

MAINTAIN Malaspina...

November 22 1991

THE MALASPINA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

College researcher traces cause of \$15m. disease

Cause of chinook leukemia linked to retrovirus

Research at Malaspina College is close to confirming the cause of a leukemia affecting up to 20 per cent of chinook salmon in B.C. fish farms.

Dr. Bill Eaton, of the college's Biology and Fisheries and Aquaculture departments, has found a retrovirus that he suspects is the cause of a disease that, according to Ministry of Fisheries statistics, has cost the B.C. aquaculture industry about \$15 million to date.

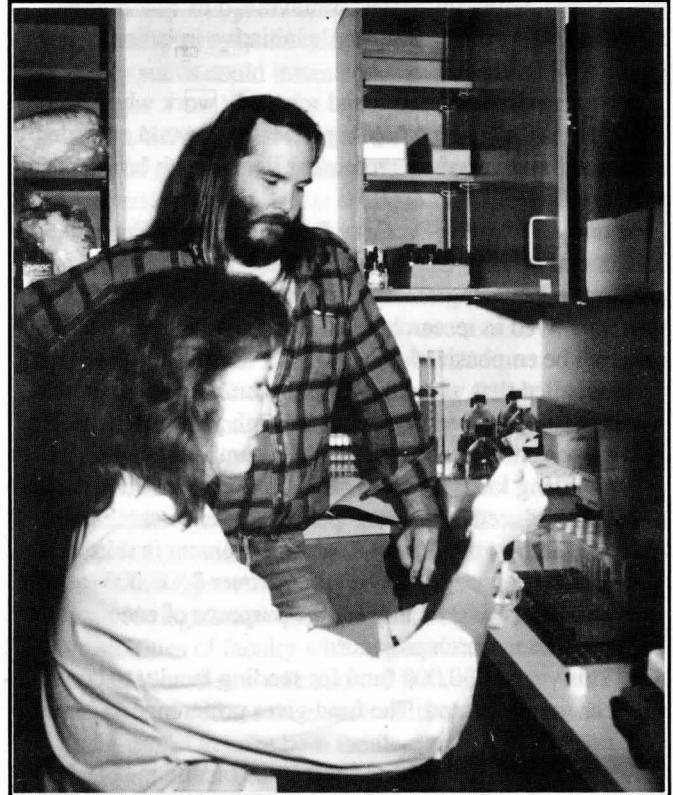
"I suspected from the history of the disease that it came from a retrovirus, and it is very exciting to have that confirmed," he said. "I am now confident that we can show that it really does cause the disease."

Dr. Eaton has been backed by the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo in his research to isolate the virus.

The program began with a grant of \$17,000 from the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and a further \$30,000 obtained through NSERC, the Pacific Biological Station and the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island has helped hire research assistance and procure equipment.

Malaspina has already bought a new ultra-centrifuge for the biology department which Dr. Eaton is using to purify virus samples and other cellular components.

New electrophoresis equipment now enables the team to separate proteins and nucleic acids, and further grants through the Western Diversification Fund will provide



Dr. Bill Eaton and research assistant Barbara Folkins check samples going through the department's new 500,000-plus gravity Ultracentrifuge.

equipment for DNA sequencing.

As Dr. Eaton and research assistant Barbara Folkins isolate genes in the virus and learn more about it they will be working with a molecular geneticist in Sidney through an advanced computer software network.

Dr. Eaton is a microbiology instructor at Malaspina and a member of the College's Pacific Institute of Aquaculture and Fisheries. Last year other members of the Institute scored another Canadian first by achieving the successful controlled spawning of the almost-endangered White Sturgeon.

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"I am very pleased to have this achieved at Malaspina because it shows once again that colleges can produce useful scientific research," Dr. Eaton said.

"The research funding is helping us acquire sophisticated equipment which adds even greater scope to the students' experience."

Bill Eaton's success in his research program has prompted some questions on the College's position in regard to research.

President Rich Johnston responded "I am very pleased that college faculty members are involved in research and specifically proud of Bill Eaton's initiative in isolating this particular disease.

"We encourage research and scholarly work where we can, by providing some funding, release time and extended leaves to faculty, and by promoting liaison with business and industry."

Mainly Mal asked Dr. Gary Bauslaugh, Vice President of Instruction and Planning, if increasing involvement in third and fourth year programming will mean that we will become more involved in research. And if so, to what extent will research be emphasized.

He replied that, since the college started to become increasingly involved in third and fourth year programs, the college has encouraged research in a number of ways.

- Teaching loads for third and fourth year instructors have been reduced, in order to provide more research time.
- For the first two years of our involvement in third and fourth year programs we granted over \$100,000 to approximately 40 faculty for the purposes of encouraging summer research projects.
- This year a \$30,000 fund for sending faculty to conferences was instituted. The fund gives preference to faculty presenting papers.
- Annual research grants for science faculty to spend time at the Bamfield research station were started.

- An annual subsidy (\$3,000 a year for a three-year period) to support publication of a journal in political science was granted.
- Funds were granted to support research in computer programs for the purpose of assisting teaching (\$3,000 each to six faculty members.)
- Science facilities have been expanded to allow more scope for faculty to conduct research, and to accommodate upper-level programming should a science initiative be approved.
- Although it is still inadequate, we have invested heavily in expanding the library.
- Release time was granted to several faculty members to explore ideas for new programs.

Dr. Bauslaugh commented that, given our circumstance and the extent of our approved upper-level programs, Malaspina has probably contributed as much as or more to support research than other university-colleges. He said that other ways of supporting and encouraging research will be explored in the future. He welcomes suggestions for this, and said that the college will continue to look for affordable ways to help faculty with their research interests.

Does this mean Malaspina will become a research institution, like the B.C. universities?

"The short answer is no," Dr. Bauslaugh said. "The Ministry has clearly stated that the goal of creating university colleges was not to proliferate research-based institutions. Instead, Malaspina is encouraged to take a broader approach to scholarly work than the primary research emphasis that is predominant in universities.

"However the clear mandate from the Ministry, and the intention of the Board and Executive that Malaspina should remain a teaching-centered institution, does not mean that research will not be supported, but that teaching will continue to be our central focus."



NEW GYM FLOOR CELEBRATED

The gym crew celebrated the official unveiling of the new sprung wood floor in the gymnasium with a convivial wine and cheese last month. Our chefs provided a huge cake for the occasion and the last relics of the old Tartan floor were mounted in the trophy case.

Forum opens up issue of who-governs-who

The issue was government but at the constitutional debate in the college theatre November 6, it was Malaspina not Canada that was under the microscope.

Billed as a forum for staff, students and faculty on Governance, an audience of about 55 heard four speakers and moderator Bob Lane open up the issue of power and its distribution at the college.

In his opening speech, Lane suggested that the college is in a transitional period, moving from the comfortable traditions of a community college into the unknown territory of a university college. He suggested that this situation has largely been thrust upon us, and the college has been left to find its own resolution. The forum presented a good opportunity to achieve that, he said.

For English instructor and Faculty Association president Marshall Soules the current structure of government at the college offers plenty of opportunity for staff and faculty to give opinion, but there is no guarantee that their views will be acted upon.

"The college Board does not represent the governed", he said, "and it won't unless the legislation changes." He pointed out that university committees have legislated powers and are not merely advisory.

The college system of government is "top-down" and inherently adversarial, he said, and often produces "bizarre and time-consuming results through the negotiating process."

"Change will only come from legislation," Soules said, "and I look for a more egalitarian and less hierarchical system."

However Larry Stone, Chair of the B.C.G.E.U. local representing Vocational faculty, was not so sure that legislated change would provide a complete answer. And he was also concerned about following the university model of government.

"Colleges are quite different from universities," he stated. "It's evident in everything from the trades and vocational

programs we run to our strong emphasis on community education and evening non-credit courses.

"I would be very concerned about moving away from that close community involvement. Legislation may provide some solutions but I think we can do better for our members through negotiated settlements."

"I think we need more input on this from the community, and maybe we will end up expanding our horizons."

Glen Campbell, president of the CUPE local representing support staff, agreed, and quipped that moving toward university status could instead end up with more diversity at the college.

George O'Neill, president of the Student Society, likened the issue of government at the college to the Island Highway issue, in which an unpopular decision is foisted on the community by forces from outside it.

"I can't think of a single committee you have here that shouldn't have a student on it," he said.

"We have to buy from your stall - we should be able to have a say in the quality of your product."

Interviewed after the forum, organizer Glenn Johnston, vice president in charge of instruction and student services, thought that the event had succeeded in getting some principal issues out in the open.

He said he was glad to hear students and unions reinforce the value of collective bargaining as an important and workable arrangement for the college. And he agreed with the need for legislation to spell out the rights and responsibilities of faculty with respect to curriculum, and of the college board as a reflection of the community.

"The board defines the nature of the institution and it might be useful to have both faculty and student representation at the table," he said.

"It's a very challenging subject, but now we have some debate started and I think we will see it progress."

UNCLASSIFIEDS

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Your official Malaspina College Christmas cards should now be available from the Bookstore and from Marianne Armishaw in Communications. This year's photo is by our roving campus photographer Doug Bridges.

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SMALL ENGINES: Instructor Neil McIntyre advises that if you would like to have your lawnmower, chainsaw, grass trimmers, etc serviced, please call ahead to the afternoon shift in the Marine and Small Engine after 3 p.m. Number to call is 755-8737.

POCKET CALENDARS: The pocket calendars in your Nov. 22 pay envelope was arranged by Personnel office. It is intended to be a handy reminder of important dates and deadlines, and includes commonly-called numbers.

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HEARING ASSISTANCE PHONES: A number of public telephones at the college are being outfitted with adjustable sound amplifiers for the hearing impaired and should be in service by the beginning of December. They will be marked, and will be located in both Nanaimo cafeterias, the LRC, the Voca-

ational building and the Welcome Centre.

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EHP CLAIMS: Personnel asks EHB Plan members who have claims outstanding to please not wait until the end of the year to file. December through March is peak season so they suggest you get in before the rush.

MCFA SENIORITY: The regular update of the MCFA seniority list has been published. If you have a question about your place on it, please call Peggy Perry in Personnel.

A salute for IverKrogstad

Friends and colleagues gathered this month to farewell one of Malaspina's finest.

After 24 years of introducing a generation of new tradesmen to the mysteries of heavy duty and automotive mechanics, Iver Krogstad's retirement was marked at a very happy farewell dinner at the Officer's Mess at the Military base.

Fellow instructors, past students and colleagues paid tribute to Iver's tireless and devoted commitment to his students over the years, and presented him with a trunkload of gifts, including a set of golf clubs which are already being put to good use.

Iver started with the old B.C. Vocational School in October 1967, long before its amalgamation with Malaspina. He came directly from industry, having trained and worked for many years on the Island and mainland. He was dropped directly into teaching, and despite having to work many extra long hours to acclimatize himself to a new situation, and starting at half the pay he was getting before, Iver says he has never had any regrets about taking up teaching.

"I always believed that it was useful and productive work," he said, "and I have certainly learned a lot, myself."



Iver's retirement was a family affair; with him were fiancée Josie Gagnon and his sons Laurence and Dann

In his 24 years at Malaspina, Iver has seen an increase in demands on tradesmen.

"It was never true back then, and it certainly isn't true today, to say to a young person, "well you're good with your hands, maybe you should go into trades."

"A tradesman has always needed good skills and academic ability, and I've seen that proven many times. To have good diagnostic ability you have to have reading and comprehension skills, and strong background in physics and chemistry."

Malaspina salutes a real gentleman - thanks, Iver!

THE DATEBOOK

Nanaimo Art Gallery.

Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Nov. 6 to Dec. 8

"Something's Different" - fabrics by Gill Kanachowski and clay sculptures by Joan Fulton

To Nov. 23

"With Love For This Land" - watercolours by John Girard and Melinda Girard-White

Nov. 30 to Jan. 14

"Whales - Fragile Giants of the Sea," Canadian Museum of Nature travelling exhibit

From Dec. 9 to 22

"Personal Spaces" - photography by Ellen McCluskey

Christmas In The Gallery - to Dec. 22

Gifts, cards, wrapping paper and ornaments for the season.

Wednesday Nov. 27

The Board room, Powell River campus

Regular meeting of the Board

Nov. 19 to 24

College Theatre. "All Shook Up" - energetic song and dance revue of the Fabulous Fifties by New West Theatre Company. Evenings at 8 p.m. Matinee 2 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 23. Box office 755-8700

Nov. 28, 29 & 30

College Theatre. "Billy Bishop Goes To War" - John Gray's musical drama of Canada's First World War hero. Virtuoso performances from Jon Bryden and Ross Douglas. Nightly at 8 p.m. Box office 755-8700

Sunday December 1

College Theatre. John Ford of the Vancouver Aquarium lecture to open Gallery Whales exhibition. 1 p.m. Free admission.

Wednesday December 4

College Theatre. "Aboriginal Rights and Title" lecture by Prof. Hamar Foster, Faculty of Law, UVic. 12.30 p.m.

Friday December 13

Cafeteria. Annual College Staff Christmas Dinner and Dance - Sold out!

MAINLY MALASPINA

Next edition - Dec. 20 Copy deadline - Friday Nov. 29

Deliver contributions by hand, FAX, mail, Email (address PRIOR) or pigeon post to Communications Department, Nanaimo campus.



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