**Coordinator Boot Camp, 1985**

On my bi-weekly trips to Newport, I rarely pass by the East Calais General Store without being transported in memory to an August day in 1985, when I underwent my Coordinator Boot Camp. It was somewhat different from its present configuration.

I had been on the job for over two months, but, for a coordinator on a then-standard ten-month contract (for the princely salary of $11,000), there wasn’t a whole lot to do during the summer. Still, the senior coordinator, Gabrielle Dietzel, did her best to impart to me the wisdom she had acquired through her long experience of nearly three years at CCV.

As part of this knowledge transfer—a sort of capstone activity, if you will—she accompanied me on one of the mission-critical duties of coordinators at the time: the delivery of course lists to villages and hamlets across central Vermont. On that summer day, we drove the back roads around East Montpelier, Cabot, Marshfield, and environs, delivering course lists to strategically situated stores, markets, gas stations, etc., and making other necessary stops along the way, such as the summer home of David Mamet, to request a paint chip from his newly painted house that caught Gabrielle’s eye. As we traveled, we discussed the vast intricacies of the coordinator position, then titled Coordinator of Instruction and Advisement (CIA). We talked about advising students, hiring instructors, scheduling courses, financial aid, registration—many of the coordinator tasks still done today, but with computers instead of three-part NCR paper.

Anyway, it was at the East Calais General Store that Gabrielle decided it was time for me to attempt a solo delivery of course lists, under her watchful eye. Screwing up my courage, I carried a small stack of them into the store and timidly asked the clerk, “Where would you like me to put these CCV course lists?” A lackluster performance, at best.

Back in the car, Gabrielle’s critique was stern but instructive: “No, no, Eric. Give it some oomph! You need to say, ‘Hi! Great news: I have your CCV course lists!! Why don’t I put them right here on the counter, next to the cash register, so folks won’t miss them.’” I promised to try to do better, but to this day, I sadly lack the flair with which my colleague does all of her CCV work. At least I’m still here because of what I learned from Gabrielle in my Coordinator Boot Camp.

**CCV’s Redesigned Academic Program**

It would have been sometime in the mid 1990s that CCV’s Academic Review Board undertook a major revamping of the Associate Degree program. (There was only one at the time, which subsumed various concentrations.) The new program was unveiled at a Coordinator Day at the CCV Montpelier site office, then on the Vermont College campus. As often happens at CCV, the significance of the occasion was underscored by a dramatic representation of the topic, which included Nancy Winfield in costume as the Burlington Princess Coordinator, Karrin Wilks in Wonderwoman regalia, and farm girl Joyce Judy in overalls, puzzling over why Dimensions of Learning students have to read about Dairies of Women. Many of those in attendance, certainly myself included, still regard this spectacle as Dee Steffan’s magnum opus among her many theatrical representations of crucial academic issues. Unfortunately, the original title of that work, “What’s My F-ing Concentration,” had to be abandoned when it was learned that a member of the VSC Board of Trustees planned to attend.