

forum

A FACULTY AND STAFF JOURNAL
FOR HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

From the Editor	2
HOMER BALABANIS	3
"Personal Thoughts and Recollections: Humboldt State. Part 3: The Era of President Gist: The Pre-World War II Years."	
JAMES HAMBY	9
"Our Turtle Skeleton"	
PETER COYNE	10
"The Assistant Professor's Prayer"	
SPECIAL FEATURE – STUDENTS ON PERSONNEL COMMITTEES: TWO VIEWPOINTS	
GARY BRUSCA	11
"The Student and the Personnel Machine"	
JOHN TRAVIS	13
"Faculty, Students, Education: The Mystery of the Personnel Process"	
JAMES HAMBY	15
"Research and Special Education Projects at a Rural, Teaching University"	
ROBERT LAKE, JR.	19
"Apropos Education"	
SARA TURNER	22
"The Golden Handshake: Who Will Heed the Siren Call?"	
JAMES D. JOHNSON	24
"HSU's Graduation Writing Proficiency Requirement"	

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FROM THE EDITOR

When the first issue of the *Forum* was published last Spring a member of the Editorial Board remarked: "The acid test will be if you can get out a third issue" – or, words to that effect. Happily, achievement of that goal is now in your hands.

Once again, we are fortunate to have a contribution from Faculty Emeritus Homer P. Balabanis in a continuation of his reminiscences on Humboldt State. Concerned today with troubled times in the academic parade, we are reminded in "The Era of President Gist: The Pre-World War II Years," that all was not well on the "Hill" during the Great Depression of the 1930s – or anywhere else for that matter!

Our resident poets, James Hamby and Peter Coyne, provide us with thoughts on the issues of nature v. nature and man v. man in "Our Turtle Skeleton" and "The Assistant Professor's Prayer." One might feel a certain solicitude or solace for the plight of each principal character, although "older" professors may not be so charitable.

A special section features two contrasting views on the recent question of placing students on committees determining matters of reappointment, tenure and promotion of faculty. Gary Brusca in "The Student and the Personnel Machine" and John Travis in "Faculty, Students, Education: The Mystery of the Personnel Process" obviously disagree on this subject.

James Hamby reminds us in "Research and Special Education Projects At a Rural, Teaching University," that much more goes on among faculty members behind the

"Redwood Curtain" than teaching, committee meetings, creative on-campus activities, and bickerings over university policies. He confirms that members of this university community, despite isolation from major research facilities, also conduct significant research in their fields. Possibilities, he emphasizes, are not limited to the more urban and prestigious institutions of higher learning. HSU's "track record" verifies this.

Two contributions address concerns for the impact of "Jarvis-Gannism." In "Apropos Education" Robert Lake, Jr. expresses forebodings over the quality of liberal education in an age of job-consciousness, emphasis on special training and as a result of retrenchment. Sara Turner, in "The Golden Handshake: Who Will Heed the Siren Call?," makes a not-so-subtle-hint to the over-50 generation that they may actually enjoy retirement.

James D. Johnson, Chairman of the Graduation Writing Proficiency Committee, provides clarification to the university community on the background, development, and operation thus far of the writing proficiency requirement for graduating seniors at HSU. He believes it is important that faculty members understand what their students face as another graduation hurdle.

In the fall issue the editor would like to feature a series of articles and essays expressing viewpoints on the student evaluation process and general education at HSU. Faculty members and administrators who have served on personnel committees, in curriculum development or program review are especially invited to contribute. Many thanks to all who helped produce this issue of *Forum* and may their numbers multiply.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Forum is an in-house Journal designed to promote the exchange of ideas among the faculty and staff of Humboldt State University. Topics especially welcome for consideration are those dealing with teaching and the academic environment at this University. *Forum* is published Fall and Spring Quarters. Faculty and staff are invited to submit essays, articles or letters-to-the-editor for consideration. Please submit two copies of all materials, double-spaced typewritten. Individual authors are solely responsible for opinions and accuracy of information presented in their work. **Fall issue deadline: October 15, 1980.**

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