

# News of the arts

## Apprenticeship in peace at Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific

How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?

Lester B. Pearson

On September 18, Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, a national memorial to the late Canadian prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize winner, begins its fifth school year. The college, which promotes international understanding among students from many countries, exists to demonstrate that education can be a force to unite rather than divide nations.

"Students will be welcomed without regard to race, religion or politics and we intend to establish scholarships so that the students who attend the college will be from all levels of society and will be genuine representatives of their own peoples," said Mr. Pearson shortly after his retirement from public life in 1968. "This system...could become a revolutionary force in international education..." he concluded.

### Facilities

The college is located at Pedder Bay, 18 miles from Victoria, British Columbia. Clustered on the wooded shores of the bay, the simple cedar campus buildings reflect the purpose and philosophy of the institution.

Although the academic curriculum adheres to the formal disciplines of the International Baccalaureate, there are few formal classrooms, demonstrating the school's philosophy that education is a continuous process which should not be restricted either to the classroom, or to an overly rigid timetable.

A centrally located building houses physics, chemistry, and language laboratories, an art and film-making studio, seminar room, and a small lecture theatre. There is also a workshop where students are encouraged to practise boatbuilding, carpentry and woodworking skills.

### Beyond the academic program

Students and teachers allocate two afternoons a week to one of the college services:

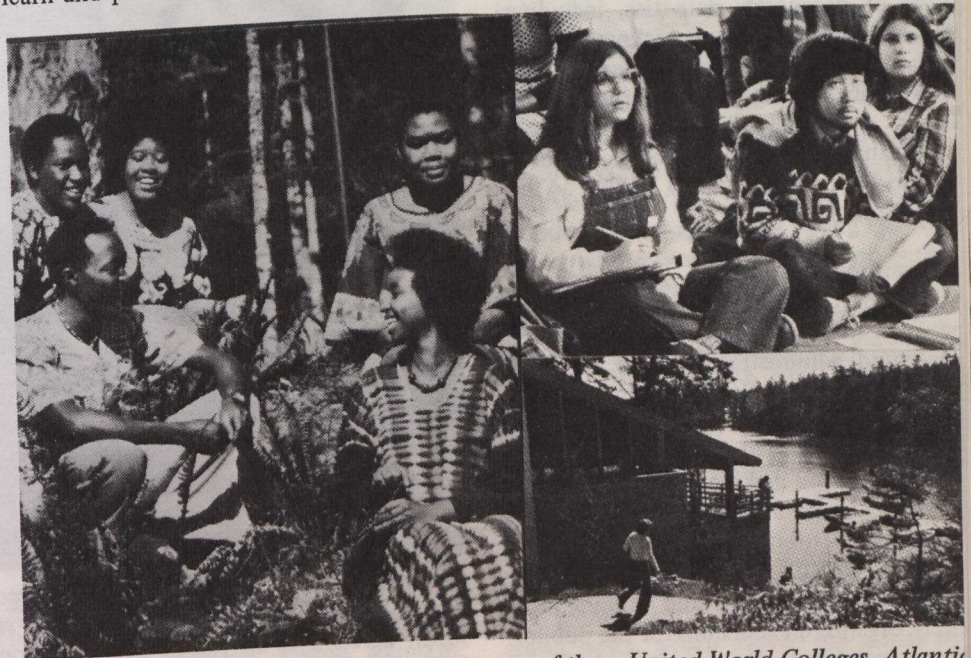
- *Social service.* Groups of students assist local organizations, help other young people, elderly, handicapped, and underprivileged people.
- *Sea rescue.* Students design and build



The late Lester B. Pearson, former Prime Minister, shows his Nobel Peace Prize, won in 1957, to his wife Maryon.

high speed rescue boats and are trained to man them, and assist rescue organizations in the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

- *Forestry and wilderness skills.* Reforestation projects, trails and camp-site development, training in fire fighting techniques, outdoor and camping skills are among the features of this service.
- *Mountaineering and caving.* Students learn and practise basic methods, and are



Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific is one of three United World Colleges. Atlantic College is located in Wales; the United World College of Southeast Asia in Singapore.

trained to assist in search and rescue operations.

Students are also free to participate in a wide range of recreational and cultural activities, including: sailing, swimming, riding, canoeing, tennis, ice-skating, camping, dramatics, pottery, weaving, photography and music and film-making.

In addition, all students are expected to develop specialized manual skills through their contribution to site improvement and building maintenance, ranging from planting and landscaping to carpentry.

### Selection procedures

Experience has shown that successful students are those who have a clear awareness of the college's aims and a personal commitment to them. The financial situation of the student is not a factor.

All applicants must have completed 11 years of academic study, be strongly recommended by their secondary school principals, and, when possible, be interviewed by selection committees before acceptance. Students are accepted only for the full two-year course, culminating in the International Baccalaureate examinations. The approximate age for entry is 15-and-a-half to 17-and-a-half.

One hundred places are available each year, and are allocated by a quota system to the various countries. Application should be made directly to the secretary of the appropriate national committee, or to the college.