Underwood: A quiet man with a gentle, loving soul

"There are men too gentle to walk among wolves." James Kavanaugh.

David Underwood was one of those men. To represent, serve and protect us, the college community, he walked among wolves and worse. And he did it smiling, puffing at the always present pipe, quoting Emerson and Thoreau.

He was a quiet man of gentle wit and great humor.

"I see my position in all this as court jester," he said once.

In Shakespeare's sense he was just that. Always pointing to the truth in humorous ways, advising without dictating, leading to a place better for all, yet not seeming to be a leader. He was one of us; a student, a teacher, a custodian, a secretary. He touched us all in his short life.

If it were not for Dean Underwood the Forum would not be here. He began the first North Star, the Forum's predecessor, while the campus still was located in the old "barracks".

"I just grabbed a guy to be editor," he said. "It turned out he couldn't pass developmental English."

He was a listener. His door was always open to anyone. People talked to him about their personal and professional lives. He listened and gave advice when it was requested but mostly he listened which many times was all that was needed.

He was a family man, a private man who preferred long walks with his wife Annabelle and their children Dan and Kathy to movie houses and parties.

How we all shall miss him.

Dean David L. Underwood at his desk.

Underwood memorial service

A memorial service for Dean David L. Underwood will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 12 noon in the Theater. In lieu of flowers the Underwood family has requested contributions be given to a college scholarship fund. Details are available in President Raymond J. Stith's office, ext. 242.