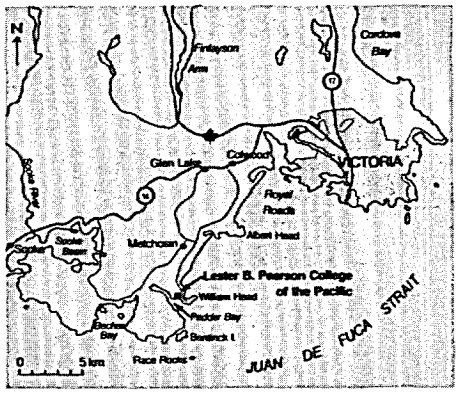
PEARSON COLLEGE – ADVENTURE IN LEARNING (continued)

library, lecture halls, common rooms, administration, swimming pool, infirmary and dining hall are in separate buildings. No place on campus is more than three minutes from any other along paved footpaths, and this closeness contributes to the feeling of belonging to a small village of about 250 people.

The curriculum leading to the diploma is exacting and includes two languages (one is usually the student's mother tongue; the other, a "foreign" language), economics, history, philosophy, social anthropology, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and options in art or music or a second course in another subject, possibly a third language. International affairs are also studied. English is the main language of instruction but some courses are given in French. One subject not found in Canadian schools is the theory of knowledge, a course that reflects upon the relationship among the academic disciplines.

Once a week, everybody gathers for a concert or debate, or to hear a speaker from the student body or staff or from outside. In addition, during their two years, the students are required to write a 5 000-word essay dealing with some aspect of a subject being studied. Besides all this, they must participate in one or more of the various services (for the school, community, or nearby Race Rocks Ecological Reserve). It is a heavy program and, according to director Tony Macoun, former headmaster of Ashbury College, Ottawa, one job the college has to do is help students manage their time effectively.

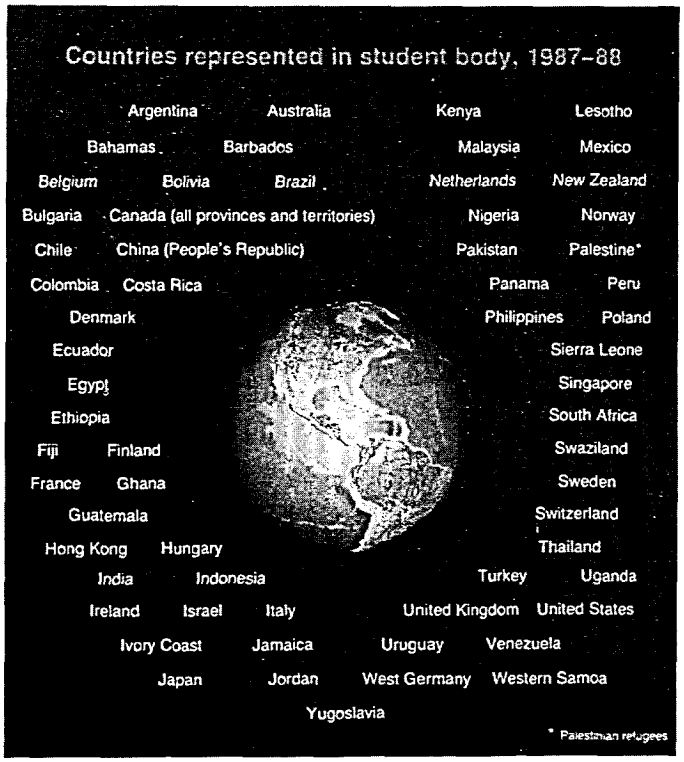
Of course, living in a close community in which no fewer than 63 nationalities are represented can be said to be an education in itself. About 50



students, or 25 percent, are from every province and territory of Canada, ...Spanish-speaking countries from Central and South America send about 20 percent of the students ...(while) the remaining 30 percent are from Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Caribean countries and the United States.

It was Lester Pearson's wish that the college "be open to all students with ability, regardless of financial means", and for this reason every student at Pearson is on a scholarship.

Selection of students is by national or provincial committees along guidelines set by the United World Colleges office, which include not only academic standing but also an assessment of the individual's potential to contribute to, and benefit from, college programs. There is never any lack of applicants for Pearson College or, indeed, for any of these unique schools.

The United World Colleges cannot solve all of the world's problems, but they have made a beginning by giving intelligent, energetic young people lessons in geographical, racial and cultural diversity, and in getting along together despite their differences ☐

Jack Manore, Victoria, B.C. (excerpted from Canadian Geographic). For further details, consult the April/May issue of Canadian Geographic.