

## IT'S ALL TRUE

*The setting: The Registration Room in the Burlington site office of CCV The time:  
The last week of registration Pre reg Huddle: All staff*

**Steve:** Okay, folks, it's 8:45, hell week officially opens in 15 minutes. Let's do a quick check-in to see where we're at.

**Penny:** Well, the count is 5500, and we have 250 full classes for a Class Size Average of 22. All of the Basic Skills classes are full, all of the English Comp, all of the History, all of the Intro Psych and Soc, and every Dimensions class. We have no room in any of the science or math classes, oh, no wait, I think there's a spot in Pre-Calc. on Saturday mornings at 8. Has anybody generated a Hit List of underenrolled courses yet?

**Joode:** I started to on Friday, but the only classes that had more than three spaces were Aging in Modern Society, The Near Death Experience, and Death and Dying. I thought people might misinterpret "Hit List".

**Margaret:** There have to be more courses than that. I just looked out the front door, and the Generation Xers are lined up halfway around the block. It's baseball caps as far as the eye can see. Where are we going to put them?

**Penny:** Look, behind the Xers are the Phishheads. Man, that concert was over three weeks ago. When are they going home?

**Joode:** Home? What home? I had an advising session with a nearly naked Phishhead last week. We had to meet in the park because her dog wasn't housetrained and she wanted to take advantage of the rain to wash her hair. Halfway through her Intake Form, she looked up asked me if I'd pierce her Achilles tendon. After I did that, she offered to return the favor. Thank God my shift was ending and Sharon came on.

*(Sharon enters, with hoops through her nose, ears, tongue, lip, and eyebrow.)*

**Sharon:** Hi guys! What's up?

**Dianne:** We're just checking in before we open the doors. How do your classes look?

**Sharon:** Well, I've got the DOL at the Tech Center, and it's full. My oldest student is 17 years and three months. They've already asked if we can read *Where the Wild Things Are* instead of *Allegory of the Cave*. I'm holding firm on 1984, which is cool with them, because that's the year most of them were born, and they all think it was

written just for them by a guy named George from Orwell.

**Dianne:** Okay, next. Linda, how are things in financial aid?

**Linda:** The deadline was Friday, so I expect the pace will return to normal this week. I had a personal best after seven years on the job last Tuesday. I saw 204 students in one day, and they're all going full-time so that their parents can keep them on their health insurance. They said they'd be in this week to register.

**Dianne:** Oh Jeez. Elmer, how's space looking?

**Elmer:** It's tight. All of our classrooms are full, so I've been looking into stackable chairs at Staples. The State says they can mount brackets on the walls and hang some benches at 6 feet. Kind of an extended loft look. And I took out all the tables. That leaves more room for the dogs and skateboards. We're installing lockers in all the hallways for the Xers' Walkmen, pagers, and rollerblades. I think we'll be okay if we convert the two storage closets into classrooms.

**Dianne:** Tina, how are things in Reg Room B? Everybody logged onto the VAX?

**Tina:** Welllll...The vax is down so that the memory can be expanded. We're regging by hand and keeping our fingers crossed. I've got the staff reading the 1986 Registration Manual to remind them of how to file all 12 forms for each reg. Helen's switched from herbal tea to valium, and Michelle looks up every 10 seconds, pulls on her ear, and says, "Ahoy, mate. Thar she blows." I'm not sure what she means.

**Dianne:** Okay, sounds fine. Well, let's open up.

*Everyone bustles around, straightening piles and looking officious. Nine students enter and mill around, some taking seats, some wandering aimlessly. Dress is very casual, baseball caps, tube tops, pants slung low, sneakers or flip flops, dreads, some with leashes (but no dogs). One or two adult students can be in the crowd. They should look perplexed. There should be 2-4 tables, with Margaret and a Phone A person, and a stream of callers / walk-ins who deliver one-liners between dialogues.*

*Tina, Michelle, Helen, (reg room B at computers)*

*Linda (FA) Margaret (desk) Elmer (phone)*

*Advisors, Students in Reg Room A, some seated at tables, some moving about to help, some wandering around, clueless*

**Penny:** *(making a brisk general announcement)* Okay, everybody: Here's how it works. If you're a returning student, ask for the short form. New students get the long form. If you need assessments, go to Room 1. If you need to see Financial Aid, you've missed the deadline. You can pay now and be reimbursed, or you can try again next semester. You're in Reg Room A now. If you have your paperwork

filled out and you're ready to be confirmed, go to Reg Room B. Don't go to Reg B without first checking the lists here for closed classes. I repeat, don't go to Reg B with a form that's got a closed class on it. They'll just send you back. If you need advising, raise your hand. *(All students' hands go up at once. Penny looks around, grimaces.)* One of us will get to you as soon as possible. If you have questions, we're here to help. Okay, who needs an advisor?

**Student 1, Linda A:** I do. Where are the bathrooms?

**Penny:** Down the hall, through the doors, and to the right. Next?

**Student 2, Gabrielle:** I need some help. I want to take some classes here so I can go to a real college next semester. I was a majorette in high school. Do you have a marching band, or anything like that?

**Dianne:** Yes, we have something close. Fill out this form, and under course code, write TEC254, Instrumentation and Controls.

*(Cut to financial aid desk)*

**Linda** *(on the phone, with a mother and child sitting in front of her)* Alright, sir, that sounds fine, but I'll have to get back to you because I've got someone with me right now. Can I call you in, say, ten minutes? No? What? *(Child suddenly says "You shut up!" and throws a toy truck, which hits her in the head.)* Your house was struck by lightning and you're standing in a field? What? There's a lot of static, I'm having trouble hearing you. You're connected to the telephone pole but can't receive incoming calls? Well, okay...just give me the number of a neighbor and stay there until I call you back...865-2938. Okay, run over there and stay by the phone. Bye. Now...where were we? You're from Reach Up and your worker wants you to major in Business or Human Services, but you're interested in the Banking concentration and you haven't filled out your loan application yet...I see...

*(Switch back to Reg Room A)*

**Student 3, Eric:** Yeah, well, I was at, like, the Phish concert in Plattsburgh, and now I'm, like, here. I like, like it a lot. Yesterday I made 6 bucks braiding hair in front of Leunigs, and now I'm gonna go to school for, like, Business. What should I, like, take? I was looking at the thing you've got here and I like noticed Macroeconomics. I'm Vegan, but Macro's cool. I met a lotta girls at the concert who were like, "Oh yeah, brown rice, brown rice. That's cool." I was, like, SCORE! So like what do I do now?" *(Looks at Sharon)* Hey, cool. Want to see my nipple? *(starts to lift shirt)*

**Sharon:** No, no, that's okay. Let's just get you registered and de-loused. Do you have \$349 for the tuition and fees?

**Eric:** \$349 dollars?? What?!? No, man, I just told you I got six bucks. Well, two, now because I like had to get some coffee so I'd make it through the night in City Hall Park. Man, what a, like, scene. There were rednecks yelling at us to get jobs and like, take baths. It was heavy. Yeah, well, so anyway, am I in the class now or what?

*(Helen is at her computer station, fighting off sleep and giggling. Every so often, she pitches forward, and Michelle reaches over and props her back up. )*

**Student 4, Carol V:** Excuse me, but I've been waiting. Can someone help me please? I saw the financial aid lady Friday and she said I need four classes if I want to stay on my parents' insurance, which I do, so now can you tell me what to take?

**Penny:** Well, what are your interests? Do you know what you want to do after CCV?

**Carol V:** Yes. I'd like to live with my parents.

**Penny:** No, I mean, do you know what kind of work you might want to do? Do you know you want to be?

**Carol V:** *(confused)* I want to be 22. What do you mean, what do I want to be? I want a nice car and a good stereo. So what should I take?

**Penny:** Well, here's the list of classes with openings. Why don't you look through that and make some choices. I'll come back in a few minutes to see how you're doing.

**Gabrielle:** *(to no one in particular)* Okay, I'm done filling out the forms for Instruments and Patrols. Where do I go next, Reg B? *(looking right at sign that says Reg B)* Okay, where's Reg B? *(Yells)* WHERE'S REG B?

**Tina:** I'll help you over here. Now, what's your major?

**Gabrielle:** Majorette.

**Tina:** No, your major. What's your concentration?

**Gabrielle:** I don't have concentration. I have A.D.D. You know, Attention Deficit Disorder. I get special consideration. Put me down for Instruments and Patrols.

**Tina:** *(a bell rings from near her computer)* It says here you're on Academic Hold Level II.

**Gabrielle:** I know, from my other college. They told me to come here because I have to improve my GPA and they told me in that other room that you don't give homework in this class. We just march between the lines with our instruments and get an A.

**Tina:** You're going to have to go back and see an advisor. Tell them you're on hold. They'll know what to do.

**Gabrielle:** (*flouncing hair*) I knew it. I knew I should have gone to a real college. You're not open admissions. You're just...MEAN!

**Michele:** Ahoy, Mate. Thar she blows!

**Margaret (front desk):** Hello. (*snorts*) Can I help you?

**Walk-in 1, Kathi:** I just called and they told me my class was closed. That can't be. It says right here that registration goes until September 6 and today is September 2. So put me down for Major Religions of the World.

**Margaret:** That class filled about three weeks ago. (*snort*) Why don't you go into the Registration Room and an advisor can help you.

**Kathi:** I don't need an advisor. I go to UVM and they said I don't have to pay for my classes here because they will, and I know what I want, so just put me down for Major Religions and somebody up there will probably send a check. So I'm all done, right? Cool. Ciao. (*exits*)

**Margaret:** No, wait, you don't understand... (*snort, snort, snort*)

**Helen:** Your MasterCard has been denied. What other creative form of payment might you want to try? (*Giggles and slumps forward*)

**Student 5, Mica:** Can somebody help me? I want to register.

**Joode:** What would you like to take?

**Mica:** I dunno.

**Joode:** Well, what brought you to CCV?

**Mica:** My parents said to come.

**Joode:** What subjects did you enjoy in high school?

**Mica:** I didn't enjoy high school.

**Joode:** Well, what did you do well in?

**Mica:** I didn't do well in anything. I'm smart and all, it's just that I hated it. I didn't really apply myself. But now I know what I want to be, and I'm ready to roll. I want to produce reggae concerts. What courses should I take for that?

**Joode:** I'd have to know more about your reading, writing, and math skills. Have you done the Basic Skills Assessments?

**Mica:** Don't start that again. Every time I come in here, they tell me to take those tests. Now this is the fifth time. I keep telling everybody, I'm not a good tester. Who can I talk to who won't make me take the test?

**Joode:** Well, it's not a test, really. It's more like a snapshot. We give assessments to ascertain where your skills are today, at this moment. They help us to advise you better.

**Mica:** I'm not taking any frigging tests.

**Joode:** I'm sorry. I can't help you register until you've completed your assessments in writing and reading, and math if you want to take a math course.

**Mica:** (*whining*) Aw, come on. (*angry now*) I thought you were an advisor. What do they pay you for, anyway? I'm just looking for a little advice here. Like what should I take? I want to take something. Okay, okay, how about Chemistry. Can I take Chemistry?

**Joode:** Not without the Algebra assessment. You see, we want to be sure that we don't put you in class that's going to be too easy or too hard. We want you to succeed.

**Mica:** Alright, never mind. Just put me in the lowest classes and I'll start at the bottom and it won't matter about the tests. Just put me in the bottom.

**Joode:** I can't do that.

**Mica:** How come?

**Joode:** All those classes are full.

**Michelle:** Ahoy, Mate! Thar she blows.

**Elmer:** Hello, CCV. Elmer speaking. Can I help you?

**Caller 1, Linda A:** Yeah. I just called ten minutes ago and they haven't called back yet.

**Elmer:** Well, may I have your name and I'll put you through to an advisor.

**Linda A:** No.

**Elmer:** What do you mean, No?

**Linda A:** They won't know me anyway. Why do you want my name? Oh forget it. Just tell someone to call me back. Good-bye.

**Helen:** (*sits up, suddenly alert*) Do I charge out of state rates for Aliens? Excuse me, sir, but what planet are YOU from? (*holding four fingers up, a la Spock*) "May the fhe force be with you" (*giggles and slumps*)

**Student 6, Dee:** (*adult student*) Excuse me, could I bother you for just a minute?

**Dianne:** It's no bother. What can I do for you?

**Dee:** I have just two classes left to graduate, my cross cultural course and the graduate seminar. Do you have room in those?

**Dianne:** So, the home stretch. That's great. Well, let's see. We have one space left in Ed Inquiry. I'm not sure about the cross cultural courses. All of the ones on the list are full, but maybe we could get you a waiver. What is your culture?

**Dee:** What is my culture? I'm white.

**Dianne:** Yes, but how about some distinguishing features about how you were raised. For example, are you from the Middle East or Africa?

**Dee:** No, I'm fourth generation American. My great great grandparents came over on the Mayflower.

**Dianne:** Too bad. One more generation and we could have gone for the Native American waiver. Well, are you gay?

**Dee:** No, straight as an arrow.

**Dianne:** Hmm. Any quirky religious preferences? Might you subscribe to Buddhism, Hinduism, or Shamanism?

**Dee:** I'm Episcopalian.

**Dianne:** Think, think. Is there anything at all that would represent exposure to a different culture for you that isn't already a full class? Do you play an instrument?

**Dee:** No...

**Dianne:** Perfect. Instrumentation and Controls. I've got 11 spots in Instrumentation and Controls, so that's not a problem. Just write a letter to Dick Eisele...that's E.I.S.E.L.E.... and we'll get that approved as your cross-cultural course. Great. Terrific. Next. (*Dee heads toward Reg B, looking mystified*)

**Walk-in 2, Beth:** Hi. I just took Human Biology this spring. Would you please send a copy of my transcript to UVM?

**Margaret:** To have the transcript sent to UVM, send a letter to our Registrar at this address and enclose \$5.00.

**Beth:** Whoa, wait a minute! \$5.00 for a lousy C-?!? Transcripts from Trinity are free. Why aren't they here? You know, another thing. I could have taken that class in California for \$13 a credit. Probably even less, since I only went to half the classes. Man, this place is a rip-off.

**Student 7, Dian:** (*Dressed as a dyke, with big boots, dirty sweatshirt, lesbian pins and banners. Sits down across from Sharon.*) (*Gruffly*) Hi.

**Sharon:** Hello. Can I help you?

**Dian:** Yeah, well, I hope so. I don't know what to do. I wanted to take welding, but I have a bad back, so my DET counselor suggested I take Cosmetology. Do you guys do that? I don't really know what it is, even.

**Sharon:** Well, we don't do a degree in cosmetology, but we might be able to get you started in some classes that would help toward it, you know, like Introduction to Counseling, Color Theory, Chemistry with Lab, and Instrumentation and Controls. They all have room. Oh, and Film Appreciation. I think they show *Shampoo* in that class. Did you ever see that? It stars Warren Beattie, and I think, yeah, I'm pretty sure he's a hairdresser in it.

**Dian:** A hairdresser? What do you mean a hairdresser? Isn't cosmetology about the zodiac, like doing people's charts and stuff? That's what I'm into. I'm a Pisces, full moon rising on the cusp of Aeries, which makes me, astrologically speaking, an aggressive male from the seventh house of Mars. So what should I take if I want to



major in that? And don't tell me anything that I have to get dressed up for. Nice clothes make me break out in hives. How about Criminal Investigation? I hear we get to touch dead people in that, and draw chalk lines around them and everything. I think I'd like that.

**Sharon:** No, that's not quite accurate. We use guest students from the Near Death class to play dead, and you don't ever really touch them. (*brightening*) The part about the chalk lines is true, though. Here. Why don't you look through this course list and see what you think. I've got to go find some *antispurin* for my tongue. It's all infected.

**Student 9, David:** Hello. My name is Ralph Waldo, and I live in Bristol. I'd like to enroll in some classes.

**Joode:** Great. Have you taken your assessments?

**David:** Yes, I took them in Middlebury.

**Joode:** Okay, let's have a look. What's your social security number?

**David:** 009-86-5723. I remember what I got, though...a 41 in reading, a 33 in the Algebra, and a 0 on the writing sample. I stumbled with the writing. I can do a lot better than that, but I'd just been on vacation before the assessments, and my writing was a little rusty.

**Joode:** Hmmm. That must have been quite a vacation. I see you remembered how to read and solve for the unknown. Okay, well, what would you like to take?

**David:** I need four classes, and I can take them in Burlington, Montpelier, or Middlebury. I'd like to consolidate them into two days, because I work full-time in Johnson.

**Joode:** This sounds complex. Are you sure you want to tackle four classes while working full-time?

**David:** Oh, yes. I'm married.

**Joode:** Oh. Well in that case, let's see what we can do.

**David:** Okay, I want to take Microcomputer Applications, Marketing, Pre-Calculus, and Spanish II.

**Joode:** Well, the Burlington Micro Apps is full, as is the Marketing. Montpelier has PreCalc on Wednesdays, but the only other site offering Marketing is White River

Junction, so that's out.

David: Oh, no, it's fine. That's on Wednesday, too?

Joode: Yes, but it's another 60 miles on the Interstate.

David: That's okay. I can read the paper while I drive.

Joode: Well... if you say so. How about Micro Apps? We can't get you into a Burlington class, but if you take Spanish II, which meets Mondays and Wednesdays in Burlington, you could take CPS106M1 in Montpelier on Mondays-- That gets out at 2:40. The Spanish class begins at 3:30, so if you drive like a bat out of hell and hit all the lights just right, you should be able to make it. How about that commute on Wednesdays, though?

David: What do I have?

Joode: Let's see, you start out on Wednesday morning with Marketing in White River Junction, then shoot on up to Burlington for Spanish II, and then head south again on the Interstate for Pre-Calculus, which starts at 6 p.m. You'll be home in Bristol by 11, and you ought to be able to get enough sleep to make it to work in Johnson on Thursday morning.

David: Okay, that sounds doable. I'll give it a shot.

Joode: *(hands him confirmation, Vermont Atlas)* We'll be watching you closely. If you make it through the semester, you'll be recruited to apply for a Regional Director's position next time one comes around. It would be perfect. Now you have a nice day. And thanks for flying CCV.  
*(Someone walks through the room with a clock that says, "Time passes")*

Margaret: Okay, it's 4:00. I'm going to lock the front doors. *(Collective sighs of relief)*

Elmer: I just ran the count. We've done 200 more cp's today, and I don't know where we're going to put them. And frankly, I don't give a damn because I've been picked for another jury, so I'll be out for the duration of the Middlebury murder trial. Starting tomorrow morning, I'm gonna be sequestered for at least three weeks. SWEET!!!

*(Everyone turns to him, astonished. Helen slumps back and lets out a loud snore)*

Michele: Ahoy mate...

All: THAR SHE BLOWS!! *(throw papers up in the air)*  
End.