

Blood, sweat and maybe even love

Vancouver singles can now kill two birds with one stone as they get in shape and seek a partner

By COURTNEY SHEPARD

Langara College students looking for love with a fellow sports nut have options. Vancouver has several on-line clubs for singles that focus on sports and activities that take the place of bar room meat markets and awkward coffee dates.

Vancouver Urban Mixer is an online site that caters to singles looking to avoid the usual dating pressures.

Rajesh Taneja, the co-ordinator of Urban Mixer, organizes and hosts events and activities for its members ranging from outdoor fitness boot camps to river rafting trips.

"In Vancouver there is an extreme sport theme, and people can find it intimidating," he said. "They may be interested [in sports] but not made the plunge," Taneja said.

Langara nursing student Sonja Summers said, "I am really active and I love doing all those sorts of things."

The average age of club's members is around 28 to 38, but there are members above and below this range, co-ordinator Taneja said.

Langara psychology instructor Elizabeth Ballard said there are a couple of reasons singles may feel comfortable meeting others in a more active dating environment.

"Doing something means that I don't have to sit here and pretend like I am trying to date you," she said.

"It gives me an activity that I can be taking part in, and it will distract my mind so I don't get really nervous," instructor Ballard said.

PLAYER to watch



COURTNEY SHEPARD photo

Langara forward-guard has high hopes for the Falcons this year.

Versatile Falcon's forward on a roll

By COURTNEY SHEPARD

The player to watch this week is Anthony Lao.

A forward-guard on Langara College's basketball team, Lao scored 22 points last Friday night against the Okanagan University College Lakers.

"In the first half the turnover was high and we cut it down to 3—that was good," Lao said after the game.

"The team played well and everyone was together."

Lao is a fine arts student and is not quite sure if he plans to continue playing basketball after college.

"I might play professionally in the Philippines," he said.

The Langara Falcons beat the OUC Lakers at home 72-57.



MARCIA DOWNHAM photo

Langara has a momentary fumble. One of their few blunders in a dominant performance. The Falcons beat the Okanagan Lakers 72-57.

Falcons' rollercoaster week

With basketball playoffs approaching, Langara gets rid of glitches

By MARCIA DOWNHAM

Last weekend was smooth sailing for the men's basketball team, but it was a bit choppy for the women, meanwhile the badminton team placed second for the upcoming provincial championships in their third and final tournament in Nanaimo.

The men's basketball team won their home games against the Okanagan University Lakers 72-54 on Friday and 74-54 on Saturday.

Coach Simon Dykstra, said he was pleased with the team's defensive effort for most of the weekend.

"I think we are getting better with our offensive play and team

chemistry," Dykstra said after the back-to-back wins.

Langara forward Scott Van-Boeyen qualified the weekend wins.

"We weren't playing our best, but what the heck we got the victory."

The women's basketball team also played home games against the OUC Lakers.

They managed a narrow 45-42 win Friday, but lost by a wide margin Saturday 37-50.

Mike Evans, the women's coach, said on Friday night the team was down seven at half time, but finished very strong to take a late lead.

"But Saturday was not our

night, the Lakers were by far the better team," coach Evans said.

After Friday night's game Emily Wright, Langara point-guard, said, "It was just awesome because we are one step closer to finishing second and having an automatic in for the provincials."

The Langara Falcons basketball teams are currently ranked third and the Lakers are ranked second.

The Langara badminton team played their third tournament in Nanaimo against Malaspina University and Adrian Liu and Toby Ng took home the win for the men's doubles.



MIKE EVANS
Falcon women's basketball coach

Olympics are costly, instructor says

Torino starts and even with the pomp and beauty of the event, Vancouver starts to do the math

By MARCIA DOWNHAM

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver will establish a legacy that could increase the city's international exposure or create a massive debt, says a Langara instructor.

Andrew Whitaker, a Langara economics instructor, said it's ridiculous to spend a lot of money on Olympic facilities because it's only a two-week event.

"When we do this, we have to ask what the opportunity costs are, and what the alternatives are to spending the money on these particular events," he said.

Whitaker said we get stuck on the notion that the Olympics are a world-class event.

"We get too carried away with all the

political statements. I personally don't feel the benefits of the Olympics outweigh the costs."

Gordon Campbell and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympic Bid Corporation said the Vancouver Games will cost \$600 million and will generate \$10 billion in profits through job creation, major new sports facilities, increased tourism, and an enhanced international profile.

However, Vaughn Palmer, a journalist with the Vancouver Sun, said in 2002 that no modern games have made money when all costs, including land transfers, infrastructure costs, and security are factored in.

Langara transfer student Bree Foreman, 23, said, "I think Vancouver will go into debt, it is costing more than what was expected. I don't want us to turn into another Montreal."

The 1976 Olympic games in Montreal lost money leaving the city's taxpayers to pick up the \$1 billion tab.

Mark Geoghegan, managing editor of the Fleet Street Letter's Platinum Service, a team of investment analysts

that invested in real estate associated with the Montreal Olympics, said the final debt payment would be made between 2005 and 2006 — 30 years later.

The 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics is often cited as an example of an Olympic profit-maker. But in 1999, Toronto Star columnist Thomas Walken said Calgary was actually a money loser.

"The organizing committee's figures did not include the cost of building most of the Olympic facilities," Walken said.

The auditor general recently published a report on Vancouver's Olympic bid that concluded the overall costs were reasonable, but outlined several areas of concern.

Among them, revenue projections for ticket sales are higher than the two previous Winter Games; ticket prices for premium events are higher than normal for the Vancouver market and may reduce sales.

So now while the Games fans watch the athletes and the beautiful Italian scenery, some in Vancouver may wonder if the growing costs are worth it.

COST of the gold

- 1 Montreal Olympics 1976- \$1 billion in debt
- 2 Lake Placid Olympics 1980- \$11 million in debt
- 3 Calgary Olympics 1988- \$910 million in debt
- 4 Barcelona Olympics 1992- US \$1.4 billion in debt
- 5 Sydney Olympics 2000- \$2.3 billion in debt