

EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it! GC & PT is hit with a surprise blast from the past

written by Dave Valente

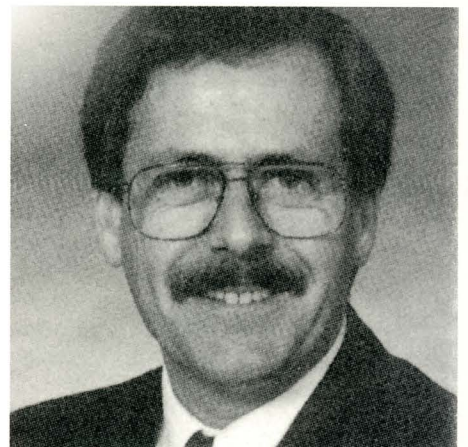
As a co-editor of this edition of *The InkRag*, I wanted to come up with a different concept for this issue. We wanted a lead article that is both fun, humorous and print related! After talking to some of the staff members for this edition, we thought idea of combining the past with the present would be a nice touch. We could not let those old yearbooks collect too much dust!

We all know our instructors' current skills and accomplishments. But what were they doing ten years ago? For those of us who were not present between 1991–1993, it is nice to look back and see what things were like in the GC&PT program.

From the biographies in the 1991–1992 yearbook, Grant Gibson's article stated that he started teaching at VCC in 1986. Since the beginning of his existence Grant was a born cameraman. His father worked in an advertising firm and this is where Grant started after high-school graduation (Jack Berger Ltd.). This is where he took his five year apprenticeship on black and white camera and one year on colour camera. His vast knowledge of skills range from scanner operator to sales. In his spare time he also operated his own photography studio. Mr. Gibson began teaching with four years of night-school, and finally the last two years at day school.

Nancy Rose has been at VCC since 1988. A graduate of the ten month VCC Printing Program she has worked in composition, typesetting, customer relations, docket processing, paste-up, image assembly and camera. Since then she has completed a variety of courses in desktop publishing, Covalent Management Systems and the PIA estimating course.

Lisa O'Neill was a student in the GC&PT program between 1991 and 1992. She wrote: "In the past I have enjoyed and excelled at Graphic Arts and after nine months of training



Pictures of Nancy, Lisa, Beth and Grant from the 1991-1993 yearbooks.

at VCC and months of night school training in computer typesetting I have found not only enjoyment but a future career in Litho Prep. Computers are increasingly important to the printing industry and with both hands-on and computer paste-up training I hope to be able to add something of importance to the industry."

In the 1992–1993 edition of the yearbook, Beth Callahan's article stated that she started teaching at VCC in 1987. In 1987 she came to VCC as a substitute typesetting instructor. Immediately following this temporary position, she began teaching a beginner "Desktop Publishing" course. The Desktop Publishing courses proved

to be so successful that over the next five years she taught over five hundred students in six course levels. At the beginning of the 1992–1993 year, Beth took the Production Program. Also in 1992, she graduated from the Instructor's Diploma Program, a program designed for teaching adults.

This feature article on our instructors was written to show some of the accomplishments and career changes they have experienced in the printing industry. Hard work and a life full of learning will provide all of us with the same success in this industry. As you can see the workload in the printing industry only enhances our appearance!

What Is The PAC Committee?

written by Cathie Bolan

Many of you may be wondering who or what the PAC is? To begin with, the Program Advisory Committee is made up of printing industry representatives, the GC&PT department, and administrative staff at VCC. They meet on a quarterly basis to discuss a variety of issues connected with our program. Members take on the role of program advisors, steering the direction of the educational process in order to meet the requirements of employers within our industry.

During these meetings, a variety of topics such as funding for the program, marketing strategies to recruit future students, employment issues for graduates and fundraising options are discussed. At the last meeting, held on January 16th, the committee members were provided with an update on the success and shortfalls of last year's graduating classes. The department staff received feedback as to what the advisors perceive is important to learn to fill vacant positions. An example of this is the current need for good press operators. A discussion followed as how best to address

this and similar situations by providing input into the program's curriculum. To note, the members of the advisory committee are satisfied with the current program standards in Second Year. These standards encourage the hiring of those students graduating from the Second Year Diploma Program.

Because the use of technology is rapidly increasing throughout the printing industry, students must keep pace with advancements. In the PAC meetings, the GC&PT staff share their thoughts on what equipment and technology would make this happen. Options to acquire these items are evaluated, keeping in mind the financial resources of the college. What many students may not realize is that this new technology and equipment is very expensive, and that older versions may exist at a reduced cost. It is because of members of the companies represented on the PAC that these items become available to us. The PAC ensures that the students of GC&PT are well prepared and able to succeed in obtaining not just employment upon graduation, but a career. -next meeting on April 16th at 5:30pm in Rm 114.

The Ink Rag

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SUBMISSIONS: If you're interested in contributing your writing or artwork, feel free to contact any of the second-year students to find out more about what we're looking for, and the proper formats and file types for submissions.

In The Loupe



AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN WITH A TECHNICAL FOCUS

LOOK MA, NO MOUSE

Let me tell you about the olden days. Do you realize that before the mouse came into existence, computer operators had only their keyboard to command their computer to do whatever they required. One could not simply dive into a software application and swim through the menus for a few minutes to get the gist of how the application worked. Nope, they had to know what all the keyboard commands were. Even worse, not many applications shared the same keyboard commands. It was not until Apple, who picked up the Graphical User Interface or goo-ey (GUI) for a song from the researchers at the Xerox PARC group, introduced the Macintosh with a toolbox from which developers of software could draw some common commands. The Mac also introduced the Mouse (actually the Apple Lisa was the first), and thus began the competition between the mouse and the keyboard.

Now, the mouse is easy to use, but there are times when the the movements of a hand

between keyboard and mouse are too time consuming and distracting. One must move the hand from the keyboard to the mouse, look on the screen to find the pointer, move to position and click. Then one must have their hand find it's place back on the keyboard. Power users attempt to use keyboard shortcuts to save the time.

Many years ago, I worked with newspapers to paginate their workflows using Macs and the Quark Publishing System (QPS). QPS includes an Xtension for QuarkXPress, a text editing application called CopyDesk and a central server with a database. The operators Check-out a story or a page and work on it. The server keeps track of who worked on the item and maintains a back-up of the file in case of problems of a change in mind. Editors can assign stories or pages for operators to work on. A neat feature of the system is the dynamic link between the page geometry of a Quark page (what size is the story allowed) and CopyDesk. The CopyDesk user can see

the QuarkXPress page, but, can only edit the story they have Checked-out. If the page geometry changes, such as when a layout person in QuarkXPress resizes a story box, the user in CopyDesk can be notified that the space for their story has changed and they can see the changes.

Ah, but I have digressed. The point I mean to make is to mention that when I trained operators editing text in CopyDesk I encouraged them to keep their hands on the keyboard and use a few simple but powerful keyboard shortcuts. Since CopyDesk is built on the QuarkXPress foundations, the keyboard shortcuts also work in QuarkXPress. Recently, I was showing Krystina these shortcuts and she asked me to write an article.

Please launch QuarkXPress and start or open a document more than one paragraph.

In The Loupe continued on Page 4...



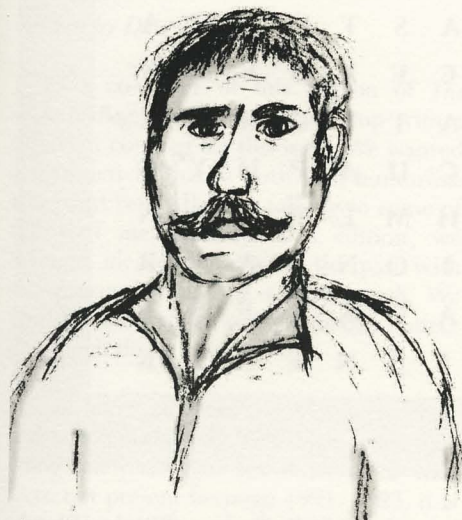
Illustration by Meiliani Ng

written by Bob Grahame

Origin Of The Paper Offset Press

written by Jennifer Harder

In the history of printing, paper offset press is actually a relatively new process. It is interesting to note that at first the offset press was used for metal lithography and not paper. In this article I would like to tell you about the main founding father of the offset paper press.



Artist's conception of Ira Rubel
Illustration by Jennifer Harder

Offset printing began around 1875. It used cardboard cylinders to transfer inked designs to sheets of metal or tin plate. The middle cylinder is important to offset and in 1880 a rubber cylinder was introduced. At this time offset presses were made that could be used for both metal and paper, but strangely none of the owners of these machines took advantage of the ability to print on paper.

It is generally thought that Ira Rubel was the first to develop an offset lithographic press to print on paper. Ira operated a small paper mill in Nutley, N.J. There he made a sulphite bond paper and converted this paper lithographically into bank deposit slips. From 1904–1905 Rubel began work on his lithographic press. This press had a flat stone plate that contained an image and a rubber blanket that covered the impression cylinder. The image on the stone was to retain ink while the surrounding areas resisted ink. The image would be pressed onto the paper with pressure from the rubber impression cylinder. During a misfeed on the press, the rubber impression cylinder would become inked and when the next paper went through an image

would be printed on both sides of the sheet. Rubel noticed that his image from the rubber cylinder was superior to that of the image from the stone. After observing this he decided to add a new cylinder to the press, which is known today as the blanket cylinder.

To help finance this idea, Ira Rubel joined forces with the Chicago lithographer A.B. Sherwood and they formed the Sherbel Syndicate. The rules of the syndicate were that there could only be one lithographer in a territory. This allowed a monopoly over the invention and approximately twelve presses were placed in this manner. The presses were built by the Potter Printing Press Co. Later this company merged in 1927 with Harris and became the Harris-Seybold-Potter Co.

In 1906 Mr. Rubel brought the first rotary offset press to England. The bulky stone plates were replaced with a rotary design and zinc plates were used. In 1908 Rubel died an untimely death and the work was taken over by a firm of Lancashire engineers.

In time the monopoly for the offset press was unworkable, due to the fact that competition was high. The syndicates (possibly Sherwood's) had tried to take advantage of their offset machines forcing people to look for an independent source and this was the Harris Automatic Press Company (Founders Charles and Albert Harris).

Rubel's idea of putting to use what others had observed was one of the most important printing discoveries. Harris continued to perfect the press and by 1908 many people were excited about the possibilities of this new type of printing with a rubber blanket. Many other offset press companies created new designs and offset spread to colour printing and web presses.

Websites Of The Month

For those of us who pretend to do work during class and can't wait for break to search the net, you have probably found that the more interesting, non-school related sites get "Forbidden 403" messages. Also, for those people who are smart enough to have an educational site behind your secret window when the teacher walks by, they always like to see you looking at good tutorials like those at www.thinkdan.com, www.totaltraining.com and www.designsbymark.com. These three sites show you Photoshop and Illustrator tutorials.

Hoops Anyone??

The sun is out and the roads are dry. Spring is here! There is a basketball hoop in the courtyard behind the school and some of us year two students play there. Anyone else interested in playing can go there at lunch time. It is a great way to exercise and get to know each other and have fun. We are also considering organizing a small tournament depending on how many people would like to play. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone interested in playing, but for now it is just for fun. Hope to see you out there.

Attention: Server Space Needed!

We are currently running out of server space on the GCPT Files server. In case students don't know, the server is not for storage or backup use. It is only for current class material and as a carrier to *inkinc* for CD burning. We would like to ask all students to have CD's burned to back up their files. If you have any questions ask any of the instructors or year two students.

The Art Gallery



Illustration by Kenley Jarrett

Title: Ballad

Media Software: Coloured pencil & acrylic on illustration board

Media Hardware: Iwata Hp-B & Paasche VL airbrushes/Paasche D500 compressor

Year: 1996

Original size: 15" x 20"

We welcome all student art submissions for future issues.

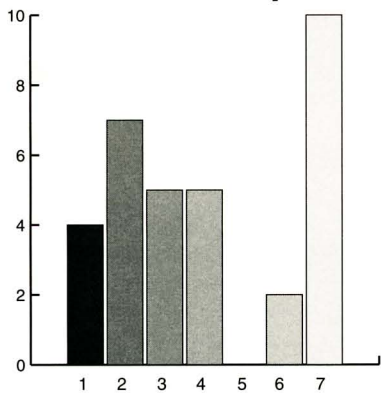
SOME SHORTCUTS FOR QUARKXPRESS

Locate the four arrow keys on your keyboard. These shortcuts will move the blinking insertion point through a body of text horizontally by letter, word or line, and vertically by line, paragraph and full length of the text.

Place your insertion point in the middle of some text. Use the left and right arrow keys and note the movement of the the insertion point. You have moved left and right by letter or character. Now, do the same thing with the Command key held down. This time you should move left and right by word. Now add the Option key along with the Command Key. The insertion point should move to the beginning of the line of text and then to the end. Next, try the up and down arrows. These keys alone will move the insertion point up and down by line. Adding the Command key will move by paragraph, and adding the Option key will cause a movement to the beginning of the text to the end.

This is handy, but what if you want to select text? No problem! Note that I used the word 'movement' to describe what was happening to the insertion point. Well, the point was actually moving through the text. All you have to do is add the Shift key to any of the above combinations, and the text will be selected along the way. Enjoy!!

GC&PT Coffee Survey Results



INKRAG WORD SEARCH

How to play:

All the words listed to the right appear in the puzzle horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and backward. Find them and CIRCLE their LETTERS ONLY. Do not circle the word. The leftover letters spell the INKRAG WORD (24 letters).



created by Karen Bier

What Does That Bar Graph Mean??

The bar graph to the left shows the results of the coffee survey we conducted in our department. Thirty-three students responded to the survey and the results are: 1.Starbucks, 2.Java Cat, 3.Barista, 4.VCC Cafeteria, 5.Second Cup, 6.other 7.Don't drink coffee. One person preferred beer over coffee!

Ascender, ASCII, Backup, Bitmap, Bleed, Blueline, Burn, Calibrate, Choke, Compression, Densitometer, Die, Dot, Dummy, Emulsion, Film, Filter, Flat, Font, Grayscale, Grain, Hue, Image, Job, Kern, Laminate, LPI, Mask, Novelty, Opaque, PH, Pica, Plate, Pulp, RAM, Rastor, Scanner, Serif, Tack, Uppercase, Vector, Web, Zip

Thanx!

Thank you to all the students for your help with selling tickets for the DVD Player Raffle, and to all the people who have purchased tickets. Good luck to all who entered. We will recap the winner and announce the students who sold the most tickets in the next issue of *The InkRag*.

FAMOUS QUOTES OF GC&PT INSTRUCTORS

created by Melliani Ng

