

**THE**

MEREDITH

**TWIG**

COLLEGE

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## Are evaluations real?

It's almost time again to fill out teacher-course evaluation forms. Usually, the front page of the familiar blue sheet is hurriedly completed, the objective questions easily answered. The reverse side of the form allows for more lengthy description of likes and dislikes pertaining to the particular course or teacher.

Many of us wonder whether these forms are actually read after we fill them out. The answer to this question is a definite YES. Teacher-course evaluation forms are examined by the individual teacher, the department heads, and the Academic Dean. These forms provide useful information for the particular teacher from student opinions on course content and the effectiveness of his or her teaching, text evaluation, and opinions on testing procedures. Moreover, the Academic Dean uses these evaluations as vital sources of information in making tenure decisions. These forms are collected from five years back and are carefully examined when a faculty member comes before the Tenure Committee.

Given their importance, these evaluation forms should be filled out carefully and with the consideration that they will be read. Be assured that your opinions really do count.

Concern has been expressed over the current location of the pin-ball machine in Cate Center. A more suitable place could be found for the machine rather than its present location at the head of the stairs in Cate. Granted the machine is a source of supplementary income for the Center, but couldn't that income be collected from patronizers in the area where the pool tables and other games are found? The difference in income intake in its present position of prominence and the money made if it were relocated in the game room would be minimal. For those who do not wish to patronize the machine, but would prefer to enjoy an art exhibit or other display in that area, relocation of the machine into the game room would eliminate any disruption they might experience while trying to enjoy the displays. The pin-ball machine is a practical addition to the center, but relocation seems in order.

MKP

## Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. **Lauren Bacall by Myself**, by Lauren Bacall (Ballantine, \$2.75.) Life with "Bogie" and on her own.
2. **Good as Gold**, by Joseph Heller. (Pocket, \$2.95.) Aspirations and struggles of Jewish-American professor: fiction.
3. **The Stand**, by Stephen King. (NAL/Signet, \$2.95.) Widespread disease followed by unknown terror: fiction.
4. **How to Prosper During the Coming Bad Years**, by Howard J. Ruff. (Warner, \$2.75.) Investment techniques.
5. **The World According to Garp**, by John Irving. (Pocket, \$2.75.) Adventures of a son of a famous, feminist mother.
6. **The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet**, by Dr. Herman Tarnower & Samm S. Baker. (Bantam, \$2.75.)
7. **How to Eat Like a Child**, by Delia Ephron. (Ballantine, \$3.95.) And other lessons in not being grown-up.
8. **The Americans**, by John Jakes. (Jove, \$2.95.) Kent family chronicles, Vol. VIII: fiction.
9. **Mary Ellen's Best of Helpful Hints**, by Mary Ellen Pinkham and Pearl Higginbotham. (Warner, \$3.95.) Solving household problems.
10. **Dragondrums**, by Anne McCaffrey. (Bantam, \$2.25.) Third volume of science fiction trilogy.

Compiled by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* from information supplied by college stores throughout the country. March 3, 1980.

# Bid Maec in Germany

by Regine Nickel

This supposedly being an international column, I think it is time to reflect on how different 'international' really is. And this week offers itself for a little sideline, since things on the international front are momentarily simmering 'on low.'

When I first came to Meredith I was quite astounded at being termed 'international student.' To me everybody but me was international! Meeting American parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters; going to American shopping malls and supermarkets; visiting American churches; experiencing the American college; all these aspects of American life seemed so foreign and interesting to me that I hardly had a thought for the effect my 'internationality' could have on the people who met me.

Once the newness had been overcome and the language barrier had been broken all I could see was the similarity. When asked to talk about the difference between German and American foods - just to give one example - I was completely at a loss. We really don't have anything I have not had, or at least seen, here. Why, now there even are Macdonald restaurants in Cologne, Bonn, and

Dusseldorf. And a German Big Mac -- even though spelled Bid Maec -- tastes just as well as its American brother... Well, there may be one major difference; beer is being served in German Macdonald restaurants! (A well-travelled member of the faculty confided to me, that he had had trouble finding Dr. Pepper in Germany...)

'International' today, in the age of the jet and shrinking distances, is more of a geographical epithet, at least as far as Europe and the United States are concerned. And I venture to say that this holds true for other world areas as well. Without the fear of losing my national identity I would like to point out the vital similarities that bind together cultures; I should limit myself

to the cultures of Western heritage. The politically most important common aspect is democracy; especially in West Germany, the political system of which is 80 percent American and 20 percent English (which adds up to 100 percent German!)... More seriously, most cultures are built upon the family, European and American societies being no different.

The main religion is Christianity. Even if there are political differences, or economic disagreements, the above mentioned three vital similarities should provide a pillow of comfort in times of strain. If the essence is the same all differences are but quaint. And quaint is how different 'international' really is.

JACK ANDERSON

## WEEKLY SPECIAL

WASHINGTON -- State Department officials are dismayed over the breakdown in the United Nations-sponsored effort to free the American hostages in Iran. The U.N. commission left Iran after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini refused to allow the delegation to visit the prisoners.

The Iranian militants, according to one report, will now try to drag out the negotiations for another six months. By that time, experts fear, the hostages may suffer serious psychological injury.

But there is one straw in the wind. Iranian leaders are secretly considering a proposal to release the 50 American hostages to an American congressional group. According to our sources, several members of Congress -- including maverick Idaho Republican George Hansen -- have agreed to take part in this plan if it would secure the release of the prisoners.

The concept of a people-to-people exchange appeals to the Iranian leaders. As they see it, representatives of the Iranian people would be returning the hostages to representatives of the American people. This would enable the Iranians to free the hostages without losing face.

All we can say, at this point, is that the idea is under serious consideration by top leaders in Tehran. But in that chaotic city, nothing is certain.

**MORE ON SKYLAB:** Remember the great splash that Skylab -- the 311-ton space laboratory that fell from orbit -- made in the Indian Ocean last July?

Luckily, space officials were able to delay the descent by 18 minutes, which kept the vehicle from slamming into the North American continent. Instead, more than 400 fragments of hot metal, some

hurtling at speeds of 200 miles per hour, rained down upon the Indian Ocean. A few pieces hit Australia. Residents described the impacts as thundering booms that made the earth shake.

Now we have learned that space officials knew all about the danger before they ever launched the huge monstrosity into orbit in 1973. Three years earlier, the acting administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, George Low, received a classified report warning of the danger.

The report estimated that the falling debris could kill someone. The chances were figured at one in 55. The Lockheed company also estimated that the satellite would break up into 505 pieces, some weighing hundreds of pounds.

Yet space officials disregarded the warnings and launched the satellite anyway. They also refused to spend extra money, which would have reduced the danger.

They calculated that Skylab would fall to earth no later than May of 1981. But none of this information was shared with the public. In fact, space officials later blamed the satellite's early re-entry on sunspots.

Meanwhile, some of the debris is still out there in space. The fallout from Skylab continues to rain down -- hot metal from heaven.

**DEMOCRATIC AID:** The United States government hands out foreign aid to some 69 percent of the international community. Last year, American assistance to 96 nations cost the taxpayers more than \$9 billion in the form of grants, credits, food shipments and social programs. And the program is truly democratic: Left-wing and right-wing dictatorships alike share in the largesse.

### From the Editors:

The letter in the March 20 issue of *The TWIG* complaining of student behaviour at a recent Fire Prevention Program was NOT written by Dr. Samson, who did write the letter reporting that 36 cherry trees are to be planted on campus as a result of the Cherry-Tree Project. We wish to apologize to Dr. Samson for the inconvenience this confusion has caused him. In the future, we ask that students wishing to express dissatisfaction with material in *The TWIG* address their complaints to members of *The TWIG* staff. We also request that all comments or letters to the editors be signed by the writer(s) to avoid misunderstandings or confusion such as Dr. Samson experienced.

## New & Recommended

**Mozart**, by Marcia Davenport. (Avon-Discus, \$3.50.) New edition of definite biography.

**The Coup**, by John Updike. (Fawcett-Crest, \$2.75.) African dictator vs. Ugly Americans: fiction.

**The Good Word and Other Words**, by Wilfrid Sheed. (Penguin, \$3.95.) Collection of essays.

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