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Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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TJC newsletter



Issue #17.

Compiled from the Dean's Office, Thomas Jefferson College, GVSC. 9 February 1976.

AN INSTITUTIONAL NOTE FROM THE DEAN

The New Vocationalism in Higher Education

The same things are being done over and over, with terrible predictability. One may be forgiven, in view of this, for wishing at least to associate with beauty.

--Saul Bellows

Historically, colleges, along with religious institutions, have been accused of being out of step with the changing needs of society. In the past, while complaining about the form of these institutions, we have tacitly accepted them as essential to our civilized functioning. The philosopher Santana expressed our feelings perfectly when he said of the Catholic Church, "I love her though I know she lies." This child-like acceptance is no longer the case. More and more people are concluding they can have God without going to church, and obtain an education without going to school. The problem of these institutions is further confounded by devastating economic conditions and declining birth rates. As the economic situation worsens, we find ourselves more concerned with problems of survival than with the so-

called higher needs of civilized functioning, the needs for truth, goodness, and beauty. We are turning, instead, to measuring our success by possessions, certificates of accomplishment, and money. Books are written proving conclusively that it is not profitable to go to college (Carolyn Bird) and are used as banners announcing our descendance from atop Maslow's need hierarchy. Never before has there been such pressure for institutional change. It is somehow reasoned that, if colleges are to survive, they must somehow accomodate the decadence of the 1970's, accomodate the increasing demands for more and more of less and less. Perhaps for the first time in the history of education, we are witnessing a rapid change in colleges; but this change is not a revolution based on ideals, it is a retrenchment motivated by survival.

Carolyn Bird's charge that it is no longer financially profitable to go to college has been answered by colleges promising to teach students profit-making skills. The question is no longer how we lead our lives but how we make a living. Old tenured philosophy and literature professors are being re-bored and de-intellectualized and placed in newly-developed departments of Social Relations. History has become passe - we can no longer afford it. And, of course, the arts are reflecting this decline by declining. If Van Gogh were a college student today, he would probably be majoring in Graphic Design and learning from his avant-garde teachers that permanence in art is obscene. Students no longer discuss "being" but "doing" if they are capable of discussing at all. Colleges are developing new "delivery systems" to attract new student markets as the supply of traditional students dwindles. Cable TV, weekend colleges, geriatric dormitories, and self-paced modular learning are all in vogue. Citizen's Band Radio was recently suggested as a way of offering truckers a tenth of a credit as they pass within a ten-mile radius of the school. More and more programs are being developed which promise the quiet security of a job at the end. College catalogues have adopted hard-sell approaches, intimating lack of career-training is somewhere between venereal disease and leprosy.

The effect of all this has, in some cases, been encouraging, at least to those institutions struggling for survival. Enrollments have grown, faculty and administrative positions have been saved, and students have found peace-of-mind in the new voc-think.

The ultimate effect of this success will be difficult to evaluate because we will have descended to a new level of consciousness. The true, the good, and the beautiful will no longer be a part of our collective unconscious. Civilized functioning will give way to civil servitude, and we will no longer wonder why to be human is different from being a chair.

SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

1. TJC Internal Registration will be held on Friday, Feb. 27, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the TJC Commons. This is for students who want an early jump on course selection for the Spring Term, and is only for students currently enrolled at TJC.
2. Early Registration for GVSC will be held from Monday, March 1, through Friday, March 5, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Campus Center. This is for all students currently enrolled at GVSC. Those students who Internally Registered on Feb. 27 must complete their registration process during this week. Those students who were unable to attend Internal Registration will still be allowed to do so during this week, but their choice of course selections will be limited after February 27.
3. Delayed Registration (always the day before classes begin) will be held on Monday, March 29, 1976 in the GVSC Fieldhouse, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. All students must register by this date if they wish to avoid Late Fees.
4. Late Registration (always the first five days of classes) will be held on Tuesday, March 30, through Monday, April 5, in the Records Office, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Late Fee = \$20.00 + tax.
5. Drops/Addds (always the first five days of classes) will be held from Tuesday, March 30, through Monday, April 5, in the Records Office from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
6. Remember! You must complete TJC Internal Registration before attempting GVSC Registration, no matter what date you choose to register.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

from GVSC Career Newsletter: A recent article in U.S. News and World Report indicates that incoming college students in general are looking for an education that will make them more marketable than students in past years. The trend is to stay away from liberal arts and shift toward courses in business, engineering, and agriculture, with interest remaining high in medicine and legal training. Students are deeply concerned that after four years of college they will have something to show for it in terms of employment rather than in terms of being "personally enriched".

Teaching Careers: According to GVSC placement data, 256 of the 1975 graduates received teaching degrees, and 153 are employed as teachers.

Good Prospects for Employment: accountant, actuary, stenographer, secretary, systems analyst, industrial engineering.

Poor Prospects for Employment: teaching (university), political scientist, interior designer, musician, mathematician, life science, anthropologist.

THE TJC MAILBAG

Craig Sjogren, a TJC graduate, writes to *Paul Corneil*:

Well, I have made it, a month and then some of being a Californian finds me with gainful employment, a prime place to live, and on the road to the creation of a new phase of Craigdom. I'm house painting, a good skill to have in this appearance oriented city--so I spend my days hanging on falls five stories up in the air. My house is perfect--3 fine housemates from Antioch share their Victorian flat with me--complete with a darkroom & Omega enlarger. So, I have struck it rich...As thrilling as house painting is I still hope to procure a teaching position...I trust all is well in the midwest these days--and your dealings with reality are positive ones...

Holly Jobe, TJC alumna, writes to *Don Klein*:

...Since June I've been working for the Pa. Dept. of Ed. after several years teaching in Lebanon and Philadelphia. Finished my master's in Ed. Media in May and went to work -- And work it is! I'm doing inservice workshops in media with teachers all over the state - sometimes a very strenuous job - but stimulating. Am learning lots...

Erica Helm, TJC student, writes:

...I'm down here in Central America doing a field study on Folklore and Legends of the region...Right now I'm feeling a need to communicate with someone there on campus about what's going on with this enterprise I've undertaken...What I'd really like is to make contact through the mail with a couple of students there at TJC who are interested in the project (Jim Belini and Mark Seeley). My address is Lista de Correos, Panajachel, Guatemala. I'll be here for a month or so. Try to hurry with replies as the mails are slow.

Cam Wilson, TJC faculty member on leave-of-absence, writes:

This a.m. I sat for coffee at U. of Cal. Student Center, Berkeley; 3 co-eds came in talking alive - just back from Christmases at homes. Talking politics! I haven't heard students (or any other category members) talk politics since Weatherwoman (Diane Cohen -?) left TJC in 1971.

Berkeley. My 1st night here a bank was bombed. It shook the food co-op I was in and I jumped 4 feet. Today I picked up a mild-mannered woman & her son. The woman wanted me to drop her off "near where the bank was bombed" & went on to describe "the war of nerves". Her theory was the last 2 years food-prices inflation is a conscious program by the Bank of America and other corporations to make Americans security anxious. "Fascist mind control" was her phrase. If Americans get anxious for their futures they're less likely to press for reforms and more likely to support repressive police measures. The glut of TV police shows is part of the Fascist mind programming. (The bombings are counter-programming.) Hunh.

Cam, continued:

Driving
from Reno to
Oakland, I-80
30 Dec 75:

Trees with leaves.
Sun-glasses.
No one's heard of 55 mph.
Even oldies
- pensioners
and
bankers both
zip along.
Boys in T-shirts
skate-board Sacramento.
A&W stand open
doing well.
Ah Root beer!
50° at 11:20 am
wind a pleasure.
Spring!
Roadside planting sprinklers on.

Vacaville
children run thro
blooming mustard fields
willows
just now
turning fall.
5-year old cars with no rust.
Houses have
tiny
lots
rush hour traffic at
the Bay
full of semi trailer trucks

The bridge!

San Francisco!

On New Years Day I walked 1/3 of the Golden Gate Bridge. The sky was totally clear. Every bit of the Bay, the cities, & bridges was etched in bright wind. The Bay -- dotted with heeling and healing sails.

In Berkeley -- bookstores abound. Ann Arbor pales; Madison is lost. Street vendors -- jewels, belts, mats, egg rolls, glass-work, pottery. Beggars, hippies, straights, gays, fresh scrubbed freshmen. And food! -- Mexican, Indian, Italian, Chinese, Greek, MacDonalds, soup houses, French cafes, natural foods, Norwegian, delicatessans...

Cam, continued:

Grocery stores heaped with avocados, union grapes, artichokes, roots I've only heard of...but cheese--Californians pay. 1.69/lb is cheap. 2.50/lb not unusual. Did we pay that in Michigan? It's easy to forget.

No bicentennial! Yay! In this part of the world, today is still tomorrow.

OK.
Hello
Regards
Love

John Hunting submitted this for the NEWSLETTER.

THE FARRALONES INSTITUTE is an alliance of architects, agriculturists, biologists, engineers and artisans working together to design integrated, small, self-sustaining systems of habitat and life supports. We offer a year round program of study and general apprenticeship in 5 areas: shelter design and construction, natural energy sources and systems, ecosystem management and resource recovery, food production through plant, animal and aquatic systems, photography and documentation. We have designed the program as an alternative to the usual college fare and hope that older people changing careers will apprentice with us. Rural center located 1 1/2 hours north of San Francisco. We're still camping out there but building of housing and a main building are going on. Very good staff in terms of the depth of their backgrounds. Fee for the academic year (3 quarters) is \$2250. College credit option for additional \$250/quarter from Antioch/West. Also urban house in Berkeley. Write for brochure. P.O. Box 700, Point Reyes Station, Calif. 94956.

The above was included in some material he received.

CLEP

Those interested in taking the CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) tests, can get all the details including times and places for administering these tests through the Counseling Center, 152 Commons, here on campus. You can phone them at 895-6611, Ext. 266.

MARY'S CORNER

from the Grand Rapids Press, 1/26/76:

Violinist *Miha Pogacnik* of Yugoslavia not only brought joy to music lovers in his recital Monday, January 19, in Louis Armstrong Theatre but brought special joy to *Mrs. Anna Badanek* also from Yugoslavia.

I received a call the day of *Miha's* recital from the granddaughter of *Mrs. Badanek*, telling me that Monday, the day of *Miha's* recital was her grandmother's 86th birthday. She said that her grandmother would be simply thrilled to have someone as gifted and distinguished as *Miha*, — wish her a HAPPY BIRTHDAY in her native tongue. When I mentioned this to *Miha*, he was delighted to comply with her request and hoped that the Yugoslavian language she spoke was either one of the two he was familiar with. He said there are three languages spoken in Yugoslavia. As fate would have it, he was able to talk to her in her native language and I could tell from the way the conversation was going (and it went for at least 20 minutes), and from *Miha's* account, that this 86 year old lady was simply thrilled with this attention - all in all it was an experience that both *Miha* and *Mrs. Badanek* will savor for a long time.

Miha is presently on concert tour throughout Europe and expects to be back in the Fall for some concert engagements in the U.S.

Sandy Maniacci, a TJC graduate, tells us that she is teaching a class on the History of Motion Pictures and Film Making at Chippewa Valley High School in Mt. Clemens.

I dragged out of *Rick Brunson*, TJC graduate, the information that he is starting graduate work in graphic arts at MSU this fall. He still has his rock and roll band, SPOON MUFFIN; has a recording studio, and is getting a license for booking groups. He will be holding a one-man art show in Lansing, his third in the last three years. His address is 1571 Port Sheldon R; Jenison.

Bob Green, TJC Alumnus, visited here. He still lives in Detroit and is interested in architecture. At present he is taking two classes at Oakland Community College. *Bob* would like to hear from his TJC friends. He lives at 29902 Barwell, Farmington Hills, Mi. 48024

Crystal Conn, a TJC graduate, visited me. She is presently attending the Graduate School of Education at GVSC. In fact, she is one of the original class of six who started this past fall and will be graduating with her Masters in Reading in June 1976...THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS. *Crystal* asked that I quote her as follows, "If anybody in TJC wants to go into Special Education or Teaching they should do it through TJC and someday I would like to write a book on how to get through ESI with the least amount of pain or flack."

Jerry Wells, another TJC graduate, states, she registered for a course in teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) at U. of M., and requested help from members of the TJC faculty and our Dean, for her applications to graduate schools. She says, -- thanks to TJC I have my diploma and I can move on now. I will not be returning to G.V. again. I'm moving on to new adventures. I have been afraid to leave the family at Thomas Jefferson, but the umbilical cord has to be broken sometime. --- Once when I wanted to hop over on the other side of the road and see if the grass was greener - I revealed my fears to Lee (then Assistant Dean of TJC). He said, oh yes, TJC is your Alma Mater and you can always return. He will never realize the confidence of belonging that his words gave me.

--I was rather shook up to see that T. Dan had grayed so - we have worried him into that situation --- I might need to send him some of that powerful good stuff from Africa that the Chinese use. Words can never express my my gratitude for my good fortune in my love affair with TJC.

Katy O'Hara, one of the loveliest and most delightful students we have had around here writes, How are things? I feel so far away from you, it's amazing! I am at school right now. The campus is beautiful. Trees, benches, fountains and ponds - we have classes only 4 days a week to allow time for travel ---the weather is fantastic. Mexico is delightfully foreign. I only wish my Spanish was better. --the people in my village are very poor - it's common to see bare-footed children and women. Indian women are so beautiful. Mexican children are the best, BIG EYES and smiles. Very independent too. Chalula which is where I live with a great Mexican family, is very famous for its cathedrals. OVER 365!! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, MARY! (and this shameful Catholic has only been in 4 or 5). Right down the street is the world's largest pyramid - about 150 years ago the Indians built an enormous cathedral on top. It's quite a sight. We are surrounded by mountains here so I am constantly VISUALLY IMPRESSED. . The food is good - Hope all is well- Greetings to all.

"Chinow", our lovely smiling TJC receptionist, is back after an illness of two weeks. Everyone is delighted to have her back. Stick with us, Chinow!

POSTSCRIPT: Take note of the letter from Erica Helm in TJC Mailbag. Since her letter was written, as everyone is aware, Guatemala has been rocked by earthquakes. We are all concerned, not only for the safety of Erica, but for Jim Wahlberg and two other TJC people, Phil and Mary. We are hoping against hope that they have survived.

Linda Carver, from the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, will be performing on the french horn, with piano accompaniment, Sat., April 17 6-8 pm in the Louis Armstrong Theater, Calder Fine Arts Center (free).

S.I.N. BIZARRE BAZAAR

O.K. all you people out there. (Hear this.) S.I.N. will be holding a Bizarre Bazaar on March 4, 1976 in the CC main walkway. We need experienced kissers, crafty artisans, old books, old records (new records?), miscellaneous treasure, baked goodies, old clothes, just plain not being used clothes, clowns, wandering minstrels, and story tellers (not to be confused with rumor spreaders). If you would like to donate your time, experience (advice), or valuables in any one of these areas, please contact one of the following Sinners: George Robb, John Blackwell, Linda Rothschild, Bruce Goldfarb, Lori Robb, Gary Ramey, Steve Black, Mary T.

Last year we held an auction and carnival that had bad weather but good donations, and anyone who contributed then is welcome (please) to contribute something this year. And if you are as broke as SIN, you can keep 40% of your donations' earnings and give SIN 60%. Remember, contributing to SIN is good for your soul.

--Beth Buckingham

Miha Pogacnik, renowned violinist, performed Monday, Jan. 19 at 8:15 pm in the Louis Armstrong Theater, Calder Fine Arts Center. He was accompanied by Kenneth Broadway. The Yugoslavian violinist has toured the U.S. and Europe. The concert was attended by three hundred people.

Rebecca Ifner (Ranjani) gave a recital on the veena and konakkol Friday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 pm in the CC Gallery. The recital was presented by the Field Studies Program. Ranjani has studied under Mr. Rangaramanuja Ayyangar for two years and spent the fall term in India doing further study with him under the Field Studies Program. 100 people attended the recital.

Bev Brown performed a dance solo Monday, Feb. 2 at 8:15 pm in the Louis Armstrong Theater, Calder Fine Arts Center. Dick Bakken also read poetry. Ms. Brown is Artist-in-Residence at TJC this winter term. She has studied with Erick Hawkins and other professionals, and will be setting up her own professional dance studio in New York City when she leaves TJC.

Guillermo Fierens will be giving a guitar concert Friday, Feb. 20 at 8:15 pm in the Louis Armstrong Theater. Mr. Fierens, a protege of André Segovia, and of international renown, is currently Artist-in-Residence at TJC (his fourth time here). He is teaching Beginning and Advanced Guitar and Theory of Guitar. His students will be giving a recital March 8th at 8:15 pm in the multi-purpose room.

THE TJC STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

After a long, difficult, laborious birth the TJC Resource Center is now born. Though still in its infancy, it is rapidly becoming senile. The prognosis, though, is optimistic, and we are now on our feet.

We would like to thank all those who contributed time, furniture, filing cabinets, desk, and other miscellaneous goodies.

We would appreciate your continued support in the times ahead. We all know how important the "formative years" are.

These past two weeks we have been working on acquiring the information we need to serve you. We now have information to answer routine requests. The Interests and Skills File has 200 people registered in it and should be operating by the time this newsletter is out.

For those of you who are not familiar with our operation, let me clue you in. Our general goal is that of enhancing communication and organization at TJC by having information for you when you need it. Besides routine info requests (faculty office hours, class schedules and locations, etc.), we are also compiling an Interest and Skill File which can be used for referral among people with similar interests. Hopefully people will be able to exchange information with each other for mutual growth.

Another wild project of ours is cataloguing Independent Studies or any other experiences that might be useful to those entering a study. However, this project is still not developed fully.

We would appreciate it if anyone reading this newsletter that has not filled out our Info Sheet or Resource Questionnaire stop by our office at 169 LHH (right next to TJC office), or call us at ext. 477. Those people out of town or away, either past students or anyone else concerned, who would like to submit information on themselves or any activity anywhere that might benefit TJC, please feel free to write.

We hope our services will be useful to people considering becoming students here.

So, to repeat, our general goal is to provide information for anyone connected in any way, or just curious about, TJC. If we do not have the answers ourselves, hopefully we can tell you who does.

Stay tuned for further developments.

With love,

John Blackwell
Resource Center Coordinator

BY AND ABOUT WOMEN

Women's Field Studies:

If you are interested in work in the following for spring term, contact Pat Efron, 123 LHH, ext. 657, or Ron Efron, 162 LHH, ext. 176 soon!

Feminist Theater
Non-sexist children's lit.
Sex discrimination in government
Women's History Research Center
Radical Therapy

Women's Coffeehouse:

Friday, Feb. 13 at 8:00 pm in the TJC Commons (free), the following people will be performing and sharing a good time:

Barbara Gibson (poetry)
Sherry Karosi (poetry)
Betsy Sanders (poetry)
Judy Thirlby (poetry)
Chris Shepherd (poetry and song)
Mona (song)
Terry Bussey (song)
Andrea Verier (dance)

There will be times for everyone to dance and we hope it will be a relaxed, fun experience for all.

Women's Band:

Ann Dinnerman's Women's Band will be performing Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 8:00 pm in the multi-purpose room, student center.

Female Awareness:

This group will be characterized by openness and sharing among those present. We'll explore the changing roles and women, how socialization affects us now, dimensions of our physical being (attractiveness, health, sexuality), and present and future life choices. Check the dorms (Suzanne Hedstrom) for times.

Grand Rapids Feminist Center:

General meeting Sunday, Feb. 15 at 7:00 pm, 953 E. Fulton (the present Feminist Center) to discuss change in location with more space for socio-cultural activities; change in the governing structure; new financing based on a (\$5.00?) membership fee; acquisition of a pool table, juke box, and refrigerator; setting up an external system of communication with other lesbian and feminist groups.

Grand Valley Feminist Center: is now located upstairs in the Crew-house.

Political leadership workshop:

A state workshop to stimulate interest among Michigan women in running for political office will be held in Grand Rapids Feb. 21. The day-long workshop, called Women in Public Office, has been organized by Michigan American Association of University Women and is being co-sponsored by Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.; Democratic Women's Caucus; League of Women Voters; National Organization for Women; Negro Business and Professional Women; Republican Women's Caucus; Women's Political Caucus; Young Women's Christian Association; and Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Women's Resource Center of Grand Rapids is coordinating the conference locally. Calvin College has donated facilities.

Political office as defined by AAUW for this workshop includes both elective and appointive offices. Workshop topics are: filing procedures; legalities; fund raising; building an organization; platform and issues positions; polling; speeches; media and press relations; literature and posters; calendar; strategy and planning; and the nuts and bolts of winning.

Workshop is open to the public. The \$6.00 fee includes lunch. Registration is at 9:00 am, adjournment at 3:00 pm. Reservations are required by Feb. 16. For more information, call the Women's Resource Center, 456-8571 or check in Mary TePastte's office.

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