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TJC Newsletter, Issue 11

Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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newsletter

Issue #11,

Compiled from the Dean's Office, Thomas Jefferson College, GVSC. 11 April 1975.

Spring Term will be well under way by the time you get this issue, but a hearty welcome to all our students -- new, returning, transfer, and re-entering. We hope you are fairly well settled and that TJC people and courses are up to your expectations.

THE NEW IMPROVED BULL FROG POND

Several students at TJC -- *Steve Garwood, Mark Lewison, and Jerry Leep* -- are trying to get a new production of the Bull Frog Pond going. For those of you who are new to TJC: the Bull Frog Pond was the original student publication of the college. It contained notices of events, minutes of meetings, student writings, student art, etc., and was compiled and edited by TJC students. It went out of publication a year ago because of a lack of people willing to work on it. Now these three students are trying to get it started again. If you are interested in helping them in the production of the BFP, or interested in contributing to it, talk to one of these students, or see Mary TePaste. Let's help the BFP become a living, viable publication again.

SIN IS EVERYWHERE

SPREAD THE WORD! No, this is not an evangelical plea, but an announcement that SIN (Students In Need) will be holding an auction. Get this! A PERSONAL SERVICES OR CREATIONS AUCTION. The money raised will be used by SIN as an emergency fund for the use of TJC students. So far, T. Dan is contributing his services for a gourmet dinner, kaje an hour or two of her typing time, Dennis an hour of his time (for whatever?), Art Cadieux an art work, and more...Earl Heuer will be our auctioneer, with Jeff Brown assisting. We need plenty of art items or anything you think might go at an auction. We need, also, more services, dance, music. Think about what you can do for SIN. Let's all get out to the auction and support it!

For more details and information, or to make contributions, please call George Robb at 895-7673 or Mary TePastte at ext 357 or 532-7817. The date of the auction has not yet been officially set. Watch the Gazette or the Clear Hooter for announcements about the date and the time.

ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Dan Andersen has been serving as the executive secretary of the Alliance for Clean Energy (ACE), a coalition of organizations and individuals in the West Michigan area whose concern is that the general public be thoroughly acquainted with the many issues involved in nuclear energy before making an all-out commitment to its use. ACE put on a conference, entitled "Nuclear Energy and Its Alternatives," on Saturday, 5 April, at the Wege Center of Aquinas College. Featured were workshops and a guest speaker, Dr. Dean Abrahamson, from the University of Minnesota. The workshops dealt with the technical aspects of, safety issues of, cost factors of, and alternatives to nuclear energy.

Dan does not believe that the difficulty with nuclear fission energy is just a matter of solving technological problems. There are inevitable sociological problems of such intricacy and magnitude as to always make nuclear fission energy a threat to people and to the environment.

"We must get off the prevailing idea that sociological problems have a technological solution, that another 'breakthrough' or two is all we need to remove the difficulties. I believe the adoption of nuclear fission energy would become a continual nightmare to cope with and not a beneficial legacy," says Dan.

If you would like further information about the Alliance for Clean Energy, contact either Dan Andersen, or Rod Bailey of WJC, chairperson of the group.

THE WOMEN'S WEEKEND

The Women's Weekend began, and continued, in the spirit of sisterhood and celebration. Nearly 300 women from Grand Valley and the Grand Rapids area participated in the events scheduled from 28 February to 2 March. All events were held in the GVSC Campus Center, and day care services were offered in the TJC Commons Room of Lake Huron Hall. The weekend was sponsored by the GVSC Women's Center, located in Room 224 East of the Commons Building.

The festivities began Friday night with a coffee house in the Campus Center Theatre. Women poets, musicians, and mime artists performed for one another and, together, created a warm, vibrant energy that prevailed all weekend long. Friday night was also the beginning of a crafts sale and exhibit by women.

Saturday's events opened with a pot luck breakfast, and continued with a variety of workshops in Self-Defense, Witchcraft, Assertiveness Training, Quilting, and more. The highlight of the day was a dance for women. A band from Chicago called MOTHER RIGHT performed. Women danced like crazy and let loose with celebration, and worked up a good sweat on the dance floor.

Sunday ended the weekend with a Dance and Movement workshop, and an Improvisational Theatre performance (with audience participation, of course), and a video tape of favorite weekend events.

The Women's Weekend was a first for women at Grand Valley. Many deserve recognition for the work they did in planning and setting-up for the weekend; but the list is too long to mention everyone. All women present collectively and individually contributed in some way to the success of the weekend. Sisters, stand up and take a bow!

Jo Ellen Pasman

A HISTORY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON COLLEGE

Would you like to read a history of Thomas Jefferson College? So would I...and that's what got me started six months ago on a special study of the life and times of this place.

Though small portions of TJC's history have been compiled, my project is aimed at putting it all together. Despite being time-consuming and full of busy-work (sorting through old files and records), the task has been an enjoyable one. And, aside from the juicy gossip, I have also gained experience in role-playing the historian, archivist, researcher, journalist, and editorialist.

My work is taking on the dimensions of a book. In some ways it is overpowering me; but if TJC has taught me anything, it is to not hedge in on my highest hopes.

I would like to ask something of each of you now...if you have any information/insight/data which you think belongs in a history of Thomas Jefferson College, please please let me know. It will, as they say, be impossible without your help.

Contact me at: 10873 64th Avenue, Apt #7
Allendale, Michigan 49401
616/895-7486
or
TJC Main Office
616/895-6611, ext 357
or
Earl Heuer's Office
616/895-6611, ext 286

Mark Lewison

FACULTY NOTES

Dr. John Warren was mentioned, as follows, in the publication *Transition*, a publication of the Socially and Ecologically Responsible Geographers, Vol V, Winter 1975. S.E.R.G.E. member John Warren reports from Thomas Jefferson College, Grand Valley State Colleges, Allendale...that a class of undergrads tested the hypothesis of von Daniken that the Piri Reis map was made from a photograph taken by a UFO hovering over Cairo, using an orthographic projection centered on Cairo. It failed the test. We mention this not because it is particularly S.E.R.G.E.-related, but because it illustrates the freedom some of our colleagues have. John just posts on a bulletin board where his head is at at the moment, and if enough students sign up, voila! a class ensues. There's a message there for hide-bound academic institutions.

R. Rangaramanujam Ayyangar, TJC's Distinguished Master Musician and Lecturer from Bombay, India, performed before a group of 300 music majors, by invitation, at Western Michigan University on 19 March. He was assisted by Ranjani (Rebecca Iftner), Claire Iftner, Paul Duchin, and others from TJC.

Mr. Ayyangar's production of the Scenes From the Srimad Ramayana, as performed by his students, was very successful and reflected all the study and work involved. This was the first performance of its kind in the United States, and played to a very large, enthusiastic, and sympathetic audience in the Campus Center, the evening of Thursday, 11 March. Messages hailing this historical cultural event came from the Indian Fine Arts Society, Madra, India; Mr. C.V. Narasihman, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations; Mr. T.V. Rangarajan of the Atomic Energy Commission, Bombay, India; Mr. Batliwala, Trustee, Bulabhai Memorial Foundation, Bombay, India; and others. Pictures in color of incidents in the epic, collected from different regions of India, were made into slides by Paul Corneil, Visiting Faculty Person from Johnston College, Redlands, California. Paul made these slides from some very old and very rare prints procured by Mr. Ayyangar from India. They were projected onto two gigantic screens during the performance, depicting the various scenes from the Srimad Ramayana. Mr. Ayyangar hopes to repeat this performance in some neighboring campuses or cultural centers.

Dr. Gilbert Davis, who returned to TJC for the Spring Term, wrote from the Urban Planning Institute in SR Slovenia -- where he was invited to work on Urban Studies during the Winter Term. Gil said he was planning to spend a week in London and was looking forward to speaking and hearing English after two and a half months of "survival Slovene"...He was also invited to deliver two lectures in literature at the University of Ljubljana. Also, the philosophy faculty invited him to talk to their English majors on his choice of two topics. Gil said he chose to lecture on "Beowulf as Modern Hero" and -- are you ready for this? -- he also lectured on "Contemporary American Women Writers and Their Portrait of Women." He was really looking forward to doing those lectures. Gil sent warm regards to everyone at TJC.

Cynthia Nebbelink Brouwer and her poetry students did an outstanding job of planning, organizing, and putting on The Incredible Poetry and Arts Celebration at the Campus Center the afternoon of Thursday, 13 March. The broadsides they published and offered for sale were beautifully done, and all the activities connected with this celebration attracted a large number of people. Music, announcements, exhibits, presentations, and poetry readings all helped to make this truly an incredible event.

And more on Cam Wilson's "Critical Works Survey" amongst TJC personnel:

Paul Corneil:

General Chemistry, second edition, by Linus Pauling. I read it when I was in high school; it's a beautifully written presentation of how the world works chemically and strongly affected the direction of my college study.

The Way of Zen by Alan Watts. Supported a whole way of thinking that was in me.

On Becoming a Person, by Carl Rogers. A friend recommended this to me in my first year of grad school; experiences in encounter groups years later and rereading the chapter on student-centered education set me on the course leading to teaching in experimental colleges.

The Student as Nigger, by Jerry Farber. This crystallized all my hatred of the traditional college-student relationship in the 1960's.

The World of Henri Cartier-Bresson, by Cartier-Bresson.
This is the "densest" and most influential photography book to me. Nathan Lyons' *Photographers on Photography* and *Toward a Social Landscape* would be solid runners-up. *The Guinness Book of World Records* is my favorite book right now, however. I don't know why.

Jerry Diller:

The Way of Zen, by Alan Watts.
Margaret Altmann, an Ethnologist in Boulder, Colorado.
John Prine recordings.
Works of Abraham Maslow.
Born to Win and music -- Woody Guthrie.
The Chosen, by Chaim Potok.

TJC MAILBAG

The following is a letter received from *Roxanne Harley*, a graduate of TJC, sent to Don Klein in February:

"I am out here in sunny Tucson, Arizona -- I just couldn't handle the snow anymore.

For this past year I have been trying many new things. I am currently a volunteer for an agency that utilizes volunteers from the community in taking inmates from the state prison as clients and representing them at their parole hearings and counselling them if they are released on parole. It has been very challenging and opened up the whole field of corrections to me as an interesting career field. I am actively involved in a goal of doing away with all prisons.

I was also a houseparent, along with my husband, for six juvenile delinquent boys -- we lasted a grand total of two months. We both discovered that working for juveniles as counsellors is totally different from living with them seven days a week. I learned a lot about myself during that two months -- because of the position and the fact that the boys were constantly challenging accepted beliefs and morals I found that I was re-evaluating my own beliefs.

I am currently working at Pima College as a guidance specialist (whatever that is). Pima College is a two-year community college but very new and has incorporated many of the guidelines TJC has. For instance, work below a C grade is considered incomplete, giving the student one year to make up the work. Also, a student does not need to have a high school degree to attend the college. Pima is expanding very fast with half of its students taking evening classes on campus and a large part in the local high schools. My job involves coordinating the possibility of setting up student development and services at all the local high schools where Pima College holds classes; this would eliminate the current status of students driving 20 miles out of the city to Pima College -- in order to receive such services as veterans information, self-assessment workshops, P.E.D. testing, and registration, etc.

The job is beneficial to me now, because I am learning a lot about administration, coordinating, and dealing with people in sensitive situations.

I find that my involvement in the student governing process at TJC has helped me a lot at this new job. In fact, looking back, I find the total experience and the knowledge gained at TJC *in* and *out* of class, has been beneficial to me.

I am currently looking into entering the University of Arizona for my Master -- but I haven't decided on a definite field -- probably something combining counselling and public administration.

Well, Don, all for now -- I realize receiving this letter from me is probably

a shock -- but being back in college has me thinking of you. Give my regards to Barbara. Hope everything at TJC is trucking along."

Love to All,
Roxanne Harley
5026 E. Rosewood
Tucson, Arizona 85711

MARY'S CORNER

Douglas D. Myers graduated from John Marshall Law School last year and is now working in the Trust division of a bank in Chicago. I heard he may be heading this way to start law practice in this area.

Tom Klynsma is now an Assistant Librarian for the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Maggie Luebke teaches school-age mothers who are pregnant -- taking them up to their pregnancy and arranging day care for their newborns. She teaches psychology and health.

Donn Williams was accepted at the University of Montana in Missoula for graduate work in anthropology, beginning in the Fall 1975.

David Aussicker is now Assistant to Tom Sekora in Placement and Internship at Grand Valley State Colleges.

Rom Lampi is employed as a Pinkerton man in Lansing.

May Olsen (Sunshine) was admitted to St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

David Mars is an Intake Counsellor with the mentally retarded at the Life Consultation Center.

Karl F. Rahder is the Music Director of KAOS-FM radio station at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

Cathy Beard is doing counselling for people with terminal diseases in the area. She is planning to move to West Virginia.

Greg Jaynes visited me at TJC the other day and I asked him to write something about himself, where he was at, what he was doing, etc.; so here goes:

"I'm a Transactional Analysis therapist in training towards advanced membership in the International Transactional Analysis Association, the organization which sets training standards for T.A. therapists. I'm interested in Gestalt and Bio and combine them in my therapy. I get off on doing therapy -- get a lot of neat recognition.

I want to develop my skills -- go to graduate school so as to have the proper credibility in the 'real' world.

I'm also into integrating a new political position away from the old politics of militant Marxist-Leninist radicalism (SDS Weathermen) to a more effective political world view.

Also, I want to explore new environments, new ideas -- getting out of the rut I was in this past winter. I am seriously thinking about taking a political science course here to gain more perspective."

DUNE COURSE

Steve Garwood is teaching a course at TJC during the Spring Term entitled "Dune and Dune Messiah: Frank Herbert's World." The book *Dune* has won top awards for science fiction and, says Steve, "has fascinated me by the richness of detail and the organization and approach with which Herbert creates a believable future world." Steve is trying to contact faculty members who might be interested in reading the book and then coming into the class to discuss the book in relation to their own fields of study. So far he has received commitments from Cam Wilson, Dennis Winters, Ron Efron, Shane Mage, Don Klein, Linda Smith, and John Warren. Possible topics of discussion include: biology, chemistry, ecology, education, family, genetics, geology, history, interpersonal communications, linguistics, literature, magic and mysticism, parapsychology, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, technology, war games, and strategies, women, and witches. If you are interested in helping to teach this course, please see Steve or leave word with Ron Efron (the faculty supervisor) or Dennis Winters.

NEW FACULTY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

A small group of TJC faculty have been meeting on Thursday evenings (even one Sunday morning) in search of even stronger directions for TJC. The first results of these meetings were shared at an all-faculty meeting, billed as a Curriculum Cook-In, on the last day of Winter Quarter. Under the leadership of Jere Van Syoc, the meeting explained the possibilities and difficulties of a "new myth" for TJC.

Essentially, the movement is toward a more intense sharing and learning experience, with focuses on alternatives -- alternative ways of learning -- but mostly alternative ways of *relating* in a learning situation. Many faculty (and administrators) feel desperately rushed to get out a fall term schedule (by 6 May) but feel the "pull" of excitement in *really new projects for fall!*

We are now holding meetings on Thursday afternoons -- open to *all* faculty and students -- looking for *ideas*.

Dennis Winters

TJC Newsletter
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