Editorial Comment - Hello Again.

In the last Bulletin we welcomed our colleagues in the Assiniboine and Keewatin Community Colleges. Today, we complete the family circle by welcoming the staff at the Vocational Preparation Training Centre in Tuxedo, more commonly known as Fort Osborne barracks. Possibly the latter name (barracks) is not quite the thing for an educational institution although many students and not a few instructors will give you an argument there! If 'barracks' means esprit de corps, then the name is hopefully fitting but we trust that it does not mean regimentation and militancy.

In any event, we welcome Bob Gobert and his hard-working crew at F.O.B. Hopefully you will enjoy reading this scindle-sheeit and contribute comments, news and articles to it.

Our motto still is - "We print all the news that is fit to print - and some that isn't!" Send your contributions to me - A. Friesen, Bulletin coordinator, Room C-416, R.R.C.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL.

Mr. J.E. McCannel, Director General of Community Colleges, has now advised the Minister of the staff members elected to serve as the instructional staff representatives on the new Community Colleges Council. They are:

Red River Community College:
Mr. J.W. Redston, Instructor (Management and Personnel) Business Division.
Mr. R. Schweedic, Instructor (Refrigeration - Electrical Department) Industrial and Technology Division.

Assiniboine Community College:
Mr. F.A. Wish, Instructor (Auto-Body).
Keewatin Community College:
Mr. J.W. Martin, Instructor (Plumbing).

We express our sincere congratulations on your appointment and trust that the work will be rewarding.

Maths Quiz -

No solutions received to date -- therefore we will give you some more time before starting to publish the solutions.

Several very interesting Bulletins have come across my desk in the past several weeks, including two brand new "issues. (Vol. 1, No. 1). We certainly cannot complain about lack of communication - now if we only had the time to read everything that's available we would be very well informed.

The first of these new issues is an Instrumentation Technology Newsletter, edited by Al Harms and distributed to the Industry. The purpose is to let industry know that the Instrumentation program exists. The Newsletter has considerable eye and reading appeal. It was gratifying to learn that two pipeline companies have donated equipment to this area. Interprovincial Pipeline gave us items from their Gretna pumping station which had become inactive as a result of a change from diesel to electric power for pumping stations. Trans Canada Pipe Lines sent us a shipment of telemetering equipment.

The second new publication is a Department of Youth and Education Newsletter edited by Mr. Royden F. Lee of the Teacher Certification Branch. It is designed "to assist all employees of our Department in knowing better the daily work of the various branches and their plans for the Future." Only a small quantity of the first issue were printed and distributed within the Community Colleges was very limited. We have now arranged with the editor to distribute future editions through our office.

"Very Newsy and informative" is how I would describe the A.C.C. Happenings, the publication emanating from Assiniboine Community College. Much is happening there as elsewhere, from their ninth birthday party which was described as a terrific success - "The food was excellent and plentiful - this could also apply to the liquid food" - to welcome of new staff to sports to "Inter-course discrimina-tion"! These are the editor's words - not mine - but don't let your imagination run wild! The article refers to a double price system in the bookstore for the same book. At least that's the way I read it, A.C.C. In any event, a most interesting insight into the goings-on there.
Creative Communications — What is it? — by Darryl Torchia.

In its inaugural year, the Creative Communications course at Red River Community College seems to be off to a flying start. The course is designed to train writers for all industries which require verbal communication with the public, and is divided into two main sections: advertising and public relations, and journalism.

First term was an eye-opening experience with a heavy assignment schedule and a broad spectrum of fieldwork. Learning the fundamentals of research, the students visited specialized government and business libraries. They learned how to interview and how to take reporters’ notes, and near the end of the term they held their first press conference, with Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Arthur Polson.

The students tried their hands at court reporting, radio plays, book reports and commercials. They sold an interview-profile on Transportation Minister Joe Borowski to a national magazine, "Heavy Construction News". And student Alda Davidson’s impressions of the course were published in the Leisure Magazine section of the "Winnipeg Free Press".

She called her story "From a Goldfish Bowl", and this observation still holds true. Everybody is looking in on the course: prospective employers, the educational community, and a large throng of eager young people who, each for his reasons, want to get into the course next September.

The second term, now a few weeks old, will teach these future writers how to work with photographers, artists, printers and broadcast technicians. The students learn by observing and doing; they are taught to operate cameras and to give stage directions, and are given an opportunity to become familiar with the practices and procedures of every medium. Assignments and fieldwork are still emphasized because the most important goal of the program is to keep the writers writing. Third and fourth terms will permit the student to direct his energies toward fairly specialized training in his chosen field.

First-time students are always guinea pigs; it’s an inescapable necessity. This group of guinea pigs seems to be surviving and the future of the Creative Communications course looks bright.

Student Association lists New Executive.

The Red River Community College Student Association has now provided us with the names of its new Executive. The Administration had an opportunity to meet these dedicated young men and woman at a luncheon meeting last week and looks forward to working with them.

President
Mr. Chris Sandh

Vice President — Internal
Mr. Gary Redfern

Vice President — External
Mr. Greg Melnyk

Sports Chairman
Mr. Burger Buus

Treasurer
Mr. Larry Schade

Secretary
Miss Pat Robinson

Computers in the Classroom.

This is the topic for a one-day seminar sponsored by the Manitoba chapter of the Association for Educational Data Systems (MAN-AEDS) to be held at the Red River Community College on Friday, March 20, 1970.

The program will deal with computer and data processing instruction at both the secondary and post secondary level (College and University). Registration fee is $5.00 which includes the noon luncheon. For further details, see Terry Robertson in the Computer Centre.

The Association for Educational Data Systems is an international organization bringing together educators and administrators from the whole range of public and higher education. It publishes a monthly bulletin, the Monitor, as well as a quarterly Journal. Both publications are available in our Learning Resources Centre. Local chapters are formed when a number of interested individuals get together for the purpose of exchanging information, sponsoring seminars such as the one referred to above, and in general promoting educational data processing. Canadian chapters are located in Ontario and Manitoba. President of the Manitoba Chapter is E. Boorsma, Supervisor of Data Processing for the Winnipeg School Division, while Vice President is Terry Robertson, Head of our Computer Centre.

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Did you receive your T4 form from the Payroll Department toward the end of February? If you didn't, you may be one of the many Civil Servants who move each year but forget to notify us of the resulting change of address. Payrolls has advised that many T4's have been returned to them this year. If salary cheques were mailed instead of distributed manually, changes of address would probably come in quite promptly. This is not being considered due to the cost involved.

It is important, however, that we be notified of changes in address, exemptions, etc. To avoid confusion, we would ask that staff at the Red River Community College notify the Personnel Section directly - Room C-315, phone 307. The staff at Assiniboine, Keewatin and F.O.B. should notify the administration at their centre, who will route the information to the Personnel Section. The latter will then advise Payrolls of all changes.

GRAINS OF SAND . . .

Have you heard of the Fog Index? "No," resounds your collective response, "but pray tell us all about it lest we die of curiosity!"

Very well, then -- the Fog Index is a numerical guide which is used to measure the readability of a piece of writing. "How astounding," you gasp in amazement, "but do go on to tell us how the Index is computed!"

And so we are cajoled into discussing the Fog Index when we'd prefer to discourse for the reader's edification upon such momentous world affairs as John and Yoko. (Peace on you.)

The Fog Index goes thusly: take a sample of literature concerned and determine the average number of words per sentence. Then from various samples of 100 consecutive words, determine the average of words per 100 which contain three syllables or more. Now work the data into this formula:

FOG INDEX EQUALS 0.4 (AVERAGE WORDS PER SENTENCE PLUS AVERAGE WORDS PER 100 OF THREE SYLLABLES OR MORE).

For example, the first four paragraphs of this column have a Fog Index of 9.6, arrived at by an average of 14 words per sentence and 10 words of three or more syllables per 100, hence 0.4 (14 plus 10) equals 9.6.

We are most pleased that our Index (thus far) is only 9.6 because the sages who devised this formula also tell us that an Index of 10 or higher leads the reader to re-read several paragraphs and begin to lose the thread of whatever argument is being set forth.

Now that you are the master of the Fog Index, amongst your many other fine qualities, why not try it out on some of your favorite publications? Time Magazine appears to run at an Index of 10; Reader's Digest at around 9 and the True Confession type of magazines are much easier to read at a simple 7.

Such sparkling literature as may be found in Civil Service posters and government publications provide an excellent source of wool and waffle. We offer, for example, the following extract from a Technician I advertisement: "Language requirement -- the person appointed must be sufficiently proficient in the English language to permit the functions of the unit to be performed adequately and effective service to be provided to the public served." This means really -- Language requirement: English.

And some random samples from our own common source of wisdom, QRO's reveal a juicy Fog Index of 24.7. Nor does the deputy minister's Financial Management Guide trail far behind with its 22.9 rating.

Well, you have the general idea. In order to write readable prose, keep the sentences short and stay away from the double-barreled words. By the way, if you DO have a penchant for garble, try the Superannuation regulations. Would you believe a sentence of 197 words?

The above reference is to Federal Government documents. From a recent issue of the Financial Post, we culled the following editorial in the same vein...

DO THEY WRITE THEIR OWN STUFF?

For the enlightenment of Canadians who are finding it hard to keep up with their changing world, here are some of the latest additions to the living language of government.

Source: John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare. Quote: "ith the creation of this National Council of Welfare we will for the first time have provided a major vehicle through which the social service consumer can enter into dialogue with the system on the programs designed for his consumption."

Probable English translation: welfare recipients appointed to the new welfare council can tell government what is wrong with present welfare programs.

Source: Allan MacEachen, Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Quote: "We are now being told by psychologists that the ordinary person only makes use of something like 5% or 6% of his intellectual capacity. A shocking statistic even if only partially true. The 'actualization' of human potentiality is becoming a new intellectual goal and we are witnessing the emergence of a 'group thinking' as a means of fostering personality growth."

Probable English translation: two times 5% equals 10%.

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The people in the L.R.C. have been working to establish a standard system for all Audio Visual resources material. The first part of this is now available in the form of a list of 16MM (sound) films. Copies of this list were sent to Assiniboine and Keewatin Colleges. "Requests for films from there will receive prompt attention", states Abdul Miah, our Librarian. Eventually, all A.V. materials such as filmstrips, transparencies, tapes, loops, etc., will be cataloged for easy reference.

Also available is a broad outline of the Library of Congress Classification System. This has become the Librarian's Bible and is helpful when looking for material.

Both of the above listings are available in the L.R.C. Write or phone for additional copies if you need them.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION & ACTION — (Red River Community College).

Blood Donor Clinic.

A Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic will be set up in the Red River Community College on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18-19. The place is the Auditorium in Building A and the time 9:00 - 11:45 A.M. and 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Students and Staff are urged to give some of that red stuff to help the Red Cross in its work. You never know when you may need a refill yourself!

Temporary Signs in the Building.

Temporary directional signs for various functions are frequently used for the guidance of visitors and others. There is a distinct need for these; however, these signs should be removed as soon as the function has taken place.

It is difficult for the maintenance staff to know in many instances when these signs can be taken down and a conglomeration of rudely prepared signs creates a terrible impression of our new buildings. Staff and Students are asked to cooperate in this matter.

LOST...

Last summer during the move from the temporary space in the new staff lounge to the old library, a set of SCHAFF'S OUTLINES were lost. All were clearly marked "T-Math." If anyone knows their whereabouts, would they kindly notify R. Barr, at Ext. 229. Many Thanks.
You are cordially invited to view the industrial and educational displays in the old gymnasium on Friday, March 13th, 1970, between 11:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M.

The faculty of Red River Community College is also invited to take in the Conference where time permits. Registration is from 8:00 - 9:00 A.M. on Friday, March 13th. The fee is $5.00, which includes dinner.

SN'T IT THE TRUTH
A clear conscience is too often the result of a bad memory.

They had to discontinue the Roman holidays because of the overhead: the lions were eating up the prophets.

"Mary," asked the teacher, "how many makes a million?"
"Not many," answered Mary quickly.

Simple Semantics
I "won't" is a tramp
I "can't" is a quitter
I "don't know" is too lazy
I "wish I could" is a wisher
I "might" is waking up
I "will try" is on his feet
I "can" is on his way
I "will" is at work
I "did" is now the boss.

Business Vocabulary.
The following Vocabulary has turned up in many publications in the fields of Administration, data processing, technology, etc. It is applicable to every situation which requires communication and action—and that pretty well covers the field.

1. It is in process - So wrapped up in red tape that it's hopeless.
2. We will look into it - By the time the wheel makes a full turn, we assume that you will have forgotten it too.
3. Expedite - To confound confusion with commotion.
4. Channels - The trail left by inter-office memos.
5. CoOrdinator - The guy who has a desk between two expeditors.
6. Consultant (or expert) - Any ordinary guy who has a briefcase, more than fifty miles from home.
7. To activate - To make carbons and add more names to the memo.
8. Under consideration - Never heard of it.
9. Under Active Consideration - We're looking in the files for it.
10. A Meeting - A mass mulling by master minds.
11. A Clarification - To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes under ground.
12. We are making a Survey - We need more time to think of an answer.
13. Note and Initial - Let's spread the responsibility for this.
14. Let's Get Together on This - I'm assuming you're as confused as I am.
15. Give Us the Benefit of Your Present Thinking - We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we have already decided to do.
16. We Will Advise You In Due Course - If we figure it out we'll let you know.
17. To Give Someone the Picture - A long confused and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.
18. Forward For Your Consideration - You hold the bag a while.
19. Approved Subject To Comment - Redraw the d..... thing.
20. See Me (or let's discuss) - Come down to my office, I'm lonesome.

Roy -- you in there, Roy?