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TJC Newsletter, Issue 1

Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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TJC NEWSLETTER

Issue #1

Compiled from the Dean's Office, Thomas Jefferson College, GVSC.
4 January 1974.

BULLFROG POND PRODUCTION SUSPENDED

- The production of the BULLFROG POND has been TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DUE TO HIGH COST, A LACK OF QUALITY MATERIAL, AND THE FACT THAT THE EDITOR HAS RESIGNED. Until these problems are solved, this Newsletter will be published periodically to keep TJC people geared to what's happening. If there is anything you want included in the Newsletter, please drop off the copy in Mary TePastte's office.

WINTER ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

- It looks like TJC will begin the winter term with approximately 525 full time equivalent students. This compares favorably with the fall term enrollment of 522 fte. These enrollment figures are especially encouraging in light of the national trend towards lower college enrollments and the fact that enrollments in other colleges are usually significantly lower during the winter term than during the fall term.





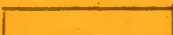



FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AT GVSC

- Grand Valley State Colleges has established a fund in the amount of \$10,000 for this 1974/1975 academic year. The purpose of this is to grant talent award scholarships for students in the area of the fine arts, particularly the performing arts. Awards will range from a minimum of \$100 to a maximum of full tuition for the academic year. Application may be made for renewal of the award up to a maximum of four years. The awards will be determined in each of the fine arts areas by a committee representative of those colleges offering fine arts programs. Students will be selected primarily on their degree of talent in the area of the fine arts.
- If any TJC students are interested in applying for one of these scholarships, they should pick up an application form in Mary TePastte's office. All applicants must be recommended for the award by a TJC faculty or staff member.

WHAT TJC GRADUATES DO

- The following table summarizes the placement of TJC graduates through the summer of 1973:

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Graduate or Professional School		(50)
Public Service		(35)
Teaching		(29)
Business		(22)
Self-Employed		(12)
Housewife		(5)
Military		(5)
Unknown		(15)

-- Representative graduate professional schools attended by TJC graduates are:

- Yale School of Law
- University of Michigan Law School
- University of West Florida
- University of Pennsylvania
- Wayne State University
- University of Buffalo
- George Marshall Law School
- Western Michigan University
- Michigan State University
- SUNY at Buffalo
- Carl Jung Institute, Switzerland

-- (By the way, we just received word that John McNaughton, 1972, finished second in his class at Yale School of Law.)

EXCERPTS FROM HODGKINSON'S REPORT

-- Dr. Harold Hodgkinson of the Center for Research and Development in Higher Education, University of California at Berkeley, just completed an in-depth evaluation of Thomas Jefferson College. Dr. Hodgkinson has distinguished himself as one of the foremost educational evaluators in the country. A complete copy of his evaluation is available in Mary Te Pastte's office. The following is a series of excerpts from his report:

TJC students seem exceptionally friendly and in charge of themselves. Some, of course, seem anxious about what they're doing, but relatively few possess that traumatic, romantic, paranoic quality of the early "experimental" college of the 30's.

One thing one notices immediately on ascending to the second floor of the TJC building is the barricades which the campus-wide secretaries have erected in order to give themselves some privacy (the need certainly cannot be for acoustical pri-

vacy, and that during visits I made to this lounge the noise level never got very high at all. It appears that the secretaries simply want the vision of TJC students blocked from them. I never saw anybody go into these barriers or shields, but I was told they were used.)

One wonders...at a time when most other colleges are striving toward some communitarian model that TJC has returned to a separate-but-equal, or a states system, of government. The main reasons given for this dual form was that the faculty tended to dominate the Town Meetings so much that the students never had a chance to talk. One would think there would be easier and more effective ways of handling this problem than setting up separate governance models. It suggests an inherent incapacity on the part of the faculty to regulate themselves. One likely bet is that the current form of government is simply a transitional step toward somewhat comprehensive and interrelated systems.

It must be said that there is a lot of very good individual work being done, both in class and out of class in independent study options. Classes are small and faculty generally take advantage of small size to really get at each individual student and find out what is going on. I was very impressed with the quality of individual faculty efforts. Faculty members seem to care about the material and are very prepared in their classes.

I must say that TJC is the most thinly administered college I have seen. It is assumed that most clerical and supportive services will be provided by GVSC, but TJC really has no administration at all.

Dean Gilmore is ably assisted by a remarkably good secretary, Mary TePastte. She tends to be the office organizer, understands students very well, and spends quite a bit of her time talking with students about their problems. One gets the feeling that a great deal of potential friction is minimized by Mary's style and conscientiousness.

Generally, the overall administration of Thomas Jefferson is spread incredibly thin and is highly dependent on faculty members who take on administrative duties as overload without additional compensation.

...Five percent of the institution's annual operating budget could well go for research and evaluation if the institution is to make any claim that it is an "experimenting" college. At the present time it would hardly be fair to say that experiments were being conducted and that no rigorous

work is being done in terms of seeing what changes, if any, various instructional conditions cause in student learning. I am sure that the administration will be willing to work on this problem if they were not quite so short-handed as they currently are.

Compared to other campuses at Grand Valley, students in Thomas Jefferson are exceedingly non-vocational, overly-academic, non-collegiate, and particularly non-conformist. Education for the TJC student is a highly individualistic process. He himself, or she, must get involved with the learning before it is meaningful. The institution is old enough now to have a "second generation" of students, many of whom decry the current scene and look back to the good old days. There seems to be a stratification between local students... and the students who come from eastern states. The easterners tend to see the locals as somewhat naive, but this doesn't seem to be a source of intense personal friction.

Several students complained about the difficulty of getting enough advanced courses. This is inevitably going to be a problem in this school in which the curriculum is not systematically built, but arises relatively spontaneously out of student interest and faculty competence. This is not to say that the college should have a completely graded system in terms of difficulty, but there probably should be certain courses that lead to other kinds of material which are of greater intensity or complexity.

I talked with about 40 students during my stay, and was impressed with the lack of laziness and goof-off tendencies one occasionally finds in experimenting colleges. Virtually every student I spoke to had some fairly clear idea of what it was he or she was in college to do, and saw various activities as being related to that end. Students that were quite impressive were articulate, energetic, intelligent, and willing to learn.

RECENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

- John Warren just became the proud guardian of a super microscope and carrying case. This item will be added to TJC's collection of scientific equipment, now consisting of one microscope and two telescopes constructed by Dan Andersen of coffee cans, mirrors, and scotch tape.
- Bud Haggard is pushing hard for a Hebrew typewriter. However, as of this moment, he has failed to convince the Dean that TJC actually needs an underground Hebrew newspaper.

STATUS OF RESIDENT COMMUNITY PROPOSAL FOR TJC

- Linda Smith, Ron Efron, and Fred Beshears recently submitted a proposal for the establishment of a TJC resident community at Circle Pines Center near Delton, Michigan. This proposal has been approved by the TJC Student Town Meeting, the Faculty Meeting, and the Dean, and by Vice President Loessin. However, President Lubbers still has several concerns about the implementation of the program. We should know his decision fairly early in the winter term.

PRESIDENT FUNDS MASTER EVALUATOR PROPOSAL

- President Lubbers recently funded a proposal from Bob Shechtman and Basil King to invite distinguished artists and musicians to TJC to evaluate the programs and student works. These evaluators would also be available for discussions regarding graduate school placement. It is anticipated that two musicians and two artists will be visiting campus during the winter and spring terms.

VAS DIAS AWARDED GRANT

- The GVSC Committee on Research and Development recently awarded Robert Vas Dias a small grant to assist him in preparing a book entitled EARTH POEMS: MODERN POETRY OF NATURE AND THE EAGLE'S SPHERE.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- The 1974 TJC summer school program is currently being developed by students and faculty. The students wishing to propose a seminar for summer school should make the request directly to the faculty member or through the Dean by January 7th.

GILMORE AND ARANOFF ATTEND NAUTE CONFERENCE

- Gloria Aranoff and Dan Gilmore recently attended a conference at Prescott College, Prescott, Arizona, sponsored by the Study Commission on Higher Education (a federally-funded commission located at the University of North Dakota). The purpose of this conference was to explore the possibilities of cooperation between "established" experimenting colleges. NAUTE (Network for Alternative and Undergraduate Teacher Education) will consist of 12 experimenting colleges throughout the country. The purpose of this will be to facilitate faculty, administrators, students, and curricula exchange programs. A proposal requesting federal funding for the Network has been submitted to the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. Hopefully, student and faculty exchanges can begin as early as this spring. Some of the colleges in the Network in addition to TJC are Evergreen State College, Johnston College, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, University of North Dakota Center for Teacher Training, University of Massachusetts, Prescott College, and several others.
- Additional information on the Network will be published in future editions of the TJC Newsletter.

TEACHING/LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

- Speaking of Gloria Aranoff, she and several TJC students have been working hard this year establishing a Teaching/Learning Resource Center in downtown Grand Rapids. Because of its location, the Center has not been extremely visible to those of us on campus. However, it is an exciting project and holds great promise of being a beautiful educational opportunity for TJC students interested in becoming teachers. In addition, it will serve as a resource center for Grand Rapids teachers who wish to keep themselves informed on recent happenings in elementary and secondary education.

TV SHOW ON EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATION

- On January 8th, 1974, Channel 35 will broadcast an hour-long talk show on experimental education. The show is hosted by Jerry Elliot and features Zelda Gamson from the University of Michigan Center for the Study of Higher Education; Marc Hodgkinson from the Center of Studies of Higher Education, University of California at Berkeley; and T. Dan Gilmore, Dean, Thomas Jefferson College. The show was taped during Dr. Hodgkinson's recent visit to Thomas Jefferson College.
- Consult newspaper listings for the time of the show.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- New mailboxes were installed in the administrative office over Christmas vacation. If you're a mailbox freak, you're welcome to come in and admire them.
- Joel Fink has resigned as a resident actor at the Community Arts Center. Ann Wilford, a former TJC graduate, has been appointed as his replacement.
- Peter Maslan, technical director for the Community Arts Center, will be offering an unusual course in puppetry this winter. This course will provide an excellent opportunity for those of you who always wanted to know about puppetry but were afraid to ask.
- President Lubbers has put \$3,000 in the Research and Development Fund to cover costs of faculty travel to professional conferences. The money will be given on a first-come first-serve basis, and is reserved for those faculty who are presenting papers or serving on panels.
- Christine Loizeaux, dance instructor at Thomas Jefferson College, will be on leave of absence this winter term. Christine is being replaced by Muriel Cohan, who most recently has been dance and movement director of the Brooklyn Theatre Company and teacher for Mary Anthony Studios, New York.

DO YOU KNOW?????????

MORE ON OUR RECENT TJC GRADUATES

- Bob Strom has been offered an Assistantship in chemistry at Western Michigan University, with a \$5,000 stipend. Great,

isn't it!

- James (Bau) Graves plays guitar for Win Schulers' in Grand Haven. His wife, Pamela (also a TJC student) plays dulcimer along with him, and sings.
- Jacque VandeGuchte is teaching art at Kenowa Hills Elementary School.
- Dorothy Finner is one of our most enthusiastic, energetic, adventurous, and courageous people. She is really into her field of Dance Therapy and has received a grant of \$800 for purchasing equipment for her dance therapy projects. All of these projects are done by Dorothy on a volunteer basis. She holds classes for retarded children at Muskegon Center as well as at Kent Oaks Hospital, on a regular basis. In addition, she has tentative plans for holding two dance therapy classes at the Women's Resource Center. There just seems to be no end to Dorothy's drive, her concern and involvement. Added to all this, she was just accepted by the graduate school of Central Michigan University and will be doing graduate work there in general psychology.
- Do you remember Foxy -- Kathy Fox? Kathy was accepted by the University of Kentucky for graduate work but turned it down. She is presently teaching at a private pre-school for children in Grand Rapids.
- NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR MORE NEWS ABOUT OUR GRADUATES, LET US KNOW.

TJC GRADUATE GRADUATES FROM THE POLICE ACADEMY

- Betty (Tryon) Carleton, who graduated from TJC in 1971, was originally accepted as a graduate student in law at the Indiana State University; decided not to accept; got married and moved to Jackson, Mississippi. She has just graduated from the Police Academy there, and, in Betty's words, "I am now a full-fledged police." Betty is interested mostly in police administration.

PLEASE NOTE THE ENCLOSED ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE TJC TOWN MEETING BLAST.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE TJC OFFICE PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIES, AND STUDENT HELP

- There are three full-time secretaries at TJC: Mary TePastte, Administrative Assistant to the Dean; Sue Laskoski; and Karen Sanders (kaje). See one of them if you have any problems.
- There are also several student helpers in the office for the winter term: Tom Kelly, who mans our printing press; Phylis Kramer; Cindy Roberts; Sarah Watson; and Ranjani. You'll find them in the TJC office at scheduled times.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

- The most important event for Mary this year is the birth of a grandson, Gerrit Wayne TePastte. Of course, he is the most beautiful, smartest, and most remarkable baby ever -- from her point of view. Now mother Mary T is also Grandma Mary T.

ORIENTATION

- Orientation for our new, transfer, and returning students in the winter term will be held on Wednesday, January 2, at 3:00 PM, in the TJC Commons Room. You, as a TJC student, are invited to attend, get the "nuts 'n' bolts" type of information you might find useful, and help our new students in various ways.
- On January 3, you are invited to attend Old Time Movies being shown in 132 Huron, between 7:00 and 9:00 PM. FREE. Popcorn and lemonade too.

WE HOPE YOU HAD A NICE HOLIDAY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU.