

Noise pollution

By CAROLYN BARNES

Noise in the library seems to bother many students at Southeastern. In several meetings of students, faculty members, and administrators, the problem was brought to the attention of the director of the Learning Resources Center. The fact that excessive talking disturbs many students who are seriously trying to study was apparent when the tally of the student questionnaires on the library was finished during fall quarter. The results of the questionnaires were used in the Self-Study Report now being prepared for the team from the Southern Association who will visit our campus this spring. The results of the questionnaire were tallied, and the comments and suggestions given by the students were noted.

Some representative comments from the questionnaires are:

"Library is entirely too noisy. People get into groups and talk loudly for long periods of time. This is very disturbing to anyone trying to read or study."

"It seems more of a social club not a quiet library."

"There is always too much noise from students gathering together in the study carrels."

"Wish students who are not studying would stay out of library."

A real "scorcher" came from one student who commented, "It is the most undesirable place in this college to try to study. Too many distractions—doors opening and closing, people talking, electric pencil sharpener, etc. It just isn't a library at all. What it is a public gallery for discussion. The only thing that resembles a library is the books."

Along with comments on noise were comments regarding library staff services, need for a larger facility, need for lounge furniture in the library, etc. Comments and suggestions given by students were well-founded and meant to be helpful. It is especially nice to note that there were no "cute" or sarcastic remarks.

The arrangement and size of the library contribute somewhat to the problem with noise. A larger facility with more space to spread out would help as would conference rooms for student who wish to study together without disturbing others. Since our quarters are cramped, we must be especially careful and be sure we are not disturbing others.

What has the library staff done to help cut down on noise? For one thing, the secretary's office has been moved from the workroom adjacent to the reading room into a smaller back office. This has helped to eliminate noise from the typewriter and the telephone. Students are being asked to leave the library when they are too noisy too long, even though the director of the Learning Resources Center does not wish to ask anyone to leave the library.

This seems a good time to point out a few things the library staff has been doing to make using the library easier for students. The entire phonograph record collection has been moved into the large workroom as has the entire microfilm collection. The "New York Times" Index has been moved into the workroom so it may be used near the microfilm and the microfilm reader-printers. In addition, there is a record player and a tape recorder in the workroom for personal or group use. The workroom may also be used by students who wish to discuss material. Plans are underway now to move the periodicals to one part of the library and arrange them in alphabetical order for easier use. Since this will necessitate moving almost every book in the library, this will take some time and will cause all library users some inconvenience when the rearrangement actually begins. The need for a more systematic arrangement has become apparent after seeing much student frustration in this area.

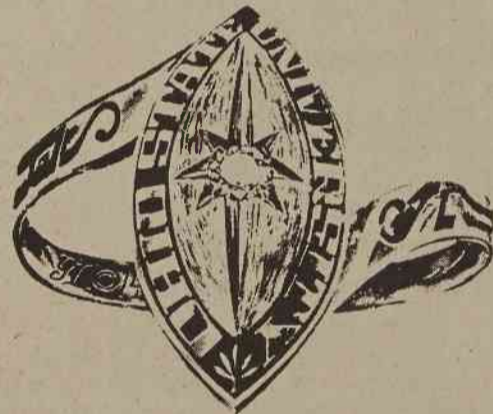
What can you do to help cut down on noise in the library? Please remember that the library is not the place for social conversations. The library staff recognizes the fact that friends are great and love is here to stay but the library is neither the place for gathering for social purposes nor for courting. Please keep in mind the fact that many of our students are living at home and may not have a quiet place to study. Many of our students have only a limited amount of time to study because they have jobs after class. We must be considerate of these students and remember that the library is for the use of everyone. The library staff would appreciate the cooperation of all the students at Southeastern in helping to solve this problem. If you are being disturbed by excessive talking, report this to someone at the desk or in the office. Now that the secretary's office has been moved farther away from the reading room, it is harder for the library staff to spot trouble areas. Above all, be aware of the fact that you may disturb someone else if you carry on extended conversations in the library. Do you really want the director of the Learning Resources Center to be Head Babysitter?

Funky Chemistry

An Environmental Chemistry Seminar Course will be offered by the Science Department of Southeastern Community College during the Spring Quarter. The course, known as Chemistry 100, will carry one quarter hour of credit. No previous instruction in chemistry or any science is necessary. The course will be of a lecture-discussion type, with various specialists conducting the seminars. Topics to be discussed are as follows: The Structure of the Atom, Research in Universities and Industry, Drugs and Clinical Chemistry, Pesticides and Agricultural Chemistry, Textile and Paper Chemistry, Food Additives, Air and Water Pollution, Household Chemical Products and Radiochemistry. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the world in which you live. The way mankind has affected his world by the abuse of its resources, the proper use of the world's resources and in general what has been done and is being done to destroy as well as preserve our world will be an integral part of the course.



CLASS RINGS - SCC AVAIL



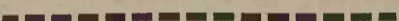
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