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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 89

July 13, 1976

Latitude and Longitude

Once upon a time a young man from the Savin Hill section of Dorchester came into this world as a modest John Florence Sullivan and left it as nationally beloved comedian Fred Allen. In one of his Allen's Alley radio skits he won the defamation of the Philadelphia city fathers when he described hotel rooms in the City of Brotherly Love as being so small the mice were round-shouldered.

So, that reminds us of a story in the Provincetown Advocate which says that Prof. Roger Prouty, History, has built a house next door to the first solar heated house on the Lower Cape. The authors maintain that Prof. Prouty's house is "the narrowest house in this Narrow Land. It measures barely eight feet across, barely enough room to change your mind in..."

Fred Allen would have loved that one.

1976 Affirmative Action Program

UMass-Boston's Affirmative Action Program is now in the final draft stage and available for review in the Affirmative Action Office and at the 4th Floor Reference Desk in the Library. You are invited to review the draft and forward any comments you may have to Pamela O'Shaughnessy by July 16.

Volunteers Needed

The John Marshall Community School Drop-Out Center located at 35 Westville Street, Dorchester, is presently in need of volunteers to conduct various workshops. The community people have expressed a desire for lectures and classes in such areas as art, music, karate, yoga and health foods. If you have some knowledge or a skill you wish to share, please contact:

Ms. Donna Miller, Co-Director
Drop-Out Center
John Marshall Community School
35 Westville Street
Dorchester, Ma. 02124
or call (617) 436-2535

Helping Peabody

Sharyn Lowenstein, Assistant Professor in the Essential Skills Center of the College of Public and Community Service, has been asked by the Peabody School System to lead a workshop on individualizing instruction for junior and senior high school teachers.

Professional Women Meet

All professional women staff members are invited to meet for lunch and conversation on the Library Patio, 11th Floor, at 11:45 a.m., tomorrow, July 14.

15:1 Ratio and the Budget

President Robert Wood has advised Chancellor Golino and the campus on the 15:1 student-faculty ratio:

"The University has not formally abandoned the principle of student faculty ratios. However, the University has faced up to the fact that the 15:1 ratio no longer serves its original purpose in terms of achieving improvements in the quality and appropriate funding for faculty. The ratio is a budget tool which was developed in a period of great enrollment expansion and rapid budget growth. Unfortunately, great increases in enrollment and quantum leaps in budget are over, and we face the challenge of maintaining quality with level budgets. This new situation requires a new kind of budget tool--one which will incorporate the concept of University quality with the per student unit cost of education. The several University budget and planning offices are now working on the development of an alternative to the 15:1 ratio. The task, which is being tackled at Universities across the nation, will require creative input for all sections of the University, and I would particularly welcome suggestions from the various faculty bodies and from the two multi-campus committees."

Survey Research Program

Jack Fowler, Director of the Survey Research Program, recently participated on two panels. He was one of several experts invited by the Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling to help evaluate the results of a national survey of gambling participation conducted by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. The public hearing was held in Washington, D. C. on June 23.

Dr. Fowler was also one of three invited experts to serve on a panel on "Health Surveys" at The 16th National Meeting of the Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics which was held in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the session was to discuss with officials of state and local health planning agencies the methodological cost and analysis considerations in using survey data for evaluating and monitoring health care delivery.

Playwrights Guild

Prof. Robert Rees Evans, Theatre Arts, is the artistic director of the New England Playwrights Guild which is planning a summer series of readings of new plays written by Guild members. The readings will be given on Friday nights at the Women's City Club of Boston on Beacon Hill. Guild members and professional actors will take part in the readings, which are aimed at eventual fully mounted productions of the plays in New York.

Two plays by Cambridge poet Anne Eliot will be read this Friday.

Evans expects the programs may be enlarged by having readings in Gloucester and Lincoln.

More on Footlights and Greasepaint

A new course in theatre will be offered on Nantucket this

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More on Footlights and
Greasepaint
(Continued from page 2)

summer by Dr. Louis E. Roberts, Chairman of the Theatre Arts Department, UMass-Boston. The course, entitled Play Reading, will focus on the process by which a play script is transformed into dramatic production by examining the different perspectives of a play's author, director, actors, stage, costume, and lighting designers.

Students will work with a variety of scripts, including Dr. Roberts' latest play *The Captain General* which was premiered this past month under the author's direction. In this case, students will follow the script from original conception to finished performance and will work with models of the set and other elements of design.

Dr. Roberts has taught and lectured on theatre on Nantucket for several summers. As in the past, this course may be taken for university credit, as part of the UMass-Boston Summer School, or may be audited.

Classes will be held in the Coffin School beginning the last week of July and will extend through August. Registration will open next week and may be arranged by calling Prof. Roberts at 228-2801 or the Summer School Office, Ext. 3209.

Future Alternatives:
Grubstake by Peter McClure

Prof. Peter McClure of the Management faculty at the College of Professional Studies has an imaginative and provocative proposal--indeed, a radical proposal as his June Change Magazine article--on a future alternative in educating the public.

He warms up his proposal by going back to the writings of Thorstein Veblen and Robert Maynard Hutchins.

"Garbled objectives and the erosion of what for Veblen and Hutchins was the university's primary role, the pursuit of truth, were evident. Higher education's popular themes--relevancy and empiricism--were euphemisms for baser motives. Hutchins contended the root evil was the university's love of money. Veblen identified three: visible magnitude, bureaucratic organization, and vocational training. Higher education was obsequiously courting industry, students, alumni, government, the community--anyone who might lend support. A 'service station approach' is what Hutchins called it. To Veblen, universities were like modern department stores, 'competitors for traffic in merchantable instruction.' "

McClure then steps into the batter's box with his "Grubstake" proposal. He says it is a plan "to come to grips with those issues that Veblen and Hutchins raised so long ago."

Though not a modest proposal as Jonathan Swift would make a proposal, McClure says: "It does reach well beyond the present contours of higher education. As the name suggests, Grubstake would provide a 'stake,' enabling each young adult to pursue either higher education or other socially desirable objectives to an extent previously possible for only a privileged few. Grubstake calls into question the very reasons why higher education exists. In liberating the individual, it also frees colleges and universities to do what they can do best and extricates them from responsibility for the rest."

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Future Alternatives:
Grubstake by Peter McClure
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He argues that Grubstake is "a greatly expanded GI bill, a modified voucher system, an inheritance that each person would receive regardless of the wealth of his parents. Grubstake would be a sum of \$10,000 or more, fixed by law and set up in the form of a national trust for each individual on his eighteenth birthday or upon graduation from high school, whichever came first.

It is based on the assumption that private wealth--an economic nest egg, the excess of assets over liabilities--is functional and that the mechanisms of Grubstake would make it more so. Wealth enables one to adopt broader horizons and assume greater risks... further education possibly, but also the trades, the professions, investments, and business ventures. An individual cannot plan, much less execute, such activities when the thrust of his energies is toward immediate aspects of survival. Wealth, then, frees one from imperatives, and offers instead alternatives. And if it is functional, if it broadens opportunities and is not simply an end or a reward, then why should its advantages be restricted to so few? Is it so dangerous, so corrupting, that it can only be entrusted to those who are born to such delight, or to those who amass it after a lifetime?"

Prof. McClure notes that, "Grubstake is a flexible and positive mechanism for broadening the capitalistic system. It is the antithesis of socialism, for Grubstake is an investment in people rather than in institutions. It is the individual who decides how Grubstake will be used."

Read the entire article in Change. It's a bell ringer.

SUMMER SESSION

presents

Piano Recitals and GALLERY SHOW

July 13 and 20,
Tuesday evenings
at 7:30

KENNETH WOLF, *pianist*
Performing works by
Beethoven

JULY 13

Mr. Wolf, on the faculty of the School of Medicine of the University of Massachusetts and Harvard University, was a student at the Yale School of Music and later studied piano for four years with Artur Schnabel. He has performed often in the Boston area, both as pianist and as a harpsichordist, and is regularly featured in the South End Chamber Series in Boston and the Sandridge Music Festival on Cape Cod.

JOHN MacCOMBIE, *pianist*
Performing works by Bartok, Brahms,
Chopin and MacCombie

JULY 20

Mr. MacCombie, Professor of French and for the past three years Chairman of the French Department of College I at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, is a former piano student of Germaine Survaque--wife of the cubist painter Leopold Survaque--and of Nadine Desouches in Paris,