

New "bonehead" English attacked

Just when the public school system seemed safe from the ravages of the White Paper — along comes the new Communications 11/12 course.

It's the offspring of the same discredited educational monster and it will have the same regressive effect of imposing streaming, protests the B.C. English Teachers' Association.

The English PSA wants the implementa-

tion of the proposed new curriculum for non-academic students delayed — the ministry has set a response deadline of October 26 and intends to introduce it in 1985 — to allow time for review and revision.

At its meeting on September 29, the Representative Assembly agreed and adopted a motion calling on the BCTF to request the Ministry of Education to delay

implementation of Communications 11 until September 1986 to allow time for review of the content and objectives of the course.

The new communications curriculum is designed for students who do not intend to attend an academic post-secondary institution and it purports to emphasize practical communications skills rather than content.

In an interview earlier, Jon Terpening,

BCETA vice-president, objected that the draft curriculum was being proposed with no supporting research data or needs assessment and would, in his opinion, lead to the segregation of non-academic students into what might be labelled "bonehead English."

Geoff Madoc-Jones, BCETA corresponding secretary, suggested that if the
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School Act Committee formed

Teachers win spot on "mini-commission"

B.C.'s teachers have won a partial victory on involvement in provincial government plans for reforming the public education system.

BCTF President Pat Clarke told the fall Representative Assembly that pressure and publicity from the federation had persuaded the government to launch a process of public input into revision of the School Act, after the government had appeared to be hesitating earlier in September.

Clarke pointed out that Education Minister Jack Heinrich had indicated in a meeting with him in late August that the government was considering launching an inquiry on education, but then gave no reaction to the BCTF favourable response. After three weeks of frustration, he said the federation indicated that without an early reply it would establish its own commission and, in fact, drafted letters to major participants.

The government came back to the BCTF within two days with a more detailed proposal — not a full commission, but a committee on School Act revision — including provision for federation representation.

This turn-around was due, said Clarke,

to the government's new sensitivity toward public education. Public opinion polls had shown the majority of citizens felt cutbacks had gone far enough, he noted, and the news media and BCSTA

had echoed the federation call for a commission.

"I don't want to go into a lot of detail as to why this has occurred, but I do believe it has a good deal to do with our



Public opinion and BCTF pressure were key factors in persuading government to launch School Act Committee, BCTF President Pat Clarke told RA.

success in dealing with the White Paper on Graduation Requirements and the subsequent realization in Victoria that teachers are very good at dealing with education issues, and that we can build a lot of support for our positions on those issues," said Clarke.

Specifically, what the government is proposing, he said, is a committee on the School Act made up of teachers, trustees, school boards and ministry officials that would seek public input on changes.

"The School Act Committee is obviously significant and, in spite of any reservations we might have had about it, we should be involved," said Clarke. "At the same time, however, it is not an inquiry or commission on education. There are many outstanding issues in education that will not be addressed through a revision of the act, hence the need for us to carry on with our plan and call for a public commission."

It is also important, he said, that the BCTF maintain its traditional jurisdiction of nominating representatives to ministry committees.

The Executive Committee at its September 21-22 meeting, he said, had accordingly decided that:

- the BCTF should participate in the School Act Committee and that the names of three members be submitted to the ministry as federation representatives;

- the BCTF call a meeting of interested people to identify a framework, terms of reference and a method of operation of a commission on education;

- the BCTF proceed to set up an internal task force on the commission on education;

- the BCTF make clear to its members that it is the authority and responsibility of the professional organization to nominate teacher representatives to the ministry's School Act Committee.

(The executive's choice of BCTF representatives to the School Act Committee are: Frances Worledge, Vancouver; George Young, Armstrong; and Berenice Wood, Burnaby.)

"While the School Act Committee does seem, for the moment, to be a laudable process in which we are happy to participate, I hope you will agree with the necessity of our participation in a broader inquiry," said Clarke. "That inquiry represents our best chance to begin a dialogue on education — public education — that will bring about a better understanding of, and appreciation

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Salary gains bargaining target

Teachers are out to stop the erosion in their real earnings by achieving salary increases in this fall's bargaining.

BCTF President Pat Clarke has emphasized that the target increase is well above the three per cent mooted in some speculative news reports. The objective, he said, is to achieve an increase "at least equal to the increases generally provided in already negotiated contracts for other workers and a factor to catch up for past losses through legislation and other forced rollbacks."

B.C.'s teachers have lost over 11 per cent in real income over the past three years and are in danger of becoming among the lowest paid teachers in Canada, according to

George North, BCTF bargaining division director. This economic decline has been due to the combination of inflation, the Bill 89 lost days and the compensation stabilization program rollbacks.

North pointed out that the IWA and pulp and paperworkers won four per cent in the second year of their contracts, plus a further 4.5 per cent in the third year.

Noting that Compensation Stabilization Commissioner Ed Peck rolled back teachers' arbitrated settlements of two years ago that ranged to 6.5 per cent to an average 3.3 per cent, North said that nonetheless teachers must not be intimidated by restrictive legislation. "We can't accept the

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Our year to build stronger support for public schools

From page 1

for, public education. It is our opportunity to get the public of the province to feel that the school system is theirs, that it is a system that is sensitive to their needs. What the public feels about us, the degree to which our concerns will receive support, depends entirely on our ability to be open about the system we work in. For our part, this commission and all of the activities — from the Day of Concern to the parent/teacher conference — will demonstrate what teachers have always felt, that we care deeply about public education and about children.

"I am confident that this is going to be our year. I hope I'm not whistling past the graveyard. But, at the end of this school year, I think we will be able to look back and say that we did make a difference, that the schools are stronger, better defended, and more strongly supported, that we will have built a coalition of concern and hope, a coalition which will make public education a top priority in this province."

New course panned as "cosmetic claptrap"

From page 1

course was accepted it would lead to streaming throughout public school. "Its potential effects, in my opinion, are more debilitating and more dangerous than provincial examinations because it make internal structural changes," he said.

Noting that BCTF representatives sat on the Communications 11/12 committee, he questioned how the curriculum had been able to advance so far without protests. "One of the things the BCTF has to look at," he said, "is that it is not good enough to just get the right people for ministry committees, but that they should have the responsibility to speak out if curriculum changes are not in the best interests of students."

In one response to the curriculum, the English department of Summerland Secondary School was unanimous in condemning it. Noting that the present English 11 and 12 courses include sufficient scope for practical writing, the Summerland teachers concluded:

"Students are presented with a curriculum that champions the lowest common denominator. They are fed a diet of isolated bits of skills and knowledge and offered an incredibly parochial view of the world. The emphasis on skills means that many students will be denied the experience of being initiated into the accumulated works that make up our literary heritage. . . . In short, the English department views the new guide as nothing but a cosmetic bit of claptrap. The 'new' course is a disaster."

Finance Minister Curtis holds taxation hearings

If any local presidents or individual members are interested in making a presentation to the provincial government's hearings on taxation and economic development, chaired by Finance Minister Hugh Curtis, the following is the schedule:

October 12	Castlegar
October 13	Merritt
October 15-16	Vancouver
October 22	Invermere
October 23	Kamloops
October 29	Squamish
October 30	N. Vancouver
October 31	Surrey
Nov. 1 (a.m.)	Chilliwack
(p.m.)	Abbotsford
Nov. 2	Maple Ridge

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Where teacher salaries rank

Starting salaries for a variety of occupations as of September, 1984.

Occupation	Annual Salary
Journeyman (IWA)	\$37,357
Journeyman (Alcan)	37,003
Journeyman (Longshorem)	36,608
Carpenter (unionized)	36,426
B.C. Hydro Lineman	35,782
Construction Laborer (unionized)	33,638
Truck Driver (Teamsters)	31,949
B.C. Ferries Corp. Terminal Agent	30,384
Metro Transit Bus Driver (as of April 1982)	30,097
Grocery Store Meat Cutter (unionized)	29,539
Registered Nurse (General Staff Nurse)	26,391
B.C. Government Social Worker 3	25,449
Public School Teacher (5 year degree) median	24,823
Public School Teacher (4 year degree) median	22,474
Television Reporter (CKVU — unionized)	21,756
Bartender (public)	20,842

Note: Annual salaries are calculated on the applicable hours of work per week for 52 weeks. Overtime and down time are not included. — From BCTF Bargaining Bulletin 2.

Teachers have strong case for salary gains

From page 1

legislation "as being the final word," he said, "otherwise free collective bargaining becomes a total mockery."

Locals will be pressing for six-month contracts (January 1 - June 30, 1985) as a transition period before the contract period switches to a school year basis, as required under the School Act fiscal year change.

North said he was confident that school boards and if necessary, arbitrators will see the merits of teacher arguments for increases — the impact of inflation, the prevailing rate of increases and the fact that teachers' incomes have been more severely depressed than other public sector groups.

"We're hoping that arbitrators will continue to be independent and come up with the recommendations that they feel are justified on their merits alone," said North.

He said it would be ridiculous if arbitrated settlements were rolled back on the basis of "ability to pay" as there are so many intangibles involved and particularly as draft school board budgets will not be available during the bargaining period and in fact won't be finalized until next May.

In addition to salary increases, the other major objective of bargaining this fall is improved job security.

"We want seniority and re-hiring rights for all teachers, including temporaries and

BCTF begins building pro-education network with Nov. 2 conference

The process of building a network of informed people to support public education will begin on November 2-3 with a major BCTF parent-teacher conference.

The conference will involve about 150 participants (one parent and one teacher from each local) from all over B.C. brought together at federation expense. The event will be held at the Airport Inn in Richmond.

The conference is designed to bring parents and teachers together to exchange views, gain information and begin developing a common vision of public schools in B.C. It is also hoped that it will encourage many people to make informed contributions to public debate on — or any enquiries into — the future of public education in B.C.

substitutes," said North. "Right now in most contracts temporaries and substitutes are left out in the cold. There are some contracts — Kitimat and Nanaimo — where temporaries are included and the situation is working well. Temporary appointments are open to abuse and it's time to end the abuses through our collective agreement. After giving service to a district there is no reason why temporaries shouldn't be given preference for jobs that come open in the areas in which they can perform satisfactorily."

North said another goal is to achieve clauses ensuring preferential hiring of BCTF members as substitutes, such as are currently in force in Vancouver and Kitimat.

Temporary teachers deserve job security

After November 1983, teachers around the province did an impressive job of negotiating first-ever employment security clauses. Sure, there were some weak points — that was to be expected in a venture as new and complex as the world of seniority.

But a majority of agreements had one key flaw — they didn't cover the "temporary" teachers, who make up about 10 per cent of B.C.'s teaching force. And it is precisely that group of our colleagues that is hardest hit by the cutbacks and terminations flowing from Victoria's determination to "downsize" the quality of education.

"Temporary" teachers need and deserve the help of their "continuing" colleagues. The Representative Assembly has urged that we make it a priority.

The Executive Committee put the case this way:

"The view that temporaries are 'agreeing' to teaching only for a limited time is a myth. Temporaries are obtaining the only work they can get; are entering the teaching profession in what has become virtually the only manner possible.

"No teacher should suffer termination of employment on an arbitrary, unjustified basis, even if that termination is euphemized as 'non-renewal.' No teacher should have the years of service to a school board count for nothing, because of a board decision to hire teachers on a 'temporary' status, year after year."

Major non-teaching groups, operating under the Labour Code, have achieved basic rights for similar employees. As just one example, the Government Employees' Union contract provides:

- conversion to regular status after one year's "auxiliary" employment;
- seniority layoff and recall while on auxiliary status;
- full seniority credit for auxiliary service.

Hospital and university employee groups have similar provisions. Ask representatives of your school board support staff union: do they have any group with as few rights as temporary teachers?

Gradually, school boards are giving way to reason on this issue. North Vancouver has now joined the list of locals where some forms of basic rights

have been agreed to. This month, the local negotiated into its procedural agreement on learning and teaching conditions the following provisions:

"Temporary teachers whose contracts are not renewed will be handled as follows:

"Those with two or fewer full time equivalent years of service will be rehired for positions for which they have the necessary qualifications and seniority.

"Those with two or fewer full time equivalent years of service will be placed on a priority list for interviews for available teaching positions not filled by the above group."

North Vancouver will be pushing this fall to improve the clause, and have it included in the main contract.

Full seniority and recall rights for temporaries is a recommended objective for any local where this wasn't achieved last year.

Finally, bargainers should be aware that in locals like Nanaimo and Kitimat, where all teachers are covered by the agreements, the clauses have worked well, and the dire predictions of some school boards haven't materialized.

There's no reason to keep 10 per cent of our colleagues out in the cold.

—from Bargaining Bulletin 4.

Japanese schools seek Canadian "twins"

In the 1983-84 term, the British Columbia Save the Salmon Society assisted in twinning 30 Canadian schools with similar schools in Japan. Additional Japanese schools have requested the society to find them a twin. It is not necessary to be involved in a salmon program. If you wish information on having your elementary or secondary school twinned, please write to the: Save the Salmon Society, c/o The Vancouver Sun, 2250 Granville Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6H 3G2.

Position paper at issue

Administrators' role still in dispute

The long-simmering dispute over the role of principals within the federation arose again at the September 28-29 Representative Assembly.

Gerry Powlik, president of the B.C. Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, gave an oral report outlining the PSA's frustrations within the BCTF and discussing recent attempts to resolve disagreements between the administrators and the BCTF as a whole.

Powlik argued that the BCTF had not yet recognized that principals are in a conflict situation — caught between the legal requirements of the School Act and the policy dictates of their own federation. He suggested that last year's joint committee, composed of BCTF executive and BCPVPA representatives, had not been successful in resolving the dispute.

This led to the PSA adopting a six-point statement of principles on "The Role and Responsibilities of Principals and Vice-Principals Within the BCTF" last May, which he maintained had not been given sufficiently serious study by the federation.

The paper, which is the current focus of disagreement, essentially indicated a belief that principals and vice-principals should have special status within the BCTF. The main controversial elements in the paper were statements that "the School Act shall be of paramount importance in governing the actions of

principals and vice-principals", that principals and vice-principals "cannot participate in some forms of job action" and that they should have "an organizational representation that provides for their interests on appropriate BCTF and local association committees."



Discussing differences at the RA were (left to right) BCTF President Pat Clarke, BCPVPA President Gerry Powlik and BCPVPA Past-President Ken McAteer.

organizational representation that provides for their interests on appropriate BCTF and local association committees."

The BCTF Executive Committee took issue with the administrators' PSA over this matter and made three recommendations to the June RA which were adopted:

- "That the BCPVPA be reminded that the 1984 AGM clearly stated the rights and obligations of all members of the federation;

- "That the BCPVPA be informed that the Representative Assembly expects that the BCPVPA will abide by this decision of the AGM;

- "That the BCPVPA be requested to withdraw the unilateral policy adopted at its May 11-12 council meeting."

The BCPVPA, which has not yet withdrawn its paper, is to discuss it later this month at its zone meeting.

Following Powlik's report, several GRs arose to, on the one hand, protest his interpretation of events and, on the other, to call for continuing discussions aimed at resolving the dispute.

BCTF President Pat Clarke said no useful purpose would be served by continuing a dispute over who said or did what, but that his position was that he was prepared to carry on discussions to find a resolution. However, he said that such discussions would be impossible unless, pursuant to the RA decision, the six-point paper was first withdrawn.

Science PSA wins federal grant for provincial lecture series

The B.C. Science Teachers' Association has been awarded a \$15,000 federal grant to help finance a unique program to bring science to the people.

The science teachers' program will bring practising scientists, engineers and technicians into communities throughout B.C. and the Yukon for a series of well-planned, topical school and community lectures.

The grant was made through the B.C. Teachers' Federation to the B.C. Science Teachers' Association from the Ministry of State for Science and Technology under a federal program to increase public awareness of science and technology. The BCScTA was one of 45 organizations receiving grants out of 250 applicants across Canada.

"We're delighted that Ottawa saw merit in our proposal and awarded us this grant," said Craig Young, president of the science teachers' association and a Dawson Creek secondary science teacher. "We think the program will be an important step, not only in increasing the knowledge of science, but also in stimulating greater interest in science on the part of students and the public."

Under the program, a typical tour stop will involve presentations to an elementary science class, a secondary science class and an evening presentation in the community open to the public.

The following are some of the topics that the program is designed to cover: The Origins of the Universe, Molecular Genetics, Plate Tectonics, Creation-Evolution, Energy Alternatives, Nuclear

Power Systems, Reforestation Techniques, Mining Technology; the Use of Bacterial Recovery, Semi-conductor Technology and Communications Technology.

Lecture tours arranged so far include: Ken Hewitt-White, H. R. MacMillan Planetarium, "Observational Astronomy", Prince George, Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Ashcroft, Lytton, Sept. 20-29 and Parksville and Nanaimo Oct. 2-4; Dr. Mat Hassen, P. J. Spratt and Associates, "Nuclear Energy and Alternatives", Prince George, Quesnel, Oct. 25-26; David Studham, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., "Nuclear processes", Campbell River, Courtenay, Powell River and Delta, Nov. 13-16; Ian Salomon, Workers' Compensation Board, "Chemical Health and Safety", Williams Lake Sept. 28, Dawson Creek, Nov. 30; and Dr.



BCScTA President Craig Young

Ted Wells, professor of chemistry, Simon Fraser University, "The Nature of Matter", Fort St. John, Oct. 12.

A variety of industrial, commercial, government and educational institutions have joined in supporting the lecture tour program, offering financial aid, the use of facilities and the release of staff. The program will continue through until June 1985.

Substitutes target of membership drive

Maxine Boag
Secretary, PAST

Universal membership of qualified substitute teachers in the federation and the local association is one of the provincial bargaining objectives for this year. Bargaining teams, armed with information from the summer conferences (in which substitute teachers participated in every zonal workshop), will be attempting to put membership as a condition of employment for substitute teachers in your contract. You can assist your bargaining team make the case for compulsory membership by encouraging substitutes you meet at school to join voluntarily.

Many substitute teachers make the rounds of the schools to make personal contact with prospective clients in September. A question that you may ask them, in assessing their professional suitability is, "Are you a member of the BCTF and the local teachers' association?" If they say no, ask them why. If they don't know how to go about joining, inform them that your local president has membership forms and brochures in the office.

There is no guarantee that membership in the BCTF and the local makes your substitute a better teacher, but you will know that they have taken the initiative to join their professional organizations, will receive notice of meetings and workshops, and that they have signed the BCTF Code of Ethics. By calling them first, you are supporting your association's attempts to have all teachers working in unity, together.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION
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CLIVE COCKING Editor

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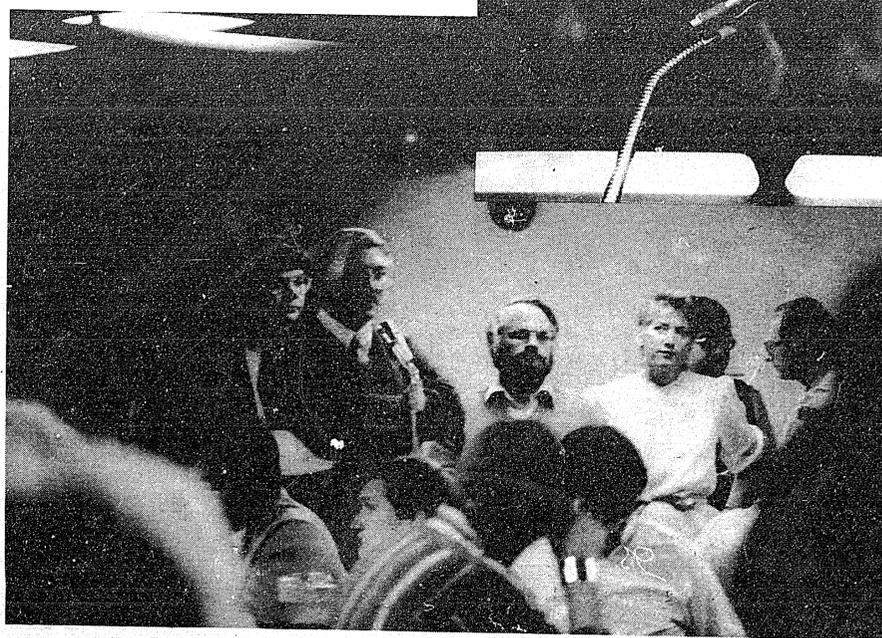
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RA Co-chairperson Jane Turner (above) presides over debate as lineup forms at the mike headed by (left) Prince George GR Doug Smart.



School fund-raising to replace cuts ruled out by RA

Teachers must not become fund-raisers and fee collectors to replace school funds lost due to budget cutbacks, the Representative Assembly has decided.

The RA adopted motions clarifying federation policy on this issue after receiving reports of a trend to new school fund-raising programs for such purposes as supplies and field trips and a variety of new school board-imposed fees.

The approved policy declared that BCTF members not participate in:

- "school fund-raising other than that normally conducted before the government-initiated budget cuts;
- "the charging or collecting of fees established at the school level to replace amounts cut from school board budgets."

On another education finance matter, the assembly debated an executive recommendation on school-based budgeting without coming to a vote, deciding instead to refer the issue to the winter RA for further discussion.

Gov't exams slammed as "political exercise"

The B.C. Teachers' Federation will continue to resist the imposition of provincial examinations.

The Representative Assembly decided to reassert the federation's position of opposition following a discussion of the recent series of exams. GRs condemned the government's exams as invalid, a "fraud" and a "political exercise."

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In addition to restating opposition to such exams, the RA adopted a motion "that BCTF members not participate in the preparation or marking of these government examinations."

The assembly emphasized that the BCTF recognizes the need for and the importance of student assessment and evaluation, but laid down that such programs should acknowledge students' individual needs, use a variety of methods and instruments, be linked to curriculum and instruction, be free of bias, identify learning difficulties and be designed to evaluate specific objectives.

The RA also went on record committing the BCTF to promote improvements in evaluation through:

- an in-service program;
- activities to raise public awareness of good evaluation practice;
- teacher research in evaluation;
- and support to schools and districts that use effective evaluation programs.

Pension contributions may be locked-in by proposed changes

The BCTF Pensions Committee is proposing a major policy change that would require members' pension contributions to be locked in until retirement.

This was one of a series of draft pension policy amendments which the committee reviewed with the Representative Assembly at its September 28-29 meeting.

At present a teacher must make contributions over 100 months to be eligible for a pension at age 55 or later. Prior to becoming eligible, a teacher who leaves the profession may apply for a refund of his/her own contributions and forego any future pension benefit.

The committee is recommending that a teacher be eligible for a pension after making contributions for 11 months and after reaching the minimum retirement age (55). In addition, after having made the contri-

butions for the minimum 11 months, the contributions would be locked in: that is, the teacher would not receive a refund if he/she left the teaching profession. However, under this arrangement a pension would be paid at 55 or later based on the 11 or more months of contributions.

A major concern in the current debate in Canada over pensions is the plight of the elderly, especially women, who have reached retirement age and have inadequate pension income.

The Pensions Committee considers that the problem of inadequate retirement income must be pursued from the early years of a career. If teachers are able to take refunds, and therefore not receive a pension based on all their service, there will always be a group of people who reach retirement with low pensions.

The problems now related to timelines on reinstatement and decisions on whether to take refunds — decisions which are often regretted at a later date — will be eliminated. In essence, if you teach you contribute; if you teach 11 or more months, your pension contributions are vested and no refund is permitted; if you leave teaching for a period of time and then return, your new service will be added to your previous service; at retirement, all service and/or contributions will be available to determine the retirement income.

Local association presidents have copies of the draft pension policy amendments. The Pensions Committee would appreciate receiving members' reactions prior to its December 1 meeting.

Ministry fails examinations test

"Education Minister Jack Heinrich and his minions couldn't run a garage sale without making a shambles of it."

That is probably the definitive comment to be made about the education ministry's foray into province-wide secondary graduation examinations. And BCTF Government Division Director Jim Bowman likely had the exam mess in mind when he used this line in a letter to the *Vancouver Sun* criticizing Heinrich for his recent verbal assault on Vancouver School Board officials.

The simple fact is that if there was an examination on giving examinations the education ministry would undoubtedly fail it. The ministry's examination

program has been, from the start, an educational and administrative shambles.

First, it was pointed out that the time allotted was too short. Then it was revealed how badly-designed the tests were. And then, to the nail-biting anxiety of thousands of students, there was an inordinate delay in getting the results out this summer.

Now, supposedly because of a computer foul-up, the ministry has given \$1,000 scholarships to 130 high school graduates who did not really earn them.

Education ministry spokesperson Dick Melville told reporters that "there was a computer programming error which resulted in 130 students being included by

mistake in the list of scholarship winners, while others were left off the list." He said when the errors were detected a new corrected list was mailed out to the 1,100 persons who were properly qualified for scholarships.

Melville said the 130 students who mistakenly received scholarships will be allowed to keep the money: "We're not so hard up that we'd ask them to return the money."

The ministry, however, is pointing the finger of responsibility at the Educational Research Institute of B.C., which did the computer work, and intends to deduct \$130,000 from the institute's fee.

Ghana commission awaits Steve Manu's thesis

Steve Manu's newly-completed Simon Fraser University master's thesis is not about to gather dust on university shelves back in his native Ghana.

His topic is a weighty one — "The Role of Ghana National Association of Teachers in Developing and Implementing a New Education System in Ghana" — but also very current back home.

A government commission of inquiry into reform of the Ghana education system, now underway, has already indicated keen interest in meeting with him to discuss his ideas.

"A summary of my work has been given to the commission through my employer, the Ghana National Association of Teachers," said Manu, "and I'm assured of meeting government representatives and the commission of inquiry immediately I arrive in Ghana in December."

He said he's optimistic that the ideas and recommendations in his thesis will have some influence in reshaping his country's education system.

Manu, GNAT director of professional development, has been studying at SFU for almost three years, completing BEd and MEd degrees. He had decided to pursue this program after spending six months in curriculum studies at UBC in 1977, which led to his founding of the PD division of GNAT.

What Steve Manu has done in his thesis, through academic study and observation of several B.C. school districts, is to propose a new Ghanaian education system by adapting western ideas to meet the needs of Ghana. It is a four-tier system — elementary, secondary/technical, college/university and continuing education — that would introduce a number of new features to his country.

The main innovations his plan proposes are decentralization of decision-



Now completed his studies at SFU, Steve Manu, professional development director with Ghana National Association of Teachers, expects his organization will help influence the reform of Ghanaian education.

making, increased equality of educational opportunity, a major expansion in Ghanaian-produced learning materials and provision for educational upgrading of teachers.

"At present the whole Ghanaian education system is centrally-based," said Manu. "I've strongly recommended decentralization in education decision-making, where local communities, parents and all identifiable bodies would be involved in making

decisions about their children."

As part of this, he also envisages a student representative or prefect system through which students would be involved in decisions affecting their schooling.

A related key proposal would increase equality of educational opportunity by expanding and decentralizing secondary education. "At present only about 20 per cent of the children in Ghana are able to continue

after elementary education," he said. "This is because secondary schools are all boarding institutions and many families can't afford to send their children to them." Manu is recommending that local school boards be empowered and be given the means to establish secondary schools serving their local populations.

Manu is also greatly concerned about the scarcity of learning materials in schools that adequately portray the Ghanaian history and culture, and he is making recommendations for the training and support of teachers to produce new Ghanaian textbooks and materials. In this connection, he is grateful for Canadian Teachers' Federation assistance which has enabled Ghanaian teachers to write 41 manuscripts which are now being classroom-tested.

Noting that most Ghanaian teachers currently do not have university degrees, he is also proposing a program to enable teachers to upgrade their qualifications while continuing to teach. Similarly, he is urging Ghanaian universities to establish extension programs to take university courses to people outside the main cities.

Steve Manu, who is itching to get back to work in Ghana, is very grateful for support received from Canadian colleagues for his studies at SFU. "I would like to express my thanks," he said, "not only to the BCTF and the CTF and individual Canadian teachers who supported and funded my program — I have already written to express my thanks — I would like in particular to thank all the schools which I had a chance to visit and to share with children and to share with teachers. It is through this sharing that we shall be able to develop this international brotherhood between teachers of Ghana and the teachers of B.C."

Greater public support needed if schools are to serve society

Canadian Teachers' Federation President Brian Shortall has called on governments to give sufficient financial resources to the public school system to enable it to fulfill its mandate to society.

Speaking to the CTF annual general meeting in Halifax, Shortall condemned budget cutbacks and restrictive labour legislation imposed by provincial governments, citing particularly B.C., Newfoundland and Quebec. "What we are facing is a frontal assault on education, a reduced investment by governments on social services and a challenge to the maintenance of our hard-fought bargain-

ing rights and the rewards of those rights."

Pointing out that all Canadian children are worthy of equal opportunity to self-fulfillment, he said that there is still wide disparity in per pupil education spending across the country and he stressed that all governments, federal and provincial, had a responsibility to provide sufficient resources to ensure that the nation achieves its desired outcomes from public schools.

"If the school is to serve society," said Shortall, "society must recognize its responsibility to the school."



CTF President Brian Shortall

At the annual meeting, the 150 delegates from every province and territory adopted a number of key resolutions, ranging from a new policy statement endorsing affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity for females and males

in education and in the labour force to a position urging the federal government to work for worldwide nuclear disarmament and to designate Canada a nuclear-free country.

The CTF also decided to urge the government of Canada to support the following International Labour organization conventions: The Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, The Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, and The Collective Bargaining Convention.

Hilroy Fellowships

The Hilroy Fellowship program, established by the Roy C. Hill Charitable Foundation and administered by the Canadian Teachers' Federation Trust Fund encourages and rewards active classroom teachers who have developed new ideas for the improvement of teaching practices.

Applications may be considered from individuals or small teams of teachers, ordinarily not more than six in a group.

Recommendations for the award of fellowships of \$1,500 each at the provincial level will be made by the provincial teacher organizations. Recommendations for the award of \$5,500 for outstanding merit, and three national awards of \$3,500 each for great merit, will be made by the National Advisory Council. The final selections in all cases will be made by the Roy C. Hill Charitable Foundation.

Applications must be made in English or French on the official application form and must reach the Hilroy Fellowship Committee of the provincial teacher organization not later than October 31. Application forms and full instructions on submitting applications may be obtained from Secretary-Treasurer, CTF Trust Fund, c/o Canadian Teachers' Federation, 110 Argyle Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2P 1B4 or Thelma Weinreich, Professional Development Division, B.C. Teachers' Federation, 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9.

Dan Blake
Chairperson
Labour Affairs Advisory
Committee

Major changes studied in BCTF governance

A start has been made in a process that could lead to significant change in the governance of the BCTF.

The BCTF Commission on Governance has recently released a discussion paper which outlines its initial thinking on the structure and operations of the federation and local associations. The commission is now seeking further submissions from members by October 31, 1984 to consider in preparing a final paper and recommendations to the Executive Committee.

The executive established the commission in the spring to examine the existing structures and policies of the BCTF in order to determine their relevance and effectiveness in the face of new conditions. The commission is to make recommendations by January 1985.

In its discussion paper, the commission dealt mainly with local associations and federation decision-making structures.

The commission declared that it was "unanimous in the view that the strength of the BCTF depended on strong local associations and an informed, active membership."

To this end, the commission examined ways in which the status and role of staff representatives could be improved. It suggested that staff reps could be given time off for training supported by BCTF grants and that they could become part of the local power structure through local rep assemblies. "The commission has as yet no fixed opinions on how the status of staff reps should be enhanced," the discussion paper went on, "but the commissioners do feel quite strongly that their status must be enhanced if the interests of teachers are to prosper."

Similarly, the commission also suggested that links between local associations and the BCTF should be strengthened.

"Decision-making events during the recent past have indicated that it is well-nigh impossible to conduct the affairs of the federation properly without involving local association presidents," the commissioners wrote.

Noting that local presidents have attended a number of regular and emergency representative assemblies, the com-

mission suggested that there appeared to be a need for presidents to have executive as well as representative involvement in BCTF decision-making.

"The commission, therefore, looked at various options involved in altering the nature of the BCTF Representative Assembly, or abolishing it, or replacing it with another group," the commissioners wrote. "At the present time their view is that the Representative Assembly should stay as it is but that the president of the local association should be the first geographical representative of each local."

The commission also believes that the responsibilities of the RA should be increased by assuming some of the power now exercised by the executive.

Further to strengthening locals, the discussion paper proposes that staff service to local associations be put on a less ad-hoc basis, with 15 zones each being served by a generalist staff member who would assist locals with organization, communication, bargaining, personnel and professional development needs. The field workers would be backed up by specialist staff.

On bargaining, the commissioners recognized that provincial government legislative and financial actions had undermined traditional locally-based bargaining, but did not favour radical change. They wrote: "The commission thought it best, given the volatility of the political scene, to keep the system that exists in place, however farcical its proceedings are. They did think that they would examine the suggestion that emergency powers should be given by the governing bodies of the federation to allow the president/Executive Committee to act in appropriate provincial circumstances."

Turning to consideration of the federation's decision-making structure, the commissioners found them to be generally "democratic, representative and appropriate." They discussed the composition, selection and responsibilities of the executive, and considered regional representation but noted that the RA offered that. The commissioners decided that "they were not in favour of the election of the president or Executive Committee by referendum ballot as our political tradi-

tions are those of delegates choosing leaders."

In addition to previously-noted possible changes in RA composition, the commission discussed training for first-time GRs, use of other modes (panels, debates, etc.) to prepare for decision-making, planning sessions and inspirational speakers.

Regarding the AGM, the commission decided that the size, while potentially cumbersome, was essential to maintain representative democratic decision-making. The commissioners felt that more background information should be provided for debates on membership fees.

The commission devoted considerable attention to the role of PSAs and their relationship to the federation structure. "The notion put forward by some," wrote the commissioners, "that PSAs should be part of the decision-making structure with representation on the decision-making bodies, was rejected by the commission as alien to our political ethos. They support the principle of 'one person, one vote.'" The commissioners favoured PSAs having better, easier access to BCTF decision-making bodies, but admitted they had "difficulty with the role of the PSA Council and thought that there should be more discussion and views presented on the role of the PSAs and their relationship to the PSA Council and to the Professional Development Advisory Committee."

In the discussion paper, the commissioners noted that the rapid advance of computerized communications technology, offering instant two-communication, could have potentially revolutionary impact on information-sharing and decision-making. The commission said this topic would be examined in detail in the final report.

The commission is comprised of policies and procedures chairperson Mike Campbell, RA co-chairperson Colin Scott, former executive members Al Blakey and Christina Schut, and Burnaby GR Linda Shuto.

Members interested in making written submissions to the Commission on Governance may do so through the Government Division at the BCTF.

Teachers Credit Union on Exchange network

The B.C. Teachers Credit Union has joined the Exchange, a new automated teller machine network.

Automated teller machines have been installed at the TCU's four lower mainland branches: Oakridge, 5594 Cambie; Dunbar, 4445 Dunbar; Burnaby, 4162 Norland Avenue; Surrey, 9648-128th Street.

Through the Exchange, card holders can now access their accounts 24 hours a day, seven days a week at their TCU branch as well as at other institutions in the network in B.C. and the U.S.

Eligible for UK pension?

Teachers who came to Canada from the United Kingdom since World War II may qualify for a British Old Age Pension when they reach 65 years of age. Years of working in Britain and/or serving in the armed forces count towards a pension. If you think you may qualify, write, giving as full information as possible, to: Department of Health and Social Security, Overseas Branch, Longbenton, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England, NE98 1YX.

Items

Expose 84

"Expose 84", a musical protest against provincial government cutbacks, will be staged October 4-27 at Vancouver's Firehall Theatre, 280 East Cordova.

The musical comedy satirizes Social Credit cuts in education and social services. It is produced and performed by a cooperative of actors, musicians and theatre workers. Regular admission is \$8 and for seniors, students and unemployed \$4. For \$20 you can buy a share in the production. Information: 689-0691.

Traffic safety contest

Students who have their own ideas about traffic safety — and put them into practice — have the chance to earn awards for their schools in a province-wide incentive program organized by ICBC and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Awards of \$500 will go to 40 elementary schools which can document projects developed and carried out in conjunction with parents, teachers and members of the community. Forty awards of \$250 are available to high school student committees for school year programs designed to encourage safe traffic behaviour. Entries must be submitted by November 1, 1984.

For information contact: Traffic Safety: Education Department, ICBC, 151 West Esplanade, North Vancouver, V7M 3H9.

First aid training

St. John Ambulance is offering a training program to enable teachers to administer and teach first aid. The eight-hour program, featuring films and practice, covers principles and practice of first aid, priority of management, life sustaining skills and first-on-the-scene aid. Cost is \$18 per teacher for materials. For information: St. John Ambulance, 6111 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 3B2 (321-2651).

Breast cancer research

Vancouver Breast Cancer Screening Centre needs women aged 40 - 59 to take part in a national research program aimed at finding out how best to detect breast cancer early. Women who participate receive a thorough breast examination and individual instruction in breast self-examination. In addition, half the women are randomly selected to receive mammograms. Information: 873-2431.

Group leaders sought

Katimavik is seeking group leaders to manage young people in community-oriented work projects. The position involves a varied combination of teaching and coordinating in socio-cultural activities, second language learning, leisure, international awareness and work skills. After three weeks training, group leaders receive \$16,690 and living expenses for a one-year contract. For information contact: Steve Boyce, Human Resources Manager, Katimavik, #201 - 1622 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1S5 (736-8991).

UNICEF needs you

UNICEF needs volunteers. If you're available even a few hours a week call 687-9096 or write UNICEF, P.O. Box 602, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N5.

CTF research shows

Cutbacks hit B.C. schools hardest

The quality of the learning environment has suffered a greater decline in B.C. under the impact of budget cuts and the recession than in any other Canadian province or territory, according to a study commissioned by the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

The study, called "Economic Recession and the Quality of Education: Some Threatening Trends," was conducted by Professor Ronald Burke of the Faculty of Administrative Studies, York University. Burke based his conclusions on a survey of 3,724 teachers, principals and guidance counsellors from across the country.

The study found that the recession and government budget cuts are having a harmful effect on the social and learning environments of young people right across Canada. It revealed that teachers are worried about the impact of this trend on the attitudes of young people toward learning and that they see a diminishing

of the expectations students hold for their futures.

"This research," said CTF President Brian Shortall, "poignantly illustrates the relationship between economic recession and the deterioration of the learning environment for children."

The 89-page study, first of its kind in Canada, identifies disturbing trends that threaten the quality of education and the social fabric of the country. Some of the trends are:

- community unemployment is having a direct bearing on the school environment, student distress and student performance;
- funding cuts are resulting in larger classes, deterioration in school buildings, materials and equipment and less support for professional development;
- students are showing increasing evidence of negative self-attitude and declining interest in learning;

Letters

Surrey layoff dispute satisfactorily resolved thanks to STA, staff

I would like to thank the STA and particularly Moira MacKenzie and David Yorke. The assistance and encouragement that they provided during my recent dispute with the Surrey School Board concerning a questionable lay-off was greatly appreciated.

That the dispute was satisfactorily resolved is attributable to the dedication and expertise of Mr. Yorke, the BCTF lawyer, and Ms. MacKenzie, then STA president. Both Mr. Yorke and Ms. MacKenzie spent a great deal of time and energy dealing with the five-month dispute which was finally resolved on June 30. Those of us involved in the educational system are indeed fortunate to have capable and dedicated representatives like Ms. MacKenzie.

The next few years will undoubtedly be a very trying and difficult period for educators in this province. It is apparent that our provincial government places a very low priority on education.

The most lasting lesson I have learned as a result of my recent ordeal is that it is imperative that all teachers support the BCTF and their local associations. These organizations are truly concerned with the quality of education and the well-being of the pupils and teachers.

Akemi Kobayashi
K. B. Woodward elementary
Surrey

Science Council report aimed at cooperation not "teacher bashing"

Mr. Aspden is correct in his letter to the editor of September 6 when he argues that the public school system should not be held responsible for the fact that across Canada almost three-quarters of elementary school teachers have not taken a university-level science course. However, it requires a very convoluted reading of the June 6 BCTF Newsletter article to which he refers to claim that either I or the Science Council of Canada made such a suggestion. The council report, *Science for Every Student*, called for a renewal of the system within which teachers operate. That system includes university training, provincial curriculum guidelines and resources, and inservice programs provided by a variety of agencies, including teachers who have developed exemplary programs.

I enjoyed working on the Science Council study because the people involved shared my respect for the integrity and

intelligence of teachers. The study sought to understand and portray the teachers' point of view. The result was a set of recommendations with which, as was pointed out in the original article, the science PSA substantially agreed.

It would be a tragedy if the Science Council report were seen as one more effort at "teacher bashing" when, in fact, it actively promotes the cooperation of all participants in renewing an important subject.

Jim Gaskell
Faculty of Education
University of B.C.

Teachers must be ready to put jobs on line

The saddest words of tongue or pen: late in June a young teacher in our public school system said to me: "We teachers are keeping our heads down now. We can't say or do much. None of us know when or why we may be dismissed and lose our positions."

A famous United States educator wrote: "Freemen [and women] cannot be taught by slaves, nor democratic citizens by scared hired men [or women]."

True education leads students to seek for truth and justice. Citizens of a democracy must be willing to stand up and be counted. If teachers are scared, afraid to lead youngsters to seek truth, to challenge ideologies, to really live as free citizens of a democratic society, they cannot teach democratic citizens. Words are empty sounds unless backed up by actions. Our freedoms have been won by persons who were not afraid to put not only their jobs but also their lives on the line to back up the principles which they advocated.

Frank Snowsell
Retired
Kelowna

Desire to control porn is not due to prudery

David Danylyshyn of Zeballos needs some information regarding the pornography issue (see "Letters", BCTF Newsletter, June 6, 1984). While there is no definitive evidence linking pornography with actual crime, there is sufficient research data on the link between pornography, attitudes and modelling behaviour to be alarmed.

A recent study at the University of California found that 87 per cent of molesters of female children and 77 per cent of molesters of male children admitted modelling their behaviour on porno-

• students are suffering from increasing family conflict, separation and divorce;

• teachers' jobs are being made increasingly difficult as students translate external distress into decreased interest in learning.

The study reported decline right across the country but stated that: "British Columbia reported a significantly greater deterioration in the quality of learning environment and resources than was the case for 10 other provinces or territories."

In view of the research results, CTF recommended that the federal government take action to maintain high employment levels, develop programs to provide meaningful employment opportunities for young Canadians and that federal, provincial and territorial governments ensure adequate funding for quality education for all elementary and secondary students.

graphy they had seen. In courtroom trials across the country sexual offenders are testifying that they were influenced by pornography.

Controlling violent porn and hate literature has nothing to do with prudery and censorship. The controls are needed to protect potential victims from the deviant and hurtful messages which coercive pornography emits. They are needed to protect the human rights of men and women and to slow down the rapidly expanding industry which necessitates criminal acts such as kidnapping children for kiddie porn and torturing people for public display.

I hope that teachers will enter into this contentious issue and get involved in educating the community at large. Municipalities all over the country are drafting bylaws to control the sale and display of violent pornography, while provincial and federal government agencies are grappling with enforcement of existing outdated legislation.

I applaud BCTF's submission to the Fraser Commission and encourage more collective and individual action on behalf of our members to take a stand on this cancerous element spreading in our society.

Reva Dexter
Associate member
Vancouver

Cigarette, alcohol ads make Maclean's magazine dubious teaching aid

Recently English and social studies teachers have been receiving advertising for the *Maclean's* "In-class" program. For a modest cost students can subscribe to *Maclean's* for the school year. The teacher receives a number of teaching aids to help him/her use the magazine as a teaching tool week by week.

Teachers considering using *Maclean's* should consider their own values. While the magazine will help keep our students familiar with current events in Canada, on the debit side it contains a great deal of high-class advertising for liquor and tobacco.

My survey of recent *Maclean's* issues indicate that almost one fifth of the magazine each week is devoted to advertising liquor and tobacco. This advertising is most attractive and is designed to be persuasive to young people. Teachers who promote the use of *Maclean's* in their classes are becoming, to a certain extent, lustlers of cigarettes and alcohol.

There are many in our society devoted to the selling of these products. Teachers

Teachers urged to continue fight for just society

Solidarity Coalition Chairperson Renate Shearer has urged teachers to continue to be a forceful part of the Solidarity movement.

The movement continues, she reminded the summer conference, and is as committed as ever to defending the dignity and rights of all individuals.

"I ask you as teachers not to forget why you joined this movement last year," Shearer said. "I ask you not to forget why you showed all the courage that you did last November. Those reasons are still valid. I'm asking you also not to forget your disappointments and the bitterness you may have felt in this past year because those are valid as well. It hasn't been easy for us. But the most important thing is that we not forget because as people get more and more frightened, people think more and more about themselves and it's our job collectively to ensure that no one is allowed to forget what the principles were that brought us together and that no one is allowed to forget what a just society is all about."

should consider carefully whether they wish to add themselves to the number.

John E. Collins
Westview junior secondary
Maple Ridge

No power, no status — no teaching "profession"

I was moved to respond to Mr. Kilian's remarks in the BCTF Newsletter of September 6, 1984. I am quite taken aback that Mr. Kilian, with so impressive a list of credentials, would find "it is nothing less than scandalous that teachers, as individuals, should leave it to others to defend education..." Mr. Kilian should be well aware that teachers are the lowest life form in the educational hierarchy. Do the hens ride shotgun in the chicken coop?

Further, I take issue with Mr. Kilian's use of the term "the profession" when referring to teachers in this province. The labelling of teachers as professionals has been one of the most preposterous myths of the last decade. In reality, Mr. Kilian knows that we have no power and we enjoy no elevated status or privileges. We are simply public employees who must labour under an antiquated body of legislation. Our position could well be compared to that of coal miners in the previous century. We do not have control over the learning conditions of our students or our own working conditions. We are no closer to being a profession now than we were when my grandmother left teaching after World War One.

Claire Johnson
Westside elementary
Kamloops

BCTF Newsletter '84-85 publishing schedule

When is the next Newsletter coming out?

That's one of the most frequently-asked questions of the editor. So for all you avid Newsletter readers here is the publishing schedule for the balance of the school year:

October 17	February 14
November 7	March 13
November 28	April 10
January 9	April 24
January 30	May 15
	June 12

Copy deadlines, for those submitting letters or other material, are generally a week to 10 days in advance of the printing date.

Please note that this publishing schedule is subject to change, depending on events.

PROJECT OVERSEAS I — 1985

Sponsored by the
Canadian Teachers' Federation
and its members

Each year about 75 Canadian teachers are chosen to spend their summer without salary working on CTF Project Overseas. Their assistance is given upon invitation to teachers in Africa, the Caribbean, Asia and the South Pacific to improve teaching skills and strengthen professional teacher organizations.

Administrative, travel and living expenses are borne by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the provincial and territorial teacher organizations which are Members of CTF, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Requirements

- membership in a provincial or territorial organization which is a member of CTF
- an appropriate teachers' certificate
- a minimum of five years teaching experience in Canada
- Canadian citizenship
- excellent health
- evidence of flexibility and mature judgement

In 1984, teachers were requested to teach the following — Administration, Business Education subjects, English, English as a Second Language, French as a Second Language, Environmental Education, Industrial Arts subjects, Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Research Methods, Science, Social Studies, Testing and Evaluation, Arts and Crafts, Music, Principles and Methods of Teaching, Guidance and Counselling, Home Economics, Psychology, Pedagogy and Use of Audio Visual Equipment.

Applications

Deadline date for applications: **NOVEMBER 15, 1984**. Further information and application forms are available from: **B.C. Teachers' Federation, 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9.**

UBC seeks \$500,000 to save special ed

A fund-raising campaign has been launched to raise \$500,000 to ensure continuation of the UBC bachelor in special education degree program.

The aim of the campaign is to endow a chair in the faculty of education. The fund-raising committee, under the patronage of former UBC Chancellor J. V. Clyne, was organized by parents of students in the program after it was almost eliminated due to budget and staff cuts last spring.

The UBC Board of Governors decided then to suspend the special education program in three year's time if the university still faces a financial crisis then.

Currently, fifth-year students are able to complete the program and students are able to transfer into the second, third and fourth years of the program, but no new students are being enrolled.

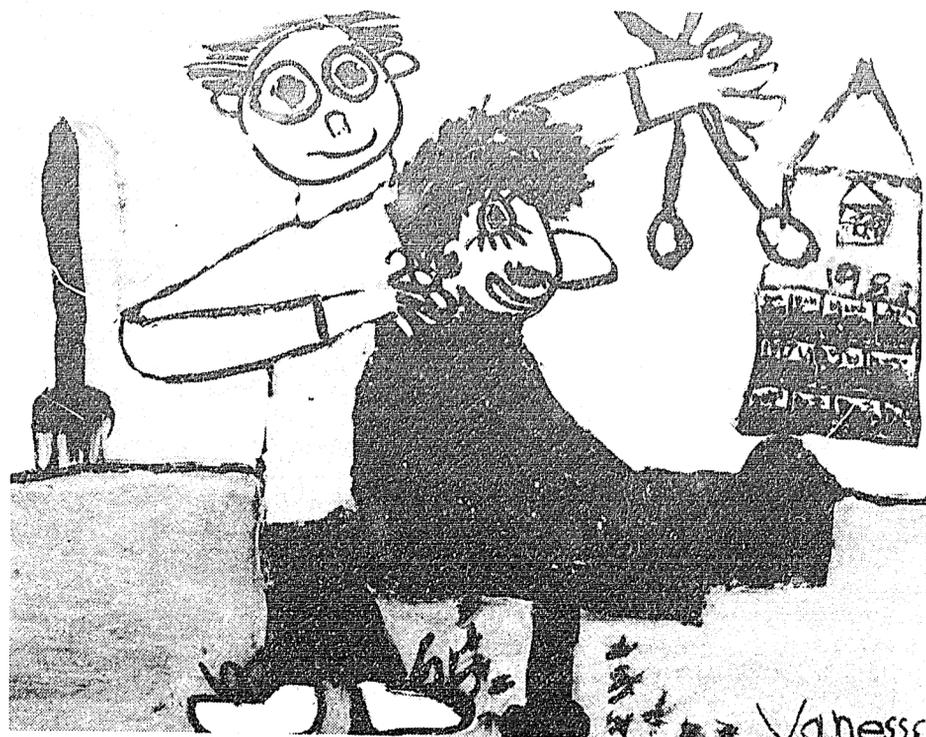
Members interested in donating to the Special Education Endowment Fund may do so through Dean Daniel Birch, Faculty of Education, Scarfe Building, University of B.C.

BCTF sends contingent to Project Overseas II

Five B.C. teachers will be participating this winter in Project Overseas II in Zimbabwe and Thailand.

Going to assist their colleagues in Zimbabwe are Mary Atkinson (Lake Cowichan Secondary), Bernadette Harris (Shoreline Junior Secondary, Victoria) and Sheila Samson (Kelowna), while Benjamin Clark (Burnaby North Secondary) and Beverly Cowie (Keith Lynn Alternative Secondary, West Vancouver) will be going to Thailand.

The five BCTF-sponsored teachers are among nine Canadian teachers going abroad from mid-November to mid-January to assist colleagues in other countries improve their teaching skills and organizational methods.



"Daddy is getting his hair cut" is the title of this B.C. Young Artists '83 notecard by Vanessa Chunys of Agassiz.

Attractive notecard pouches help young artists program

For only \$5.75 you can make an investment in British Columbia's artists of tomorrow and enjoy their colourful vision of today.

Packages of notecards, with reproductions of eight different works in the B.C. Young Artists '83 exhibition, are still available for sale. The notecards and envelopes are attractively packaged in clear acetate pouches and would make a lovely gift. All the proceeds go toward the continuation of the B.C. Young Artists Exhibitions.

The young artists, aged from 6 to 13, live in Agassiz, Comox, Castlegar, Fort Nelson, Salmon Arm and Vancouver. The delightful images on the notecards are suggested by their titles: *Daddy is getting his hair cut* — Vanessa Chunys, 6, Kent ele-

mentary, Agassiz; *My Neighbourhood* — Koon Suen, 13, Sir William McDonald Elementary, Vancouver; *Blue green fish* — Colleen Witthoef, 11, Comox Elementary Comox; *The jungle* — Natasha McKellar, 6, G. W. Carlson Elementary, Fort Nelson; *Insect study* — Stanley Sabourin 11, Twin Rivers Elementary, Castlegar; *Jungle* — Alan Bartolic, 10, St. George's Junior, Vancouver; *Bird in the garden* — Sara White, 8, Puntledge Park Elementary, Salmon Arm; *Under my umbrella* — Eric Ng, 7, St. George's Junior, Vancouver.

The notecards are available by mail from Emily Carr College of Art and Design Outreach, 1399 Johnston Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R9.

Children and the bomb focus of BCTF conference

Children and the nuclear threat will be the focus of the BCTF-sponsored Peace Education Conference at UBC on October 19.

Keynote speakers will be Dr. Joanna Santa Barbara, a Hamilton, Ontario, child and family psychiatrist, who will speak on "The Effects of Nuclear Anxiety on Children", and Milt McLaren of Simon Fraser University, who will speak on "Children, Media and the Nuclear Issue."

The day-long event, to be held in the Student Union Building, has been planned in conjunction with the "Canadian Conference on Nuclear War: The Search for Solutions" on October 19-21. The BCTF conference features speakers, workshops, a panel discussion and open forum on teaching peace. There is no registration fee.

Other feature speakers are: Vancouver school trustee Pauline Weinstein ("Trustee's view about peace education curriculum"), Vancouver alderman Harry Rankin ("Vancouver City Council's position on nuclear disarmament") and Susan Hargraves of Public Education for Peace Society ("Local findings on children's anxieties").

Workshops, materials offered to help educate on racism

"Teaching for a changing society" is the challenge being held out by the BCTF's program on race relations and multiculturalism. Our rich ethnic diversity is an opportunity for imaginative teachers to bring new ideas, materials and methods to their classrooms.

To assist teachers, the program offers workshops on multicultural teaching and materials on which teachers can develop many exciting experiences for their students. Right now, a limited number of the following items is available without charge:

Spotlight on Indo-Canadians, a 40-page folio on the role this cultural group is playing in our society.

To Hold What Is Their Own, a richly-illustrated manual designed to help students in the middle school understand the concepts of aboriginal rights and native land claims.

Multicultural Playground Manual, one of the program's most popular publications, crammed with ideas on how the playground can be made a place where cultural differences can disappear.

For more information on the workshop program and these publications, contact Ed May, Program Coordinator, BCTF.

Vacancies

Task Force on the Commission on Public Education

The BCTF Executive Committee is calling for applications to a Task Force on the Commission on Public Education.

Terms of reference are:

- to advise the Executive Committee on the structuring and carrying out of a commission on public education;
- to provide BCTF representation to an overall advisory committee for the commission, whether a ministry or BCTF-sponsored public commission;
- to ensure adequate participation by teachers in the work of the commission;
- to prepare a report on the work of the commission, with recommendations.

Five BCTF members will be appointed. Application deadline is **October 10, 1984**. Application forms can be obtained from local association offices, or the BCTF and should be submitted to Jacquie Boyer, BCTF, 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6J 3H9.

Teaching openings in Western Samoa, Jamaica

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has announced several projects requiring teachers.

There are openings at two secondary schools in **Western Samoa**. Teachers are required for senior English, senior mathematics, chemistry/science and accounting. These projects are to run for three years (school year beginning mid-January). Salary range is approximately \$9,500-\$10,900 with some provision for increments, cost of living and education allowances.

Interested candidates should send C.V. as well as names of three referees to:

The High Commissioner for Western Samoa
P.O. Box 1439
Wellington, New Zealand

The government of **Jamaica** with assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank is initiating a four-year project for the improvement of primary education in Jamaica.

This project which began in April 1984 involves two components, training and construction. Applications are invited for consulting services in the areas of reading, mathematics, testing and measurement and program evaluation. Four consultants, one for each subject will be hired to assist in organizing in-service training and curriculum development programs.

Resume and further enquiries should be directed to:

Permanent Secretary
for the attention of Miss Hyacinth Smith
Project Co-ordinator
Ministry of Education
2 National Heroes Circle
Kingston, Jamaica

School District 26 (North Thompson)

Clearwater Secondary School logging program has two part-time temporary teaching positions available:

1) Logging instructor .2 FTE to work with experienced teacher to instruct groups of six to eight students in safe, efficient logging techniques on-site in the woods, two mornings a week.

2) Industrial Education instructor .2 FTE to teach woodwork, drafting and

other subjects on a relief basis two mornings a week.

Applications for these two positions, separately or combined, will be accepted up to noon 84.10.10. Those with valid B.C. teaching certificates will be given preference, but others are also invited to apply. The terms of appointment will be October 15, 1984 to June 30, 1985.

Applications should be sent to: Superintendent of Schools, School District 26 (North Thompson), Box 1314, Clearwater, B.C. V0E 1N9.

Are you getting your Newsletter?

Address errors can be costly — please help us keep up-to-date.

All members: If your home address has changed, or if we don't have it correctly, please give us your proper address:

Name _____ Social insurance number _____

Home address _____

City _____ postal code _____

School _____

Staff reps: If the number of Newsletters that should come to your school has increased or decreased, or if for some reason we are not supplying the right number, please give us the correct quantity:

Number of Newsletters needed _____

School _____

Staff rep _____

Please return this coupon to: Member Records, B.C. Teachers' Federation, 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9.