

Obituaries

d: 6-17-84

6/28/84

Steven D. Ash

Alpha Omega worker

When Steven D. Ash, 40, of Littleton, died unexpectedly last week, Alpha Omega lost "much more than a co-worker." The assistant director of the home for emotionally disturbed boys had made the Alpha Omega school his family, according to spokesperson Linda O'Malley.

Ash's dedication to troubled youth grew out of his own experiences and drug involvement, said O'Malley. Before 1973, he worked as a longshoreman, a salesman, and at various other jobs. These jobs were "usually of short duration," according to his resume, due to his drug use. When he kicked the drug habit he became fully involved in helping others, first as a volunteer and then in paid counseling positions.

He came to Alpha Omega in 1977, and was to spend the rest of his life there, counseling boys and their families, managing the house on a day to day basis, and supervising other counselors.

What Mrs. O'Malley recalls most about Ash is "the long long hours he put in - above and beyond the call of the job when any kid was in need." He would often take the boys on field trips to the mountains or the beach, or simply out to the movies.

"He always had common sense," states O'Malley, "a very practical point of view."

Phillip Swenson, an active volunteer at Alpha Omega and on the Youth Advisory Council in Littleton, recalls Ash's ability to help others. "He had a knack ...with the guys over there... of adding the piece that was missing to get things up and get things moving."

Swenson remembers Ash as a "quiet personality" who nevertheless "shared a lot with me - and in that way became a great teacher...Once he got to know you he held very little back. He was willing to risk and to share and to get involved."

A funeral service was held at Badger Funeral Home last week, and burial was in Westlawn Cemetery.