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TJC Newsletter, Issue 8

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Newsletter

Issue #8

Compiled from the Dean's Office, Thomas Jefferson College, GVSC.
25 October 1974.

TJC TOWNMEETING

- Dean Gilmore called the first Townmeeting of the academic year for the purpose of getting it started and explaining the organizational structures and powers of the TJC administration and committees.
- Only a few people attended, so it was decided to make a second attempt to get the Townmeeting started, primarily so that elections could be held for the various TJC and GVSC standing committees.
- A letter was mailed to all students, announcing the meeting for Thursday, October 24, at 12:00 noon in the TJC Commons Room. The letter -- which was composed by a Townmeeting Task Force consisting of Diane Katz, Judy Schwartz, Barb Valenti, Fred Silverman, and Stephen Cochran -- explained the urgency for TJC students attending, and listed the various committees that need TJC student representatives along with a description of their functions.

GERRY ELLIOT

- Gerry -- who has written some tremendous articles generally, and for Thomas Jefferson College in particular, in the Grand Rapids Press (as well as many feature stories for Wonderland Magazine) -- has donated 150 books on theatre, plays, playwrights, directing, etc., to TJC's Stage 3.

NEXUS

- Nexus, a project of the American Association for Higher Education, is a "People Bank." Its purpose is to put people who have information in touch with those who need information,

thereby helping to translate good ideas into action by providing greater access to information in all areas of post-secondary education.

- Nexus is a rapid referral service that, primarily through phone contact, shortens the time needed for significant programs to get off the ground, develop, and circulate. One can find out instantly if an idea has already been implemented, where it's happening, who's involved, how it works -- just by calling Nexus. This service applies to non-traditional as well as traditional post-secondary education experiences.
- One can contact Nexus either by writing them at One Dupont Circle, Suite 780, Washington, D.C., 20036, or by calling them at (202) 785-8480. "All it costs is the price of the call."

T'AI CHI (by Helen Wong)

- "A year ago, I would rather have played a game of ping-pong or softball than take up something like T'ai Chi.
- "As a little girl I went to an American missionary school which encompassed grades from kindergarten to senior high. Our athletic program was similar to that of American schools, and we took great pride in having an unbeatable girls' softball team. In my time, we realized China was backward in science, technology, and physical education. We tried too hard to correct this, and looked up to everything that was Western and down on anything ancient. The newer something was, the better we liked it. Due to this feeling, we lost some valuable ideas and philosophies, T'ai Chi in particular.
- "There has been a sort of revival of T'ai Chi on many campuses recently. At first, I was rather skeptical and could not accept it. Quite by accident I discovered Cameron Wilson's T'ai Chi class. It happened that I arrived on campus early, so I went to the Field House at 8:00 AM. A group of approximately 40 students were working quietly in the Combatants Room there. My curiosity was piqued, but I'm happy to say that since this initial visit I have attended this class regularly. On the second day I attended, I found out that I did not breathe correctly all the time and that I cannot take a meditation walk without losing my balance. Every day I discover something new. I've learned to walk, to think, to breathe, to inhale, to exhale, to roar. I never thought I could -- what a joyful encounter!
- "I am aware of the fact that T'ai Chi is not just a physical exercise. You control your body through your mind and intellect. It calls for a lot of mental discipline. Surprisingly, Cam injects a lot of these elements into the group.
- Now, every morning I look forward to this half hour. I realize this is not a long enough period to really learn, but my stiff muscles are loosening up. I'll catch up someday. Just give me time, Cam."

CHRIS AND BOB'S AUTO SHOW

- Chris (Loizeaux) and Bob's (Shechtman) Auto Show was a big success. It was performed outside Lake Huron Hall on Tuesday, October 15, and Wednesday, October 16, at 3:00 PM.
- The piece, as interpreted by Chris and Bob, involved choreogra-

phy by Chris and music composed by Bob, was of twenty minutes' duration, and emphasized the impact of the auto on humanity and the conflicts related thereto. This was portrayed by Bob's music students playing the cars like instruments and Christine's dance students interpreting the impact of the car on the human spirit.

- A big write-up of this event was featured in the Grand Rapids Press on Thursday, October 17, 1974.

[MARY'S CORNER]

FACULTY NOTES

- Paul Corneil

At the still point of the turning world. Neither flesh nor fleshness;
Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is,
But neither arrest nor movement. And do not call it fixity,
Where past and future are gathered. Neither movement from nor towards,
Neither ascent nor decline. Except for the point, the still point,
There would be no dance, and there is only the dance.
I can only say, there we have been; but I cannot say where,
And I cannot say, how long, for that is to place it in time.

T.S. Eliot

Four Quartets

- "My life routine has been generally hectic and crowded for years. Moments of quiet, outside and in-between the frenetic activity of "projects," apparently are more important to me than I have until now realized -- so much so that they subconsciously found expression in my pictures, especially in my choices of what to print. The "still point" is an image that had been in my brain ever since Joanne Dierdorff read that stanza from T.S. Eliot at a dance concert years ago. To have stayed vivid so long, it must have been highly appropriate to my life situation then. Thus these photographs now.
- "The idea of still points is not merely stillness, but a suspension between one force and another. This allowed me to understand a personal sub-theme of photographing political boundaries, of all things, wherever sufficiently strong visually: all along the United States/Mexico frontier with its fence and busy checkpoints; between Utah and Arizona at Monument Valley; between Israel and occupied Jordan; and in the heather between England and Scotland. Now I somewhat know why I've been collecting these strange pictures where one state stops before the next starts. The same applies to my photography of mountain passes, the flat place to pause at the end of a climb before beginning the descent. In still points, all is at rest (unless one is in a hurry), and one may pause, suspended. At these times and places, my sense of what is real increases (trivial issues of life being elsewhere); awareness floods in. I could sit there forever; it is good for my soul.
- "A verbal title affords the opportunity to extend the visual communication. Carrying on a Gestalt-psychology conversation with myself about the picture uncovers strong verbal associ-

ations for a photograph that might normally be semiconscious or suppressed. Bob Philips suggested I 'be' the photograph conversing with a viewer -- an idea I applied to the sunflower picture immediately, and which led to its title. I have done this for some pictures; but with others, I felt like giving place only.

- "Bob also read the Eliot quartets through, discovering repeated allusions to 'still points,' a reference ('Will the sunflower turn to us...?') in support of my Gestalt, and at the end of one quartet the aphorism, 'In the end is the beginning.' So true."
- 1. At sunset, prepare for sunrise.
 2. Between heaven and earth, Zen horizon.
 3. Things have a way of reversing...
 4. Pausing, "M" leaves a mark.
 5. Oak Glen. I have driven up; now I must go on.
 6. Oak Glen, winter.
 7. Saturday morning.
 8. Kalamazoo, Michigan. A transitional, suspended city.
 9. Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 10. Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 11. Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 12. Farm auction, Michigan, 1973.
 13. Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico. The hauntedness of this place stops time.
 14. Independence Pass, Colorado; full circle.
 15. Mulege, Baja California; half circle.
 16. Cajon Pass in 1969.
 17. Junction Cafe, Cajon Pass; metamorphosis.
 18. Tunnel Hill, Pennsylvania; the railroad summit of the Alleghenies.
 19. Monument Valley, 1969.
 20. Monument Valley, 1973; metamorphosis.
 21. Sedona, Arizona.
 22. Neither arrest nor movement; Jo Dierdorff, 1973.
 23. Self-portrait: "Hot Spot," Exploratorium, San Francisco.
- Paul is an exchange faculty member from Johnston College, Redlands, California, for the academic year 1974/1975. His photography exhibit, featuring the pieces listed above, will be shown on the second floor of Zumberge Library, starting October 21st, and will probably continue for a month.
- Paul says TJC seems to bring out the humanist in him. This was borne out by a recent meeting with his Johnston College colleagues, where they told him he had changed somewhat, that he seemed more receptive, more mellow, warmer, and seemed to radiate a certain warmth internally as well as externally.
- Barbara Gibson
 - Barbara is presently teaching at Johnston College for the 1974/1975 academic year, in faculty exchange with Paul Corneil who is at Thomas Jefferson College. She writes as follows:
 - "Paul Corneil's letter, which I read yesterday, inspired me to do the same, though I'll never reproduce the witty tone. Paul: I loved your description of Michigan countryside, although it made me homesick. I'll trade you some smog for some clear Coopersville air. Every morning I drive down the mountain from Forest Falls, where I live in a tiny cabin among pines and oaks and Steller's jays and mountain bluebirds and

squirrels -- 6000 feet high -- I drive down with the car in neutral, cause I can coast almost all the 15 miles, and what do I see? I see a thick blanket of brown-grey SMOG covering Redlands. It's not even Redlands smog, it's Los Angeles smog, blown over here (60 miles east) and trapped by the mountains, heat, inversion layers, etc. But they tell me that in a couple of weeks the worst will be over. The Santa Ana winds may come this weekend, hot winds from the desert that blow all the shit out to the ocean.

-- "Southern California is weird. I can't get used to seeing palm trees -- I keep thinking it's a movie set. Outside my office building are some bushes whose flowers are red and look like baby bottle brushes. I haven't even begun to look at all the oleanders, hibiscus, cactuses, jade plants, etc., etc. My office, by the way, is super-plush, because it's actually a room in these rather nice dormitories -- with carpet, a big closet, two soft chairs and a bed for middle-of-the-day naps. Almost all the students here live in dorms and so far they don't seem to hate them as much as at Grand Valley. The part of the dorm I'm in is called the Women's Lounge because it was organized around that particular interest. Other lounges are organized around art, or around cross-cultural interests, or just around having some peace and quiet. I'd say the community here is tighter than at TJC, partly because of the residential situation, and partly because the student body is smaller (around 300), and partly because Johnston in some ways is more separate from the University of Redlands than TJC is from GVSC. Johnston has its own Dean of Students and Assistant Dean of Students, and they do a lot to improve student life, I think. It also has its own admissions people who travel around the country recruiting students, its own public relations people who work on publicity and on getting grants, full-time, and various other people who work on the University Without Walls program (for older students), ACTION (combined Vista and Peace Corps), and God knows what else. Yes, we are definitely "thinly administered" compared to Johnston. I don't know yet what I think of that.

-- "I don't have a good feel yet for what the students are like. Most that I've met so far are women, and I've been told by some male faculty that the women students really run this place and are the strongest, most interesting people here. I don't know whether that was said to impress me or feed my bias or whether it's really true. Not that it would surprise me. However, in spite of that, I'm one of the only two women faculty members here this semester -- the other is Barbara Coulibaly, who is black and an expert in child development. Isobel Corneil and Rosemary Galli, the other two women here, are both on leave this term, but Isobel will be back next term. She has done a lot of the women's things in the past. And other women's classes have been student-taught; as is one in The Psychology of Women this term. We've already (school has been going about a week and a half) had some excitement and controversy over a women's center. Yesterday, the community meeting voted unanimously to give the women an apartment in one of the dorms for a women's center, but the Chancellor still has to approve it. There are some sophisticated and very hip women here.

- "It's hard for me to look at Johnston, and particularly at the faculty, without making lots of comparisons. I see a Don Klein here, a Bobby Shechtman there, even, yes, a Cam. Sort of. As I get to know them better they will seem more like real people and less like TJC copies, I'm sure. I have kind of a mass impression of a lot of straight-looking men who are social scientists of some kind. Serious. (Except there's lots of joking at meetings. The Vice-Chancellor, Frank Blume, is one of the funniest men on a campus I've ever met. By coincidence we were at Oberlin at the same time, though we didn't know each other. At the first faculty meeting, the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor entered wearing their old army and marine uniforms.) However, Johnston does much better than TJC at minority and cross-cultural personnel -- they have a man from India, one from Japan, a Chicano, two black men, etc. The student body too is much more diversified racially and culturally -- I'd guess there are at least a dozen black students, which beats our proportion by a lot.
- "The thing I miss most here is Art. There's one musician, but this term he's not teaching any music courses at Johnston. The Dean of Students is an architect, I think, but he doesn't teach that either. No dancers, no painters or sculptors. One man who does theater sometimes, though that's not his primary speciality. The musician is also a poet and does teach that. The big emphasis here is psychology and the social sciences, along with philosophy and religion. Not hardly any literature, even.
- "But enough comparisons. I like it here. People are friendly but busy. Unlike Paul, I am lonely sometimes. Homesick for all of you, homesick for my cat Tutley who's now in Vermont, and for my family and friends and lovers. I've been to L.A. twice to visit dear old friends from Milwaukee days and I've found some new ones there too. It's a ghastly drive of an hour and a half through total smog urban pollution freeway nightmare, so I don't know how often I'll be doing it.
- "I haven't said anything about the summer and Naropa. As Phyllis will probably attest, it was great. I loved being a student for a change, I mean officially a student, and I really found some important changes for me in the Tibetan Buddhist studies I did. I had a wonderful two days at Stillpoint, loved climbing Pike's Peak with Jane, meditating at 5:00 AM with Gia-Fu, and dancing and sauna-ing with Cam and Jesse and Janice and Tom and Barb and everybody. I'm crazy about Colorado -- can't we move TJC there?
- "I suppose you all are basking in reflected glory, the Grand Rapids Ford ethos, though perhaps less this week than before. Well, this is former President territory -- San Clemente is near, also Palm Springs where he spends time, and someone showed me where Haldeman lives at Newport Beach. Yech. Ah it's all samsara anyway.
- "DO WRITE. Just send it care of Johnston College, University of Redlands, Redlands, California, 92373. I miss you."
- Guillermo Fierens
- Guillermo's video tape done by Channel 35, WGVC, Grand Valley's television station -- reports Gerry Elliot -- was selected (and unanimously too) as one of the ten best for the year by the CEN (Central Educational Network). This is a great

honor and means that Guillermo's classical guitar concert becomes part of the CEN permanent library and is used by this network all over the midwest. Listed on the last page of this Newsletter are several of Mr. Fieren's concerts. You will note that one of them involves a benefit concert for TJC music scholarships. Please try to support this effort and publicize it widely.

-- R. Rangaramanujam Ayyangar

- Mr. Ayyangar has been appearing at many universities in the area, delivering not only his message and showing his expertise on South Indian Carnatic Music through live demonstrations, but also lecturing on Indian Epics, Hinduism, and culture. You will notice in our list of coming events that a South Indian Music Ensemble concert is scheduled. This unique and varied group consists of two electric guitars, one flute, one saxophone, tamboura, and two veenas, plus the konakal.
- On Sunday, November 3rd, Mr. Ayyangar will give a veena recital for the Detroit Integral Yoga Institute (Swami Satchitananda is the founder); on November 7th he will give a musical lecture/demonstration on the Raamaayana for Mrs. Bonnie Sigren Busick's religion class at Western Michigan University. Later that same evening, he will perform in public concert at WMU.
- Also, please note that sometime in the near future several students from Mr. Ayyangar's class will take part in performing a few scenes from the Raamaayana. The dates and times of this performance will be posted on the calendar board.

TJC STUDENTS, ALUMNI, GRADUATES

-- First, a summary of what our TJC graduates are doing, as compiled by T. Dan Gilmore:

-- Graduate and Professional Schools	67	36.0
-- Social Work and Related Fields	31	17.0
-- Teaching: Elementary, Secondary, College	29	16.0
-- Professional Arts and/or Crafts	27	15.0
-- Business	15	8.2
-- Housewives	6	3.3
-- Military	4	2.2
-- Educational Administration	3	1.7
-- Federal Government	3	1.7
-- Office and Clerical	3	1.7
-- Farmer	2	1.1
-- Unemployed	2	1.1
-- Unknown	53	
-- Total	225	

- Joseph D. Raterick, who graduated this past spring, writes "It gets very scary out in this sea of madness; I miss the island of TJC." He also submitted the name of a person he met who is very interested in TJC.
- Bob Strom writes from Boulder, Colorado -- where he is taking classes, teaching, and doing research on a graduate fellowship, I believe -- that "the scenery is wonderful, the mountains beautiful...Boulder is kind of a crazy city -- much too big for my liking -- I guess I'm just used to Allendale. Things are great!" TJC people who would like to write Bob can do so at 2915 Baseline #315, Boulder, Colorado, 80303.

- Teresa Podgorski was married in August to Michael Phillips, who works for the Tenants Union, handling problems. Teresa is working at the Northwest Complex.
- Virginia Elenbaas, a TJC graduate, just had a book published by the American Federation of Astrologers, Inc., entitled FOCUS ON PLUTO. Interestingly enough, she dedicated the book to "my Plutonian-Astrologer-Mother who in the spirit of Pluto is... One out of many." She inscribed the copy of the book she donated to us with "Thanks TJC for letting me find my own way." Ginny wrote the following letter which accompanied the copy of her book:
 - "Since this little book came out of research done at TJC, felt you ought to have a copy even though the people who gave me the 'green light' on this project are, I believe, all gone now: Shane Mage, Lee Kaufman, and Eugene Cash.
 - "In any case, the freedom to study what I wanted seemed to open many doors for me personally, since never once in my entire life had I previously considered writing anything for publication.
 - "Am now working on another book, also based on research done in my year with you, and do feel very grateful for the freedom which TJC allows which certainly helped me get off the ground."
- Kathy Fox, attending graduate school at Michigan State University, is doing a study of innovation and changes within educational systems. We sent her the material she requested on TJC.
- Patrick J. Sweeney, who graduated in June, spent the summer as a waiter in a New Jersey resort area. He hopes to get into journalism, advertising, or technical writing. His experience with the LANTHORN should stand him in good stead. (Note: he just reported getting a full-time position as a writer for PBS.)
- Halcyon La Pointe is working at Sun Sai Gai and, in addition, is assisting Bill Harrison with research in anthropology.
- Sue Hogskins (her "newish" name) says she married Rog about a year ago and moved to #112-99 Dalhousie Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 3M2. She and Rog both work for the Manitoba Mines Branch. Sue wants to know from John Warren "how are the stromatoporoids? Have you done any work on the thin sections?" Sue, rest assured you will now receive the NEWSLETTER in your married name and at the right address, too.
- Joyce Jenkins is Student Director of the Urban Corps in Grand Rapids.
- Mark Pearson left October 9 for Vienna, Austria, where he'll be for two years. He'll be working and studying at the University of Vienna. He hopes to find work in a computer-related field. His temporary address is c/o Netter, Schulgasse 33/14, A-1180 Vienna, Austria.
- Becky Parrish and Melissa Ames are presently engaged in Project Soot (Save Our Orange Tree). The tree, a gift to TJC, needs help.
- Kris Olsen is studying in Chicago. She is studying under Lila Dole and Mrs. Folkers at Northern Illinois University, pre-classic dance and ballet (renaissance). During the summer she did a special study with Jose Tomas in Santiago, Spain, in classical guitar. Classes were held in a castle which was the summer residence of Ferdinand and Isabel. Kris says she took a 2200 mile bike trip from Norway to Madrid, ending at the castle, for lessons in classical guitar.

FACULTY AUTOBIOGRAPHY: DENNIS WINTERS

- Like many teachers that have drifted into "experimental" education, I had experienced a frustration with the incredible potential of students foundering on the shores of institutional demands. In the latter part of my thirteenth year as a college teacher, I began to realize that my creativity was needed less in actually teaching the content of my subject (communication theory) than in developing a meaningful fruitful relationship between student and teacher within the confines of the institution. Also, I discovered that I had been relating to the concept of institutions in general, rather than confronting and developing the relevant structure within a given immediate institution.
- I find the position of Associate Dean very challenging, and am experiencing a totally different kind of frustration. Instead of smarting under the yoke of a restrictive institutional structure, I find myself stretching to creatively fulfill all the institutional promises of TJC.
- Sure, I find TJC exciting, interesting, different. But why shouldn't it be? It enjoys an excellent, carefully-selected faculty and study body in a very supportive, expansive, atmosphere. But, I sense among both the faculty and the students a nagging question: "Sure it's good, but could it be great?" I think I'll stay around and find out.

TJC ALUMNAE UNION

- Be a charter member of the TJC Graduate Union! There will be an organizational meeting of all TJC graduates and friends who are interested in establishing an active, person-oriented alumnae association. The date is Wednesday, 6 November 1974. The time is 7:00 PM. The place is the TJC Commons Room. For more information, contact either Trudy Titman at 895-6073 or Roger Stephens at 677-1313.

EMERGENCY FUNDS

- The TJC Townmeeting has set up an Emergency Fund Committee for TJC students. If you have an emergency and need help, you can call one of the five committee members:
 - Mary DeJong (treasurer), 456-5101;
 - George Robb, 895-6970;
 - Susan Goldberg, 895-4053;
 - Carolyn Johnson, 459-2441;
 - Mary TePastte, 532-7817.
- Three out of the five have the power to award emergency money.
- Bake Sales will be held before all Townmeetings to raise funds.
- Also, a Benefit Concert will be held on Wednesday, November 20, in 132 Lake Huron Hall at 8:00 PM. The suggested donation is \$1.00. The following people will be performing: Paul Ferris, Bess Loeppert, Alan Ringwald, and Steve Garwood.
- Susan Goldberg would like to organize a Quilting Bee as another way of raising funds. If you are interested in participating, call her at the number listed above.
- Donations for the fund will be solicited from students, staff, and faculty.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please mark these dates on your calendar

- October 21-
November 19 PAUL CORNEIL'S photographic exhibit "Still Points" will be shown at Zumberge Library, on the second floor.
- November 8 GUILLERMO FIERENS will appear on TV Channel 13 at 12:00 noon on "Eyewitness at Noon."
- November 11 GUILLERMO FIERENS will give an informal concert in 132 Lake Huron Hall at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.
- November 16 GUILLERMO FIERENS will appear in concert at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, Michigan. Admission will be charged.
- November 21 R. RANGARAMANUJAM AYYANGAR will appear with his South Indian Music Ensemble in concert in 132 Lake Huron Hall at 8:00 p.m. (Scenes from the Raamaayana, in which students will take part, will be put on the boards on a day to follow.)
- November 22 GUILLERMO FIERENS will give a benefit concert at the St. Cecilia Music Society Auditorium, 24 Ransom NE in Grand Rapids, at 8:00 p.m. The benefit is for TJC music scholarships. Admission will be \$3.50.
- December 9 GUILLERMO FIERENS will appear in formal concert in the Louis Armstrong Theatre at 8:15 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson College
895-6611, ext 357

FLASH - INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE IN ARTS COUNCIL OF GRAND RAPIDS

(Join the American Cultural Revolution)

The Arts Council of Grand Rapids whose Director is Dr. Kolhoff, seeks to integrate the arts into the mainstream of community life. NEEDED ARE - students who are imaginative and able and willing to WORK HARD doing the necessary routine work to make an artistic renaissance possible. CONTACT T. DAN GILMORE FOR DETAILS.