

Humboldt Journal of Social Relations and the University

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The *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* was begun in 1972 as the brainchild of a few faculty members in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Welfare. It has now published ten separate issues and approximately one hundred and ten articles. It has been a labor of love, dedication and exhilaration. We have received financial support from some members in our school and the University at large. Some of the faculty and students from the various sister disciplines did help us by taking on the responsibility of editorship and other duties associated with production and distribution of the *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*. Soon after the first issue, which was edited by me, Dr. William Devall became editor, followed by Dr. Penn Handwerker, followed by Dr. Devall, followed by Dr. William Tanner, followed by Dr. Paul Crosbie, followed by Dr. Gerald Sattinger. And now we are pleased that Dr. Kathleen Preston of the Psychology Department will take over the duties as editor. There were and are many other people without whose help the Journal could not have progressed. I want to mention just a few — Ms. Margie Rodgers, Mrs. Audrey Larson, Mrs. Kathy Mayer, Mr. Pat Quinn, Dr. James Carroll and Mrs. Judy Hampton, who have given generously of their time. It has also been frustrating and painful. It is perhaps time to ask: Is it worth it?

In the view of the editor-in-chief, the answer is an unqualified “yes!” Since this simple assertion is less than likely to satisfy our more critical readers, I shall attempt to defend this position in a more analytical manner. Let me begin by asking some pivotal questions:

1. Has the Journal made a worthwhile contribution to the social sciences?
2. Has the Journal served the needs of Humboldt State University faculty?

3. Has the Journal done anything for Humboldt State University students?
4. Has the Journal done anything important for Humboldt State University as a whole?
5. Has the Journal done anything for the local community?

The balance of this statement will be my attempt to answer these questions.

Contribution to the Social Sciences

Since it is generally believed that evidence is more objective when it emanates from “outsiders,” I will mention in passing only that several notables within Humboldt State University have praised the Journal as a scholarly, qualitative contribution. Their judgments have been confirmed by a number of prominent scholars in the social sciences. Our files contain dozens of unsolicited letters from nationally and internationally known scholars such as Martin Lipset from Stanford University, Irving Horowitz from Rutgers, Kenneth Bock from the University of California at Berkeley, Amitai Etzioni from Columbia University, James Wood from San Diego State, Joseph Roucek from CUNY, and Jonathan Turner from University of California, Riverside (who is going to edit a special issue on social theory) — in which all attest to the quality of the Journal.

Further confirmation is provided by the fact that selected articles first published in our Journal have been subsequently published elsewhere in books of reading. Most recently, John Cramer’s article entitled “Christmas: An American Paradox” which appeared in our fall, 1977 issue, is currently featured in the December issue of *Human Behavior*. Other articles have been reprinted upon request for permission, for classroom instructional purposes here at Humboldt, at the Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as several other universities.

Our readership is national and international. Subscriptions come from individuals and libraries in states across the nation as well as abroad. We have been cited in dozens of publications and are regularly abstracted in *Psychological Abstracts*, *Sociological Abstracts* and *Abstracts for Social Workers*. We are listed in *Sociology of America*, a guide to information source. We are also members of the *International Social Science Honor Society*. We have been represented at ten national conferences and over 900 authors across the country have submitted articles for publication. We also have about ten exchange advertising with other social science journals which gives the *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* additional exposure and coverage. It is apparent that we are filling an academic need in the social science community at large.

Contribution to the Faculty

Approximately twenty-seven articles and book reviews published in the Journal have been authored by Humboldt State University faculty and students. Others have served as special editors, article reviewers, art editors and technical consultants. Thus the Journal has served as a vehicle for academic recognition and the continued development of professional skills for Humboldt State University faculty and students.

Moreover, the Journal has served as a professional bridge whereby faculty from many disciplines have exchanged ideas and skills. Published Humboldt State University authors come from many disciplines including sociology, political science, history, nursing, journalism, English literature and anthropology. Professional linkages have also been reinforced by our faculty with the academic community at large via correspondence and personal consultation with hundreds of would-be contributors and reviewers. It is a vehicle for a national network of academic scholars in which Humboldt State University faculty are a pivotal center. It has contributed substantially to the visibility of Humboldt State University faculty within professional circles.

Contribution to the Students

In the view of the editors, an academic university journal should benefit its student population not only as consumers but in developing skills as producers. Student subscriptions are not

numerous, but that is perhaps to be expected given the scholarly nature of the Journal and student funds. But the Journal has actively solicited student publications and student help in editing and reviewing as well as related publishing skills and chores.

To date, some fourteen Humboldt State University students have published articles in the Journal. Several students have served as assistant editors, and special classes in varied disciplines have assumed, as part of their instructional responsibilities, editing and review tasks. All art work, an integral part of every issue, has been done by students under the direction of Professor William Thonson. Students have also assumed responsibilities for technical reviews and lay-out. Several of our graduate students have commented that their work on the Journal has contributed substantially to their further studies elsewhere as well as helped them in their professional careers.

Contribution to the University as a Whole

Humboldt State University is effectively screened behind the "Redwood Curtain." Its isolation is more than geographic; it is psychological as well. The Journal has been a means of piercing this screen. It has earned the University a place on the social science "map" via its national and international distribution, readership and authorship. It is a concrete, ongoing, demonstrable achievement -- as a palpable object towards which the University can "point" with pride. While it cannot compete with F.T.E. and buildings, it is a visible measure of quality.

Contribution to the Community

The Journal editors give high priority consideration to publications which deal with local community concerns. It has published articles in the areas of social service agencies and environmental issues. The editors are committed to pursuing this focus to the extent that is consistent with quality.

Given the spirit of the times, no assessment can be complete without a review of the monetary cost. The Journal's sources of funding are subscriptions and contributions by sponsors and patrons. The latter include faculty as well as members of the business and professional community who contribute fifty and twenty-five dollars per annum respectively which are tax deductible. The University has helped the Journal via loans from the

Humboldt State University Foundation which have been paid back consistently in their entirety. The student body has helped via subscriptions and via small annual grants. All labor, other than printing, has been donated free of charge.

In sum, it was the intention in the foregoing few words to explain the Journal, its existence and accomplishments to our colleagues, with the hope that they too will see a little clearer what the Journal is about and what role it plays in the University. The editors earnestly invite faculty and student involvement, and ask you to become acquainted with our social science academic journal that has been around for almost seven years and which is still the only social science journal in the California State University and College system.