

# THE BENT TREE

Volume IX

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## Housewife to Student

### Student Juggles Roles



For years I had been considering returning to school. Until recently, for various reasons such as rearing four children (which can be a full-time job), I had not returned. I now have finally taken the plunge.

Some of the reservations I had were: how well would I interact with younger people - would they acknowledge that I even existed? I pictured myself being avoided as though I had forgotten to brush my teeth or use my deodorant. Would I be the laughing-stock of the campus scene - "Hey, look, there goes the lady with the varicose veins and flab around the ankles!"

Then I wondered what the instructors would expect of me. Should I know more about a subject or less? After all, doesn't the experience of having lived a few more years endow one with "unlimited" knowledge? Would they curve the grades on my tests just a little allowing for my advanced years? I could use all the help I could get.

I wondered how I would squeeze into an already full day, time to study, to read, and to write. In spite of all these reservations, I did it anyway.

The first hurdle I had to overcome was actually making the transition in my own mind from "housewife" to "student". I found myself wanting to "mother" everyone (you know - the old "I'm going to save the world" bit). Well, no sooner had I gotten the "cure" on that one when I found myself refilling the toilet rolls in the women's restroom. Next thing I knew, I was looking around for the scouring powder and the Windex. Then, I reminded myself why I was here - these students were not my children and this was not my house. So, I forced myself away from the sink, picked up my books, and closed the door on that part of my life and opened another door on a new one.

The rewards have been great! Not only am I finding myself in greater camaraderie with my fellow students (I groan over handouts, agonize over tests, and plan for the weekends), but I am now equipped with a new tool that I have not had for a long time - fresh knowledge! When my college son says, "Hey, Mom, did you know that..." and I say, "Yes, I do know that..." I feel very smug. When my high school senior says, "Hey, Mom, we studied  $C_6H_{12}O_6 + O_2$  in chemistry today", I smile and nod my head knowingly. My junior high "know-it-all" can't throw me either. He hasn't had venn diagrams yet! I have to admit, however, that my first grader

threw me the other day when he came home from school with a metric ruler and told me how tall he was in centimeters! But, oh, how sweet it was when I expounded on the safety procedures incorporated in the basic design of a nuclear reactor to my bewildered husband. I savored that one, but promised him that if he were patient, this too would pass.

At any rate, I have discovered a new purpose and goal for myself. The challenge that lies ahead is so stimulating that I just want to get on with it. With each new subject that I tackle, new horizons come into view and I wonder - why, oh why, wasn't it like this twenty-five years ago?

Mary Jane Warner

## Camelot's Success Leads to Future Productions

Camelot, a musical play written by Lerner and Lowe, and presented by the Clayton Junior College Choir and Lyceum, March ninth through twelfth, was received so well that another musical is being considered for next year.

Dr. Larry Corse produced and

directed the musical. Dr. Corse said he was "extremely" pleased with the audience reception. The play was seen by nearly one thousand people.

Camelot was the first musical and largest undertaking of the choir to date.

## Arts Festival Displays Area Highs' Work

The fifth Clayton Junior College Creative Arts Festival will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 1977. The festival is sponsored by the Humanities Division, directed by Dr. Larry Corse and co-directed by Dr. Bill Pasch. Judges are faculty members of the Humanities Division.

Dr. Corse stated that the original idea for the festival was put together by Dr. Will Tomory as a program allowing area students to display their creative talents and also to allow those students to view the campus. The program turned out to be much more than expected.

The festival gives recognition

to original artistic efforts of students in grades nine through twelve. It is a unique way of allowing talented students to show off their creative abilities. As high as one thousand entries have been received. Last year thirty schools participated.

Besides a series of contests in which entered students will read, perform, or display their work, three challenge trophies will be awarded to the best entry in literature, art, and music. These trophies will be engraved with the winners' names and schools and will remain in the possession of those schools for one year.



## Foxfire Editor Participates in Arts Festival

Mr. Eliot Wigginton, editor for the Foxfire Book series, will be on campus April 5, 1977. His lectures will be at eleven and one o'clock. The eleven o'clock lecture will be open to all students and the one o'clock lecture will be for those people involved in the Creative Arts Festival which is being held the same day.

Mr. Wigginton, a teacher at Rabun Gap High School located in the North Georgia mountains, is the founder and director of "Foxfire", a non-profit corporation devoted to educational, literary, and charitable purposes. His methods of instruction, and his experience

as an educational consultant, should be of great interest and inspiration for teachers and those interested in becoming teachers.

The Foxfire Book series has been on the New York Times bestseller list and each book had been a selection of the Book of the Month Club. Mr. Wigginton has received many awards including, in September of 1974, the \$10,000 John D. Rockefeller, III Youth Award for his work with young people.

Mr. Wigginton, a native of the West Virginia mountains, lives in Rabun County, Georgia, in a two-story log house that he built with the help of some of his high school students.

Mary Jane Warner

SGA Elections will

be held in April .

For information

and a petition to

run drop by the

Dean of Students

Office. (C-57)

Petition Deadline:

April 4



## Community Services Offers Variety

Have you ever thought about playing the market but couldn't find out how to start? Are you: Owned by a disobedient dog? or, Stung by the idea of bee keeping? Well, maybe you should see the people in Community Services. They may have the program for you.

Community Services, with its office in the Administration Building, has a variety of educational and informational courses available to anyone who applies. Many of these courses are free, though some have fees of \$40 to \$65. None of the courses offer any credit, but, it should be noted, there are also no formal admission requirements, and anything learned is yours to keep.

Classes begin the week of April 4, but enrollment can be made as late as a week after this date. Ric Sanchez, Assistant Director of Community Services, says the classes usually fill up rapidly with fewer than 8% of them being cancelled.

The fact that cancellation figures are expressed in percentages is an indication of the size of the program which Sanchez describes as the largest, junior college administrated, non-credit operation in the area.

Probably one of the most important questions to any prospective student is "what is the quality of instruction in the classes?" This was also answered by Sanchez. "What we interpret as a good instructor is someone who can get the information across. He must be able to cope with and encourage people who have different motives for being in his class." As an example he said a person might enter the "Principles of Investing" class just for information or out of a genuine desire to invest in the stock market - the instructor has to be able to deal with both objectives.

So, what courses are offered? Well, to be honest, there are just too many to list here (also my typewriter is getting tired), but, in summary, they have courses to take you from birth to death and from basic life support to soaring. This doesn't include the business, leisure, and home help courses which are available.

Now that your interest is perked and all your questions are answered (well, some of them), how do you get involved? The easiest way is to go down to the Community Services Office in the Administration Building and sign up. If this isn't the easiest for you, then just pick up the yellow spring schedule around campus, or call 363-7717.

David Plunkett

## Editor's Comment

### Hope Breaks Through 70's Skepticism

The seventies seem to be an age of skepticism and disillusionment. This is not unusual when the events of the past decade are considered. So much has happened and to many so little of it seems good. Leaders have been assassinated, riots have occurred, corruption in government has been exposed, many are unemployed, and, in many areas of the world, human rights are abused. If one thinks about these things too long, one may become extremely depressed. This is not to say, however, that we should not think about these things; nothing will improve unless we think about them and then act.

But how does one cope with such depressing thoughts? Personally, I find it easier to cope if I look at some of the individuals that I know. They are not the people that you read about in newspapers, but, all the same, they are doing things that are worthwhile.

One often hears people express the opinion that individuals with integrity and the willingness to work hard do not exist any more. Those people have never met my grandmother. She will soon be ninety, but her

mind works better than mine does. She is honest and she has always faced up to her responsibilities. She knows the value of hard work and she never was afraid of it. Consequently, she has tried (and I think succeeded) to instill these values in her offspring. She has done this by encouraging hard work and demanding excellence (I brought home my grades from my first semester as a college student, 4 "A"s and 1 "B"; she did not say much about the "A"s, she wanted to know why I got the "B"!). Yet her demands cause me to strive to achieve excellence, to have integrity, and to be willing to work.

Another quality that many feel is lacking in our society is "selflessness." It is really funny, though, because it seems to me that I have known a lot of people with that quality. Right off hand I can think of two certain teachers and a high school guidance counselor. These three people spent countless hours with students who needed their help in one way or another. Anyone who knows much about the pay scale for educators can see that they did not get paid for those hours. What can be more "selfless"?

A quick look at recent divorce statistics would cause one to think that commitment was a thing of the past. My grandparents have been married for fifty-one years and they were not the easiest fifty-one years either. There was a depression, and a major war. Times were not good, yet they reared a family and stayed together. So have their children.

Love is a commodity that was talked about a great deal in the sixties but does not seem apparent in the seventies. But it's there. It is evident in the lives of the people that I have just mentioned. One sees it on the faces of people as they pass a child playing in the park. One senses it in the quiet of a church on Sunday morning. One knows that it is a part of the small things that occur to make one's day brighter.

If one looks at all these things and at the people one knows (everyone knows someone with these qualities), then one can see a ray of hope for a society that seems filled with blackness. There has to be hope or else we cannot face reality and act to improve that reality.

K. E. Allen

#### Life or Death

Suppose you do find something suspicious while practicing breast self-examination. See your doctor at once, urges the American Cancer Society. It could mean the difference between life and death.

## Letter to the Editor

One of President Carter's first official acts was to pardon draft resisters who left the country rather than enter military service. This action has aroused a storm of outrage, much of it coming from the ranks of those who served during the Viet Nam conflict. Some individuals believe that the future drafts will meet with a high rate of absenteeism. I propose that this misses the real soft spot of President Carter's decision, the issue of dominion, that does the President have the right to pardon these people.

A government has a large amount of control over its citizens. When this government passes legislation affecting these citizens, they have three alternatives, first to obey the legislation, second, to disobey and accept the consequences (any punishment the government may see fit to inflict); thirdly, to reject the authority of the government and remove themselves from its jurisdiction.

An example of the second alternative would be the case of Henry David Thoreau, who went to jail rather than pay an unfair (to him) poll tax. He even refused to let others pay the tax for him. Dr. Martin Luther King also chose this form of protest in his fight for civil rights. In the opinion of this editor, it is the responsibility

of each citizen to disobey those laws felt to be morally wrong, and to do everything possible to persuade other citizens to do the same. This is also the reasoning used at the Nuremberg Trials of the Nazi war criminals, who stated that they were only following orders. To follow orders, or obey laws which are criminal is to become criminal, without exception.

The third alternative, that of rejecting the authority of a regime, should also be open to every citizen. I am angered each time I hear of an attempted escape by an East German fouled by the Border Patrol, or when yet another Soviet Jew is prevented from immigrating to Israel. Should Americans not have this right also?

Now let us turn our attention again to the Pardon. I am extremely doubtful that a pardon could be extended to those who have rejected the authority of a country. I wonder that any could accept a pardon - because in doing so, they would acknowledge that the U.S. has authority over them, which they had rejected. If a country has no authority to punish you for disobeying a law, how can it forgive you for disobeying that law? I don't feel that these people should be treated as criminals, but I do feel that they should be treated as aliens, with perhaps a limitation on the amount of time they could return to the U.S.A. for a visit.

Finally, some advocate the pardoning of all those who received other than honorable discharges during the Viet Nam conflict. This matter has been taken care of by the committee designed to oversee the upgrading of Military Discharges, and I see no need to change the situation at all, especially for those discharges given for actions which would have been civilian crimes. I would, however, like to point out one very severe shortcoming of this system, and that is the amount of time it takes to have a discharge reviewed.

Pat Patterson, Editor  
Vets Views  
(Reprinted from Vets Views)

## Book Review

### Herriot Shares Warmth and Humor

Every now and then there occurs one of those awful gray, rainy days that makes one want to stay inside and curl up with a good book. I had one of these days recently and I just happened to pick up *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot.

*All Creatures Great and Small* is the memoirs of a veterinarian practicing in the Yorkshire Dales of northern England. It is a marvelous book full of vivid descriptions of people, places, and events. It possesses warmth and humor. The author skillfully takes the reader on a journey through the years of a country practice that the author obviously found to be rewarding.

The author continues to practice veterinary medicine in Yorkshire. Recently the sequel to *All Creatures Great and Small* was published. It is entitled *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. I am presently looking forward to the sequel to the sequel!

K. E. Allen

## George Her View

### Final's Final

Doom and fate have become two words which can be used in many cases to describe the experiences of students as they face their grade determining finals;

- D is for the desperate studying the night before the morning after
- O is for the obvious lack of attention during the teachers' lectures.
- O is also for the outrage to the tuition-paying parents when reaching the mailbox first on grade day.
- M is for the big mess of rescheduling that failed subject (something that all students want to avoid).

And then there is fate:

- F inal-not the exam, but the end of contact with the world itself.
- A s one student slowly closes his eyes and places his head on the desk . . . . .
- T hen slips into sleep from the desperate studying of the night before plus the result of the morning after - then . . . . .
- E xams are totally forgotten.

George

## Atkins Sells CJC

You may never have met Jerry Atkins, but it is certain that you benefit from his services. Mr. Atkins' official title is Director of Public Information. This means, among other things, that the college catalog from which you choose your courses was designed by him. Mr. Atkins defines his job as selling education. He does all publicity for CJC and puts together the Annual Report under the direction of President Harry S. Downs. He also works with the CJC Foundation.

"It's an easy job to sell this college", he says. "It sells itself. If we could just get people to come out and see the beauty of it, we'd have an overflow every quarter. Somebody did an outstanding job of designing this campus, and the maintenance crew is doing a fine job of maintaining it."

Mr. Atkins was a newspaper

journalist for fifteen years before coming to CJC in 1974. His hometown is Paris, Tennessee, where he worked on the staff of the Post Intelligineer. From there he went to Paducah, Kentucky as a sports editor for the Paducah Sun Democrat. He says that one of the most interesting personalities he remembers is Adolph Rupp, the winningest basketball coach in the country. "That man loved basketball better than anything in the world. He's in his eighties now and would probably still be coaching if he hadn't been forced to retire when he was seventy-six."

Mr. Atkins said that one of the worst assignments he ever had was a Republican political rally. "The speaker was a preacher from one of the churches in a Democratic area. He got carried away and bounced around from one subject

to another till I had no idea what he said, and I doubt that anyone else did, either. I tried to write a story, but couldn't determine what it was he was trying to get across. I finally threw some sentences together. I imagine that they were about as coherent as what he said."

Once he was threatened by a mob while covering a story on a strike. "They thought I had taken pictures of them throwing bricks through car windows. As it happened, I missed it."

Mr. Atkins resides in Rex with his wife, Rosie, who works at Georgia Tech, and one daughter, Penny a sixth grader at Mt. Zion Elementary School. He says that he enjoys spending time at home with his family. He's had enough traveling to do him for a long, long time.

Estelle Long

## West Georgia Gives Much For Your Money

For those who are seeking a valuable education at minimal costs, a residential college away from the hustle and bustle of the big city, yet not too far to attend special events or visit a special person, West Georgia College can provide that opportunity.

Located fifty miles from Atlanta in Carrollton, Georgia, WGC, with its enrollment of 5800, is neither too large nor too small. It is an accredited part of the University System of Georgia and adheres to its core curriculum concept. Thus, a student at CJC with a grade point average of 1.6 or better should have little trouble being accepted and transferring credits to West Georgia.

WGC was founded in the early 1900's yet nevertheless features a

very modern, up-to-date campus. A three-story student center, 2700 seat stadium, indoor Olympic-sized pool, well-equipped biology-chemistry center, and a multi-million dollar library (containing 169,970 volumes and nearly 11,000 reels of microfilm) have all been built in the past decade.

Approximately eighty majors are currently offered at West Georgia College within the eight undergraduate and five graduate degrees awarded. Minors are available in many areas.

The average cost to be expected for a resident student at WGC is \$525 per quarter, not including transportation, books, and personal expenses. More than forty scholarships, loans, grants and work-study programs are

available to help meet these costs.

West Georgia students are presented with a wide variety of activities from which to choose. Special-interest groups range from a championship basketball team and other athletics, intramurals, musical ensembles, religious groups, associations for blacks, nine fraternities and six sororities, to a debate team. Altogether, there are over sixty chartered student organizations.

West Georgia College is able to accommodate students with a great diversity of interests, talent, and capabilities. Anyone wishing to learn more about WGC should write to:

Director of Admissions  
West Georgia College  
Carrollton, Georgia 30117

- Ellen Johnson

## ADS

Your income tax return prepared for reasonable rates. There are new laws pertaining to students. Discounts to the first twenty who call. S.M. Ponikarski, 361-3193, 10:00 a.m.

Wanted: 1967 Pontiac Catalina, 2 door sedan car door (driver's). Call 634-6978 between 3:00 and 12:00 p.m.

FOR SALE - Singer console sewing machine - Model 600E, Decorative stitches, cams and buttonholer included. "Touch and Sew" model - \$175.00 or best offer. Call 961-2909 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Jean Hull.