

Unique research project on driving and aging underway at PTEC

by Karen Tallman

The Pacific Traffic Education Centre (PTEC), a joint venture of the Justice Institute and ICBC, is the site of a sophisticated driver testing track especially designed for a research project on older drivers in the early stages of Alzheimer disease and related disorders.

The research project, known as the *Driving and Aging Study*, was awarded \$155,000 by Health and Welfare Canada in August, 1989. Dr. B. Lynn Beattie, Head of Geriatric Medicine at University Hospital and Director of the Clinic for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders, and Dr. H. Tuokko, the psychologist at the clinic, are the principal investigators. Karen Tallman, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology and research associate, has been responsible for the overall design and co-ordination of the project. She has brought together a team of experts to assist in the development of the extensive set of psychological and road tests which are administered to each participant in the study.

Al Lund, Program Director for PTEC, is one of the experts involved in the design of specialized testing procedures for investigating the ability of these older

drivers to react to emergency situations. At the PTEC facility, Al has been worked with Karen Tallman and members of the UBC Accident Research Team to set up a driving circuit involving three types of emergency stops and an exercise involving emergency steering. The driving tasks are done in a dual-control car with a second driver to ensure the safety of the study participant. In addition to the testing at PTEC, the drivers are given a Motor Vehicle Branch-type road test. Participants are also tested on the driving simulator at GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, and they

take part in a full day of psychological and visual-perceptual testing at University Hospital, UBC site.

The *Driving and Aging Study* is the first study of its kind to look at the driving problems of individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer disease. This disease affects mostly older individuals and usually begins with symptoms such as serious memory problems, disorientation to time and place, and sometimes problems with perception. Many people in the early stages of Alzheimers are not aware that

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Photo: Will Mah

Front seat: Project Co-ordinator Karen Tallman and PTEC Program Director Al Lund.

Back seat: Engineering students Max Kazemi and David Walker of the UBC Accident Research Team.

Professional Health Programs train doctors, nurses in vital techniques



PHP Co-ordinator Sandy Barabe demonstrates equipment used in her programs.

Photo: Tony Williams

If you suffered cardiac arrest wouldn't you want to know that the health care professionals looking after you had been trained to administer the most up-to-date and effective techniques? Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of adults in North America, but more people survive

cardiac arrest when cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced life support techniques are readily available. In BC, those techniques are taught in courses offered by Professional Health Programs (PHP), within the JI's Emergency Health Services Academy.

Assisted by Inara Neimers, PHP Co-ordinator Sandy Barabe administers and provides instructional services for all of the courses offered by PHP both on- and off-site. PHP's primary activity is to provide Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) courses to doctors, nurses and pre-hospital care workers throughout the province. ACLS courses were developed by the American Heart Association and are recognized by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada as the standard course to train personnel in cardiac arrest management.

In addition to ACLS courses, PHP maintains the central registration office for the BC Advanced Cardiac Care Committee and offers courses in first line trauma management for physicians and nurses. These courses are conducted on an "as needed" basis and are tailored to the specific needs of the community. □

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they have the disease and do not believe that their driving is a problem.

The impetus for the *Driving and Aging Study* came from the concerns of Dr. B. Lynn Beattie and other medical practitioners who see older drivers and must make recommendations about their fitness to drive. There are individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer disease whose family members are concerned about driving problems but find that the individual is able to pass a Motor Vehicle Branch road test. The concern remains that, although these individuals may perform adequately on a test of basic driving skills, they are likely to have considerable difficulty if they encounter a situation which

demands fast processing of information, such as is required for emergency stopping or steering. The tests they undergo will examine this possibility. In addition, a great deal of other data will be collected which will help provide a very comprehensive description of the driving habits and attitudes of this group of drivers.

The findings of this study should be of interest to the Motor Vehicle Branch, to physicians, and to those in the early stages of Alzheimer disease and their families who are often in the very difficult position of having to balance the need for mobility with concerns for safety.

The project has started data collection and will run for the

next one and a half to two years. It is anticipated that approximately 100 drivers with mild Alzheimer disease and related disorders will be tested as well as a group of 50 age-match control subjects. All of the subjects who take part in the study will receive a confidential assessment of their driving skills and problems and \$50 for their participation. If you would like further information or are aware of individuals who might wish to take part in the study, please call Karen Tallman at 228-7926.

Karen Tallman is responsible for the overall design and co-ordination of the Driving and Aging Study. □

On Staff

Changes

On May 9, Extension Programs welcomed **Sally McMurray**, who has replaced **Tricia Kobayashi** as Program Secretary. Sally has recently moved to Vancouver from Toronto where she was employed as Secretary to the President and Vice-President of Bolton Tremblay Funds Inc. **Sandra Rice** has joined the staff of Extension Programs as a part time Program Co-ordinator. In addition to co-ordinating the casino training for volunteers in non-profit agencies, Sandra will work on establishing a certificate program in group home management.

Kathy Jung has resigned as part time Blake Hall Switchboard/Receptionist effective May 25. She has accepted a position in the catering office of the Meridien Hotel.

Promotions

While some might feel that a secondment to Police Academy might put them "out of sight, out of mind" in terms of promotional opportunities, it is encouraging to note that within the past month Traffic Instructor **Warne Lynd**, a 20 year service member of the

RCMP, was promoted to Sergeant, while Firearms Instructor **Bob Riley** of New Westminster Police was promoted to Corporal.

Engagements

Cupid's arrow did not bypass Police Academy this spring, it brought two diamond rings, one to signify the engagement of **Anita Merk**, and the other for **Robyn Towle**. Anita will be married in August 1991, while Robyn plans a May 1991 wedding.

Conferences

The Police Educators Conference Board of Canada meets annually during the third week in May and brings together police training instructors, co-ordinators and administrators to share information on new programs, teaching strategies, material and ideas. This year the theme is "Police Education for the 21st Century" and this, the 17th conference, was held in Calgary. Police Academy was well represented by Deputy Director **Bob Hull**, Program Director **Tony Needham** and Co-ordinator **Steve Hess**. Steve conducted a workshop on "Sexual Abuse - Investigative Training: An Inter-ministerial and Interagency Approach."

Jackie Goodwin, Co-ordinator/Instructor, Fire Academy, attended the Fire Training Officers conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, from April 7-12. The main program each day featured a fire or other incident as well as a series of speakers. Workshop selections were varied and numerous — so much so that Jackie's only criticism of the conference was that there was too much going on in each time slot.

Phil Crosby-Jones represented the Assistant Deputy Minister of Police Services, Val Patte, as BC's member attending the Canadian Police College Advisory Committee meeting in Ottawa.

This meeting provides an opportunity for the College to deliver its annual report to the provinces and seek advice and direction for future training and research initiatives.

PEP Academy Director, **Sam Meckbach**, attended the Standing Working Group of Federal/Provincial Emergency Training at Arnprior, Ontario, on April 9-12. **Peter Pershick** was also in Arnprior in April. From the 16th to the 20th, he attended a course in 'Methods of Education and Adult Training Techniques.'

Academy Directors **John Laverock** (Corrections) and **Tony Williams** (Emergency Health Services) travelled to the American Society for Training and Development's 46th Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. Ten years ago, they attended the conference in Boston.

In May, Registration Office Supervisor **Kerry Gruber**, and Media Centre Technician **Bob Walker**, attended a conference called "Aboriginal People Within the Justice System: A Workshop for Cross Cultural Understanding" at Lake Louise. Kerry was in charge of on-site registration procedures and general organizational trouble-shooting, while Bob provided media technician services for the conference, including videotaping the proceedings. The conference was organized by the Western Judicial Education Centre for federal and provincial judges from the western provinces and the territories.

Visitors

The chief medical officer of the New Zealand ambulance service, Dr. Alec Sinclair, visited the JI on April 17. Subsequent to Dr. Sinclair's visit, EHSA received an invitation to present its philosophy on paramedic training to New Zealand's national training school in Auckland. □

Next
deadline
for
submissions
to the
Jl News
is
June 15

Fee-for-service registrations up 58% over last year

The JI Centralized Registration Service processed applications for a total of 6360 students who registered for 263 courses during 1989/90. This represents a 58% increase over last year in number of students registered. All academies made use of the service; Extension Programs increased its use by 55%.

The service has grown over the past year to keep up with demand. This spring, Brenda Adam joined Kerry Gruber and Lorraine Ordano on staff. And there are other changes. Students may now register using either VISA or MasterCard. Computer programming is being developed and hardware purchased to enable entry of all registration and course information.

In the coming year, the Centralized Registration Service will continue to upgrade its computer capacity and streamline procedures to cope effectively with the increasing volume of registrations. But most important, the service will continue to be a significant point of contact between the JI and the general public, social service agencies, the professional community and clients from government and business who contract with our academies and divisions. □

EHS Academy attends Interphase 90 - *en masse*

A convoy of vans, ambulances and cars trekked to Edmonton on May 10 for the national pre-hospital care conference, "Interphase." The convoy carried 15 delegates from EHS Academy who, we have heard, left a trail of humorous goodwill along the way. But at 8:00 on Sunday morning, members of the group were in working dress and ready for business. BC Ambulance Service Executive Director, Fred Bates, commented on how professional the BC contingent looked as they attended every session in full uniform.

Derek White gave two presen-

tations at the conference: *Conflict Resolution for Health Care Workers and Continuing Education for EMS Professionals.*

Kelly Murphy assisted him. Tony Williams reported on training activity in BC and spoke on the pros and cons of a "merit badge" approach to health care training. Over 600 delegates from Canada and the US attended.

The trek to the Interphase conference is becoming an annual event. Instructors save during the year to offset the costs and the Academy picks up the shortfall. □

Fire Academy edukit training hits the mark

B.R. Dundas, Deputy Fire Chief/Training Officer for the City of Langley, credits the JI Fire Academy's electrical safety edukit with helping to save the life of a crane operator who was electrocuted in an industrial accident. In a letter to Fire Academy Director Paul Smith, Dundas stated:

We had just held a training session with the Edukit 'Electrical

Safety for Fire Fighters' two weeks before this incident. I would like to go on record as stating, 'the lessons learned from past training and materials contained in the Electrical Safety tape contributed a great deal to the positive outcome of this incident.' Keep up the good work and encourage other agencies to participate in this type of venture in the future. □

Corrections Academy sponsors workshops for dealing with sex offenders

Over the past several months, Corrections Academy has sponsored workshops for institutional youth supervisors in dealing with sex offenders. The facilitator for these workshops has been Tim Khan, M.S.W., who is the administrator for Echo Glen, a youth facility in Washington

state. In addition to providing a theoretical model for dealing with sex offenders, Tim also introduces practical experience to help illustrate various ways and methods of dealing with sex offenders.

Students of these sessions gain an increased awareness of the

various issues involved as well as an appreciation for how this problem can and does affect many of our lives. The goal of the workshops is to provide insight into what can practically be done and how they, as line staff, can play a positive role in rehabilitation. □

Police Academy sets up a special computer training facility

by Phil Crosby-Jones

Now that Police Academy has set up a specialized computer training facility, police recruits will no longer have to rely on their field trainers to teach them how to access automated information systems.

The principal system, the Canadian Police Information Centre and Communications Network (CPIC) is a national, automated information system. The information storage facilities may be thought of as a well organized giant-sized filing cabinet with records arranged and controlled at electronic speeds by a computer. However, the actual contents and updating of records are controlled by people who serve in the various forces across the country. Each police agency is linked to the central computer facility in Ottawa through its own keyboard terminal. The terminals accept keyed-in messages in either official language; the messages are encoded for onward transmission as a stream of electronic data that is "readable" by the computer in Ottawa. Replies from the computer are printed out in the language chosen by the terminal operator.

Information is handled with electronic precision to assist police operations in all areas of the CPIC network, and at all times. Vital decisions can be made faster, especially in situations involving vehicles where speed and accuracy of response are essential to success.

For example, at 2:30 a.m. a police officer discovers a car with an Eastern provincial licence plate parked in suspicious circumstances behind some warehouses. The officer immediately contacts the CPIC terminal operator by radio, or in Van-

couver by an in-car terminal, to query CPIC files concerning the vehicle. In less than 60 seconds the officer receives a reply that the vehicle was recently stolen from a municipality in Nova Scotia. The officer "on the beat" summons aid and soon two people are apprehended by police officers as they enter the stolen car. Further CPIC queries on the suspects confirm that one is wanted on outstanding warrants for fraud and robbery. The other is found to be a dangerous criminal with a long history of violence, wanted by police throughout Canada. A search of the vehicle produces restricted weapons, as well as implements typically used in break and enter offences.

This entire operation is representative of many situations reported by CPIC users. It was carried out with effectiveness in well under one hour. Also, the police had some additional but vital protection from the "alerting information." The total CPIC informational picture, however, was assembled from many pieces

originating in widely separated geographical locations.

CPIC service provides all available national police information to querying officers throughout Canada and at response rates that allow timely decision-making at all hours of the day or night.

CPIC also provides other important services: for example, there is a control point at RCMP Ottawa to allow user agencies access to pertinent USA crime records via the National Crime Information System (NCIC) in Washington. Another RCMP control point also allows contact with INTERPOL (International Police Services Bureau) and its agencies.

The local system, Police Information Retrieval System (PIRS), permits police officers to query local data from the files of their own and neighbouring police departments, and can therefore accommodate more detail and a broader range of information than is available through CPIC.

Phil Crosby-Jones is Director of Police Academy. □

1990 is United Way campaign's "Diamond Jubilee"

The 1990 "Diamond Jubilee" United Way campaign will be led at the JI by Co-ordinator Sam Meckbach of PEP Academy. His team consists of Hege Glittenberg, Fire Academy; Tim Lancaster, Police Academy; Barb Hunter, EHS Academy; Paula Connolly, Corrections Academy; Lydia Stewart, Educational Services Division; and Monica Clayton, Finance and Administration Division.

Last year, the Justice Institute was awarded a bronze plaque for its achievements: we raised \$4,778, including \$1605 raised by the now annual Halloween party. Thank you Rick Evans and the 1989 team — and especially the contributors.

Our JI theme for 1990 is "I gave at the office." Watch future issues of *The JI News* for updates on this year's campaign. □

**The Justice Institute
of B.C.
is dedicated
to improving
the quality
of
justice
and public safety
by developing
and
delivering
training programs
and offering
educational services
to
professionals
and the public.**

The JI News is produced nine times a year to keep staff up-to-date with what's going on at the JI. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Patricia McNeill in Extension Programs.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month - except July, August and December when the newsletter is not published.

Design and desktop publishing by Betsy Gordon.

Edited by Patricia McNeill.

Contributors to this issue:

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EPIX at the JI



Photo: Carol Maguire

Library staff member Diane Nation.

EPIX, the Emergency Preparedness Information Exchange, is a computer-based bulletin board system designed to stimulate networking and the regular exchange of ideas and information for members of the Canadian emergency preparedness management community.

EPIX provides electronic mail service for the exchange of messages, and also has specialized message and file areas containing discussions and information about selected topics in emergency preparedness.

There are no charges for EPIX, and all you need to sign on is a personal computer, communication software, a modem and a telephone line. If you would like to start using EPIX right away, the computer access number is 291-4921. If you don't have the equipment available yet, you can use the Library's terminal to try the system. Give April Haddad a call to arrange this. She also has pamphlets describing EPIX. If you have questions about the system, the EPIX contact is Richard Smith at 291-4694. □

JI Summer Barbeque

When? June 15, 1990
Where? The Court Yard
Time? 3:30 p.m.
Who? JI staff, family & friends

There will be a minimal charge of
\$2/person or \$5/per family.

Please RSVP to your Social Committee
Representative by June 8, 1990.