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## **TJC Newsletter, Issue 27**

Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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# TJC

## NEWSLETTER

Compiled from the Dean's Office, Thomas Jefferson College, Grand Valley State College, 11/30/77

Dedicated especially to TJC new students and alumni.



### WHY, THOMAS JEFFERSON COLLEGE?

From time to time I have been asked: *How and why did TJC get its name?* Inasmuch as I am the person most responsible for placing the name *Thomas Jefferson College* on the first unit to become separate from the main college (thus fulfilling the "cluster college" concept long talked about) - I shall try to explain the reason in print (for the first time).

At the outset, it should be stated that the college administrators were not entirely happy with the name *School of General Studies* or *S.G.S.* During the years of Viet Nam and much paranoia, the letters *S.G.S.* were easily confused with *S.D.S.* - the latter being a noisy and active group of war protestors. In addition, a nearby State University had a General Studies program where students who couldn't get a degree any place else could obtain one so long as they paid their tuition and parking fees. For these reasons the word came down (or up from the bowels of Zumberge) that we should come up with a better name.

A suggestion (though in the form of a rumor) accompanied the request for a name change. As I understood it at the time, it would be just fine if we chose a famous name out of the Grand Rapids area past - such as Arthur Vandenberg. But, we could be paranoid too, and we took exception to the notion that we *must* name the place after anyone.

It was during the summer of 1969 that *TJC* was named. Very few students or faculty members were around that summer, but it would be an exaggeration to say that we "snuck it on by." In the first place, not everyone jumped up and down at the suggestion of naming *S.G.S.* after *Thomas Jefferson*. No one could come up with a better alternative and we then set out to see if we could convince ourselves that the name was a good one. After that, we had to convince the administration and the Board of Control. I well remember the day that *Dan Clock*, the first "dean" of the place went to the Board of Control meeting to put the case for *TJC*. Dan was worried that they might not buy the name of a revolutionary radical. But because he believed in a form of educational full disclosure, he had a pile of paperback biographies of *Thomas Jefferson* - one for each member. I suspect that Dan was hoping that they wouldn't read and reflect on Jefferson's thinking before the Board vote.

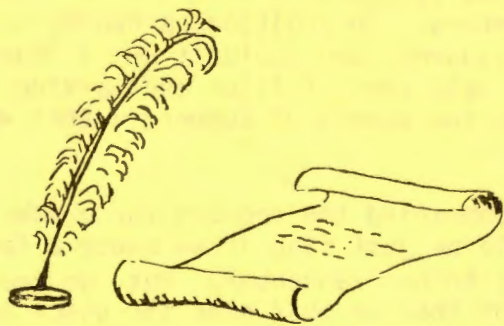


Why the name *Jefferson* for this new College? In my view, *Thomas Jefferson* is a good reminder of what the good student should try to become. He was interested in subjects ranging from cooking to architecture to agriculture. He was a dilettante in some areas, enough so to make him comfortable in TJC. But, he also became an expert and authority on political philosophy, French language and cuisine and designed some splendid buildings, interiors and walls at Monticello and the University of Virginia. More important still, we might take note that Jefferson did not consider his becoming a U. S. President his greatest achievement. He ranked this behind his authorship of The Declaration of Independence and the founding of the University of Virginia. The first document included the belief that the people are capable of governing themselves.

His commitment to education was uncompromising and he firmly believed that it was possible to attain a better nation, based on a form of self-government, by improving ourselves through education. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Jefferson took a position that more than just a privileged few could benefit from education and learning. While he did believe in the existence of a natural aristocracy, he did not subscribe to the view of *noblesse oblige* and he hoped that the broader extension of education would help to keep our society from forever again falling into the hands of an artificial aristocracy.

Should Grand Valley and TJC continue if they aren't striving for the same goals as was Jefferson? If nothing else, Thomas Jefferson can serve as a beacon to remind us of our destination, even if we don't measure up to his own high ideals and standards.

--Bill Baum



About the writer of *WHY*, THOMAS JEFFERSON COLLEGE, Bill Baum.

Dr. William Baum is now teaching at the College of Arts and Sciences in the Political Science Department.

Since Bill was one of the original founders of the *School of General Studies*, later to become *Thomas Jefferson College*, and was instrumental in naming the college after Thomas Jefferson, it seemed most appropriate and meaningful to ask him, *WHY?* In

addition, Bill poured such a tremendous amount of energy, enthusiasm and dedication into Jefferson, that he can't help but be remembered with affection and gratitude for the important role he played in Jefferson's conception and development. Words seem inadequate to describe Bill's genuine love and concern for people; his many contributions on a personal as well as academic level.

He is missed at Thomas Jefferson College!



## A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON COLLEGE- PART III

### TOP-OF-MY-HEAD RECOLLECTIONS

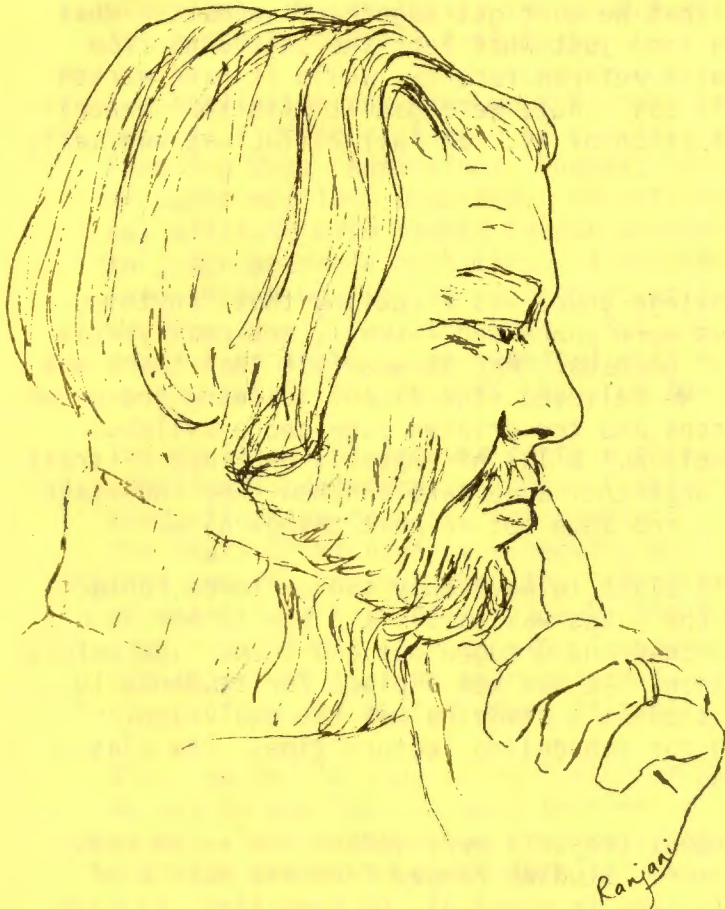
Thomas Jefferson College grew rapidly in the early 70's. It began with 79 students in the Fall of '68. By Fall '71, the "head-count" was 297. All colleges generally experience a decline in numbers through the school year, but TJC grew to 335 in Winter '72 and to 338 in Spring '72. The jump for Fall '72 was almost unbelievable and uncontrollable -- to 516! We didn't really want to go that far that fast, but the GVSC administration committed itself to backing up the number with appropriate staff and budget.

#### TWO UNITS

We were concerned about our size and frequently discussed it in faculty meetings. Bud Haggard came up with some "sociological-type data" on sizes of various groups and the effects of numbers on the sense of identity and sense of community. He stressed 250 (or was it 225?) as an optimum size for an organization such as TJC. We decided to undertake an experiment -- divide TJC into two groups. A lot of deliberation went into determining just what criteria to employ for effecting the division. But we couldn't come up with anything that made sense or that we all liked. So we finally took an easy (?) way out -- let the new faculty for Fall '72 be "Unit II" and assign them new students as advisees. It did make sense in a way -- if we were an innovative college, leave the new faculty free

to innovate as a unit instead of assimilating them into the ongoing system and absorbing "the way to do it." So, Unit II was formed, with separate offices over in Seidman House. The lounge area there was partitioned into "action" offices, with seven new TJC faculty members assigned. Unit I consisted of returning faculty, returning students, and some new students. New Fall '72 students were randomly assigned faculty advisors in Unit I or Unit II in such a way that faculty advisors had eventually equal numbers of students.

It is difficult to recall just how our collective feelings about the two units evolved during that year. Others around TJC today might fill in on this score. But we started the year with high hopes about developing two semi-autonomous units, which would eventually be about equal in size. They would not offer separate degrees, but could develop their own unique curricular emphasis or style or theme. We became concerned with how students should identify with a unit and how a student's credits should be distributed between the units.





But as the year went on we became aware that something was happening that we didn't like. There seemed a cleavage, a fragmentation, in TJC. Unit II seemed to be asking, "What should TJC be?" Can't blame them -- they had little or nothing to go on! Unit I seemed to be saying, "Make it what you want." We became increasingly aware of the distance between Seidman and Huron -- seemed a great gulf fixed between the two! A sense of camaraderie developed among Unit II people, but a sense of alienation between the units. When the year was over, practically everyone was against the unit idea. The feeling was that we must get together, no matter what the numbers. In retrospect it's hard to know just what kept the unit idea from working. If we had started a new unit with veteran faculty, would it have worked better? Or, a mix of new and old? Can't say! But, we'd had it with that experiment and weren't about to try any modification of it. In Fall '73 TJC was *one unit*, in Huron Hall!

#### STATE AUDITING!

In the early days of Thomas Jefferson College there was a feeling that "anything goes" as far as credit-generating studies were concerned -- well, not really that extreme, but "practically anything goes," perhaps! And it was felt that there was a pretty solid basis for that approach. We believed significant learning and growing experiences were not limited to classes and the printed page and a syllabus of subject matter to cover. And, we simply put a lot of emphasis on *trust* -- trust the students not to cheat themselves in what they undertake and how they undertake it. So, a lot of neat things were done...and some not-so-neat things also.

It was rather common-place for a 5-credit class to have only two or three contact hours per week. The rationale was that the class was simply a place to air issues and ideas that had been thoroughly researched and dredged out and identified beforehand by intensive and extensive preparation. It was not a place for students to hear lectures and take notes. So, if a student's studying was the equivalent of listening to lectures, there was no need for scheduling lecture time. The class, then, should be an active discussion time.

All kinds of special studies and independent projects were undertaken -- on practically any topic and practically any place. Studies ranged from the novels of John Barth history of science, and philosophy to survival, back-packing, filming sunsets, and palmistry. We had field studies then too, but no field study supervisor or structure. It was "just go." And, the students simply went! I remember one on "Cycling Through Europe." And another on "Living in Mexico City."

This account just wouldn't be complete without mentioning the two most famous (infamous?) special studies ever done in TJC. One was a study on state legislators' salaries, the other on a particular aspect of Far-Eastern thought. Certainly there was nothing wrong here, they seem to be legitimate academic studies, right? But the study on state legislators' salaries was coupled with a state-wide petition drive for certain action in regard to them. And the study on Far-Eastern thought was coupled with an attempt to directly experience certain aspects of it -- to be totally quiet for a period of 28 days!! When they saw the light of day TJC was the talk of the State. There were reactions and criticisms from all over. We'll probably never know all that went on in "the corridors of power" in Lansing due to the first one, and how President Lubbers, Dean Gilmore and others fought and argued to keep TJC alive... 'Nuff said on that one!



I have a vivid recollection of the huge Detroit *Free Press*' second front page headline - *Shut-up And Earn A College Diploma!* - when they heard about the 28 days of quiet. Imagine, just *one* student, *one* 5-credit special study, *one* aspect of a profound topic and it became the paradigm of TJC studies! Incidentally, that particular special study was never completed and credit was not granted. But the student graduated and has become one of our "successful" graduates, reflecting innovation and the willingness to venture in true "TJC style." He got a job paving driveways! UGH! But, he eventually turned the experience into a business venture. He is now in charge of a small asphalt paving firm, and, at last report, doing well.

Eventually the day came when TJC was audited by the State of Michigan Auditor-General's Office. A team of auditors arrived and went over every aspect of TJC from *Day One*: Admissions, budget, staff, studies, classes, records...not a scrap of paper was left unturned. We felt stripped, naked, explored! We sensed a critical attitude with regard to our academic offerings by persons not really equipped to judge academic qualities. I shouldn't be overly critical concerning TJC audits, even though we felt we've been "over-audited" due to our small size and youth -- we were simply easy to audit! But the Auditor-General's Office sent a most cooperative consultant who remained with us for quite a while showing us how to "tighten up our act." And we did! And, we have had no real trouble with being audited since.

The auditing did produce certain changes. We had to stop doing some of the "free-wheeling" independent studies of earlier days. The rationale is something like this: Tuition fees are not simply for purchasing credits. They are a fee paid to the State of Michigan for service by the State in the form of the college facilities and the college faculty. Therefore, every credit-generating element must document some form of service by the college through its facilities or faculty or both. We didn't have to stop independent studies or off-campus studies. We simply had to ensure that an appropriate supervisory/advisory structure was set up for every study, no matter where it took place or what its content might be.

Also, we had to stop being "cute" or "catchy" in writing up our course descriptions. We had to use the standard terminology characterizing college catalogue descriptions. This cramped our expressive spirit, but helped where students needed to transfer credit to other institutions.

Further results of being audited had campus-wide, and perhaps even state-wide repercussions. All courses had to consist basically of a study... "the study of \_\_\_\_\_". No course could adopt an *advocacy* position on any issue. This grew directly out of two kinds of TJC offerings in 1972. There was a set of courses on *Ralph Nader* and Consumerism at the time PIRGIM was forming in Michigan and which sparked the organization of PIRGIM on the GVSC campus. And there were some special studies on political campaigning in 1972 -- remember *McGovern*? A study of *Ralph Nader* is all right. A study of consumer issues is all right. A study of political campaigning is all right. But, advocacy of *Ralph Nader's* positions or certain stands on consumer issues would not be allowed. Nor would activity supporting a political candidate be the basis for an independent study. For these would indicate that a state institution was taking a certain position on such issues or candidates. I remember proposing a course on "Peace Education" back around 1973. But we changed it to "The Materials and Curricula of Peace" because it sounded too much like advocating peace! After all, we cannot advocate peace, as a state institution, any

**MORE**





more than we can advocate war. There's a deep philosophical issue involved here that gets into the whole question of the role of education in society and frequently gets educators into hot water. I don't care to explore this issue here any further than wondering to what extent a college's or university's entire set of offerings implicitly advocate and reinforce a society's direction and emphasis. I prefer to think education should not "reflect society" but rather "cause society to reflect." But the matter of academic freedom was not involved in all this, just the official position of the college as expressed in its offerings. None of us felt we were limited in expression in classes or had to keep personal stands on issues to ourselves. But we had to be fair, and provide opportunity for counter-arguments and the presentation of opposing views.

Another effect of the auditing era was the gradual movement to a one-to-one scheduling of student contact hours. A 5-credit class must provide 5-contact hours per week. A 5-credit independent study must provide at least one contact hour per week with the supervisor. Also, a kind of "value-scale" was developed regarding the credits a class could generate. Pure "activity" is not as valuable as pure "study." So, the overall mix of physical activities with studious activities in relationship to credit generation has become a constant concern, especially in courses like dance, gardening, and construction.

--Dan Andersen

#### MARY'S CORNER



It was wonderful seeing all those familiar faces of TJC alumni at TJC Alumni/New Student Day, Saturday, November 5, 1977. It brought back so many wonderful memories and warm associations; so nostalgic!!

Discussions at the workshops and in the summary reports were lively and highly critical but the amount of energy exhibited boded well not only for the future of TJC, but for the forceful, articulate alumni participating.

*D. Eva McKay* writes, "I have missed receiving the *Newsletter* for months now, and hope I haven't selectively been taken off the mailing list (heaven forbid). Your name is definitely on now.

*Joel Yanowitz* says, "Thanks for your warm note along with the transcripts I requested. Reading over the transcripts produced a flood of memories. I had forgotten how many different, exciting and strange activities I had participated in at TJC. He concludes with, "Hope all is well in your life and in the TJC community. If not, that's okay too. Much love to you."

*Mark Seeley*, who was Director of the Poetry Resource Center and graduated recently, stopped by. Mark is now employed as a Librarian Assistant at the Grand Rapids Public Library.



*Donn Williams* visited TJC and had some exciting news. Donn just returned from Brazil where he did research on social network in a Brazilian family - still working on it. He plans to use this material for his Master's thesis when he returns to the University of Montana to continue his graduate work. Donn told me he just got married to *Lenora Pereira Hupsel de Oliveira*, one of the family members involved in his research project. LET'S HEAR IT FOR RESEARCH!

*Gil Davis* informs me that *Peter Marshall* has been admitted to the graduate program in Linguistics at the University of Michigan beginning Fall 1977.

*Andy Gold* stopped by. He was at Brandeis University for a year. Andy looked great and has not lost any of that special warmth and charm. He was working as a "Court Jester" in a truly unique restaurant-theatre in Boston called the Medieval Manor. The decor and costumes and feeling was 13th-14th century and Andy said it was a great place with the waiters and waitresses dressed in costume of the period and everybody performing at intervals. Andy is going to the California Institute of Arts in Valencia, California, to study acting-directing, and leaving Brandeis.

*Katy Baxter* called to ask if we could get someone to teach lead folk dancing at Fountain Street Church. Call Joanne at 459-8386.



Just had to include this "note from a female parent,"  
*Dorothy S. Wadman* -

After four years of reading the TJC Newsletter and forwarding it to daughter Carolyn in California, I shall certainly miss it! If you could see your way to sparing a copy for me from time to time I would appreciate it. Twenty-six years of college teaching made me acutely aware of what you have going out there. Best wishes to all of you at TJC.

P.S.-My husband and I have just returned from a visit with Carolyn in California. Her dance recital was excellent - a lovingly prejudiced view, I admit.\* Thanks to TJC for fanning the flames.

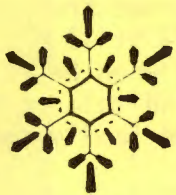
\*Really it was excellent.

*Pat Potter-Efron* tells me that *Marti Walker* is currently designing and cutting ski trails in Boyne City. Marti was back to visit and arrangements were made to have her speak in the Winter 1978 "Women in Community" class on "Women in Non-Traditional Employment."

Also, Pat said that *ERM* called from Illinois and is planning to go to grad school in psychology at Normal, Illinois. *ERM* says HI to everyone.

*Maria Marino* stopped by, looked great, and was bubbling over with excitement and enthusiasm about her job. Maria wrote and applied for a grant to do a demonstration project for pre-delinquent children in the Hannahville Pottawatomie Indian reservation about 20 miles northwest of Escanaba. She got the grant, was named Director of the Project and says it is challenging and so very satisfying and worthwhile. There are so many beneficial and wonderful things involved in working with and helping these children. She extends a cordial invitation to stop by and see her if you are in the area.





Beth Buckingham was visiting us as part of the internship project she is involved in through Ron Potter-Efron, in Washington. Beth says, TJC is like a jumping off place for people. Her trip to Europe (England) instilled her with desire to obtain more cross-cultural experiences and her field study in Washington has brought her into contact with a wide scope of people.



Jeff Gibbs also stopped by and in his own words says, Hi, I'm living on a beautiful farm with a lake, woods, goats, mud and all that, in Davison. My TORI stuff is going strong. I just started a three-year program and plan to be back here by next spring. My new address is: 1001 Kay Street, Davison, MI 48473. It would be nice to hear from some people. Right now I'm working about 80 hours a week planting trees for a nursery.



Becky Gish wrote this about a new service she conceived and is enthusiastically involved in:

-- THE ART SHOW was conceived this past summer more or less as an experiment. It is an art placement service through which artists can sell their work. It is unique in the Grand Rapids area because it brings the art to the people and makes use of existing public space. When I was in San Francisco this past summer I was impressed with how art is displayed and marketed there. I talked with artists and gallery owners and exchanged ideas with them. At this time, I am looking for new artists.

You can contact Becky by mail at P.O. Box 1633, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

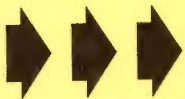
Annette Colucci and Dan Gorno are studying and traveling together in France. Annette wants all of her friends to write (we assume Dan does too). She includes her address:

Annette Colucci  
Chez M. Wolf - G. Churchill  
Residence St. Francois  
1 Place du Cardinal Balve  
Apt. 291 Immeuble G  
3700 Tours  
FRANCE

Martin Koosed wrote to ask about what's going on in TJC; if we have a new Dean, etc. He also sent a check in repayment for a SIN loan. Marty says that Ann Haikio and he are living in Cleveland and Ann has a great job as a security guard at the Cleveland Museum of Art. She gets to stroll around the galleries and enjoy the art masterpieces. He works as an apprentice pipe fitter. Marty says, *Interestingly, I find that the pipe fitters and welders I work with generally are more open minded on a wide variety of subjects than many people I know at TJC. Perhaps, the insulation of TJC keeps us a little more narrow-minded than we need to be, a little more defensive and insecure because untested.* It was so good to hear that Martin and Ann are planning to be married in the Spring. I'm sure all their friends at TJC join me whole-heartedly in wishing them happiness and joy.

It was great to hear that Martin won second prize (\$50) in the Dyer-Ives poetry contest last spring. The poem, *The Breathers*, is published in the foundation magazine, *Voice*.





Martin ends by saying, *We are still waiting for a sunny day in Cleveland, still missing GR and TJC and still enjoying the struggle, and each other.*

--You can write Martin and Ann at:  
 Anna Hakio/Martin Koosed  
 3445 Superior Park Drive  
 Cleveland Hts, Ohio 44118



*Yes, Martin, I'll be sure and see that you get the Newsletter as you requested and I'll send some back issues so you can keep up with TJC Dope.*

Frank Bodenmiller visited here and it brought back many poignant memories of that special period when he was a student at TJC. There was that extra special something about him that indicated growth, maturity and the discovery of himself in relation to the world around him. Frank just completed his Masters in Behavior Modification at Southern Illinois University and is starting a job December 12, in Huntsville Community Mental Health Center, Huntsville, Alabama. Frank says he will be working in transitional seminars as a follow-up worker. He promised to give me his address when he settles in Huntsville, so he can receive the Newsletter and keep in touch.

# TJC MAILBAG

TJC students have always been very special and some have unique, individualist qualities you seldom, if ever, encounter in any other college BUT TJC. The following letters were written by students I have known, who have made an impact here, and probably make an impact wherever they go or whatever they do.

Without further ado, some excerpts from a letter from *Katy Fox*, a pert, lively redhead who worked in the TJC office and who did everything intensively; learning and playing an active part in student government at TJC. She received her Masters in psychology at the University of Michigan and writes:

*...I have a job as Director of a Therapeutic Community for Women in the Arizona State Prison. ...We work with a theory and approach to criminality that is relatively unknown and new to the field. It's called tskleion - we've modified it somewhat. The neat thing about it is that it reduces the normal recidivism rate dramatically. Anyway it's exciting and I love the work I'm doing.*



Katy writes further that she's finally got a really nice apartment which she shares with another woman, with swimming pools, tennis courts, etc. FINALLY, a really nice place to live! She says hi to everyone. Katy informs us that *Julie Voorhies* is now *Julie Kusmierski* and lives on Prospect in Grand Rapids; in answer to the person who inquired about her whereabouts.

Another letter from that slightly "demented" and last of a dying species, the "Wobblies" (I.W.W.); but rather lovable - (he'll hate that) - Jay Blunt.

I am pretty sure that you are still putting out that gossip column of yours in the TJC magazine, so I have got two pieces of news for you. The first is that Barry Delvin became the proud father of a wee barbarian on October 1. The little brute's name is Seamus Owen Delvin and in a few hours after birth proved himself a true Wobbly (Barry was the other Wob on campus with me) by demanding more feedings, elected nurses, and kid control of the nursery floor. Unfortunately, S.O.D. was fired from the hospital before he could organize a general strike. The Father and Mother are now resting at home. I think S.O.D. is out soap boxing, however. I would give you Nan's-the Mother's-maiden name, but it is a Polish one with nine letters and only one of them is a vowel. I am unable to spell it and the last time I tried to pronounce it, I almost swallowed my tongue. Barry and Nan are now looking for a plot of land in the country to raise S.O.D. on. Also, Barry is now working on a future best-selling historical novel. When I find out more I will tell you.

Your second piece of news is me. I am now in grad school working on an MA in labor history at the Goddard Cambridge Social Action Project. And you guessed it, I am studying the Wobblies. Another TJC student has gone on to higher education. One of these days I even hope to go for a Ph.D. I want to be able to discuss the woes of the world with my class comrades as we hunker down beneath an overpass and share a bottle of cheap red wine in a brown paper bag. But that is all in the future. Before I face academic oblivion I must survive a year in Boston. That will not be as easy as you may think. The streets of the Boston area had to be laid out by a demented acid casualty with a love for gladiatorial contests. They twist and turn to such an extent that even the locals don't know where they are going. But, that does not stop them; all they are looking for is an accident. Boston has a well-deserved reputation as a cultural center, it has some of the most artistic accidents I have ever seen. Two cars plow into each other - preferably over the same pedestrian - and everybody else is invited to add their cars and lives to the growing montage. Collectively, they have come up with some very good modern art pieces, if you go in for the twisted steel and bleeding bodies motif. But for a foreigner it is rather unnerving. I don't mind looking at their latest works and even applauding when I see a really good one. However, I am in constant terror of the thought that some local lunatic



might decide to include me in his/her next sculpture. I know the Bostonians prided themselves on being the worst drivers in the world. I did not think much of it though. I should have caught on when I found out that the German Car Club in town is called the Erwin Rommel SS Mechanized Assault Division; I didn't. These people are totally crazy. They don't obey stop lights or one way street signs. It isn't even anarchy, it is a collective suicide pact.

I have to admit that Boston is a cultural center. The locals treat New York as a provincial outpost overrun by pagans. To them, Connecticut is the Southern border of civilization defending New England from the heathen hordes. The rest of New England - outside of Boston - is land controlled by uneducated fellow citizens. However, anything to the west of Massachusetts is the land of hostile aborigines. In spite of their xenophobia, they see a good theatre here. As one native told me, "Broadway may produce the plays, but we decide what is fit to be seen." Or what a street freak told me, "We were doing what the Hippies were all about before California discovered it. We just did not advertise it." It is a strange city and an interesting one. There is a lot of Femie work going on up here. If you know anybody getting into an MA in Women's Studies, tell them to check out Goddard/Cambridge; it has a good program in that area. The school also has an excellent Third World Studies section. In case any TJC'ers are heading up to this place, tell them to write me and I will give them a run down on how to survive in Boston. My thesis is going to be on the IWW Skowhegan strike, so I am going to be up in Maine quite a bit doing primary research - another name for an intellectual lobotomy. Because of that I can't guarantee crashing rights. But if given a long enough advance warning, I might be able to arrange something. I will warn anybody who wants to move here to bring a gun; it is the only way to find housing. There are 20 people for every open apartment and if you don't have the luck of the Irish, you will need one. Unless you are a dumb Mick like me, the only way to find a place to live in is to walk into a collective house and waste the first two people you meet and then announce that the house has a few new openings. Things are so tight that students are going back to the dorms -- that is desperation. However, women 23 years or older are in demand to balance out collective houses. White, straight males are persona non-grata, in this area. I should know about that, it took me two weeks to find a place.

Well, that's about it. If I run into any other former TJC'ers, I will tell you. Good luck.


Venceremeos,

JAY

PS- My roommate is an ex-Trot. You folks are everywhere. But, S.O.D. is a true "wobbly." In the end we will win.

--AND THAT WILL BE THE END -(Mary T.)



TJC   
MAILBAG

And still another intriguing epistle from TJC's wandering fiddler minstrel, and "bright lights," Howard Kalish.

Howard addresses "An Open Letter" to the Thomas Jefferson Clan, c/o Mary T.



Hello from the western end of the American continent; this is Howard Kalish typing. It seems that I have finally decided to tackle the herculean task of communicating the myriad things that have happened to me in the year since I graduated. I'm trying to think of a good place to start as the thoughts churn through my head like Keno balls (yes, I've been to Las Vegas twice in my travels). I suppose the present is as good a reference point as any. I'm sitting in an apartment that I once shared with the venerable TJC alumnus, J. D. Spach. J. D. now shares the apartment with another ex-TJC'er Ed Rachles... The apartment is located in that fabled section of San Francisco known as The Haight, not a bad pad, no roaches. I wrote a song about this neighborhood called "Living in The Haight Ten Years Too Late." The band that I'm now a member of performs this song with gusto.

I arrived in San Francisco two days before Halloween after an eventful four-week trip and a summer of playing country music. I was in a band with two other Thomas Jefferson folks, Tappin Paul Tapkin on drums and Paul Mozen on steel guitar. Some of you might have caught that act. I crossed the country in our band bus with the bass player and his girlfriend - not to mention Satchmo the dog. We broke down at least once a day but it was never major. Only one time, when our wheel almost fell off near Memphis, were we stranded. The Gods were mischievous, but graceful.

Chuck, Pam and Satchmo were going to Corvallis, Oregon. I stayed there two days and then headed south via thumb. I arrived in SF (the natives hate to abbreviate) about 16 hours later and headed straight to Ed's house in The Haight for whom I recounted the details of my trek. He agreed that the highlights were definitely the Grand Canyon and Nashville, where I sat in on fiddle with one of the world's greatest steel guitar players, Buddy Emmons. (he remembered me from a workshop he did in Muskegon last summer).

Well, it didn't take me long to feel at home in San Francisco, mainly because of all the people I knew here. It's truly uncanny how many Thomas Jefferson folks have migrated to this town; Ed, JD, Craig Sjonggren, Phyllis Kramer, Carol Zingesser, Steve Kalper, Jim and Carol Gunderson, Trudi White, and that's just a fraction.

Well, excuse me for being so long-winded, but believe me this is just a sketch of what has been going on.

MORE



I was very pleased to hear that TJC has been recovering from the premature trauma of adolescence and is now able to better meet the needs of its present students rather than the hypothetical needs of the previous ones. I think TJC took a long time to mature into a school of the 70's and with the 80's fast approaching there is certainly call for an ongoing reassessment of methods and goals.

I think it's time to wind this thing up now. I'd like to say howdy to Gil Davis, Bob Shechtman, Merrill Rodin and Arthur Cadieux (are you still there? - If so you'll be interested to know that I ran into Robert Rauchenbugg yesterday at the Art Museum as he was setting up a retrospective of his work. I asked him if he wanted to go out for a coupla beers, but he politely said, "No").

I'd love to hear from anyone who cares to write. My present address is:

1900 California Street #35  
Mt. View, CA 94040

but who can say how long I'll be there so you can write to my folks place and they'll forward it. Their address is:

1305-H Fountain Lane  
Columbus, Ohio 43213

I have no idea when I'll be through Michigan again. My band plans a tour of the Midwest...and maybe Grand Rapids will be on the itinerary. At any rate, let me leave you with these words of wisdom from the dyspeptic sage, Ted Lunchmeats: "Always believe in whatever is right."

Howard, the addresses for Jerry Diller and Bob Yashinsky are:



Jerry Diller  
1521 Wilson Avenue  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Bob Yashinsky  
26090 Franklin Pte. Drive  
Southfield, MI 48076

I have to save some of these fantastic letters for another issue, but here's one more from Bill Stage.

Dear Mary T. and All TJSonians,

Viele Grüsse aus Olympia'



I was pleased to receive your most alluring letter the other day - the one inviting me to lunch. Rare is the occasion I decline a luncheon (as my appetite is always keen), but this I must. You see I received the invitation on November 4 and the affair was the next day. I would have had to hop a jet and transport myself 2,350 miles or so to be there. Perhaps if it had come the day before!





There was/is a few TJC people here because of the NAUTE Exchange with Evergreen (ranking along with TJC as open-minded institutions of the first order). Small circles out here: I see David Hatfield and Amanda Romig. A woman named Janet who is out here on a contract w/Adrienne Tinsley of William James.

Carl Rader and I were the first to take part in the Exchange (the very first - I believe). We came to Olympia in 1974... stayed for a year and fell in love with the place. I returned to TJC a year hence and got my sheepskin in June '76. After that I looked around for a hole to stick my nose in and soon the fertile southern reaches of Puget Sound beckoned once more.

... In June of '76 I felt more than ever that the world was my oyster (I love oysters - I eat one fried everyday for breakfast). I felt that my whole life had been leading up to that point. I was at the crossroads of life to coin a cliché (do clichés respond to paper denominations?) I could not imagine who wouldn't have me -- at 25, well read, well traveled, an honorable discharge in my back pocket, a diploma under my arm, healthy of mind and body, inquisitive, adventuresome and willing to make sacrifices for certain ideals. I ventured to Olympia in August '76 for a second go at it, only this time was to be a trial in the real world of commerce and bread and beer.

To make a long story short I've become a short story writer. But wait, that's only part of it. As ever I live my life as a grand adventure - O, what fun to be alive and all that.

I was certified as an advanced E.M.T. through S.H.S. I became an ambulance driver (my army occupation) in Olympia last fall. That was okay but not as challenging as Germany. About a year ago I quit to become the host and factotum of a new film theatre, "The Cinema." If anyone has ever been to "The Bijou" in Grand Rapids, they'll know what this is like. We did not cater to the slapdash movie crowds. We showed fine arts feasts - classic domestics and foreign imports, innovative shorts. I gave the opening comments twice nightly. I found I loved talking to crowds (a born actor no doubt - at last - William Stage on stage). That job ended....

...But, I set aside the whole summer for the writing of a short novel...took it to task...decided to treat it as a full-time job. Now it sits with my other ms' - 50,000 words typed - waiting for a change to be polished, patched here, restructured there.

NOW, believe it or not, I'm working on a grant from Washington State Family Planning where I've been a volunteer sex educator since February. (My partner was Teri Smalley; also from GVSC). Briefly (verbosity is my middle name) I am committed with another partner to establish a male out-reach program. We are to put on four 2-hour presentations in December before who knows how many young men and women. We'll cover all aspects of male sexuality and tie it into female sexuality. Should be entertaining and informative - like a cross between "Meet the Press" and "Saturday Night Live." HOOPLA! Good for me!



MORE from Bill

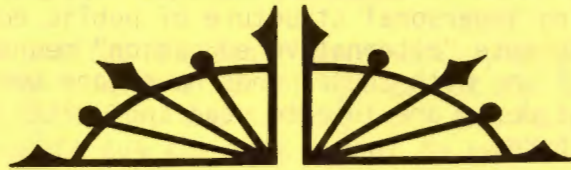




I wish nothing but the best for TJC. I pledge allegiance to the ideals for which it stands and if it folds at some future time (Blasphemy!) It will not be gone because the sum of its parts will be scattered all over the world community and each will be as a fertile seed - growing and promoting creative growth. I am hopeful.

Permit me a parting image - yesterday I was in Lajolla, California, near San Diego. At 6 a.m. I was up and running along the shore of the blue Pacific. My feet were splashing in the surf. Twenty yards out two sea lions could be seen swimming abreast of me. We kept pace for some time. We were very much aware of each other's presence. Imagine that!

--Bill Stage



## ONE TJC STUDENT SPEAKS OUT

It would be totally impossible for me to "objectively" write pieces on the Alumni/New Student Day held on Saturday, November 5, and TJC Day held on November 16, and the energy level at TJC this term. I have chosen instead to share with you this excerpt from my journal, reminding you that this is only one student's perceptions.

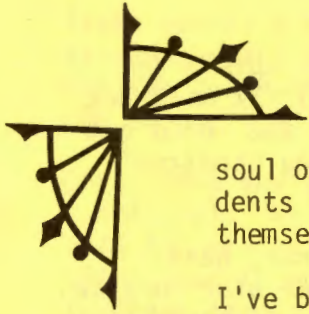
There is a new generation of people at Thomas Jefferson College. People unfamiliar with the ways and philosophies of "Hippy," people who don't really remember the Kennedys or Martin Luther King or the Civil Rights Movement or Kent State. The Viet Nam War is "the old days" to them. Most of them have never been tear-gassed or told by a principal to get a haircut, nor have they marched and picketed in a demonstration.

It all feels very frightening to me, this generation without a history. But, nevertheless, they are here, at Thomas Jefferson, with their own philosophies, hopes, and dreams, entirely different than those of the 80 students who gave birth to a yelping squealing TJC back in 1968.

Yes, the new students are here, and if anyone is listening they're hearing the grumblings of discontent and disappointment. Students are complaining about lots of things; lack of structure, lack of feedback, lack of direction, lack of support, lack of basic academics, lack of accomplishment. What a fussy bunch! But, the real shocker is this - the alumni, when they were students, complained about the very same thing. So, there's all this low-energy, drag-out "garbage" floating over the roof of Lake Huron giving credibility to everyone's criticisms of alternative education.

And then there's that...that *issue* of whether or not TJC has any "heart" left, of whether political dishonesty and educational frustration has eaten out the





soul of Thomas Jefferson College; whether or not the faculty and students have any inspiration left in them, any desire, any respect for themselves or for the school.

I've been thinking about this a lot and have come up with three "statements" that feel right to me. Two of them are semi-original and the third (alas) is from Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*.

First off, it seems that we need to break out of our tunnel vision "thing." We're so obsessed with words like "alternative," "experimental," "freedom" and "individualized" that some perfectly good words like "quality," "excellence," "teaching" and "academic" have become obscure, have become synonymous with "the traditional (boo baddo) stifling impersonal structure of public education." I have real problems with this because "alternative education" means "excellence, superior and quality" to me. Along with these words have gone some perfectly good ideas too, like college students are able to read and write. But, at this point that's neither here nor there.

There is something weird about TJC students in the fact that they can *always* see hope for the future. At the Alumni Meeting the alumni were tremendously critical of TJC, to the point of questioning its validity and whether it should be allowed to exist. They said frequently they were disappointed with the TJC of today and were not enthusiastic about recruiting for a school they didn't believe in. But almost in the same breath they volunteered to form an alumni-faculty advising group, to work with new students, to serve as a political lobby and to come and give different talks each week with students about the professions they are now in!

The same happened on TJC Day. The criticisms were harsh, but the suggested solutions were enthusiastic and there was high energy.

If only that occasional internal high-energy could be radiated out - to eat up the "smog" floating over Lake Huron!

My second thought statement is about "quality" - a very touchy word at Thomas Jefferson. I imagine we'd be a quality school if *everyone's* needs were given validity. Often times I've approached people with requests - for time, for knowledge, for advice - and it seems that if they had the view that my request was unimportant, my need was denied. Not refused - but denied! Not unanswered - but denied as a valid request. I call that intellectual boorishness and don't see it as part of a quality system. I don't want you to determine what is important, relevant or valid to me -- I want you to give me enough information so I can make that decision myself, *for myself*. Don't make my self-actualization *your goal* if I see it in *my mind* as my own life-long *process*!

And now I want to talk about Pirsig and about the truth of TJC losing its "heart." I hated a lot of *Zen and the Art*...but I find this statement bloodcurdling pertinent...



Phaedrus is discussing the University and calling it "The Church of Reason."

..."The real University is not a material object...it has no specific location. It owns no property, pays no salaries and receives no material dues. The real University is a state of mind. It is that great heritage of rational thought that has been brought down to us through the centuries and which does not exist at any specific location. It's a state of mind which is regenerated throughout the centuries by a body of people who traditionally carry the title of professor, but even that title is not part of the real University. The real University is nothing less than the continuing body of reason itself.

In addition to this state of mind, "reason," there's a legal entity which is unfortunately called by the same name but which is quite another thing. This is a non-profit corporation, a branch of the state with a specific address. It owns property, is capable of paying salaries, of receiving money and of responding to legislative pressures in the process.

But this second University, the legal corporation, cannot teach, does not generate new knowledge or evaluate ideas. It is not the real University at all. It is just a school building, the setting, the location of which conditions have been made favorable for the real school to exist.

Confusion continually occurs in people who fail to see this difference and think that control of the school building implies control of the school. They see professors as employees of the second University who should abandon reason when told to and take orders with no back talk, the way employees do in other corporations.

They see the second University but fail to see the first...

The primary goal of the Church of Reason...is always Socrates' old goal of truth, in its ever-changing forms, as it's revealed by the process of rationality."

SO TJC, perhaps you've outgrown "HIPPY" but have you really outgrown "HEART?" I think of you as a desperado; tough and tender, heartfelt and gutful, WELL??

---

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembled masses of Thomas Jefferson Graduates gathered at the old school November 5. The group was brought together at the request of the school administration, who had hoped the "old school spirit" would infect the graduates with generosity and enthusiasm for the old school. Unfortunately the feeling that surfaced at the meeting was not enthusiasm, but a loudly expressed concern about the problems affecting the educational process at TJC. The Graduates questioned the validity of some of the teaching at the school and generally had difficulty supporting some of the aspects of the learning process at TJC today.

Some Graduates decided that because of these problems they would involve themselves in a loosely knit alumni group, although this alumni group will be far from the drunken party stereo-type alumni group. TJC has attracted vocal and creative students, and it is not surprising that after much spirited discussion the group's interest focused primarily in the areas of lowered scholastic quality and the resulting reduced enrollments. Generally the group felt the quality of the learning experience lower than in earlier years.







## ALUMNI



"Dave Aussicker is now Assistant Director of the Center for General and Career Studies at Oakland University. This position involves the Evening Program, Bachelor of General Studies Degree, New Charter College, Department of Learning Skills, and administration of Extension Centers." That looks like a lot of work - it certainly is a lot of capitals, and you are welcome Dave.



Following - a letter from Richard Rusch

...Thought I'd drop a line to add to the complex image of what TJC graduates end up doing. I guess brief would be best.

After returning from Europe in June I was gung-ho to get into living and working in the U. S., since Europe seemed the simple imitator of U.S. life with the exception that their socialism is ahead of us; something I'm not too fond of since I dig personal freedom, and it (socialism) seems to put power over so much of your life in other people's hands.

Well, I don't want to lecture - so, I'm working in a sawmill making trees into all the wooden beams and boards you see in the lumber store. That was night shift. During the day I was janitor at a bar, until I started working for the Soo Line Railroad, laying railroad tracks. The body seems to be the only thing I can relate to. I've been laid off now for a week.

Next, it's either a job as a mason's helper, tutoring at the community college, joining a construction company, or lumberjacking. Haven't used my teaching certificate. A friend that just got cut from the Detroit Lions is working as a hall monitor at the high school; that's where education is at up here.

Have seen other alumni Joseph Paterick and Bruce Irving around. Joseph Paterick has straightened out quite a bit from the TJC days. He looks like one of those male models in Esquire; he's writing a book on the history of aviation in Upper Michigan. Also still trying to become a young professional (get that type of job) after a very lucrative summer as a housepainter. Hopes to be joining the airlines soon.

Bruce Irving was back this summer for a visit with his wife Carol Kasmir (TJC grad). He's still teaching out in New Mexico on the Apache Indian Reservation and living happily ever after.



I could write so much more, but...

Hi to Dave Gostnell - for some reason all us guys from up North here really hit it off with him in a serious way.

Also, HI to the pretty girl on Dorroll NE in GR. Haven't quite been able to lose her image in the North Woods.

Sunset -- Richard Rusch  
113 N. 19th Street  
Escanaba, MI



*Maureen Hogan* has a new address and a new job with a new degree. She has her M.S., a graduate assistantship at St. John's University, and is on her way into her second year in that program which will turn her into a Child Psychologist. That is what you will be isn't it Maureen? Your new address 254-13 73rd Rd. Glen Oaks, N.Y. 11004 is noted and I'll ask Mary for back copies of the news but I have little hope for you - I've not been able to get them. Not all of them anyway. And Maureen, we love you too.

*Jonatha A. Johnson* wants me to mention that she is alive and well and working as Serials Librarian at the Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, N.Y. 12507 (which is also her address). Jonatha says that "the value of a TJC education is that it can get you into Graduate School".

*Ed Stres* is working at Berkeley Health Clinic in California and living at 1942 E. 22nd Street, Oakland, California, 92606 - telephone 536-8195.

*Ken Schepers* address is 3939 Allen St., Apt 223 Long Beach, Ca. 90803. He just married Beth Shapiro.

*Marlene Wolfe* finished her M.S. at Wayne State and is now an assistant at the Detroit Public Library. Marlene hopes to get a second Masters in Subject Specialty. I wonder what that is.

*James Vert* who graduated in 71 is a Civil Rights Representative with plans for Grad School in the future.

*Nancy E Nowak* is working at Kroch's and Brentano's Bookstore in Chicago.

*Carolyn S Wadman* last heard from was a dancer and teacher of Ballet and Modern Dance in California. Her future plans include private dance lessons at the College of the Redwoods.

*Emily McKenty* (formerly Gilmore) is attending Western Michigan working on a M.A. in Ed. Leadership. Emily is working for G.R.P.S. in the Community Education Dept. with the title of Coordinator of Child Care - Preschool.

*Roberta Hill Monroe* (soon to drop the Monroe) is in Santa Cruz, California, working for Manpower Inc. Roberta spent an extra year of undergrad work after TJC studying classical languages, library technology and a ten week condensed course in French in which she received straight A's. Future plans include school, school and then more school.

*Thomas P Viti* received a Master of Library Sciences after TJC And is now a Librarian in Mass. Tom pleads with us to send his mail to his present address rather than to the old one where he hasn't lived for 6 YEARS. Hey man, that's not my job.

*Bob Alvord* should be starting International University by now and working toward a PhD. He is out in California with what looks like a good third of all TJC graduates.

*Catherine Jepson* is teaching 1st grade in Coldwater, Mich. and plans on working on a Masters.



Holly? You ask why you don't hit the big time alumni column - well, you didn't write to me, and Mary gave me your letter but not your last name so don't really know what to do about it except to thank you for paying back the SIN loan and congratulations on being solvent enough to do it. I see you are having a bit of trouble getting your right address on your TJC News. I wonder whose job that is to see to that sort of thing. PS, I found the note with your last name on it - you are *Holly Price*, Right?

*Claudia Semar* of the "Keep On Trucking" tee shirt era at TJC wrote us a long letter catching us up on her life since graduation. Claudia is working with Project LIFT, a day treatment center for Senior Citizens. "I do Counseling, rec. therapy, program planning, etc. It's a fun, exciting job, and I would credit TJC with giving me the necessary awareness to be human with other humans. Whatever that means, it's a good thing to know." She asks about *Ed Robertson*, *Meryle McClintock*, and *Cam*. Her address is 2030 King St., Bellingham, WA 93225. If anyone wants to get Claudia back in touch.

The fascinating part of Claudia's letter (to me) goes as follows:

*...I'm currently a member of a party corporation-cooperative entitled Suntree Institute. We've bought 20 acres of land in Whatcom County and are building our own homes implementing solar energy systems and low technology systems. Low tech. may be described as use of any energy source that doesn't rape the environment and is virtually self-sustaining.*

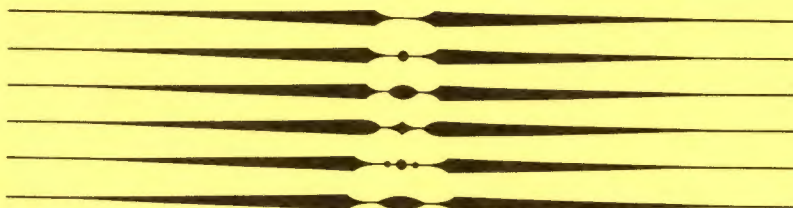
Claudia says that her house should be finished by fall 1978 and that then she will get a horse and a goat and some chickens and "retire from my job and coax the system into paying my way to graduate school."

*Mark L MacDonald* calls himself a Rose grower, is working in the Mt. Clemens Rose Gardens and is working on a new variety of rose hybrid dedicated to *Gil Davis* and "his continental style". Mark praises TJC, as do so many of us out here, for enabling him to cope (he puts it so uniquely) "creatively with the kaleidoscopic changes in this world."

*Claire Kelley* is now a teacher-aide. She plans to obtain a certificate in Learning Disability from MSU. Her address is 314 N. Granger, Saginaw, MI 48602.

If anyone would like to write me, or has any information about TJC alumni or about themselves, please do so. I handle the Alumni section of the Newsletter, so all your correspondence should be addressed to me. My address is: 9260 Bend Drive, Jenison, MI. I'd love to hear from any and all of you.

-- *Kaye Meana*





INTERNSHIP SURVEY

Pat Potter-Efron needs to know what you most want/consider most valuable in terms of internship experience for yourself/current TJC students. Please tell her right here!!!

---

A. Kind of placement:

B. Specific placements you know of:

---

Are any alumni out there interested in supervising a TJC internship experience???

Please fill out and return to:

Pat Potter-Efron  
Thomas Jefferson College  
Grand Valley State Colleges  
Allendale, MI 49401





"HAPPY HOLIDAYS"

TO ONE AND ALL



WE'LL MISS YOU AND HOPE  
YOU'LL RETURN TO TJC WITH  
RENEWED VIGOR AND ENTHUSIASM.





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