

Interest Focused on Experimental College

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on the Experimental College at San Francisco State College.

By **NOMI BORENSTEIN**
Emerald Associate Editor

Some people call San Francisco State's Experimental College (EC) a "quiet revolution."

It started last fall with three student-initiated seminars without a name.

Today it has a name, 75 classes, and over 1,500 students.

But essentially it is a group of students studying and working together, in learning groups for which they share responsibility with 25 student organizers and 30 faculty advisors.

The EC—a project run by the Associated Students at SF State—is based on the idea that students ought to take responsibility for their own education.

Part of this assumption is the assertion that students can start learning anything anywhere, as long as they really care about the problem they are tackling and how well they solve it.

Everyone can make an open-ended contract with himself to learn and is capable of playing a major role in evaluating his own performance.

The finest quality education is possible if people, students, faculty, and administrators work together in this way.

The idea of freeing students to learn in their own way was only one of those that finally came into being as the Experimental College.

The student organizers wanted to build a model for the way they thought San Francisco State might grow; and their model has received nationwide attention as a new model for innovation in American higher education.

How does it work?

Anyone can organize a class on anything; and anything means anything.

For instance some of the classes going on now include: "French New Wave Films," "Evaluating Organizations

Working for Change," "Exploration in Anthropology: A Seminar in Prehistory," "The Mis-education of the Negro," and "Gestalt Therapy."

Provide Description

The only requirement is that the organizer describe accurately what he wants to do.

He then turns his course description into the Experimental College office. The staff running the EC is composed entirely of students. The staff then does the "dirty work"—finding a room, publicizing the start of the course, etc., and acts as an administrative unit putting potential students in touch with the organizer.

The EC staff also informs students about credit possibilities. Although the Experimental College does not give credit itself, it has arranged for those students desiring credit to get it individually.

The EC staff, the faculty, and the course organizer don't make the final decision about whether or not a proposal becomes a course.

It is the students who do that—by signing up or not.

Sets Up Course

The organizer has the responsibility for setting up the plan for the way the course will run and for talking with any students who want to join.

Entering a course means mak-

ing an arrangement with an organizer about what each expects of the other.

Organizers work with each other in different ways. Some are joined in areas. An area can be one class by itself, for example, "Advising." Or it can be several subjects that somebody—the organizers, usually—decide relate to each other.

Areas Include

The areas now involved with the EC include, other than "Advising," the "Institute for Social Change," "Communications and the Arts," "Black Culture and Arts," "Arts and Letters," "Styles of Thought," "Interpersonal Relations," and "Independent Courses."

These areas are not disciplines, or departments; they are the particular people associated with them, the philosophy and style of working which emerges from these people.

Some of the areas have formed staff organizations which have regular meetings. Along with this, representatives from each area come together to provide over-all co-ordination, administrative services, and planning.

Anyone connected with the EC is eligible to attend "town meetings," which consider problems, and seek to "set a direction for the work of existing or proposed new areas."



Photo by Dennis Dunn

GERALDINE SCHMIDT and Vinette Jones discuss VISTA with a prospective volunteer.

Grant for Training Marks Start of Vista Week

VISTA Week at the University got a shot in the arm with announcement Monday of a \$262,400 grant to extend the University's VISTA training program.

The new grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity will provide training for 250 VISTA's between now and next August.

About 350 volunteers in the War on Poverty have already undergone training at the Uni-

versity since spring, 1965.

During the training period, volunteers are shown poverty and its effects and how to combat it.

VISTA volunteers spend a year working and living with the poor in slum areas, migrant labor camps, Indian reservations, and elsewhere. They conduct health, education, and recreation projects.

The University ranks first among universities in per capita recruitment for VISTA. During VISTA Week, continuing through Friday, University students who have their bachelor's degrees or expect to by spring quarter, may learn immediately whether they are accepted for VISTA training.

A VISTA information booth is set up on the Student Union terrace.

A half-hour film, "A Year Toward Tomorrow," is being shown each day at noon and at 4

p.m. "The Superfluous People" will be shown at 8 p.m. tonight. "Harvest of Shame" will be shown at the same time Wednesday, and "Year Toward Tomorrow" on Thursday.

Over 50 students from the University have served in VISTA since January, 1965. Fifteen former Oregon students are now in service in 11 states.

Books Present Midwest Design

The best of modern book design in the midwest is represented in an exhibit on display for the month of October in the University Library.

"Midwestern Books Competition, 1966" is a collection of the 23 titles which were chosen from over 200 books as distinguished examples of book design and typography in the midwest.

The books range from Louis Untermeyer's "The Second Christmas" to a linear algebra textbook. Nine come from commercial publishers, 13 from university presses, and one from a private press.

Dolphins Sponsor 'Spirits Stomp'

Dolphins—the University swimming club—is sponsoring a dance October 29 to raise money for next year's NCAA Championships.

The "Spirits Stomp" will be held from 8:30 p.m. to midnight in McArthur Court.

The 15 semi-finalists for the Dolphin Court are selling tickets for \$1 per person.

Proceeds will go to send swimmers to the national championships March 23-25 at Michigan State.

Computer . . .

(Continued from page 1)

different phase will be tried out term by term, and when each process runs smoothly, "it will be put together piece by piece until eventually it's all in one operation," Constance explained.

"We don't want the disaster that many schools have had (when they switched to computer registration before sufficient trial runs)," Constance said.

It will take lots of testing, which in turn will take lots of time, before the committee will feel registration can safely become wholly dependent on the computer, Constance stressed.

He also emphasized the committee's hope for the best computer registration of any university in the nation.

"We've studied many systems, and we haven't seen any as good—doing as much and as efficiently—as what we want. Most of the schools just copy each other."

"Southern California copied the University of Indiana. We looked at that and decided we could do better."

"To give the students maximum choice is our primary concern. This isn't the purpose of many schools' systems. At Purdue, the first university to use computer registration, the emphasis was on space utilization," he finished.

Chairman of the committee Spenser Carlson was not available Monday for comment.

Legal Abortion To Be Topic

Glen Gordon, head of the Oregon chapter of the American Medical Association, will speak at noon Wednesday before the Student Union Forum.

Gordon will speak on legalized abortion and birth control, and its relation to organized medicine.

Room number for the speech will be posted.

Teaching Forms Available Now

All students who plan to student teach winter and/or spring terms in either elementary or secondary education please pick up application forms in the Student Teaching Office, 125-A Ed. no later than 5 p.m. today.

Life of Welsh Poet Subject of UT Play

"Dylan," a series of 29 vignettes based on the short, stormy, and uproarious life of the Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas, opens Friday as the University Theatre's first major production of the season.

Tickets for "Dylan" go on sale to the general public today.

Already a legend in his own lifetime, the legend of Dylan Thomas continues to grow after his death. Stories filtered in from all the American colleges where

Director Horace Robinson refuses to reveal the identity of Miss Wonderland, the burlesque queen who puts the over-ambitious Dylan in his place. Whomever he chose from the campus beauties who answered his call for special talent remains his secret.

he raised "whoppee" on his successful lecture and poetry reading tours. The filtered in also from all the other places—bars and burlesque houses—where he sought escape. A fun loving person, he liked all people—rich and poor, dumb and smart, those loving poetry and those who never heard of it.

Many who came in contact with him tried to capture these years in biographical studies. Two of the best are "Leftover Life to Kill" by the poet's wife Caitlin and "Dylan Thomas in America" by John Malcolm Brinnin.

Michaels Adapts

From these books Sidney Michaels adapted this play which captures much of the raucous humor, the wit and the rowdiness which surrounded the man. Michaels shows the women who chased him and the women he chased. The play is at moments touched with sadness and poignancy, but most of all it is laced with the life spirit of Dylan who loved language, living and booze and who died at age 39 because of too much of each.

Horace Robinson directs the University Theatre's production of "Dylan." Anthony Kadlec, University Theatre Technical Director, designed the setting.

The play, unusually cinematic in technique, has 29 scenes ranging from a beach in Wales to an airport, from bars to mansions, and from a lecture hall to a burlesque house. Constructed on different playing levels, Kadlec's set thrusts out into the house. Projections of light enhance the cinematic quality.

Players Cast

Stan Elbertson plays Dylan. Experienced as both actor and director, he has acted at the Shakespearean Festival in Ashland and was last seen at the UT in "A Long Days Journey into Night."

Dianne Wrocklage, Dylan's Irish wife Caitlin who matches him outrage for outrage, appeared this summer in Carnival Theatre.

David Grieve is cast as John Malcolm Brinnin, the American poet who was responsible for chaperoning the elusive Dylan and who rarely lost his sense of humor. Dave played Quentin in "After the Fall."

Chilton Cunningham plays Meg Stuart, the American woman who at first resists but ultimately succumbs to the persistent charm of Dylan. Miss Cunningham had leading roles in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "She Loves Me."

A large supporting cast backs up the lead characters. The identity of Miss Wonderland, the burlesque queen, remains shrouded in mystery.

"Dylan" runs Friday and Saturday and October 26 through October 29. Tickets priced at \$1.50 on weekdays and \$2.00 on weekends are on sale at the University Theatre Box Office (342-1411, ext. 1781), open from 12 until 5 weekdays and until 9 on evenings of performances.

AL'S AUTO UPHOLSTERY

U OF O STUDENT SPECIAL

15% Off

on all work when you present your student body card

344-2504

1425 Oak