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TJC

newsletter



Issue #16.

Compiled from the Dean's Office, Thomas Jefferson College, GVSC. 23 December 1975.

AN OPEN LETTER TO TJC PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Sitting in my office this Christmas vacation, shuffling and filing papers rejected during a very busy quarter, I came across an unmarked file stuffed with letters from anxious parents. Most were letters not really requiring an answer: just writing the concern usually satisfied the sender. Some were letters inquiring about TJC and the kind of experience young men and women actually get here. This file, and the recent fall graduation ceremony, made me give more thought to what I call "the friendly ghosts" of Thomas Jefferson College: the parents of our students.

We have statistics on these benign spirits. Generally, they are mostly college graduates; many making very high salaries; nearly all involved in a life's work which has spanned over fifteen or twenty years; mostly homeowners; with several children. Nearly all have travelled widely; and, like their progeny, they look to learning and the arts to enrich their lives. Over the past year, I have talked with these inquiring apparitions. The memory of these random meetings has vivified this more statistical model. I feel (no statistics for this) that TJC parents are risk-takers, not close-your-eyes-and-run-risk-takers but the kind that take risks with a global awareness of all the contingencies and a very existential awareness that you have to take the consequences, like it or not. Mostly, they feel that they have "done their damndest" to communicate the good and the bad of the so-called "real world" to their children. But these ghosts, too, are haunted -- by the knowledge that this is, in fact, a very different world than they or I have experienced: that the latitude for trial-and-error and getting up and starting over is less for the present TJC people than it was for us; and that the speed of

events alone make choices that were casual decisions in our age now pivotal decisions in the time of a person nineteen to twenty-three years old today. Even though TJC has been functioning for only a few years, it occurred to me that we have several students whose brothers and/or sisters have graduated from the institution. Additionally, ninety percent of our students came on recommendations from other students or their own parents. In effect, we are a family on a family on a family...

An idea is forming in my mind for us "ghosts" to have a friendly get-together to share our awarenesses of the future of these young people. I'm going to be talking with the dean about a series of meetings with parents in the coming year -- sharing meetings -- just to talk about the changes going on at Thomas Jefferson College; the growing difficulty of careers; the possible responses to the job market; the expansion of programs to improve an individual's enjoyment of life in a difficult future; and, most of all, to get your feelings about us, our process here at TJC, and ideas you might have to make us even more deserving of your trust.

Have a happy New Year. Send him or her back ready to help us be better. And know that we want a more personal relationship in the future year. In the meantime, I think I'll make another file entitled "Ghosts with Ideas": help me fill it!!!

WINTER TERM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Mike, your friendly records-keeper says:

1. Fieldhouse Registration is *Monday, January 5th, 1976*. See the front page of the Winter Term Schedule to see what *time* you may register. You may register anytime *after* your designated time, but *not before*! Tuition payment must be made on this day.
2. If you do not register on January 5th, you will be allowed to *late register* on January 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th in the Records Office (upstairs Lake Huron Hall). Hooray! But, there will be a \$20.00 *late fee*. Boo!
3. Those who *pre-registered* for Winter Term classes in November, but did not pay tuition by December 5th, *must* re-register for their classes on January 5th, in the fieldhouse. Those students must see Mike Herman in 163LHH sometime before that date so that a duplicate schedule can be made.

CAS classes that were internally confirmed at pre-registration, but which were not paid for by December 5th, will have to be confirmed again. Ugh! However, TJC and WJC classes that were internally confirmed at pre-registration will remain confirmed, and those students will not be required to obtain course approval again. Rest easy! *However*, you must still complete another program schedule and get WJC's or TJC's internal stamp again before completing the registration process.

4. *Drops and Adds* are always the first five days of classes, and this term will be January 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th, in the Records Office. Again, check the front page of the Winter Term Schedule for the refund schedule.
5. *Special Studies Proposals* must be filled out by both the student and the supervisor and must be turned in on registration day.
6. *Field Study Students* must see Ron Efron (162LHH) before planning any such work,

prior to registration. Again, a Field Study Proposal Form must be filled out by the student and supervisor, and must be submitted at the time of registration.

7. ALL *Contract Studies* (i.e., Special Studies, Field Studies, etc.) must have the Dean's signature in addition to the tutor's and/or supervisor's.
8. Remember! You must be sure to go through internal registration again before completing registration in the fieldhouse.

TJC MAILBAG

John McNaughton sent the following message to TJC recently:

Greetings to all my old and new friends at, around, and through TJC! I am alive and well in Grand Rapids (can you imagine that?). Having graduated from Yale Law School this past spring, I am now working for a local law firm, principally engaged in trial work. On my somewhat infrequent visits to TJC I note the vast increase in number of bodies, apparent interest in academia, and typical disinterest in student politics...

One last note: T. Dan, without his beard, does not make such an engaging father-figure, but then students probably don't really need a father-figure anymore. Change has a way of assaulting the senses, and leaving the womb of school and academic concerns seems to accelerate the rude awakenings of work, responsibility, and nostalgia. It will never be as it was before, but I'm sure glad I was a part of it when it was. Thanks to T. Dan and all the other "oldies" on the faculty for a fine intra-uterine experience. I have survived birth and look forward to further assaults of change. Keep on truckin!

People who would like to contact John can do so by writing to him at the following address: 740 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502.

When I first saw *Alan Ringwald*, I dubbed him Alan-a-Dale, since he was always wandering around with his guitar, ready to play at any time. This TJC wandering minstrel writes that he and Holly are "living a few miles beneath the world's largest man-made star located on top of Mill Mountain outside of Roanoke, Virginia." He says that Grand Rapids is "cultured" in comparison to Roanoke, but the mountains are beautiful. Alan has a really good job in a drug rehabilitation center called "Hegira House." His official title, though not yet definite, is "Assistant Therapeutic Director" or "Clinical Director." Both sound good, but Alan, the first of these sounds better, I think. Hegira House, he says, is an exciting place and his responsibilities include individual counselling and therapy, group facilitation, and group therapy, and creative energies. He is also beginning to teach some T'ai Chi, movement and body work, and has received some good feedback already on his work. He lives close to work, near a food co-op, so he is strategically located. Alan says the only things that bug him are the amount of cigarette smoke he is bombarded with (amen to that!) as well as a high increase in blatant and obnoxious sexism; and he states that he is trying to do something about both of these things. Good luck Alan! He sends his love to all of you who know him. You can write to him at 908 Fourth Street SW, Roanoke, Virginia, 24016.

Stephen Cochran writes from New Mexico, where he is working for Bill Harrison on an archaeological survey. He says the survey is just a small part of an overall environmental impact statement being prepared for a coal company wanting to strip mine this area. Working along with Bill Harrison are TJC students Halcyon LaPointe, Sue Corbit, and CAS student Loyal Sunthkin. In conjunction with this project in which Dr. Harrison and the students are involved, there are soil scientists, geologists, paleontologists, zoologists, and sociologists adding their expertise and research efforts to writing a summary of what the overall effect strip mining will have on the environment. Steve further notes that the final reports will be integrated and forwarded to the E.P.A. for analysis; whereupon, the government -- if the report is favorable -- will grant permission to the coal company to strip mine with stipulations being made, essentially that the coal company return to the soil the same constituents as before the stripping took place (i.e., the same plant life, frequency of animal population, amount of water-carrying capacity, grazing capacity). In short, the company will have to leave the environment as close to what it was before the stripping as possible. The difficulty is that when an archaeological ruin gets hit by a bulldozer, it's GONE! So, along with the stipulations about restoring the environment, the government will also request the excavation of all relevant archaeological ruins before the bulldozers have a chance to get at them. Steve also writes that he and the others enjoy receiving the NEWSLETTER and being kept posted on what's happening.

He mentions also that Mary (Sunshine) Olsen is going to St. John's College down in Santa Fe; and he plans to try to contact her before he leaves New Mexico for Michigan. Until then, you can write to Steve, Halcyon, and Sue at the following address: La Hacienda Apartment 12-A, Gallup, New Mexico, 87301.

MARY'S CORNER

Leslie Friedman is presently in Silver Springs, Maryland, working for a newspaper and planning to enter the American University in Washington, D.C., as a graduate student.

Cathy Beard, Chris Averill, and Steve Friedman all visited TJC a couple of weeks ago. It was like Old Home Week! Jeff Brown happened to be here as well, so they met together by chance. Cathy, Chris, and Gordy Averill are all farming. Cathy is in West Virginia on a horse ranch, breeding horses; and Chris and Gordy are in Casnovia dairy farming. Steve was immensely pleased with the way his photography exhibit was received and the resultant publicity.

Norm and Val Peterson visited here recently, too. Norm is at Western Michigan University working on his Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis. His visit brought forth some especially poignant memories about when Norm was a student here, then a part-time tutor, when he and Jim Pongones were so involved in the strategic governing committees of TJC.

Cathy Mitchell writes that she will be leaving for Indonesia soon; and, upon her return in January, will be teaching at Climbing Tree School (a small alternative elementary school in Grand Rapids). There was such a sense of exhilaration in her letter -- you couldn't help but feel good things were happening and would happen to Cathy.

David Mars was accepted by Antioch College in Monterey, California for graduate work in psychology. He will be entering in the fall of 1976.

Magda Luebke, whom *Don Klein* met accidentally while in Benton Harbor, is teaching at a Middle School in the Benton Harbor area. She teaches remedial reading, writing, etc., under the Title I Program. Maggie is very pleased with the amount of materials she receives under this program, as well as the amount of help. She has two teacher aides. Interestingly enough, Maggie said that the person who hired her stated that her transcript from TJC showed her to be the perfect person for the job.

Bob Zwemer is working on a federal grant for Goodwill Industries. He is monitoring the heart-rate and galvanic skin response of people in correlation to the amount of pain tolerance. This is to help determine at what level people can go back to work.

Jill Cliffer was appointed by the International Studies Institute at GVSC to coordinate the arts portion of their Yugoslavian program. Jill feels this is due in great part to the time she spent (through a field study from TJC) studying folkdancing and other forms of artistic expression in Yugoslavia and other parts of Europe. Jill has proven herself at TJC to be both an accomplished dancer as well as a painter and graphic artist. Jill should do a really superlative job for the ISI.

Henry Vazquez wants TJC students to know that the Pre-Law Society of Grand Valley State Colleges wants to broaden their membership base. Even though membership is open to all GVSC students, Henry is the only TJC student in this group. He indicates that TJC students interested in law would be especially welcome. If you wish more details about the Pre-Law Society, just leave your name, address, and phone number with me, or contact Henry Vazquez through the TJC office.

Joel Yanowitz writes from Greece that he and *Lisa Teifer* have been enjoying their trip through Europe, meeting people, "seeing and being in places new and exciting." Joel is scheduled for an interview with an agency for a job teaching English. He and Lisa send their regards, and Joel says that they probably won't be back for the winter term but expect to be at TJC in the spring.

Kris Olsen, a recent TJC graduate, writes that "at present I'm teaching private lessons in guitar, and will begin teaching adult classes through a local community education program in January. I'm also teaching a class in Women's Fitness through our park district here." She is also the secretary of the Fox Valley Classic Guitar Society.

Robert Tolsma, a former student and graduate of TJC, is now a Ph.D. candidate and T.A. in a program in Medieval Church History at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., according to *Hugh Haggard*.

Rebecca (Ranjani) Iftner recently sent me a lengthy, exhilarated letter from India, where she is travelling and studying with *Mr. Rangaramanuja Ayyangar*. Following are a few excerpts from that letter:

We four, Ji [Mr. Ayyangar], Mrs. Ayyangar, Kripa [Kris] and I have been on the road for the past two weeks. We have been to all the most important tourist spots all over North India and soon will be on our way back to Bombay...we have seen tropical paradises in the Aravalli mountains, temples of unsurpassed intricacy of carved marble and granite, and palaces, forts, and castles of the Maharajas and Muslim conquerors...We saw the Taj Mahal, one of the wonders of the world, and though it is truly beautiful, I was not so greatly impressed by it as by several things that had gone before. Yesterday we had a dip in the Ganga

at Haridwar, and went on a yoga ashrama at Rishikesh in the Himalayas...Tomorrow we will be seeing a temple which was made all of gold...

On the 16th of November we left on a tour of the South. I am picking up Tamil faster now: more people speak it. Ji is having the time of his life showing us off...the two American girls who sing South Indian music and recite Sanskrit verses...

I have some very important news for you. You have heard before of the Madras music season, in December. All artists, from the most popular to the most obscure, try anything and everything to get a recital somewhere in the city during the ten days. The crowds are tremendous, and the prestige of getting a performance at this time is great enough to give one's career a good start, or a significant boost, if one does well...Unless one is pretty well-known in the field of Carnatic music or is an up-and-coming artist of obvious talents, it is very difficult to get a chance to perform. The applicants number in the thousands... the number of recitals is limited to less than a hundred. Somehow Ji has managed to get Kris and I a half-an-hour rhythm solo on December 25th. Kripa and I are getting the chance of a lifetime to do something for our teacher, our school, our culture, and ourselves incidentally.

Ji is nearly dying of excitement! He is petrified with fear that we will make a mess of it, and dazzled by hope that the venture could prove successful, crowning us with "glory." He says if we fail, we three will have no choice but to "go at once to the Bay of Bengal and drown ourselves."...

A quick look through my journal: left Bombay on the 16th [of November] in a train. Beautiful scenery. On the 17th we went to one of the most important, most ancient shrines in all India. It was all commercialized: tickets were required; there were long queues; and neon lights everywhere. On the 19th we reached Madras, saw the school where Ji taught for 34 years...the 20th, Bagalore, one of the most beautiful cities in India...21st and 23rd, Indian temples with beautiful sculpture, incredible detail, and all of them with stories behind them. 22nd, an art gallery with Ravi Varma's paintings. He was the Rembrandt of Indian art. 24th, another important shrine where we spent at least an hour feeding and watching the temple elephants. 25th, today we're staying in a luxurious hotel in Kerala State on the west coast. It is just the India I had imagined always -- lush, forest greenery all round, balmy climate, tropical plants and flowers. We drink and eat young coconuts, a dozen varieties of bananas, and exotic tropical fruits...

I think I neglected to complain about the poverty, the filth, the beggary, and the lack of physical comforts in my letters. Too much has been said about the ugly things in this country, which blind most foreign tourists to all that is good and beautiful here...I'll write again.

Pam Hoffman writes to us from Maine, where she is currently involved in production work with Tony Montanero at the Celebration Mime Theatre, to say that she will be returning to TJC in the Winter Term.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS

After hearing from one out-of-state student that she had paid over \$16.00 to get from the airport to the college, TJC has planned to have transportation available for incoming students on the following days and times:

Saturday, January 3rd	4:00 PM
Sunday, January 4th	4:00 PM

To be sure we have enough space, please call your name, time of arrival and phone number in to "kaje" (TJC secretary) sometime before Wednesday, December 31st. We will do all we can to make your trip from the airport to TJC as inexpensive as possible. The phone number here is 616/895-6611, ext 477.

A NOTE ON WINTER TERM COURSES

Those students who have not yet registered still have very exciting course options open to them for the Winter Term.

Among those still open are the courses offered by *Robert Horwich*. Those of you who took courses from Bob last year know how exciting it is to work with him and his deep involvement with zoology. He has the Jones House now -- lots of space to observe and "rap." (Research on Animal Behavior; Primate Behavior)

Those students planning to do field studies in anthropology are strongly urged to take Participant Observation with *Edie Harrison*.

Perhaps some of our present students do not know *Barbara Gibson*. She has been on an exchange program with Johnston College in California. While here, Barbara has been a very popular teacher. Her open courses this Winter Term are Women's Culture and Personal Writing.

If you have always wanted to "dabble" in the performing arts, this is the quarter to do it. *Bob Moyer*, director of the United Stage, is holding a Weekend Comedy Workshop. He's going to show lots of comedy films, analyze and practice comedy routines. If you feel you have some difficulty in oral skills, think about *Phil Bowman's* class in Oral Interpretation.

"Science and math freaks" get more than their share this quarter with *Dan Andersen's* Theory of Arithmetic and Energy and Environment (just a few spaces left); CAS teacher *Ed Tremba's* Regional Water Chemistry; *John Warren's* Dinosaurs and Their World (a few spaces left); and somebody by the name of *Winters* (maybe it's a joke?) in a course on Cybernetics and Systems.

Political science and economics courses still open are *Earl Heuer's* National Security and Political Questions, and *Shane Mage's* Topics in radical economics.

With the recent excitement over the windmill and the positive energy coming from the group in the American Mythmakers Workshop, the experiences to be had there are definitely bound to make for an interesting quarter.

The dance program welcomes back *Beverly Brown* from the Eric Hawkins dancers. She is bringing her own set from New York for the Winter dance production. (Only five positions remaining.) After the smash hit dance program in the Fall Term, *Verier's* group could always use new sources of energy (Dance Repertory [permission only] and Dance Performance and Production).

And there are others...whoever said winter is dull?

THE TJC WINTER ADVANCE

The Advance Committee was created this past fall to help new students become acclimated to TJC, and is charged with the responsibility of internal programming for TJC students and the coordination of the TJC Advance.

Advance -- a forward movement; progress in development; improvement; a rise in value or amount; a progressive step.

The Advance is a weekend program held in a camp setting at the beginning of the quarter. It is an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the workings of TJC, to set some directions for the school, and to socialize. This is an excellent time for you to meet in an informal atmosphere, other TJC students and faculty.

January 9th through 11th are the dates set for the Advance, and Circle Pines Camp in Delton, Michigan is the place. Transportation information will be posted at school (probably chartered bus or car pools). You will need to bring a sleeping bag and a desire for a good time.

Registration for the weekend will take place the first week of school. The costs, which include food, lodging, and supplies for the weekend, are \$15.00.

If you have any suggestions, please check with the committee or with the TJC office when you arrive at school.

Until January...happy holidays.

-- Mitch Kahn, Chairman, TJC Advance

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