

The NEWS and VIEWS Letter about
people and happenings at
Vancouver Community College
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VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTERCOM

LFA & College come to terms

The Langara Faculty Association reached an agreement with the college whereby compensation paid to LFA members will be reduced by \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984.

The LFA were working under an agreement, ratified in 1982, that gave them an eight percent pay hike in March of this year. The reduction will be achieved in seven monthly amounts by deducting 4.61 percent of each member's gross monthly salary through to March 1984.

In return for this, faculty will not be required to be on duty for three non-teaching days and two teaching days.

The saving from this reduction will be distributed on a pro rata basis across all college budget centres.

Martin Gerson
LFA President

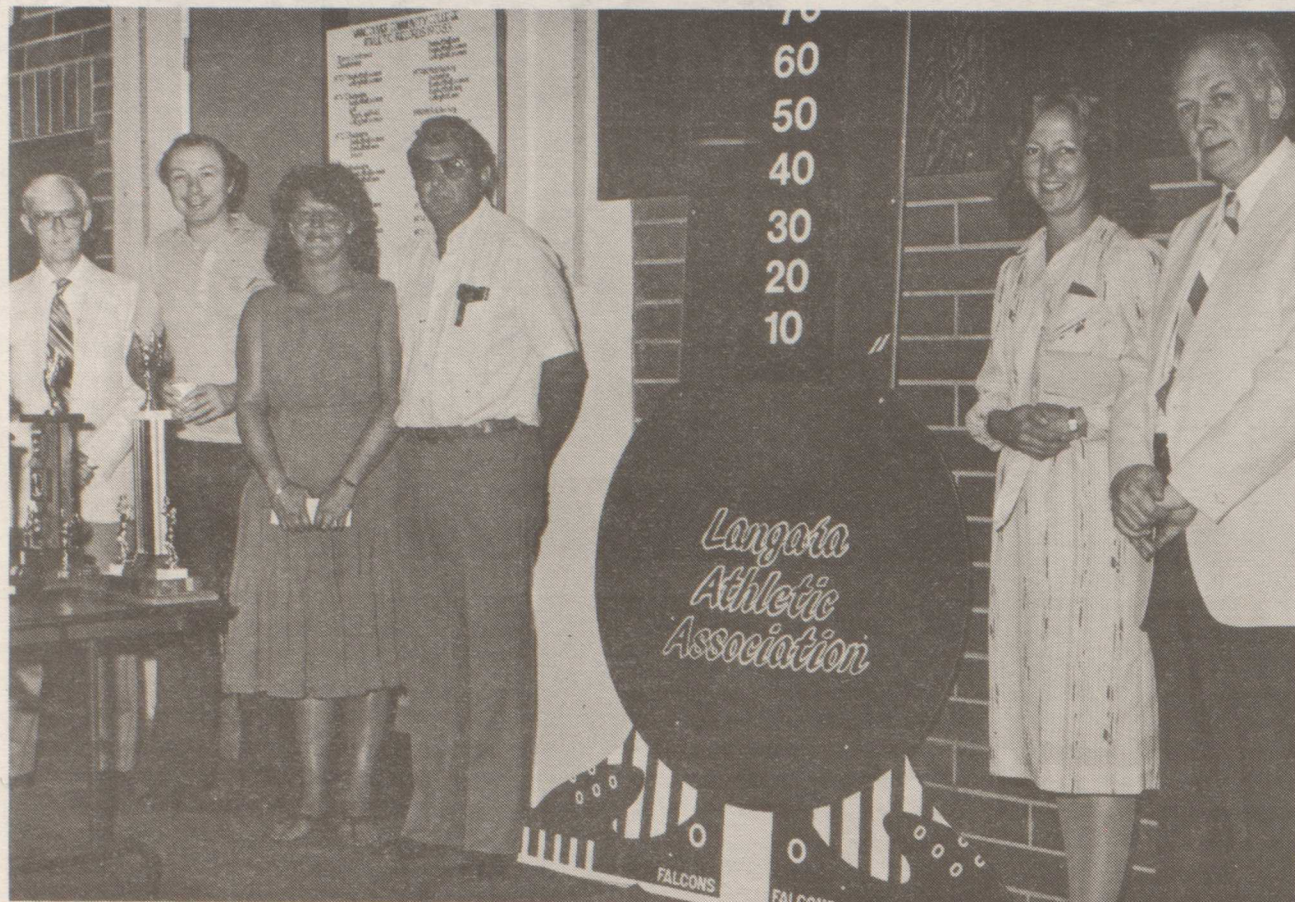
Elizabeth Jarvis
VCC Board Vice-Chairman

Tony Manera
VCC President

Ken Weaver
LFA



Lottery Bid to Save the Falcons



Organizers behind the Langara Athletic Association sports lottery are (left to right) Ralph Kerr, Gerry Porter, Linda Fennema, Duncan McCallum, Linda Arnold and Dr. Bert Dartnell.

August 22 was launch day. The Langara Athletic Association lottery officially got under way when Linda Fennema, a division chairman for career programs, sold the first two books of tickets to Alderman May Brown and Board Vice-Chairman Elizabeth Jarvis.

The lottery, which runs through to December 22, is a bid to keep three VCC teams in Totem Conference competition. When cuts came to the college budget last spring, the board had to allocate all available resources to instruction and support for athletic competition was reluctantly chopped.

Over the years Falcon teams and individual college athletes have taken more provincial championships than all other B.C. colleges combined. They won 15 4-West titles and four national championships.

Lottery tickets go for \$1 apiece. There will be monthly draws from September through December, awarding a \$1,000 prize and four \$100 prizes. A bonus Christmas draw will award a grand prize of \$2,000 and four \$500 prizes. Even if you win, your ticket goes back in the barrel for subsequent draws.

If the lottery can generate \$20,000 the college can keep three teams — men's and women's basketball

and badminton — in competition, and send them to the nationals, if they qualify.

The lottery is the brainchild of Linda Fennema, the division chairman responsible for athletic programs. She worked with a committee made up of Linda Arnold, department head of physical education and recreation; Pam Glass, a VCC Board member long active in the field of amateur sports; Ralph Kerr, dean of instruction; Duncan McCallum, athletics co-ordinator; Gerry Porter, co-ordinator of the journalism program and Bert Dartnell, dean of administration and student services at Langara Campus. Together they worked long hours to get the idea off the ground.

"Our athletes have had tremendous success," Fennema says. "It would be a real tragedy if we couldn't keep some representation in the Totem Conference. We hope support from the lottery will enable us to keep these three teams active."

So, when an eager student or colleague collars you to buy a lottery ticket, dig into your pocket or purse. Not only will you keep the Falcons flying, you may win cash to clear off some of those inevitable Christmas debts.

Tickets are available on all three campuses. If you'd like to sell some yourself, call 324-5371.

YJC — One Last Chance

"To get work experience I need a job..."

"To get a job, I need work experience..."

To get a job you need experience. And to get experience you need a job. A cliché, but true.

In the midst of a nation-wide economic recession, even experience won't guarantee a job. People everywhere are caught by the economic downturn. At the far end of the recession spectrum sit unemployed youth. These young people, aged 15 to 24, have little education and less job experience — they are virtually out of the employment picture.

Early this year, former Employment Minister Lloyd Axworthy, made special funds available across the country for employment projects aimed at this group.

In British Columbia this translated into the Metro Vancouver Youth Job Corps. Young people, referred by social service agencies, are going through a 14 to 16 week program that gives them classroom time concentrated on work and lifelines and then some on-the-job experience.

CEIC called on Continuing Education at Vancouver Community College to oversee the project and since March director Len Potter, four counsellors and a support staff member have operated the corps out of offices at 24 East 4 Ave.

The challenge, Potter concedes, is a large one. "Most of these kids left home at 12 or 13. They are what I call system kids. They're under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Human Resources or the Attorney-General's. The system, in effect, runs their lives. They've never taken responsibility for themselves."

"They're usually pretty passive. They want things done for them. For instance, they might walk in off the street and just expect to be given a job. Motivation isn't high. Usually they're easily frustrated. These are the hurdles we try to get over in the program."

A big boost over these hurdles, at least initially, is a pay cheque. "Money talks," Potter says. "most of these kids have never had an income of their own before. Believe me it's a big motivator."

"But to collect their pay they have to meet commitments they make — being on time for class and appointments, completing work, attending counselling sessions. They have to take on the same responsibilities they would on the job."

It's a sunny morning and at 9 a.m. sharp 11 young people, 15 to 18, gather around a table with counsellors Ricki Ewings and David Hutson. A twelfth young man has called to say his alarm didn't go off, but he's on his way. It's only a week or two of the program for this group, but the punctuality hurdle's been cleared.

Those in the program are divided into two groups of 12, one aged 15 to 18, the other 19 to 24. Two counsellors handle each group, taking classroom sessions, doing individual counselling, finding jobs and working with the kids and their employers.

First on the agenda this morning is a temperature reading. People take turns bringing the others up-to-date on what they've been doing since the last session. There's talk of swimming, baseball, a baby's birthday. The object lessons are evident. The rowdy tone down to listen. The more withdrawn begin to talk. Put downs are discouraged and expletives deleted.

Next up is a lifelines exercise. Hutson has everyone draw a circle on the left hand page and mark it "birth". Then, draw a horizontal line from the circle to the right hand side of the page. At midpoint on the line mark a point and label it "today." Between birth and today mark two significant events. Almost unanimously, leaving home or getting kicked out, ranked number one. Second choices ranged from the birth of a child to an Alice Cooper concert. Future goals ran from the basic, "to support myself by the time I'm 20," to the pipe dreams, "a million dollars by the time I'm 30."

"in the first two weeks of classroom sessions we try to get them to the point where they can go into a work situation," Potter explains. "A lot of what we do is geared to showing them how to behave, the kind of language that's acceptable, how to get along with other people."

"Peer pressure works pretty well in this situation. You'll get one or two who don't want to go along. But if the group agrees the others carry them along."

There is a lot of talk about jobs, slated to begin the next week. Though the program fully covers a person's wages for three months, counsellors are finding many employers in a mid-summer lull, not wanting to take anyone on until the fall.

"Employers have been very, very supportive so far," Potter explains, pointing out that counsellors log long hours on the phone and in employer visits. "We try to give the employers as much support as we can. Once a person is placed in a job a counsellor has a weekly session with the employee and employer. If there is any problem at all, the employer can back out."

Diane Foley is the owner and manager of Switchboard Answering Service in downtown Vancouver. She concedes she was a little apprehensive when a job corps counsellor first approached her about taking one of the program participants.

"But they were so positive about what they were doing, you couldn't help but feel that way too," she says.

The first person she took at Switchboard was a young girl whom she describes as, "having just no self esteem at all."

"So many people think of these kids as hostile. But she was the sweetest kid. We all just loved her. When she first came she was so timid. It was wonderful to see her blossom as she learned to handle the job. She took so much pride in what she did. I'm sure it was the first time in her life she'd felt successful."

After her stint with Switchboard the girl went on to get a permanent job. She is now self-sufficient, managing on her own for the first time.

"The second girl I had was a bit of a shock," Foley says. "She was a real street kid. She'd nearly been let out of the program because she was so defiant. But part way through it seemed as if she just took a deep breath and said to herself, 'I'd better go for it because I'm not going to get another chance.'"

"On the job she was terrific. We had no problems. She showed up on time. She observed the dress code. No one had ever seen her in a skirt, but when she came to work here she was in one. Her attitude was good. There's a lot of PR in this job. You always have to be pleasant, even when people are giving you a hard time. She never lost her cool."

"With both these kids I know that without the program they'd be on the street and going nowhere. It gives me a good feeling to be part of that."

Foley goes on to say that the employer participation isn't charity. "You have to take time to train them and it is really important that you give them a lot of encouragement and positive feedback. After all, a lot of what they think about the work world, their impressions, will come from their experience with you. But the program covers the cost of the wages and they do provide valuable help around the office. It's not just a make-work project."

Potter says the program has a drop out rate of 30 per cent. "There's no denying there are some people who just can't follow through with the program, who can't meet the demands," he says. For the 70 percent who make it, Youth Job Corps can be the route out of the welfare rut.

"For most of these young people this is the first time they've accomplished something. As this happens they grow more confident. They become more assertive, more prepared to take responsibility for themselves and not to look to the system to take care of them. In other words, they're prepared to move into the adult world."

At one point it looked as if YJC would be yet another victim of government cutbacks; however the program's impressive track record not only preserved it, but got the program funding for another three years, starting in November.



First to tread on the newly finished floors of the King Edward Campus auditorium were graduates of the homemaker, institutional aide and pharmacy assistant programs.

Field School: Living What You Learn

Field school. You imagine geology students sifting through fields of rock, entomologists stalking new species through the jungle.

In fact, field school isn't confined to the sciences, pure or social. Field school is really anywhere you experience what you learn, going beyond the secondhand knowledge of books and classroom. This is where you live what you learn.

After a year of hectic planning, Latin American studies, part of Langara Campus's department of interdisciplinary studies, launched its first ever field school.

From 44 applicants 16 were selected, based on their motivation, interests, attitudes and background in Latin American studies, for an eight week program based in Oaxaca, on the south central plain of Mexico.

"They are all fulltime students," says Margot Chapman, instructor for the field school and co-ordinator of Latin American studies, "but that's where the similarity ends. They range from a 19 year old to a retired insurance salesman of 63. And their interests are just as diverse. There are some in fine arts, who wanted to look at the pottery and ceramics, others in geography who were interested in land tenure and irrigation systems for agriculture and there were two who wanted to study the Mexican women's movement."

The program earned students six credits in Latin American studies and three in anthropology, the latter from Capilano College, which co-sponsored the field school with Vancouver Community College.

A major essay, based on field observations and research, was required from every student, along with a journal and presentations to the group on aspects of what they did and saw in their travels.

Students had an intensive two week preparation at Langara before they left for Mexico, flying to Mazatlan. From there the group travelled south along the coast to Guadalajara then to Mexico City and finally to their base at Oaxaca, where they remained for a month.

"We tried to look at a real cross-section of Mexican life," Chapman explains. "Of course, we went to archaeological sites and saw the Ballet Folklorica, but we spent time in small villages too, off the beaten track. We toured a pottery factory, farms, even a tequila plant."

"I believe we saw and experienced a Mexico

very different from the beaches and sand most tourists see. We spent time with Mexican people whenever and wherever we could. We really saw how the people live, what their language and history and culture are. This individual, firsthand experience is something you can't get in a book or on a tour."

Michael Earle, one of four visiting instructors to the school, explains why Oaxaca, a city of 180,000 that is off the general tourist path, was chosen as a base, "Because it isn't on most visitors' agenda, it is somewhat more typically Mexican. The settlement is pre-Columbian and the city is in the midst of an agriculture area, so it has a large market. There are a number of small, rural villages nearby and the major archaeological site, Monte Alban, is close at hand. The place offers a wealth of experience."

Chapman, Earle and the other visiting instructors, Dorothy Yada and Yosh Kumita, shared a consensus that what the students had found most fascinating was the opportunity to experience Mexican life.

"At a field school you get the relatively rare opportunity, at least at the level these students are at, to look at something, not as a Canadian sitting in this country, bringing our culture and our values to bear on it, but to see it in the Latin American context, in light of that language, culture and history," Chapman says.

"You could really see the students growing in their understanding of another way of life," Yada explains. "The contrast between wealth and poverty, for instance. It is one thing to read about it, quite another to come face to face with it."

While field school is expensive, \$2,000 per person in this case, its benefits seem to more than justify the cost, and, because it does provide academic credit, students qualify for loans.

"You can't have this kind of learning experience anywhere else," comments Langara Campus registrar Valerie Nielsen, who was along for the trip. "It isn't an exaggeration to say it's inspirational. You get a real thirst to learn more, to see more."

Chapman confirms that field school is definitely on the agenda for next year. "This was a really great site for us. And it turned out so well. The student reaction was better than we could ever have anticipated. It really affirms my conviction that this is the best way to learn."

The College Bids Farewell

Together they've given the college an astounding 313 years of service. They are the 16 instructors and three support staff who, at some point this year, will exchange their lesson plans or typewriters, for golf clubs, fishing rods or new careers.

To pay tribute to the contribution these people have made to Vancouver Community College and to wish them well in future endeavours a dinner was held this summer at Ondine's.

Those honoured were:

June Anderson, a secretary at KEC, four years service.

Norm Barton, mathematics instructor at Langara, 17 years service.

Gordon Bryenton, psychology instructor, Langara, 18 years service.

Colin Casey, division chairman, training & development, KEC, 28 years service.

Meryl Fast, ELT instructor, KEC, 11 years service.

Marg Kellett, ELT instructor, KEC, 13 years service.

Mary Griffith, assistant office manager, KEC, seven years service.

Ross Holwin, receiving, VVI, 14 years service. Ralph Flitton, business administration instructor, Langara, 18 years service.

Ruth Lew, early childhood education instructor, Langara, 12 years service.

Morag MacLachlan, history instructor, Langara, 14 years service.

Ronald Maitland, medcom instructor, VVI, 22 years service.

Maureen McDiarmid, French and German instructor, Langara, 32 years service.

Don McRae, economics instructor, Langara, 15 years service.

Lucille Milligan, ELT instructor, KEC, 14 years service.

Greta Nelson, counsellor, KEC, 11 years service.

Nina Read, ELT instructor, KEC, 13 years service.

R. B. Turner, counsellor, Langara, 33 years service.

Kenneth Urquhart, drafting instructor, VVI, 17 years service.

President Tony Manera and Board Chairman Peter Hebb thanked retirees for their contribution to the life of the college and wished them well in new ventures.

More Than Books

There are new, expanded and improved bookstores at KEC and VVI, that provide much more than texts, rulers and pencils. The KEC store is at the west side of the campus on level two. VVI's store is just inside the doors of the new tower at Hamilton and Dunsmuir.

Both have, or soon will have, magazines, newspapers, novels, cards and gift wrap. If you need an

aspirin, new stockings or a calculator, the bookstore can oblige. They have coffee cups, mugs for your favourite brew and a variety of T-shirts. There's no excuse for not writing home or paying your bills on time — the bookstore has stamps too.

Sheila Slaght and Susan Reynolds staff the VVI store, while Greg King, Darlene Vuch and Cheryl Silver look after the KEC store. If you have any suggestions for expanded inventory, drop in or give them a call.

SPEAK UP

There probably isn't an educational institute anywhere with a broader range of knowledge, expertise or know-how than we have right here at Vancouver Community College. Whether you want to know about the Carolingian dynasty, how to make creme brulee, or how to run a slide projector, there is someone here who can oblige.

There are plans on the drawing board to share some of our talents with the community. This fall we are putting together a Vancouver Community College speakers bureau. Speakers will go out and talk to groups in the community, in high school classrooms, at service club lunches or at discussion groups. The possibilities are numerous.

A good number of you indicated you would enjoy volunteering your talents to the bureau. This effort pays off handsomely in terms of increasing awareness of the college among people who might otherwise never come in contact with VCC. The public, of

course, are our shareholders. In these days of economic restraint we need their firm backing. The speakers bureau is just one way we can let people know VCC is a good investment.

A card will be coming in the mail in a few weeks. We hope you'll jot down a few topic titles you would be willing to talk on. They can range from the sublime to the ridiculous, from the esoteric to the practical. We need you on the roster, whether you can talk about Mycenaean culture or changing a car's oil filter.

The bureau will provide you with back-up services and liaise with the organization requesting a speaker. All you have to do is turn up on the specified day, at the appointed hour, ready to talk. Naturally you have the option of turning down any request that won't fit in your schedule. You will get at least four weeks notice for any booking.

If you have any questions or suggestions, give the bureau a call: 875-1131, local 353.

GRADUATION — the Summer of '83



Langara Campus Principal Dr. Jock Denholm congratulates Governor-General's medal winner Constantin Starck.



"Way to go Mom," this proud offspring of a CE certificate program graduate says.

FIRST CAP GRAD

Moving from a sheltered workshop into the community is a big step for many mentally handicapped people. But the career awareness program, offered by Continuing Education at Vancouver Vocational Institute, eases the transition.

This summer the first 15 students graduated from CAP. As programmer John Chinnack explains, handicapped people learn to assess their skills and interests and examine how these might be put to work in mainstream jobs.

Not all program graduates, he says, are ready for the labour market. But all benefit from going through the process of analyzing their talents and goals. "Some may decide they need particular job training," he explains, "and others simply gain a clearer understanding of what their goals in life are."

Valedictorian Valerie Wright told the approximately 50 friends and family of the graduates, "The program helped us to recognize our interests and abilities, our strengths and weaknesses — and, more importantly, our rights and responsibilities as citizens. The program's a wonderful experience, one we are not likely to forget."

Chinnack points out that CAP is at the forefront of a movement to integrate mentally handicapped people into the community.

"Ultimately success depends on the degree of support and understanding people in the community can give this movement," he says.



Board member Art Lee presents the Lieutenant-Governor's silver medal to VVI printing production graduate Elizabeth Wootton.

Several hundred Vancouver Community College students, with several thousand career goals and aspirations, reached a major milestone this summer when they were awarded hard-earned diplomas or certificates in programs ranging from homemaking and hairdressing, to arts and nursing.

They were a diverse lot. Some were not yet out of their teens, others were in their golden years and some were from every decade in between. Some were looking for new careers. Others wanted to return to the job market after years away. A good many balanced their studies against the demands of jobs or caring for families.

They aren't going out into a prospering market place. Gowned with diplomas or certificates in hand, they were inevitably reminded that the road ahead would be rough. But if there could be said to be one characteristic distinguishing such a large and varied group, it was determination. Valedictorians invariably acknowledged the grim prospects, but assured family, friends and their instructors that they, and their classmates, were armed with two weapons against recession, first rate training and the will to succeed.

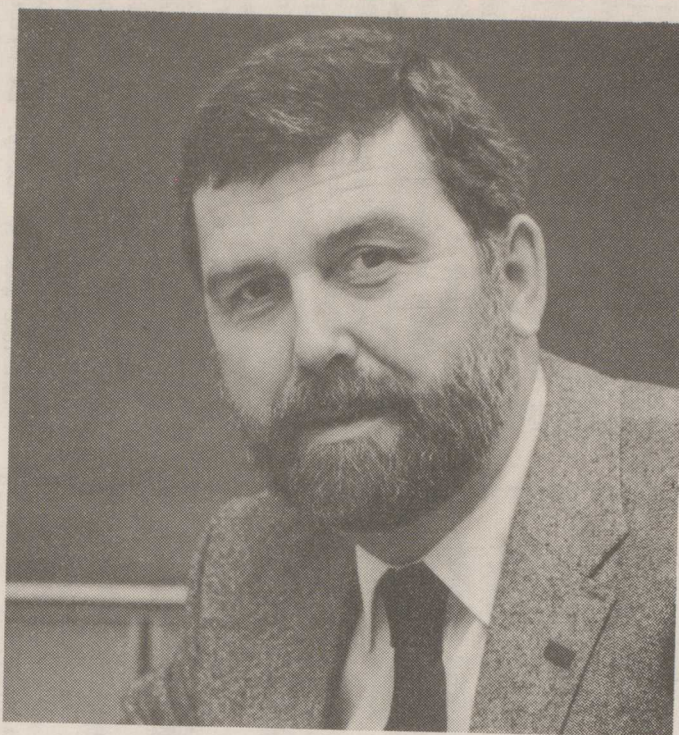
The June Continuing Education graduation saw nearly 100 people awarded certificates. Most of them studied part-time to enhance their opportunities for advancement on the job. More than half the graduates were from the long established business administration program. There were 38 graduates in early childhood education, nine of whom were the first graduation class in a program designed for Native children.

At Langara Campus photography technician student Constantin Starck was awarded the governor-General's Medal at graduation. This was in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the program. Con maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average, an A in every subject. This is an unprecedented achievement in the photography technician program's 10 year history. At the same time Con maintained an active interest in extra curricular activities, enjoying cycling, skiing and playing amateur mechanic.

Vancouver Vocational Institute's August graduation at Queen Elizabeth Playhouse saw printing production graduate Elizabeth Wootton awarded the Lieutenant-Governor's Silver Medal. Wootton, a single parent, decided that computer production was the trend of the future in printing and she came to VVI so she could establish a place in the forefront of this movement.

HE MADE THE C.E. TEAM WORK

To understand Steve Stafford a background in team sports would be an asset. Steve was a jock — he played football and basketball in his youth. He had gone a bit soft in the years since then and his passion for sports became that of the fan — the Expos, his favourite team, and latterly the Argos since his buddy Bob O'Billovitch took over as coach. He kept his hand in athletics by playing squash, where he marvelled at the quickness and endurance of young men, and skiing which he had more recently determined to master.



The late
Stephen R. Stafford

But he was a team sport kind of guy — a man who enjoyed the locker room camaraderie and the after-the-game-go-for-a-beer style. He loved the exchange of mischievous challenges, swapping 'war' stories, and the casual, idle boasts that competitive men on the same team share when the game is over but it's not time to go home. He brought that same approach to work.

He might look immensely casual as he moved about the Continuing Education office, jacket removed and shirttail frequently hanging out. But he believed in setting goals and achieving them. The employees of the division were the team and he was determined to lead them to victory. There were the structured, formal proceedings which had to be attended to but he preferred to sit down with one or two people, work on a problem, find an angle, strike a deal and live with it and up to it. When the week was done, it was time to get together with some of the boys and review the week's work and sports events over a beer.

In two years with VCC he earned tremendous respect for his personal management talents and for the Continuing Education Division he headed. Those two years saw a re-organization of the division, a shoring up of the financial picture, rapid expansion of offerings through the King Edward Campus operation and the introduction of VISA billing for C.E. tuition, which is creating a registration surge.

At age 45 the big guy was buried under a tree in a cemetery so pretty it seemed better suited to nature walks and lovers. When it was over some of the boys went back to the pub Steve discovered and said long goodbyes in the fashion they thought Steve would think best.

and his beloved Expos
are in first place ...

INTERCOM

InterCom is produced by the Public Relations and Advertising Services Department of Vancouver Community College. Your comments are welcome. Please call 688-1111, local 230.
