



update

Update is a monthly newsletter published to inform the public about developments at Tacoma Community College.

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Two educators who visited the campus during November urged pass/no pass grading. Both Dr. Arthur Cohen and Dr. Arthur Pearl argued that traditional grading subverts the purpose of education. Dr. Cohen attacked grading as "people sorting." He is the principal investigator and director of the Clearing House for Junior College Information at UCLA, and he was on campus for a state-wide conference on "improvement of instruction." Dr. Pearl, who is with the University of Oregon Education Department, argued that teachers and students should "honestly negotiate" course content.

More than 2,000 currently enrolled TCC students have already registered for winter quarter classes, which begin Jan. 2. The college is currently accepting applications for admission from new students who wish to enroll for winter quarter classes. New students who apply for admission will receive appointments for registration Dec. 30. Registration for new evening students is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 30 and Jan. 2. . . . In addition to college-credit courses, a wide variety of credit-free community service courses designed for people who are interested in learning without red tape will be offered in the winter quarter. For a listing of these courses, write or phone the community services office at TCC.

TCC's library is serving as a central clearinghouse for compiling a bibliography in Afro-American studies for the Tacoma Urban Coalition. In line with this, the TCC Friends of the Library have voted to spend \$500 to buy books in Afro-American studies. Substantial gifts to the college library continue to come in . . . Trustees of the TCC Friends of the Library voted to make Murray Morgan, Northwest author and newsman, an honorary member of the board. Morgan teaches creative writing and Northwest history at TCC.

Frank Witt, a member of the TCC biology faculty, has been appointed to the Arboretum Subcommittee, which is charged with developing an arboretum at the southeast corner of the TCC campus. Initial plans are being prepared by Howard Harmon, chief horticulturalist for the Metropolitan Park District.

Protests by TCC students made news in mid-November. Students from TCC and the University of Puget Sound joined in opposing a new city ordinance that makes it unlawful to incite disrespect for a police officer. The students stated their case at a City Council meeting and picketed the County-City Building. A teach-in held on the campus Nov. 13 attracted no more than 50 students, and all classes met on schedule. Organizers of the protest made it clear that it was directed towards the City Council, not toward the college.

Starting a quest for \$15,000 in financial aid for TCC students, the TCC Foundation has played host to luncheons for two groups -- the officers and directors of the Tacoma-Pierce County Air Association and Life Underwriters Association.

The November issue of Puget Sound Chemist carries an article about TCC's chemistry faculty (Donald Gangnes, Ed McNeal and Robert Rogland) and their year-long study of an experimental "modular" system of teaching chemistry.

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