



INNER COM

October 1979

Vol. 4, No. 1

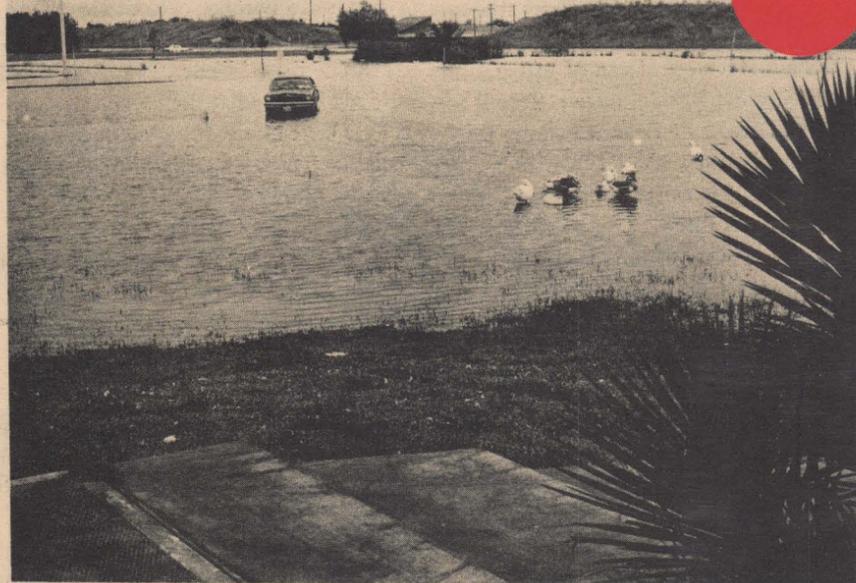


photo by Julia Kolodziej

PARK and SWIM

COM Closes

by Beverly Stephens

COM was closed from 4 PM September 19 until 8 AM September 21, due to continued flooding in Galveston County.

The latest floods were caused by some 60 hours of rain.

COM was to have resumed classes at 12:30 PM September 20, according to Dr. Fred Taylor, President of COM. The decision to re-open the campus was based on information Taylor received from the Texas City Police Department, the LaMarque Police Department, and local civil defense stating entrances to COM were not flooded.

The decision for COM to remain closed was made after seeing the extent of flooding in Texas City and Dickinson. Instructors also reported

they could not get to the campus because of high water, Taylor stated.

"There was no flood water in any COM buildings," Taylor said.

"However, some water blew in, due to winds, at the Office of Communication Services."

COM will close down completely when a hurricane watch is announced, Taylor said. Information regarding closing of the campus in flooding will be given on radio stations KTLW, KILE, KILT, and KTRH, and TV stations 2, 11, and 13.

"After our experience with tropical storms Claudette and Frederic, it is obvious that at least three days are needed in advance of a hurricane for residents to leave the area before the roads are impassable," he said.

Plans for Year

by Mike Durisseau

"We're about ready to complete all work necessary for an All-College Council (ACC)," says President Dr. Fred Taylor in a recent review of issues facing COM in the 1979-80 academic year.

"The purpose of ACC is to be a communication instrument," he said. Three students will be elected to the council, along with representatives of faculty and staff. The first meeting will define a charter for ACC. The charter will then be approved by the COM Board of Trustees.

Other plans for the year include a meeting on energy conservation, new engineering, arts, and writing programs, and a competency-based instruction program in Tech-Voc, Taylor said.

He also discussed the new student activities council (COMSAC), saying, "I'm going to wait and see if it works."

I'm looking forward to seeing Dr. Warren Dodson do his best to come up with some fresh ideas." Dodson, Director of Career Decisions and Student Life, is heading the organization of the student group.

Taylor will not have any direct control over COMSAC, but "someone has got to be able to say that students can or can't do something. We would hope students would be able to police themselves. They ought to be able to do it," he explained.

As to extension of Dr. Taylor's employment contract, which was under consideration recently, COM Board President Bill Flaniken said, "It was renewed last month through 1982. If he so desires, he can resign at any time, if he finds something better."

"I'm not concerned at all about the renewal," Taylor said.

All-College COUNCIL

by Lori L. Hall

In a two-hour, open-forum session on August 21, COM employees discussed and voted on three alternative plans of representation on the proposed All-College Council.

Plans A, B, and C, presented by Task Force representative Larry Stanley, had been developed to provide an opportunity for all segments to openly voice opinions and offer additional plans.

As the result of an August 21 and 22 election, "Plan C" received most votes and will be the council's representational structure. In "Plan C," employees will be selected from six

specified groups. Group A, for example, consists of three student members, while Group B contains groundskeepers, custodians, and watchmen.

Another six employees will be elected on an at-large basis. A memo from Fine Arts Chairman Stanley to COM President Fred Taylor stated, "Voting for six at-large positions would be restricted to voting for three (non-student) candidates with the top vote-getters being elected."

"Part-time employees are eligible to vote or be a candidate in their

Cont on p. 4

Dodson DISBANDS COMSA

by Mike Durisseau

COM Student Association has been disbanded by COM administrative personnel because the administration felt it was "ineffective."

Director of Career Decisions and Student Life Dr. Warren Dodson, and his associate director Leroy August, were responsible for disbanding the student association, Dodson said. There was no connection between disbandment of COMSA and the student ad hoc committee (StuCOM) which demanded President Fred Taylor's resignation last spring of 1979, he said.

"The dissolution of COMSA hopefully has not been interpreted by COM students as a retaliatory effort by the administration for students who orga-

nized a movement of protest against Dr. Taylor," Dodson said. Policy statements issued by the administration at the time stated no punitive action would be taken against students, staff or faculty for participation in the protests.

"COMSA meetings were too infrequent, they were not publicized, there was very little accomplished, and there was little student participation," he said. According to Dodson, there were only five COMSA meetings during the 1978-79 academic year.

"There is a need to augment what's happening in the classroom with some social development," Dodson explained. "The Student Activities Council (COMSAC) was discussed with the 1978-79 COMSA officers."

The proposal was distributed to club sponsors and advisors who reviewed the document, relayed the information to students and gave feedback to me," he said.

Under the proposed replacement council (COMSAC), all campus clubs and organizations will select two people to serve as "information conduits," he said. Any other student can join COMSAC as a voting member by attending meetings. The elected COMSAC president will be student liaison to COM's Board of Trustees.

One of COMSA's problems in the past had been "diversity," or lack of cohesion among students, Dodson said, and the idea of the council is to bring diverse groups together.

"I think COM students should be able to do more at this college than just take classes. At some point, all of us must work together to dispel the notion we are dealing with 'kids', and acknowledge our students as rational, mature adults. One way of doing this is through development of a system giving a real opportunity to make decisions meaningfully, effecting education at COM," Dodson said.

**New
FACES
On Campus
page 4**

All-College Council Fails

by Lori L. Hall

In April 1978, COM President Fred Taylor proposed an All-College Council comprised of COM's faculty, staff, and students. The council could allow all segments of the college community to voice opinions about decisions directly affecting them. Thus, each council member would voice primary concerns of the college community.

The council as now proposed fails to provide COM employees and students with an effective mechanism for direct participation in the real decision-making process of this institution. Under accepted "Plan C," council members are restricted to voicing opinions, as opposed to voting on individual issues.

Presently, the All-College Council is superfluous. Participatory democracy is non-existent in its current policy. College community members are denied the right to vote in issues directly affecting them, because the leaders of COM have developed an unresponsive hierarchy. Faculty,

staff, and students are expected only to voice opinions and concerns, without active participation in decisions.

The fact is, no limited amount of input produced by the COM community today will immediately influence the outcome of any final decisions. As a result, apathetic feelings shared by most COM employees, students, and administrators will continue to exist as long as the right to speak through a final and decisive ballot is denied.

The controlling power in the upper echelon of this institution must be disseminated among all segments of the college community. Faculty, staff, students, and administrators must all have an equal voice in decisions affecting COM. Presently, a handful of administrators control this institution. One must thereby assume the leadership at COM will place essentially little value on the All-College Council until participatory democracy becomes a reality at this institution.

Why 20 Hours?

by Bruce Regini

Why can't COM students employed as work-study and financial aid recipients work more than 20 hours? According to Dan Doyle, Director of Financial Aid and Placement, U. S. Government regulations prevent it.

The HEW's Inabling Act states students cannot be employed by their schools for more than 15 hours (in 1977, new legislation raised this total to 20 hours) a week. Federal law does not permit schools to ignore these regulations, and COM has observed

them since its inception in 1969.

The basis for these regulations is that education should be more important than working to pay for it. The difficulty of working fulltime and attending classes more than 12 hours is monumental. Part-time employment at COM, at a decent rate, should be available. But money is scarce, funds are limited. It's better for COM to employ more students at fewer hours. In any case, it would take an act of Congress to change the current law.

--GOTCHYA--

by Laura Lynn-Stanley

They did it -- gotchya -- and you never felt a thing.

Registration Day: You herd together, prodded, poked, from station to station, to take one more step toward higher education. Computerized sheets contain little digits and symbols -- the vital statistics of your life progress.

At this point, you added more information, plodded along, checked at regular intervals so all empty blanks are filled. You fill out an envelope, a yellow piece of paper, pose for your yearbook (yearbook?!) photo.

(You feel like you have a number strapped across your chest. The photo was a surprise. Behind you comes a young mother with a whining out-of-sorts two-year-old wrapped around her right hip. Plastic sewer pipe-size rollers are in her hair. "Say Cheese!")

You're advised. You make decisions affecting the rest of your life. You schedule classes, then a computer decides if they're acceptable. More digits are fed to the computer regarding you.

Human voice (at last): "You're registered. Go to the next station. Wait for your name to be called. Pay your fees." The end is near. You pay out, you're ready to haul out.

Then comes your reward.

A plastic bag. You sign a card (name, address, sex) and hold in your hands "the key to academic success." But what does a bar of Coast deodorant soap, a BIC razor, Playtex tampons, and Massengill disposable douche have to do with a successful college career? Is a well-deodorized, clean, shaven, protected body essential to learning?

Or do the distributors hope we'll find these products better than what we're currently using? What happens to the card we signed? Is that information for yet another computer?

Do we now receive more unsolicited "opportunities" for encyclopedias, magazines, and records through the mail? What fool would turn down a free gift to avoid giving name and address on a card? Especially when a reward is given after a hard day's registration?

Here's the first lesson of a new semester. Don't be led. Use common sense. Ask questions when giving information about yourselves. You have the right to say "no" when asked to give out personal data. You never know whose computer you'll be fed into next -- or what the information might be used to sell.

ACTIVITIES FEE

by Beverly Stephens

COM students enrolled in 13 credit hours pay \$6.50 in student service fees. Why pay a student service if there are no student services?

"The Student Service Fee, as authorized by state law, is required of all students. The income from this fee supports recreational activities, artist and lecture series, student publications and government, cultural entertainment and other student services, as authorized by State law" (COM catalog page 22).

Recent reorganization of COM's administrative structure places student activities under direction of Dr. Donald Mortvedt (Dean of Instruction and Student Development), Robert Shinn (Associate Dean, Learning Resources Center), and Dr. Warren Dodson (Director, Career Decisions Center/Student Life).

In order to facilitate joining student government, activities, and

representation to the COM Board of Trustees, COM Student Association (COMSA) has been replaced by a Student Activities Council (COMSAC), which is intended to be an outlet for students. In this restructuring, faculty and administrators who disbanded the student association intend that the COMSAC will be a channel for all likes, dislikes and comments.

The student population at COM is diversified, and student activities should reflect that, according to Mortvedt. This year, students will be offered a number of activities. However, before any plans for activities can be made, students must let COMSAC know what they want.

One channel for student opinion is the coupon in this *InterCOM* issue, and another is COMSAC meetings. The only way students can get their money's worth is to get involved. The choice is up to you.

Will COMSAC Work?

by Karen Hoffman

Only 30 students attended the first two COMSAC meetings. This scant 14 per cent of COM's total enrollment of 2,400 attended meetings advertised through posters around campus. Apparently COM students either don't read posters, or just don't care about student activities.

Organization of COMSAC and election of officers were the main topics of discussion at the first two SAC meetings. Those attending showed interest in the council working, but also seemed to be more interested in the power to run COMSAC than in the organization itself or the direction of early meetings. According

to Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Student Life, the budget allotted for student activity programs is \$12,500 for the 1979-80 school year. But the budget will not be approved by COM's Board of Trustees until sometime late in October.

COMSAC will not work unless more students get involved now, and there is some sincere interest in successful organization of the meetings. COM students have the potential and the money to make activities happen.

Students interested in knowing more about COMSAC should request a copy of its constitution from the Career Decisions Center, and attend the fourth meeting October 14.

COUNSELING

by Alton E. Hayes

The new counseling decentralization puts counselors in each department at COM. This system can better help students, and give counselors more gratifying results. A counselor can take pride when a student makes excellent grades in history after conference discussions and help. A student may find he's ideal for a job

in the community he never previously thought he could get, before counseling.

The manner of grouping counseling personnel is irrelevant. The concern of both students and administration should be whether or not the program works. The effectiveness of the counselors, not their office location, is the proof of the new system.

Editor	Theresa A. Pina
Asst. Editor	Alton E. Hayes
Staff Writers	DuRay Block Mike Durisseau Becky Freeman Dewane Garrett Lori Hall Karen Hoffman Laura Lynn-Stanley Rachel Martinez
	Bruce Regini Beverly Stephens
Photographers	Mike Durisseau
Faculty Advisor	Kit van Cleave
Graphic Designers	Laura Lynn-Stanley Beverly Stephens
Advertising Manager	Beverly Stephens

HERE'S HOW YOU KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A BAD DAY.

You put your bra on backwards and it fits better.
 You wake up to discover your water bed broke and then you remember that you don't have a water bed.
 You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
 You wake up face down on the pavement.
 You see a "60 Minutes" news team waiting in your office.

You want to put on the clothes you wore home from the party and there aren't any.
 The woman you've been seeing on the side begins to look like your wife.
 Your horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway.
 You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of your city.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR ACTIVITIES FEES SPENT?

Films(which ones?) _____

Concerts (who?) _____

Lecturers (who?) _____

Entertainers (who?) _____

Dances _____

Other (what?) _____

Deposit in InterCOM box in Student Center.

Child Care Services

by Becky La Croix

A child-care service began for students registered in COM's Technical-Vocational Department on August 27.

The service is provided through Guardian School in Dickinson.

According to Child Development Program Co-ordinator Jan Smith, the service was started because of "tremendous need for day care services by students attending COM."

Funding for the program was received from Texas Education Agency (TEA), and matched by COM. Smith said there is "a good chance the monies will be available for the next few years, but there is no guarantee." Unfortunately, TEA requirements

state funds can only be used for Tech-Voc students, she said.

Smith said alternatives need to be explored to meet all students' needs for child-care services. A college-controlled facility or training center could be answers, she said.

"Having convenient, quality child-care available would make attending college more accessible to more students," said Smith. "As Americans, we need to address the needs of our children. I'm delighted COM is beginning to do that."

"It's a good beginning, but just a beginning," Smith said.

Tom Herman Moves

by Theresa A. Pina

Psychological counseling offices of Tom Herman, moved from the College Center to the Learning Resources Center last spring, seems to be on wheels. It was relocated three times during the last academic year.

Only two students polled by InterCOM knew what psychological counseling was, much less where it is.

Counseling is divided into eight service areas -- testing (conducted in the Testing Center), Career Decision, Student Affairs (all activities on campus), counseling for veterans, Technical-Vocational, Continuing Education, and Academic Counseling. Therapeutic Counseling helps students cope with problems concerning themselves, school, home, and family. Herman is in charge of all divisions.

Limited office space is the major cause of Herman's office relocation. "It's not really a drastic change," he says. "Most classes are in this build-

ing, so it's easier to reach students." Herman's office is in Suite B (Humanities), with hours from 8-9:30 AM.

Student Jamie West reflects the attitude of many in saying Herman's new office won't be hard to find. "After all, he's always on campus," she says.

Psychological counseling is a vital service for students, says Herman. "Students are no different from anyone else. Coping with life is the same complex exercise, whether you're a student or not. Coping mechanisms, when not productive, become barriers. What I do is assist people getting through their barriers, in order to move easily to achieve their purposes."

At COM, one major purpose is acquiring an education, and Herman urges students to contact him if they need help, in any way, completing that task.

Snack Bar Hours

(OCS)

College of the Mainland's snack bar in the College Center is being re-organized to offer its customers faster service, according to Dave Rac, Director to Auxiliary Services.

Rac explained the snack bar will be renovated to permit two lines. One will be used for full service, while the other will be for customers ordering only beverages.

"We are beginning a numbering

system in which customers place their orders, receive a number and go into the dining area to wait for their numbers to be called," Rac explained. "In this way, customers won't be standing in line waiting for their orders to be complete."

Rac pointed out the new expanded hours for the snack bar are 7:30 a.m.—7 p.m. Mondays—Thursdays and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays.

Decline

COM'S fall enrollment registered a one percent decrease on a head-count basis (2,483) and a two percent increase in contact hours (443,344) according to recent figures issued by the Admissions Office.

A preliminary survey of the enrollment figures show the decrease from last fall's 2,511 figure was in the area of veterans' enrollment and in real estate classes.

For Breakfast
Lunch or Dinner

THE SNACK BAR
in the College Center

HOURS: M, T, W, Th—
7:30 to 7:00
Friday
7:30 to 3:00



Women's Center

by Laura Lynn-Stanley

Texas Education Agency (TEA) has renewed a \$27,018 grant for COM's Women's Center, according to Director-Counselor Barbara Crews.

The grant provides for maintenance of offices on the second floor of the LRC, one full-time counselor, and one part-time secretary.

Crews explained that the Women's Center provides a wide range of services to women students in the form of counseling, workshops, seminars, and information referral services.

The Women's Center, part of COM Tech-Voc programs, coordinates with other campus services, "to aid

women in personal and academic transitions," Crews said.

An Assertiveness Training Workshop, Women's Growth Group, and Career Decision-Making are some courses offered this year by the Center. The TEA sees a need for women's centers, and funds such programs statewide, Crews pointed out.

"Ideally, there won't be a need for a Women's Center at all, once everyone is enlightened and knows what possibilities there are," Crews continued, "when women can balance home, family and career and feel comfortable with all."

Counseling Decentralized

by Alton E. Hayes

Students' needs are better served by having counselors available in each departmental office at COM, as opposed to having a center of counseling, according to Associate Dean of Learning Resources Bob Shinn.

Students enrolled at COM in at least one of the academic fields now have more immediate access to counseling, Shinn pointed out. This offers a more individual approach to student needs and deficiencies, which often arise after major course of study is chosen.

Frequently, students choose a field they may not possess the aptitude to master, he said. In such a situation, instructors refer students to a counselor. The counselor locates and diag-

noises the student's problem on an individual basis.

"Re-evaluation indirectly leads to the question of —why is a student seeking a particular goal? A student in Tech-Voc may have been interested in a certain job, but not have skills to win it," Shinn pointed out. COM counselors are equipped with insights and credentials to deal with individual personal needs, to help students pursue desired goals more quickly.

It is to the benefit of both students and counselors to achieve students' maximum goals, he said. The counselors' endeavors are sometimes taken for granted, but counselors are at COM to help students. If students don't seek counseling when they need it, no one is successful, Shinn said.

ENERGY.

We can't afford to waste it.

New **FACES** on **CAMPUS**

by Rachel Martinez

Four new instructors have joined COM for the fall 1979 semester.

Mona Marshall (art), Elaine Renola (nursing), Johnette Plantz (business), and Laura Gordy (music) were hired for the 1979-80 school year.

Marshall, instructor for the fine arts division, received her bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, and her masters from Taylor Art Institute of San Francisco. She has also studied at Tyler School of Art in Rome.

Marshall has won various purchase awards (winning work sells), received grants from McDowell Foundation in New Hampshire, and exhibited her art work primarily in California.

She will teach basic design and drawing at COM, plus a new course in art photography.

Marshall says about COM, "It's a great place. In a smaller college, one gets to know people better, and you have the freedom to teach the way you want."

Elaine Renola, new nursing instructor for the health occupations division received her bachelor's degree from Penn State University, and her masters from Texas Women's University. Be-

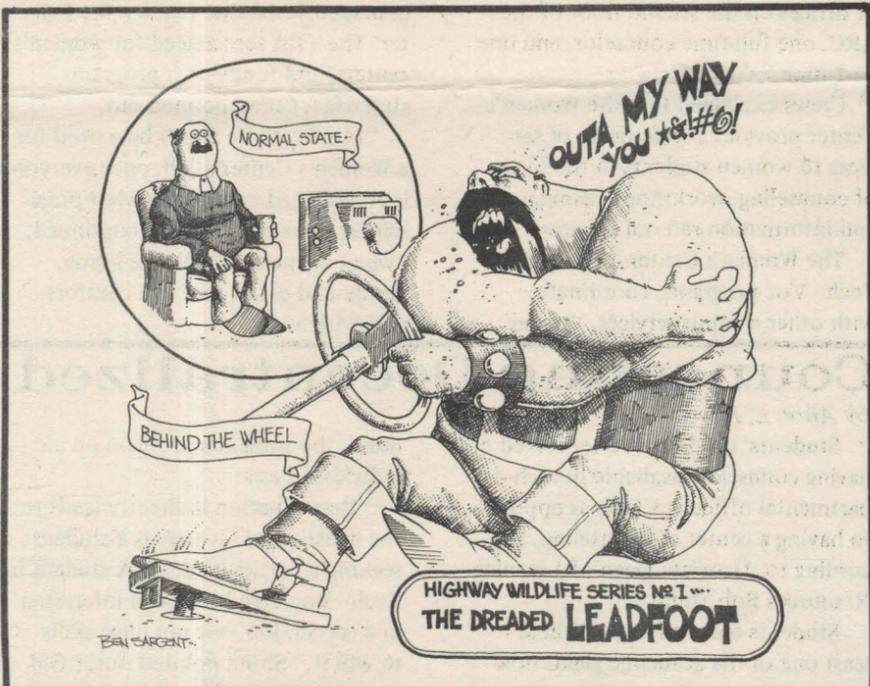
fore teaching at COM, Renola taught for three years at an Illinois hospital, and one year at Penn State.

"It's pretty hectic working here, but so far I like what I see. The students are just super," she says.

Johnette Plantz, business instructor, is a graduate of Kansas State University (bachelors degree), and Louisiana State University (masters degree). Prior to joining COM, Plantz taught at a business college in Baton Rouge. She teaches typing, accounting, and introduction to business.

Laura Gordy, part-time piano instructor, comes to COM with an impressive background in the music field. She received her masters degree in music from Rice University under a graduate fellowship, and earned her bachelors degree summa cum laude, from the University of Cincinnati.

While at the University of Cincinnati, Gordy was awarded conservatory of music honor scholarships, as well as The Deans Award for outstanding academic achievement. Some of her credits include numerous solo piano recitals, and contemporary music concerts in Cincinnati and Houston.



SPORTS

by DeRay Block

New pool hours have been announced for after-school swims, according to the October activity calendar of COM's PE & REC Department.

For the rest of 1979, the pool will open for youth swims from 4 - 5 PM Mondays through Fridays. Other sports news:

- ★ A racquetball tournament will be held October 12-14, with the deadline for entry set October 9 by 5 PM.
- ★ Sign-up deadline for the self-defense workshop is October 15. The workshop will be held October 17.
- ★ A country-western dance workshop comes up October 19 at 8 PM for a fee of \$2 per person. Deadline: October 16.
- ★ Bellydancing workshop is featured October 20 from 1-4 PM.

- ★ Innertube water basketball and a pingpong tournament both fall on October 24 at 7 PM (pingpong) and 8-10 PM (basketball).
- ★ On October 26 at 8 PM, "The Blob" will be shown for \$1 per person.
- ★ A canoe trip finishes out the month of October, running from the 27 through the 28. The Guadalupe trip has a fee of \$10 per person.

Repair

Continuation of the first small motor repair course will begin October 30. The six-week Small Motor Repair II course, taught by Will Thomas, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The student will work on his own motor and learn to diagnose and cure its ills. Cost is \$36.

Language Classes Closed

by Dewane Garrett

COM's French and German classes are a thing of the past, according to Chairman of Art-Humanities, Larry Stanley.

Classes in any languages other than Spanish have not been sought out, Stanley said, adding "there was simply no support and very poor participation in the French and German programs.

"The recent cutback had no real effect on these two courses," Stanley pointed out. He added that if students could get a petition signed by a substantial number of students, which would indicate participation in the program, "the administration may consider having these vital classes reinstated."

Just for You

Basic darkroom photography classes will begin through COM's Community Education Cooperative October 29. The \$11 course will be taught by Dave Palmer, Mondays from 7-9 p.m. Students will process and develop film, make contact sheets, do projection print scales, print and work on individual projects. The class runs three weeks.

Gary Utley will teach a five-week sign language course on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 23 from 6:30-9 p.m. in Dickinson. Students will learn by doing the basic signs necessary for non-oral communication. Cost is \$14.

Lochie Fowler will teach a two-week defensive driving course on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 23 from 7-9 p.m. in Dickinson.

Interested persons may register in the Non-Credit Registration Office, located in the Administration Building, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. For courses offered in Santa Fe and Dickinson, participants will register at the first meeting of the class.

For further information, please call 938-1211, extension 266.

A six-week country-western dance class will be offered in Santa Fe. Taught by Viola Miller, the class will meet Tuesdays beginning October 30 from 7:30-9 p.m. Cost is \$9.

Two ballroom dancing classes are being offered for nine weeks at Nessler Center in Texas City. The Bronze Standard, Part I, Tuesdays beginning November 6 from 8-10 p.m., will be taught by Bonnie Briggs. A satisfactory knowledge of the basic steps in the waltz, tango, mambo, umbia and hustle must be demonstrated before enrollment. The six step patterns of the foxtrot, samba, swim, rumba and cha-cha will be featured. Cost is \$20.

The Silver Standard, taught by Dorothy Phelan, begins November 9 from 8-10 p.m. Cost for the advanced ballroom dance class is \$25 for the nine-week course. To register, students must have instructor approval.

COM briefs

Bill Raley, COM Director of Apprenticeship and Skills Training is back from the Middle East after serving as consultant for the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company . . . A

"Student Consumer's Guide," programs of student financial aid supported by the U.S. Office of Education, is available from P.O. Box 84, Washington, D.C., 20044. . . **Terry**

and Ed Campagna, hypnotists, will hold a weekend hypnosis course October 25-27 at COM. Fee is \$300 for six sessions of three hours each, from 9AM to 1PM. For more data, call ext. 266...COM biology instructor **Paul Williamson** is new divisional

leader for biology speciality fields of Educational Testing Service Advanced Placement Programs of Princeton, NJ. He's currently a doctoral candidate at U of Wyoming . . . A traffic signal will be fully operational at Highway 1764 and Amburn Road by April 1980, according to a recent memo from President Fred Taylor...

The Texas Renaissance Festival will continue on weekends through November 4. For more information, call the PE office at 417 . . . Arthur Whittington, accountant, has been added to the business office staff . . . Fall pool hours are 7-10 PM M/W and 12:30-2 PM T/TH for recreational swimming 8-9 AM and 5-6 PM Mondays through Fridays for adult lap swims. There's also an adult and youth swim 4-5 PM Mondays through Fridays, Fridays from 7-10 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 PM.

. . . New COM Press and Office of Communications staffers are Julia Kolodziej (graphics designer), Lisa Smith (publications assistant), Mary Vaughan (information desk secretary), Glenna Pfennig (part-time news writer), and Rita Leyva (duplicating clerk) . . . Lynn Lamkin's voice recital will be held at 8 PM October 23 in the COM Theatre.

All-College Council

Con't from p. 1
repective groups. Election of at-large candidates should follow group elections, to allow persons to run at-large if they were not elected by their group," stated Stanley's memo.

An All-College Council representative should be "sensitive, fair-minded, a good communicator, and dedicated to the council's responsibilities," the memo further stated, and such an individual "should have the trust and respect of COM employees and students."

Stanley later commented, "The All-College Council has been called a communications model. It can be a way for employees and students to not just give input, but also have impact on substantive issues affecting this college community."

Del Taco's guide to Houston hot spots.

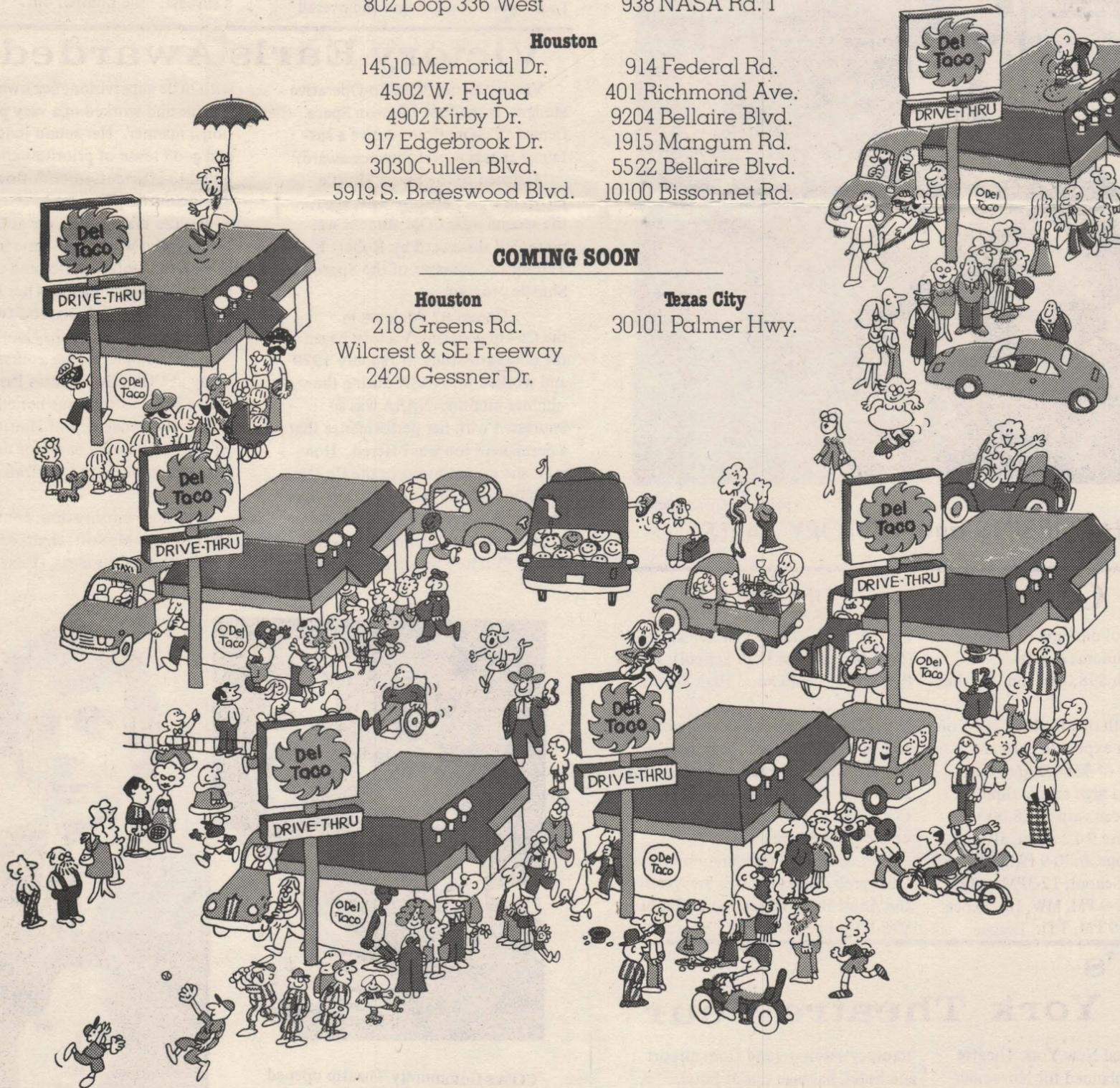
If you want to find the freshest Mexican and American menu under the sun plus the convenience of drive-through, dine-in or carry-out service, just look at the guide below.

OPEN

- | | |
|--|--|
| Alvin
260 Bypass 35 | South Houston
1503 Spencer Hwy. |
| Bay City
3921 7th St. | Spring
7400 Louetta Rd. |
| Conroe
802 Loop 336 West | Webster
938 NASA Rd. I |
| Houston | |
| 14510 Memorial Dr.
4502 W. Fuqua
4902 Kirby Dr.
917 Edgebrook Dr.
3030 Cullen Blvd.
5919 S. Braeswood Blvd. | 914 Federal Rd.
401 Richmond Ave.
9204 Bellaire Blvd.
1915 Mangum Rd.
5522 Bellaire Blvd.
10100 Bissonnet Rd. |

COMING SOON

- | | |
|---|--|
| Houston
218 Greens Rd.
Wilcrest & SE Freeway
2420 Gessner Dr. | Texas City
30101 Palmer Hwy. |
|---|--|



At Del Taco, You're Hot Stuff!

At Del Taco, your future could be hot stuff.
Ask for a management career folder at your nearest Del Taco.

Exhibit Opens

COM will feature a showing of recent paintings by Jean Wetta, well-known Galveston artist, in the Fine Arts Gallery, October 15-31.

A reception will be held Monday, October 15, 5-7 PM.

Wetta will also show slides and talk informally at a "Brown Bag" lunch in Room 117 of the Fine Arts Building on October 22. Coffee will be provided and everyone is invited to exchange ideas.

Despite her youth, Wetta has many years of teaching experience, beginning as a junior high school teacher in Missouri, then at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; Louisiana Design Institute, Baton Rouge; and Crewe and Alsagar College, Alsagar, England. She is now teaching at Galveston Arts Center.

Originally from Missouri, Wetta earned a BA from Webster College,



Jean Wetta

St. Louis, and went on to Louisiana State University where she received her MA in painting in 1970. In the last 10 years, she has exhibited widely, including nine one-artist shows.

The Art Gallery will be open from 10 AM - 4 PM every weekday, and from 7 - 9 PM during performances of Community Theatre's "Cherry Orchard."



photo by Glenna Pfennig

RUTH ROBBINS and VICTORY EARLS

GED Classes

A high-school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is presently worth \$98,000, and its value is going up fast.

A person with one to three years of high school can expect to earn an average income of \$380,000 in his lifetime. With a high school diploma or a GED, one can earn \$478,000.

Class times are 9-12 noon, MWF, Danforth Campus; 6:30-9 PM, TTh, Santa Fe High School; 12-3PM daily, COM campus; 7-9 PM, MW, Hitchcock High School; 7-9 PM, TTh, League

City; 6:30-9:30 PM, TTh, Dickinson (McAdams Junior High School); 7-10 PM, TTh, Friendswood High School.

GED preparation classes are held to help applicants get ready for the five GED tests: reading, writing skill, science, social studies and math. COM does not charge for the classes or the GED examination.

For additional information on the GED prep classes in one's area, call the Adult Basic Education Office at 938-1211 or 925-6212.

COM's New York Theatre Tour

COM's annual New York Theatre tour has been planned for November 21-25. Participants will spend five days and four nights in New York City attending Broadway show, shopping, and sight-seeing.

The tour price of \$435 includes round-trip airfare to New York City, four nights at the Piccadilly Hotel,

transportation to and from airport and hotel, baggage tips at hotel, tickets to three Broadway shows and time for individual sightseeing and shopping. The tour price is per person, double occupancy.

To arrange booking, contact Hazel Knight at 622-4818 or 626-9717 or Reggie Schwander at 333-2635.

CO-OP Education

by Becky Freeman

"Experience is one qualification needed for almost any good job," says Ruth Robbins, one of the five co-ordinators of the Cooperative Training Program (CO-OP).

Obtaining work experience while attending college has been made easier for many COM Technical-Vocational students by the CO-OP program.

"Every student needs certain skills to get a good job," says Robbins.

Teaching students various technical skills is one of several advantages of the program. CO-OP also offers opportunities for personal and professional development, and helps students to handle the responsibilities this requires.

"The CO-OP student is able to earn while learning," she points out. "He obtains confidence, skill, and maturity in human relations and develops working relationships with business professionals."

Admission to the program is restricted to Tech-Voc students who have attended COM at least two semesters with satisfactory grade point averages. To integrate courses into the overall

academic program of studies, participating students receive academic counseling.

CO-OP students follow all rules and policies of the sponsoring company and attend on-campus meetings. Most importantly, the student is expected to perform on-the-job to the best of his ability.

The employer's responsibility is to guide the student's professional growth by counseling with him concerning areas needing improvement. The supervising employer must also evaluate the student's performance at the end of each academic quarter.

Advantages of the Cooperative Education program are not restricted to the student alone, but are shared by COM and the community as well, Robbins said. CO-OP increases responsiveness to community needs, and promotes active involvement in both economic and social institutions of the community.

"If CO-OP had only been able to help one student, it would have been a success," she pointed out.

Victory Earls Awarded

Victory Earls, COM Co-Operative student, is the first Johnson Space Center "Co-Oper" to receive a sustained superior performance award.

Assigned to the Space Shuttle program office as secretarial staff, the second-year COM student was presented the award by Robert F. Thompson, manager of the Space Shuttle program.

One of 87 students in the Co-Op program, Victory began the course of study in January 1979 and worked for NASA during the summer months. NASA was so impressed with her performance that a permanent job was offered. However, she is continuing in the Co-Op program and will return as a Co-Oper for NASA in January.

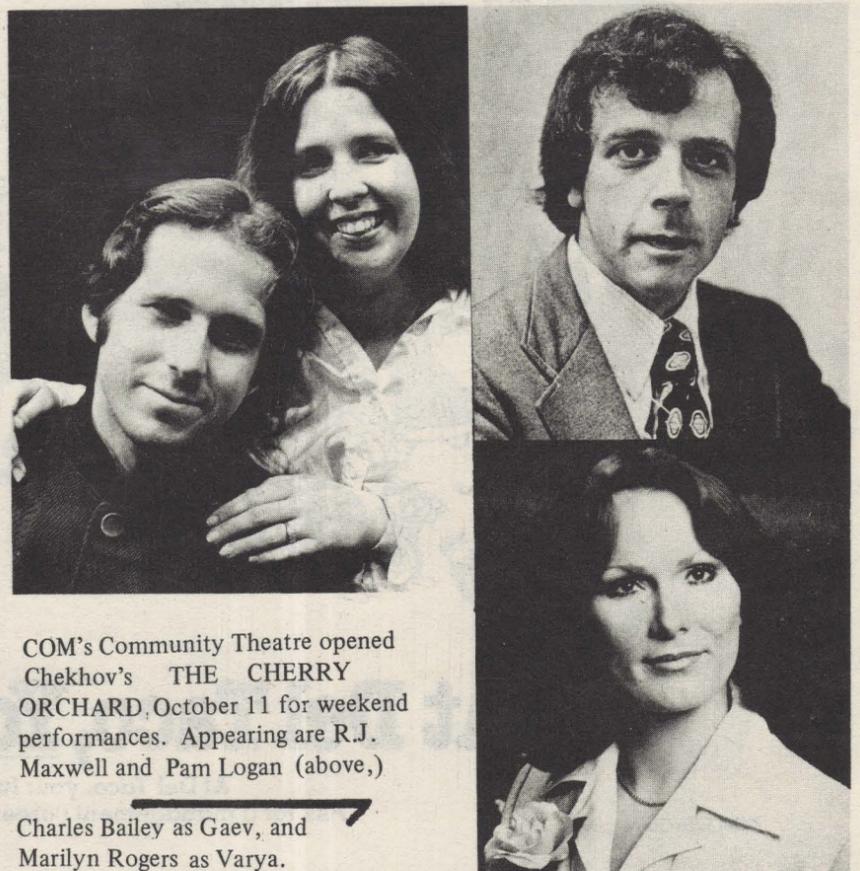
Her letter of recommendation stated, "Victory set-up and developed,

with little supervision, her own office routine and worked in a very professional manner. Her sound judgment and good sense of priorities contributed to efficient, smooth flow of the Space Shuttle program."

Besides taking 18 hours at COM, Victory also works part-time in the COM public safety office and runs her household which includes her husband, the Rev. Clarence Earls, and two children, Kenneth and Lashay.

After completing her course of study at COM, the Aransas Pass native plans to continue her education at the University of Houston. She will work toward a bachelor of science degree and teaching certification in business.

For more information, contact Dr. Dorothy McNutt, chairperson of the division of business, at ext. 279.



COM's Community Theatre opened Chekhov's THE CHERRY ORCHARD, October 11 for weekend performances. Appearing are R.J. Maxwell and Pam Logan (above),

Charles Bailey as Gaev, and Marilyn Rogers as Varya.

interCOM

VOL. 4, No. 2 • A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 • NOVEMBER, 1979

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

by Beverly Stephens

Four COMSAC officers and nine faculty-staff members met at 2 PM October 22 in Division of Arts and Humanities Chairman, Larry Stanley's office to discuss college activities.

The purpose of college activities is to build rapport between students faculty and staff, according to COM's "College Bulletin."

One possibility for college activities included several mini-events. Some ideas were jogging with Mike Bordelon, Becky King, and Maryanne Urick, or playing pool with Leroy August. Students

can also challenge ex-Los Angeles Dodger Robert Johnston to a baseball-batting contest, golf with Bill Spillar, or take a faculty or staff member to breakfast at the COM snack bar.

COMSAC officers present were Eric O'Neal (president), Jack Grigg (vice-president), Karen Hoffman (secretary), and Glenda Gillis (treasurer). Faculty and staff present were Dr. Warren Dodson, Becky King, Dan Travaille, Stanley, Bob Shinn, Robert Johnston, Don Bass, Dr. Donald Mortvedt, and Carol Veth.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

by Becky Freeman

Through a new service, on-campus emergencies can be reported by dialing 290 from 8 AM to 10:15 PM Mondays through Fridays, and 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays.

"Hopefully this emergency number will help solve the communication problem which has existed at COM for the past five years," says Security Officer Joe Rotramel.

"A person wishing to report a fire, disturbance, or injury often cannot reach the switchboard operator. COM's console switch-

board system prevents operators from selecting calls," he said.

Extension 290 is for emergency use only. The call will be given immediate attention, and the operator will contact security officers or a fire department, if necessary.

Security officers say the only concern they have is misuse of the emergency number. No calls can be transferred from ext. 290.

"Anyone hoping to place a call more quickly by using the number need not bother, because it won't work," Rotramel said.



"The council is a new one with new ideas. We must begin to generate interest among students at COM in educational development, leadership and organizational skills. COMSAC wants to develop a program with support from all students. We need them to come on out, and get involved." . . . O'Neal

O'NEAL ELECTED

by Karen Hoffman & Dewane Garrett

Eric O'Neal was elected new president of COM's Student Activities Council (COMSAC) in a day-long election held October 16 from 8 AM to 9 PM in the College Center.

Other officers elected by a vote of some 182 students were Jack Grigg, vice-president; Karen Hoffman, secretary; Glenda Gillis, treasurer.

The outcome of the election was announced by Dr. Warren T. Dodson, Director, Student Life and Career Decisions Center, at 5 PM October 17, during the Student Activities meeting.

Those running for president included O'Neal and Connie Morrison. Candidates for vice-president were Grigg, Christopher Love and Liz Purcell; for secre-

tary, Hoffman, Angela Ford and DeAnna Guajardo; for treasurer, LaDona Henkel, Gillis and Kathleen Castanie.

"COMSAC has been established for all students at COM, so they will have a voice in happenings at COM. Accomplishments can't happen without student involvement. COM's newly-formed Student Activities Council (SAC) is off to a good start," says O'Neal.

"The council is a new one with new ideas. We must begin to generate interest among students at COM in educational development, leadership and organizational skills," O'Neal said. "COMSAC wants to develop a program with support from all students. We need them to come on out, and get involved."

TAYLOR DISCUSSES BOARD RETREAT

by Lori L. Hall

In an informal two-hour meeting October 18 in the Teaching Auditorium (LRC 131), COM President Fred Taylor led an open discussion with some 45 faculty and staff members.

The meeting was held to "share information" concerning the COM Board of Trustees retreat at Columbia Lake September 24.

At the Columbia Lake workshop, Taylor said, (voting) Board members (John Cox, Ernest E. Deats, Bill Flaniken, Carmen Anderson, Robert P. Green, M.D.) and administrators (President Fred Taylor, Dr. Fern Ramirez, Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dr. George Miller) exchanged lists of concerns.

The meeting was held as an attempt to improve the continuing communication difficulties between the two groups.

Prior to the retreat, Taylor indicated "steps will be taken in reaching solutions, or at least strategies, for dealing with these concerns."

He said both the Board and administration "will continue with plans to address these concerns using the proposed process," meaning a matrix outlining procedures of discussions between the Board, administration, and faculty/staff groups.

The October 18 meeting was also intended to "determine what process to use in expanding the dialogue to include all segments of the COM community," Taylor stated. He suggested faculty and staff concerns be handled through one of the three existing campus groups (FACOM, the All-College Council, and the COM Secretarial Association).

Some COM employees voiced disappointment with President Taylor's recommendations. John Hubitz, acting faculty representative to the Board, referred to concerns presented last April.

"We've already expressed concerns which are certainly going to come up again in the All-College Council," Hubitz said. "These concerns have been sitting there for seven or eight months now. Why is there no administrative response to faculty and staff concerns?"

Taylor said the proposed matrix "will help us define concerns of all faculty and staff. Not all faculty and staff here are in agreement with other faculty and staff. Not all administrators are in agreement. What I'm trying to do is get all concerns out on the table, then develop some model through which we can deal with all issues."

As outlined in Taylor's October 2 memo to all employees,

some agreements were made at the workshop.

Board members who wish to make proposals for projects should feel free to contact the appropriate campus personnel. The Board member should inform Taylor of the visit. Taylor would offer referral information if it is needed.

The Board, or a committee of the Board, will meet with Dr. George Miller (Assistant to the President), and Jim Dobbins (Director of Information Systems) to identify Board information needs. This group will agree on information needed, what amount, and when it is to be provided. The administration and Board will continue with the plan of addressing those concerns using the proposed process, and dealing only with small numbers of concerns (3 to 6).

Where appropriate, the administration and Board would deal with concerns each group has about the issue.

Room Shortage Affects Continuing Education

by Theresa A. Pina

At the beginning of the Fall 1979 semester, COM's Continuing Education program had approximately 2,750 students enrolled, in classes including Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Adult Basic Education and General Educational Development, Community Education, Senior Adult Program, and Tech-Voc Continuing Education.

Space for these students is getting shorter, says Dr. Zelda Rick, Director of Community Resource Development.

"There's never enough room. During 1977-78, on-campus classes increased 27 per cent. There are more people than space, but no classes or activities have or will be cancelled because of lack of space."

Instructors and students have joined forces to utilize the available space to fullest capacity. Classes have even been held in Rick's cramped office. On occasion, students have met in the homes and shops of fellow classmates. For off-campus activities held in Dickinson, Santa Fe, Hitchcock and Texas City, public schools and community buildings are used.

"We've learned to use space effectively," Rick points out. "In our studies, we've discovered about 75 per cent of all adults learn something every year. Continuing Education is useful since people learn all the time."

Adequate learning space isn't vital to the success of the Continuing Education Program but would relieve the tension of wondering where classes can be held.

Review

The Cherry Orchard

by Beverly Stephens

COM's Community Theatre opened its 1979-80 season with an unpolished and often unintelligible production of Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard."

The play, set in pre-revolutionary Russia, is typical Chekhov -- characters react to change but fail to face reality. The setting is Madame Ranyevskaya's estate, including an orchard which at one time supplied most of Europe with cherries.

As the curtain rises, Mme. Ranyevskaya (Jo Anne Bonn) returns to her childhood home after being abroad. She finds the world around her changing. Yet she, and all her landowner friends, refuse to accept the coming social change.

Many questions remained unanswered after COM's performance. Characters' names were hard to understand without keeping the program open. Aside from Russian names, each character had numerous nicknames. At times, the audience became lost in a name syndrome.

Many lines were lost because the actors couldn't be heard. Bonn was at times inaudible, as was Anya (Lisa Long). The playing of Varya, Trofimov, and Lopakhin (by Marilyn Rogers, Kit Massengill and Tommy Townsend) brought the other characters to life.

Pam Logan and R.J. Maxwell, as young servants Dunyasha and Yasha, were also realistic. Aside from these performances, the characterizations were, at best, mediocre. Costumes were not helpful. Some characters wore stereotypical Russian costumes. The rest of the cast seemed to wear whatever could be pulled from the costume department.

Lighting, designed by Jack Westin, was one of the production's strong points. The sunsets and sunrises looked real. Hair styles, created by Texas City's Hair by Yoli, were another plus.

The theatre's sound effects could be improved if COM finds the money for a new sound system. The audience could hear the sound system being turned on and off.

In the last moments of the show, Firs (an elderly servant) dies, and a gong sounds. The gong apparently symbolizes the true secret of immortality, since Firs leapt awake, back from the dead at the bell's loud sound.

It also signalled the audience to wake up and applaud the final curtain.

InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the OOM community. Please send letters, suggestions or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities, Suite C, LRC, or drop in InterCOM box in the College Center. Stories marked (OCS) are press releases from the COM Office of Communication Services.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Never let it be said that COM students do not have representation. As of October 16, students have the Student Activities Council (COMSAC). It is real and functional. At this time, we are looking for clubs and organizations on campus to come and talk to us. We want to work with them and get them going. The Council has representation as well on the Board of Trustees, so in this respect the students have a voice. To get an active Student Activities Council, we desperately need the student participation. We are trying to make COMSAC work, but it will only survive with your help. Our meeting times are the first and third Wednesdays of every month, at 5 PM in the College Center. If you have ideas or concerns you would like to express, please bring them to us. We are here for you. Every COM student is a member of the Council. We want and need you. The stronger the Council, the better activities we can plan with you. Please give us a try. Thanks.

Eric O'Neal
President, COMSAC

Lost and Found

by Becky Freeman

If a campus poll was taken to see how many students know the location of COM's lost-and-found department, probably a small percentage would answer "yes."

Lost-and-found is located in the security office of COM's maintenance building. Security Officers Joe Rotramel and Bobby Maxiey hold the only keys available to the locked cabinet, which contains lost items.

Officers can be found in the security office or on campus from 8 AM to 11 PM Mondays through Fridays, according to Maxiey. If they are not in the security office, students may reach them by dialing "0" (Operator) and having officers contacted by two-way radio.

According to Rotramel, approximately half of all lost items are found in the PE building. A large amount also come from the LRC and College Center.

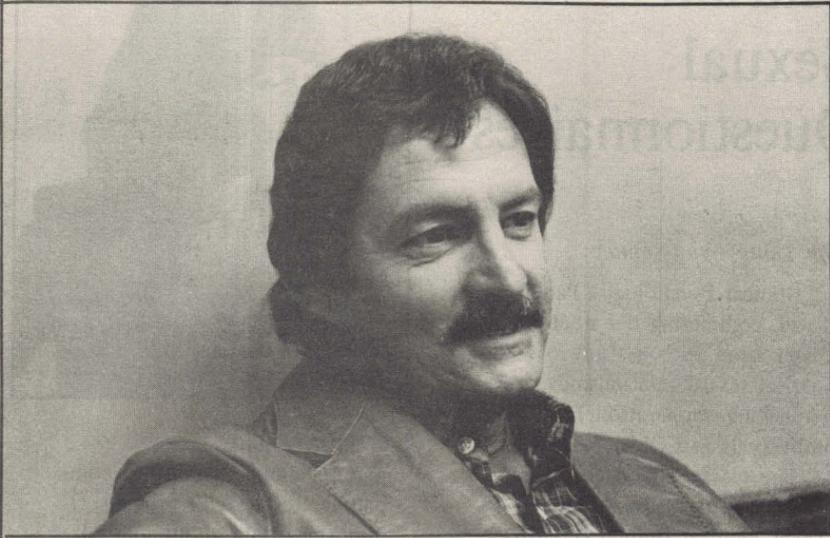
When a wallet with identification is found on-campus, security officers contact the owner. After showing proper identification, the student, faculty or staff member can claim the wallet. Items such as jewelry and keys are seldom personalized. Therefore, officers say, they can do nothing until a detailed description of the lost item is provided.

Rotramel says a monthly bulletin (listing lost-and-found items, such as watches) is not a good idea. There is no way of knowing if the person claiming the item is the rightful owner, he says, when using a bulletin of descriptions.

One problem with lost items is that most are sent to the security office through campus mail. They are not tagged as to where, when, and by whom they were found. This information could possible help security officers find owners of lost items.

Many unclaimed items remain in COM's lost-and-found. Some have been kept in the locked cabinet for over a year. COM students, faculty and staff members may feel that once a valuable lost item is found, there is only a small chance it will be turned in. But the quantity of items in lost-and-found shows there are many honest people at COM.

Editor	Alton E. Hayes
Asst. Editor	Becky Freeman
Staff Writers	DuRay Block
	Mike Durisseau
	Becky Freeman
	Dewane Garrett
	Lori Hall
	Alton Hayes
	Karen Hoffman
	Becky La Croix
	Laura Lynn-Stanley
	Rachel Martinez
	Theresa Pina
	Bruce Regini
	Beverly Stephens
Photographers	Mike Durisseau
	Jamie Wood
Faculty Advisor	Kit van Cleave
Graphic Designer	Laura Lynn-Stanley
Advertising Manager	Beverly Stephens



Bill Spillar

by Beverly Stephens

"I don't know many students anymore. There is not as much interchange between students and faculty as there used to be. This is at least as much my fault as anybody's," says Bill Spillar, COM's Director, Adult Basic Education.

"Students of the last two years are more involved than previously. They want to be involved in things which affect them, and not be mindless," he adds.

Spillar, a native Texas, was born and grew up in Beaumont. He graduated from Beaumont High School, where he first grew interested in sports.

He received his B.S. in Social Sciences from Lamar State College of Technology, which is now Lamar University. He attended graduate school at North Texas State University and received his M.Ed. in Guidance. At Texas A & M, he has completed course work for his Ph.D., and lacks only the dissertation to complete the degree.

"I may never get it done now. I'm not very motivated to work on it. There's not a lot of pay-off for doctorates anymore. With the structure of COM's classification system, I can't make any

more money with the Ph.D., so there is no financial incentive here. I would have to move to another job or assume new duties here," Spillar adds.

While in college, he worked at several different golf courses, hoping to become a pro. While working on his degree at NTSU, Spillar had a fellowship to teach golf. "The only thing which stopped me from being a professional golfer was the lack of talent," he states.

In 1969, Spillar came to Galveston where he worked as a rehabilitation counselor for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Before coming to COM, Spillar taught Texas history, American history, and football in the Silsbee Independent School District. After Silsbee, he was a counselor for four years at West Columbia.

He also began working with the COM staff. When an opening came available for a co-ordinator and counselor in the adult education program, Spillar moved to COM.

Spillar, his wife Happy, 10-year-old twin daughters Kelley and Karen, 12-year-old son Tom, and black daschund, live in Texas City.

"Daschund comes up here every once in a while. When I walk to school, he always knows, and comes up to the campus. He was a stray who wandered up about eight years ago, and he's still here," Spillar adds.

Jim Finley

by Lori L. Hall

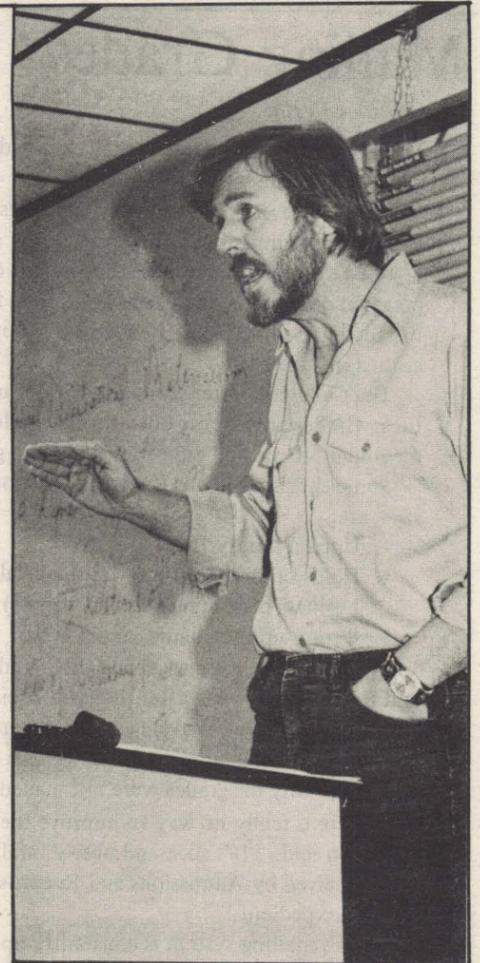
Jim Finley, COM political science instructor, is considered one of the campus' more colorful characters. He challenges students to think about their political environment and involvement.

The 39-year-old native Texas has taught political science full-time since the summer of 1971.

"I love teaching and doing what I do. I'm one of the few fortunate members of the proletariat in this country, because I love teaching," he says.

At present, Finley is recovering at home from heart surgery which followed a heart attack he suffered on campus August 21. His plans are to "rest for awhile with some books, and enjoy what has come to be a sabbatical for me." Finley is looking forward to returning to his teaching activities at COM.

Finley is married to Diana Bier and father of two daughters—Rachael, 10 and Kathy, 7.



Larry Smith

by DuRay Block

"Self-doubt is the first stage of wisdom," says Larry Smith, COM Associate Dean of Distributive Education. It's but one of the introspective attitudes Smith has developed in his life's journey from pro-baseball player to educator.

In his high school days at Cooper High in the East Texas town of Cooper, Smith's success as a baseball player caused him to be optioned by the Baltimore Orioles. He played on Oriole farm clubs in Wisconsin, South Dakota, and California.

Smith's point of view on youth sports is that "competition is unhealthy for children." This is but one of the interesting ideas he holds about the world. He feels "the U.S. system is epitomized by consumption, which makes people feel powerless and alienated.

"Styles and fads dominate the U.S. too much, and the government makes too many decisions which

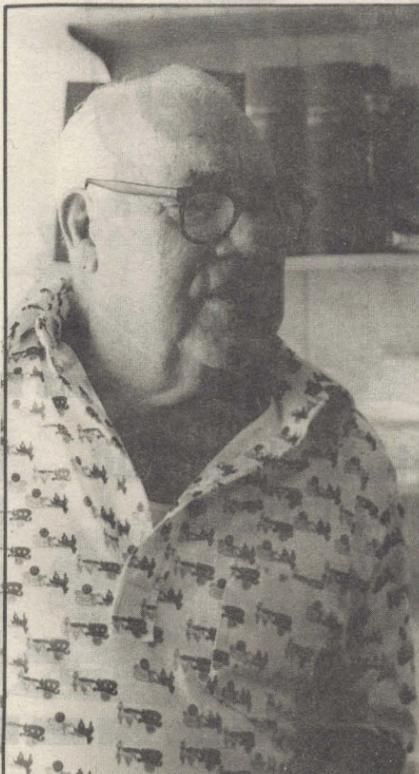
should instead be decided by the American people as a whole," he says. "Unfortunately, crime and mental illness have prospered in the U.S. system."

Smith feels mankind has developed rapidly intellectually, while physical health is underdeveloped and decaying. The beginning of a turnaround for America would be development of a public health program, he adds.

He was born in Longview in 1940, and spent his childhood in Cooper, graduating from high school in 1958. He obtained his master's degree in 1965 from Sam Houston State University, majoring in history and graduating with a 3.8 GPA.

Smith began his career in education at Dickinson High School, as a teacher and coach. He was the first faculty member to be hired by COM.

Married to wife Pepper, Smith is the father of two children: Autumn, 12 and Chad, nine.



"When COM was founded, I was against it.... I should have been boosting it"

—ORLANDO BLACKBURN

by Laura Lynn-Stanley

"When COM was founded, I was against it. I didn't think we needed another junior college. If anyone wanted junior college work, they could go to Alvin," says Orlando Blackburn, founder of The LaMarque Times and now at 72 one of COM's outstanding older students.

"I thought, 'This costs the taxpayers a lot of money,' he recalls today. "I didn't realize until it was in operation what a wonderful benefit COM is to the community. I should have been boosting it."

As a student, Blackburn now feels COM "does so much for so many people." Age, he says, doesn't mean anything.

Blackburn and his wife started taking classes at COM through its Continuing Education Program. He started with French, defensive driving, and auto mechanics "in an effort to keep busy" after his retirement after 40 years in the newspaper business.

"You can only fish and play golf for so long," he says. "When I started the regular classes in real estate, I thought, 'I'm old and they'll just laugh at me,' but now I feel just as much at home a COM

as I did when I was a kid in school."

Blackburn feels COM's success is a result of "having a lot to offer every facet of the local community."

Age is not a touchy subject with Blackburn. "I'm 72," he says, "and I feel wonderful. I don't know if I might not live to be 73." He feels the experience and knowledge he's gained in 72 years is now giving him an edge on younger people in his COM real estate classes.

The silver-haired, robust student feels he's uniquely gifted in the art of living. "I won't set the world on fire," he says, "but I intend to brown it up a little."

Mailing Grades

by Bruce Regini

Have you ever wondered what you made in a class at COM two months after the semester was over?

If you have, it could be your fault, says Dr. Robert Johnston, Director of Admissions and Registrar.

COM's system of mailing is dependent on student input of personal data, he says. Grades are turned in by instructors after the final day of classes. The grades are double-checked to insure against mistakes.

The COM computer stores grades in students' personal record files. Grades are run off onto formal grade paper, which is sorted by student name and zip code. Then the grades are mailed.

Some specific reasons for students not receiving grades, Johnston says, are:

- Unpaid library fines.
- Holds on money still owed financial aid (for tuition), or the business office (such as bad checks).
- Wrong address, name, or zip code.

Students can insure receiving their grades by calling Admissions and Records one week after the last official class day. According to Johnston, one week is average time required for grades to be received, processed, and mailed. If a student calls COM, staff can check and determine why his grades were not mailed, or received.

"There is really no way to improve the existing system," Johnston said. "It's slick and nearly infallible. Once grades have been received by Admissions and Records, the process of mailing them is expedient."

COM's mailing system is constantly updated, says Johnston.

"We mail to students, senior citizens, the public," he says.

"Students who want to assure they're on the COM mailing list correctly should check out their own data as listed. Students may change information on their personal files by going to Admissions and Records. They'll be supplied a change-of-information request. New data is documented and sent to the computer. The occasional entry error is very rare," Johnston said.



25 THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR THIS THANKSGIVING

by Beverly Stephens

- Be thankful your rich cousin who graduated from Harvard with top honors has been invited to your aunt's house for Thanksgiving.
- Be thankful you're going to your grandmother's for Thanksgiving instead.
- Be thankful you like turkey.
- Be thankful you're not a turkey.
- Be thankful you renewed your flood insurance in May.
- Be thankful your parents made you learn to swim when you were a kid, no matter what the cost.
- Be thankful the cost wasn't your new Trans-Am.
- Be thankful you sold your house in Dickinson at Easter.
- Be thankful you didn't fail the Pepsi Taste Challenge.
- Be thankful your son was joking when he said he put NAIR in your dandruff shampoo.
- Be thankful your parents never found out who gave your poodle the Kojak haircut.
- Be thankful no one knows your father is the man who introduced the new pornography law to the state legislature.
- Be thankful he never saw the layouts you did for PLAYBOY.
- Be thankful the Cowboy-Oiler game will be televised Thanksgiving Day.
- Be thankful that Earl Campbell will be able to play in the game.
- Be thankful that Charlie's newest angel has a hairstyle which doesn't take 85 curlers, 25 curling irons, 12 blow-dryers, and 17 cans of hairspray to copy.
- Be thankful Farrah Fawcett decided she'd rather be on TV than in movies.
- Be thankful your TV broke.
- Be thankful you never bought tickets for the August 12 Beatles reunion.
- Be thankful you never bought tickets for Woodstock II.
- Be thankful your father saved the leather jacket he bought in 1956 (it looks great with the rest of your wardrobe).
- Be thankful you did your Christmas shopping in October.
- Be thankful you finally received your 1976 tax return.
- Be thankful you aren't running for Mayor of Houston (someone has to break the tie).
- Be thankful you only have to read this article once a year.

Marital Sexual Questionnaires

by Laura Lynn-Stanley

Clinical Psychologist Paula Ladd, completing her doctoral dissertation with a study of marital sexual relationships, is requesting cooperation from individuals at COM.

The research project is sponsored by University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston. According to Ladd, the study relates personality variables to sexual attitudes, from information provided by respondents on questionnaires.

The questionnaires are explicit in content, she said, and will

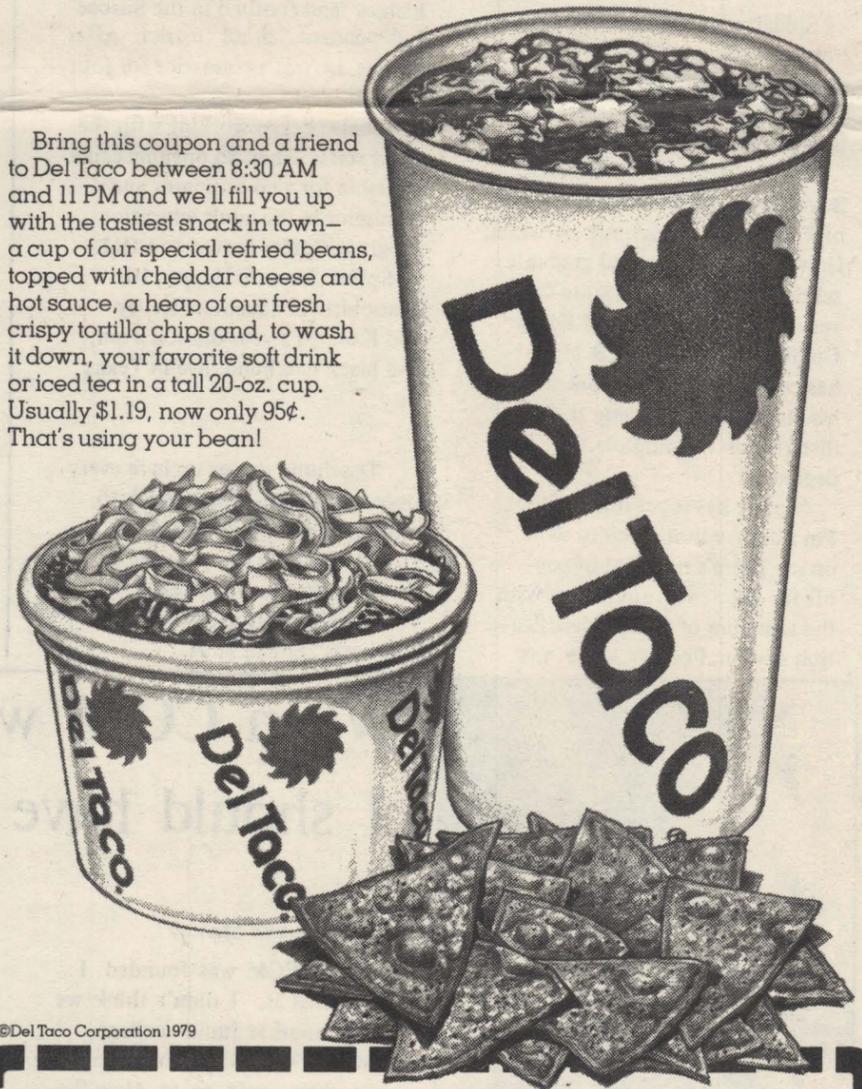


require about an hour to complete. Results will provide important data about marital behavior, to improve sexual therapies.

Information about the questionnaires can be obtained by calling Ladd at 785-1430. Forms are available in Suite A of the LRC.

Fill 'er up for under a dollar.

Bring this coupon and a friend to Del Taco between 8:30 AM and 11 PM and we'll fill you up with the tastiest snack in town—a cup of our special refried beans, topped with cheddar cheese and hot sauce, a heap of our fresh crispy tortilla chips and, to wash it down, your favorite soft drink or iced tea in a tall 20-oz. cup. Usually \$1.19, now only 95¢. That's using your bean!



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**Refried beans, tortilla chips, and
a medium-size soft drink.**

**Just 95¢
between 8:30 AM and 11 PM.**

This coupon good at all Houston area Del Taco locations.

Offer expires December 1, 1979.

Limit: 2 meals per coupon.



COM briefs

Linda Marley, instructor in the Associate Degree Nursing Program, presented three papers at the October 15-19 workshop for occupational health nurses in San Antonio. The topics were "The Nursing Process in Industry," "Epidemiology for Nurses" and "Pulmonary Disease and the Nurse's Role." Marley is completing her master's degree in occupational nursing at Texas Women's University. . . **Dr.**

Dorothy McNutt, chairperson of the COM Division of Business Occupations, has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Cooperative Education*. . .

Tom Carter, COM English instructor, spoke on "Organization and Development of Freshman English" at the October Southwest Regional Conference on English in Two-Year Colleges in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. . . **Emmeline Dodd**, COM biology instructor, will direct the Texas Undergraduate Education in Biological Sciences regional fall conference, November 9-10 at Alvin Community College and University of Houston Coastal Center. . .

Hazard Identification and Loss Control, a course designed for graduate engineers with processing, mechanical, electrical and instrumentation responsibilities in the petrochemical and refining industries, will be offered November 19-21 by COM's Industrial and Public Service Occupations Division.

Lamkin Recital

Lynn Burdick Lamkin, COM voice instructor, feels there is no substitute for live music. Her October 23 recital in Arena Theatre proved how vocal music, professionally performed, can be exciting.

In a programme of Handel, Faure, Puccini and Menotti, Lamkin's lyric soprano voice was supple and sure, reflecting her own feelings about hearing musicians in a house, rather than electronically.

"There's a thrill to being in the same room with a performing artist no recording can duplicate," she has declared.

An award-winning soprano, Lamkin has appeared in concert at the University of North Alabama, Martin College (Tennessee), Weyland College (Texas) and in Hutchinson, Kansas.

In 1972, she was a district winner of the Metropolitan Opera auditions. Previously, Lamkin had been a finalist in San Francisco Merola Opera's Denver Auditions, and a semi-finalist in Chicago's WGN Opera Auditions of the Air. In 1971 she received a partial scholarship to participate in the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, where she studied voice with Norma Newton and *lieder* with Harold Heiberg.

Lamkin earned her bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in voice from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas. She is



presently studying voice with internationally reknown mezzo Elena Nikolaidi, now a professor at UH Main Campus and director of vocal studies for Houston Opera Studio. Lamkin joined the COM faculty in 1978 as a part-time voice instructor.

"I love to teach and find it a tremendous challenge to work with students who are committed to making the most of their talents," she observed. Her students are soon involved in developing technique, tone, and breathing.

"Many students feel singing should only be fun," she says. "When they discover voice studies involve a great deal of work, either they drop out, or they become very excited about improving their talent." According to Lamkin, COM's music program has a solid core of committed students.

Lamkin lives in Seabrook with her husband, Jon, a music teacher in the Deer Park schools.

"We live simply and put our money into going to as many recitals and concerts as possible," she explained. "I feel musicians have an obligation to support live music."

Book for a Day

(OCS) November 15 has been designated as "Be With A Book for a Day" by U.S. and Texas librarians.

Scheduled to coincide with the White House Library Conference, the special day will also be observed on COM's campus.

"All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to bring their favorite book that day," said Bob Slaney, director of library services.

The "Be With A Book" publicity campaign will feature celebrities' emblems and books in television spots, articles, and features in the media.

Energy Workshop

Bob Handy represented COM at the Planners Workshop on Energy and the Way We Live held October 9 at Lee College, Baytown.

In 1980 public forums will be held around the nation "to involve as much of the nation in grass roots proving of the energy quandry as possible," said Handy.

The forums are being sponsored by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges. Initial funding comes from National Endowment for the Humanities, and the U.S. Energy Department.

"Our goal is to make our theatre the best in the state."

—JACK WESTIN

by Beverly Stephens

"COM's Community Theatre is organized to entertain the community and provide exposure for actors," says Theatre Co-ordinator Jack Westin.

For the community, COM's theatre brings both serious plays and musicals to audiences. Local and student actors use the theatre to appear and improve their work, he said.

Since the 1975-76 season, COM theatre has offered nine musicals and 14 serious plays. This season includes three musicals.

"Musicals are more popular than other kinds of shows. We're in an era now of building an audience. We have to offer people something to keep them coming back. We're doing three musicals this season," says Westin, "and two next season."

COM's theatre offerings will always consist of at least two musical shows, Westin said.

"The summer musical has become a tradition here. I wouldn't want to answer the mail if we suddenly said we weren't going to do it," he said. During the

1978-79 season COM's theatre had 777 guild members. By November, he hopes the guild will have doubled.

The current production of "The Cherry Orchard" features "only three actors who have acted with us before. Everyone else is new," Westin said. "We're getting a higher caliber of actors now. Our goal is to be 'The Biggest Li'l Theatre in Texas.'"

Offerings this season include the currently-running Chekhov "The Cherry Orchard," Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice's "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Round and Round the Garden," by Alan Ayckbourne, "The Sound of Music" by Rogers and Hammerstein, Sam Haven's new play "Cheese Garden," and "Kismet" by Robert Wright and George Forrest.

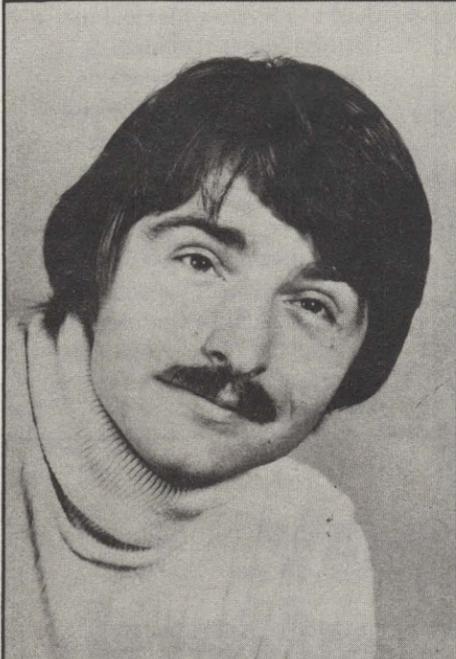
"Round and Round the Garden" is COM's production segment of Ayckbourne's trilogy, "The Norman Conquests." A three-part cooperative performance project will be staged with Clear Creek Country Theatre and UH/CLC doing the other parts of the trilogy. The tri-theatre

production system began last year with Preston Jones' Texas Trilogy -- "The Oldest Living Graduate" by COM, "Lou Ann Hampton Lafferty Oberlander" by UH/CLC, and "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia" by CCCT.

COM Theatre also began an annual New Playwright Series production three seasons ago. This year's show, "Cheese Garden" by Houstonian Havens, recently won an award at Amherst Amherst, Massachusetts, as best new play of the year. Havens is drama department chairman at University of St. Thomas in Houston.

"Sam's play came in the mail after we selected 'The Line-up' for the New Playwright Series Play last year. Had it come two weeks earlier, we would have done it this year. It's really a strong script," states Westin.

"Our goal is to make our theatre the best in the state. Not many can offer 'Macbeth' or 'The Cherry Orchard.' As we improve, we will have higher caliber show on-stage, and larger audiences," said Westin.





During COM's Celebration of Cultures held September 23, Vietnamese residents of Galveston County displayed their native items and food. (OCS Photo)

Celebration of Cultures

by Becky LaCroix

COM's first "Celebration of Cultures" was held September 23 on campus, sponsored by the Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs.

Booths and displays were featured from eleven cultural groups. Participating were Asian-Indian, Mexican, Czechoslovakian, Vietnamese, "Third World" citizens, Scandinavian, Filipino, American Indian, Jewish, Anglo-Saxon and Turkish citizens.

Entertainment was held throughout the afternoon. Music was provided by Vietnamese, Czechoslovakians, Anglo-Saxons

(recorders) and a Scottish bagpiper. Dancers from the Asian-Indian, Scandinavian, Filipino and Mexican cultures were seen. Turkish belly dancing was performed by "Tasha" and "Saloma."

"This Celebration of Cultures gave various members of our community an opportunity to present an idea of how life would be in their home countries," said Eric O'Neal, council member and major student organizer of the event.

According to O'Neal, an estimated 500 people attended the celebration. He said, "I think the day was successful. I am enthusiastic and looking forward to next year."

Nursing Program

(OCS) Some 87 per cent of COM's nursing program passed the state examinations in Austin.

Joanne Butler and Daphne Jones were the top two graduates.

The registered nurses completed a two-year program at COM under the direction of Claudia Cooper, Chairperson of the Division of Health Occupations and Director of Nursing. Upon graduation, these students receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and become eligible to take the state exam.

"We produce nurses to work in the acute or chronic care setting in the hospital or nursing home," Cooper explained. "We have former students serving in every area of health care."

Most of the graduates have stayed in the community, fulfilling COM's purpose, she said.

Musicians to Mexico

COM Singers and stage band members will participate in a musical exchange with Folkloric Ballet and a juvenile band from the State of Sinaloa in Mexico, May 10 - 14, 1980.

The COM group will perform in Mazatlan, Culiacan, Los Mochis, and Chihuahua. A variety of selections will be presented in both English and Spanish. Accompanying the singers and band members will be members of the Amigos Club and members of the Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs.

The Folkloric Ballet Troupe coming to Texas City for the Cinco de Mayo celebrations will perform during the three-day visit. Another exchange is planned in July for the juvenile band.

"This foreign travel and exchange is great for our students," said Larry Stanley, Chairman of the Arts and Humanities Division. "We need to learn more about other peoples and particularly about Mexico, our neighbor."

Besides Stanley, Robert Rodriguez, Amigos sponsor, Tom Arvidson, band director, and Robert Handy, Director of International Programs and Special Projects, will be sponsors on the trip.

The COM Singers and band members will have a number of fund-raising activities, including working in the theatre concessions, selling Golden C coupons and having benefit dances and concerts. The College Foundation has a fund set up for the trip.

In addition to the students now performing as singers or band members, those enrolling as singers or band members in Spring, 1980 are also welcome to participate in the musical exchange trip. For additional information, call Stanley at 938-1211, ext. 347.

Landscape Course

A two-day Landscape Design Course recently sponsored by COM and District IV of Texas Garden Club, Inc., drew participants from as far as Corpus Christi and Rayne, Louisiana, according to Mrs. H. B. Langford, Jr., Chairperson.

The course was the first of a series of four which comprise the series. The second course will be offered March 31 and April 1, 1980 in COM's College Center.

Women's Runfest

The second annual Women's October Runfest, a timed fitness event for female runners and joggers of all ages, sponsored by COM, opened with 323 registrants, up from a field of 121 in 1978.

A total of 269 finished the women-only event, which featured distances of 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) and 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). Galveston County Judge Ray Holbrook served as honorary race director and fired the starting gun.

Taking top awards for best overall times in the 10K were: First--Denise Bosworth, Dickinson (40:40); Second--Debbie Warner, Houston (42:28); and Third--Gloria Alvarado, Houston (43:51). Top rankings in the 5 K were: First -- Sue Davis Bradley, Galveston (19:45); Second -- Susan Galende, Pasadena (20:05); and Third--Kathy Sullivan, Pearland (20:15). Trophies were donated by Gulf Coast Trophies of Texas City.

COM Sponsors Black & White Photo Competition

(OCS) College of the Mainland is sponsoring a community-wide photo competition, with the winning entries to be placed on exhibit in the Fine Arts Gallery November 29 through December 14.

The competition and a new program in black and white photography are "firsts" for the college.

The deadline for submission is November 23 at 5 p.m. Any resident, other than a professional photographer, may enter the competition. All entries will be juried by Suzanne Bloom, Houston photographer and instructor at the University of Houston.

Entry rules are available in COM's Fine Arts office and the Learning Resources Center as well as from Alpha Camera on NASA 1 in Clear Lake City and all public libraries in the area.

The public is invited to the opening reception of the exhibition to be held on November 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Gallery. Prizes for the winning photographs, to be contributed by Alpha Camera and Skylark Camera, will be presented at that time.

ELECTION RESULTS OF THE COM ALL-COLLEGE COUNCIL

November 6, 1979

GROUP A

Michael Elliston
Beverly Stephens
Lori Hall

GROUP B

Martha Griffin

GROUP C

Mike Bordelon

GROUP D

Beverly Douglas

GROUP E

Duke Drewry

GROUP F

Larry Stanley

ENERGY.
We can't afford to waste it.

interCOM

VOL. 4, NO. 3 • A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 • December 1979

All-College Council Meeting

Chairman, Fine Arts and Humanities, Larry Stanley was elected by acclamation to Chairman of COM's All-College Council.

The first meeting was called to order by Fred Taylor on November 19, 1979, in the Board Room. Zelda Rick took minutes.

Mike Bordelon suggested ACC advertise in the COM Bulletin for someone who would be willing to act as recording secretary for Council Meetings, and whose supervisor would approve released time for the purpose.

After looking at schedules, Stanley suggested 3:30-4:50 p.m. Wednesday, as set ACC meeting time. Meetings will be open, and will be advertised in the Bulletin. Bob Shinn will find a suitable meeting place.

Stanley suggested copies of constitu-

tions and by-laws from other colleges with Councils be duplicated so that the group can all look them over.

All members were asked to come to the next meeting with suggestions of matters to be included in the By-laws (i.e., organization, methods for selecting issues). All members are to talk to their constituents to make sure everyone has a chance to tell what they want included in the By-laws.

The next meeting was held Wednesday, November 28, 1979, at 3:30 p.m., L-248.

Present were Michael Elliston, Fred Taylor, Lori Hall, Martha Griffin, Mike Bordelon, Beverly Douglas, Duke Drewry, Bob Johnston, Zelda Rick, Robert Shinn, Dennis Kulvicki, Robert R. Wennagel, James Templer, and Larry Stanley. Absent was Beverly Stephens.

Nowell Portrays Christ

by Theresa A. Pina

For Billy Nowell, 22, portraying Jesus Christ in "Jesus Christ, Superstar" is the ultimate goal of his acting career.

"I see Jesus Christ as a normal man who had a special aura about him. He had fears and wants, but he couldn't let go. He was a man chosen to save the world and he only had three years to do it in," says Nowell.

Dressed comfortably in jeans, "slaps" and a blue striped shirt with the tails out, Nowell talked of his career and ambitions for the future.

"I've always been performing. When I was a kid, I was in the church choir. I also learned to play the guitar. I was involved in anything which meant performing," Nowell explains. "While I attended Stephen F. Austin, I was in the world premiere of Alesandr Solzhenitsy' play, "Candle in the Wind."

Nowell also attended Lon Morris College in Jacksonville.

The playbill of Nowell's career is quite impressive. "Camelot," "Curly," "Oklahoma," "Flowers for Algernon," "Once Upon a Mattress," "Of Thee I Sing," "Promises, Promises," "Hello, Dolly!," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and Jesus Christ in "Godspell" are among his credits. Nowell prefers musicals and occasionally heavy drama. But he believes in diversity.

"You have to be versatile," he advises. "I always try to reach a hair beyond my goal when I perform."

Nowell enjoys musicals because "the cast is really like a family." He believes there are two vital ingredients to a successful show--equality and openness among the cast.

"Joe Herald--Peter in the show--is the acknowledged social director for the cast. He brings the group together at beach parties, picnics and roller-skating outings which prepared the cast for a roller-skating number in the show," he said.

Nowell enjoys working in the theatre, but would like to expand to acting in films.

"In theatre, you meet all kinds of people. The cast you're in usually turns into a big family during numerous rehearsals. I like that aspect in plays, but films reach more people. To do a good film, and have hundreds of people see it, would be the greatest experience in my career," says Nowell.

"Jesus Christ, Superstar," however, is his main interest right now. He emphasizes the play is not performed to "throw any religious beliefs to the audience" and there's no blasphemy meant by the play.

"The songs we perform are in context with the Bible," he notes.

How will Nowell portray the historic figure of Jesus?

"Very carefully," smiles the bearded young actor. "I want the audience to say 'This is Billy Nowell's portrayal of Jesus,' rather than 'This is Billy Nowell as Ted Neely as Jesus.'" (Neely played Jesus in the film of "Superstar.")

Nowell lives in Clear Lake City with his wife of two years, Jennie, and numerous dogs and cats. Jennie, a dancer, is assistant choreographer for "Jesus Christ, Superstar."

Filling the historic sandals of Jesus Christ in a play is a tall order for an actor. But the bearded Nowell's energetic blue eyes show his enthusiasm to take the challenge.

SAB Halloween Dance

By Rachel Martinez

COM's Student Activities Board (COMSAB) recently sponsored a Halloween dance on October 27 at the VFW hall in LaMarque.

Seen in the crowd was a lady bug, devil, cowgirl, flappers, and assorted other ghouls. A costume contest was held with Dr. Fred Taylor, Bob Shinn, Warren Dodson, and Jack Grigg serving as judges for the event. The winning prizes went to Tommy Stacey (1st) as The Incredible Hulk, Jamie West (2nd) as a black cat, and Glenna Bailey (3rd) as a devil.

Playing the music for the affair was disc jockey Bob Ford of KILE radio.

SAB Dance

by Dewane Garrett

The Student Activities Board at COM will sponsor a Christmas Party at the Plush Pub in west Texas City, Texas.

The party will be held on December 12, 1979, from 9 PM to 2 AM. There will be no cover charge. Students are allowed to enter free with a show of a Student Activities Card.

Students who wish to participate can bring one guest, and are welcome to bring a cover dish.

Reflections

By Theresa A. Pina

You know Christmas is here when...

Santa Claus made his arrival at the mall before the turkeys made their arrival at the stores.

You have a long list of names but a small amount of money.

You battle with a Jeep over the last empty parking space for miles.

The OPEC nations play a Christmas game named "We've Got Something You Don't" -- and win.

You have to explain to your little one why there are five Santas on one block.

You experience masochism when you walk barefoot on your pine-needle-covered rug.

We have our winter oil shortage and you can't believe you still own a gas heater.

Your person's idea of a holiday evening is a six-pack and a football game.

You forget to tag the presents and don't remember who gets what.

You have a four-week vacation before Spring Semester!

COM Student Transfers

(OCS) -- COM students who transfer to UH/CLC maintain a high academic average, according to figures released by Carolyn Waddell, Assistant Director of Admissions at UH/CLC. Waddell pointed out that the overall grade point average for COM students enrolled in the spring 1979 semester was 3.25 on a scale of 4.0. The figure was an increase over the average grade score of 3.10 in the fall of 1976.

Waddell pointed out that the enrollment of students from the area community colleges had increased significantly since the spring of 1976, when 56 percent of undergraduates were community college transfers. This fall, 80 percent of undergraduate enrollment came from the six area community colleges.

Afro-American Club Meets

by DuRay Block

The newly-founded Afro-American Club held its first meeting October 31 in the student lounge of the College Center. Approximately 15 persons attended the first meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion, the club decided the Afro-American club will officially be called Ebony.

PEACE
JOY &
LOVE



Purpose and Perception

an analysis by Laura Lynn-Stanley

Originally, the purpose of this report was to give a clear, concise report of what has happened on the COM campus since spring of 1979, to shed light on what has brought it to a point of divisiveness, polarization, and subjugation of what is generally perceived to be the basic purposes of this institution.

But the purpose was lost. After many hours of fact-finding and interviews, writing an objective report is difficult at best.

One conclusion possible to reach in pursuit of such complex issues is whether or not objectivity is possible by definition. This analysis will not be objective, but will be as factual as humanly possible, and based on facts. -LLS

Since early 1979, COM has become a political football in the name of academic freedom, humanity, and brotherhood. It has been torn apart, and its goals pushed aside.

The responsibility for the situation which exists depends on how one wishes to interpret the information. An analysis, considering all factors and their relationships, is of little worth when one considers the real value of this institution, which is being demolished in the process.

Mistakes have been made, not by one individual or group, but by all participants. There are no capricious or vindictive bases for these actions by different parties; all were done "only to improve our institution." The result has been negative and the college has suffered.

Some argue (in accordance with COM Prospectus, page 9) it is the responsibility of the administration to provide the proper environment, to promote *esprit de corps* on this campus. They argue educators cannot provide students with a good learning environment unless they are happy as instructors. This is not reality; happiness for everyone is Utopian thinking. The administrators and the president of COM can't be solely responsible for making, or solving, all problems --- for producing good morale or environment.

Castigating someone is simple. Repetition of falsehood by parties a sufficient number of times will make that statement seem to become truth. When parties continually state a person is inept, incompetent, and ineffective, the person discussed may become just that -- if enough people believe it.

When people develop a deaf ear (selective hearing), one is inclined to question motive and intent of those who "hear what they want to." When some people, without facts, question the trustworthiness of another, an observer can become suspicious of the thinking and motive behind it.

Concerns of various groups on COM's campus resulted in a retreat earlier this year at Columbia Lakes (September 24.) The retreat was "probably a board member's idea," says COM Board of Trustees President Bill Flaniken. "Proper notices were placed in local papers, and at all required local places."

Current law (the U.S. Freedom of Information Act) requires such a retreat to be a public meeting, accessible to the press. Darla Morgan of the Galveston Daily News was present, and covered the retreat, disclosing portions of the concerns discussed. An information sharing meeting was subsequently held on October 18, in which COM President Dr. Fred Taylor presented to the faculty and staff all concerns and

matters discussed during the retreat. Several members of the Board (Flaniken, John Cox, Carmen Anderson, and Dr. Robert Green) are now criticizing Taylor for being too open. Essentially, this means that Taylor is being criticized for release of what was public information.

On campus, there was much discussion about a later Morgan article regarding the November 14 Board workshop printed in the November 15 issue of the Galveston paper, which discussed the Board's criticism of Taylor. Several faculty members were heard to say that this was just another example of poor leadership on the part of Taylor.

This recent incident brought all hours of work and anxiety regarding the original reporting project -- this analysis -- into focus. Taylor is currently "damned if he does and damned if he doesn't." He is squeezed from the top by the Board and from the bottom by the faculty and staff.

In such a game of political football, the Board is the coach and the referee (a precarious position), having been elected by and answerable to the community. One team consists of faculty and staff, seemingly answerable to no one, with a rather idealistic quarterback (the COM Prospectus). The other team is the administration, quarterbacked by Taylor and answerable to everyone. The paid spectators are the students and the institution is the football.

COM is being thrown aimlessly, without much purpose or intent. It seems neither team wants the ball. Student spectators might well feel pretty "used" and fed up at this point. Now we are in a "sudden-death playoff," to which no one would predict an outcome.

This is not the first -- nor will it be the last -- time this institution, or other institutions, will become political footballs. There's an age-old problem -- differences in personality, philosophies, methods. But in the process of solving problems, positive aspects can be forgotten. Men and women are diminished in their own eyes, as well as in the eyes of others. Scapegoats are found and done away with, in order to begin the process all over again.

What, then, is the value of this analysis? All information gathered can be interpreted or slanted to serve the needs of one group or another. Everything which transpired before, during, and since Spring 1979 is for anyone to perceive.

It's disturbing that those who were demanding consideration, brotherhood, and humanity last spring are so unwilling to offer some of the same values now. Those who want more cooperation, communication, and openness are critical and disappointed when it happens.

This institution may not have the most perfect or most effective leadership it could have. But the leaders are working toward changing attitudes and trying to make the system work. They are human and deserve the consideration and co-operation of all concerned. This may be an idealistic point of view - but it can work. The institution, its morale, goals, should be a concern shared by all -- board, administration, faculty and staff. All thoughts and actions should be directed to providing what this place is all about -- education -- which is why we're all here to begin with.

Around the World?

by Becky Freeman

"No man is an island," as John Donne said. Today, no country is, either. Foreign issues affect each and every one of us in one way or another.

The U.S. produces and consumes more goods and services than any other of the world's 154 nations. There is no American not affected by the flow of goods in and out of the U.S. Foreign trade is a common link between the banker, who finances the production of goods and services, and American families, who are the ultimate consumers.

An enormous amount of raw material is needed to fuel the American economy. Since some vital materials are not found in the U.S., and others are in limited quantity here, many essential commodities must be imported in increasing quantities each year.

For example: automobiles need 31 materials from 32 countries. Jet planes require at least four strategic materials, 100 per cent of which come from at

least 21 separate countries. U.S. missiles require 10 materials imported from 15 countries.

U.S. foreign trade is larger, by far, than that of any other nation. American foreign trade is four times larger than that of the Soviet Union, and 1.75 times greater than Japan's.

This nation's economy is greatly influenced by foreign countries. Issues and problems facing other nations also affect those of the U.S. Because of this, every citizen should be aware of what is happening in the rest of the world. It shouldn't take a crisis like the one in Iran for Americans to realize we're all part of the world.

One doubtful of this may count the number of foreign-made cars on the Gulf Freeway, or read the labels of some of the grocery items he buys. Better yet, he can turn on his Sony TV set, enjoy a hot cup of Brazilian coffee, and watch the 6 o'clock news this evening. Chances are, he'll change his mind.

- Editor Becky Freeman
- Asst. Editor Becky LaCroix
- Staff Writers DuRay Block
- Becky Freeman
- Lori Hall
- Alton Hayes
- Karen Hoffman
- Becky La Croix
- Laura Lynn-Stanley
- Rachel Martinez
- Theresa Pina
- Beverly Stephens
- Photographer Jamie Wood
- Graphic Designer Laura Lynn-Stanley
- Advertising Manager Beverly Stephens
- Faculty Advisor Kit van Cleave

InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the OOM community. Please send letters, suggestions or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities, Suite C, LRC, or drop in InterCOM box in the College Center. Stories marked (OCS) are press releases from the COM Office of Communication Services.

Blake Speaks to COM Students

by Beverly Stephens

Lyric tenor Rockwell Blake discussed opera as an artform and his career with COM voice and journalism students November 13.

Blake, 28, is considered by critics one of the fastest-rising American opera singers. He discussed the "new opera" saying, "It's much easier to just stand and sing, but opera is now competing with Donnie & Marie. The visual aspects are being improved."

"Opera is faced with an audience who wants to see as well as hear a performance. Opera differs from the theatre in its ability to entertain the ears as well as the eyes," Blake states.

Opera now has its own familiar names -- Beverly Sills and Luciano Pavarotti. Pavarotti is a dramatic tenor and Blake is quick to point out to students the difference between the two.

"A lyric tenor has a light or medium-lightweight voice, and often sings more than one note for each sound. A dramatic tenor has a heavy voice. As a general rule, the heavier the voice, the higher the salary and the greater the demand.

"Beverly Sills has done a lot for opera. She has become a 'living personality' in opera. She is a cult figure and her appearances on *The Tonight Show* have helped Americanize opera. By being seen, she has made opera in the U.S. grow," states Blake.

Blake is one of the few coloratura tenors. In opera circles, it is said there has not been a voice comparable to his for the past 85 years.

Blake has appeared with Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Civic Opera, Ottawa Festival, Hamburg Staatsoper, the Vienna Staatsoper, and the New York City Opera. He makes his Met debut in 1981.

Great Decisions 1980

by Becky Freeman

If you like getting involved in world issues and expressing your opinion, Great Decisions may be the opportunity you have been waiting for.

Through the national program, now in its 26th year, Americans of all ages and backgrounds obtain greater knowledge and understanding of major foreign policy issues facing the United States today.

"Great Decisions is the only program dealing with the general public and foreign affairs by which participants can learn about foreign issues, discuss them with others, and express opinions directly to national decision makers," says Bob Handy, COM Director of International Programs and Special Projects.

According to Handy, State-wide Coordinator of Great Decisions, any person interested can participate in the program's discussion groups. These groups of eight to 15 people meet once a week for eight weeks. At each, one section of the Great Decisions program is read and discussed. Each section contains in-depth background data and impartial review of a particular topic. Discussion questions, bibliography, and opinion ballots are also included.

At the end of each discussion, opinion ballots are filled out and sent to be tabulated nationally under supervision of Professor W. Phillips Davison, public opinion expert at Columbia University. Tabulation results are presented to members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and national media.

As a result of Great Decisions, KTRH (Houston) now airs weekly discussion programs each Saturday at 4:30 PM. These programs, heard by over 1.5 million listeners, feature guest speakers involved in foreign affairs and world issues.

Great Decisions also functions as a basic starting point of International Politics, a course taught by Handy and Political Science instructor Jim Finley each spring semester at COM. The first eight weeks of the course -- which Handy calls "a more formal Great Decisions discussion group" -- cover the program's informational material. The remainder of the course involves students in a project called "La Marque in the World -- The World in La Marque." This project examines the extent La Marque affects and is affected by the happenings outside the U.S. Faculty, staff, and students of La Marque High School also participate in the program, according to Handy.

Handy serves as director of the Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs, state-wide coordinator of Great Decisions, and feels the program is very worthwhile.

"We plan to send out special flyers about the program to approximately 2,000 people in this community," says Handy. Publicity from the flyers as well as radio coverage and news releases will hopefully get many people involved in the Great Decisions program again this year.

Topics for Great Decisions 1980 beginning in February include: "The World in 1980: America's Basic Options," "The Mideast and the Gulf: U.S. Policy in Ferment," "The United States at 35: Illusions and Realities," and "The World Energy Crunch: America's Choices -- At Home and Abroad." Four other topics will also be given.

Any person interested in expanding his insight on foreign issues or "keeping up with what's happening in the world" may participate in Great Decisions February 1980 and/or enroll in International Politics 237.01 spring 1980.

Adult Basic Education

By Rachel Martinez

"If I had only come sooner!

"I'm making a new start!

"I'm proud of myself!" exclaim

students of the Adult Basic Education reading class at COM.

COM is offering ABE reading programs to people in the Galveston county area who never learned to read or write, as well as for those who need to improve their skills before entering GED classes.

"We attempt to start people where they are and work from there," explained Jola Hubisz, instructor in the ABE program. "We want the person to know he is not the only one who needs to learn to read or write. Many folks are happy to find school can be fun."

This course covers reading comprehension, handwriting, writing names, learning to read simple words and stories, how to sound out words, English grammar, vocabulary development, and basic math skills. The classes are located in LRC room L-212. Classes are held from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday, and from 6 to 9 PM Monday and Wednesday. Sign-up for the free class is on a walk-in basis.

The class has made a difference in peoples' lives, according to students now in classes.

Girtha Ford said, "I am here because I want a better education so I can get more out of life. I made up my mind I was going to make a new start. I am not going to let anything stop me."

Rose Court: "It is a good feeling to know there is a way to learn, and not being ashamed of yourself or hiding, because what you learn today will pay tomorrow. I am 36 years old and have been here three semesters. I feel with what I have learned, the world is mine."

Student assistants are on hand to help out, but volunteers are needed who can come in for at least an hour during the day.

"It's a great experience for someone who might be going into the teaching field," Hubisz said.

Guild Doubles

(OCS) COM's Community Theatre drive for Guild members has ended with 1,405 patrons signed for the 1979-80 season.

"It is the most successful membership drive in our theatre's history," said Jack Westin, director of COM's theatre. "Although we are 95 members short of our goal of 1,500, the drive nearly doubled the 777 membership we had last year.

"The tremendous growth experienced by our Theatre in the past year is due in large part to the solid support of the college and community," said Reggie Schwander, associate director.

Laray Glaze

(OCS) COM Marine Maintenance instructor Laray Glaze has put a dozen years of boating experience into a course for which he feels there's no duplicate.

The 16-week individualized course covers repair of outboards, inboards, inboard-outboards, diesel and electric engines. Glaze developed the course content with the help of an advisory board.

"We bring the equipment to the student but he has his own bench station," Glaze explained.

Classes begin January 14. Sessions are scheduled from 5 - 11 PM, Mondays; 11-5 PM, Tuesdays; 5:45 - 11:15 PM, Wednesdays; and from 11 AM to 5 PM, Thursdays.

Glaze's extensive boating experience covers everything from building a boat, to racing, to living on one. He lived on at 44-foot Pacemaker power boat for five years at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook and has built and raced power boats. As a member of the Galveston Bay Cruising Association, Glaze raced a variety of boats from the Pierson 31-foot sailboat to the Hobie Cat, a small pontoon sailboat.

Always on the lookout for maintenance problems for his classes to solve, Glaze is interested in any boat which needs repairing. Call him at 938-1211, ext. 366 or 285.

Handy Goes to China

by Beverly Stephens

Bob Handy, COM Director of International Programs and Special Projects, spent 21 days during July and August in Mainland China under the auspices of U.S. - China Peoples Friendship Association.

Handy visited Peking, Canton, Shanghai, Shenyang, Jilin, Yanji, Changchun, and Kueilin.

At Yanji, Handy and his party were asked not to leave the compound unsupervised. "It was for our protection, supposedly. The tour felt since we were Americans and the area was so close to Korea, there might be some hostile feelings among local Koreans," states Handy.

"It was a very strange feeling to land at the airport of one of the world's largest cities and be the only plane there.

"The Chinese have excellent railroads. Am-Track could take lessons from the

Chinese on how to run railroads. The trains were always on time," states Handy.

"At the Ming tombs, there is a mural depicting peasants being deprived of their lands by the ruling class, with the message implying it is wasteful to use good land and human resources for palaces of the few. The next day, we toured the Great Hall of the People, built in 10 months by 14,000 Chinese who probably weren't paid for their work. It seemed like a basic contradiction," says Handy.

"The joke on the trip had to do with differentiating the 'rulers' from the 'rulees.' Everyone had the same basic outward appearance. We soon learned the more 'Parker' pens a man had in his shirt pocket, the higher his rank in the government. The higher a person's rank in the military, the more pockets he had on his jacket," Handy adds.

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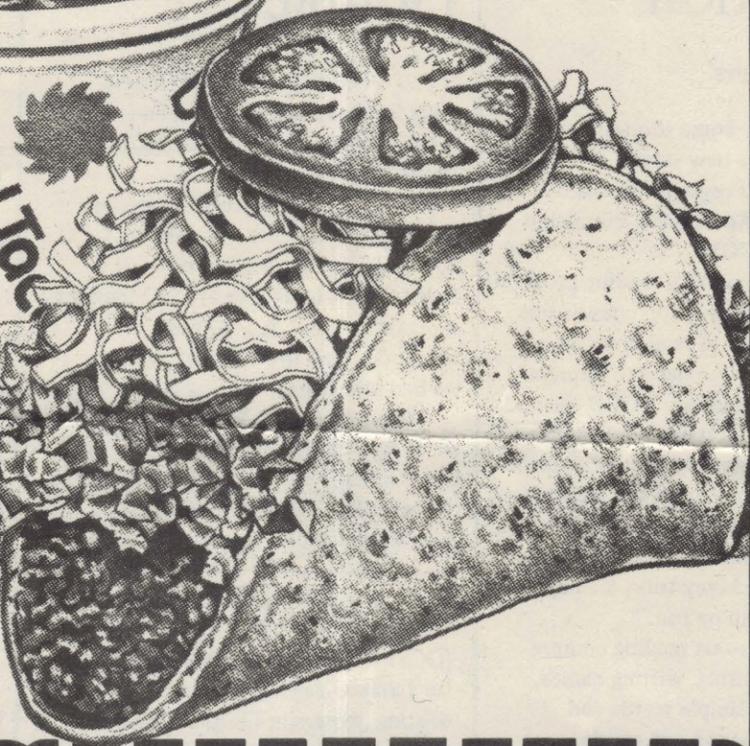
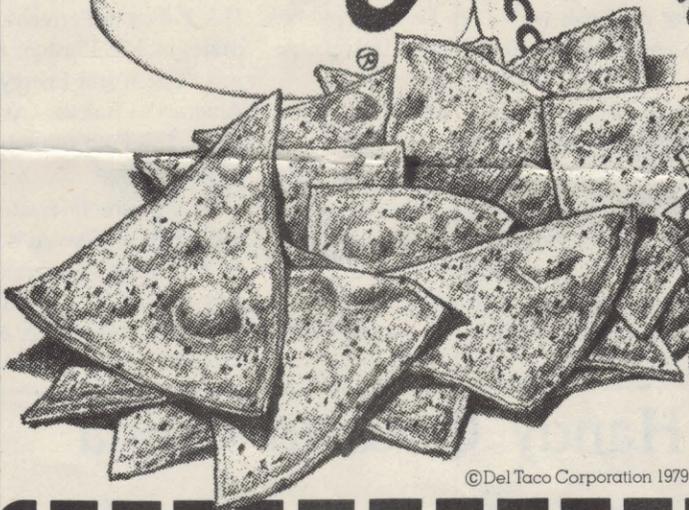
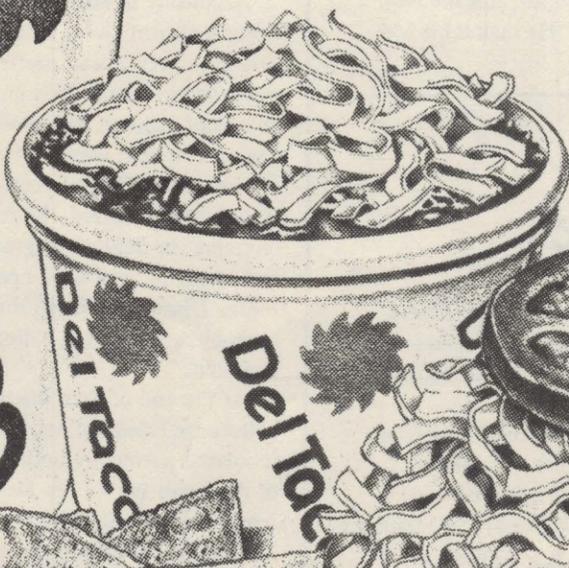
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interCOM

VOL. 4, NO. 4

• A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 •

January 1980

Past, Present, and Future

A NEWS ANALYSIS

by Lori L. Hall

The following analysis results from research and interviews with COM's faculty/staff, Board of Trustees, and Administration. This article's purpose is to provide COM members with an examination of issues affecting this institution—through a review of events of spring 1979, an update, and a speculative look at the future. — Ed.

In spring 1979 a controversy developed between COM faculty/staff, students, and administration, over solutions to a financial deficit announced by COM's administration. The suggested administration action involved cutting the COM payroll to alleviate the "short-fall." This was seen as only one alternative by faculty, staff, and students, who wished the administration to examine other options.

BUDGET

First signs of trouble with COM's budget surfaced in an October 3, 1978 memo ("Current Expenditures") from President Fred Taylor to the President's staff (Dr. George Miller, Assistant to the President for Planning and Development; Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Instruction; Dr. Fern Ramirez, Dean of College and Financial Services) indicating "our operating budget on assessed value for the district will be short some \$310,516."

A 1978-79 budget update, issued January 16, 1979, stated an estimated total of \$273,000 of cash reserve, projected to be used to balance the 1978-1979 budget, had grown to \$759,932. As a result, COM's 1979-1980 operating capital was threatened, Taylor stated.

The President's memo further said, "For viable operation, we should have three months of funds in reserve. We won't have it next year, and we will need to launch a plan to build the reserve back up as quickly as possible." Budget managers were also asked by Taylor to use their "budget planning skills" to save money wherever possible.

A March 23, 1979 memo to Budget Managers from President Taylor stated, "We are experiencing a shortfall (less income than expected) in the amount of \$500,000. You may recall that \$500,000 is primarily due to a county reduction in assessment ratio from 28% to 25% of true market value."

Upon Taylor's recommendation, the Board of Trustees voted for the 3 percent decrease in a Public Budget Meeting held in July.

"We had a choice to go with the county assessment which we had chosen to do for simplicity. We knew that the

county had reduced their rate. We chose to follow their guidelines," stated Board of Trustees President Bill Flaniken in a recent *InterCom* interview.

A chart projecting a deficit for 1980, '81, '82, and '83 was also presented in the March memo, showing an increasing loss of income.

In the faculty/staff's documented list of concerns presented in April 1979 to COM's Board of Trustees, skepticism was expressed in reference to the 3 percent reduced assessed valuation.

"This recommendation to reduce local income by 11 percent is especially questionable when the administration was already planning to use \$273,000 out of cash reserve to balance the 1979-80 budget," stated the faculty/staff documentation.

In Taylor's March memo, he continued to suggest ways to cut expenses: "We must develop a model that will cut projected expenses. It is my decision, endorsed by the Board of Trustees, that we should start by streamlining the Executive Administration."

According to Taylor, "streamlining" the top administration involved changing from a three-dean system to a two-dean system. When Ed Brown (then Dean of Administrative Services) retired, his responsibilities would subsequently be shared by Mortvedt and Ramirez.

George Miller, then (and presently) Assistant to the President for Planning and Development, was to be promoted to the newly-created position of Executive Dean.

But this appointment contradicted a January 15, 1978 memo from President Taylor to all personnel (re: Personnel Appointments): "Whenever a position becomes available, it will be advertised in the All-College Bulletin to allow employees the opportunity to apply for the identified job regardless of its nature. Under no circumstances will this policy be waived and in the event a position is filled without using the process, the appointment will be void."

An ad hoc committee of students then demanded Miller's appointment be rescinded. In a special called Board meeting on April 19, 1979, the Board voted to accept President Taylor's recommendation to eliminate the position of Executive Dean and re-create for Miller the position of Assistant to the President for Planning and Development.

In a March 27 Associate Deans' meeting, Mortvedt had-discussed the need for a serious reduction in the budget for the following year. Mortvedt presented a tentative list of 15 positions to Associate Deans Robert Shinn, George Thomas, Joe Rubio, and Larry Smith, giving his concept of where the budget could be cut. The Associate Deans asked budget-cut alternatives be considered, but were refused. (See related story on page 2) (cont. page 3)



Dr. Tom Arvidson conducts the COM Jazz Ensemble in a lively rehearsal. (OCS Photo)

Trilogy Show

(OCS) "Round and Round the Garden," COM Community Theatre's contribution to this season's cooperative trilogy theatre production, will be presented February 7-10, 14-17, and 21-23.

The modern comedy-farce is a part of "The Norman Con-

quests," three plays by British author Alan Ayckbourn.

Completing the trilogy will be productions by UH/CLC and Clear Creek Country Theatre.

Reggie Schwander will direct the COM production, with costumes designed by Sally Pate and scenery by John Fronczak.

Firewheel Magazine

by Becky LaCroix

"*Firewheel* is a magazine produced completely by COM students. Interviewing, writing, typesetting and graphics are done by *Firewheel* staff members," said Alex Pratt, Chairman, Division of Social Sciences, one of *Firewheel's* three faculty advisors.

Firewheel is an oral history project of COM's Webb Historical Society (WHS). The WHS was founded by Pratt, along with other junior college history instructors, and the Texas State Historical Association. A state-wide contest is held each year by the Webb Historical Societies. *Firewheel* is entered for competition as COM's oral history project.

"Stories of local historical value are in *Firewheel*," said Pratt. "Most story ideas come from students." Pratt said *Firewheel* began "over a coffee break."

"The magazine is a combination of ideas. It presents an opportunity for students to learn three different areas of study," commented Pratt.

"The interchange is in journalism, history, and graphics. Students have produced *Firewheel* since 1976," said Sandra Devall, another *Firewheel* advisor.

English/Journalism instructor Kit van Cleave, another *Firewheel* advisor, edits the students' material and proofs the magazine. She helps the students determine what to write and offers help in the journalistic part of *Firewheel*.

Pratt is involved with studying history of the surrounding areas. Devall directs the *Firewheel* staff in the graphics department.

Devall began her own oral history project as she began collecting historical poems. She started the poem collection as a result of her fascination with Galveston County.

"My interest grew as I discovered how many families in the county were living on land settled by their grandfathers," Devall said.

"Working with *Firewheel* has caused me to realize how important it is to record family background. I hope *Firewheel* will help others realize this importance, also," said Devall.

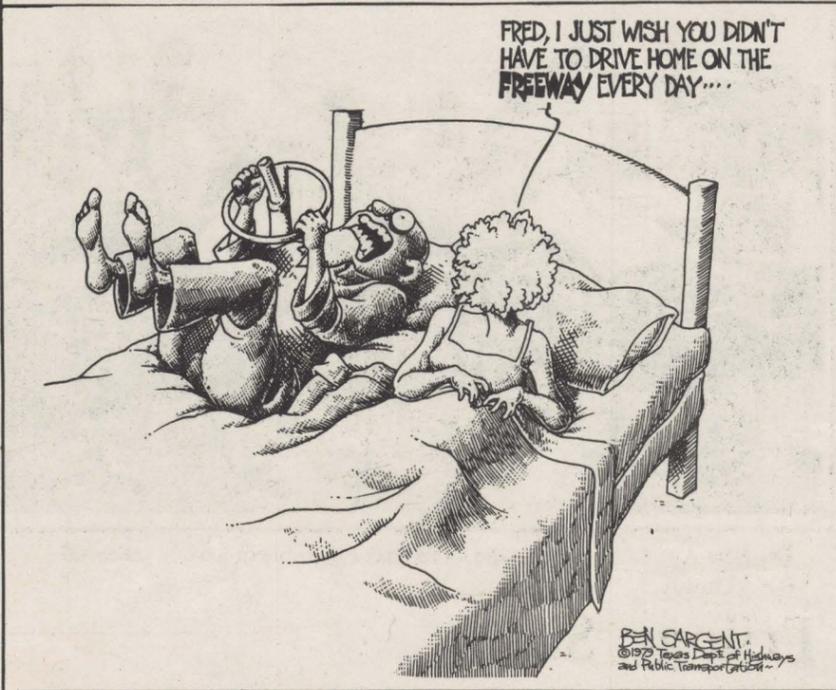
Letter to the Editor

The COM Student Activities Council has changed its name to the COM Student Activities Board (COMSAB). This is due to the fact that COM's Senior Advisory Council has for some time held the acronym of SAC.

Therefore, the elected officers of student activities management thought it would be in the best interest of the college to change our name to avoid confusion.

This decision was voted on at the November 28 COMSAB meeting.

Eric O'Neal
President, COMSAB



“What List?”

by Lori L. Hall

Due to a budget shortfall, the possibility of positions being cut became a major issue last spring.

President Taylor stated in an October 26, 1979 *InterCOM* interview, “We were talking about a cut in the budget which would be necessary to balance the budget through 1983 -- long range. We were talking about the first thing happening -- as people resigned, we would incorporate their job into somebody else's, i.e., not replace them. Then, we were talking about the necessity, if necessary, of reducing staff accordingly, if necessary. As it turned out, it wasn't necessary.”

Taylor further explained positions in the organizational structure needed trimming -- “Positions, not people,” he said. “But it doesn't come out that way. As a rule, nothing did in the spring. It was all emotional. That's why there was no response by me to any of the things the faculty and staff said, because it would have done me absolutely no good -- simply added fuel to the fire. It was an emotional issue, not an objective view of what was happening.”

Taylor also stated, “The Deans were asked to take a look into their divisions and see where they could cut funds and positions. That is a Dean's role, and they shared that with members of their Administrative staff within the divisions.”

Dean of College and Financial Services, Dr. Fern Ramirez, stated in a November 8, 1979 *InterCOM* interview, “I'm not sure we were asked to cut funds and positions. We were asked to look at the budget and come up with a savings plan.” Ramirez further explained plans were made to cut money in various categories, and “I asked my managers to cut (money) wherever they thought they could.”

Dean of Instruction Dr Donald Mortvedt stated in a November 9, 1979 *InterCOM* interview that “Yes,” he was asked to come up with “a plan to reallocate and collapse positions.”

In a March 27, 1979, meeting, Mortvedt met with COM's Associate Deans to give his concept of how the budget problems could be alleviated. (Mortvedt, in an *InterCOM* interview, said he made a tentative list of 15 positions to cut. The Associate Deans disagreed that cutting jobs was the only possibility and recommended other options.)

Giving an explanation of how these options were obtained, Larry Stanley, Chairman (and budget manager) for the Fine Arts Division, stated, “We met as a division and determined where we could cut our budget without doing any serious damage to the educational programs.”

Regarding the meeting in Mortvedt's office, Taylor stated, “That's how a so-called ‘hit-list’ got started. It was never started out of this office, nor was it ever approved by this office. I never saw it. It would have made no sense to make that statement.”

When asked if he was frustrated by the college community not knowing his position, Taylor replied, “No, not really. The reason it wasn't was because it was such an emotional, high-pitched issue by that time. This job is a very frustrating job. It's one that you have to weigh everything, and you have to try to keep everyone happy, which is impossible.”

The faculty and staff stated in their list of concerns, “We are concerned that it was only after strong objection and pressure by the Budget Managers that the top Administration was willing to consider alternative budget scenarios.”

As of December, 1979, approximately 45 staff members have been added to the COM payroll, according to Personnel Records.

Power

by Jamie Wood

COM has seen many faculty and student associations throughout its history. These varying groups have had controversies during the 10-year existence of the college. Some issues of faculty, staff and students, seem to occur repeatedly: ineffectiveness, inadequate representation, lack of straight-forward communication. The All-College Council, FACOM, and COMSAB were formed to represent students, faculty and employees, apparently because they aren't getting a fair say in what's happening at COM.

But these associations are not really effective. Evidence seems to demonstrate that COM's administration doesn't consider students or faculty responsible enough to give input to decisions affecting the entire community. President Fred Taylor says he thinks students are capable of “policing” themselves, but that they really need someone to “tell them what they can and can't do,” or make final decisions about student participation and involvement.

The current administration has seen to it students have unequal representation in decision-making groups. Eric O'Neal sits on the Board of Trustees (as elected president of COMSAB) as a non-voting member, who to all practical purposes cannot speak unless spoken to.

There are only three student representatives on the All-College Council.

Of the six at-large positions, no students may run, nor can students vote for any of those candidates.

President Taylor has ignored faculty, staff, and student concerns presented to him last spring. He knows what they are and has made no bold attempt to rectify past mistakes or to get COM “back to normal.” Power is not the primary goal at COM -- education is. Those who have insisted on putting power first must now give over to establishment of full participatory democracy. A college with such a progressive Prospectus should not have problems resulting from power-brokering. No administrator, after reading COM's Prospectus, could feel that power is not to be shared with everyone.

Students, faculty and staff should meet, to begin making decisions and solving problems, with or without administration participation. Stating and discussing concerns must be cut to a minimum; real action should be taken to reduce tension and get COM back to an educational, not a political, institution.

The All-College Council, FACOM, COMSAB and other related groups will remain ineffective until the small group trying to retain power at COM change their attitudes and open the decision-making process up to all. Students, most of all, should demand equal representation at all meetings and in all associations making decisions affecting the quality of their education.

Resolutions For 1980

Larry Smith: “To try to never compromise on the fundamental questions, to always be flexible on the rest, and try my best to know the difference between the two.”

Mary V. Danaczko: “To become more of a realist and less of an eternal optimist in the coming year.”

Eric O'Neal: “To never dance wildly or drink tequila at Halloween parties, try to be on time to classes and meetings. To the consternation of the powers that be, I will step up my campaign on topics like real parties (with drinks) on campus, making the College Center what it was meant to be, and helping the ‘Grease Pit’ become respectable.”

Dr. Fred Taylor: “To develop a closer working relationship with faculty, students, Board and staff.”

Donald Mortvedt: “To follow Gordon's First Law: If a research project is not worth doing at all, it is not worth doing well.”

Ginger Jackson: “To improve myself intellectually, as well as physically, and become more responsive to the needs of others.”

Tom Herman: “Things are going so well, I hate to make any changes.”

Chester Stout: “To stop procrastinating on my dissertation.”

Edith L. Rousseau: “To not make any.”

Editor	Becky Freeman
Asst. Editor	Becky LaCroix
Staff Writers	DuRay Block
	Becky Freeman
	Lori Hall
	Alton Hayes
	Karen Hoffman
	Becky La Croix
	Laura Lynn-Stanley
	Rachel Martinez
	Theresa Pina
	Beverly Stephens
Photographer	Jamie Wood
Graphic Designer	Laura Lynn-Stanley
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InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the COM community. Please send letters, suggestions or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities, Suite B, LRC, or drop in InterCOM box in the College Center. Stories marked (OCS) are press releases from the COM Office of Communication Services.

PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE
(cont. from page 1)

In an April 2, 1979, Special Bulletin ("Legislative Action") from President Taylor to all college employees, Taylor stated, "I have been to the Capitol and have conferred with the leadership and find that the chances are excellent we will receive the Legislative Budget Board recommendation. This should add approximately \$115,000 to State income. That being the case, we should have no difficulty in meeting our 1979-1980 budget with no additional personnel cuts." This was the last memo Taylor issued in the spring semester regarding the budget. COMMUNICATION

In the specially-called Board meeting on April 19, 1979, faculty and staff presented documented resolutions approved by 77 per cent of COM employees. In a campus wide vote, the employees expressed a vote of "no confidence" in President Taylor's administration.

After a two-hour meeting, Board Chairman James Simpson reaffirmed Taylor's employment. One conclusion reached by COM's Board members involved improving communication. "The Board will develop guidelines at an early date to assure that the professional staff is heard on any major issues," said Simpson.

Communication was also listed as a primary concern of COM employees in documented resolutions. The faculty and staff stated, "We are concerned that the President withholds information from the Board of Trustees which the Board needs in order to make sound decisions."

Faculty representative to the Board of Trustees Dr. John Hubisz, was asked in an October 4 *InterCOM* interview if he thought the Board was now fully informed. Hubisz replied, "I know that they are not."

Hubisz also stated, "I expect the Administration sees their job as a little farther-reaching than the Board does. Whenever you get into the area where a particular problem is seen by the Administration as an administrative problem, then they are not going to tell the Board, because the Board is not responsible for administrative problems."

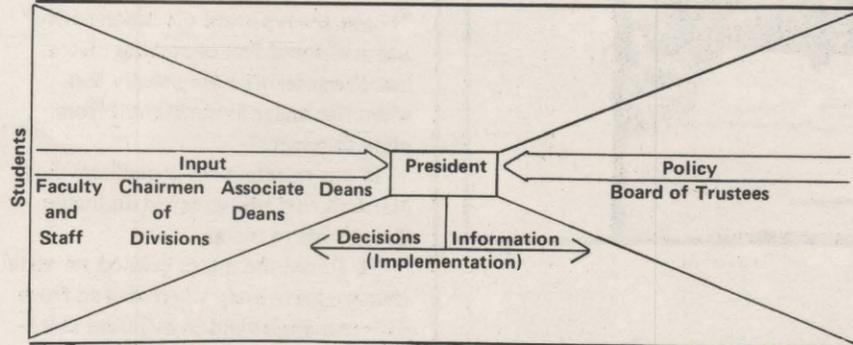
"The Board member feels, 'I should be made aware of it because the public is going to ask me why there is a problem on campus and I'm not going to know.' If we become very legislative about it, then we could say the administrators are right. But if you are going to run a community college and you are supposed to have a community family unit here, the Board is right," Hubisz said.

Board member Carmen Anderson stated in an October 25 *InterCOM* interview, "I feel we still have a problem with communication at the college. Until that is solved, I don't see

how we can have fully stable leadership.

"It's very important for us to get full and complete information. I feel the President is trying to increase that and give us what we want. Evidence of it is this committee (Identification of Information Needs) which will meet with George Miller and Jim Dobbins," said Anderson.

Presently, communication at COM funnels through a system as shown in the diagram below.



Presently, the President is ultimately responsible for communicating ideas and input from the faculty to the Board of Trustees, and vice versa.

But some employees and students feel the present system runs afoul of the COM Prospectus.

Says Dean of Continuing Education Larry Smith, "This is a public institution. The public has a right to know if there are problems out here. (Control of information) is always a ploy that's used by people who are in power. See, if you have to keep it within the family, so to speak, within the organization, and the organization is set up in a hierchial way... it's Catch-22. There is very little employees can do about it if they can't make it public--especially if you've got a situation set up where you can't talk to the Board. The only people you can talk to are the people you have serious questions about. So naturally, if they can set up rules whereby you can't talk to the Board or the public then they effectively cut off any opportunity you have for promoting change or responsiveness to grievances."

Taylor explains, "Many times the so-called input never gets to this office. That's the magic of the bureaucracy. This institution is too complex and too large for one person to make all the decisions, and that's what causes bureaucracies. So, you have people down the line make decisions."

When input reaches the President's office, Taylor stated, "The final decision has to rest right here at this desk. The buck stops here, in terms of the implementation of policy. If, in fact, anybody at the institution wants to appear before the Board, they have the same right as a citizen to do that. But they have to let me know in advance that they want to speak to the Board (and) what the subject is. No one loses his citizenship simply because he is a member of the... I think that in the administration of an institution every employee needs to be cognizant of his responsibility as well as his rights as a citizen."

After reaching Taylor, a college employee may ask for his input to be taken to the Board. When this occurs, Taylor states, the person is

"getting a lay Board involved in professional matters.

"I've never said Board members shouldn't come on (campus). The only thing I've ever said is that faculty and staff members shouldn't talk to the Board about decisions," Taylor said.

"They are one-sided. I think it's more healthy to work it through the organization and let it be justified within the organization as something that we should do in

order to achieve our political objectives in the institution. I don't think the way to do that is for Board members to react one-on-one with faculty members.

"The Board's principle role is to adopt policy, not to manage things or implement within the institution. In the management of the institution, the professional should do that, not the lay Board. So, in fact, administratively, the policy comes up to me and I say for these reasons--none-then it ought to stop right there. Because you can't run an institution in any professional manner by asking a lay Board to make decisions about implementing policy.

"I don't think it's fair to them (Board) because they'll do it on an emotional basis, because they are not professionals. They know that. That's why they elect one person to be responsible to them and that's the President. They delegate all the implementation of policy to that President. Then he gathers unto himself a staff of professionals, and delegates authority and responsibility for many, like instruction and financial services, etc., to other people. But he is still accountable for it. So they (faculty and staff) come through his or her organization. That's the way. I don't know an institution that's any different than that."

SPECULATION ON COM'S FUTURE

In recent *InterCOM* interviews, several of COM's faculty/staff and administrators responded to the importance of communication in the future at COM.

President Taylor stated, "We can improve communication--no question about it. But not to the detriment of the institution. If communication means, 'I get my own way or you're not communicating,' then we won't communicate. I see the All-College Council being a perfect source. My guess will be that the All-College Council will be pretty tough. I believe it will be tougher than I will. I believe it's a good communication model."

Bob Shinn, Associate Dean of the Learning Resources Center, said "COM has many competent, creative and caring folks who will continue to walk that extra mile for students

and the improvement of teaching, learning, and support services. Unfortunately, COM is in a state of flux where disagreement exists concerning institutional priorities, processes, and policies. The All-College Council can become a vehicle for dealing with significant institutional concerns. This can result in establishment of an environment, which will not only facilitate, but also encourage, an institutional effort toward common goals."

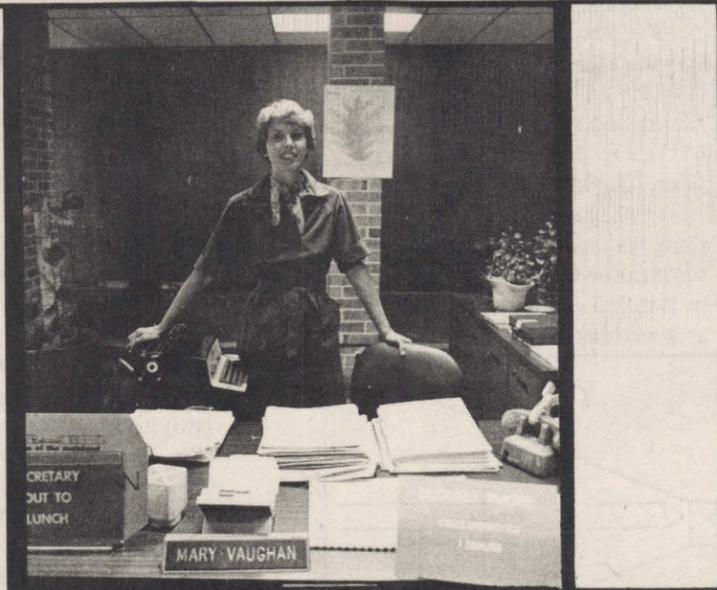
Dean of Instruction Dr. Mortvedt said, "COM is working toward clarifying its basic missions and roles. The Board has recently nominated several committees. One of them is to examine the Prospectus and college policies for the 1980s. They (Board) will clarify where the college should be going for their constituencies out in the mainland college district. The administration, faculty, staff, and students (can) build the programs, under that umbrella of where the emphasis should be placed."

Fine Arts Chairman Larry Stanley says, "Striving for democracy has never been easy. When I came to COM several years ago I thought the experiment outlined in the COM Prospectus was one of the most intelligent ways I knew to provide education for a community. In my own naive way, I'm still holding out for us to make it."

Dean of College & Financial Services Dr. Fern Ramirez stated, "The 1980s will be a time for the college community to face changes, which will be uncomfortable and which will be demanded -- by the student as consumer, and by the constituencies as taxpayers. It will be a decade for greater accountability with fewer financial resources. Despite this gloomy outlook, I believe that COM can 'weather the storm,' given its excellent tax base and the resourcefulness of many of the faculty and staff. Efforts, by necessity, will be much more concentrated and directed, and will be the result of a team approach. This institution has much to offer, and will have the opportunity during this future period of multiple constraints, to become increasingly more valuable to this community."

Associate Dean of Continuing Education Larry Smith replied, "My feelings are the people at COM who believe in and are committed to openness, quality, competence, and the democratic way of life will prevail. The changes necessary for this college to live up to its ideals will be made. I chose this view because it represents my hopes rather than my fears. I believe that while the human condition is not perfect, it is improvable. To believe otherwise would lead me to cynicism and utter hopelessness."





Mary Vaughan

by Alton E. Hayes

Have a question? Ask Mary Vaughan. Vaughan is one of the few people on the COM campus who can answer almost any question correctly.

She's the secretary at the information desk, in the main lobby of COM's Administration Building.

Helpful, kind, and polite, Vaughan helps those seeking information about COM. Her bright smile represents COM's friendly atmosphere, as she is the college's most visible representative.

"I don't find many of the questions as strange as people might think," says Vaughan. "They're interesting, not strange. I answer a wide range of questions each day and enjoy it. Sometimes people don't ask questions. They just want to talk about problems, solutions,

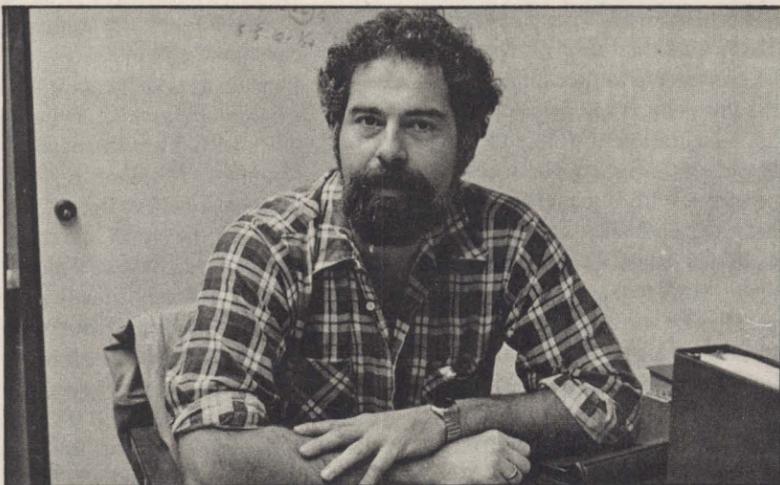
likes, dislikes--all sorts of things. I listen, sometimes without saying anything. In most cases, this tends to make the conversations shorter, while serving the purposes of the other person."

Vaughan's ability to get along with and help others is well-known.

Born in Wisconsin, she grew up in Houston. She and husband Jerry (Sr.), lived for a while in Florida, where they enjoyed the sun and a family sailboat.

"My family loved to have outings in the boat, and the ideal place for sailing is Florida," she says today.

She has three teenage children and "It's lots of fun being their mother." Husband Jerry is an instructor at COM, which makes driving to work a "family affair." The Vaughans live in Alta Loma, where Jerry, Jr. (16), Kristen (15), and Karen (13) attend Santa Fe schools.



Paul Williamson

by Karen Hoffman

Paul Williamson, biology instructor in COM's Math/Science division, will represent the United States in India January 10 - February 23.

His trip is sponsored through Rotary International, District 591.

Most of his visit will be in Nepal, Bengal, and Bangladesh.

During his stay, Williamson will live with several native families. He will tour Indian medical and educational facilities, speaking on U. S. medical and educational systems. He is also scheduled for a tour on elephant-back of the Kazi Kanga Wildlife Preserve.

Williamson was nominated by Jimmy Llewellyn, principal of LaMarque High School, through Rotary District 591.

Rotary International, with 18,299 divisions in 153 countries, spent over \$1,000,000 in 1979 on educational exchange. The group deals specifically with educational studies abroad.

Before going to India, Williamson will go through training sessions (led by Americans who have lived in India), so the culture can be studied objectively.

"Although I'm quite excited over being given such an opportunity, it certainly will be a test of my character to see how well I adjust to a culture so totally different from my own, or any culture I've been exposed to," Williamson said.

He was also named one of the Most Outstanding Young Men in America for 1979.

Mona Marshall

by Rachel Martinez

Mona Marshall, a prize-winning printmaker, is a new instructor in the Fine Arts Department at COM.

The 28-year old artist is interested in all art mediums, but prefers silk screening because it is a spontaneous medium. "I can get an idea and execute it immediately," she explained. "I have always loved the luminosity and sculptural feel of etching plates, but characteristics are usually lost when the image is transferred from plate to paper."

It was to retain these qualities that Marshall first silk-screened an image directly on to metal.

"I found the image printed on metal changes immensely when viewed from different angles and in different intensities of light, thereby remaining very fluid and alive. No matter how well I plan an image, the material always offers some surprises," she said.

Marshall's prints are often box or maze constructions set in a natural environment. The entire process, from the first drawing to the final print, allows ample room for exploration and change. Marshall tries above all not to disturb the reflective, almost ethereal presence of the form.

The California native, who teaches two basic photography classes at COM, uses photography as part of her silk-screen process. Next semester, a course in advanced printmaking is planned.

Marshall received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan. She also attended Tyler School of Art in Rome, Italy. She has been awarded fellowships to Ossabaw Island Project in Georgia, and the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. Besides teaching at COM, Marshall has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, and has given silk-screen workshops at the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

Marshall has exhibited her work primarily in California in Haggin Gallery and Pioneer Museums in Stockton, the Oakland Art Museum, San Francisco Museum of Contemporary Art, and in San Francisco Art Museum. She has also exhibited at University of Houston, and Pyramid Gallery in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Her work is in permanent collections at Achenback Print Foundation in San Francisco, Oakland Art Museum, and Museum of Fine Arts in San Francisco.



Carolyn Hartnett

by Karen Hoffman

"Communication is very important. I believe strongly in the value of writing, and am interested in how human minds relate," says Carolyn Hartnett, instructor coordinator of writing in COM's Total Learning Center.

Hartnett was born in Michigan, moved to Oklahoma in 1953, and came to Texas in 1956. She received her M.A. in English (U of Michigan), B.A. in English (East Michigan U), and is currently working on her Ph.D. (Indiana U of Pennsylvania).

She began teaching English at COM in 1967. As the Humanities department expanded, Hartnett began teaching developmental writing and basic composition -- Communications 113, 133, 136 and 139.

Before coming to COM, Hartnett was a private tutor in League City at a home for homeless boys and drug addicts. Her book *Ideas in Motion* is a basic text for beginning writing instruction.

Hartnett is working on an AIDP grant given for three years to the Total Learning Center, to help discover "all possibilities of improving the writing courses to benefit students needing writing improvement." The AIDP grant also allows her to "measure the cohesiveness of writing and experiment with new ways of teaching

and approaching writing."

For students who need help with grammar, proof-reading and punctuation, there is a one-hour writing course. Three three-hour courses have also been established for students who don't know how to write. Of students who take the courses, 86% pass English 132 (15% pass English 132 who haven't taken the courses, but need them.)

Recommendation for students to enroll in Communications 133, 136 is the responsibility of the students' advisor, based on ACT scores overall, she says.

"A score of below 15 usually shows a need for writing improvement. These students are given the TSWE, a screening device. TSWE doesn't measure the ability to write, but relates objectives correlating with writing. Upon entering the course, students are given a writing test to determine needs for writing improvement," says Hartnett.

"In writing, one can see how minds relate because the thinking process is slowed down. People have good ideas, but often don't know how to put them on paper," she says.

Hartnett is married, has one son, three daughters, and one grandchild. Hobbies include swimming, sewing, reading and square dancing. Her office is located in Suite B, Humanities division, and her extension is 356.

interCOM

VOL. 4, NO. 5 • A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 • February 1980



Charles Delgado (1), union representative, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 527, speaks at a recent COM Focus-Forum. Other panelists are (l-r) COM moderator Larry Smith, Allan Mueller, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Texas Senator A.R. (Babe) Schwartz. photo by Teri Crook, courtesy *Texas City Daily Sun*.

FOCUS.. Man Made Disasters

by Phyllis Kostka

"The public should demand perfection from industry," said State Senator A. R. (Babe) Schwartz January 22 at COM's College Center.

Schwartz spoke as a panelist in the Focus-Forum entitled "Man-Made Disasters: Must We Learn to Live With Them?" The forum is a COM community outreach program.

The public is to blame for industrial disasters, because it accepts too many risks, Schwartz said.

He directly blamed Texas City plants for the Wye dumpsite (an abandoned chemical disposal pit in La Marque), discounting the theory that corporate responsibility ends when plants pay for chemical disposal.

He reprimanded Americans for accepting "the anathema put upon them by industry under the guise of progress."

Panelist Charles Delgado, business manager for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 527, discussed man-made disasters. From the viewpoint of organized labor, he said, man has come to accept disasters as a part of life,

because of "economic compensation."

Delgado contended corporate America, which reaps the profits, should accept responsibility for its actions. However, he suggested every citizen is a member of corporate America, and therefore shares the burden.

William Fetter, plant manager of Texas City Refinery, stated disasters such as refinery explosions can be prevented by better employee training. Fetter considered "zero risk" (no hazardous conditions or exposures) an impossibility due to human error. But he said Texas City industries were spending millions of dollars to train employees.

Allan Mueller, representative of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, discussed "potentially dangerous" conditions presented in chemical dumpsites, such as Wye Pits. He related how leakage from such sites "can wreak havoc upon the aquatic population by destroying the food chain." This problem, Mueller pointed out, is compounded by recent flooding. Flooding, he said, was also a man-made disaster caused by unwise land-use planning. (cont. page 3)

COM Alma Mater Contest

A contest for selection of a COM Alma Mater will be held spring 1980, according to Dr. Warren Dodson, Director of Career Decisions Center/Student Life.

The contest will be limited to students currently enrolled (credit and non-credit) at the time entry is submitted.

Deadline for submissions is April 1, and the selection will be made April 15.

The chosen entry will be presented to the Board of Trustees for adoption and sung at the 1980 COM graduation ceremonies.

The prize will be a cash award of \$100. If no acceptable entry is found, no selection will be made. The criteria

for selection will be originality and appropriateness. The entry must fit with the tradition of the college.

COM's Student Activities Board (SAB) will be requested to select five students to participate in the selection.

Submissions will be accepted in any presentable form. Each entry must be accompanied by a written copy of the song. The song can be recorded and presented with accompaniment or without accompaniment.

All persons entering the contest must be present at the time of selection. Absentee forms will be available for extenuating circumstances.

College Day at COM

by Lori L. Hall

Representatives from 17 Texas institutions of higher learning will visit the campus on February 19 from 2 - 4 PM in COM's College Center, room CC 120.

Baylor, Houston Baptist University, Lamar University, Stephen F. Austin, Texas A&M University, University of Houston at Clear Lake, and other colleges will send representatives to share information with students concerning orientation, admissions requirements, dorms, and financial aid.

"It's an opportunity for our students to visit with a representative

from the institution they are interested in," stated Director of Admissions/Registrar Dr. Robert Johnston.

"The college representatives are institutional recruiters who will help students through the application process and share information about programs," Johnston said.

Catalogues and brochures will be available. Representatives will discuss with students, on an individual basis, any questions.

The State Association coordinates representatives from major Texas universities, to meet with area high school and college students. College days are held throughout the state.

Black Awareness Month

National recognition of black people and their contribution to the American society will be celebrated by Black Awareness Month in February.

Events and activities planned for February's Black Observance Month:

- Texas Southern University's "Black Art Show" displayed in LRC.
- COM Singers presented a noon-hour concert February 13 in the College Center.
- Movie -- "Negro Slavery" was shown in the College Center, Room 120, February 14, at 12 noon.
- Sickle-Cell Anemia screening, education and blood drive, College Center, Room 120, February 19, 10 AM to 3 PM.

• The Texas Southern Dance Troupe directed and choreographed by Dr. Marjorie Stuart, will perform at noon in the College Center, February 20.

• Movie -- "Black History: Lost, Stolen or Strayed," narrated by Bill Cosby, College Center, Room 120, February 21, 12 noon.

• Movie -- Dr. Martin L. King - "From Montgomery to Memphis" shown in the College Center, Room 120, February 28, 12 noon.

Black Awareness committee members include Alex Pratt, Leroy August, Dr. Warren T. Dodson, Tillie Green, Vivian Hayes (student), and Beverly Douglas.

Panel Analyzes Iran Crisis

by Beverly Stephens

The Iranian students holding American hostages are politically motivated, and their demonstrations are motivated in much the same manner as U.S. student protests of the 1960s, said Dr. Donald Quartaert, Middle East historian, UH Main Campus, during the most recent Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs meeting.

The remark came out of a seminar entitled "Iran: What's Behind It All?" co-sponsored by GCCFA and COM's Student Activities Board (COMSAB) and held December 13 in the LRC teaching auditorium.

"The militants holding the Americans hostage represent two groups -- the Islamic population and leftists (socialists and communists) whose opposition to the former regime has brought them together," Quartaert said.

The seminar's panel included Matthew Horowitz of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), L.V. Durland, refinery manager, Amoco, Dr. Joseph Dawson, assistant professor at Moody College. Others were Admiral John Smith, USN, retired, Bob Wright, assignments editor at KHOU-TV (Channel 11) in Houston, and Sam Kent, an attorney at Royston, Layzor, Vickery and Williams.

The U.S. State Department did not participate, nor did the Iranian government. Four Iranian students in attendance did not represent the government of Iran.

UH Graduate students Khalli Yazdi and Farshid Madani spoke at the seminar. Yazdi is "a Moslem student from Iran who happens to be of Iranian nationality."

(cont. page 3)

Editorial

Statement of Purpose

by February 1980 Editor Becky LaCroix
and Assistant Editor Lori L. Hall

"What IS *InterCOM*?" is a question often asked on the COM campus.

InterCOM is a student newspaper published monthly. Staff members are enrolled in journalism credit courses taught by Kit van Cleave. Editors for each issue are democratically elected by staff members.

Stories included in the paper are written by students unless otherwise noted. But *InterCOM* will accept material from other sources as long as it is accurate, and in line with U.S. journalistic tradition. (No obscenities, for example, will be used in letters to the editors.)

InterCOM is written by, and principally for, students at COM. We do, however, consider faculty, staff and administration part of our readership. But often, spending longer hours at COM, they have information readily available which students do not.

InterCOM writes straight news

stories, with factual information and objective reporting. As our readership is attending COM for an education, we declare the right to access for information -- a right guaranteed us by the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

Editorials published in *InterCOM* reflect only the opinion of the writer, in keeping with standard U.S. journalistic style. Editorials will continue to be uncensored, whether or not their content is a majority opinion.

Letters are welcomed, but editors reserve the right to publish letters based on their accuracy and bias. Character assassinations and libel are not permitted.

As in the past, *InterCOM* will report news -- good or bad -- through information, investigative research, profiles on people, editorials, cartoons, and photographs. We appreciate your support of this living example of American freedom of the press, and the "public's right to know."

Conscription

by Beverly Stephens

In his January 23 State-of-the Union message, President Jimmy Carter proposed reinstating draft registration, to prepare the U. S. to move against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The President's proposal has caused Americans to consider for the first time if U.S. women should be required to register for the draft.

During an Associated Press interview, U. S. Senator John Tower (R-Tx) said he thought there was not enough support in Congress for registration of women. He also expressed concern women would "distract" men.

Both men and women must be required to register for the draft. In the past ten years, U.S. women have won many rights long-held by men. America has suggested other countries observe rights of all their citizens. Shall we now not require all our citizens be treated equally? How can we expect other countries to live by standards we refuse to apply?

Proponents of Equal Rights Amendment will obviously not allow Congress to roll back the clock. They fought to prove they are as capable as men. To allow women to escape their responsibility for patriotic defense could sabotage all progress made in treating Americans equally.

Men's liberation groups will surely not allow women to escape the draft. Men have the right to demand all Americans be required to serve America's military interests. If men's groups do not demand women be treated equally, they are refusing to accept women as

equals in adult life.

Mothers who say, "Take my son, but leave me my daughter," are saying, "It's all right for a man to die young, but not a woman." They are putting a higher value on the lives of women than on those of men.

The U. S. does not accept with dignity women in the military armed forces. Only within the past ten years have women been allowed in military academies. Israel, China, and the Soviet Union require both women and men to serve in the military.

"Why would a woman want to be drafted?" No one wants to be drafted, to give up two to six years of life for a cause he may not believe in.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (which abolished slavery) states: *Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*

Even though this amendment was meant to abolish slavery, it is the only one which addresses the issue of involuntary servitude. The draft is not voluntary. Those drafted are told their "patriotic duty" is involuntary servitude and possible death.

Carter is using draft registering against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Will a generation which grew up watching news from Viet Nam believe a foreign war is in America's national interest?

Conformity or Controversy

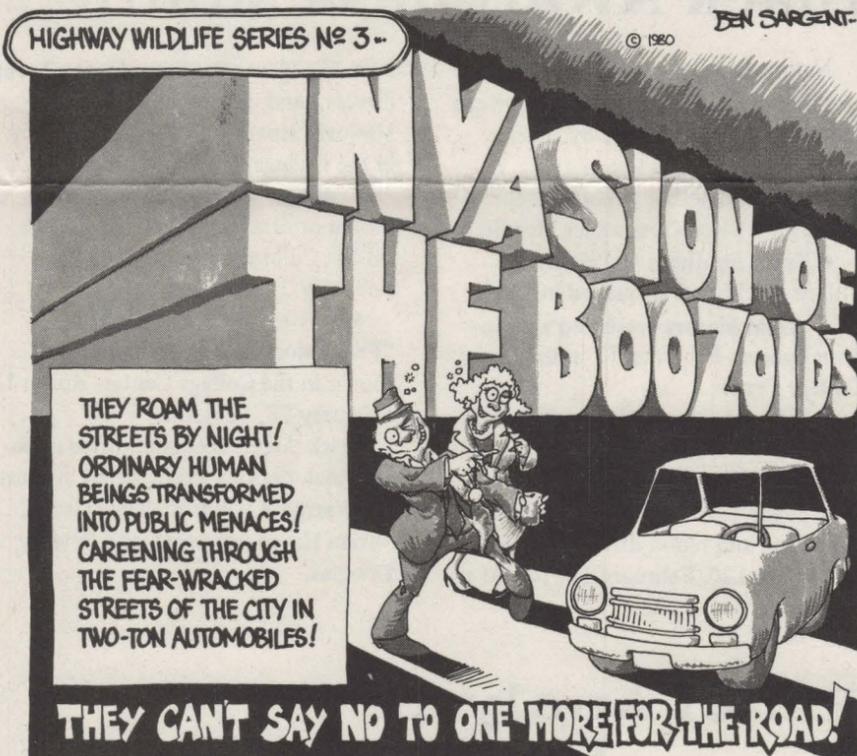
by Phyllis Kostka

America was founded on the premise of individual freedom. The American tradition has been to uphold the right of dissent. The choice to deviate from the "average behavior" of society has been a cherished ideal.

With this in mind, why does the exercise of personal rights cause such controversy? The person who "hears a different drummer" often meets opposition when he attempts to march to his tune. Conformity has overtaken

individuality in America.

Individuals are sometimes erroneously stereotyped as radical trouble makers. The mainstream culture fits a pattern stated by Emile Henry Gauguere, who sees Americans as "... a strange race of people aptly described as spending their lives doing things they detest, to make money they don't want, to buy things they don't need, to impress people they don't like."



Fair Play

by Phyllis Kostka

Math instruction at COM is little more than a glorified correspondence course. Each unit of material is conveniently taped to help students work assignments in the text.

An average of 30 students are in each math section. These students range from Math 130 to Math 135, with a sprinkling of a few from each level in every section.

Each class period runs 80 minutes. This gives each student approximately 2.6 minutes of the instructor's time -- obviously insufficient time for adequate clarification. However, tapes make the material self-explanatory, alleviating many queries.

This system has been in operation at COM since its opening in 1967, and seems successful. Economically, it lessens need for additional faculty (nine instructors teach 66 sections of mathematics).

The question arises on the matter of attendance. Audio math tapes are available in the library, and can be checked out for home use. If no further aid is needed from the instructor, students should attend class for testing purposes only. Having completed testing, the student should be free to leave.

Turnabout is fair play. If teaching is not mandatory, why should attendance be so?

Fighting Fat?

by Laura Wager

Look around. The most available food is in the College Center snack bar, which offers all high-calorie and high-carbohydrate foods.

"What about restaurants?" Texas City is the closest city to COM. It's fast-food restaurants have soybean hamburgers, spicy tacos, pizza, and greasy chicken. Sambo's and Denny's do offer a salad or a diet lunch, but take up time because of slow service.

In the end, what happens? The Battle of the Bulge! COM students often eat fattening food, worry later about the consequences, or don't worry at all. Starving is even worse. The answer? Limit food intake, exercise regularly. And pack a lunch!

Editor	Becky LaCroix
Asst. Editor	Lori L. Hall
Writers	DuRay Block
	Marguerite Brown
	Mary Brown
	Donna Falco
	Becky Freeman
	Dewane Garrett
	Lori L. Hall
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	Laura Wager
	Betty Williams
Faculty Advisor	Kit van Cleave

InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the COM community. Please send letters, suggestions or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities, Suite B, LRC, or drop in *InterCOM* box in the College Center. Stories marked (OCS) are press releases from the COM Office of Communication Services.

Panel con't.

"The fact that students are claiming to be supporters of Khomeini is irrelevant," said Yazdi. "If they diverge from the teachings of Khomeini, the (militants) will be in trouble. If Khomeini's support is not 100 per cent behind the students, it will cause political trouble. If they deviate from his teachings, they are 100 per cent responsible for their actions."

He said the U.S. hostages will be treated well, and "if" returned to the U.S., they will be physically unharmed.

One COM student in the audience asked about reports that members of the PLO were also in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

"We don't know who is in the Embassy," said Dawson. "The press has not been able to find out. We are told these people are students. They appear older than the normal U.S. college student. Also, we don't know how many students there are in the Embassy."

Kent asked whether Ayatollah Khomeini was in control of the event.

"Has he acted in accordance to international law? If the students are in control (not led by Khomeini), what is Khomeini's role? Are the students independent actions legal or illegal? International law is what we can force on other countries. If Iran agrees to accept international law, it is reasonable to argue that what they've done is illegal," said Kent.

"From information we've received, the students are representative of the whole country of Iran. Therefore, they have the support of the entire country," said Madani. "As far as any trouble between the north and south of Iran, there is trouble in the north. The (U.S. news) media is controlling the news coming out of Iran," he said.

"(Journalist) George Lewis in Tehran describes the entire news-gathering process as a circus. The information is both live and video-taped," said Wright. "Much of the tape seen on American TV is filmed and distributed by Iranians. I think it's noteworthy that the crisis began during 'sweeps week,' when everyone wants to get high ratings. A lot of information is wrong coming out, but with networks trying to jump each other, it's difficult to cover stories. Reporters are under pressure to get a scoop."

"The (militants) have strong anti-American sentiments," said Madani. "Islamic code defines ground rules for morality, economics, and social behavior. No individual faces a normal life without his own philosophy on life. In Iran, the people want a lifestyle with one certain set of rules. A conflict occurs

when someone tries to force you to live by his values. Iranians want Americans to realize they are sensitive to the Shah, and the American government's involvement with the Shah. Khomeini can be compared to Martin Luther King."

"Martin Luther King was a great man," said Lewis Parker, a black minister. "The people did not even give him power. In releasing the blacks and the women hostages, the militant students are wrong. All hostages are citizens of the U.S."

"You Iranian students are blessed to be here. You're in a country where you can voice your opinions. I couldn't do that in Iran. (Comparing Khomeini to King) is a slap in America's face and a slap in the black man's face. Violence is not the answer. Wrath and justice belong to God. No one has the right to deprive anyone else of life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness," said Parker.

"You don't understand the Islamic lifestyle," said one Iranian student. "According to Islamic tradition, when the U.S. gave the Shah (military and financial) aid and he used it to kill Iranians, the U.S. helped kill Iranians."

As to deporting Iranians out of the U.S., ACLU's Horowitz said, "Our government cannot discriminate against a single nationality. We saw the results of that during World War II."

The U.S. had not been unfriendly to Iranians, said Quartaert.

"Now, Iran's death rate from mortal diseases is lower than when Iran first started receiving U.S. aid. The industrial output is now higher. More Iranians are literate. The oil industry in Iran is, at best, a mixed blessing."

As to solutions to get the hostages back, "there is no possibility of taking military actions without getting the hostages killed," said Smith. "The President is handling the situation well. As far as military action goes, it is not feasible. Blocking the Persian Gulf is no good. This is not a military situation. Because of this, there is a great deal of pressure on the U.S. to cooperate with the militants in Iran. If anything should happen to the hostages, there will be an outcry in this country."

"The American people now know where Iran is, and how to pronounce it correctly," summarized Wright. "We, as Americans, do not want American integrity to be destroyed any more than it already has been. The hostage situation and use of hostages is not something new. We can't relate to their goals any more than they can relate to our apathy."

FOCUS con't.

COM faculty Dr. Roy Rhame (biology), Dr. John Hubisz (physics), and Jim Finley (political science) were contributing resource people.

The Focus-Forum Program is directed by Larry Smith, associate dean, Continuing Education and Community Services. It is a community-involvement program which began in 1974. He says the position of Focus-Forum is "an informed public actively involved and participating in the democratic processes, enhancing

the quality of government."

The Focus-Forum Newsletter is edited and coordinated by Bob Grafton, General Adult Education. The newsletter's contributors include local citizens, officials, educators, and outside experts.

"The forums and newsletter provide expression and exchange of ideas and perspectives vital for an informed community, proving the educational process is not limited to the classroom," said Grafton.



Panelists for GCCFA Forum were (l-r) Sam Kent, Bob Wright, Adm. John Smith, Dr. Joseph Dawson, Dr. Donald Quataert, Matthew Horowitz, L.V. Durland, and Khalli Yazdi. photo by Phil Johnson

Below are results of questionnaires distributed by GCCFA at the December 13, 1979, discussion on Iran. The results were completed by 61 people

- Are you personally angry about Americans being held hostage at the U. S. Embassy in Iran?
Yes 54 No 5 Undecided 2
- Do you approve of the way President Carter is handling the situation?
Approve 42 Disapprove 11 Undecided 8
- Do you think President Carter is doing all he can to free American hostages in Iran?
Yes 27 No 11 Undecided 19
- Do you agree with the American government's refusal to send the deposed Shah back to Iran in exchange for the release of the American hostages?
Do not send the Shah back 46 Send the Shah back 14 Undecided 1
- If American hostages are freed unharmed, do you think the U. S. should launch a military attack on Iran?
Yes 50 No 5 Undecided 6
- If American hostages are physically harmed or put on trial in Iran, do you think the U. S. should launch a military attack on Iran?
Yes 26 No 19 Undecided 16
- If the American hostages are freed unharmed, do you think the U. S. should impose an economic embargo?
Yes 11 No 49 Undecided 2
- If American hostages are physically harmed or put on trial in Iran, do you think the U. S. should impose an economic embargo?
Yes 52 No 9
- Do you agree the Shah should be judged by an international body such as The World Court?
Agree 50 Disagree 9 Undecided 2
- Do you agree peaceful demonstrations in the U. S. supporting the Iranian position should be permitted?
Agree 47 Disagree 14
- Do you agree the U. S. should allow the Shah permanent asylum in the U. S.?
Agree 15 Disagree 43 Undecided 3
- Is releasing the hostages, not the Shah, the only issue in the Iranian crisis?
Agree 18 Disagree 42 Undecided 1
- Should the Shah have been returned immediately to Iran?
Agree 12 Disagree 43 Undecided 2

Sound Room

by Lori L. Hall

Non-print media has added a new 5 x 8½ foot soundproof room in the Learning Resources Center.

"The special room is designed to isolate environmental work-area noise," says Director of Non-Print Media Jerry Anderson.

A preview room previously used for film-watching, video-tape-viewing, slide-sorting and synchronization failed to produce professional recordings. The preview room also allowed outside distractions (water cooler, ringing telephones, and footsteps) to disturb recording production.

"There was always something to interrupt you," states Anderson. "With proper equipment, we now can do a recording in a controlled environment, which will enable us to get a good master tape for duplication purposes."

The door of the soundproof room weighs over 300 lbs.

"The room is all modular, so there is flexibility. If it ever had to be moved,

it could be knocked down entirely and rebuilt," says Anderson. "We opted not to get a special floor. But we are going to put a carpet to further isolate it from the foundation of the building."

The special room arrived one month after ordered, and was built in two hours. The bid price was \$4,800. Anderson says the multi-purposed soundproof structure is "worth the cost."

The room is temporarily used as a video room and contains video-recording and monitoring equipment. Future additions to the room include a turntable, amplifiers, speakers, a tape deck, and a microphone which will ensure complete utilization of the room's facilities. Promotion tapes from the college will be produced in the room also.

Students may schedule time for music-listening and video-viewing, but recording will take priority.

The University of Texas uses over 150 of these specially-designed structures for music practice rooms, Anderson said.



Mike Williams Feb. 19

Singer-guitarist Mike Williams will appear in COM's College Center, February 19 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The concert is sponsored by Division of Fine Arts and Humanities, and COMSAB. Williams, a progressive country singer, has performed as an opening act for Olivia Newton-John, Jerry Jeff Walker, Elvin Bishop, Steve Martin, England Dan, and John Ford Coley. His two albums -- *The Radio Show* and *Free Man, Happy Man* -- are comprised of Williams' original songs.

Fitness Facilities

by Cliff Oliver and Alton Hayes

"Probably the most popular facilities at COM are our two racquetball courts," says Dan Travaille, chairman of Health, Recreation and Physical Education.

The courts accommodate only two players at a time, he says.

"As many as 30 people who've requested reservations have been turned down on occasion," Travaille said.

He emphasized the facilities were open to anyone attending or working at COM, as well as credit and non-credit students. Those using facilities will be required to follow HR & PE guidelines.

Facilities include a full gymnasium, housing a weights room, game room, dance studio, and indoor swimming pool. Adjacent to the training room (off the men's locker area) are a sauna, whirlpool, and massage tables.

In addition to the two racquetball courts, a lighted one-quarter-mile track and baseball field are also available.

Individuals or groups wishing to use facilities should contact Maryanne Urick at ext. 417 or 420, for reservation information.

Luau

Bring a date/spouse and come to the Leap Year Luau in the pool area from 6:30 PM to whenever Feb. 29.

The cover charge is a covered dish, with prizes for the best exotic dish. A prize will also be awarded for the best Hawaiian dress so drag out last summer's beach outfit and join the fun.

COM Arboretum

by Betty Williams

A five-year program is developing an arboretum on campus, according to Dr. Roy E. Rhame, biology/chemistry instructor and agricultural advisor.

An arboretum contains plants and trees for study and observation.

The COM arboretum will be located from the College Center to the Math Science Building and around Lake Eckerd.

The program, already in progress one year, will benefit students, Boy Scouts, and other groups. Local Boy Scouts at present have no location in the immediate area to learn various trees, a part of the scout tradition.

"I am selecting trees with various leaf formations to benefit the lab students," said Rhame. "This will be the largest arboretum in Galveston County.

"Our arboretum will consist of trees native to Texas. There are approximately 21 different trees

already on campus. I hope to have more than 30 on completion. After the trees are planted, shrubs will be added," Rhame said.

Area garden clubs and Horticulture Committee of Galveston donated two trees -- a red oak and a sweetgum-- which were planted January 15. At the presentation, the LaMarque Garden Club also donated \$50 to buy more trees.

In addition to the planting and care of the arboretum, Dr. Rhame is in charge of COM's greenhouse. Plants from the greenhouse are sold to provide funds for the arboretum.

Trees already on campus include cypress, cottonwood, tallow, mulberry, sycamore, black cherry, pecan, red maple, water oak, live oak, ash, magnolia, willow, American elm, black walnut, American holly, river birch, yupon, dogwood, sweetgum and red oak.

Vending Machines

by Betty Williams

COM's vending machines continue to present problems, but are under investigation, according to David Rac, Director of COM's Auxiliary Services.

Jiffy Java Company of Houston is under contract by COM to supply and maintain campus vending machines. These machines are located in the College Center and Tech-Voc Building.

Jiffy Java has held the contract for approximately six months. At the onset of the contract, Jiffy Java Co. installed new machines with a larger variety of foods, along with a change machine and microwave oven in the Tech-Voc Building.

In response to complaints concerning refunds, Rac says students "for the most part are not aware they can receive refunds through the Snack Bar at the College Center."

In order to have proper repairs, it is necessary for the person who loses money to specify malfunctions of machines.

The machines are scheduled to be refilled every 24-48 hours, according to Rac. However "repairs are done at the convenience of Jiffy Java Company," he said.

COM's profits from machine commissions go to buy supplies and budget the Snack Bar. According to Rac, this keeps prices as low as possible for students.

Rac stated some students are not aware COM does not come equipped with these machines.

"They are for the convenience and benefit of students and faculty,"

according to Rac. "The profit margin of these machines at COM is so small most distributors do not want to even bid for placement," said Rac.

Once the contract is signed and machines placed, the distributing company realizes the low profit margin and service falls off, according to Rac.

Each of the vending machines cost \$2,500 and up, which allows for substantial notes on each machine.

Rac admits he has been a little lax in providing information of refunds. He feels "students at COM have the ability to go deeper and realize the logistics and profits involved."

COMMENTS concerning campus vending machine story:

* Becca Wakefield: "I'm pleased with the variety and more nutritious foods available. Change machine, when it works, is a real asset."

* Sandra Devall: "I lost 30 cents today. But impressed with food. Concerned.. confusing and different operation instructions for each machine."

* Sonia Jacquet: "I think they should fix the change machines. A big change from last year, better variety."

* Helen Wilson: "Never found that they are reliable. Either machines are inoperable or out of the food you want, especially the drink machines."

* Mary Brown: "Dislike machines because they steal my money, and sometimes don't give correct change."

* Tammy Walker: "Generally like them, except when they're out of stuff."



New Phi Theta Kappa members enjoy reception following initiation ceremony. photo by Betty Williams

PTK Initiation

by Armando Rodriguez

Sigma Delta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa accepted 13 new members January 26 in the Fine Arts complex.

The chapter is COM's liaison with the national scholastic honor society.

Jack Grigg, PTK president, initiated new members in a candlelight ceremony.

Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Instruction and Student Life, opened the ceremonies with a short speech welcoming new members and their

families.

Members initiated were: Cheryl Vogtman, Danny Hernandez, Laura Morales, Allen Thomas, Paul Potter, Varlery Jackson, Jamie West, David Wills, Mary Kay Porter, Vickie Bilbry, Brett Babcock, Buddy Robinson, and Armando Rodriguez.

Present at the ceremony were PTK Vice-President Rachel Martinez and sponsor Jo Ann Pevoto. More than 25 guests attended the ceremony.

interCOM

VOL. 4, NO. 6 • A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 • MARCH 1980

Stage Band Receives Awards

by Betty Williams

COM's Stage Band won seven awards at Sam Houston State University in the Jazz Competition February 2.

COM music instructor Tom Arvidson received a trophy for "outstanding director." The entire band won a wall plaque for receiving three first division ratings. Several band members received "Outstanding Musician Awards" -- Paul Heiman (alto sax), Rick Weathersby (lead trumpet), Steve Montgomery (bass), Carl Napoli (drums), and Louis Payne (tenor sax).

"The judging was very strict, with very tough judges. I'm very proud we got a number one rating from each of the three judges," said

Arvidson.

"This real victory for the band -- and for COM -- will make both the band and college more visible to the public," said Arvidson.

The band has several programs planned for this year. On March 8, the band will go to Lee College in Baytown for competition. May 11 - 15 it will participate in a cultural exchange program with Mexico.

"Mexico will send a folk dance group and a concert band May 2 - 5," said Arvidson.

"We are working on our second LP album, which should be released during this year," said Arvidson.

"I am really proud of our band, and this year will be a turning point," said



Carmen Anderson

photo by OCS

Anderson -- Long Range Planning

by Phyllis Kostka

"The prime directive for 1980 will be quality education," said COM Board of Trustees member Carmen Anderson, outlining the future goals of COM.

The Long-Range Planning Committee, comprised of board members James Edwards, John Cox, and Carmen Anderson, is advised by COM executive staff Dr. Fred Taylor, President; Dr. Fern Ramirez, Dean of College and Financial Services; Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Instruction; George Miller, President's Assistant for Planning and Development. Resolutions drafted by the committee will be given to the All-College Council for additional input.

"Academic and technical-vocational education will be given equal consideration," replied Anderson, describing the committee's educational priorities

for the 1980 s.

"Due to a budget squeeze, there is going to have to be some compressing (of courses). Those offered will be more substantive," explained Anderson.

She said it was the consensus of the committee to center continuing education around the adult learner. In light of budget difficulties, programs for children would be cut first. Many are offered at Texas City's Lowry Center.

"Those programs vocational in nature will be stressed. But the committee feels avocational education teaches one to think, and is therefore essential in a democratic society," said Anderson.

When asked the difference between vocational and avocational education, Anderson replied, "It's the difference between making a living and making a life."

Enrollment Statistics

by Karen Hoffman

COM enrollment increased by 21 students for Spring 1980 semester. Total enrollment is 2,392, an increase from Fall 1979 semester enrollment of 2,371. The following figures are a breakdown of Spring enrollment.

Male	949	Freshmen	1,663
Female	1,443	Sophomore	442
	2,392		2,392
White	1,719		
Black	407		
Hispanic	184		
Asian	19		
Am. Indian	26		
Alien/Foreign			
National	37		
Not Reported	0		
	2,392		

In-District *	1,838
Out-of-District**	518
Non-Resident***	36
Not Reported	0
	2,392

* Residents of Texas and school districts which are included in COM's district. These school districts are Texas City, La Marque, Hitchcock, Santa Fe and Dickinson.

** Residents of Texas and all other school districts which are not included in COM's district.

*** Persons who have not resided in Texas for 12 months preceding date of registration.

There was a decrease of 66 in enrollment for Spring 1980, compared with Spring 1979.

Local Residents Surveyed

by Jay Tipton

Of the 100 people questioned in an INTERCOM poll, 68 said they or some member of their family used COM facilities.

Nineteen people used the entertainment facilities, 28 people used the recreational facilities. Eighteen people took classes for credit, and 15 took non-credit classes.

The 100 polled were residents of LaMarque and west Texas City.

The youngest "students" involved in COM programs were unborn babies, whose parents took a childbirth class. One mother was so impressed with the LaMaze teacher, she named her daughter after the woman. The oldest students were the senior citizens, who take credit and non-credit classes, and use the Senior Citizen Center.

Those polled felt COM served a useful purpose. Several had suggestions to

make:

- More publicity needs to be put out about the Continuing Education Program and its special events, and about plays and entertainment events.
- COM Arena Theatre should sell season passes at the beginning of the school year, respondents said.

"COM is fine, real fine. Not every small town can have a college," said Edmund Proveoust of La Marque.

Youngster Gretta Graber said, "It's fun. I swim at the pool and go to the plays."

Ann Rice says, "I use the Senior Citizen Center. It's very good. We do crafts, ceramics, and make things with dough."

Not one bad comment was made about COM by respondents.

Energy Consumption

by Becky La Croix

In August 1979, COM President Fred Taylor appointed an Energy Task Force (ETF) to develop and study programs to reduce campus energy consumption.

Members of the task force, with assistance from three local Union Carbide Company engineers, conducted a "Basic Energy Audit" October 30, 1979. Proposals were made by the ETF to achieve 40% reduction in energy consumption during the five years after the audit.

ETF Chairman is George Thomas, COM Associate Dean for Academic Programs. Thomas said the committee began work through subcommittees during the fall semester.

A four-day work week is being implemented for Summer Session I 1980. This proposal is on an experimental basis for one year, according to Thomas. Scheduling will be reduced to four days (Monday through Thursday) and until noon on Fridays.

When studying this proposal, the committee found 40% of COM classrooms not in use, said Thomas. Dr. Taylor said buildings not being used (as on Fridays) will have thermostats adjusted accordingly.

Concerning staff working schedules, Thomas said there was no college pol-

Continued on page 6

Graduation Deadline

Students who will complete graduation requirements by the end of Spring, Summer I, or Summer II 1980 should apply now in the Admissions and Records Office.

The deadline for graduation applications is March 28.

Applications received after this time will not be eligible for participation in commencement exercises or for inclusion in the list of graduates.

Editorial

InterCOM has always welcomed letters to the editor. Traditionally, U.S. journalistic style rightfully permits an editor to reduce lengthy material for space reasons. InterCOM offered Bordelon an opportunity to cut his four-page letter. He insisted the letter be used in original form or he would write another pleading editorial bias. Therefore, the InterCOM hereby prints his entire response. — Ed.

Reproach

by Lori L. Hall

"Campus governance is already turning from a tone of cooperation and mutual tolerance to one of competition and mistrust," stated a recent Carnegie Council's final report in **Chronicle of Higher Education**.

No longer is this merely a prophetic statement at COM.

A discussion draft presented by the Long-Range Planning Committee suggests rising inflation and limited energy supplies will force COM to set future priorities in the areas of programs and services.

The primary goals of institutions of higher learning are academic freedom, intellectual evolution, and future careers of both students and faculty. Obviously, the suggested cutting of services or programs opens a Pandora's box of fears.

Faculty and staff members are already defensively minimizing communication, through closed vehicles of communication. Communication norms have reversed; more reproach occurs than approach. Memo-wars, meetings about people (rather than with them), a lack of honest confrontation have replaced "the good old days" of unity and openness.

As secondary schools enter the 1980s, budget tightening will test unstable institutions. If all segments of the COM community work to open lines of communication, fears resulting in mistrust and competition may disappear. Results of open communication would permit input from all segments at COM to help decide which services and programs should continue. Furthermore, political maneuvering would not as likely be suspected.

A Democracy?

by Betty Williams

COM students have little to say about changes in policies and rules of the educational environment at COM. The average age of COM students is 28, according to Donna Anderson, Research Assistant. COM students still have limited participation in changes taking place at the college.

According to COM President Dr. Fred Taylor, pre-registration is to be dropped, as announced in an OCS news release February 11th.

This is only one change to take place beginning this summer, according to the news release.

This decision was yet another reached by COM's administration "behind closed doors."

COM's administrators consistently presume on certain rights of COM students. In the past, COM students have been described by some administrators in taped interviews as having little or no intelligence.

COM students deserve an equal say in the decision - and policy - making meetings within COM.

U.S. citizens must "protect and serve" our country. Yet we seem to have no right to speak out against certain new COM policies; we have no say in the way our school is run.

Are budget solutions decided upon by administration feasible? Will they have an adverse consequence later? The COM community's input is necessary. Who decided administration knows best?

One of COM's big selling points is its convenience. To deprive Galveston County of COM's convenient schedule may reduce attendance. The overall convenience of the majority of students and faculty has been overlooked.

Conservation must begin somewhere. Cutting expenditures would certainly be a move in the right direction.

Consultants cost a considerable amount of money. There are other alternatives. Why are we spending thousands of dollars on consultants when the COM budget is purported to be in deficit? People attending COM have opinions about how to cut expenditures. Surely they would be willing to write down suggestions and leave them at the Information Desk in the Administration Building.

This is a "democratic" school, according to the COM Prospectus (a pamphlet giving the original guidelines for hiring, firing, and maintaining of the staff members). It is currently under examination by a committee consisting of James Simpson, Board of Trustees Chairman; Robert Green, M.D., BOT Secretary; Bill Flaniken, BOT President; Ann Miller, Reference Librarian; Bill Spillar, Adult Basic Education Director; Paul Williamson, biology instructor; Bob Hodgins, business instructor.

Also present at the meetings will be Taylor; Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Instruction and Student Development; and Dr. Fern Ramirez, Dean of College and Financial Services.

They are meeting because administrators say the Prospectus needs to be changed. Some faculty and staff says it doesn't. No students are involved.

Are students merely to conform to the administration's rules, with no opportunity to offer ideas? The easy way is not always the one without conflict. Life can be a participatory experience, a challenge, or blind conformity. Students should demand a chance for democracy.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Since there was no request for information about the Mathematics Learning Center, and no mathematics instructor was interviewed by Phyllis Kostka prior to her editorial in the InterCOM February 1980, I think in the interest of "fair play" for all those students who have successfully completed the program and for the instructors who have spent countless hours working in the program a reply to the editorial is necessary. I will try to respond to each of the ideas expressed in the editorial.

"Math instruction at C.O.M. is little more than a glorified correspondence course." Not all mathematics courses taught at COM are taught via the Mathematics Learning Center, only the remedial courses. The college level courses -- Introduction to Probability and Statistics, Finite Mathematics, Analysis, Calculus I, II, and III, Differential Equations, Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I and II, and Linear Algebra -- are taught by traditional methods. Using the MLC for remedial mathematics means that we are able to offer more mathematics to more students, more often, at all hours of the week, to students with divergent backgrounds, attitudes, abilities and work loads. By definition it is not a correspondence course; however, if it were, better glorified than unglorified.

"An average of 30 students are in each math section. These students range from Math 130 to Math 135, with a sprinkling of a few from each level in every section." Essentially this is true, but the "sprinkling" (distribution) of students in the courses is such that Math 130 and 131 meet together and Math 132 through 135 meet together. In this way there is a more homogeneous grouping. If we built our schedule so that there was complete homogeneity, we would be forced for economic reasons to offer fewer sections and thus fail to accommodate as many student's schedules as we can now. We must keep in mind that many of the MLC courses are prerequisites to other courses and we must make them available to as many students as possible every semester. Perhaps this is the wrong approach for our remedial program. If anyone has a better approach to scheduling, we are certainly interested. We are proud to point out that approximately 530 students use the MLC each semester. We believe that is because we have made mathematics available to them in the best way possible.

"Each class period runs 80 minutes. This gives each student approximately 2.6 minutes of the instructor's time -- obviously insufficient time for adequate clarification." A half-truth. I answer more specific student questions in that 80 minutes than I may answer in 15 hours of a lecture class. In the MLC the student and instructor interact on a one-to-one basis. The student is active. In a lecture class the student sits passively while the instructor is active. I invite anyone to attend the MLC and see for themselves how much time is devoted to each student. Ms. Kostka would have you believe that each student is granted 2.6 minutes of teacher time. This is a misguided interpretation of a statistical mean. Some students do not require as much attention as others, so time devoted to each student is dispersed unevenly. This is a case where understanding the standard deviation is more important than knowledge of the mean. Ms. Kostka is enrolled in one of my MLC sections. I can recall asking her if she needed assistance on at least four occasions. She refused any assistance, so that left

Continued on page 3

To the Editor:

I wish to point out that the Iranian Forum ballot tabulation figures published in your February 1980 issue were somewhat inaccurate, although through no fault of your own.

The initial ballot count on question No. 5 was, unfortunately, transposed when recorded and your office received that initial report. In fact, the response to question No. 5 ("If Americans are freed unharmed, do you think the U.S. should launch a military attack on Iran?") was Yes - 0, No - 59, and Not Sure - 5.

We regret you did not receive the correct count.

Bob Handy

Editor	Lori L. Hall
Asst. Editor	Beverly Stephens
Staff Writers	

DuRay Block	Phyllis Kostka
Marguerite Brown	Becky La Croix
Mary Brown	Joe Medina
Donna Falco	Cliff Oliver
Becky Freeman	Armando Rodriguez
Dewane Garrett	Beverly Stephens
Lori L. Hall	Jay Tipton
Alton Hayes	Laura Wager
Karen Hoffman	Betty Williams

Graphic Designer	Phyllis Kostka
Faculty Advisor	Kit van Cleave

InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the COM community. Please send letters, suggestions or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities, Suite B, LRC, or drop in InterCOM box in the College Center. Stories marked (OCS) are press releases from the COM Office of Communication Services.

Letter to Editor

Continued from page 2

at least 10.4 minutes (2.6 x 4) of time I could devote to another student. The point is made.

"This system has been in operation at COM since its opening in 1967." False. When we opened in 1967, we offered traditional college freshman level courses taught by traditional methods. In the first year of operation it was evident that we needed curriculum changes and changes in the methods of instruction. There was an interim period from 1968 to 1971 when the curriculum reflected more remedial courses and programmed instruction was introduced. The current curriculum, audio-tutorial mode of instruction, and scheduling ideas were instituted in 1971.

"Economically, it lessens need for additional faculty (nine instructors teach 66 sections of mathematics)." Misleading. An instructor's single assignment in the MLC consists of approximately 30 students meeting 3 times a week for 80 minutes each meeting. For this semester the MLC has the equivalent of 18 traditional sections of class. One assignment of a MLC section is not different than that of any other section assignment, when you consider the number of students, the frequency of meetings, and the time interval of each class.

"The question arises on the matter of attendance. . . . If teaching is not mandatory, why should attendance be so?" What, to Ms. Kostka, is teaching? Is it the act of standing before a passive group and reading notes? Teaching utilizes many techniques, levels of cognition, varied activities, etc. Teaching methods used in the MLC are different than those to which most students are accustomed, but this does not mean learning is not taking place. Causing learning to take place is what teaching is about. It takes more preparation and more intense cognition on the part of a teacher to pull off a MLC class. There are questions to answer from arithmetic to elementary functions, requiring you to shift your thinking constantly. All materials, tests, etc. must be done well in advance of the class so that students who wish to accelerate can do so. The students' progress must be monitored daily since they are moving at different rates. This all adds up to a diverse, variable learning environment that is demanding of a teacher. "Teaching is not mandatory." That depends on a narrow, shallow definition of teaching.

Ms. Kostka's editorial questions mandatory attendance. Page 28 of the 1979-80 college catalog states:

"Students at College of the Mainland are expected to punctually attend every session of all classes for which they are registered. Students are not permitted a set number of 'cuts'."

This attendance policy is a policy of the Board of Trustees who represent the taxpayers of the college district. It is inconceivable that they would support funding of any class activity that would not require at least attendance let alone performance of some skill. If students are encountering classes in which attendance is not required, they should bring this to the attention of the Dean of Instruction. Attendance is necessary to fulfill requirements for various financial assistance programs for students, SER/CETA, BEOG, veteran's benefits, child care programs, etc. If we did not require attendance, programs would lose merit at COM and stand a good chance of termination. Who would lose? The students. Since we strengthened our attendance in the MLC, we can show that students perform better and tend to complete their course work on time. Experiments in the past showed that allowing students to work at their own pace without attending class was disastrous. We concluded that given the opportunity to procrastinate, most students will. It would be irresponsible then to create an atmosphere for putting off until tomorrow what could be done today. If Phyllis Kostka has difficulty attending class, perhaps she should take a correspondence course.

When I consider all the hours, work, frustrations, expense, etc. that have

gone into the evolution and building of the MLC, all the students who have labored, studied, developed, and persevered in the MLC, I cannot let criticism go unanswered. In the Fall of 1978, Bill Peace, chairman of the Natural Science and Mathematics Division, along with the mathematics instructors, struggled over whether or not to continue the remedial program as it was, with some improvements, or to abandon the whole idea and return to the traditional approach. The decision was clear with the evidence available. With all its shortcomings, the advantages so far outweighed the disadvantages we decided to continue. The greatest obstacle to overcome in mathematics education is the student's self-concept of his or her ability to do mathematics. In 1971, 1972, and 1974 studies were done to see if student attitudes about their ability to do mathematics changed positively after taking a course in the MLC. Attitudes did change positively and this was one factor that led to the decision to continue the program.

We believe our program has provided a successful review of high school mathematics for the student who can accelerate through the course or the student who progresses at a slower rate. Our program has been evaluated and scrutinized each semester, probably more so than any other program on the campus. Professors from other colleges and universities come to our campus to see the MLC in operation and are generally impressed by what we have accomplished. We know that there are some students we cannot help and some who cannot adapt to the MLC method of instruction, but for now it is the best we have to offer.

M.G. Bordelon

Phyllis Kostka replies:

I regret Mike Bordelon did not comprehend the theme of my editorial, "Fair Play." I said only that students should not have to sit in any classroom when they have completed their daily test, and daily requirements. Students completing tests in Bordelon's class are required to sit in the classroom for the entire 80 minutes. It matters not whether tests were taken, assignments completed, or if the student is ahead in the work. One sits there, or one is considered absent.

Bordelon seems to feel he read an attack on the entire COM Math Department. He did not.

I am glad he agrees with me on the following points: 1) economical feasibility, 2) broad course availability, 3) attention required.

However, there are some discrepancies in his letter which require clearing up.

• InterCOM requested information from a secretary in the math department (whose name will be withheld). Printed data came from that source.

• It is not necessary to interview for an editorial. As I am currently enrolled in Math 133, I have sufficient resources to form an editorial opinion.

• That Math 130 through 135 are "remedial" courses is an opinion not shared by the COM catalog. If so "College Algebra" should be renamed "Remedial College Algebra" and should not be required for degree programs.

• Perhaps, as Bordelon states, if "In a lecture class the students sit passively while the instructor is active. . ." one could logically assume that in MLC, the instructor sits passively while the student is active. Whether or not a student listening to taped material is active or not is a matter of conjecture.

• I feel personal attacks have no place in print and will not respond to them.

The next discrepancy arises over the meaning of the word "cut." Bordelon has a "cut," and leaving the room after completing the day's test and tasks, confused. They are not the same thing. That one is required to sit around after test completion is an unreasonable and rigid requirement. But it is not a "cut".

COM Presents

Sound of Music

by Betty Williams

COM will present **The Sound of Music** March 20th in COM's Arena Theatre.

Teresa Christensen will play Maria, Martin Fleck will play Von Trapp, Kate Counsell will play Mother Abbess. All have previously performed in COM productions, according to Jack Westin, director of the COM production.

"Over 150 local people will work on the production," said Westin.

"We look for a large turnout. The show sold over 1400 tickets, including Guild Members, before the box office even opened," said Westin. "Usually auditions predict the success of ticket sales. The overall reaction to tryouts was fantastic."

"**The Sound of Music** set an all-time COM audition record. Usually from 10 to 100 people try out. **The Sound of**

Music had around 400," stated Westin.

"It was tough to choose a cast because so many good performers auditioned," said Westin.

The Sound of Music was originally produced in New York in 1959. It was written by Richard Rogers, composer, and librettist Oscar Hammerstein. The pair also wrote "King and I," "South Pacific," and "Oklahoma."

In 1966, **Esquire** critics stated **The Sound of Music** would replace **Gone With the Wind** as the top film. They found it moving and an interesting piece of work.

The Sound of Music has 20 scenes. There will be 46 people in the cast, and about the same number for technical crews.

Who's Who at COM

by Laura Wager

The Dean's Highest Honors List and the Dean's List for the Fall 1979 semester has been announced by Dr. Donald F. Mortvedt, COM Dean of Instruction and Student Development.

The lists designate outstanding academic achievement. A student must complete 12 semester credit hours during one semester with all A's to be placed on the Dean's Highest Honors List. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must complete 12 semester credit hours during one semester with a G.P.A. of 3.3.

Listed is the Dean's Highest Honors List: Alta Loma: Betty Bardwell, Beth Bratton; Arcadia: Jackie Grigg, Harvey Haylock, Barbara Schulze; Bacliff: Stephen

Miller, Lloyd Pate; Dickinson: John Presley, Linda Buitron, Nanette Faget, Karen L. Hornberger, Phyllis Kostka, Joyce Lobb, John Ludlow Jr., Mary Porter, Vicki Steed, Frederick Werner; Galveston: Raymon Freeman Jr., Jack Harris, Rachel Martinez, Joseph Tramonte Jr.; Hitchcock: Irma Chapa, Daniel Levin, Helen H. Prather; Houston: Tammy Copple, Marty Dial, Katrina D. Packard; La Marque: Glenda J. Finley, Diane Garcia, Richard Hill, Armeda Smith; League City: Debra Hill; Texas City: Michael Couch, Cindy L. Gassner, Roma Herbeck, Virgil Powers, Lisa Reazin, Hubert D. Richard, Robert Soderblom, R. Kirk Thomasson, Stephanie Varner, Carol Verrett, Kathy S. Wood; Webster: Verlinda Gwynn.

Profiles



Laura Gordy

photo by Phil Johnson

Laura Gordy

by Lori L. Hall

COM piano instructor Laura Gordy will perform works by Brahms, Hindemith, and Francoeur in a duo recital with Houston Symphony Cellist Sam Magill Wednesday, March 19 at 12:30 in the Fine Arts Gallery.

Gordy recently completed her masters in piano performance at Rice University Shepherd School of Music. She previously received her Bachelor of Music from University of Cincinnati in 1976.

"While I've been trying to reach the goals necessary for getting degrees, time hasn't allowed for reflection and serious study of the real refinements in piano -- the difference in a good pianist and an artistic performer.

"I am looking forward to some time to learn repertoire. I would like to learn a lot of standard solo and ensemble repertoire, and do some rethinking about piano technique and playing," says Gordy.

Laura began piano lessons at the age of seven.

"I went through what many people do when they take lessons as a child -- didn't particularly take it seriously. I always really loved music. I don't think I focused on piano as a means of expression until I was 13. Then, it was due to the influence of a teacher."

Generally, Laura enjoys music by Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms. But her favorite piano work is usually "the one I'm working on at the moment. I can't afford it to be any

other way. If I'm less than absorbed, it just doesn't come out right."

Laura stays "absorbed" because she frequently does free-lance accompanying. This requires practicing an average of 3 to 4 hours daily.

"When I'm under the gun," says Gordy, "(practicing) can reach ridiculous proportions."

When asked about the direction of today's music, Gordy responded, "(Contemporary music) has been enriched by the influence of jazz, elec-

tronic music and multi-media. The contemporary style combines elements of theater with more traditional music ideas. It's fun to perform. Where it's going, I don't know.

"During the 1960s, there was a trend to make music very cerebral. Chance music allowed almost anything to happen, and let the performer have a great deal of input.

"In the 1970s, composers began to integrate less-structured things into music, making a direct emotional appeal. They returned to the idea -- the audience must not go away without being moved in some way."

After teaching both piano and music appreciation at COM, Gordy states, "I really respect my colleagues. I enjoy working for Larry Stanley very much. They are an exceptionally fine collection of artists and musicians. I find that very stimulating."

Emmeline Dodd

"I was a pre-med major in college until I chose marriage instead. I must have always known I really wanted to teach," says Emmeline Dodd, COM biology instructor.

Biology is her "first love." She spent two years doing biological research at NASA.

"I spent most of my time sprinkling moondust on invertebrate animals to see their reactions," says Dodd. She admits after awhile "it became boring, since there were no significant reactions to be studied."

Dodd finds teaching far from boring. This is her eighth year at COM. She has also taught in Pasadena and Deer Park Independent School Districts, and San Jacinto Junior College.

She received her BA and MA from Stephen F. Austin in 1961 and 1965. In May, she will receive her

masters in accounting from UH/CLC.

When asked why a biology instructor decides to take accounting Dodd replies, "I find it fun and relaxing."

Since Dodd also has graduate minors in English and psychology, her students learn correct spelling of scientific terms, as well as their definitions.

Like English and history, biology is a required course for almost any major. Dodd feels it is a challenge to teach biology to business, math, music, and art majors.

"This might very well be their last chance to hear about plants, animals, or the way their own bodies work. They may never come in contact with a course like this again. That's why I feel biology is a very important course for any major,"

Communication Lab

by DeWane Garrett

"Students should take full advantage of the writing lab as well as writing courses," says Linda Bell, COM Writing Lab manager. "The communications lab is an effective way to develop and improve students' basic writing skills.

"The major objective is to promote communications, instead of classifying these courses as remedial. They should be used as a reference tool for self-improvement," said Bell.

Born in Orange, Bell was raised in Texas City and is a graduate of TCHS. She has resided in Alta Loma for 13 years.

Formerly a COM student, she is currently a graduate student at UH Main Campus, majoring in elementary education and reading. She has obtained a business certificate from Durham Business School.

Before joining the staff at COM, Bell was assistant administrator to the vice-president of a marketing firm, and taught at Santa Fe High School for five years.



photo by Phil Johnson

Linda Bell

Married, she has a son Jason, 12. Her husband Tom is a professional cowboy who trains horses for rodeo performances.

Her hobbies include traveling, horseback riding, and following rodeos.

Kene Arnold

by D.J. Falco

"Music is more mental than physical," says Kene Arnold, COM vocal coach and accompanist for COM Singers.

"I learned the value of that statement when doing **(Jesus Christ) Superstar**."

Arnold, a baritone, gave an outstanding performance as Judas (a tenor role) in COM's 1979 production of **Jesus Christ Superstar**. Previously he had not done any serious singing in three years. He worked extensively to get his voice into shape for the role.

In **Godspell**, a 1976 COM production, Arnold portrayed Jesus Christ. Unsure of how he would be received as a black Christ, Arnold revealed, "It was one of the very few times I can recall being (racially) color-conscious." He still wears the gold star of David given to him by the Galveston Area Jewish Council.

Arnold is a Gemini -- the sign of Twins, best noted for dual personality traits. He explains, "I enjoyed the challenge of playing both good and bad guys. It was a challenge to make the bad guy a good guy. Actually, Judas was more frustrated than bad."

Arnold, who has studied piano

since age four, is vocal coach and accompanist at Ball High School in Galveston. He also directs three church choirs (children, teenagers, and adults) at Barbour's Chapel in Texas City, and organized the children's and teenager's choir.

Three days a week, he is on the highway at lunchtime, driving from The Island to The Mainland for choir practice at COM, and back to Galveston. It's not unusual for him to leave the house at 7:30 AM and get home at 11:30 or 12 PM. "Being that busy is what keeps me in shape musically."

Even with that schedule, he still finds time to write music. He is presently working on vocal pieces for COM Singers to perform on their May cultural exchange trip to Mexico. He will present them to Larry Stanley, COM Chairman, Department of Humanities and Fine Arts, and Director of the Singers, "... if they turn out to be decent pieces of music."

Arnold was well-disciplined as a youngster. It was not unusual for him to get up at 5 AM for quiet piano practice before school. He realizes, however, each student is an individual, and focuses on tailoring

Continued on page 7

says Dodd.

Her hobbies include camping with husband Bob, who teaches economics and business law at COM. Both are looking forward to camping in Montana and Canada this summer.

When not teaching, attending classes, or "getting back to nature," Dodd is probably doing another of her favorite things -- growing bromeliads. She is an active member in the Bromeliad Society in Houston.

Whether it's in or out of the classroom, Dodd gets "excited about living things."

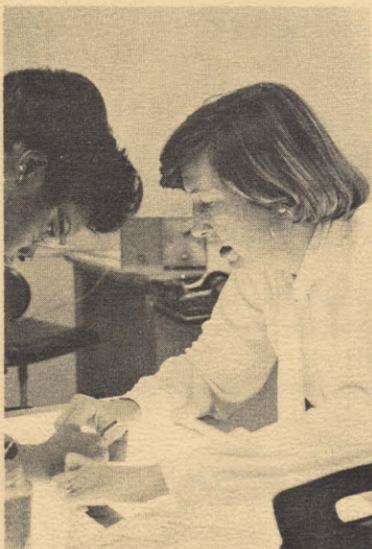
Although some will leave her biology class at the end of spring semester never again to hear about photosynthesis, mitosis, or DNA, she hopes many will carry away general knowledge and understanding of biology and life.



Emmeline Dodd

Sandra Devall

by Marguerite Brown



Sandra Devall

"I've learned to be satisfied with what I can accomplish. This is how I got into list-making. I now write down what I'd like to do, then figure out what I can do. Then I promptly lose the list," says Sandra Devall, COM graphic arts instructor. There are not enough hours in a day to teach all I have learned about graphic arts, and that's frustrating," she says.

Devall is at the point in her life where "you become aware there are more good things in life than there is time to do them"

She feels 1980 is a perfect time to reflect on her 10 years in teaching,

and 10 years in industry.

"I changed my career from industry to teaching. So I feel younger, in philosophy," she says. "I am more comfortable with myself. It was sometimes frustrating how industry handled paperwork. The main thought now is the student cycle, trying something new. My first year of being a teacher got me interested in COM student's heritage. This led to creation of **Firewheel** magazine.

"I've enjoyed growing old with other COM teachers. During registration, we compare notes. It's nice to have people who have stayed around awhile, to associate with them year after year, learn techniques.

"My hobby was learning to be a country girl. Born in Houston, I progressed from there to Dickinson -- which is no longer the country. So I went one step further." Devall went to San Marcos and learned how to butcher and dress hogs. "We went through the process of killing, hanging, dressing, making our own sausage casing, smoking bacon, curing hams. This is backbreaking, but very rewarding work."

Her future plans include more night classes, and she is currently taking Spanish.

"I tell students to slow down, so they can get more done. But I have trouble slowing down," she says with a smile.



Dr. Zelda Rick

Rick Promotes Change

by Jay Tipton

"It's so varied, it's never the same two days running. I can create as I go along," says Dr. Zelda Rick, COM Director of Community Resource Development.

Her job, Rick explained, "keeps evolving." The community resource program offers a wide range of courses and activities at a nominal cost to area residents.

Dr. Rick handles three major categories of work. She is in charge of COM's general adult continuing-education classes, held on and off the campus. She also works with local towns to help develop community councils.

Dr. Rick considers her most important and time-consuming function to be "the development of new approaches to adult education.

"I am trying to find new ways to offer COM's educational services, and determine what other needs we can fill," she says.

Her on-campus associate is secretary Lochie Fowler. Community Education Coordinator Doris Branch (Dickinson), Community Education Director Claude McElvain (Hitchcock), and Director of Vocational Education Joyce Hagerman (Santa Fe), comprise the rest of Rick's staff.

Dr. Rick is a member of COM's All-College Council, and the Marketing Committee, which determines educational needs of the area and how to meet them.

Dr. Rick joined COM in August 1976. Prior to that she was Adult Education Director for the Victoria School District.

While working on her Ph.D, she researched "assessment of competencies needed by superintendents in small school districts, who also serve as directors of vocational education."

She received her doctorate and masters in Education Administration from Texas A & M, and her BA in liberal arts from Rice University.

Rick, who lives in Houston, is a member of the Community Action Council of Galveston County; Adults, Latin and American Services; Santa Fe Vocational Education Advisory Commission; Houston Commission for the Humanities; Galveston County Social Services Directors; and Hitchcock Community Council.

She is also a member of the National Community Education Association; Texas Community Education Association; Texas Association for Continuing Education; American Vocational Association, and Texas Vocational Association. She is a life member of the Victoria League of Women Voters.

James Templer

by Beverly Stephens

"I'd love to see COM become an area fine arts center. That's one of my dreams," states James Templer, COM art instructor.

Templer, born October 6, 1945, grew up in Uvalde where "there was no art education and art was thought of as an avocation. At that time the most acceptable form of professional art was commercial art," he adds.

"When I graduated from Uvalde High School in 1964, the only exposure I'd had to art was through **Life** magazine. In spite of having no formal art background, entering college as a pre-dental major, and spending three years in the army, I somehow managed to make art my career.

"All painting is abstract. I'm sure

you can find artists who disagree with me on that. All painting is judged on the same basic standards: color, form, texture, spatial effects, and aesthetic arrangement of formal elements.

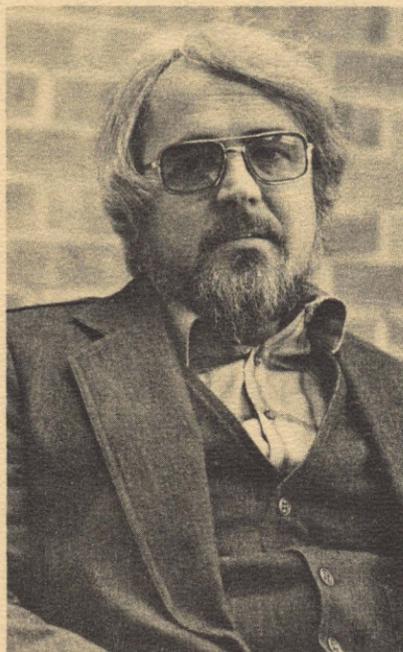
"Abstract means 'removed from the whole' and is a term that fits all aspects of art. Even if you have a model for a painting, it will not look exactly the same as the model. It's the same way with a photograph--it just can't capture the whole.

"I choose not to put all information in my paintings. Basically, I use shapes, colors, and textures. I'm beginning to get more cognitive--starting to use more visual information in my own work," he says.

Continued on page 7

Larry Stanley

by D. J. Falco



Larry Stanley

"I like the idea COM students are thought of as colleagues rather than underlings. Education should not be an indoctrinating process. Everyone should be a learner," says Larry Stanley, COM Chairman Department of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Stanley was first attracted to COM by the philosophical base spelled out in the college Prospectus. He feels now, however, "COM isn't very healthy as a total institution." As Chairman of the All-College Council (a new elected body to give faculty, students, and staff greater impact on the decision-making process), Stanley has strong ideas about how educational systems function best.

The COM Prospectus states the relationship between administration

and faculty is a colleague relationship.

"The (proper) role of the administrator is really more of a servant. What the administrator ought to be doing is freeing the resources (in order to make) the learning situation happen the best way possible," he says.

Stanley came to COM in 1970, as music instructor. He was the first faculty member to develop a vocal music program. Four years later, he was made Director of Fine Arts.

He had taught music three years at Wharton County Junior College, and two years at Howard County Junior College in Big Spring, Texas.

He has a Bachelor of Music Degree from Baylor University (1961) and a Master of Arts Degree from Sam Houston State University (1964).

Regarding the COM Fine Arts facul-

ty, Stanley said, "I believe we have one of the most talented groups of people on the faculty." His biggest problem is "making their talents well-known in the community, so more people can take advantage of the opportunities that exist." Upcoming plans include keeping in contact with high school personnel, increasing publicity, and getting COM performing groups more exposure.

Stanley, also Director of COM Singers, will accompany the choral group on a cultural exchange trip (sponsored by Office of International Affairs and Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs). COM Singers, Stage Band, and Amigos Club go to Mexico in May. He has planned several fund-raising projects to finance the trip, such as singing telegrams, concerts, a flea market, and theatre concession.



Prospectus

by Phyllis Kostka

Consensus was reached to make no substantive changes in COM's Prospectus at a February 28 meeting of the Review Committee.

The committee, consisting of faculty and staff members Ann Miller, Bill Spillar, Paul Williams, and board members James P. Simpson, Robert P. Green, M.D., and Bill W. Flaniken, was formed to review the Prospectus and consider possible revisions.

The committee researched the subject, and collected faculty and staff input.

"Staff and faculty who have discussed potential revision of the Prospectus . . . have been unanimous in their feeling that the philosophy, missions and relationships set forth in the document remain as they are written," stated a report submitted to the committee by Ann Miller, Reference Librarian.

Dr. Robert P. Green suggested the wording of the Prospectus be changed to reflect present, rather than past tense, and attention be given to correct grammar, syntax and punctuation.

The committee concurred on the matter of grammar, but stated the document was flexible and subject to interpretation for the present and the future.

James P. Simpson appointed Dr. Robert Green, M.D., and Dr. Fern Ramirez, Dean, Financial and College Services, to have two English instructors to grammatically correct the Prospectus. The corrected document will be presented to committee members for reaffirmation at the March 28 meeting.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT! Police in Lebanon have asked camel herders to use fluorescent paint on their camels' humps in order to reduce the number of car versus camel accidents at night.

Tech-Voc Awards Luncheon

by Marguerite Brown

Joe Rubio, Associate Dean of COM's Technical-Vocational Programs, was Chairman of COM's Technical/Vocational Annual Advisory Awards Luncheon, held to honor members of the local community who have contributed to technical-vocational education.

A. R. (Babe) Schwartz, Galveston County State Senator, was guest speaker at the Awards luncheon, held at COM's College Center. Award nominees were selected by COM directors, faculty, chairpersons, and associate dean for their outstanding performance in technical-vocational.

"We are indeed grateful to dedicated men and women who have made solid contributions to the enhancement of technical-vocational education in our state," said Rubio.

W. A. Grusey, director of post-secondary programs for Texas Education Agency, presented the awards to David M. Bateman, manager, Southern Comfort Company; Richard J. Daigle,

C/W Workshop

by Joe Medina

COM held a country/western dance workshop Friday, February 22, from 8-9:30 PM.

Eileen Bauerlein, president of the dance workshop and a teacher at San Jacinto College, taught lessons to some 35 couples.

LaMarque's Lester Ingram, president of the 1979 workshop, and wife Dorothy attended, as well as 70 other Galveston County and area citizens.

Beginners classes are held at COM, McAdams' Junior High in Dickinson, Texas City's Nessler Center, and League City's Civic Center.

A few dances taught were the two-step, "Cotton-Eyed Joe", eight-step polka, and "Ten Pretty Girls".

Another workshop is to be held April 11, 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Cost is \$2 per person.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Urick or Becky King at ext. 417 or 420.

Webb Society Convention

by Mary O. Brown

Texas History students and Firewheel staff attended a convention March 6, 7, and 8 in Austin.

Accompanied by sponsor Alex Pratt, COM history instructor, the group visited historical sights.

COM's Firewheel magazine staff presented a slide presentation at the convention, showing the class laying out the fall 1979 magazine.

The 1980 annual convention was the associations 84th year. There were 22 sessions of Texas History. Luncheon speakers were Ben E. Pingnot, First Vice President and Marilyn M. Sibley, Second Vice-President. A presidential address was given by Ben H. Procter, President.

COM's Firewheel offices are Editor David Schafer, and Assistant Editors Betty Monych, Marguerite Brown, and Mary Brown.

The Webb Society is a heritage organization.

president, Galveston County Chapter, American Institute of Banking; David L. Floyd, training director, Galveston Electrical JATC (Joint Apprenticeship Training Council).

Also honored were Parker Floyd, supervisor, U of H Print shop; Charlie L. Gordy, Gordy & Gordy Real Estate; Loretta Hulse, systems analyst, Texas City Refining; Lowell P. Kyle, Coordinator of College Programs; Frances V. McMillian, Director of Nursing, Memorial Hospital, Galveston County; Robert H. Roy, training director, Fluor; Richard V. Sander, Narcotics Division, Houston Police Department; Ebert N. Steele, management development supervisor, Monsanto Company.

Others receiving awards were Jo Ann White, director, Child Development Program, UH/CLC; Raymond Worrell, director, Employee Relations, Union Carbide Corporation; Barbara D. Young, assistant director, Nursing, Memorial Hospital of Galveston County.

Round and Round the Garden

by Beverly Stephens

COM's Community Theatre continued its season with the production of Alan Ayckbourn's **Round and Round the Garden**.

COM's production of **R & RG** was generally impressive, but at times just plain boring.

R & RG, the third part of Ayckbourn's **The Norman Conquests**, was presented in co-operation with UH/CLC and Clear Creek Country Theatre.

UH/CLC presented **Table Manners**, and CCCT presented **Living Together**. The three plays form the intricate parts of a puzzle, revealing different views of the same story.

The COM cast never quite got into character during the performance. Adam Hester was a "cute" Norman. It was easy to believe Hester was portraying Norman; it was difficult to believe Hester was Norman.

Donna Hester's Annie was boring (and she appeared bored throughout the performance). Hester gave the impression she would have liked to have been home watching the Olympics instead of being on-stage.

R.J. Maxwell's portrayal of Tom, an insufferable bore, was the best part of the production. Maxwell's Tom was naive, formal, and funny.

Lindy Pierson (Ruth) was almost believable, yet Pierson was another of the cast who appeared bored with her scenery.

Bryan Meyers and Andrea Miller stole the show as Sarah and Reg. Meyers seemed to enjoy himself and was a definite plus to the show. Miller's Sarah was very reminiscent of her Lucy (from COM's 1978 **You're a Good Man Charlie Brown**) -- crabby at best. Miller gave the impression she had been brought in at the last minute. Her performance was not up to those COM audiences are prepared to see from her.

John Fronczak designed the scenery. It could best be described as simple (very simple -- perhaps too simple). The Pepto-Bismol pink and grass green were nauseating.

Jack Westin was lighting designer. Lighting is usually one of the strongest points in any COM production, but the lighting was simple and somewhat insulting. The lights were set and then left until the end of each scene.

Director Reggie Schwander tried to make use of some very funny Ayckbourn lines. Unfortunately the audience laughs did not come when the actors expected. The actors weren't prepared for laughter, and this cost the show some lines.

Schwander had the cast using British accents, to reinforce the English setting and bring the original tone to the work. That would have been fine, except no two actors had the same type of accent. The accents ranged from very British, to almost Scarsdale, to a Texas twang. If the accents had to be used, they should have been consistent.

The biggest drawback to COM's **R&RG** was having the play offered by PBS this past fall.

During the intermission, audience members talked about the PBS production and the fact that it was perfect.

No theatre, even one claiming to be "the biggest li'l theatre in Texas" should force a group of amateur actors into competing with the memory of a PBS production.

Attention: Handicapped Students

Elevators are available for your use at the following locations:

LRC: First floor -- in LRC workroom area. Top floor--Northeast entrance, next to stairway over-

looking Lake Eckert. Access by key. College Center: Located between the front entrance doors. Access by button. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Fern Ramirez, ext. 262.

ENERGY

cont. from page 1

icy. Ten-hour working days, with Fridays off, was one option, said Thomas.

Other areas investigated by the committee included solar energy, changing present heating and cooling facilities, and implementing a computerized management system, said Thomas.

"A complete energy audit will be conducted soon by an architectural and engineering firm to make recommendations affordable to the college concerning energy-reducing consumption," said Taylor.

"What to change, what the changes will cost, and how many years it will take to receive pay back on the cost of the changes, will be included in the report from the firm," said Thomas.

"The firm will be making its presentation to the Board of Trustees in two months."

Taylor said the Board of Trustees has authorized \$20 - 25,000 as payment for the firm's services.



A.R. "Babe" Schwartz

ACC Constitution

by Phyllis Kostka

COM Board of Trustees unanimously accepted the All-College Council constitution in its February 28 meeting.

The constitution was drawn up by Constitution Committee members Dr. Bob Johnson, Director, Admissions/Registrar; Larry Stanley, Chairman of the Division of Arts and Humanities; Dr. Zelda Rick, Director, Community Resource Development; and Lori Hall, student representative.

The first draft was amended by All-College Council members January 23. A second draft was amended by council membership on January 30.

The third draft was debated openly February 8 in an open-forum meeting of staff, faculty, employees and students. The mood of those present proved favorable for the document. No major segment was voted to be changed.

The constitution was ratified by 92% of the faculty, staff, and students voting in a campus-wide election February 14.

Awards Banquet A Success

by Dewane Garrett

The first black student, faculty, and staff Awards Banquet was held Feb. 27, in the College Center, celebrating Black Awareness Month. The Banquet was sponsored by the Ebony Cultural Organization, and the Associated Women Students.

Alex Pratt, COM history instructor, opened the ceremonies saying, "We are here today to honor the achievements of black Americans from both a national and local perspective."

A review of Black History was presented by COM student Sandra James. Dr. Martin Luther King's speech "I have a dream" was spoken by Rev. Calvin Arnold, COM student, who received a standing ovation from the audience.

Dr. Warren Dodson, Director of Student Activities, stated, "This was the first time COM has participated in such an event. All the planning and arranging was hard work by Tillie Green, COM librarian, and members of the Black Observance Committee."

Awards were presented by Glenda Gillis, President of the Associated Women Students, and Vivian Hayes, President of the Ebony Cultural Organization.

Students who received awards for high academic standards were: Jacqueline Bogan, Valencia Lane, Adrian Porter, Howard Bell, Eunice Frazier, Claraden Campbell, Angela Murray, Angela Collins, Victory Earls, and Willie Rodgers.

Present at the ceremony were COM President Dr. Fred Taylor, Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Instruction and Student Life, and George Miller, Assistant to the president for Planning and Development. More than 100 guests attended the ceremony.

Early Exposure

by Beverly Stephens

The COM Community Theatre production of *Pinocchio* was a refreshing and unique view of children's theatre.

COM's production was in the style of sixteenth century *commedia dell'arte*.

Commedia dell'arte combined music, dance, and acrobatics with elaborate scenery and stage effects. The play's stock characters included Harlequin, a clown; Columbine a lively young girl; and Pedrolino, an honest and outspoken servant.

Commedia dell'arte often involves a group of actors producing a play within a play, as is the case with *Pinocchio*.

Arlecchino (Harlequin), the leader of the *commedia*, organizes the group as the story is told. Other actors portray characters needed to finish telling the story.

While the production style was unique and interesting, the acting was not comparable. Of the 15 actors on stage only nine were ever recognized by character name. The rest of the cast just filled the space.

The only negative aspect of the entire performance was the difficulty in hearing principle characters. Many lines were lost because *Pinocchio* (Victor Carsrud), Arlecchino (Henry J. Silva), and Geppetto (Larry Davis) could not be heard throughout most of the performance.

Tim Davis literally stole the show as Pedrolino (who played the fool in *Pinocchio*). Davis was fresh and gave life to Pedrolino.

Peggy Lei Mueller and Danny Ryan as the Cricket and the Puppetmaster were outstanding.

Mary Kae Newbrough (Columbina) exhibited a beautiful singing voice and a personality comparable only to that of the good witch from *The Wizard of Oz*.

Sylvia Rucker and Michelle Robinson (the Fox and the Cat) were the exceptions. While a part of the cast could not be heard, Rucker and Robinson were at times too loud for comfort.

The remaining cast members portrayed "Fools" and "Zanies" according to *commedia* standards. "Zanies" were Marilyn Collier, Julie Davis, Christine Gamble, and Laurie Heer. Kevin Heer, and Jonathan Yancey portrayed "Fools".

The bright-colored costumes were typical of the *commedia*. The clown-white and glitter make-up was unique and worked well with the lighting. The lighting was basic, but the storm effects were exciting.

Friendswood High School instructor Bennie Nipper directed the production. Crew members were Kathy Huff (assistant director), Chris Thrailkill (technical director), Larry Davis (stage manager), Karen Carsrud (music), Wanda Yancey (costumes), Ruth Acre (lighting), and Geneva Davis (props).

It's a shame COM's adult audiences can't be exposed to *commedia dell'arte*.

TSEA Helps Students

by Becky Freeman

"COM's Texas Student Education Association (TSEA) was organized by student request," says Developmental Studies Instructor Janith Stephenson, TSEA sponsor.

"TSEA's mission is to provide students with experience, through contacts with persons in various fields of education. This will help them decide if the profession is for them," says Stephenson.

Members of TSEA chapter receive benefits from Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA) and National Education Association (NEA). Employment assistance is available. TSTA operates a teacher registration service which provides weekly listings of vacancies in Texas. It also sends credentials to prospective employers, a service free to TSTA members.

TSEA also provides professional benefits. Members attend workshops and conferences on local, state, and national levels. These focus on such topics as teacher rights, human relations, and interview skills.

"Our sister chapter at UH/CLC has been very supportive. COM's TSEA members meet professors and students there and may attend UH/CLC chapter meetings," says Stephenson.

TSEA members receive, free of

charge, *Texas Outlook*, *Today's Education*, *Student Impact*, *The NEA Reporter*, and *The Accent*.

TSEA student-teachers are covered by a \$250,000 liability insurance policy. They are protected against liability claims filed as result of classroom accidents. A \$2,000 life insurance policy also covers members.

TSTA/NEA membership cards allow discounts on purchases at selected Texas Stores. Participating are Zales Jewelry, Rexall Drugs, Ramada Inn, Hilton Hotels, Six Flags Over Texas, and Astroworld.

TSTA also features low-cost travel programs to Europe, Japan, the Caribbean, Mexico, Hawaii, and Colorado.

"I am an advisor - facilitator for students. They decide what they want to do, whether visiting a local kindergarten, or attending an education class at UH/CLC," says Stephenson.

Future TSEA outings will include working at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. This project raises money for activities. Members will also attend a March state convention in Dallas.

COM's TSEA group meets the second Saturday of every month from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in Room 203A in the College Center.

Anyone with questions may contact Janith Stephenson at Ext. 469.

ARNOLD

Continued from page 4

instruction to motivate each one differently.

Arnold, a 1964 Texas City High School graduate, is single and lives in Texas City with his mother, who is his "second toughest critic" -- surpassed only by himself. He studied at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, U of H (Main Campus), and Prairie View A & M College. He attended music workshops at University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, for two summers.

Although he enjoys teaching, Arnold hopes to get into performing. He wants to write more music, learn to play guitar, and expand his knowledge of music.

"We never learn everything there is to know. Life is a learning experience. From day to day, we are living and learning. In the process, we're doing. What's the point of learning, of gaining experience, without actually using it? You can build a house one way, then stand back and find ways to improve it."

TEMPLER

Continued from page 5

Since Templer's arrival at COM in 1976, the art program has "grown quite a bit. We now have a variety of classes, and more students--both serious students and those who study art for the fun of it.

"Some students may consider me a 'hard' instructor because I push professionalism. I take art seriously--it's my life. Art is a part of everyone's life whether they realize it or not. I expect my students to take art seriously--whether it's a vocation or an avocational goal," Templer adds.

Templer feels the visiting artist program at COM can bring the college's art program recognition on the state level.

"The next visiting artist, Wayne Thiebaud, will probably bring in a state-wide audience. He's a national-known artist and it's good for us to be able to bring him here.

"I'd be elated if any critic from Houston came to COM. I'm resentful of critics who don't know anything about art judging art-work. But any notice beats no notice. For some reason Houston critics seem rather lax about covering local art events and artists.

"A good critic should have judicial temperament and technical sensitivity. He should know what it takes to create the art he's criticizing," he adds.

Templer received both his B.F.A. and his M.F.A. from East Texas State University. According to Templer, it takes almost as long to get an M.F.A. as it does to get a doctorate in any other program.

Templer has exhibited his work at North Part Art Festival, Dallas; SPAR National Art Exhibit, Shreveport, Louisiana; New Orleans Artists National Biennial, New Orleans. His work has also been on display at shows in Houston, Galveston, and Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos. The New Orleans Museum of Fine Arts owns one of Templer's originals.

Templer, his wife Renee, and son Simon live in League City.

Sickle Cell Screening

by Beverly Stephens

Some 60 COM students and faculty/staff members were screened for sickle cell anemia February 19 between 10:30 AM and 2 PM, according to Michelle Douse, Social Worker/Blood Drive Co-ordinator for the Texas Sickle Cell Research Foundation of Texas.

Sickle cell is a hereditary blood disease in which the red blood cells take on the shape of a sickle.

COM's Associated Women Students and the Ebony Cultural Society co-sponsored the sickle cell screening program, held in COM's College Center, as part of Black Awareness Month.

"Test results will be mailed to participants in three weeks," said Douse. The testing procedure involved a simple "finger prick" blood test. Specimens were taken to the SCRFT lab, where an electrophoresis test was run.

"The electrophoresis is the most accurate test in determining if a person has sickle cell or the trait," stated Douse.

Sickle cell primarily affects blacks. But many persons whose ancestors come from the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and parts of India may have sickle cell or the trait, according

to SCRFT information.

One out of every ten black Americans has sickle cell trait, a mild form of the disease. A person having the trait carries a gene for sickle cell which can be passed on to his children.

If both parents have the sickle cell trait, chances are one in four the child will have sickle cell anemia, two in four the child will have sickle cell trait, and one in four the child will have no form of the disease.

A person with the sickle cell trait can't develop sickle cell anemia. The sickle cell trait does not have any physical symptoms.

One out of every 500 black Americans has sickle cell anemia. Physical symptoms of sickle cell include shortness of breath, pain in the arms, legs, abdomen and back, and a loss of appetite.

"At the present time, there is no cure for sickle cell anemia. Because of research, those who have sickle cell are able to live more active and normal lives," stated Douse.

Anyone wanting more information or wanting to be tested for sickle cell can contact the Sickle Cell Research Foundation of Texas at 527-9949.

Thiebaud Visits COM

by Betty Williams

California artist Wayne Thiebaud presented a lecture at 7 PM March 14.

Following the lecture, a reception was held in the Art Gallery.

Thiebaud also held a seminar all day, Friday, March 14 and Monday morning, March 17.

"Thiebaud is one of America's leading painters," stated Jean Wetta, Gallery Director. "His superb resume reflects his life-long study of art."

Thiebaud, born in Arizona in 1920, began as a sign painter in 1938. He became a cartoonist, then a design-and-art consultant for California State Fair and Exposition. Now professor of art at University of California (Davis), Thiebaud holds both a BA and MA from Sacramento State College.

Thiebaud has had more than 75 one-man exhibits, and is included in numerous museum, gallery, and private collections throughout the United States.

According to Wetta, Thiebaud will appear only at COM this trip.

Planter

by Marguerite Brown

The FIRE WHEEL class which produces COM's oral history magazine has purchased seeds for a planter in order to preserve Galveston County's history and lore of wildflowers.

Dr. Roy Rhame, instructor of Biology, suggested planting seeds in containers, to be transplanted later in an on-campus planter. The seeds will be down near the pond.

"The firewheels are the easiest of all Texas wildflowers to grow. Seeds will germinate on top of the ground," Dr. Rhame said.

Welding for Women

by Laura Wager

COM's Non-Credit Technical - Vocational Program is now offering a basic welding course open to women.

The seven-week course meets on Mondays and Thursdays, 9 AM - noon, and began February 25.

Tuition for the course is \$50.

Joyce Thaman will teach the basic welding course. She earned an associate degree in welding technology from COM.

The new basic welding course will familiarize students with the basic welding process and prepare them to do cutting and tacking on plate. The students who complete the course will be able to perform basic tasks in a welding shop.

Those interested in enrolling in the basic welding course should call 938-1211, ext. 365.

New System

by DuRay Block

COM's Snack Bar adopted a new system of service this semester to improve organization, and cut down on waiting time, says COM Snack Bar Manager Ann Hibbits.

Previously, customers have entered the snack bar, ordered food, advanced to the register to pay, and crowded around to wait for food to be cooked.

The new system has two sections. The first is for food to be ordered and paid for. The second section is for people waiting on their orders to be cooked. The system means less chaos around the register, Hibbits said.

The new section is located where the cash register used to be.

The cash register has taken the place of the ice machine, while the ice machine has been placed on the outside aisle.

PTK State Convention

by Armando Rodriguez

COM's Phi Theta Kappa members and officers attended the annual state convention held in Austin February 14, 15, and 16.

Phi Theta Kappa members met from all over the state at the Austin Hilton Hotel for election of state officers for the coming year, and speeches. Events were discussed during the past year, and up-coming events were announced.

An awards banquet was also held at the convention, honoring most outstanding president, chapter and members. COM's PTK members

had a tour of the state capital and L.B.J. Library.

COM students attending the convention were Jack Grigg, president; Rachel Martinez, vice-president; Billie Wheeler, English instructor; JoAnn Peveto, Brenda Brown, sponsors; Bret Babcock, Laura Morales, Jamie West, Cheryl Vogtman, and Eric O'Neal, members.

A Valentine's Day Dance after the awards banquet ended the three-day convention.

"It was the best convention we have attended. All of us had a great time," said Grigg.

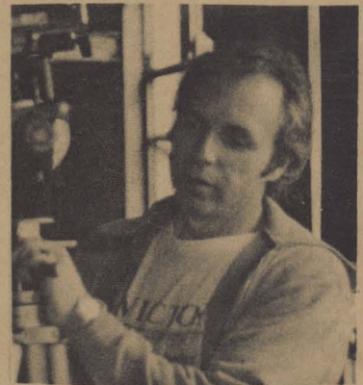
COM Photography

by Laura Wager

Gary Faye, a free-lance photographer visited COM February 23 - 24, conducting a photography workshop.

Faye is a landscape and fashion photographer. Faye has also worked under the famed photographer Ansel Adams of California.

The workshop included discussions, critiques and the zone system. The participants in the workshop took a field trip to Galveston. Most who attended the Gary Faye workshop were COM Art Photography students.



Terpsilore Dances

by Beverly Stephens

The Terpsilore Dance Troupe of Houston presented a dance program February 20 in COM's College Center, co-sponsored by Associated Women Students and COM's Ebony Cultural Society.

The program consisted of dances expressing African and Afro-American culture, and Afro-Mexican culture. Also included were dances set to jazz and Dixieland music.

"At present, the group has no funding. We need support. I am the

choreographer, book-keeper, everything," said Dr. Majorie Stuart, Artistic Director of Terpsilore, and an assistant professor of physical education at Texas Southern University.

"Most of our dancers are not students, but members of the working community. They spend about ten hours a week practicing," added Stuart.

Members of Terpsilore included Audrey Williams, Robert Coleman, Judy Demas, Rosalyn Rhinehart, Marla Reece, and Donna Skinner.

Female Aquanaut

by Becky Freeman

Dr. Renate True, member of the first all-woman aquanaut team, spoke to COM biology students Wednesday, February 19.

She and three other female aquanauts spent two weeks living underwater off the Virgin Islands in July 1970. This Tektite II program was supported by U.S. Department of Interior, NASA, Smithsonian Institute, and General Electric.

True showed students slides of ocean marine life and her "underwater home," complete with carpet, television, and stereo system. She remarked that her living quarters underwater were more luxurious than some on land.

When diving, she and the other aquanauts each used a closed-circuit-breathing apparatus. These allowed them to breathe underwater without releasing air bubbles.

Air bubbles often frighten sea life by causing noise, and make under-

water photography more difficult. With the aid of the apparatus, the aquanauts were able to study marine life closely and more easily.

True, born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, received her Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Marseille, France in 1965.

She has been chosen for Who's Who of Women, Who's Who in the U. S., and Who's Who in the World. She speaks Portuguese, English, French, German, and Spanish.

True's scientific reports have included ecological evaluations of the 1974 M/V Tamano oil spill in Casco Bay, Maine, and a study of the biology and ecology of Penaeid shrimp on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua.

Presently, she heads environmental surveys for Gulf Interstate Engineering and resides in Houston.

True first spoke to COM biology students five years ago.

interCOM

VOL. 4, NO. 7 • A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 • APRIL 1980

War and the Draft

by Phyllis Kostka

"Mama, Will I Have To Go To War?" was the subtitle of a public forum on the draft held March 17 at COM.

Guest speakers included Frank Wetta, professor of history at Galveston Junior College (specializing in the Civil War and Reconstruction and U.S. military history) and Dr. George Lipsitz, associate professor of history at UHCLC (specializing in American history since World War II).

"War under present world conditions, is a reality . . . we must be willing to turn plowshares into swords," said Frank Wetta.

Wetta speculated on war as an element of foreign policy. The fact the Soviet Union, Palestine Liberation Organization, and Marxist guerrillas use force on those unwilling to reply by force, he said.

"United States must perhaps use force to achieve certain ends," said Wetta. "Selective service is both constitutional and legal. The state can call upon its citizens to serve. This may be required of citizens with the exception of those who, for reasons of conscience, would find this intolerable.

"The draft had inequities and tended to put hardship upon the poor. But for a variety of reasons it is not only necessary, but desirable," concluded Wetta.

"We are dealing with a matter of life-and-death," said George Lipsitz about the draft.

"There are clearly things worth dying for and living for. Bringing justice to the world and rearranging society, to have a world worth living in, are crucial. But we are hearing about the draft in a way to protect a system in great crises and facing

just criticism," said Lipsitz.

He stated American foreign policy is a direct out-growth of domestic economy.

"Multi-national corporations and east-coast monopolies, with great interests abroad, may profit from war. But it is not in the interests of those middle-and-lower class citizens who would be asked to serve," said Lipsitz.

"The draft is an exercise in running peoples' lives. It channels young people into certain careers by selective deferment. It is not democratic. It is coercion and will bring us closer to war.

"The ERA must be passed, so women will not have to bear only the equality of sacrifice - from the bottom up. Anytime you gamble with war, you make a mistake. We must find alternatives to war and killing," said Lipsitz, who was a conscientious objector 10 years ago.

A question-answer period followed the speeches. Contributing resource people for this session were Beth Hudman, Galveston and Bay Area National Organization of Women (NOW); Joan Glantz, Do-director, American Civil Liberties

Union (ACLU) and board member of National ACLU; Reverend Will Stambaugh, pastor, LaMarque Presbyterian Church; and Eric O'Neal, President, COM Student Activity Board.

The forum, conducted by Zelda Rick, Director, Community Resources Development was sponsored by COM's Community Cooperative and the Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs.

Women in Engineering

by Becky La Croix

A seminar on "Engineering Opportunities for Women" will be held April 22 at 7:30 PM in COM's teaching auditorium.

"The seminar is being held to familiarize and encourage women to enter the engineering field as a career," said Barbara Crews, coordinator of COM's Women Center.

"There is a national demand for engineers, especially women engineers. The ratio of men to women engineers is 50 to one," said Dr. Matthew Quinn, COM's engineering instructor.

"Many people have a misconception of engineering. Most of the

work is done in an office, not 'out in the field,'" said Quinn. "The goal of the seminar is to associate women with all aspects of engineering."

Quinn said the seminar is "being conducted for women, by women."

Women engineering students from UH will discuss "Women Students in Engineering." A panel of professional women engineers will discuss "Women Engineers on the Job."

Guest speaker will be Astronaut Anna Fisher. She will give a presentation concerning her profession.

A question-and-answer session will be conducted at the end of the seminar.

Board Meeting

by Beverly Stephens

COM's Board of Trustees voted 3-2 to table a motion by Ernie Deats which would replace student and faculty representatives to the BOT with a representative from All-College Council.

Those voting to table the motion were John Cox, Carmen Anderson, and Dr. Robert Green. Bill Flaniken and Deats voted against the measure. Board members James Simpson and James Edwards were absent.

The board voted unanimously to renew contracts for COM personnel with the exceptions of Director, Women's Center; Traffic Safety Engineer; and one instructor from the Industrial/Public Service Division.

Reappointment of the Director Women's Center and Traffic Safety Engineer are contingent on availability of present funding. The instructor's reappointment is being delayed until the completion of a comprehensive evaluation of the automotive program, according to a recommendation from COM President Fred Taylor.

The BOT voted 4-1 to accept a bid from Picadilly Promotions, contingent of their fulfilling all legal requirements. Cox, Flaniken, Green, and Anderson supported the measure. Deats' was the dissenting vote.

Picadilly Promotions has been operating a bus service from the COM parking lot without the use of a contract. "The contract is for the college's benefit. COM's liabilities are the issue--not the money," said COM attorney Ed Mabry.

The board voted unanimously to sponsor an appreciation banquet for COM employees and to award distinguished service. According to Flaniken the banquet will cost approximately \$3,000.

The board appointed a committee consisting of Flaniken (chairman), Anderson, and Green to draft a presidential evaluation form.

The BOT voted to change the April meeting from April 24 to April 17. A quorum of board members will be attending a regional Association of Community College Trustees Seminar in New Orleans April 24.

TSEA

by Becky Freeman

COM's Texas Student Education Association (TSEA) chapter attended the 24th Annual TSEA State Convention in Dallas held March 7 - 9.

Approximately 500 students from all parts of Texas attended the convention. TSEA members shared ideas and gained information about the teaching profession.

Jose Plata, Texas National Education Association student representative, was the guest speaker at the convention. He suggested improvements in teaching preparation be made.

One issue discussed at the convention was the extension of the teaching program from four to five years. Increasing amount of required student teaching to provide more classroom experience was another. Both issues are being considered by state legislature.

TSEA members attended workshops on such topics as child abuse, multi-cultural education, and Christian ethics in the classroom.

COM's TSEA chapter was recognized as a new chapter.

State and district officers were elected at the convention.

Information Seminar

by Marguerite Brown

COM's Division of Business, Continuing Education, presented an information seminar in the College Center Wednesday, March 12, 1980.

The concepts of word processing/ records management, with emphasis on current technology, gives a realistic view of the office, how the technologies can be learned, and how they can be applied to office situations.

Exhibitions showing latest techniques for increasing office efficiency were A.B. Dick; Burroughs; Dictaphone; IBM; Jeter Systems; N.B. Systems.

Also exhibiting were Wang; Woodstream; Xerox; K - Micrographics; Record Service Center.

COMSAB

Dr. Warren Dodson is trying to get word out to COM students interested in working with the Student Activity Board (COMSAB) next year.

"The present officer's terms will end with Spring 1980 semester," says Dodson. "The transition for

persons working with COMSAB can be made a great deal easier if they are willing to state their intent as soon as possible."

Those interested should contact Dr. Dodson by calling ext. 409, or going by his office in Room 216 of the College Center.

Profiles

George Thomas

by Phyllis Kostka

"My job is to prepare students for successful university experience," said George E. Thomas, Associate Dean, Academic Programs.

"Course transfer coordination is my duty. I ascertain which courses will transfer and get new courses approved by the state," said Thomas of his responsibilities.

"Ten years ago, students wanted B.S. degrees, now they find a two-year technical program brings a bigger pay-off," said Thomas of student interests.

"COM owes students access to counseling and qualified faculty and courses. We must be in tune with major universities, so as not to mislead students," said Thomas of COM's purpose.

Thomas was born in San Antonio,

Texas. He completed his B.S. in mathematics at Stephen F. Austin State University, and M.A. in mathematics at Sam Houston State University.

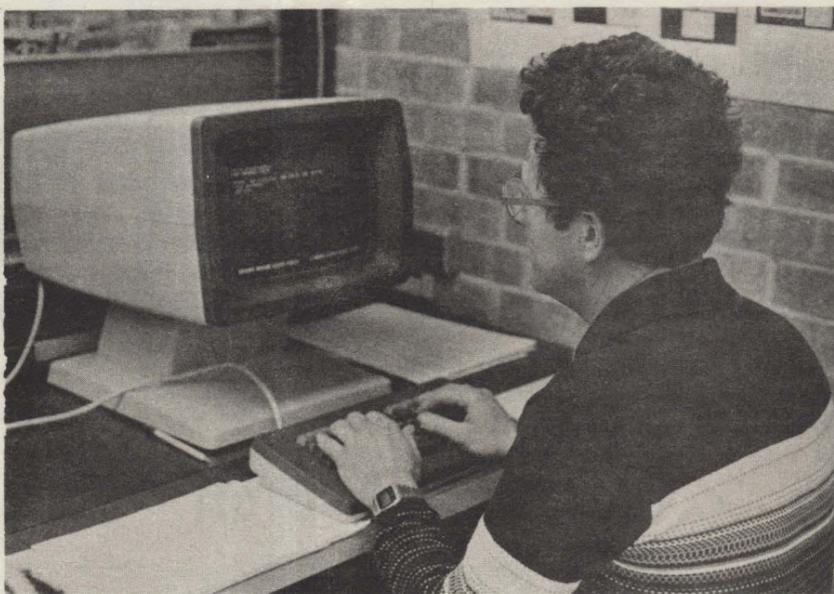
Upon graduation, Thomas taught mathematics at Leverett's Chapel High School for five years. The next six years were spent teaching mathematics at Wharton and Alvin junior colleges.

In 1967, Thomas came to COM as Chairman of Natural Science and Mathematics. He taught for one year before attaining his current position. He now serves as reserve math instructor.

Thomas and wife Carmen (an accounting student at UHCLC) live in Texas City. They have two sons, Allen and Nelson, and two grandsons, Andy and Jonathon.



George Thomas



Mike Bordelon

Mike Bordelon

by Jay Tipton

"I woke up one morning, and thought it was time for me to be more productive," says Mike Bordelon, COM math instructor.

He had been working on his PhD for one and a half years at University of Texas at Austin when he gave up his studies.

Bordelon dropped his work on functional equations and product integrals in 1967, to come to the new COM just starting in Texas City. He was the first full-time math teacher at COM, although he had "some help from the chairman of the department."

In the fall of 1968, he became chairman of the Math Science Division and held that position until Spring of '74.

"There weren't many math students back then. At the end of the first year, or maybe the second, we graduated one student. Of course, everyone in math hated the classes. They still do," Bordelon says.

When COM first started, math classes were taught in traditional classroom setting. Bordelon did extensive work in setting up the department's introductory math classes as they are presently taught.

He travelled to Oregon State University to study its testing system, and made three trips to Fullerton Junior College in Fullerton, Ca., to study the audio-tutorial system developed there.

At present, Bordelon has "the responsibility of the math-learning center co-ordinating role. I don't make assignments, or anything like that. Many students do come to see me. I see to it their problems can be resolved without going to the chairman or dean."

Bordelon studied at Lamar University, then got his bachelor's and master's in math at Southwest Texas State. He studied at UT (Austin) for his doctorate.

He is a member of the Mathematical Association of American and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

One of Bordelon's favorite hobbies is sailing.

"I've raced everywhere to Vera Cruz six times, to Biloxi twice. I've raced class boats at New Port, Rhode Island. I've raced the Texas Offshore Racing Circuit seven times, and I've always done very well," Bordelon says about his racing career. He had won 69 trophies since 1971.

Joe Rubio

by Lori L. Hall



Joe Rubio

"We have just scratched the surface," in terms of meeting community needs with tech-voc programs, says Joe Rubio, COM Associate Dean of Instruction for Tec/Voc.

"All projections for the standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) through 1985 indicate we need approximately 23,000 additional technicians, in every area. Some of those will go to Galveston Island. But the majority will go into the industrial complex here to expand the business and service base," he pointed out.

"In terms of that potential, Tec/Voc has a very bright future ahead of it."

"Old and new workers are faced with new technology, new laws, and new social movements. Older workers must continue upgrading. COM has a future working with them," states Rubio. To encourage new workers, says Rubio, COM is working closer with high schools to develop cohesion between the two. Rubio is also chairman of the County Manpower Commission.

"I hope all this activity, plus working with business and industry as I do every-

day, will culminate in a conference where we can (establish) a county-wide manpower delivery system. All the different people who are doing vocational, education, and training-public and private-can coordinate, not duplicate programs, so we can make the best use of resources and (avoid repetition in course-taking)," explains Rubio.

Rubio enjoys both ventriloquism and writing as hobbies. He recently completed his doctoral dissertation on community college administration at UT (Austin). He hopes his dissertation produces a book.

While working as a journalist in El Paso, Rubio wrote a series of articles about a well-known Bishop. "A lady in Las Cruces, New Mexico, clipped and sent them to a publisher. Now there is the *Life of Bishop Sidney Matthew Metzgar* by this particular lady," says Rubio. Since the royalties aided the education of a young priest, Rubio had little objection to the publication.

Rubio's interest in journalism began in the third grade. Using a printing

press, the youngster delivered (on his bicycle) a newspaper similar to a handbill. He also wrote for his elementary school paper and was editor of his high school's publication in El Paso. At University of Oklahoma, Rubio wrote for the *Southwest Catholic Register*.

"In 1967, the Community Action Agency got in trouble in El Paso. I got in trouble at the newspaper because of the social issues I was promoting - war on poverty, nutrition, food stamps, and housing codes," says Rubio. The newspaper primarily reached the Catholic population in West Texas and New Mexico.

"The paper wasn't just religious news," says Rubio. *Southwest Catholic Register* produced more articles dealing with social issues than religious news.

Rubio worked closely with Bishop Metzgar as a Public Relations man and writer for the newspaper. Although the Bishop worked him hard, Rubio was praised for his courage to "take on the uncomfortable issues."

Rubio came to COM in 1975. He is married to Anne and they have 3 children.

SAPS

by Lori Hall

Don Bass, COM Director, Educational Development Services, has almost completed plans for creating the national Society of American Public Servants (SAPS).

After observing "passive, apolitical, and meek behavior by past public servants," Bass hopes to form an organization to which no public servants belong. Using satire to express a serious point, SAPS will promote active, political, and more public-spirited behavior by bureaucrats.

"Public servants, like others, are citizens paying taxes," says Bass. "They need public support. Public servants shouldn't be scapegoats for the frustration of American people. We need schools, government, and services."

To meet the primary requirement, SAPS members must be public servants who draw compensation from public tax rolls (government workers, educators, and county, municipal, and state workers).

The platform for SAPS outlines a certain behavior criteria members should practice regularly.

- Completely passive. A SAPS will only take what others will give.
- Non-political. SAPS should resist participation in politics - they don't vote.
- Quiet. First and foremost, SAPS do not speak out.
- Masochism. SAPS willingly lay down and beg for punishment.
- Non-intellectual. SAPS should fall behind the mainstream of life intellectually, by refusing to read newspapers and other informing media.

SAPS also share certain characteristics. They do not expect to work with quality tools and resources, and fail to recognize one effective bureaucrat. According to Bass, "SAPS believe all letters people say are lost by the postal service were indeed written."

Bass hopes the SAPS will have several official symbols reflecting the organization's theme. "Tread on Me" represents the club's motto. A poster picturing an oppressed little figure in the lower right hand corner will read, "Thank you so much for the 2% cost of living raise."

SAPS's hero will be Step N' Fetchit (a comedian from 1930 cinema). The official uniform consists of matching doormats. The shrinking violet is the group flower.

Required reading includes **Treadmill to Oblivion, The Power of Negative Thinking, and How To Make Yourself Miserable**. The society's official song is a toss-up between "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" and "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head."

After completion of research on position papers, Bass will publicly introduce the Society of American Public Servants. He hopes those deciding not to belong to SAPS "prove accountable and responsible with more active participation in government decision-making." Bass encourages input from others. He may be reached at ext. 435.

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Student Development Instructional Program

by Beverly Stephens

COM's new Student Development Instructional Program (SDIP), based on a similar program at Eastfield College in Mesquite, will "encourage students and faculty to use resources other than classrooms and books to deepen the learning experience," according to Dr. Donald Mortvedt, COM Dean of Instruction and Student Development.

"SDIP fits into the COM Prospectus. The Prospectus advocates using 'out of the box' learning experiences and SDIP emphasizes the extension of the classroom into the experiential world," Mortvedt adds.

"A total educational environment in a community college can only be produced by all its components working together toward this common goal (total education). A vehicle is needed to bring the in-class and out-of-class experience together. Student Development can meet this need," stated David Amidon, Director of Student Development, Eastfield College.

Eastfield's student development program has established a liaison relationship with each instructional area. Eastfield's main approach to this instructional developmental relationship is through "emphasis weeks," co-sponsored by student development and specific instructional divisions.

Emphasis weeks include a social science symposia and a communications festival. The emphasis week is planned by the instructional division. The majority of funding comes from the student development budget, according to Amidon.

"Faculty input and participation is essential for the program's success. Without the faculty's help, the program can't exist. The faculty is responsible for developing ideas and encouraging students to attend functions," according to Kathryn Berry, Coordinator of Student Development at Eastfield.

Faculty members at Eastfield receive extra points on their evaluations for participating in emphasis weeks.

"The important thing to emphasize is adapting a program to the way COM's instructional programs have been developed. We will adapt, not adopt," Mortvedt states.

One of the differences in COM's program and the Eastfield program is funding. Unless a group can receive assistance in funding its project, the entire funding comes from student development. COMSAB will fund half a project, and the rest of the funding will come from the instructional budget of the division requesting the project.

Students at Eastfield receive credit for attending various activities. Eastfield has a period (from 12:30 - 1:30 PM) set aside for student activities three days weekly. Many of the special activities are held during that time so instructors do not have to dismiss class.

Five COM students Eric O'Neal, COMSAB president; Jack Grigg, COMSAB vice president; Glenda Gillis, COMSAB treasurer; Ron Middaugh and Beverly Stephens attended a communications festival at Eastfield March 24. The festival (emphasis week) was planned by the communications division, funded by student development and the Dallas Press Club, and attended by English, journalism, political science, and sociology students. Though the topic for the festivals appears limited, they are planned to appeal to many students, according to information distributed by Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD).

"The program can benefit the entire college community and should be given the chance to prove its worth. COM will not be adopting the program, but will adapt the program to fit our needs. This individual program has been successful in the DCCD and can work at COM if faculty, staff, administration, and students are willing to work together to achieve a total educational environment," said Eric O'Neal, COMSAB president.

Career Corner

by Beverly Stephens

Anyone looking for a career requiring minimal intelligence should consider becoming a consultant. Consultants are one of the four highest-paid professions in the U.S. today according to Sea Ifi Kare.

There are no specific educational requirements for consultants--just the desire to make money, tell others what to do, and not get caught in illegal activities.

The typical American consultant, devoid of character, has no qualms about charging a client \$450,000 to help find ways to save \$50--over a three-year period.

Consultants may work in any field they choose. There are a number of openings in the following fields: energy conservation; labor efficiency; financial expenditures; environmental protection; management policies; architectural revisionment; media controls; and covert political activities.

Consultants may work in any region of the U.S. they wish. Jobs are not limited to region--only financial sectors. Any area worth more than \$1 million has at least five different consultants. One consultant suggests spending money; one suggests ways of investing; the other three represent special interest groups wanting funds.

If a person likes the East Coast, he might consider being a special consultant on "Southern diction and customs." If he enjoys playing tennis and EST, one might move to California and be the "leisure activities consultant" in Modesto.

For those who enjoy country music and clean air, John Denver is looking for a new "energy conservation" consultant. If sun and the beach seem right, then take the first plane to the French Riviera, where "poor American" consultants are the newest rage.

If politics is interesting, then consider going to work for the Republican National Party as a "covert political activities" consultant. The pay is excellent--the only negative aspect of this job is the party's lawyers will not represent you in legal suits.

Cleveland, Ohio, today announced intentions to hire \$45,000 a month consultant to manage the city's \$365 checking account.

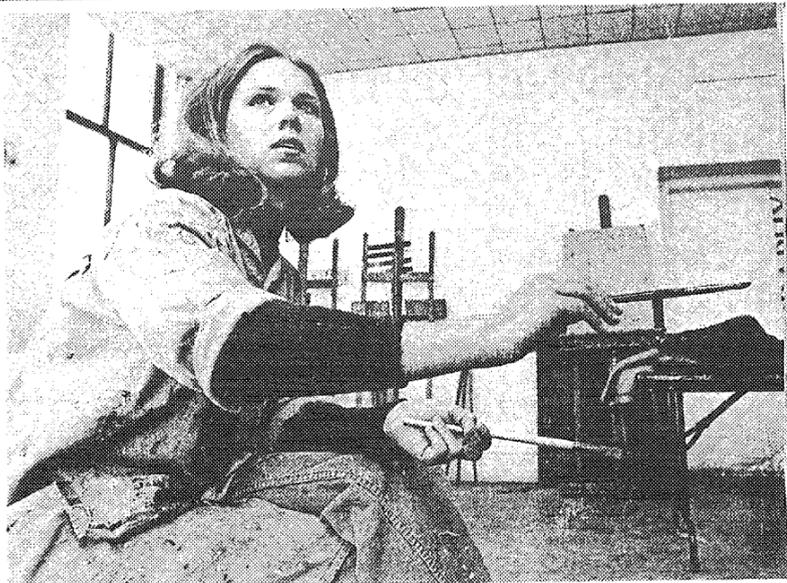
For those wanting less excitement in life, a job as an "architectural revisionment" consultant at COM might be a possibility. This consultant's job is to figure out how COM can fix the chug holes in the parking lot. Pay is a flat fee of \$4,000 with a bonus of \$500 for each \$250 the college saves by following the recommendation.

The job outlook for consultants is good for the most part--just last week though the consulting firm of M. Mouse & D. Duck reported that a local college could save more than \$15 million during a ten-year period by releasing all of their consultants and relying on common sense to pull the institute through its "crunch."

The next day the M. Mouse & D. Duck firm closed. The reason given was simple--"Honesty just doesn't pay in this business," according to Mouse.

Profiles

Helen Prather



Jean Wetta

Jean Wetta

by Becky Freeman

COM's new Fine Arts Gallery director, Jean Wetta, is an accomplished artist.

"I painted a lot as a child and took art classes in high school," says Wetta. "Believe it or not, I really started taking art lessons in someone's basement."

Wetta earned her BFA as a scholarship student at Webster College in St. Louis, Missouri. She received her master's in painting from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Her array of professional honors is impressive. Wetta won two honorable mentions at the 147th Annual Juried Award Exhibition at the Jewish Community Center of Houston in 1977. In 1979, she received the purchase award in the Fifth Biennial Five-State Art Exhibition in Port Arthur.

Since 1969, Wetta's work has appeared in 16 exhibitions. Two of her paintings appeared in a recent

exhibit, "The Child in Art," at West Baton Rouge Parish Museum in Port Allen, La. Her next exhibit will be a one-woman show at the Fontbonne College Gallery in St. Louis.

"I enjoy oil painting the most," says Wetta. She has taught oil painting at the Galveston Arts Center.

In 1976-77, Wetta taught drawing at Crew and Alsagar College in Chesire, England.

"One noticeable difference about teaching art in England was the language. Different artistic terms are used. For example, ball point pens were called 'gyros'. There are no thumbtacks in England, only drawing pins," says Wetta.

"At COM, I am thrilled about getting involved in art exhibitions. Meeting different artists should be very stimulating.

"The sole purpose of COM's Fine Art Gallery is to better educate the students with 'real' art, on a first hand basis. The better the quality

of art exhibited in the gallery, the better the gallery fulfills its purpose," exclaims Wetta.

Wetta feels the gallery can function, to a degree, in a public relations capacity.

"The Gallery is the part of the art department most visible and accessible to the public. By attracting community attention and support from the immediate vicinity, as well as from the Houston and Galveston areas, the Gallery can develop a reputation among potential students."

Increasing community interest and attendance is one of Wetta's plans to help the Gallery meet its goals. Other plans include extending Gallery hours with an informed person on hand. Providing additional space on campus for exhibitions such as student shows and local artists' shows is also planned.

"I would like to see a volunteer organization established to organize Gallery tours for school children and other community members. The group might also assume fund-raising responsibilities such as sponsoring artist speaker programs. Funds could be used to improve the courtyard adjacent to the Gallery, to attract and accommodate larger groups," says Wetta.

Other proposals for the coming year include inviting community musicians to give concerts in the Gallery, and building movable flats for exhibitions in the lobby.

"COM's Fine Arts Gallery has a big year ahead. There may be a few surprises in store, too," she adds with a smile.

"I like patents and designs that men make. But something always draws me back to weeds, leaves, and wildflowers," says Helen Prather, sophomore art student.

The 11-year Hitchcock resident was featured in a one-person multi-media show March 24, Learning Resources Center mezzanine.

"The exhibit was designed to honor a sophomore art major who has done outstanding work and supported the art programs," said James Templer, art department instructor. "We hope that this will be an incentive for all art students, so the exhibit will become annual."

"I haven't been in art long enough to decide which medium I really like. But for the moment, I like drawing as opposed to painting.

"You have to draw when you can," says Prather. "Art is so time-consuming. It invades your whole life. I try to do as much in class as possible, but sometimes I draw at home, too."

Prather's art has been exhibited in the Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Conference for three years.

When the Singapore native is not painting, she enjoys gardening, horseback riding, and reading.

Poem of the Month Department

*Better conserve
And take up the slack,
Or we'll be commuting
On camel back.*

Dr. Donald Mortvedt

by Beverly Stephens

"My family asked *where* you wanted to attend college -- not *if* you wanted to attend college," says Dr. Donald Mortvedt, COM Dean of Instruction and Student Development.

Born in Berwyn, Illinois, on December 2, 1932, Mortvedt grew up in the Chicago suburb of Brookfield.

He graduated from Riverside Brookfield High School. Upon graduation, he attended Lyons Township Junior College in LaGrange, Illinois, on a baseball scholarship.

In 1954, he received a B.S. in education from Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, Illinois. His major was social sciences, his minor was health and physical education.

For 18 months (1954-1956) Mortvedt was an Army S-2-Intelligence Specialist.

"I was the 'map man.' My job was to have classified maps on hand so strategists could make plans. Another part of my job, while in Germany, was to investigate the paternity suits women were filing against soldiers stationed in the area. Many women filed suits in order to gain U.S. citizenship," Mortvedt states.

After returning from the Army, he received his M.S. in education from ISU with a major in guidance and counseling, and began his professional career.

From 1957-1961, Mortvedt was an instructor/counselor at Kansas City

Junior College in Kansas City, Kansas. His duties included teaching sociology, psychology, and being the assistant basketball coach.

In 1961 he went to Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. At this all-girls college, he taught psychology and advised students.

Mortvedt became the Director of Guidance Services at Canton Community College (CCC), Canton, Illinois, in 1961. In 1964, CCC became Spoon River College, and Mortvedt became Dean of Students.

After leaving Spoon River College, he served as Associate Secretary for the Illinois Junior College Board (IJCB) for the 1970-1971 term. "The IJCB is comparable to the Coordinating Board in Texas," Mortvedt says.

June, 1970, Mortvedt received an Honorary Doctor of Letters, LiTT.D. from Robert Morris College in Carthage, Illinois.

1971 was the year Mortvedt received his Ed. D. in Higher Education/Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana, Illinois, and the year he came to COM as Dean of Instruction.

During Spring 1979 his title became Dean of Instruction and Student Development.

As part of a graduate study on "Contrasts in European-American Higher and Secondary Education" Mortvedt visited

universities in England, France, Italy, Russia, and East Germany. "The general emphasis was placed on comparing educational practices in America with practices of the countries by visiting universities. The specific emphasis was on student personnel programs at the universities," Mortvedt explains.

"I was in Moscow for four days and nights in 1967. The city and people seemed to have no color. We could tell the Americans by their clothes and their shoes--Americans wore clothes that had bright colors.

"The city was very clean and the people were very friendly. The only women I remember seeing wearing make-up were the tour guides," Mortvedt says.

Mortvedt, who is seldom seen without either pipe or cigar, began smoking when he was 21. "I choose a tobacco by its taste and aroma. I quit smoking cigarettes about 15 years ago," he adds.

"My hobbies include golf and reading. The one thing I don't understand about my golf game is it gets worse, not better with time.

"I love to read. I'm an avid reader with wide interests. I like to read philosophy, the sports page, and psychologists--like Eric Fromm," Mortvedt says.

He and his wife Marjorie live in Dickinson; their four children--all COM graduates--live in Houston and Dallas.



Donald Mortvedt

Editorial

Freedom of the Press?

by Beverly Stephens

At the March 27 Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Robert Green, board member, asked COM attorney Ed Mabry if a member of the press could record a board meeting without the board's permission.

This question was asked after the board voted to go into executive session to discuss renewing employee contracts.

When the board returned, no mention was made of the question until after the meeting. Then board members Green and Bill Flaniken approached me. They stated COM attorney Mabry said I could legally record the meeting. Both men then suggested that in the future I ask the board for permission to record the meeting.

COM board meetings are governed by Texas' Open Meetings Laws. Minutes of the meetings become public records available to everyone. The open meetings laws ensure the press' rights to cover meetings funded by taxes, and to report these meetings to taxpayers.

Requiring the press to ask permission to record meetings is a violation of reporters' rights under Texas Open Meetings Laws. The two men are suggesting members of the press, who use recorders (press or radio and television), ask for board approval to work.

As a student reporter, I have the same rights as a member of the "real" press. Would an outside media reporter be questioned for recording a meeting? After the COM attorney said recording BOT meetings was legal, the issue should have been dropped. Instead, the two board members talked at length to me, keeping me from interviewing other board members and administrators - a part of my "job," and class assignments.

Before asking reporters require permission to record meetings, the board should realize that as elected public officials, what they say becomes public record available to everyone.

After the meeting, Green and Flaniken asked other BOT members how they felt about being recorded. Whether the board likes the repercussions of press recording the meetings or not, the board can not legally make policy prohibiting use of press recorders at public meetings.

Why a 2 Year College?

by Laura Wager

A two-year college is an institution of higher learning, which offers a variety of programs.

Two-year college programs are divided into four general groups--two years of general education; two years of college work transferred for credit to a four-year college; special programs which prepare the student for a semi-professional or technical career; and adult education programs.

COM helps the community and its members in many ways.

COM cooperates with business, industry, and government, offering special training, which allows students to obtain better jobs in the community.

COM saves taxpayers money. COM doesn't require as much expensive equipment or as many buildings as a four-year college, doesn't need dormitories, or large lab and research equipment.

COM helps many continue education. Because it is located nearby, adults can take classes. Some would never be able to leave their homes and jobs to attend school unless the college was near enough to serve them. Today, adults make up over a third of all two-year college students, according to the statistics of *Campus Life Magazine*.

COM offers benefits for all organizations, student activities, and a student newspaper.

Two-year colleges, like COM, have grown rapidly because of demands for education beyond the high school level.

Two-year colleges can take much of the burden off four-year colleges. During the first two years, the community college helps prepare students for the training ahead. Many times students find they do not need (or are not suited for) attending a four-year college.

InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the COM community. Please send letters, suggestions or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities Suite B, LRC, or drop in InterCOM box in the College Center.

Editor	Beverly Stephens
Asst. Editor	Jay Tipton
Staff Writers	
Mary Brown	Phyllis Kostka
Donna Falco	Becky La Croix
Becky Freeman	Joe Medina
Dewane Garrett	Armando Rodriguez
Lori L. Hall	Beverly Stephens
Alton Hayes	Jay Tipton
Karen Hoffman	
Graphic Designer	Phyllis Kostka
Faculty Advisor	Kit van Cleave

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The January issue of *InterCOM* quoted Dr. Taylor as follows:

"The Board's principle role is to adopt policy, not to manage things or implement within the institution.

In the management of the institution, the professional should do that, not the lay Board. So, in fact, administratively, the policy comes up to me and I say for these reasons-none-then it ought to stop right there. Because you can't run an institution in any professional manner by asking a lay Board to make decisions about implementing policy.

"I don't think it's fair to them (Board) because they'll do it on an emotional basis, because they are not professional. They know that"

Since this article, and possibly because of it, some of my colleagues have also referred to the Board of Trustees as a "lay board"

I take exception to this viewpoint. Members of the Board of Trustees are each outstanding members of the community elected because of their leadership and public confidence in their ability. Each board member is a professional in his/her own right. Granted, they do not earn their livelihood in education as we do and they do not live it as intensely as we do, however, their values, priorities and sense of fairness must prevail - without it we are lost.

Holding public office can be very rewarding and at times very trying. The last year has been a very trying one for the Board, one in which the Board was made aware of serious internal problems. The Board of Trustees has become aware of facts and the overall sentiment of the community, staff and faculty. Given the correct data and full information, the Board can make the right decisions.

The Board will, as it must, serve the best interests of the community and the democratic principles upon which this institution was established regardless of any individual or group of individuals. There are difficult decisions remaining and I am convinced that the Board of Trustees has the wisdom and determination to carry out their responsibility.

Dan Doyle

Lori Hall replies:

The article, "Past, Present and Future," in the Jan. 1980 issue of *InterCOM* printed several portions of a taped 1979 Oct. interview with President Taylor. The quote about "a lay board (COM's Board of Trustees)" stated in Doyle's letter was transcribed from this taped interview with Taylor. *InterCOM* does not accept responsibility for Taylor's inferences. Whether or not COM employees now refer to COM's Board of Trustees as a "lay board" is not our responsibility. We merely printed Taylor's statement.

Draft Poll

by Joe Medina

President Jimmy Carter's announcement a renewed draft is possible for the near future caused controversy on the COM campus.

Of the 100 students, staff, and faculty members *InterCOM* polled, 67 felt the draft should be revived, and 33 did not. In addition, 62 thought women should be drafted and 38 did not.

Questions clarifying COM community positions are:

- 1) Are you eligible for the draft (age 18-26)?
yes 63 no 37
- 2) Do you think the minimum age should be raised to 19 or 20?
yes 71 no 39
- 3) Do you think the draft is a good idea?
yes 67 no 33
- 4) Do you think women should be required to register for the draft?
yes 62 no 38
- 5) If women are drafted, they should be:
a) battle trained 43 near-area-support (like nurses) 57
- 6) If there is only one son to carry on the family name, should he be required to serve?
yes 37 no 63
- 7) Should people with two or more dependents be made to serve?
yes 21 no 79
- 8) Do you think unemployed Americans should be made to serve first, as Congress suggested?
yes 52 no 48
- 9) Since prisoners are not considered U.S. citizens, should they be allowed (or made) to serve?
yes 54 no 42 undecided 4
- 10) If one doesn't register to serve, should he be imprisoned?
yes 51 no 43 made to serve 6

COM Happenings

Orchestra Visit

The Texas City-LaMarque area will be visited May 2 - 5 by over 100 Mexican youngsters--members of a Culiacan Juvenile Orchestra--who will perform as part of the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration.

The visit is being arranged by COM's Office of International Programs and COM-Amigos. The Gulf Coast Council on Foreign Affairs is assisting in the project.

A Mayo Indian Folklorico group representing the Indian heritage of Sinaloa in Northwest Mexico will accompany the youngsters.

The sponsors are asking local families to open their homes to these visitors for the three days and four nights they will be here. Families with children between eight and 15 years of age are encouraged to house members of the orchestra in order to give both the American and the Mexican youth an opportunity to share their cultures.

Drivers with current chauffeurs' licenses are also needed.

Those wishing to assist should call Bob Handy, Larry Stanley, or Robert Rodriguez.

Police Program

Nine area police officers completed the Reserve Texas Peace Officer Certification Course at COM's Region Law Enforcement Academy.

Graduating officers are Arthur Carpenter and John Hunter, Santa Fe Police Department; Robert Cooksley and Kathy Crider, Galveston County Constables Office; Charles Jackson and Jack Dickerson, Hitchcock Police Department; Alvin Holoman and John Dixon, Harris County Constables Office, and Stuart

Crouch, Friendswood Police Department.

This 88-hour training program provides the police recruits with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers requirements for certification as Reserve Texas Peace Officers.

Events Sponsor Exchange

COM Singers choral group is sponsoring a chili cook-off, flea market, and country-western dance on April 26.

The three events are being held to help sponsor the group's trip to Sinaloa, Mexico, May 11 - 18, on a cultural exchange. The chili cook-off starts at 11 am on-campus; The flea market will also be held on-campus from 9 AM to 6 PM. The dance starts at 9 PM and continues until 1 AM. "The Midnight Gamblers" will play for the dance. Admission to the Dance will be \$5.

Tickets may be purchased at the flea market, from COM choir members, The Fine Arts Office, or at the door.

All chili cooks must be signed in by 10 AM April 26. They will start cooking by 11 AM. Judging will be held at 3:30 PM. Judges for the cook-off will include Bob Shinn, Dorothy McNutt, Emmeline Dodd, Zelda Rick, Bill Sowers, and Bob McCamy.

Rent space for the flea market will have a fee of \$5 per space plus \$5 if COM furnishes a table.

To reserve a space for the flea market or register for the cook-off, call Pat Darde at ext. 348 or Charlene Gerami at 935-4207.

COM Briefs

Dr. Dorothy McNutt, COM Division of Business Chairperson, made a presentation on "How to Evaluate the Cooperative Education Program" at the Dallas National Commission for Cooperative Education Session. She is a faculty member of the evaluation team and member of the editorial board of "Journal for Cooperative Education."

A consultant for the U.S. Office of Education on grant proposals, McNutt is also a member of the Coordinating Board Study of Corps Curriculum of Business Administration of the Texas Junior College Teachers Association.

Real Estate Commission Examinations are scheduled for May 21. For information, contact Bill Sowers at 938-1211, ext. 282.

Carolyn Hartnett, COM instructor of communications presented a display and discussion on "Thinking Words That Tie Thoughts Together" at the Developmental Studies Fair for the Texas Junior College Teachers Association in Austin.

Ann Bennick, COM Business instructor spoke on "Records Management" at the Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Gordy — Magill Recital

by Beverly Stephens

Intensity was the prominent feature of pianist Laura Gordy and cellist Sam Magill's recital March 19 in the COM Art Gallery.

Gordy, COM piano instructor, and Magill, cellist for Houston Symphony orchestra, chose three works -- "Sonata in E Major for Violoncello and Piano" by Francisco Francouer; "Sonata for Violoncello and Piano, Op. 11, No. 3" by Paul Hindemith; "Sonata for Piano and Violoncello in F Major, Op. 99" by Johannes Brahms.

The grace and sensitivity of their interpretation of the slow, smooth, and fluid movements expressed in the Francouer piece was admirable. The Hindemith sonata, played with such intensity, reflected the terror spreading across Europe during WW I, as the composer intended.

Both piano and cello exemplified the terror, pain, confusion, and agony of the time. This piece was reminiscent of the special effects from WW II French cinema.

Even though the duo played the Brahms' sonata after an intermission, they never regained the intensity of the prior work. The Brahms sonata was emotional, at times melodramatic and very passionate.

There were no uneven moments during the recital--everything flowed smoothly, the overall effect was beautiful.

Wayne Thiebaud's work (paintings and sketches) fit in perfectly with the music, to make the afternoon of music even more enjoyable.

Sound of Music

by Beverly Stephens

COM's Community Theatre continued its season with the production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's **The Sound of Music**.

COM's production was generally enjoyable and entertaining. The production had continuity and spontaneity--two things past productions lacked.

The entire cast was believable and seemed to enjoy being on stage. Teresa Christensen was Maria in every line delivered and every note sung. Christensen's voice was strong, enthusiastic, and loving throughout the performance. From her opening "The Sound of Music" to the closing "Do Re Mi" Christensen sang with such love the audience believed anything she did.

Martin Fleck's Captain von Trapp evolved during the production. Von Trapp began the show as an oak tree (rigid and immovable) and ended as a willow (weeping). Fleck's singing voice never betrayed von Trapp's character.

Lois Fleck and Joe Herald were comical in the non-singing roles of Elsa and Max. Fleck's Elsa was impersonable and definitely added depth to the show. Fleck made one glad von Trapp chose not to marry Elsa. If there had not been children in the cast, Herold would have stolen the show. His Max was hilarious.

Jennie Nowell (Liesl) and Billy Nowell (Rolf) were excellent as the two youngsters in love. Their rendition of "You Are 16" was one of the show's highlights.

Allen Mannies and Kim Stevens, von Trapp's servants Franz and Frau Schmidt, were charming; the characters played well together.

Elinor Schwerferger (Sister Margeritta), Mary Strickford (Sister Berthe), and Susan Fischer (Sister Sophia) were hard to understand in their singing roles. Parts of songs could not be understood.

Kate Counsel and Kay Bernsen alternated the role of Mother Abbess. On opening night, Bernsen's voice was weak. She had difficulty singing "Climb Every Mountain."

Joshua Carr's Fredrick was sensitive, kind, and somewhat timid--exactly what one expects from a 14 year old.

Other von Trapp children were Robin Lusby and Toni Morris alternating as Louisa, Scott Mader and Jake Bernsen as Kurt, Laura Hillman and Michelle Mannies as Brigitta, Ilan Eden and Holly Henderson as Marta, and Erin Baker and Angela Drews as Gretl.

The opening night children--Morris, Mader, Hillman, Henderson, and Baker--literally stole the show. They never lost lines, appeared bored, or upstaged others--three things children are notorious for.

Other cast members were Frank Green, Mike Fischer, Cliff Oliver, Janice Shoemaker, Judy McGee, Barbara Warren, and Steve Pennock, Teresa Simpson, Michelle Robinson, Rick Burris, Debbie Osborne, and Cathy Gillentine.

Jack Westin, COM Theatre Co-ordinator, directed the production. The problems with the show were technical problems which could have been easily remedied.

The lighting (designed by Margaret Baier) was fairly effective. The scenes taking place at Nonnberg Abbey could have been more intense if the lighting had been more specific.

The biggest distraction in the entire performance was being able to see the crew members strike the set between scenes. At least three times during the opening night performance crew members were striking the set while actors were finishing scenes.

Reggie Schwander designed the scenery. The sets were constantly being changed. Because of 20 set changes it would have been difficult to use complex scenery. If the lighting had been more intense the stage would not have looked so bare.

Alice Bass choreographed the show. The dances were beautiful and the show could have benefited from more dance.

Jo Lynn Howard was the music director. Orchestra members were Marvis Adams, Sara Garland, Steve Pennock, Herb Baker, Marilyn Collier, and Karen Carsrud. The orchestra played beautifully, but too loud for comfort. It seemed like the orchestra was competing with the singers.

Billy Nowell served as assistant director and Mark Goto was the production stage manager. Topsy McDougale and Schwander were costume co-ordinators.

All of the costumes for the production were fantastic. All the costumes fit the time period perfectly. They added extra depth to the characters.

Everything about this production--acting, singing, scenery design, lighting design, and choreography--fit like the intricate parts of a puzzle, forming one of the most spectacular (and memorable) productions of an otherwise blase season.

interCOM

VOL. 4, NO. 8

• A STUDENT PUBLICATION • COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND • TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590 •

May 1980

Big Business Day

by Phyllis Kostka

Big Business Day activities drew a near-capacity crowd April 17 at COM's Teaching Auditorium.

The purpose of Big Business Day was to urge citizens to join to 'Stop crime in the suites and explore alternatives to business as usual.'

"Ralph Nader (consumer advocate), John Kenneth Galbraith (instructor, Harvard University), James Farmer (Executive Director, Coalition of American Public Employees), Douglas Fraser (President, United Auto Workers), William Wynn (President, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, AFL-CIO), and Patsy Mink (President, Americans for Democratic Action), initiated Big Business Day," said moderator Dr. Zelda Rick, director, Community Resources and Development.

Rick quoted these initiators as saying, "We think it is time for the victims of corporate abuse to join together to work for what made America great -- its working people, its moral standards, its natural heritage, and its competitive market system."

"Big Business Day explores a bread and butter issue. Educational institutions must be at the forefront in terms of raising important social and economic issues. This is our mandate," said Political Science instructor Jim Finley, by way of introduction.

"I am not here to criticize Big Business per se, nor to support Big Business in all its aspects," said Robert Hodgins, instructor, Division of Business. "I wish to explore possibilities and consequences of organizational schemes. My assumptions are that individuals are basic units of social organization, individuals have ability to establish and achieve goals, individuals desire to increase their wealth."

Cont'd on Page 3

CC Becomes SC

by Dewane Garrett

"The name change of COM's College Center to Student Center will have an effect on the entire student body. I feel good about the decision concerning the name change. This is something that COM students need," says Jack Grigg, Vice-President of Students Activities Board (COMSAB).

Changing the name of the building establishes a focal point on campus students can relate to.

"This measure serves to unify students at COM. It enhances and complements general school spirit of the student body," he pointed out.

The proposal for the name change has been accepted and approved by Dr. Fred Taylor, COM President, and Dr. Donald Mortvedt, Dean of Instruction and Student Development.

Grigg also stated "the proposal's intent is to focus on the realm of school spirit, and indicate to the student population COM is still for students."

"Objectives for the name change are to project a sense of student morale and student development participation, and to create a totally relaxed atmosphere. These concepts display student enrichment," Grigg said.



Photo by Laura Wager

A quiet moment on-campus.

Williamson Goes to India

by Karen Hoffman

Paul Williamson, biology instructor in COM's math/science division, served on a group study team in India, January 11 - February 21.

Williamson studied the culture and toured medical and educational facilities, industry, and various special events. He spoke to many groups and individuals about American education and culture.

Williamson's trip began in Calcutta.

"I adjusted well to the people and their customs, although it was shocking at first. The longer I stayed, the more I enjoyed India," said Williamson. Languages varied. People in West Bengal speak Bengali, but the educated speak fluent English as well as Bengali.

"Although beggars are seen everywhere, violent crimes don't seem to be a problem," he said. "People are clean, courteous, soft spoken and mentally acute, but because of the lack of medical and educational facilities and supplies, much of their natural talent and intelligence is underdeveloped."

He visited the University of Visha-Bharati in Santiniketan (which means "abode of peace"). This school was established by Rabindranath Tagore, the only Nobel laureate for literature from India. People from all over the world study at this university and range in ages from pre-kindergarten

COM Photography

by Laura Wager

Two photography courses will be offered at COM this summer.

"Introduction to Photography" will be offered at 6-8 PM, Mondays and Wednesdays May 28-June 23. A second course will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 10 - August 5.

"Personal Expression Through Black and White Photography" is offered 6-8 PM, Mondays-Wednesdays, May 28-June 23. The student must have had Photography 1 or the equivalent.

"Introduction to Photography" will explore fundamentals of the medium through experience in field and darkroom.

The advanced course is designed to further technical skills and visual perception through darkroom work and discussion.

Students receive one credit for completion of either course.

ten to Ph. D. candidates. Williamson also lectured on recent findings in genetics at Chittagong Medical School in Bangladesh. He found students at both schools to be remarkably bright, but severely lacking in facilities and equipment.

"People who can afford to attend school graduate after the 10th year. If they are interested in attending college and have money, they take India's national exam," which Williamson says is a very difficult test for a 16-year-old. Some questions on the test concentrate on U.S. and western history and culture, as well as their own.

Most of the schools in India are based on the British school system. But India newspapers always print major U.S. news. Williamson found the majority of people in sympathy with the U.S. concerning the Iran crisis, but somewhat mixed on the Olympic boycott.

West Bengal is the only communist state in India. It is also the most impoverished state, including the over-crowded and still growing city of Calcutta. Williamson felt poor conditions in Calcutta and the increasing poverty set the stage for increasing interest in communist doctrines among the poor.

Cont'd on Page 3

Fall Registration

by Becky La Croix

Registration for COM's Fall Semester 1980 will be held August 27-28.

"Schedules are presently being prepared and will be released to students June 15," said Dr. Robert A. Johnston, Director, Admissions Registrar.

Fall pre-registration was cancelled this year. It has been held at COM since Spring 1973.

"Reviewing past years, registering for fall classes in April is too far ahead for many students to make definite plans," said Johnston.

"Schedule changes are made by many who pre-registered because they changed their minds during the summer. In the past, COM has had students pre-register and pay, but never return for fall classes.

"Students currently enrolled at COM will be registered August 27," said Johnston.

Rec Schedule

by Jay Tipton

COM's Physical Education Department announced its summer recreation program schedule.

Membership prices are \$38 for family membership, with free membership for senior citizens and children under five.

Memberships entitle use of the gym, swimming pool, racquetball courts, tennis courts, track, whirlpool, sauna, weight room, and game room.

Facilities will be open -- adults only -- Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 AM - 2 PM and 3 - 5 PM, Wednesday 9 - 2, 3-5, and 7-10 PM, and Friday from 9 AM - 5 PM. Facilities will be open -- youth and adults -- Monday - Thursday 2 - 3 PM, Monday and Friday 7 - 10 PM and Saturday 1 - 4 PM.

Leagues to be held this summer include men's basketball, women's volleyball, co-ed power volleyball, co-ed recreation volleyball, and women's slow pitch softball.

There will be tennis, ping pong, and pool tournaments.

Other events will include a kayaking workshop, a moonlight madness fun run, and rollerskating. The P.E. department is also planning a racquetball workshop and racquetball clinic.

COM's Outdoor Club is planning a canoe trip on the San Marcos River for the June 20-22 weekend, a backpack trip at Lost Maples State Park for July 3-6, and a canoe trip on the Trinity River August 8-10.

For more information, call the P.E. offices at ext. 417 or 420.

Tech-Voc Session

by Marguerite Brown

Administrators of COM's Tech-Voc programs have written a "scenario" sketching the work program for 1980-81.

The introduction and background for the professional development workshop agenda of Tech-Voc was presented by Joe Rubio, Associate Dean, Tech-Voc programs, on April 16.

A "scenario" is a tool Tech-Voc administrators utilize to "plan the next academic year, permitting decision-makers to conceptualize and describe the desired future," said Rubio. "It focuses the organization's resources on a set of priorities."

The scenario was written to sketch a work program for the 1980-81 year.

Included are the objectives of the three service divisions (business, health, industrial public service). Also included are apprenticeship, counseling, and the Women's Center goals to be reached between Sept. 1980 and Sept. 1981.

The COM scenario is reviewed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in Austin, faculty and staff in Tech-Voc programs, occupational committee members, cooperating community institutions, business and industry groups, federal employment and training programs.

According to the Texas Employment Commission, almost 23,800 more workers will be needed to fill jobs in the Galveston - Texas City Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area through 1985.

Editorial

Emergency!

by Marguerite Brown

The phone rings -- emergency!

There are many kinds of emergencies at COM -- fire, accident, illness, death. Sometimes in such instances it's hard to find needed people at COM -- students, staff, faculty, or visitors.

A few rules to follow?

Phone COM operator and give this information:

- *Person's name and status: student (credit or non-credit), staff, faculty, employee.
- *Location on campus, scheduled classes, days attending.
- *Where the emergency occurred.
- *When emergency occurred.
- *Type of call: illness, fire, accident.
- *Give your name, phone number, where you can be reached to have information verified. If you will be at a different number later on, the operator needs to know.
- *Be as calm as possible.
- *Answer all questions as clearly as possible.

Due to the number of people attending COM, there could be a problem locating the person needed. He or she could be in a different place. Always give as much information as possible. The person sought might not be on-campus. The operator will try to find the needed person as quickly as possible.

Terrorism-Can It Be Defeated?

by Laura Wager

Terrorism can be defeated, but not prevented while it attains goals with reactions to these acts.

Governments can use legal force against terrorists, but many countries are unwilling. Many leaders say terrorism is morally right when there isn't any other solution to problems. But terrorism is a weapon for the weak.

There is no justification to kill innocent people. Terrorism violates one universal human right, says philosopher Charles Frankel -- the right to bodily security and integrity.

Terrorism, a major problem in the world today, concerns governments and society. Solving terrorism is almost an impossible task. To solve it is to eliminate the political and social causes.

What will happen to the 50 American hostages in Iran? No one knows. But if events continue, the hostages may not live to see America again. Will they be considered victims of terrorism, or politics?

A Springtime Nest

by Marguerite Brown

Out on campus in an alcove sits a nest of eggs.

There are 14 in all, safely tucked away, says Mother Goose, sitting on the nest awaiting the arrival of the ducklings.

After doing her duty for the required length of time, she heeds the call of Mother Nature. Hungry, thirsty, and tired, she searches for food.

But whether depressed or lonely, she is there. When she returns, the eggs are gone! Where? COM students search and finally find a clue.

The Science Department has put the eggs into an incubator for hatching. Modern man has taken over.

Letter to The Editor

Editor:

I would like to know if anything can be done about the trucks and "golf cart" type vehicles COM maintenance persists in driving on the SIDEWALKS. (I always thought sidewalks were for walking on.)

During today's crisis with fuel consumption, I think those guys are taking power a bit too far. Everyone else on campus has to walk. But these guys are continually driving vehicles and, in the process, conserving their energy and consuming more costly fuel.

It's utterly ridiculous that those guys cannot walk around to pick up trash. They have to ride on carts to do it! If COM really wants to save money (and we really need to) please have maintenance cut down on the use of those vehicles!

A Concerned Student

"Cheese Garden" Auditions Held

by D.J. Falco

Auditions were held April 13 and 14 for **Cheese Garden**, COM's newest production to open May 22.

The new play, by Sam Havens of Houston, was selected for New Playwright Series Four (1980). Jack Westin will direct.

The four characters in **Cheese Garden** are Jill Robichaux, her husband, Lionel, Merle, 16, and Father McShane, an Episcopal minister in his early sixties.

Jill will be played by Marilyn Rogers, who recently played Varya in COM's production of **The Cherry Orchard**. Steve Ayers, chosen for Lionel, is managing director of the Strand Street Theatre in Galveston. He is currently playing Henry Higgins in SST's production of **Pygmalion**.

Merle will be played by Kim Stevens, who played Frau Schmitt in COM's most recent production, **The Sound of Music**. Cast as Father McShane is Harold Suggs, the

Colonel in COM's 1978 production of **The Oldest Living Graduate**.

Cheese Garden is the story of a couple trying to deal with the recent loss of their six-year old son to cancer.

"It sounds heavy, but it's really got some delightfully funny stuff, says Westin.

"We have a super strong cast, and the set designs are exquisite," says Westin.

Havens drove from Houston to view the auditions. "(Havens) liked how the script was read...has a lot of faith in our doing the show," Westin said. Havens describes the play as "black comedy--funny but sad." Westin calls it "poignant."

Cheese Garden will play Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights through June 7. Curtain is at 8 PM. There will be one Sunday matinee on June 1 at 2 PM.

For more information, call the Arena Theatre Box Office at Ext. 345.



Photo by Jay Tipton

BEVERLY STEPHENS

LORI HALL

Reflections on a College

by Jay Tipton

Lori Hall has been a student at COM for two years, Beverly Stephens for three.

Both students are moving on to four-year universities in the fall.

Hall was a representative on several committees leading up to the formation of the ACC and is a representative on the council. She served on the Long-Range Planning Committee and has been active in the Focus Forum programs.

Stephens was a member of COMSA and a member of the Compensation Committee. Both students became politically interested in the happenings on campus last spring.

"I became so involved in what I was doing it was difficult for me to apply myself," said Stephens. "In the classes I was taking, the instructors were politically oriented. They seemed to care more about politics. When I would go into a class, we would spend as much time talking about what was going on on campus as what was going on anywhere else."

"But that in itself is an education," Hall said, "because you were seeing, in action, exactly what you were being taught. It was very good education, because you learned diplomacy, you learned about the strain on people under pressure.

"The political maneuvering was also an education. That's something which sparked me, got me going. It gave me the energy to say, 'Hey, there's a world out

there' and get after it. That is reality, what we're seeing right in front of us.

"They taught me to think, and I thought.

"What I like about this school, what I think is special," said Hall, "is they have a learning process. It's not the faculty that are the only folks who teach, but staff as well.

"The library staff, for example, works with students who have special information needs.

"And then we have the Continuing Education Department. Larry Smith doesn't teach a class, and I don't think Zelda Rick does. But I think those two are really instrumental in getting people an education. They talk to students openly about issues. They're really fair. That's as good an education as in the classroom."

"What really sets Suite C apart from the rest is that one goes in there and people are almost always there. You feel like you're part of a family," said Stephens.

"Bob Johnston is another example, even though he's in Admissions and doesn't teach a class," Hall said. "The students are on his mind every day. He's fully aware 2400 cars don't show up at this school--2400 minds do.

"There are lots of others, especially those on the ACC. They do make an effort to become involved with what they're doing and listen to students," Hall concluded.

Happy Summer!

by A.E. Hayes

The end of the semester is when most formal and informal good-byes will be exchanged. Many students who have met for the first time will break for the summer not knowing if they will see each other again.

On the other hand, some students who have just met will remain friends and possibly meet again at COM in the fall.

Inter-COM wants you to have a safe summer, so for those students fortunate enough to take a summer vacation, here are two tips on safety.

*Don't go swimming alone. This sounds old because it is old. Year after

year, people are warned of the danger involved in swimming alone. But countless lives are lost annually because no one was around to save the victim. Take heed; your life could be at stake.

*Don't drink foreign water! The water supply of different areas of the world can create stomach sickness. While on trips away from home, Americans often complain of illness caused by impurities in the water supply. Sometimes what will affect one won't affect another. A fresh water supply should be taken when traveling. To combat stomach sickness, (if it should occur) pack a bottle or two of Pepto Bismol.

Editor.....Jay Tipton

Assistant Editor.....Beverly Stephens

Staff Writers:

DuRay Block, Marguerite Brown, Mary Brown, D.J. Falco, Becky Freeman, Dwayne Garrett, Lori L. Hall, Alton Hayes, Karen Hoffman, Phyllis Kostka, Becky LaCroix, Joe Medina, Armando Rodriguez, Beverly Stephens, Jay Tipton, Laura Wager.

Graphic Designer.....Phyllis Kostka

Faculty Advisor.....Kit van Cleave

InterCOM is a student-written and produced newspaper for the COM community. Please send letters, suggestions, or comments to Journalism Department, Humanities, Suite B, LRC, or drop in InterCOM box in the College Center. Stories marked (OCS) are press releases from the COM Office of Communication Services.

ACC Discusses Long-Range Planning

by D.J. Falco

COM All-College Council's Long-Range Planning Committee submitted a preliminary report to ACC April 11. The report was a response to a draft received from the Long-Range Planning Committee of COM's Board of Trustees.

A special ACC meeting was scheduled for April 18 for discussion of the report. The two LRP Committees will then meet to consolidate data, to be submitted to the BOT through the office of President Dr. Fred A. Taylor.

Bob Shinn, Chairman of the Salary/Compensation Schedule Committee, requested the SCS Committee report be kept separate from the LRPC report. According to Shinn, the Committee will have recommendations before the BOT at its May 22 session. ACC Chairman Larry Stanley advised all ACC members attend the SCS Committee meetings.

Ann Miller, Reference Librarian, distributed information on the Prospectus Committee meeting scheduled April 17, prior to the regular meeting. Miller said some changes in the working might be cause for concern and encouraged Council attendance.

Black Hair Care Workshop

by A.E. Hayes

COM's Continuing Education Community Services Department, in cooperation with the La Marque Independent School District, presented a Black Hair Care Training Workshop recently.

Attending the work-shop were instructors of cosmetology and students from Texas City, La Marque, and Dickinson high schools.

Concerned local high school officials had said their cosmetology students were not being properly instructed in black hair care. COM's Coordinator of Continuing Education, Dr. Zelda Rick, organized the training workshop.

The workshop demonstrated up-to-date methods of drying, pressing, cutting, and styling black hair. The instructor of the two-session workshop, Carolyn Loftis, has been employed in the field of cosmetology for a number of years, and is now employed with Soul Scissors in Houston.

Homer Jeffcoat, Director of Vocational Education, La Marque High School, was pleased at the response of workshop participants.

"The black hair-care workshop provided a much-needed working knowledge of the technology which goes into the professional field of black hair care," he said.

Students enrolled in the cosmetology class at La Marque High are required by law to complete a minimum of 1500 hours of instruction before becoming eligible for the State Board of Cosmetology Examination.

"Programs such as this one should be continued. They not only broaden a student's employment possibilities, they also give direction in planning one's future after high school," Jeffcoat said.

Students actively participating in the workshop were Donna Ford, Connie McCullen, and Vanessa Sherwood. Sherwood, who plans to own her own shop, is now employed at a local salon.

Linda Winegar, cosmetology instructor at La Marque High, says she "was more than happy" her students were able to participate in such a worthy event.

"Due to the lack of personal experience in caring for black hair, instructions I was able to pass on to my students were limited. Thanks to the workshop, my students will benefit and gain much needed knowledge in black hair care," Winegar said.

No male students enrolled in the classes of cosmetology. Winegar said there were one or two male prospects for the next quarter.

Stanley informed the ACC of a recommendation of Board Member Ernest E. Deats to eliminate student and faculty representatives from the BOT and replace them with an ACC member. After some discussion, the ACC voted unanimously to recommend to Dr. Taylor student and faculty members be retained on the BOT in their present status. They also requested monthly Board agenda include an ACC information-sharing report, the ACC Chairman receive a Board agenda packet prior to Board meetings, and faculty and student representatives on the BOT should have more active (though non-voting) participation in Board meetings.

Students Go To San Antonio

by Mary O. Brown

Nine Texas History students took a trip April 11, 12, and 13 to San Antonio. The history group visited the San Jose, San Juan de Capistrano, San Francisco, San Antonio de Valero, and the Alamo missions. They also visited the Chinese Sunken Gardens, Hemisfair Plaza, a tour of the historical homes, the Institute of Texas Culture, and the Magna Carta.

They were accompanied by Alex Pratt, COM history instructor. The history students included Terry Lewis, Ralph Nielson, Missy Giamfortone, Michelle Garrie, Victoria Smith, Imogene Evins, Carol Hilton, Lupita Thomas, and Mary Brown.

Theatre Season Announced

by Laura Wager

"We will have a fantastic, super season!" said Jack Westin. "The season of 1980-81 will have variety, culture, and original scripts."

During the 1980-81 season, COM Community Theatre will perform Shakespeare's "Othello," directed by Jack Westin, and "Comedy of Errors," directed by Reggie Schwander.

The third production of the new season will be "Pippin," a modern rock musical. "Pippin" covers the life of the son of Charlemagne, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. The musical will be directed by Roger Stallings who had also directed "Jesus Christ Superstar." The music direction in "Pippin" will be under Larry Stanley.

"Deathtrap," a mystery-thriller, will be the fourth production of the season, under the direction of Jack Westin. The mystery tells the story of a writer who discovers a hit play written by an unknown.

The premiere of New Playwright Series V will follow previous new productions such as "The Line-Up" and currently, the "Cheese Garden." These plays will be under special guest direction.

The musical "Mame" will be 1980's summer production. It will be directed by Reggie Schwander, who had directed "Hello, Dolly!"

"Mame" tells the story of Auntie Mame and her growing nephew Dennis.

There will be three children's shows consecutively throughout the season.

"There are 2 major changes for the new season," said Jack Westin. "First is the Shakespeare Festival. Second, we are not doing the Texas Trilogy project anymore."

"Only 2,000 Guild memberships will be available because of limited seating," said Jack Westin.

For more information, contact COM Theatre office at 938-1211, ext. 345.

Don Bass, director of educational development services, recently received an Achievement Commission.

Williamson Goes to India

(Continued from Page 1)

He found people honored to have an American staying in their homes, which he said were often quite lavish and fairly westernized. The caste system still exists, although it has been officially outlawed.

Williamson visited a region in Bangladesh where few people had ever seen Americans. He said Bangladesh has improved greatly, with new buildings going up and plans for a new international airport in progress.

Customs Williamson found interesting were that "the people of India consider the left-hand unclean, and people write messages on the outsides of buildings because they consider the outside of the building the property of whoever gets there first."

While watching the women drying rice, Williamson noticed crows eating grain. The owner of the rice mill didn't attempt to kill the crows because he felt they ate very little and the crows must eat, too.

"People were constantly wanting to give me presents," said Williamson. He found the food tasty, consisting mostly of rice, cauliflower, chicken, goat and tea unlike any he had ever tasted. Only those of the Moslem faith typically eat beef, which is considered sacred by most other religions in India.

"They don't import anything they can produce in their own country, including automobiles. Their products are basic, simple and adequate. Anything imported from the U.S. is considered a luxury."

"No pictures of factories or train stations are allowed. This is India's way of protecting technology and strategic places in time of conflict."

Big Business

(Continued from Page 1)

"A free-enterprise system requires equal access, free market and competition. No one would object to increasing his wealth if it is not at the expense of another's," said Hodgins.

"The problem of big business is its abuse of power. This can be reduced with a simultaneous reduction in government intervention and an increase in competition and equal access," concluded Hodgins.

"What kind of economic system do we live in?" asked Kit van Cleave, instructor, Division of Humanities. "A system in which the production and means of distribution are owned by individuals is called capitalism. A system in which private industry is regulated by the government is called fascism. We have the latter," said van Cleave, who also defined "socialism" and "communism."

"What we have in corporate abuse are several attitudes and ethical points to consider. Corporations are run by groups of people whose attitudes are that people must conform. These people are predominately white, male, over forty with military backgrounds. Conformity means you are meant to look alike, think alike and not buck the system. You are meant to learn how to behave in order to keep a job," said van Cleave.

"Conformity has nothing to do with capitalism. Capitalism has as its goals profit, freedom to choose, opportunity to work and improve, and having a good time," said van Cleave.

"Who needs big business? People do," stated William Tapp, instructor, Division of Business. "Its influence is all around us -- your food, your car, your home, are all made affordable by Big Business."

"Big business and small business have a symbiotic relationship. Big business provides products. Small business provides service," said Tapp.

"Big business is neither all good nor all bad. Certainly there are atrocities committed constantly. Companies take advantage of people all the time. The question is whether or not the trade off is of value. Is there more good than

Williamson visited a leper colony in a rural area west of Calcutta and found that no one associates with these people, even after they are cured. He also visited a coal mine in Asansol, as well as some private and public schools of this area. The private schools were Baptist, Catholic, and Assembly of God, and most don't require the students to study the Christian religion in order to attend the school.

Williamson said the highlight of his trip was the opportunity to meet Mother Theresa, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1979, noted for her work among the "poorest of the poor" in India. Her facilities are set up in Calcutta, where she administers aid to the mentally retarded, dying, and hopelessly ill.

He found men and women to be somewhat segregated but women were not considered inferior to men. Movies, popular in India, is the main form of entertainment. They produce their own movies in Bombay, which Williamson said is "India's Hollywood." Much of the music of the area was written by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and is sung in Bengali, although western music has made its appearance.

"I would really like to go back. Prior to going I wouldn't have chosen this area of the world as a vacation place. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and felt I was welcome there. The families I stayed with treated me well and went to great lengths to make my trip enjoyable. They suggested I come back to visit. I was able to live with the people and gain special insights into the culture," he said.

bad? How much good, versus how much bad?" asked Tapp.

"The issue is not regulation versus freedom. It is not Capitalism versus Communism. It is autocracy and centralized power versus democracy," said Larry Smith, Associate Dean of Continuing Education and Community Services.

"How big is big business? The monetary size of the firms we are talking about is mind-boggling. Proctor and Gamble's advertising budget alone is 20 times the allocation given the Justice Department's anti-trust division to prevent monopolization," said Smith.

"One percent of the people in this country own more of the wealth than the bottom 80 percent," said Smith, reflecting the struggle of small business.

"Giant corporations have unprecedented control over our food, health, energy, jobs and even our government."

"Corporate price fixing, willful marketing of defective products, and industrial air pollution, coerce citizens to breath the results of other's greed. It's compulsory consumption," said Smith of corporate consequences.

"Economic government is not subject to the checks-and-balances system of political government. Big business breaks the law. 'Crime in the Suites' costs consumers billions of dollars yearly. Many of our area's surrounding corporations have amassed enough violations to be given a place in the local 'Corporate Hall of Shame,'" said Smith.

"Be informed, be active, demand economic democracy. The 1980s will see folks demand more control of economic life," said Smith of the future outlook.

A question/answer period followed the speakers. The questions reflected and enhanced the concerns of the panelists.

Big Business Day was sponsored by Jim Finley's 236 Political Science class and by the Student Activity Board. COM Community Cooperative co-hosted the event.

Men at COM

by Laura Wager

Every wonder where the bachelors are at COM? Among many interviewed, a few spoke out to give COM women an idea who is eligible and who is not.

A tall, dark, and handsome intellectual type is Rip Jones, 29, an ex-Marine. Rip, a full-time student at COM, likes all water sports and Chinese food.



RIP JONES

Asked what type of girl he likes, and what he looks for in a girl, he said, "Intelligence, good looks, a nice personality -- and she should be tall."

Rip is polite, a good conversationalist, easy to be with. He thought about women asking men out and said, "It's OK with me. I'm flattered." His idea of a perfect date is being with someone he likes and "doing something they both enjoy." (No questions to what that might be.)

Dewane Garrett, 24, is a full-time student at COM, and a recreation aide. Dewane likes sports, meeting people, and French food.



DEWAYNE GARRETT

What does he look for in a date? "A woman who can carry herself as a woman, and be herself," he says. "I'd say yes if a girl asked me out."

Garrett's idea of a perfect date is "being with a girl I like more ways than one, a candlelight dinner -- and one thing leading to another."

Marriage is "ok," but not in Garrett's future plans.

Don Careloc, 19, is studying engineering. His favorite sports are racquetball and snow-skiing.



DON CARELOC

He likes girls who have "personality, looks, charm--blue-eyes, blonde hair." (What a combination).

Don thinks if a woman asks a man out, she's aggressive. His idea of a perfect date is a candlelight dinner, and dancing.

Don wants to marry someone with a well-rounded personality, "who likes to travel, not too independent. I like to be pampered, like lots of attention."

Mike St. Ama, 19, is a math major.

David Rac

by Beverly Stephens

"The biggest problem we face in COM's bookstore is inflation," says David Rac, COM Director of Auxiliary Services.

Auxiliary Services include the bookstore, snack bar, and central supply.

"Inflation and rising prices are hitting us very hard in central supply. Every Department on campus has to buy supplies from Central Supply. Since we're working with departmental budgets, we have to be sure we get the best bids.

"The problems we face in the snack bar are the same -- keeping the quality up and the prices down.

"One change we're hoping to make in the snack bar involves expanding our catering services. Now, when we cater for a function, we don't have the facilities to serve hot food. We want to add equipment to enable us to serve hot food at the functions we cater," Rac adds.

Rac, a Galveston native, graduated from Galveston's Ball High School in 1965.

He received his Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from U of H in 1970.

George Rogers

by Armando Rodriguez

"I get lots of satisfaction from my students," says George L. Rodgers, COM Coordinator of Cooperative Education Division of Industrial and Public Service Occupations.

Originally called Co-op, Cooperative Education is a program in which students and employers "cooperate in relating classroom gaining on-the-job experience," Rodgers says.

Rodgers' job is to seek employment opportunities for students, relating to education and career goals. The students benefit from on-the-job experience and achieving career goals.

Rodgers says he doesn't guarantee students jobs when they submit an application at the start of the semester, because "it takes time in seeking a job, and it isn't easy." But a job opening usually comes along for the student during the semester.

Rodgers says the system performs well for COM, employers, and students.

Originally from La Marque, Rodgers graduated from high school in 1966, and the Naval Academy in Maryland in 1971. He received his master's degree from the University of Southern California, and spent four years in Hawaii with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Rodgers joined the COM faculty in the fall of 1978. He lives in La Marque with his wife, Gail Sue, and daughters, Wendi and Angela.



MIKE ST. AMA

He likes tennis, piano, fresh-water fishing, and Blondie.

When asked what he looks for in a girl, he replied, "a girl with a lot of personality who takes care of herself." His idea of a perfect date is dinner and dancing. He would go out with a girl who would ask him out. "I'm very eligible."

COM women may need to be a "10" for these men's standards. But -- it's OK to ask men out because their response was favorable. And someone has to make the first move.

Youngest and Oldest Grads

by Armando Rodriguez

Laura Morales is the youngest graduate and Lillie B. Hayden the oldest graduate for COM's 1980 commencement exercises.

Morales, 18, a 1979 graduate from Texas City High School, will receive her Associate of Arts degree in History. Morales graduated from high school just a year ago yet managed to squeeze in over 60 hours to graduate with an A.A. degree.

Morales started at COM while a senior in high school and was advised by her counselor to start taking college courses. She took basics as a start, and received hours by taking CLEP exams and full loads of hours summer and fall of 1979 and spring 1980.

Upon graduation in May, Morales will continue this summer at COM to receive additional hours and will transfer to UT (Austin) Fall 1980 as a junior.

"I will try to receive my bachelor's degree within the next two years and then enter law school," stated Morales.

Morales also managed a grade point average of 3.3, a Phi Theta Kappa Member, and on the Dean's List the last three semesters.

"Graduating from COM this semester is very exciting, although I am glad to finish here at COM this year. But, I am very eager to start at UT and enter law school," she added.

Lillie B. Hayden, 58, of Texas City is very excited about graduation and will receive a degree in child development. Hayden received her GED from COM seven years ago, first started COM in the fall of 1978, and built up her degree hours the past three semesters.

Hayden came to COM "because it is the closest college and has a fine child development program."

She is presently employed at the Texas City Day Care Center caring for children five years old and less.

"We teach the children art, language, music, and dealing with the development in social, physical, and self needs of the children," she said.

Upon graduation, she plans to remain in her present position and has no definite plans for seeking another job.

Hayden is married, has five children and eight grandchildren. How does she feel about graduation? She stated, "Great!"



ANN BENNICK

Bennick Awarded

Ann Bennick, COM instructor in the Division of Business is the only Texan to ever be selected Teacher of the year by 17,000 member National Business Education Association. Bennick was announced as 1980 Postsecondary Teacher of the Year at the NBEA convention in Las Vegas.

Bennick's achievements include co-authoring the first audio-visual

tutorial system for typewriting and office machines in Texas (second in the nation). Her numerous professional publications include American Vocational Association monographs, authorship of classroom materials including print and slide/tape presentations, and consulting with business and industry in her teaching fields.

She teaches records management, accounting, real estate, office procedures, shorthand, typewriting, business machines, business mathematics, and transcription.

Bennick has professional certification in records management and real estate. A real estate broker, she has recently qualified as a Certified Records Manager (CRM). She is currently working with Texas City Refining, Inc. and Monsanto Company as records management consultant. She has also developed industry courses in records management for Union Carbide.

Bennick has made presentations to the national conference of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators in Phoenix, Arizona; National Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Nashville, Tennessee; and local seminars for the Houston Chapter of Association of Records Managers and Administrators.

Both Bennick's bachelor and master's degrees are from UH. She is working toward her doctorate. She and husband Barry and their two sons, Kyle and Brad, live in Houston.

Bennick's honors and awards include the Award of Merit from the National Business Education Association. She was also the 1975 District IV Teacher of the Year for Texas Business Education Association.

Tillie Green

by Dewane Garrett

"Aiding and instructing students in obtaining information they need -- regardless of the format--directing activities at the circulation desk, and supervising students are basic functions the college librarian should attain," says Tillie Green, COM librarian.

Born and raised in Wharton, Green graduated from Glen Flora High School. She has resided in Texas City for 13 years.

A former COM student, she graduated from COM in May 1969, with an associate degree in Applied Science.

Before joining the COM staff, she became interested in the library while a student. In September of 1969, Green began working in the COM library.

Green plans to pursue a career in business. In addition to her career, "I receive much satisfaction from helping students who need assistance, involvement in community affairs, and youth development programs. I am currently vice-president of COM-SAC," says Green.

A widow, she has two sons. She finds raising two sons very challenging, but rewarding. Her hobbies include jogging, traveling, and coin collecting.