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## **Bull Frog pond, Vol. VII, No. 2**

Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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# BULL FROG POND

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*Vol III No 2*

*Sept 24*

This is the Thomas Jefferson College  
BULL FROG POND

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are those of the contributors.

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We welcome contributions to our magazine.

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# REQUIEM MASS FOR UNIT II

Celebrant: In the name of Danny, Cam, and Kleiny, Amen.

Response: Amen.

Celebrant: Omnium Gatherum in Lake Huron Hall.

Response: Hoo-hah.

Celebrant: We are gathered together this day to alternately lament and cheer the passing of the late body known variously as "Unit II," "Seidman Unit," and "Those guys over there."

Response: Who are those guys over there?

Celebrant: The arrival of packing boxes, closely followed by the wrecking crew, have given us the outward sign that Unit II is dead.

Response: And what are they doing?

Celebrant: But, verily, we know that Unit II was moribund before that.

Response: And who said they could do it, anyway?

Celebrant: Pay attention! You're getting off the track!

(Ahem.) We must pay great attention to the fact that the death knell sounded before the boxes arrived, for it is a sign that the flourishing health that once characterized this Unit was not merely an Architectural Accident.

Response: Amen for the Architectural Accident.

Celebrant: Our purpose today should be of the highest order, that of chronicling the accomplishments of the deceased. We should not mourn the passing of this body, loved and hated as it was during its short life. Nor should we grieve that its life was short, nor seek to find the fault for the failures that occurred.

Response: For these things have already been done.

Celebrant: Indeed.

Response: Indeed.

Celebrant: But little attention has been paid to the products of the health of the Unit.

Response: And what were the products?

Celebrant: To speak of the products, we must speak of the individual members of the Unit, for they were so disparate.

3 Response: And yet they formed more than a whole.



brains.

Response: He showed us a way.

Celebrant: Now, having completed the registry of the Seven Saints of Unit II, and having given a full and accurate accounting of the accomplishments of each, and in the fervent hope that we have captured the essence of the contribution of each, and in the belief that their memories are well served by what has this day been said in their behalf, we offer this prayer:

Celebrant and Celebrators:

Oh God, look kindly upon these seven,

Who have truly served you.

And, as they go their separate yet united ways

Into new organizational schemes of TJC,

Help them to find a new and rewarding path,

Never losing sight of the beauty they perceived

As parts of Unit II.

Show them new ways to express their special talents

Aid them in their attempts to succeed at new experiments

Comfort them when they falter;

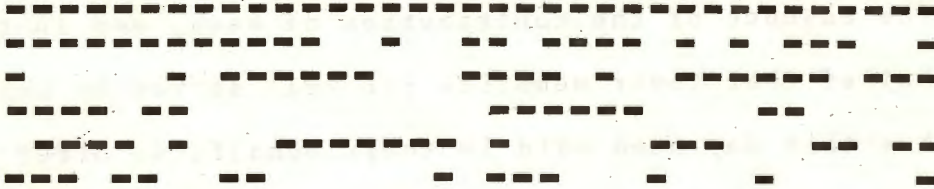
Reward them when they choose the right course.

We give thanks for this year we had together.

Amen.

Amen.

JOHN S. WARREN  
JUNE 7, 1973



## *Whadayamean the Grand Rapids Unit?*

Truly the world is upside down. Last year we intended two units and structured ourselves as one (except for the Faculty). This year we intend one and have structured ourselves as two (except for the Faculty). Whenever intention and structure conflict, structure wins. So, "Goodbye" to what even now is regularly called "the Grand Rapids Unit" (although, of course, everyone knows it really isn't one. Unhuh.)

-- Cameron Wilson

2 August 73

# VIEWS ON EDUCATION

June 13, 1973

Dear Pond,

Hi! May I share some of my views on education?

Sincerely,

Warren Marshall Edwards

None of us knows anything

but that to share  
our great ignorance  
in great friendship  
is great pleasure.

This maxim from a dark esoteric teaching in British Honduras means that there are no facts, only pretenses. Epistemology is the game of hide-and-seek that one half of the brain plays with the other.

The first requirement for signing one's name to registration at any place of learning is IGNORANCE, for such a signing is a personal admission of ignorance. And like a little birdie with its mouth wide open you await the mother's morsels.

The second requirement is friendship. There is no other purpose in meeting together (whether for learning or otherwise...and I believe all otherwise to be learning experiences too...)...there is no other purpose for meeting together than to be friends.

But to be friends implies sharing. The essence of college, taken in the root sense of "collegium"



(a meeting together), is to share ideas, share opinions, share feelings. To share knowledge. But only if we know that we can not know. This erases all dogma from the curriculum.

**( continued on page 13 )**

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# money

A #150,000 Ford Foundation grant has been awarded the Grand Valley State Colleges for "support of innovative undergraduate programs." GVSC was one of the twelve colleges and universities of the midwest chosen to share \$2 million of the grants.

The grants were "inaugurated three years ago to enable college administrators to respond quickly to new ideas or projects that might enrich the liberal education of undergraduates."

The grant will be administered by President Arend Lubbers "over a three-year period for any valid purpose to strengthen undergraduate education in light of contemporary needs and conditions."

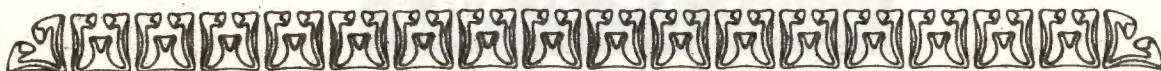
GVSC's four colleges will make proposals as to where and how the money will be spent.



Last fall I learned to read again -- to read for myself -- and to participate in class. My reaction against school (a result of doing well and being expected to keep it up) was over. I came back in search of knowledge. I had asserted myself as more than a learning machine; I had learned -- I had proven to myself -- that I am a human being.

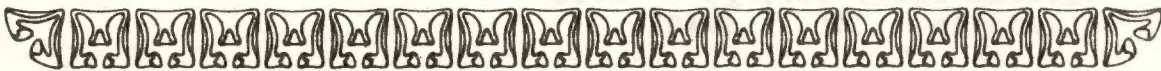
The rumor is that TJC is becoming more academic, that more students are reading more books and aiming for graduate school (as I am). Whether this is true in general or true of only a few of us, it is welcome news. I was once a good student who became not a student at all, but a traveler. Now I am home. I want some book-learning, some academic standards. I need to know that someone out there is thinking. I love knowledge more than I love the people at TJC, and it is my intention to keep you aware of that and on your toes. At TJC I've learned the joy and folly of being lazy. I've had the opportunity not to be motivated. Now I am interested in a liberal education, in serious intellectual work. Can I hope that Thomas Jefferson College will be able to meet my needs?

-- Church Mouse



### BEING A GIRL

The round moon is just beginning to rise across the lake. I can hear in the distance the trolley's clickity clack grow nearer then away again. The trolley lights flicker as they pass behind the trees on the other side of the lake. It is night time. Again I have overslept and soon dinner time. The floor boards creak as the radiator pipes swell with heat. I am dozey and still filled with sleep. Mummy breathes quietly beside me. She told me to come in for a nap, only for an hour or so. Again we have overslept. I hear the front door open. It's Daddy, I know we will eat soon. Mommy wake up Daddy's home. I hear the rustle of a paper bag being put down on the hall table. I run to say hello

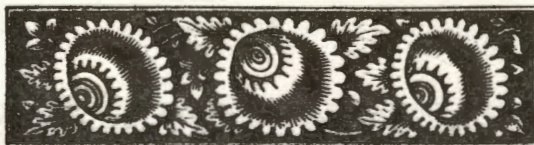




## ( EDUCATION CONTINUED )

In an atmosphere in which there is true friendship, there can not be fear. Then real learning happens, like a grace note unasked for, although we may as a group play upon a specifically chosen theme. We do not erase the purpose of learning new ideas. We rather enjoy spontaneously the continual encountering of newness. This can only come about in an environment of constant questioning of all proposed answers, for there are no answers in truth, only the living process of enquiry. Answers are dead; answers are knowledge. To know is to be fooled. Fooled because for every answer that we may toss into the pond of mystery, a new splash of questions flies up!

Seek that great pleasure therefore in the great friendliness which admits ignorance as the initiation for studenthood. Then share this spirit in the human newness which proves no one greater in knowledge than his brother.



# Any Problems ?

Get your copy of the Captain Crisis Access Handbook, a new guide to problem solving resources of the Grand Rapids area put out by William James College. The handbook covers such problems as eviction, tenant's rights, alcoholism, medical aid, food stamps, marital problems, etc. They are available to area residents free of charge throughout the Grand Rapids area. For those unable to acquire a copy in the Grand Rapids area, copies are available by request to:

"Captain Crisis Access Handbook"  
William James College      GVSC  
Allendale      MI      49401



Grand River in January

& shards of ice  
twitter like  
hungry birds

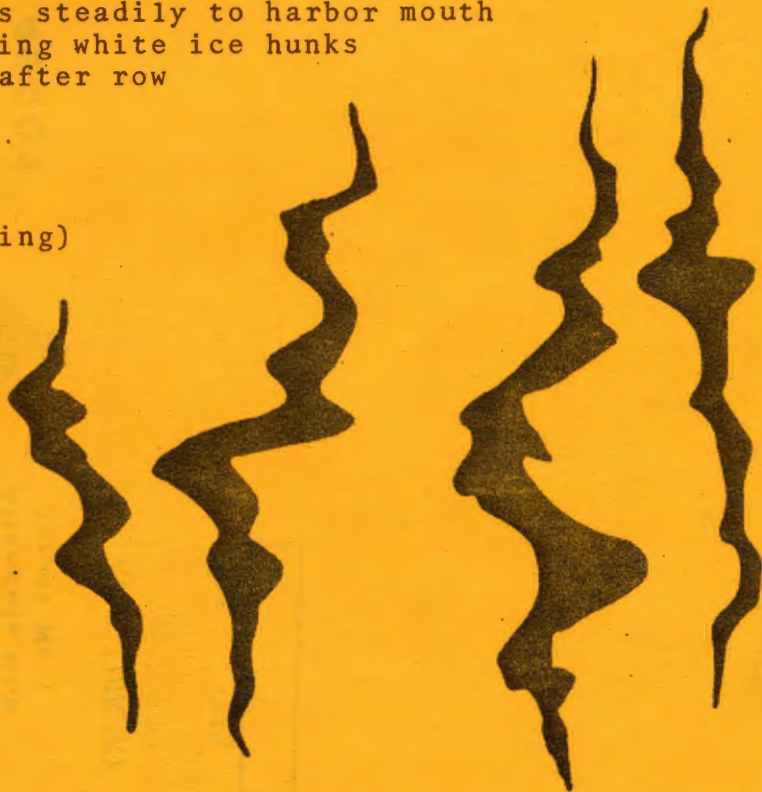
(this water used to  
seep back upon itself  
glossy & idle  
stinking of warm algae scum &  
tanker wastes

now the whole hotel kitchen staff's gone nuts

Clashing pots! Dumping trays of silverware!

while a solemn water-engine  
pours steadily to harbor mouth  
hauling white ice hunks  
row after row

(Martha King)



**Thomas Jefferson College**

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