

## BCC Center Offers Much More Than Books

BY SUSAN USHER

While Brunswick County residents may instinctively turn to their local community college for work-related training or hobby classes, another Brunswick Community College resource awaits their discovery: the Learning Resources Center.

Once crammed into separate quarters of less than 1,000 square feet of space, the center now occupies 10,000 square feet at the very heart of the campus—the main floor of the Administration, Learning Center and Student Services or ALS building. With the growth in popularity of videocassette recorders and other electronic media, Librarian Sharon Smith said the center has already outgrown its space for storage of audio-visual equipment and media, with material on topics ranging from fire and rescue training to parliamentary procedure and parenting.

While most visitors tend to call the center a "library" and its chief employee has the title "librarian," the center or "LRC" offers much more. In addition to the library collection it serves as an umbrella for the college's learning lab for adults studying to take their high school equivalency exam and all audio-visual services.

It strives to meet the needs not only of BCC's faculty, staff and students, but the community served by the college as well, said Ms. Smith. Its services are intended to complement those of the local public library system, rather than to compete.

"Part of the college's mission is to enhance the educational and cultural opportunities available to the community and we support that," she said during a recent tour of the library. "We're constantly changing. There's always something going on here. People tell me that everytime they come in here they find something new."

That's not likely to change anytime soon, she suggested: "We have goals for the future; we want to do more."

The center's collection itself differs markedly from that of a typical public library, purposefully. One of the center's main missions is to provide resource materials for faculty and students that support the college's curriculum. Volumes on heating and air-conditioning, auto technology and cosmetology stand alongside works relating to philosophy, religion, nursing, computer programming and English literature.

Reference works range from copies of the *North Carolina General Statutes*, *North Carolina Administrative Codes*, Brunswick County ordinances and a partial set of the *U.S. Codes* to telephone books and *Thomas' Register of Products and Services*.

However, materials also cater to students' leisure interests, with a rack of fiction paperbacks for exchange, a growing local history and genealogy collection for research, and books on subjects ranging from gardening to sailing.

"We try to have some material on all subject areas, but there are some we need more of," says Ms. Smith.

Areas that are weakest are those for which demand is lightest.

The LRC houses the usual mix of media, such as hardcover and softcover books and periodicals for loan and reference, as well as an array of services geared to its specific community.

Students or other adult users can go to the LRC to use a meeting room or study carrel, view filmstrips or videotapes, play audio cassette tapes, or type a report on an electric typewriter—or on personal computer equipped with 3 1/2-inch and 5 1/4-inch disk drives.

Computer users, however, must already be "computer literate." And while there's no charge for use of the computer, donation of printer paper, ribbons and other supplies is encouraged, and users bring their own data disks. A limited assortment of software is available for check-out and use in the library. "It's getting used," Ms. Smith said. "For those who haven't bought their own home computer, I help bridge the gap between what people have to use at work or may be using in the classroom."

To one side of the collections area a conference room comfortably seats 10 to 12 people; it's available for use by non-profit community groups as well as campus organizations. On the opposite side of the room a locked door leads to an area that Ms. Smith says has lots of potential, but will remain underutilized until more funds become available—a combination teaching area and television studio. The 30-seat space is presently used to teach library skills. Tracking and grids are already in place for theater lighting and curtains and the audio-visuals service division eventually hopes to record productions in its own facility.

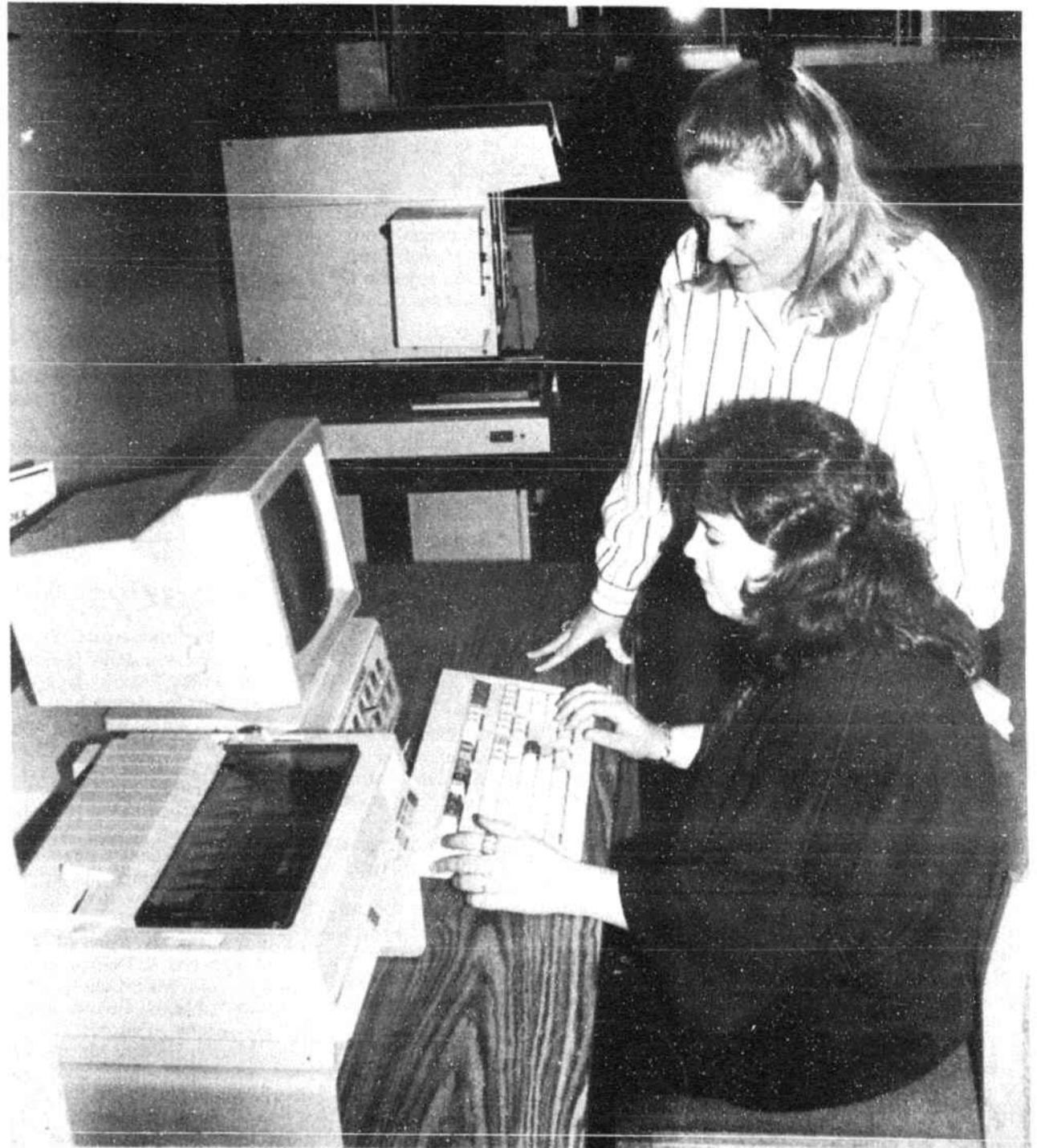
The center also houses a satellite receiver for N.C. Department of Community College's Educational Network or EdNet teleconferences and productions and transmissions from the FBI and U.S. Small Business Center for use in classes and workshops.

Given the county's transportation and distance problems, BCC is investigating the potential for scheduling telecourses, with a pilot offering tentatively slated for fall.

An automated information retrieval system is the center's latest acquisition. *News Bank* accesses articles from major newspapers across the country, with fiche available for articles published as recently as February and back to 1983. Viewers search the index by subject, then can read the actual articles stored on microfiche and even make photocopies of them.

The center welcomes as users any adult age 16 and older. But keeping in mind its main population—students and faculty conducting research—it offers no children's material or programming and discourages children from accompanying their parents.

To become a member and acquire loan privileges, a user need only produce identification with a Brunswick County address, such as a driver's license.



LIBRARIAN SHARON SMITH watches as BCC student Beth Perry searches for articles from major newspapers across the country on the resource center's latest acquisition, *News Bank*. The CD-ROM based indexing system that refers users to copies of articles stored on microfiche.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

RALPH C.

# King

DEMOCRAT

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# VOTE

## JAMES BROWN

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR  
SHERIFF  
OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

I am the son of Jimmy and Edith Brown of Boiling Spring Lakes. I am 41 years of age and a native of Brunswick County. I have been married to Beverly West for 22 years and have two children, Amy and Vincent.

I served in the United States Army from 1968-1977. While serving in Vietnam, I was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

The following awards, schools and positions qualify me for the position of Sheriff of Brunswick County.

- Honor Graduate, 5th Combat Training Brigade, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.
- Honor Graduate, Combined Arms Training Center, Vilseck, Germany
- Graduate of the United States Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy.
- Soldier of the Year for 1973.
- Graduate, United States Army Intelligence/Military Police School. This school provided the highest technical training available in criminal law, crime scene processing, testimonial evidence, investigations of crimes against persons and property, physical evidence, drug investigations, investigative reports, special investigative techniques and protective services.
- For 3 years, I served as noncommissioned officer in charge of special trained 25-man military police detachment. Duties consisted of investigations, personnel supervision, job evaluations and administrative reporting.
- Honor graduate, Department of the Army Retention and Career Counseling School
- Senior Career Counselor for 2 years at Headquarters Command, Ft. Stewart, GA.
- For the past 12 years, I have successfully owned and operated a business in Brunswick County.

*Fellow Citizens, I will be able to help solve the problems that are plaguing our county. With your trust and support, we can succeed. Please vote for me on May 8 in the Republican Primary for Sheriff of Brunswick County.*