

The Growl --- January 1999



The Fog

Prof. Cynthia S. Becerra

“The fog comes/on little cat feet,” so says Carl Sandburg, a great American poet from the Midwest. But I don’t think he meant Valley fog. The metaphor does not explain the tunnel that most of us have had to drive in these past few weeks—or if you’re a Valley native like me, every winter of your adult life.

Our fog does not, in fact, look like a cat but a phantom that stays and stays, relentless in its pursuit of all our precious, life-giving light. If our fog were a cat, I would feel better about driving with it sitting next to me. But our fog, unlike Sandburg’s Chicago fog, does not silently sit on haunches and then move on, to paraphrase his poem just a bit. Our fog moves in and conceals the identity of everything that’s familiar to us.

For example, have you missed your turnoff this week? Did your once welcoming driveway or the comforting sight of your home become something out of a Stephen King novel? Mine has. I have missed my own driveway and driven several miles before realizing it. My father-in-law said that once he was driving home and began following a driver on the road who seemed to know where he was going. As my father-in-law pulled into the driveway following the man, he got out and asked the stranger, “Where are we?” The unknown figure quickly replied, “Sir, I don’t know where you think you are, but I’m home.”

Our fog is haunting. We literally—at times—do not know where we are because the once familiar images have been blanketed by this awesome bully in a white sheet. And even though I have encountered it many times and navigated through it fairly successfully over the years, I find it still as disconcerting as the shadowy boogey man who used to hide somewhere in my closet, or at least I thought so at a very young age. However, unlike the closet phantom, the fog cannot be rationalized or fathomed away. It must be dealt with every winter without fail like a ghost from the past that haunts us every year, jeering and scaring us into spring. Moreover, the white, damp specter, cannot be confronted like the fearsome closeted monster—it must be faced with white knuckles, lights on, and a voice inside screaming, “I want my mommy!” Some things never change.



Bloviating Blowhards

Dr. Richard Chabot

A popular bit of jargon being used and practiced in political circles is "bloviate," meaning to pompously orate, to talk with self-righteous and unjustified feelings of importance. It has always been a fear of mine that I bloviate, that I stand up in front of class and talk endlessly about details all students should pay attention to while all students want to hear is what is going to be on the exam. I try to make a deal with the students of each class: I will talk less if you will talk more.

The catch here is that the students must have read the materials and show a willingness to develop and carry forward the concepts and ideas that I, as professor, would myself want to talk about. I consider this a fair deal, providing students with a way to escape the sound of my voice.

As we enter into a new quarter, I typically launch into long introductions to whatever subject I'm teaching, but I am looking forward to new views. I think you will find most of your instructors interested in what you have to say and that they are quite serious when they ask for questions and comments. For my part, I believe I do have a lot to teach that is worthwhile for you to learn, but I'm also aware of a student's tendency to become numb from excessive oratory. So please speak up and provide me and your classmates with fresh ideas and new ways of looking at a subject – as long as you don't bloviate yourself, of course.



New Court Reporters

Bruce Bodine, Court Reporting Coordinator

The Court Reporting Department of Humphreys College is proud to announce that three of our students recently passed the examination administered by the State of California to become certified shorthand reporters (CSR). The exam was held in Los Angeles on November 13 and 14.

Those that passed were Genny Elias and Tina Gonzalez from our Stockton campus, and Yvette Zavala from our Sacramento campus. This was a two-day exam, with the written portion being given on Friday and the machine (steno) portion being given on Saturday. The CSR exam is given twice a year, May and November. Approximately 325 test-takers from around the state participated.

The students, faculty, and staff of the Court Reporting Department of Humphreys College give a hearty congratulation to our former students. They have all achieved their goal of becoming court reporters, and they have entered a profession of which they can all be proud. We wish them the best of luck!



Meet Your Teacher

Stan Perkner, Interviewer

"I Always Wanted to Teach . . ."

-Bruce Bodine, Program Coordinator in Court Reporting

"I attended schools in Turlock, Modesto Junior College (A.A.), and San Jose State University (B.A.). My major was law enforcement and penology with a minor in psychology. After working for Stanislaus County for eight years, I decided to change my career and went to work in private industry."

In Winter 1990, exactly nine years ago, Bruce Bodine entered Humphreys College. Not as a professor, however . . . He became a night class student.

“At that time I decided to go back to school. I chose Humphreys College because it was the closest school that offered court reporting. I became interested in this as a career after spending a good deal of time in superior courts as a probation officer. Sometimes, I spent more time watching the reporter instead of paying attention to the judge (seldom a good move!). In addition to this, I already knew about the steno machine since my mother had taught steno theory at the Navy School in Monterey.”

Then came a San Francisco experience.

Yes, I also spent a short time working for the U. S. Department of Labor in San Francisco as a workman’s comp. claims examiner for federal employees. Because of this experience working with medical claims, I later used my steno machine to work for a cardiologist in Turlock. Nevertheless, I had always wanted to teach, and here I am.”

You are an ideal person to ask a simple question: Who are court reporters? What makes a good reporter?

“Today’s court reporters are consummate professionals on their steno machines and in producing documents of the spoken word. It really is a profession, not just a job. We have an excellent program here at Humphreys College and prepare our students very well for this profession. Court reporting is not for everyone; it is for those students who pass the Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR.) Examination. Court reporting can be a very rewarding career choice. Computerized reporting has also created new career opportunities outside the legal field such as interpreting for the deaf, and hearing-impaired, closed captioning for television, medical transcription, and rapid text entry.”

Besides your teaching duties, you work as the Program Coordinator in Court Reporting. What do you do in your spare time?

“My leisure time is limited. My wife and I are care providers for my parents. Moreover, I always have papers to grade. However, I never miss a Star Trek movie.”

Do you consider yourself a Trekkie?

“No, I am not a Trekkie, although I have been to two conventions. I don’t dress up like real Trekkies do! I have read some Star Trek books. I love mysteries and science fiction. So, of course, I have read most of Stephen King’s books and then watched the movies. The books are always more fun. My favorite programs on television are a few sitcoms, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and PBS - not to mention the Food Channel on occasion. Then, of course, there is X-Files.”

What is your life credo?

“I feel that treating people with respect will return that respect every time. Also, if a mistake is made: learn from it, correct it, and move on.”



A New Tutorial Center Year

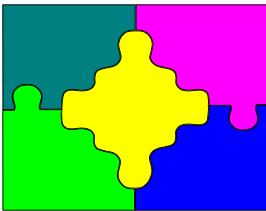
Michael Duffett, Tutorial Services Coordinator

I see a lot of new faces around campus this new year and whereas that may be because I am teaching more than I ever have here at Humphreys, it may also be that many of you have not yet met me in the Tutorial Center where I, or our Accounting Tutor, can spend time with you in the best possible educational way - individually.

A new year seems a very appropriate time for me to reiterate what has been the guiding principle of the Center, now well into its second year, and that is that tutoring must not be thought of as applying only to those students who are experiencing difficulty with their studies. We are very proud of the fact that many of our students - and there have been dozens who have passed through our door since our opening in August of 1997 - have achieved high grades.

So if you're scoring highly in your studies, come on by and spend time with me for English or any writing-related assignment, or with Ms. Queen if you are taking an Accounting course at any level. And score even more highly.

We all wish you a very educationally successful 1999!



Transfer Policies

What classes transfer from my previous college to Humphreys College? Why do some classes work for one degree and not another? Both are valid questions, and I will attempt to answer them for you.

Humphreys College accepts units from regionally accredited colleges and universities. What does "regionally-accredited" mean? The U.S. Secretary of Education breaks the U.S. into six geographic regions, each with its own set of reliable authorities that grant accreditation. Humphreys College and other accredited colleges belong to WASC, the western accrediting body. If a college is not regionally accredited, then generally credit can only be granted for vocationally oriented courses such as keyboarding, computers, transcription, etc.

Courses are not automatically applicable to all degrees. Where the student needs to be especially careful is with A.S. and A.A. degrees. In general, developmental courses (course codes 1-49) apply towards the A.S. degree, whereas they do not count towards the A.A. degree. See the General Catalog for a thorough explanation.

Likewise, a course taken for one degree may or may not conditionally fulfill a requirement in another degree. For example, ENGL 102 (Advanced Written Communications) is required for an A.A. in Accounting, but not required for an A.A. in Court Reporting. Thus, even across like degrees, there can be discrepancies. The solution? – Consult your catalog !! (By the way, new catalogs are available in the Admissions and Registrar's Offices – they are free for currently enrolled students!).



Your Income Taxes

Donald C. Hubbard, CPA, Business Administration Department Coordinator

Now that 1998 is over, it is once again time to start thinking about filing your dreaded tax returns. But wait! There are a few new tax benefits that may make the annual ritual a little more palatable this year for students and their parents.

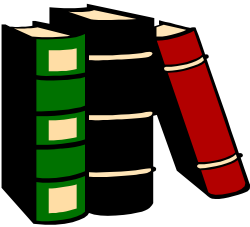
Congress added two new income tax credits for 1998. The HOPE SCHOLARSHIP credit is now available for students in their first two years of college. The credit is 100% of your first \$1,000 tuition and 50% on the next \$1,000. Therefore, a maximum credit of \$1,500 is allowed to offset your income tax.

The second credit is the LIFETIME LEARNING credit. This credit is available to students and/or their parents and is based on 20% of your tuition up to \$5,000. Therefore a maximum credit of \$1,000 is available for 1998. The tuition must have been paid after July 1, 1998 (tuition before July 1 does not qualify).

Qualifying tuition and related expenses eligible for the credits do not include books, or room and board. Students must carry at least 1/2 of the normal full-time load to be eligible for the Hope Scholarship credit, but the Lifetime Learning credit basically applies for any course at a college.

These credits may not be taken in the same tax year with respect to the same student's tuition and related expenses.

And last but not least for all of you who have children, there is a new child credit for 1998 for children under the age of 17. The credit is \$400 per child in 1998 and will be \$500 per child in 1999.



Get a Semester's Books Free

Debi Estrada, Miss San Joaquin County Scholarship Association

The Miss San Joaquin County Scholarship Association is looking for contestants for the 1999 scholarship program. We awarded only 11 scholarships, over \$2,600.00, to young women in our community last year. This year we are looking to award more scholarships!

We are beginning competition of the Miss America Program, the largest scholarship program for young women in America.

Please call Debi Estrada for scholarship application information at (209) 465- 1556.

The deadline is January 30, so call today!



What Are The Faculty Listening To Now?

Here's a sampling of what your faculty are listening to now. Ask them about their tastes!

- Dr. Richard Chabot *Mendelssohn's 3rd Symphony – "The Scotch"*, (Classical)
 Led Zeppelin III, Led Zeppelin (Rock)
- Kay Reindl *Piano Classics*, Various artists (Classical)
- Cynthia Becerra *Hit Singles*, The Carpenters (Soft Rock)
 Christmas through your Eyes, Gloria Estefan (Latin)
- Don Hubbard *University of Tennessee Marching Band*, U. Tenn. Band (Marching)
- Jess Bonds *The Charity of Night*, Bruce Cockburn (Rock)
- Rowena Walker *Beethoven Piano Concertos*, Serkin, et. al. (Classical)
- Linda Rahmoller *Crème of Clapton*, Eric Clapton (Rock)
 Best of Tony Bennett, Tony Bennett (Pop)
- Dr. Michael Duffett *Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring*, London Symphony Orc. (Classical)
 Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B Minor, Concergetbouw Orc. (Classical)
- Debora Queen *Greatest Hits*, Garth Brooks (Country)
 Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring, London Symphony Orc. (Classical)
- Bruce Bodine *Johann Strauss' Waltzes*, London Philharmonic Orc. (Classical)
 It's your Call, Reba McEntire (Country)
- Ann Bauermeister *Top Hits of John Denver*, John Denver (Rock)
- Connie Mead *Out of Silence*, Yanni (New Age)
 Winds across the Water, White Eisenstein (Meditation)
- Dr. Humphreys *It's a Sin to Tell a Lie*, Somethin Smith and the Redheads (Pop/Folk)
 Groups – Limelighters, Brothers Four, Four Preps (Pop/Folk)



Editor's Notes:

- All full-time Stockton faculty now have e-mail. Each address is the first initial and the full last name followed by @humphreys.edu. For example, Jess Bonds' e-mail address is jbons@humphreys.edu Drop your faculty a line.
- In its currently revived state, *The Growl* is celebrating its one-year anniversary! Thanks to all of you who have written articles for *The Growl*! We continue to seek articles written by students. So, if you have anything you want published in the paper, send it to jbons@humphreys.edu or put it on disk and slide it under his office door before the end of the month.