



A pilot project for problems

The Center for Religion and Life is sponsoring a pilot project this year in an attempt to evaluate and perhaps work out such problems as any individual may have. The method is by sponsoring a week-end away in a cabin at Lake Tahoe with a maximum of 14 people and a moderator.

The first such weekend is scheduled to begin Jan. 7 and the

entire cost is \$7. According to the flyer distributed by the Center, that particular weekend will contain "in depth discussions of things like developing a life style, dynamics of change, making it in a bureaucratic society, the ingredients of an intimate relationship, or whatever—" with the discussions being directed by John Marschall and John Dodson.

According to Marschall this program was initiated last year at Humboldt State and at this time nearly all members of the college community have become involved. Oftentimes there are two or three different seminars in one weekend, because registration at each one is kept at a strict minimum in order to maintain a working rapport with all

involved.

Registration is now underway for the first, in what will hopefully, be a series of weekends throughout the spring semester. It is open to all members of the university community, including faculty, staff, and students. But space is limited. For more information call the Center, 329-8448.

The common name of a parasitic plant

(Editor's note: It has come to our attention that the professional journalism society on campus, Sigma Delta Chi (SDX), is now selling mistletoe in the department office, Mack Social Science. For the benefit, then, of our fellow journalists, we present the following Guide to Mistletoe.

Collier's Encyclopedia calls Mistletoe "the common name of various parasitic shrubs of the family Loranthaceae."

Common name, indeed! We object whole-heartedly to such a crass definition of one of the rosier traditions of the season. That the plant is parasitic there is no doubt; it leads people to hold on to each other for nourishment.

"Various birds eat the berries and disseminate the plant by wiping their beaks."

The Sagebrush advises hungry birds to try the liver canapes instead. Or, having eaten a berry by mistake, avoid dissemination by sipping a

cocktail before wiping your beak. Better yet, wipe off a beaker of beer.

"Later, when the seeds germinate, their roots penetrate to the sap-bearing layers of the bark."

We refuse to touch this. There will be no penetrating roots in a Sagebrush Guide.

"Bird lime was made from its seeds, and it was used medicinally," Colliers claims.

We felt this bit of historical information was interesting.

"The hairy mistletoe, *P. villosm*,

is found mainly on oaks on the Pacific coast."

That reminds us of the joke about the hairy Mistletoe and the elf, but that's another story.

"In some localities . . . mistletoe kills the trees which serve as its hosts."

We advise all hosts to watch out for this one. And if your're not worried for your own safety, then for God's sake keep that Mistletoe away from the Christmas tree.

Thank you, SDX and Colliers, for the inspiration.

Minority rep for Peace Corps here today

William Council, 28, is the Peace Corps Director of Minority Recruiting for the 13-state Western Region. He is here today in at a table in front of the book store.

A returned Peace Corps Volun-

teer with three years service in India, Council is responsible in the West for the Peace Corps' stepped-up recruiting of blacks, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans.

"Up to now blacks and other

minorities haven't really understood what Peace Corps is all about and the vital role that they should have in it," Council said. "Peace Corps service can put a black volunteer in a decision-making position that he

wouldn't reach in the United States for many years, if ever.

It can give him new skills, new insights, a new language. And it can be a better training ground for activism than a ghetto street. It's a meaningful way to start a career or to gain new experience."

Council, born in Greenville, N.C., was graduated from Agriculture and Technical State University in Greensboro, N.C., in 1966.

Oaxaca - for this generation

by Tod Bedrosian

(Editor's note: Bedrosian was Ecology editor for the Sagebrush last year and is a 1971 journalism graduate. He submitted this report while enroute to a job in Honduras.)

If Amsterdam is the European gathering point for the Pepsi generation then Oaxaca, Mexico, is surely its Latin American counterpart. This classical Mexican city is the capital of the state of Oaxaca, and is located approximately 300 miles south of Mexico City. It lies far from any other city which could be considered a "turista" spot and only the hardiest of the "gringos" often make it this far into Mexico.

Usually, by the time most tourists hit Mexico City they are ready to go home for a number of reasons—dysentery being the most prevalent. Amebic Dysentery is a constant threat to the American intestinal tract and goes by many aliases, including "the Toltec trots," the "Aztec Quick-step" and "Montezuma's Revenge."

For those hardy enough to survive the Mexican water and press on to Oaxaca, the city provides a real worthwhile trip in many ways. In the heart of Zapotec Indian country the city lies 4500 feet up and is surrounded by three separate Indian ruins sites and fertile farm land. The city itself is filled with friendly people and has a beautiful town square skirted by very ancient buildings. The whole scene is almost European and even includes sidewalk cafes.

The resident population of Oaxaca (pronounced WHOA-HOC-A) is approximately 90,000 but that figure swells considerably during the rainy season (April to November) with a wave of young Americans retreating from American campuses in search of the good life and a better brand of drugs. For the most part they find both in Oaxaca.

On any given afternoon in the villa square you can see bell-bottomed, tank-topped "hippies" roaming the cafes or just shopping for the evening meal. The Mexican police consider anyone with over one inch of hair a hippy, and small children are constantly giving the peace sign to Americans they consider hip. For the most part the American expatriate population blends into life at Oaxaca and tries to make itself as unobtrusive as possible. This isn't too hard to do and by the end of three months many of the Americans are indistinguishable from the natives. The

American hips you meet in Oaxaca are unique from other tourists in Mexico, because they came to Oaxaca with the intention of living there for at least four months. Some of the Americans in Oaxaca come to merely take in the scene, but a great many of them come for the annual crop of "hongus."

"Hongus" is a term which is commonly applied to a hallucinogenic mushroom which grows wild on the sides of an extinct volcano near Oaxaca.

Although this organic hallucinogenic is not widely known in the United States, it was common knowledge to Timothy Leary ten years ago and has been a part of the Zapotec spiritual rites for hundreds of years. The Zapotec Indians incorporate the mushrooms into their rites. The drugs have become quickly Anglesized and now every year a crop of "heads" blossom in Oaxaca to gather the crop of mushrooms.

One dentistry student from Northwestern describes the "hongus" trip as "mellow and not unusually high." The real attraction of the mushrooms is that they are organic, plentiful, and supposedly have no side effects (although this has never been proven).

Although the clinical side-effects of Hongus are still a bit fuzzy, the penal side-effects are quite solid. The local police are amiable enough, but they always keep a suspicious eye cocked towards any gringo that looks as if he might be on any trip other than the American Express trip.

There are few busts in Oaxaca because both the police and the kids keep cool. In other instances, it is said the police work in conjunction with local pushers who sell the mushrooms. Once a sale has been made the pusher reports his customers to the police and has his mushrooms returned with a reward. The customers may get up to five years in jail and can expect little help from the American government.

One girl from British Columbia pointed out another danger. She said many of the mushroom peddlers will sell naive customers either low-grade mushrooms or mushrooms with no hallucinogenic qualities at all. She spent nearly \$60 on phony mushrooms before she finally got a "good" batch.

As more young Americans come to Oaxaca the city will probably lose some of its remote novelty. The police may crack down harder, mushrooms will probably fall into the same penal category as marijuana and Oaxaca will lose some of its warm appeal.

Senate takes night off

The Student Senate took the night off Wednesday for the first time this year.

Rick Elmore cancelled the weekly meeting because too many senators were "involved in Christmas activities and community projects which I felt were just as important as senate" and with the approaching vacation the senators "needed the time to get caught up."

The agenda for Wednesday's meeting would have included the elections of three senators; one greek seat and junior and senior men's activity seats.

With an issue as important as the vacant activity seats, which may be close and controversial, Elmore said as many senators as possible should be present. But he realized as the week progressed and senate excuses continued to accumulate, Elmore decided the meeting should be cancelled.

File applications

Applications for financial assistance for this spring should be filed immediately, said Douglas Jackson, financial aids office.

Students desiring a loan from the United Students Aid Fund to cover the costs of registration should put in their requests before Christmas vacation as it usually takes a month to process the applications.

This is a long-term loan repayable 10 months after graduation with the interest paid by the federal government while the student is in school.

Students wishing to work during Christmas can check with the financial aid office; jobs are available for as many as 40 hours a week during the vacation. Eligible students can complete an application for work-study which is available throughout the year.

Crafts fair today

The student union will be the site of a Crafts Fair sponsored by the Experimental College Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

According to a spokesman for the College, the main objective of the fair is to give university students an opportunity to display and sell their crafts.

Refreshments of tea and cookies will be sold at the fair, and live music will be provided.

Last minute Christmas shoppers might take advantage of this opportunity to buy hand crafted gifts.

Take a realistic look at strength

by Pat Murphey

(Editor's note: This is the last of a two part series written by Pat Murphy who recently attended the National Emergency Conference for New Voters in Chicago. In this analysis Murphy outlines a number of possible steps by which youth can strengthen their effectiveness in the political arena.)

At a time when many local and national columnists are attempting to play down the importance of the newly enfranchised voters in the 1972 election, it is imperative for young people to take a realistic look at their political strength.

Previous to the passage of the 26 Amendment massive protests were the only means whereby students could effectively express their displeasure with an action taken by

those in power. Today, however, students have an open door to participate in the political process on every level. The first step in the participation is to register to vote.

The number of students that register to vote is a solid indicator of political interest. It is a very important beginning but only a beginning. Political power is wielded by those active in the two major political parties. Students who seek an alternative in the other parties are only kidding themselves that they will have any real political impact.

Those insist on registering non-partisan because they don't want to commit themselves to a party label and want what that party stands for obviously have not ventured beyond their blatant apathy to inquire as to what the parties do stand for. Every

four years the major parties open the entire party platform for revision by the delegates to the national convention, and every two years the state and county conventions call for a new party platform. A political party philosophy is only a mirror of those concepts and ideals held by members of that party. If a particular party position does not agree with your philosophy, get to the county convention and do something about it. It is very possible you may find many in agreement with you. Party platforms are made to change and do change.

In light of the projected eleven million new voters under the age of twenty one who will hopefully vote for the first time in 1972, both major political parties are making extensive efforts to enlist the support and membership of youth.

Important positions on the county and state convention committees will be open to young people for the first time this year. The precinct is the base of the political power structure, and the precinct meetings are open to all registered members of the parties.

The national nominating conventions are also asking for youth delegates from every state. Voter registration, precinct meetings, county and state conventions and most important, of all-voting on election day, will be the only truly effective route students can take to have any impact in the political arena.

If they do not accept that challenge then they have lost more than anyone. With the exception perhaps, of the generation which follows.

from your
**Government
In Exile**
by Bruce Krueger



HI BUMMERS,

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS: The Christmas spirit seems to have affected Reno's downtown merchants. (No lads, not the hookers). I don't mean to be gettin' outtaline, but isn't it a little early to be putting up the "Only 373 Shopping Days Left til Christmas" signs? ...

There has been a lot of criticism during the recent years that Christmas has become too comercial. This is exaggerated. In fact, for those of you who are deeply religious, a mail order house has come to your rescue. If you resent the mockery of this sacred day, you now have the chance to purchase a "Flourescent, glow-in-the-dark crucifix, complete with mounted savior," either flashing a peace sign or waving an American flag—depending on your political persuasion—"And if you order now," you receive a free bonus record entitled: "Billy Graham: The Simple Christmas" where the famous evangelist tells you how to enjoy the simple Christmas, simply by ordering \$47.56 worth of books and paraphernalia.

DUMMY UP: Christmas is the time of year when it is better to give than receive... as long as it evens out. My rich old miser relative, Uncle Felix, must have found a soft spot (most likely in his head), for this year he has decided to give the entire family pneumonia... In order that everyone will be able to have snow ball fights to their hearts content, the Building and Grounds Department has decided not to remove the snow around campus until early April... realizing that Christmas entails "Good will toward men" the Dining Commons will close for two weeks... What will Stephen Lehman do with the 67 fruitcakes he's received?... Conforte is offering the entire city of Reno a Christmas present—a special Lay-A-Way plan... Hopefully, Brush Editor Michael Graham will give me the benefit of the doubt, and present me with a Christmas bonus... hint, hint... Knowing that George Wallace is looking forward to a White Christmas, I suggest we chip in and give him a holiday trip (one way) to Mount Everest.

LYIN' IN WINTER: While recently shopping for a Christmas present for my daughter, I noticed that anything I might send her could lead to a charge of Manslaughter... I'm not saying that today's toys are dangerous,

but after I eliminated all of the ones that could cut, slice, carve or maul, and those that loaded, exploded, twanged, banged, popped or shot, I was left with the comic strip to a hunk of bubblegum.

For the little boys, I found a wonderfully keen toy robot called Mr. Genocide, with a small lazer gun that "really works. Yes kids, be the first one on your block to be the last one on your block!"

For the little girls there was Dr. Reuben's best-selling comic book: "Everything you've always wanted to know about Barbie & Ken, but were afraid you might become frigid."

Also, in the toy shop was a nifty game called "Diplomacy" (for ages 5 thru 8 and State Department officials). In this game each player receives three copies of the Geneva Accords, five billion dollars in foreign aid for Latin dictators, fill-in all-purpose ultimatums, a conscripted army, the Seventh Fleet, and 18 tactical nuclear weapons "limited to use above the rank of 1st Lieutenant."

The object of the game is to set up as many imperialist dependencies as possible, to invade any country that has one or more communists, and to submit to war crimes when applicable. If a player's situation becomes totally hopeless, he may call for free elections and then bomb everyone else. The player not utterly destroyed within two hours of play is the winner...

MOSES AND HIS TOP TEN: Actually, we all know the true meaning of Christmas: On December 25, 1950 in the little town of Bethlehem (Pa.), a savior was born. Knowing that Jesus might sound too pretentious, his parents named him Bruce. (Krueger is the German equivalent of Christ). He was then wrapped in swaddling clothes—whatever the hell they are—as his parents had run out of old newspapers. Eventually, he was visited by three wisemen (from the Internal Revenue Service). And lo, an angel came unto them and said quote: "Waiteth ye, he hasn'th doneth anythingh yetth. Giveth him a chanceth." And the three wisemen proceeded onward, where they later investigated some wool barrons, Shepards Inc. Meanwhile, back at the manger, young Bruce wondered about the time when Mrs. Mitchell would "crucify him." Keepeth it thick. Amen.

CH' ISTMAS KITTENS: Three fluf / orange tabby's, weaned—on' cat lovers—call for appointment. 322-5189.

CITIES GETTING you down? The learning process becoming stagnant? Come communing with us. Call Craig, 358-5030.

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Sagebrush

Christmas tosses her powdered locks then smiling mysteriously through white cream traces PEACE in red and green on onion skin spirit.

For days — several weeks — the thought will be cherished, framed reverently in millions of minds.

But when Christmas has passed — and lights come down — the delicate onion skin tears

And Christmas surrenders another year — tosses her powdered locks and sleeps.

— S. Thomley

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