Learning doesn't stop when the bell rings

Two labs in one

In the building where the history of the printing industry in British Columbia began, students are making their own history using the newest technology from Apple.

The lab at Vancouver Technical School is used during the day to train high school students as they prepare to enter the increasingly high-tech printing industry. Then, on evenings and weekends, more than 500 adult education students pour into the lab to learn the latest graphic design software.

Luigi Bassani teaches high school students lithography and printing skills in the daytime, carrying on the tradition of the Vancouver Tech building, which is equipped with a fully functional digital print shop. Bassani's students are learning to work with clients by producing flyers such as the school basketball schedule, as well as promotional materials for nonprofits that can't afford market printing rates. Along the way, students develop skills in budgeting materials and writing cost estimates, as well as traditional layout, darkroom, and printing press techniques. Once students are familiar with the mechanical paste-up process, Bassani introduces them to software such as QuarkXPress, Adobe PageMaker, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe Photoshop.

Next to the traditional printing presses stands a brand-new Macintosh computer lab. Equipped in August 1999 with 15 Power Macintosh G3 computers networked to a Macintosh Server G3, the lab boasts several additional Power Macintosh computers for scanning and printing. Connecting them all: Mac OS X Server software.

Expanding networks with ease

Patrick Kwok, who maintains technical services for the Vancouver School Board, has found Mac OS X Server reliable and its ease of use impressive. "Thanks to the NetBoot feature of Mac OS X Server, I was able to just hook up the computers to the network and they were ready to go. I installed all 15 Power Macintosh G3 computers and connected to the server in just a few hours. When I'm updating an application on the PCs, either I have to add the application to each machine or a new master image has to be created." The