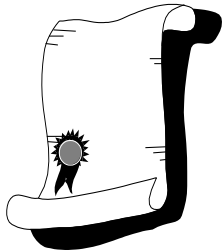


The Growl

The Newspaper of the Humphreys College Huskies, Stockton, California

Issue Five May 1998
Jess Bonds, editor



Message From the President

Dr. Humphreys

The recent closure of a private business College in Modesto points out what is possibly the best and the worst of governmental regulation in education these days. While no one argues the necessity for reasonable governmental oversight of taxpayers' money, this sad event is just one of many situations where the shortsighted development and implementation of governmental regulations often has the result of hurting the most those they are designed to protect.

The federal government, through the Department of Education, provides billions of dollars each year to make attending college possible for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to obtain a college education. In an attempt to ensure that these funds are used for their intended purpose, the government has put in place a plethora of regulations which colleges and universities must follow in order to participate in financial aid programs. When colleges do not follow these regulations, they are warned and ultimately are denied the right to participate in federal financial aid programs.

The Department of Education is of course very proud to be able to report to the taxpayer that its complicated, cumbersome, and bountiful regulations, dealing with everything from default rates to the timely return of refunds, are evidence of its efficient husbandry of taxpayers' money. What does not get reported, however, is the fact that a large proportion of the reduction in the mismanagement of financial aid funds can be attributed to the forced closure of hundreds of colleges across the land. What also does not get reported is the extreme financial and emotional cost in the form of educational and financial devastation of the students enrolled at the time of closure – the students are the ones who pay the ultimate price in shattered dreams and lost opportunity.

One student at the private business college in Modesto had only two weeks of a year-long program remaining when the college closed. She will not get a certificate of completion, which would help her get a job; and she owes thousands of dollars in student loans which must be paid back – not to mention a year of her life has been wasted. Another student was being funded by the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. With two weeks to go until completion, this student also will not get a certificate of completion, has no money of her own to repeat her education somewhere else, and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has already spent what was budgeted for her and will not pay to repeat the course somewhere else. In this recent closure, stories like this abound, with the students being the innocent victims.

Surely it is not the intention of anyone that the prudent and much needed accountability of student financial aid funds would result in such pain and suffering for these students. The government is very good at regulating virtually all aspects of life, particularly in higher education. Surely the government can find a way to regulate the unfortunate closure of such a college so that the students don't end up being the ones carrying the heaviest burden. It must have been known for many months, if not several years, that this college was in danger of losing eligibility for financial aid. Once the government decided that it was going to terminate funding, why couldn't it have implemented regulations that: 1) require that the college not take in any new students, 2) continue to fund the college for the remaining few months it would have taken for the existing students to complete their programs, 3) require that the college remain open until all students have either completed their program or found acceptable alternatives, and 4) require and help the college find appropriate teach-out opportunities for the students at other institutions before terminating funding.

While Humphreys College has always had in place stringent policies and procedures to prevent this type of problem occurring here, it is important for us all to be aware of the ramifications of governmental regulation in all aspects of life and to be prepared to let our elected representatives know of our interest and concern.

With a little thought and planning by the Department of Education, both of the groups with the highest stakes could have been protected: the taxpayers could be assured that their money is being spent properly and protected against abuse; the students could have been spared this cruel, frustrating, and unnecessary interruption in the pursuit of their education, their dreams, and their hopes for a better life.



Veteran? Apply for benefits!

Lance Hall, Registrar

Students who are veterans or are a dependent of a veteran may qualify for earned benefits. The Registrar can walk you through the necessary steps. First, if you are interested in how much you may be eligible to receive, contact the Veterans Administration at (800)827-1000. The Registrar cannot quote dollar amounts, as this varies depending on your class and length of service. Second, see the Registrar to fill out the appropriate application(s). Then, during the third week of the quarter (after the registration period is over), the Registrar "certifies" you for the correct number of units to the VA. Then, 21 days after the VA receives the certification, you should receive your reimbursement.

There are several classes of VA benefits, or "chapters". A short list follows:

Chap 30	Montgomery GI Bill holders
Chap 31	Disabled Veteran Vocational Rehab GI Bill
Chap 32	Veterans Educational Assistant Program
Chap 35	Dependents Educational Assistance

If you have questions regarding which chapter you belong to, call the VA number listed above. To qualify for benefits, the Registrar must first have in your Humphreys College file a copy of your DD214 and transcripts from any and all colleges or universities previously attended. Stop in or call me for more information at (209) 478-0800.



Where In The World Is Jan-Michael Ong?

A Former-Student Update, Jess Bonds

Some of you remember Jan-Michael Ong. I remember him well. He took a couple of my English classes and was an excellent student who overcame language barriers. He used to tell stories of swimming with the sharks in the waters off his native homeland in the Philippines. Jan is still swimming with the “sharks”. But those sharks are at San Jose State University, where Jan was honored as a Dean’s Scholar.

When he attended Humphreys, he made the Dean’s List and was instrumental in designing our Written Communications class project newspaper, which in turn inspired my involvement in *The Growl*. Thanks and congratulations to Jan, an inspiration who continues to have influence at Humphreys years after his transfer to San Jose State. If you want to read more about Jan, check out *Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities*; he has a three-year listing in that publication.



Balance Due

Michelle Sotelo

Spring Quarter is nearly half way through, and we’re on our way to wrapping up yet another quarter. Our first balance-due billing was sent out April 22. If you have any questions regarding the billing, feel free to call either Sandra or Michelle at (209) 478-0800 ext. 110.

Here are some important fiscal dates:

May 8	Last day to withdraw with a tuition adjustment
May 15	Last day to withdraw from class with no tuition adjustment
May 16	Law School Graduation *Note – All Law School graduation fees should have already been paid
June 19	Undergraduate Graduation *Note – We are now accepting payments for graduation fees.



Tutorial Center Continues To Help Students

Court Reporting students continue to visit the Center in droves. Our best wishes go with Jeff Hook and Tina Gonzalez as they face the grueling State licensing test in a few days. Dr. D. is confident, both of them having aced all five English Review qualifying tests, that they are prepared in the English area.

Jeff and Tina very kindly presented Dr. D. with a card at the recent Court Reporting party thanking him for making English “almost fun.” He happens to think English, even grammar, is the best academic fun possible but it takes all sorts...

We are halfway through the Quarter and the Center has logged close to 200 hours of tuition in English, Accounting and Math and the pattern is for appointments to proliferate towards the end of the Quarter, so we continue to expand.

We’re here Monday through Thursday, 9 to 1 and 4 to 7 and on Fridays by appointment so pay us a visit.



LOOKING FOR LEADERS

Debi Queen, Student Body President

Your student government has gone through several changes this year. We lost our Secretary after only one quarter in office; our vice-president was gone for a quarter, and most of the people who came out as student representatives have quit participating. This is your government, and we need to hear from you, the students, and what you want to see happen. We are looking for some students who are interested in taking part in some of the upcoming events.

In order for Student Government to be an active part of your educational experience, you need to let your voice be heard. One of the ways you can do this is by joining Student Council or by letting a current representative know what your feelings are. Please let us know what events you want and come out and show your support. Some suggested events are:

- A Departmental Boat Race
- Annual Softball Game
- Memory Books

Any Additional suggestions are welcome by your Student Government!



It's Your Gig

Michael Duffet, Tutorial Center Coordinator

The Growl in case, students, you haven't heard, is **YOUR** newspaper. We really want to hear what you have to say. Professors get tired, or they should, of their own voices. We want to hear yours.

You probably have very strong opinions about college matters, community matters, cosmic matters, for that matter. So let's hear them.

You may have written a poem. Don't hide it under a bushel. Let us all see it. You may have written a short story. We all want to share it.

If you're shy, we'll call you anonymous. If you're a showoff, we'll blaze your name across the publication.

So don't just sit there, students, speak. Better still, *Growl*.

Students:

*Submit your articles for publication
on disk
in Word or WordPerfect
to Debi Queen or Jess Bonds.*