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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 39

June 10, 1975

The Saturday Evening Girls: Opening a Door to America

Boston's Saturday Evening Girls started meeting, not surprisingly, on Saturday nights in 1899. But far from their name might today suggest, they produced the pottery featured in an exhibition now open at the UMass-Boston Bicentennial Exhibition Hall, 100 Arlington St. The exhibit is open every day, free of charge, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through June 29, 1975.

Videotapes, slides and photographs augment the display of Paul Revere Pottery to illuminate the life and world of the Saturday Evening Girls (SEG). The exhibit explores the social history of an effort led by four Boston women to enlarge the opportunities of daughters of immigrants living in Boston's North End and West End.

The simple shapes and soft colors of the pottery fitted well with the stylized designs of flowers, trees or cottages that were hand painted on the plates and bowls in designs created by the designer of Paul Revere Pottery, Edith Brown. Children's porridge bowls decorated with chickens and ducks were reminiscent of the illustrations of Beatrix Potter. Intended partly for use in summer bungalows the pottery was a complement to the Mission furniture of the period and a prime example of the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This exhibition is the second event in a series devoted to popular culture, and it grew out of a seminar in American Folk Art given by Dr. Bates Lowry, Chairman of the Art Department and of the Bicentennial Committee of the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Jury Selection Project

Professor Philip S. Hart of College III (Institutions) has been working on a jury selection and representation project in Suffolk County over the past year. Prof. Hart's research pointed out the under-representation of women and young people in the Suffolk County jury pool. Prof. Hart testified as an expert witness in the Suffolk Superior Court hearing. The motion for dismissal at the Superior Court level was denied and has been appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court. Prof. Hart is now working in conjunction with the Bureau of Social Science Research to develop graphic presentations of statistical data which can improve comprehension on the part of legal personnel.

College II Orientation

The new freshmen who will enter College II in September had a preview of what their new academic careers will be like when administrators, faculty, staff, and students of College II held an orientation day last week.

Joanne Yphantis was the coordinator for the event.

In his address to the new students, Dean Robert Steamer said, "The truly educated person knows how much he doesn't know, and tackles all problems from this premise. He also ought to strike a balance between seriousness and light-heartedness. Certainly there is enough to be serious about. Many of our young people including some who are here today ---are disaffected. Our poor are in misery. Our cities are bankrupt. Our sense of national purpose has become darkly clouded. We are divided by age, race, religion and class. It is a deadly dangerous time and it hardly seems easy to find the time to laugh, but laughter is the only path to sanity. The man who takes himself too seriously--in the sense that he is all convictions and no confusion, who is unbending and humourless--lives a lonely life. He merely takes care of the responsibilities placed upon him. He does not create. Not knowing what the real questions are, he produces answers that are irrelevant.

"None of us can afford to forget that ours is an eternal search for justice; but while we search for truth, while we seek a better life for all men, we cannot afford to forget that there must be a time to laugh as well as a time to cry. Only then will we have the courage to face our own confusions."

Stork News

Nike Speltz, Office of Grants and Special Programs, and her husband David are the proud parents of a baby boy, Timothy David, born on May 30th in Waterbury, Vermont. He weighed in at 5 lbs. 4oz. Our congratulations and best wishes to them.

Work Study for Fall/Spring

The Financial Aid Office is requiring all students who receive work study awards for the academic year 75-76 to make an appointment with our office during the last two weeks of August to discuss placement. If supervisors will not be on campus during this time please make arrangements for interested students to contact a departmental representative. If no one will be available on campus please leave a telephone number with the Financial Aid Office, if possible. Since there will be a large number of students with work study awards, we would like to have as many students as possible placed before September. If you have any questions please call the Financial Aid Office at 2311 or 2312.

Veterans Program

Wardie Wren, Jr., Director of Special Admissions, has been named Director of Veterans Services at UMass-Boston. An Army veteran and holder of the Republic of Korea Service Medal, he is a graduate of Lincoln University, Missouri, and has his Master of Education degree in Counseling and Guidance from Framingham State College.

During the past year more than 1000 veterans were enrolled at UMass-Boston.

Media Center Advisory Committee

The University Media Center Advisory Committee has been named with Prof. Franklin Patterson as the faculty-at-large member and convener of the committee. The other university committee members are John Huggler, Music, College I; Edward Gittleman, English, College II; Thomas Hardy, College III; Richard Freeland, College IV; John Lerner, Public Relations; Herman James, Associate Provost; Margaret Furman, Student Affairs; and Gunther Weil, Director of the Media Center.

Each College will have Collegiate Media Lab Committees with representation by three faculty members; two students; a representative of the Dean's Office, and the supervisor of the media lab.

There are three general areas for the function of the Media Services System:

First Priority: Support for Instructional Program

- . Acquire, index, store, distribute film, photographic, video, audio, and graphic materials.
- . Purchase, inventory, and maintain all audiovisual equipment.
- . Distribute moveable equipment to departments, classrooms, and laboratories and provide for its operation.
- . Maintain audiovisual equipment and facilities for student study and self-instruction both on and off campus.
- . Set up and operate/monitor special media equipment (for example, in auditoria) as necessary.
- . Offer training to all users of media equipment.
- . Provide teaching space in media facilities for media-related instructional programs.

Second Priority: Production of New Materials

- . Operate major learning materials production center ("Media Center") for UMB. (Make audio and video master tapes; make films, slides, and other graphics; duplicate all materials.)
- . Operate satellite learning materials production centers ("Media Labs") in colleges. (Make slides and overhead transparencies and other simple graphics.)

Third Priority: Intra-campus and Off-campus Communications

- . Set up and operate campus electronic communication system (CA TV).
- . Coordinate with various off-campus communications systems, including Open University, cable TV, and educational programs at other institutions.

Bunker Hill Day

Tuesday, June 17, is Bunker Hill Day, a State holiday in Suffolk County for all State employees.

Just so we know, this Bicentennial Year, what we are celebrating -- this was a battle in Charlestown on what was really Breed's Hill. The other place, at that time, was called Bunker's Hill, but that isn't where the muskets were fired. It's where Gen. Prescott went down in history for his quote: "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." Incidentally, the colonists lost the battle.

An O'Connell Review

Shaun O'Connell, English I, is the recent reviewer in the Boston Globe of W. H. Auden: A Tribute edited by Stephen Spender. O'Connell is a lover of Auden's poetry and thus leaps into print this way:

"One of his friends -- can we imagine Auden having an enemy? -- says anything should be forgiven a man who composed these lines:

'Lay yur sleeping head, my love, Human on my faithless arm . . .'

"We might agree, give much to have written such, lines, give our love to earth's honored guest, Wystan Hugh Auden (1907-1973), but, after reading this luminous and loving volume of tribute, we might wonder: what could there be to forgive? Auden, who should be remembered as our century's finest poet after Yeats, was to judge from this collection of reminiscences, the most faithfully human of writers, one who could always 'bless what there is for being.'

"Auden has been described as the poet of our age of anxiety ('our world in stupor lies') and the practitioner of extraordinary technical gifts who ignored Eliot's pretensions and restored poetry to the language of men speaking to men ('if I could tell you I would let you know'). But for me he will always be the poet of lyrical love, honest love, lost love:

"We must lose our loves,
On each beast and bird that moves
Turn an envious look."

Visitors

Every day there are visitors to the campus, young and old, and last Thursday was something of a typical day. A group of Hanover High School students, at Prof. Ernest Becker's invitation, toured the campus, especially the laboratories in the Science Building. William Reilly showed the group the workings of the Scanning Electron Microscope and Prof. Fuad Safwat showed them the great facilities in the Biology departments. Valerie Gunn, Charles Hammond, and Andrew Stemegna gave tours of the Chemistry Labs.

At the same time, more than 400 members of the Greater Boston educational, business, environmental, and maritime communities were here for an all-day session, sponsored by the Boston Harbor Associates, to discuss ways and means to make the harbor more meaningful in our lives. Chancellor Golino gave the greetings of the university, and Gov. Michael Dukakis gave the greetings of the Commonwealth.

And then there was a single visitor on a professional basis, Thor Einar Hanisch, Deputy Head of the Regional Division of the Royal Ministry of Church and Education in Norway, was here to learn about our public-private relations with our fellow colleges and universities.

Admissions

UMass-Boston bounded over the 8000 barrier in admissions applications this year, for the first time in our history. In the fall, it is projected that 4600 students will be returning to classes and that 2400 new students will be enrolled from the freshman, transfer, and special admissions pool.