled in during the strike and were able to keep all areas open including the bookstore which opened January 13.

As of January 13, no date had been set for further negotiations.

*From Terry Jorden  
Media Relations*



## ***A "MUG" Shot in Celebration of Cooperative Learning***

Pictured above are a few of the 54 BCIT instructors who have completed training in using Cooperative Learning effectively in the classroom. Trainers for the December 16-20 sessions, Dr. Susan Gruber and Dr. Karl Smith, appear in the middle of the second row.

Cooperative Learning techniques provide an opportunity for BCIT students to acquire interpersonal and small group skills, which will serve them well in the workplace. Numerous research studies indicate the learning of subject matter is enhanced and increased through the use of these techniques.

For more information about Cooperative Learning, read the next issue of Learning from the Learning Resources Unit or call Jane Promnitz in the LRU at 8208. More training sessions are scheduled for May 25-29.

## ***BCIT man helped to bare Gulf baby hoax***

*By John Birmingham*

David Chiu has helped uncover one of the major propaganda hoaxes of the Gulf War.

The Burnaby engineer was sent to Kuwait by the World Health Organization last May to inspect medical equipment reportedly trashed by invading Iraqi troops.

The world was shocked at the time by news reports that said the invaders had killed more than 300 premature babies during their occupation of Kuwait.

Doctors and nurses had said that soldiers turned off life-giving incubators in three Kuwaiti hospitals, leaving the babies to die.

Then, they said, the troops stole the machines and shipped them to Iraq.

The atrocity story helped turn world public opinion against Iraq.

"I was given the impression that most of the equipment had been damaged or removed to Iraq," Chiu, a lecturer at the B.C. Institute of Technology, said yesterday.

"But I discovered most of the equipment was intact. I felt my brain (had been) twisted. I felt I could be manipulated."

Chiu and another engineer toured 20 hospitals and clinics, and found that

Iraqi troops did not trash the incubators, nor send them back to Iraq.

He reported his findings to WHO.

CBC-TV news reported on Tuesday that the baby story was fabricated by the Kuwaiti government to stir up sympathy in the U.S.

It reported that a 15-year-old nurse who told the U.S. Congress she saw dead babies on the floor of a Kuwaiti hospital is the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the U.S.

News reports last spring said 312 babies had died.

But now the death toll has been reduced to 39 — and most of them were not related to the invasion.

Chiu said a Kuwaiti engineer admitted to him the baby stories were lies.

The experience has made Chiu wary of the official line.

"I tend to look at foreign news with a sceptical eye," he said.

"I can read between the lines."

"I felt the media were swept along with the Gulf War. There was not care enough to say, 'hold it.'"

*Reprinted from The Province,  
Thursday, January 9, 1992.*



## \$\$\$\$ Award funds available to students, faculty and staff

With over \$100,000 available to students, and \$50,000 to scholars (faculty and staff), the British Columbia Centre for International Education (BCCIE) is offering its Asia Pacific Awards for 1992 to qualified applicants. The Awards are funded by the provincial Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT).

To apply for Asia Pacific Awards to pursue an overseas project please:

1. Choose your project
2. Establish contact with the overseas institution that will host you and your project.
3. Complete your application to the BCIT International Education Department by the deadline dates: June 15, or October 15.

BCIT winners of the 1991 Awards include Yu-mei Choi, Head Cataloguer at the Library, who won \$3,500 to evaluate library services and make recommendations for library management at Xiamen University in Fujian Province, China; and George Jacob, instructor in Marketing Management, who won \$9,000 to teach international business, and the transfer of skills to counterparts at the National University of Singapore.

The award is intended to cover travel and living expenses only — it is not a "salary."

Funds for the Awards are available NOW. Donna Hooker, Coordinator of International Training Projects in BCIT's International Education Department, says, "Our department is enthusiastic about supporting student applications for Asia Pacific Awards, particularly since we have not yet had a qualified student applicant, and because awards funds have not been exhausted."

For regulations and application forms, please contact International Education, Room 343, JW Inglis Building, or call 432-8816 and ask for Jackie.

From Mark Miller  
International Education

## Murder! Murder! No not yet!

Wait till Wednesday, January 29, 1992. Come have fun and challenge your deductive reasoning at a *STAR STUDDER MURDER MYSTERY DINNER* at Diego's presented by the Open House Committee. For \$12, staff, students and friends can experience the 3 D's of a night to remember — *DINNER, DEATH & DANCING*.

The evening will start at 7:30 with a full course buffet dinner. Then you will be introduced to the "not - so - silent" skeletons rattling about in certain closets. Who is blackmailing whom, and why? Is there a secret affair in progress? Will someone make a fatal mistake involving YOU as witness to a major crime? The evening will end with dancing for "healthy" survivors. Tickets are available NOW from the Student Association and Special Events. For more information, please call 432-8272.

All proceeds go towards BCIT's Open House '92

## Tip of the week

— **Employees who** give their two-week notice and those near retirement can be valuable training assets. Ask them to update their operating procedures manual and list all aspects of their job. Also: Ask them to train others before leaving.

Source: Ralph V. Scott, Lake County Health Dept.

## Mechanical systems students "fit the bill" at Home Show '92

Mechanical Systems second-year students will be working with industry to draw attention to the latest in residential heating and ventilating systems this spring.

Mechanical contractors and suppliers of the dream home on display during the '92 Home Show this February will be guest speakers during the next two months during the students' heating and ventilation course.

Students will also be staffing the dream home during the home show.

Earl LaBounty, Mechanical Systems Technology instructor, coordinated the students' involvement in the project. He says industry has expressed an interest in supporting the program because of the need for skilled, professional employees.

"BCIT grads fit the bill," he said.

## Summer School at Lake Konstanz

The International Education office has all the information on this unique study program, which will give you the opportunity to pursue studies in the history, art, politics, music and literature of Europe, plus German language, while surrounded by and immersed in the culture of the people. The classes are taught by American professors and European guest lecturers, and will be scheduled in the mornings, leaving the afternoons free for individual study, field trips or recreation.

### "LET THE WORLD BE YOUR CLASSROOM"

From June 24 to July 28, 1992 at the University of Konstanz.

From Mark Miller (local 8816)  
International Education

## CLASSIFIED

**For Sale:** Beige sofa & loveseat w/ 6 loose cushions, good condition, purchased from Sears, \$350. Contact Josephine at local 8780 or 583-7531.



## \*SET news

... January '92 term start for **Electronics** means full capacity for this year along with a large waiting list. Applications for the January term start increased approximately 42%, from 112 to 159 applicants.

... **Engineering Technology Entry (ETE)** has had another successful intake; all seats for the January term were filled by Christmas time. Applications for the ETE program have increased by about 67%, from 54 to 90 applicants compared to this time last year. Interest in the program remains high. The ETE program appears to be meeting a definite need in the marketplace.

... On December 3, BCIT and Open Learning Agency (OLA) signed an important statement of collaboration **degree programs**. The agreement enables BCIT graduates of two-year diploma programs and advanced diplomas in Business, Health Sciences and Engineering Technology to use their course credits towards a degree granted by the B.C. Open University. In SET, CST is the only subject area where we currently have a joint **Bachelor of Technology** degree agreement. The next one "in the works" is **Technology Management**.

... The **Fish Harvesting and Processing** program, with help from its program advisory committee, has received a \$97 thousand federal government grant for development of training materials for the B.C. fishing industry.

... Through **Industry Services and Part-time Studies**, the NDT Centre will be delivering courses to union members of the Quality Assurance Council of Canada Pacific Region. Two courses in Ultrasonics, levels 1 & 2, were offered in December, with other courses being offered in January and February. These courses provide union members with the necessary prerequisites for government certification.

\*School of Engineering Technology

## Standards of Conduct and Conflict of Interest

This new policy is now accessible on your MIS.

## RRSP contributions '91



Feeling a little confused about exactly how much you can contribute to an RRSP under the new regulations? It's not surprising, given the number of versions of the new retirement savings system that Revenue Canada has put forth in the last few years. Order is beginning to emerge from the chaos, however, and the following should assist you in determining your personal contribution limits.

Under the new system, the government is attempting to eliminate any unfairness which may have existed between taxpayers who belong to a registered pension plan and those who do not. To achieve this, the government introduced a method of measuring the **value** of the pension benefits earned in an employer sponsored pension plan. This is known as the **Pension Adjustment** or **PA**. Each employee who contributed to one of our pension plans in 1990 received notification of their personal PA earlier this year.

Your individual RRSP contribution room for 1991 is the RRSP deduction limit for the year (the lesser of 18% of earned income or \$11,500) **minus** your PA for 1990.

**Revenue Canada has committed to mail to each individual taxpayer a notification of their 1991 contribution room before the end of December.** For the 1991 tax year, you may contribute to an RRSP any time up to 60 days after the end of 1991, ie February 29, 1992.

For 1992, Revenue Canada has committed to simplify the process and bring forward the timelines to allow for better tax planning. Your 1991 PA will be calculated by the Superannuation Commission and provided to you by February 29, 1992. You will be required to report this amount on your 1991 tax return; full instructions will be provided by the Superannuation Commission and Revenue Canada.

Revenue Canada will then calculate your RRSP contribution room for 1992 and notify you on your tax assessment notice.

One other change to the retirement savings system is that individuals may **carry forward** unused RRSP deduction room from a previous year after 1990. This means that if you cannot afford to contribute to an RRSP in a given year, you do not lose the opportunity. The maximum an individual may carry forward is the greater of:

- a) 3.5 times the RRSP limit for the year; and
- b) the sum of your personal limit for the year plus the six immediately preceding years after 1990.

We have been given to understand that Revenue Canada will report any allowable carry forward on the notice of assessment.

Finally, should you wish to calculate your RRSP contribution room for yourself, booklets prepared by the Superannuation Commission are available from Payroll.

## 1992 Retirement planning seminars

The Superannuation Commission will be hosting pre-retirement planning seminars in Vancouver on March 17, 18, and June 23, 24, 1992. These seminars are open to contributors to any of our pension plans (College, Municipal and Public Service) aged 53 or over. The sessions will include an individual pension estimate and will prepare the individual for all areas of retirement.

Individuals under the age of 53 have the opportunity to attend a one-day Financial Planning Seminar, hosted by the Superannuation Commission, on June 25 or 26. These are designed to give individuals information on their pension plans as well as other financial avenues to prepare for their futures.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Colleen Goose (8596) or Marilyn Duggan (8896) in Personnel/Employee Relations to obtain an application form. There is no charge for either seminar.



## Banner Student Information System

The SIMS (Student Information Management System) project has now identified the application software for the system.

Banner Student System software, from SCT Corporation, provides the closest match to BCIT's requirements at the lowest cost. Banner will help us administer enrolment management, high-quality targeted curricula, cost-effective recruiting, flexible registration, easier class scheduling and timely billing. From recruitment to graduation and beyond, Banner will help us track and record a student's progress.

Recruiting/admissions letter generation and requirements tracking processes ensure timely and accurate communications with prospects and applicants. On-line registration, tuition and fee assessment calculations provide immediate printing of schedules and bills supporting "one-step" registration. Transcripts and "What-if?" compliance verification support the advising and graduation processes.

BCIT is unique and has its own policies and procedures which must be accommodated by Banner. Banner has implemented "rule-based design and on-line user tables" to help us tailor the system to meet our unique and changing needs.

Banner highlights include:

- flexible, easy to use letter generation and tracking
- on-line course catalog
- waitlisting functions
- room management and scheduling
- recruiting/admissions communications planning allowing us to develop mailings for specific groups and prospects
- on-line transcript processing.

For more information: 8578  
From Murray Smith  
Computer Resources



## STAFF NEWS

### Chikako Fong

For program advisor Chikako Fong being a student herself for many years helps when counselling others about career choices.

Born in Kyushu, in southern Japan, Chikako came to Canada with her family when she was four years old. The family settled in Vancouver and Chikako started school there eventually graduating from Britannia Secondary School in 1980. She continued her education by attending Simon Fraser University completing a joint degree in Sociology and Anthropology in 1985.

For the past five years she has worked at BCIT, the last two years as a program advisor.

"In my job it is important to know what it is like to be a student when helping someone make decisions about post-secondary education," said Chikako.

Part of Chikako's job is to travel around British Columbia with the B.C. Secondary School and College Liaison Committee. The group is made up of program advisors from BCIT, UBC, UVic, SFU and various regional colleges who provide information on programs and their respective institutions. Every year over 220 schools and colleges are visited between September and February.

Chikako says she has learned a lot from these trips. She has travelled throughout northern B.C., Burns Lake, Prince George, Fort St. James and Victoria. Besides seeing a fair chunk of B.C. for the first time, she says the student contact is great. She says most students don't have clear ideas about their career paths. They don't know much about the specialized programs offered at BCIT and how it is set apart from the universities and colleges.

"They are at a turning point in their lives and if I can be of help, then great," she said.

When not working Chikako thinks about ways to decorate a new home she and husband David recently purchased. She likes tennis, squash and listening to music.

From Terry Jorden  
Media Relations



Chikako Fong

### New cardiology coordinator appointed

Gary Clifton is the coordinator for the proposed Cardiology Technology Program. He comes to BCIT from the Greater Victoria Hospital where he was the senior cardiovascular technologist.

He held the same position at the Anaheim Medical Centre and Cedars Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles, California prior to moving to British Columbia. He also has experience as a clinical instructor and a laboratory supervisor.

He will be working on a part-time basis on the development of the new program. He will be on campus about two days a week, located at 2N 418B.

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