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Grand Valley State College

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the Valley View

Vol. 2, No. 2

Grand Valley State College

Monday, October 2, 1967

Second Society Announced

Contingent upon Board of Control action, GVSC will open a separately administered second collegiate society next fall. "The most striking aspect of the Second Society from the student's point of view," said Daniel Clock, a spokesman for the authors of the program, "is the extensive freedom and responsibility he receives. The entire program is designed to build around his interest."

all students. The program will allow for additional flexibility--allowing the student to specialize in fields hitherto unavailable.

Next Fall's Program

The program for next fall is planned to involve 50 to 100 students and about three to five faculty members. It is expected to grow to 500 students and 25 faculty members

concentration examinations, and doing special projects under the supervision of a faculty member.

Clock emphasized that students would be able to pursue programs in the rest of the college. "Virtually all the resources of the college will be open to the students of the Second Society," he said.

The program, advanced by Clock, Goss, Davis, Kaufman, Bulthuis, and Kaufman among others, will offer two degrees: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Philosophy (B.Ph.) The B.Ph., new to GVSC will be given to students pursuing a broad interdisciplinary program. The B.A. will be given to those pursuing programs with a major field.

The Second Society will have no formal grade system. Instead it will record grades as "satisfactory", "unsatisfactory", and "incomplete". It will also feature a trial major--which will allow the student to declare a major provisionally and be able to change it at a later date.

The proposal still has to be approved by the President's Executive Council and the Board of Control. The Board is expected to act on it at its November 16 meeting.

The Second Society will accept students at any point in their studies. Students interested in transferring or desiring more information should contact Clock, Goss, Davis, Kaufman, or Baum.



Baum, Bulthuis, Goss, Clock, and Davis discuss plans for the proposed Second Society.

The idea of the Second Society, although new, is not revolutionary. Wayne State, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State have set up similar "satellite" colleges. "But," quoting the report adopted by the Faculty Assembly September 20, "it represents a fresher, more unique (sic) approach to undergraduate education than any of the programs just mentioned."

This "fresh new approach" will emphasize independent studies with no formal classes. The tutorial system will be extensively employed. The student will work out his own program under the supervision of a faculty member. In addition there will be an "All-Society Study", which will involve

by approximately 1972. The program for 1968-9 will involve a humanistic "All-Society Study", in which the students will study topics in four main areas: man as an individual, man and society, man and the universe, and the problems of a technological culture. In addition, the program will feature weekly colloquia with papers written by students and faculty members.

The "All-Society Study" will comprise approximately half of the programs of freshmen and one third of the programs of upperclassmen. The remaining portion of program will consist of further study in one's major field (including work with professors in the first society), reading for specialized con-



Dean Hills counts chairs in the Bookstore annex in Seidman, checking to see if GVSC can accommodate its recordbreaking 1685 enrollees (exclusive of late registrants.)

ESP Myth Exploded

by Gil Scott

In the 1920's there was a burst of popular interest in the study of psychic phenomenon in the form of spiritualism. Every major city had many "gifted" spirit mediums who, for a fee, could contact departed souls. Even Scientific American formed a committee to investigate communication with the dead via spirit mediums. The most significant result of the committee's research was the number of times that intelligent scientists were taken in by fraudulent mediums. It was only through the work of the famous magician Harry Houdini that the charlatans were exposed before the committee.

Today, in 1967, we still have fraud and mysticism marching under the banner of science. The form this pseudo-science takes is ESP (Extra Sensory Perception). This new fraud is clearly and conclusively exposed in Prof. C.E.M. Hansel's book: ESP A SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION. Two claims are made in support of ESP: 1) that it is perception apart from any sensory means; and 2) that it is perception without any of the five known senses, by some "sixth" sense. The former claim is unacceptable because it demands a result with no means of attaining it. Therefore a scientific evaluation must concern itself with the latter.

The central point in an evaluation of ESP is that it is not a defined quality. It is simply an "explanation" for a phenomenon which is otherwise inexplicable. As Prof. Hansel shows, any demonstration of such a phenomenon requires that two conditions be met: 1) that the subject score regularly above probability without normal sensory means; and 2) that the experiment be controlled to eliminate all chance of fraud. The burden of proof is on the experimenter who claims to find proof of ESP. Merely the possibility of fraud renders the experiment inconclusive.

Prof. Hansel examines the so-called conclusive experiments and demonstrates how even the most elementary precautions against fraud were not made. When such precautions were made, there were no unusual results. After reading Prof. Hansel's excellent book, one is likely to agree that the huge sum of money spent on such research is enormously wasteful.

GVSC Theatre Tryouts

Tomorrow evening and Wednesday afternoon the Grand Valley College Theatre will hold tryouts for their fall production of *The Rivals*. The tryouts, slated for 7:30-9:30 P.M. to night and 3:00-5:00 P.M. tomorrow, will be held in 132 LHH. Everyone is invited and no experience is necessary.

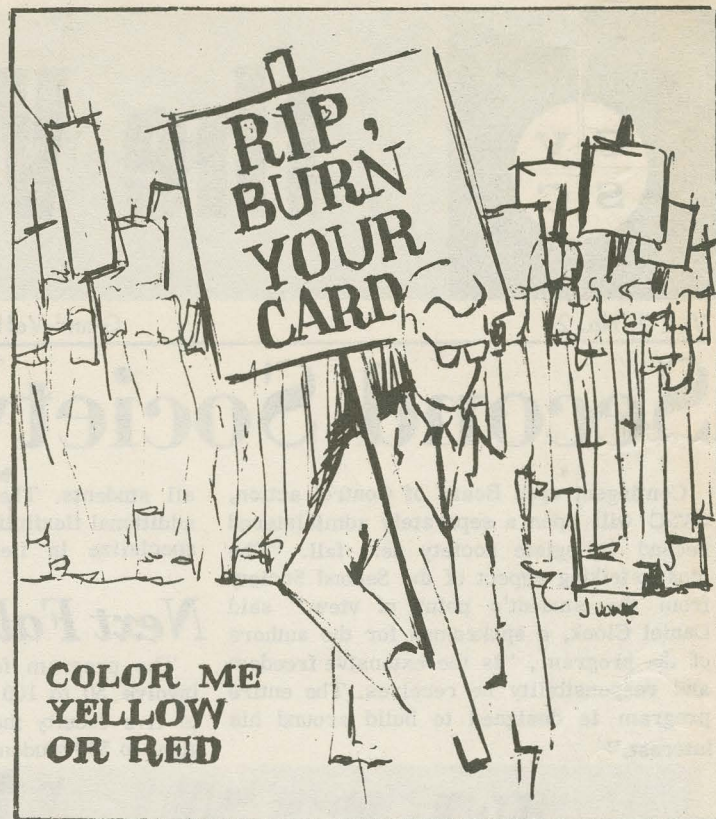
the Valley View

The Valley View is a student newspaper published weekly by GVSC students, the policy of which is decided by those students without administrative influence.

Editor Bill Bradford
Assistant Editor Connie Brown
Photo Editor John Sherman
Art Kitty Hillary

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The Valley View
Page 2 - Oct. 2, 1967



The Valley View has immediate openings for sportswriters and other personnel. Apply Valley View office, basement, Seidman.

Happenings 67

Monday - Last day for late registration.

4:00 p.m. GVSC Theatre "Get-Acquainted" meeting. (132-H)

7:30 p.m. GVSC Theatre tryouts (132-H).

Tuesday - 3:00 GVSC Theatre tryouts (132-H)

8:00 p.m. Ski and Canoe Club meeting. (154-S)

Wednesday - Last day for adding course, changing sections, and withdrawal or dropping courses without penalty.

7:30 p.m. "Introduction to Objectivism", by Nathaniel Branden. Lecture. Association of Students of Objectivism. (Faculty Lounge, Seidman House).

Saturday - 9:00 p.m. Dance: "The End of the Blah's", with the Pedestrians. (The Commons)

Notice: Watch bulletin boards for announcements concerning meetings of other organi-

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