



Encounter of the Kwantlen Kind

The office landing was facilitated by sunny skies (good omen) , bright smiles, a cup of strong smoking brew and a voice from a black box saying: "Welcome to Kwantlen" !

When it came to settling, an efficient Kwantlener appeared on the scene and proceeded to change the furniture, measure the window frame and fill the space with laughter. On his heels came a Kwantlener with a light bulb followed by a tall one carrying a painting. To complete the picture, the plant Kwantlener was summoned to bring life to the settlement.

After this display of attention, the New Arrival, feeling warm and secure, decided to venture out and explore the Kwantlen territory. The Kwantlen Kingdoms are spread far and wide. The Newton Kingdom houses the administration and prides itself in its vocational program. The Surrey Kingdom has both academic and continuing education programs. The Richmond Kingdom stands out with its strong business program. The Langley Kingdom is unique in its farrier and agricultural programs.

The Kwantlen population is large and varied: some seek knowledge, some impart it, some plan for the future, some enjoy the present. There seems to be healthy rivalry between the Kingdoms and the different populations.

During the reconnaissance tour, the New Arrival stops to watch the concentration on a Kwantlener's face as he molds clay into a graceful shape. The New Arrival smiles inwardly: the Kwantlen passage promises to be an enriching experience, filled with daily challenges and unpredictable tomorrows.

On a less fictional note, Thanks to all of you for your warm welcome. I am Danielle Walker, your new Public Information Officer.

Office: Surrey Kingdom, IRC, local 283.

Please call. We need your input in this newsletter.

“Kwantlen Kvotes”



Is education a sunset industry?

CRAWFORD KILIAN

... a North Vancouver school trustee
and teacher at Capilano College.

THESE ARE hard times for the schools. In elementary and secondary schools enrolments drop more steeply every year. In colleges and universities, enrolments increase but budget cutbacks throttle growth. At all levels, costs rise and so does public discontent with the whole system. We don't seem to be getting much of a return on our investment in education, and many taxpayers would just as soon cut their losses.

Educators themselves are unhappy to. For one thing, they see public support declining along with enrolments. And they worry about the loss of both young and old teachers. Not many eager young novices are entering the profession. Older teachers are being encouraged to retire early. A very few inexpensive new teachers replace them, but what doesn't show up on any bottom line is the real cost: loss of both experience and enthusiasm.

All that hurts a group that can't defend itself: the children. Neighborhood schools offer far less because they aren't big enough to justify such luxuries as a band, or art, or organized sports. Tenured teachers are shuffled round to where there's room for them, regardless of need. The temporaries are let go, no matter how valued their contribution. Education planning becomes little more than deciding which neighborhood will be the next to lose its school altogether.

At the post-secondary level in B.C., colleges and universities can't begin to satisfy the demand for places, especially in career-oriented programs. Administrators and faculty are being told to plan on no growth at all for the next five years.

Vancouver Community College is planning to kill its music program at King Edward Centre and to cut back severely on its theatre and fine arts programs. Its academic courses will also suffer severely.

It's the same story at other colleges. The best the provincial government can offer is approval of new programs only at the cost of killing old ones. Some money is going into vocational programs, subsidizing business at the expense of everyone else — including business students. Meanwhile, Ottawa is threatening to cut \$1.5 billion a year from its support for education. And, having welcomed thousands of new immigrants into the country, it's now cutting support for teaching them English.

Have the schools, then, become what economists call a "sunset industry"? Is education going the way of the railway, lamented only by its employees and a few sentimentalists?



It's a plausible idea. We seem to be seeing all the classic symptoms: declining demand, shrinking job opportunities, ever-increasing costs per unit, and tough competition from the private sector where enrolment (subsidized by the public) is booming. Education doesn't have much political clout any more, since fewer people have kids in school — and those who haven't resent having to pay for those who have.

But a hard, cold look at the problem shows that we are still in H.G. Wells's famous race between education and catastrophe, and only an idiot would bet on catastrophe.

Yes, fewer children are enrolled in school. They should have the value of scarcity. When the present baby-boomers move into middle age and then retirement, who's going to support them? The baby-busters, and no one else. Those now in school will have to support a whole host of old people, not to mention the ill and otherwise unemployable people of their own age, and of course their own children.

That will be a hopeless burden if the current school generation lacks the best possible education. New occupations are being created, and none of them requires illiterates. Whole technologies are coming into being that require their users to understand mathematics. Political shocks, coming more often all the time, will make no sense to people ignorant of history and social science.

The federal government justifies its proposed billion-dollar cutback by saying that education is, after all, a provincial responsibility. The B.C. government — either to prepare for the impact or as a bargaining tactic — is chopping college and university budgets, and dumping the cost of the public schools on Lower Mainland homeowners caught in the real estate bubble. So the baby-busters aren't getting much help from their own side.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government is planning to spend \$70 billion in the next 10 years on computer research alone. Enormous armies of skilled scientists, engineers, and technicians will be needed to support just that one effort, and thousands of highly trained business specialists will be needed to market the result.

The Japanese hope that by the early 1990s they will have computers that can respond to ordinary speech, and can

themselves speak. The model they sell to the Canadian market will have to speak very, very slowly.

The simple truth is that other countries have not lost faith in education, and in the hard world of international competition they will spend the next 20 years beating our economic brains out.

Ask the Chinese if they think education is a luxury. They shut down their universities for a decade, locked up their teachers, and produced a genuinely lost generation. Half a billion Chinese are young people aching for education and determined to make up for lost time.

Ask the Russians the same. Their high school students know more mathematics than most of our college graduates. And ask the British if they've been wise to scant the education of their young people only to produce a mob of rioting unemployables.

So education is worth it. But it's going to have to change.

Education standards will have to rise sharply, and we may have to flunk a few students to enforce those standards. It may hurt their feelings, but we're going to be contending with foreign competitors who will not really care if they crush our self-esteem along with our balance of payments.

Teachers will need to retrain for new specialties, probably several times in a

single career. They may have to seek new kinds of teaching experience: in business, in government, and among adults and the disadvantaged. "Working sabbaticals" in other professions, or overseas, will broaden their skills and extend their influence. (Think of those half-billion Chinese, most of them required to study English — why not with Canadian teachers?)

Far from going back to the basics, school systems will have to devise highly sophisticated programs to ensure that virtually every child — and adult — gets the best possible education. Not just job training, but a solid grounding in science, the arts, history, literature, and languages. We can't send our failures off to dig ditches any more — Japanese robots will be doing that job.

Parents will have to remember that school is not a babysitting service, and they'll have to start putting more pressure on their children to do well.

The public is going to have to remind politicians that education is still a top priority, not because it's a Good Thing but because the public's own well being will depend on it.

It will cost a fortune — maybe as much as three or four MX missiles, or a couple of squadrons of F-18s. But it will be a lot more helpful in keeping us alive and competitive.

Is education a sunset industry? If it is, what comes next is a dark age. □

Vancouver Sun Oct. 30/81

Invitation

MEETING NOTICE

The Surrey Association for Children with Learning Disabilities will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1981, at 8:00 p.m. in the Bear Creek Pavilion, behind the Surrey Arts Center, 13750 88th Avenue.

The Guest Speaker will be Norma Wilson, President of the B.C. Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. An informal discussion of our local and provincial concerns will follow.

All interested Parents and Professionals are cordially invited to attend. For further information, please call Lois DeBusscher 596-9697 or Marilyn Wardrop at 584-9178.



Appointment

Appointment of Women's Access Program Co-ordinator for Kwantlen College.

Janet Patterson has been appointed to the position of Women's Access Program Co-ordinator for Kwantlen College effective November 9, 1981.

She will be working on a ½ time basis with her primary role to co-ordinate and manage the implementation of a Women's Access Program. The goal of this program is to improve Women's Access to learning opportunities in the Kwantlen Region.

She will be located on Surrey Campus, room 602H, 588-4411 local 238.



PROGRAMS OF DISTINCTION

Lectures by distinguished visitors

FRANK G. VALLEE

Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Carleton University

"Social Science in Canada: Guiding Light or Acolyte?"

Seminar
Tuesday, November 10, 1981
12:45 p.m.
Room 5067, Academic Quadrangle

"Natives and Spokesmen in Canada: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

Public Lecture
Thursday, November 12, 1981
8:00 p.m.
Room C9000

Dr. Vallee, who was trained at McGill and the London School of Economics, has done anthropological field work in the Scottish Hebrides and northern Canada. His major book, *Kabloona and Eskimo in the Central Keewatin*, deals with Inuit-white relations.

For more information contact the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SFU, 291-3146.

PIERRE VAN DEN BERGHE

Professor of Sociology
University of Washington

"Human Sociobiology: The Politics of Breeding"

Public Lecture
Thursday, November 26, 1981
3:30 p.m.
Room C9002

"Incest and Outbreeding in Human Populations"

Research Colloquium
Friday, November 27, 1981
1:30 p.m.
Room 3131 Academic Quadrangle

Dr. van den Berghe's professional interests are ethnic and race relations, social stratification, sociobiology and age and sex differentiation. He has done field work in Mexico, South Africa, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria and Peru. He has written twelve books including *Man in Society: a biosocial view* (1978), *Human family systems: an evolutionary view* (1979) and *Ethnic Phenomena* (in press).

For more information contact Dr. C. Crawford, Department of Psychology, 291-3660.

Employment Opportunities



PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR - PHYSICS

Applications are invited for the position of part-time Physics Instructor for Surrey Campus.

Qualifications include an M.Sc. in Physics or the equivalent; teaching experience is preferred.

Competition No. 81-532

Closing date for applications Nov.20/81

RICHMOND CAMPUS requires:

One full-time and one part-time Nursing Instructor to teach in the Graduate Nurse Refresher Course.

The positions will begin in December of 1981, if possible, or January 2, 1982 at the latest and terminate mid-April 1982.

This 12-week full-time program is designed to prepare graduates to return to active nursing.

Qualifications: Master's or Baccalaureate degree preferred. Clinical experience in medial and/or surgical nursing required. Teaching experience required.

Salary \$2820 per month.

Competition No. 81-531

Deadline for applications Nov. 20/81.

Kwantlen College requires a Geography Instructor from January 1, 1982 to May 15, 1982, at the Surrey Campus and possibly Langley and Richmond.

Instruction will consist of four Human Geography courses at the 1st and 2nd year University credit level.

Qualifications include a Master's Degree in Geography, supplemented with teaching experience.

Competition No. 81-530

Closing date for applications Nov.20/81

Send to: Kwantlen College, Personnel
Department, P.O.Box 9030,
Surrey, B.C. V3T 5H8



news release

P.O. Box 9030 Surrey, B.C.
Canada. V3T 5H8

Kwantlen College will host a workshop for Junior/Senior Secondary School Personnel (principals, counsellors) at the Surrey Inn Travelodge (corner of Fraser Highway and King George Highway, Surrey) on Thursday, November 26, 1981 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The purpose of the workshop is to familiarize Junior/Senior Secondary School Personnel with Kwantlen College's programs and services.

President Tony Wilkinson will lead a College Delegation which will include Dick Balchen, Registrar, Dr. David Williams, Vice-Principal, Student Services, Jim Anderson, Financial Aid Officer as well as Principals Ken Moore, Ann Kitching, Bob Lowe and Counsellors Bonnie McGhie, Richard Fox, Otto Funk and Ron Flaterud.

The afternoon will be open for individual campus tours.

LIBRARY

The Libraries gratefully acknowledge a recent donation of 600 books and \$500.00 from Lynda Turner.

The donation was given by Lynda in memory of her parents Syd and Peggy Dorner.

HAPPENING

Kwantlen College President, Tony Wilkinson will be the guest speaker at the Rotary Luncheon on Tuesday, November 17th at the Surrey Inn at 12 noon.

The President will give the Rotary Club members an overview of the College and its potential future directions.