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TJC Newsletter, Issue 2

Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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TJC Newsletter

Issue #2

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

TJC PARTY HUGE SUCCESS

- In an unprecedented move, TJC student Peter Marshall single-handedly planned, organized, and implemented a TJC social function. The party, held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Campus Center, was attended by approximately 250 people. Currently a second party is being planned, which will function basically like the first -- with the focus being on square dancing this time.

TOWNMEETING ASSIGNED OFFICE SPACE

- Originally, the plans were to locate the Townmeeting Office in a corner of the Commons Room. Many students were outraged about this plan, because they felt it would significantly affect the aesthetic qualities of the room. Consequently, the Townmeeting Office has been located in the reception area of the upstairs faculty office suite in Lake Huron Hall. The Townmeeting Steering Committee will be responsible for seeing that this desk is occupied most of the time. The students wanting to get something done should see the TJC branch of student governance in the Townmeeting Office.

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED CLASSICAL GUITARIST IN RESIDENCE AT TJC

- TJC is honored to have Mr. Guillermo Fierens on its staff as a distinguished artist-in-residence for the winter term. Mr. Fierens is known for his virtuosity on the classical guitar. He has performed in most western countries and has received universal critical acclaim. During his stay at

Thomas Jefferson College, Mr. Fierens will be teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes in classical guitar. The following appearances have been scheduled for him:

- Sat Feb 9 Solo concert
Time: 8:15 PM
Place: Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center
- Sun Mar 3 Mr. Fierens will be guest performer with the Grand Valley State College's Orchestra and Woodwind Ensemble
Time: 3:00 PM
Place: Louis Armstrong Theatre, FAC
- Sat Mar 16 Mr. Fierens and some of his more advanced students will perform at a recital
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Place: Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center

Mr. Fierens will be performing at a special Studio Concert on the Buck Matthews Show at 9:00 AM on February 28, 1974.

R. RANGARAMANUJA AYYANGAR ASKED TO EXTEND HIS STAY

Mr. Rangaramanuja Ayyangar, distinguished artist-in-residence at TJC for the academic year 1973-1974 has been asked to stay for the winter term. Mr. Ayyangar's students insisted that he stay because of his expertise and invaluable contributions to their intensive and extensive study of Carnatic music and theory. Mr. Ayyangar is the foremost authority in the field of Carnatic music and is renowned as a distinguished scholar and master musician. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Ayyangar not only for his contributions as a teacher of Carnatic music and theory but for the extremely high standards he promulgated for himself and his students. He has had a profound influence on the lives of his students and inspired the greatest respect and admiration from all who came in contact with him. We shall miss him deeply.

In addition, Mr. Ayyangar has contributed greatly to the admissions efforts of TJC. By invitation, he has appeared before local high schools, not only discoursing on Carnatic music and South Indian music and culture generally, but he has also talked on Hinduism and has promoted TJC generally. Our office has received enthusiastic reports about Mr. Ayyangar from the schools concerned, and we believe his efforts cannot but help to stimulate interest and bring more highly motivated students to TJC.

NOTE: Mr. Rangaramanuja Ayyangar and his student and disciple, Ranjani, will be appearing on the Buck Matthews Show on March 7 at 9:00 AM. Mr. Ayyangar will be interviewed, and most likely he will be playing the VEENA, the oldest musical instrument, with Ranjani playing the Tamboura.

SAUL FRIEDMAN ON CAMPUS

- Saul Friedman, Washington Correspondent for the *Detroit Free Press* and the Booth papers, visited TJC the weekend of January 8th to look over the college on behalf of his daughter who is planning to join us in the fall and to discuss the state of the nation in general. Dan Andersen and his family hosted him on Saturday, and Dan and Emily Gilmore the next day. Mr. Friedman's views on the current political scene were truly fascinating (albeit controversial) and absorbing. He has consented to return to TJC sometime this spring to spend one or two days visiting classes. We are looking forward to his return. By the way, his column appears each Thursday on the editorial page of the *Detroit Free Press*.

VAS DIAS TO TOUR ENGLAND

- Robert Vas Dias has been invited to deliver five public readings of his poetry in England Scotland from February 12 to February 21, 1974. He will be reading at the Poetry Society of London, the New England College in Sussex, the Tower, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the Poetry Festival at the University of Essex in Sterling, Scotland. We congratulate Robert on his international appeal, and wish him the best of luck.

Robert has just completed two visits to high schools under the Poets-in-the-Schools project of the Michigan Council on the Arts. The schools were North Muskegon High School and Hudsonville High School. He has also recently submitted a proposal to the GVSC administration for the establishment of an apprenticeship program in the arts for GVSC in New York City. More regarding the specifics of this program will be published if and when it is approved by the administration.

WELL-KNOWN AUTHORITIES ON TAI-CHI EXPECTED TO BE IN RESIDENCE AT TJC DURING THE SPRING TERM

- Gia-Fu Feng and Dr. Jane English, well-known authors and practitioners of Tai-Chi, are expected to be here during the spring term. Dr. English also has a doctorate degree in nuclear physics, as well as being an accomplished and widely-published photographer. They will be offering courses ranging from basic Tai-Chi (philosophy and practice) to courses such as Tai-Chi and Physics, and Basic Photography. With the current high interest in eastern philosophies and religion among TJC students, we expect these courses to be extremely popular. We look forward to greeting Mr. Gia-Fu Feng and Dr. Jane English.

COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

- The Artists-in-Residence Program, a part of the Community Arts Center of Thomas Jefferson College, spent the major part of the fall term organizing and rehearsing the elementary and secondary school programs. Members of the company include: Robert Moyer, Director, and theatre professor at TJC, who both directed professionally and worked extensively

in creative dramatics; Ellen Bush, Assistant to the Director, who is responsible for classroom instruction projects and creative dramatics, and also a talented instructor in creative dramatics; Holly Sherman, actress from California, who has performed extensively in children's theatres and is also proficient in deaf sign language; John O'Creagh, actor from New York, who has most recently worked in a professional artists-in-residence program in north Virginia schools; Rick Ruppert, actor from New Orleans, who was a member of the "Everybody Players" artists-in-residence program in that city; Anne Wilford, actress from Grand Rapids, who is a recent graduate of TJC and a member of the pilot company of this project last year.

All of these professional actors are trained to work with children in the classroom. They demonstrate development of scenes by involving the students in theatre games and exercises.

The success of the pilot program last year and the work done so far this year in schools has been overwhelming. Teachers have gone so far as to say that the program is more important for their kids than reading or math. A first grader at Covell Elementary School reported "All the time in class, we're not so shy any more." Programs are offered to the Grand Rapids school system at no charge, and are funded jointly by the Grand Rapids School Board and Grand Valley State Colleges. The continued success of the program will provide expanded educational experiences for TJC students as well as unique study experiences for elementary children.

Bob Moyer, Mike Birtwistle, and all the professional staff and students at the Community Arts Center deserve special recognition for the fine job they are doing in their first year of existence with the School Program.

RESIDENT COMMUNITY PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

- Ron Efron, speaking on behalf of the Resident Community Task Force, has withdrawn the proposal for the establishment of a residential learning community at Circle Pines Camp at Delton, Michigan.

NAUTE OF INTEREST TO MANY STUDENTS

- The Network for Alternatives to Undergraduate Teacher Education, described in the last NEWSLETTER, has created considerable enthusiasm among TJC students, most of whom are interested in investigating exchange programs. Such exchange programs are still being organized, and it looks as though it might be possible for exchanges to take place as early as next fall. Watch the NEWSLETTER for further information.

ANOTHER WILSONISM

- Cam Wilson has discovered that he is so attached to solutions that he must constantly invent problems to stay high.

FACULTY WORKSHOP

- The TJC Faculty Meeting met in an all-day workshop on Friday, January 11. Basically, the workshop revolved around an intensive discussion of personal needs and perceived institutional needs -- trying to bring the two together in ways that would maximize the benefits to both. A list of the numerous needs discussed is available from Mary T. in 167 Huron.

The one major over-riding problem seemed to be a need for more time to do higher quality work. The Faculty Meeting is considering this issue at their meeting on Friday, January 18. Whether or not there is a resolution of the problem, there seems to be a general consensus among the faculty that the workshop produced significant and meaningful sharing, and that many good human things happened.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMS IN INDIA

- We have been asked to announce that our International Studies Office has a very good study program in India. Interested students should stop by the office, and see Bonnie Sloan in 251 Lake Superior Hall for more details.

JERRY WELLS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOOP-LA ON JERRY FORD DAY

- Geraldine "Jerry" Wells, one of our TJC students, has been invited to attend and participate in the Press Conference as a representative from GVSC for the "Jerry, Our VP Comes Home" celebration. This involves a 24-hour program starting on Wednesday, January 16, and ending Thursday, January 17, with dinners, receptions, speeches, and motorcades. Jerry is quite excited about this and plans to give us a report of the event.

FOOD CO-OP

- The Allendale Food Co-op, run by TJC students for the most part, is in business again. You can get information by calling 895-6250.

There is also another Food Co-op located in Grand Rapids (from which the Allendale Food Co-op orders most of its supplies). Information about this one can be obtained by calling 453-8550.

RETRACTION ON FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Due to some misinformation we received and which was passed on to you in our last NEWSLETTER, we assumed that the Fine Arts Scholarship Program was already processed and approved. We therefore have to ask all you "eager beavers" who came rushing to our office to pick up the application forms to please wait. It will come about, but it must still be formally processed and approved yet. We will keep you posted.

TJC GRADUATES

- We're trying to compile a current list of addresses for our TJC graduates. We want to know what they're doing and let them know what's happening here. We plan to send them the NEWSLETTER at the same time we send it to our TJC students. If you have a current address for a graduate, please let Mary know.
- We just received a poignant letter from David Gotlib, who is living in a kibbutz in Israel at present, and working and suffering along with them. The letter was printed in THE LANTHORN, but if you missed it we have a copy in the TJC office. We also received a picture postcard from David. He says, "Would you believe I'm a ditchdigger; that should look good on the list of what TJC graduates are doing." Not so, David, you're doing what you believe in, and, to quote an appropriate saying, "Behold the turtle who makes progress only when he sticks his neck out."
- Kathy Fox has changed jobs and is now working for the Kent County CAP program.
- Julie Christianson stopped by here and said she had just returned from Europe. She almost took a job there but returned due to the fuel shortage scare. She is presently looking for work.

APPOINTMENT OF TJC GRADUATES

- Robert Vas Dias has appointed Andy Gold, a TJC student, to be Editorial and Research Assistant to him in connection with the faculty research grant awarded to Mr. Vas Dias for EARTHPOEMS: MODERN POETRY OF NATURE AND THE ECOSPHERE.

ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY IN THE TJC OFFICE

- TJC students and others concerned will be interested to know we have our own ecology program in the TJC office, particularly with regard to utilizing paper. All class materials, in fact just about everything, are run on both sides of a sheet of paper to save materials. In some instances, we even use the other side of surplus paper distributed through the college. This has proved to be a boon both for ecology as well as economy.

TJC ADMITS TEN-YEAR-OLD STUDENT

- Kirk Dearden, ten-year-old son of the Dean of the School of Health Sciences, has been accepted as a student in the intermediate classical guitar classes given by our visiting artist-in-residence, Mr. Guillermo Fierens.
- Said T. Dan Gilmore, "We are adhering to all regulations for elementary-age students, and Kirk is allowed a ten-minute recess every hour to play in the sandbox." Click!

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