



Chancellor to Retire*****GC President Will Stay

Dr. Jeanne Atherton



Dr. Richard Sanchez



One of the most bitter battles in the history of the GCCCD retire, an announcement by Carolyn Griffin that she will resign her seat on the District Board, and GC President Richard Sanchez secure in his office through the full term of his contract.

The battle began when Chancellor Atherton recommended to the Board that Sanchez' contract be terminated June 30, 1998, a year earlier than June 30, 1999, its designated date. The Board accepted the Chancellor's recommendation, and on August 5, the members voted 3-2 to shorten the contract, Board President Rebecca Clark, with Trustees Rick Alexander and Ron Kraft also voting for the termination. Trustees Carolyn Griffin and Timothy Caruthers voted against the recommendation.

But the Board's action drew widespread reaction, much of it adverse. Individuals and groups, including the Grossmont College Faculty Senate, called for the Board to undo its action, and on September 16, the Board voted to rescind its termination action, thus assuring Sanchez of his tenure continuing until at least June 30, 1999. In mid-October, the Chancellor announced that she will retire, but not immediately. She set the date for June 30, 1998.

She said her decision to retire was not new, and that she had made the decision earlier. She had intended to withhold announcing it until next spring, but campus events, with their accompanying focus on her, had persuaded her to announce the retirement earlier.

Her complaints about Sanchez included an evaluation score by him lower than she thought adequate, failing to support her decisions and neglecting long-term planning.

Historically, the Chancellor has had a rough row to hoe, particularly with the Grossmont faculty, which last year voted no-confidence in her. However, she has said about criticism that she was carrying out Board directions in her actions.

Carolyn Griffin, who voted against the Atherton move to terminate Sanchez, has been the subject of controversy at times during her time as a Board member. Earlier this year she privately contacted an accounting firm to check the Board's earlier audit by another firm. The second audit was made at her behest, with no major errors discovered.

The Board will have to select a replacement for the remainder of her term, or conduct a special election to elect a successor. Of his situation, Sanchez says he's happy, and the recent events have not lessened his enthusiasm and that his contact with the Chancellor will be as professional and collegial as possible.

Roper's Roundup



October retirees' get-together brought more than 20 to Coco's restaurant for eating, drinking, and talking, mostly talking.

New Logos!

GROSSMONT
COLLEGE



CUYAMACA
- COLLEGE -
LEARNING FOR
THE FUTURE



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Committees at Grossmont, Cuyamaca, and District have approved these new logos for their future use.

Editor's Comments



by Pat Higgins

Lee Roper probably didn't think about it with the long run in mind, but he may have started a GCCCD tradition built on coffee. So far, his suggestion that retirees meet informally for coffee on the first Tuesday of each month has been met with growing acceptance.

The first gathering on September 2 at McDonald's, on Lake Murray, numbered about a dozen retirees. The second group, who met at Coco's at Navajo and Fanita, numbered more than 20. This issue will be in production when the third meeting is held, so I can't give you

the attendance figure for November, but I'd take a bet now that the attendance will have increased again.

If you haven't made any of the meetings, I think you'll have missed some pleasant times chatting idly-or with serious purpose if you want-with former colleagues whom you've seen too seldom since you left Cuyamaca or Grossmont.

Coco's is a good place for meeting; long tables accommodate most of the group, but there also are booths which can handle the overflow from the tables. You can order only coffee, or you can have breakfast.

Three or four spouses were in attendance at the October meeting; it would be nice to have a few more, so bring your husband or wife for a pleasant hour or so, and to keep the Roper tradition going.

* * *

Last issue, in pointing to the excellence of the Grapevine staff, I said that when I wanted out as editor I'd say so. Now is that time. I've been editor for three years-astounding as that seems in retrospect-and I want to spend the Grapevine time on some other things.

Editing the Grapevine has been a pleasant chore for me, and I think it will be for whoever succeeds me. We have excellent regular staffers, Sirkka Huovila for production and John Dixon for photography. Tom Scanlan does his column, Biblio-Files for each issue and occasionally, as in this issue, he contributes a story. Occasionally, also, we have contributions from somebody in the retiree ranks, as Leon Hoffman this issue. So, as editor, you wouldn't be alone in producing the publication.

Nobody in authority in the GCCCD has ever told me what could or could not run in the Grapevine, so up to now censorship never has been a problem, and I think that happy situation will continue. There is pay for the job-not as much as I think the time involved is worth-but enough so that you don't feel you're doing it for free. To ease you into the editor position, I'd take the responsibility for the next issue, April 1998, with you as assistant editor. After that you'd be on your own-except, of course, for Sirkka, John, and Tom. If you prefer, I'll be assistant editor for the first issue, or you can do it alone. I wouldn't be unhappy with that plan.

Feedback over the years has indicated you've enjoyed getting and reading the Grapevine. We don't want it to fall by the wayside. We need a good editor, and certainly there are some among you who are capable of being that editor. Let us know, so we can put the Grapevine into good hands with the knowledge that it will continue to be a publication worth reading.

For answers to questions, or to bid to be editor, please contact Tom Scanlan or me by phone or by letter. Tom's phone number is (619) 447-3934. His address is 1654 View Way, El Cajon, CA 92020. My phone number is (619) 461-8856, and my address is 6618 Sunny Brae Drive, San Diego, CA 92119. Speak Up! This is your chance.

EMF Hazards Banished

The task of mitigating electromagnetic fields on the Grossmont College campus, begun two years ago, is complete or nearing completion at Grapevine publication time. Two professional contractors, Tim Brindley of Brindley Electrical Services, and Karl Riley of ELF Magnetic Surveys, are the contractors who have been working to finish the campus ELF mitigation, according to Charles Seymour, Risk Management Director.

The project began in the spring of 1995, after concern was voiced by David Wing, GC photography instructor,

about high EMF readings in the GC Library he had detected on a walkthrough using a gaussmeter measuring device. Subsequently, the Chancellor's Cabinet voted to engage independent contractors to inspect the campus buildings and to remedy any spots which might be dangerous. Worry about campus EMF output as hazardous should now be gone.

Biblio-files



by Tom Scanlan

The weather was perfect on Long Island when we visited relatives in the small New York community of Dix Hills this October. Almost no rain, plenty of gold and red in the oak and maple forests, and air that was cool enough to drink and yet not so cold that we needed gloves on a morning walk. Crows and jays woke us each morning, and sometimes we'd hear a distant honking and look up to see a flock of geese flapping overhead in that loose V-formation they prefer.

The faint pungent smell of burning leaves confirmed that we were indeed experiencing a genuine east coast autumn. And autumn, with its longer evenings, is when many of us start resolving seriously to go through that stack of unread books, some gathering dust since last Christmas (and now we know why they call those paper covers 'dust jackets'). But as much as I love this time of year back East, I always come home to San Diego knowing that the West is really where I want to live year-round.

The four books I'm recommending this issue are all stories with western settings, and that western setting is as much a part of the story as the characters who dramatize it.

For those of you who always wanted to read Larry McMurtry's Pulitzer Prize winning Lonesome Dove but were intimidated by its size, he wrote a little gem of a novel way back in 1962 called Leaving Cheyenne which is just as memorable and only one-third as long. This novel, like others of McMurtry's novels (e.g., The Last Picture Show), deals with the impact of new ways on the old ways of life.

Set in west Texas, it's a love triangle involving a serious-minded rancher, Gideon Fry; his rambunctious cowboy friend, Johnny McCloud; and the impressionable but independent woman they both love, Molly Taylor. The story is told from the point of view of each of these three characters and encompasses a period of forty years, during which time Molly bears each of them a child. It is a story where friendship and love are so closely entwined that you're never quite sure how the story will end, or even how you'd want it to end.

Moving further west, Barbara Kingsolver's best-selling first novel, The Bean Trees (1988), unfolds in Tucson, Arizona. A gutsy and outspoken young woman, Taylor Greer, has left her native Kentucky to strike out on her own rather than succumb to the dreary fate of her peers, where getting pregnant young and marrying the wrong man seems to be the norm.

While sputtering west in a relic VW, she becomes the unwilling 'mother' of a Native American infant, whom she names Turtle. Out of money and with two flat tires, the two of them start a new life together in Tucson by moving in with a woman whose 'almost husband' has just left her (with baby, of course). They also meet some people who are helping refugees from the death squads in Guatemala, and begin to realize that their own problems are minor compared to those

of so many others.

Although the characters in this novel face unusual hardships, they are determined to maintain their sense of independence and humor. You can't help but like these individuals and admire their spirit. And Kingsolver's use of language is almost poetic.

This book is an easy and enjoyable way to restore your faith in the power of friendships. If you like Bean Trees, then you might want to also read Kingsolver's Pigs in Heaven (1993), and follow the adventures of Taylor and Turtle (now six years old) when they eventually return to their roots in Kentucky and Oklahoma.

A young Cherokee lawyer has questioned the validity of Turtle's 'adoption' because of laws requiring sanctioning by the Cherokee tribe. Now Taylor and her adopted child must confront the complications of how Turtle came to be part of Taylor's family and the meaning of what it is to be a Native American in the late twentieth century.

Finally, we come all the way to the west coast with Anne Lamott's new novel, Crooked Little Heart (1997), the story of a thirteen year old California girl, Rosie, a junior tennis champ who actually believes that she's a loser in life. Her best friend, Simone, is more mature and attractive to boys and has a more natural talent for tennis. Determined not to be a loser, Rosie begins to cheat against her tennis opponents.

It's a classic 'coming of age' novel, where Rosie must face the changes that come with the developing sexuality and changing interests of her friends and herself. It is complicated by a home situation where the stepfather and mother have their own problems, and by a shadowy figure, Luther, who seems to be stalking Rosie at her various tennis tournaments. This story line may not turn you on, but you will positively enjoy Lamott's writing. She can be very funny and seems to have really gotten inside Rosie's head. It might just have something to do with the fact that Anne Lamott was herself a teenage tournament tennis player in California.

I received another charming letter from Doris Alexander in which she mildly chastises me for not calling her and Alex the last time I was in Seattle (where does the time go?!) and then goes on to suggest additional titles for my reading pleasure. They include Felicia's Journey by William Trevor, a brilliantly written tale of Irish misery and sex; A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines, a heartbreaker about a black youth who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and faces his wrong condemnation with dignity; Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor (a master of dark humor and the deep South) about a woman who founds 'the Church Without Christ' but discovers otherwise; and Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt, a book about growing up poor in Dublin, which I've been dying to read but not until I get through that stack of books that sit on my reading table making me feel guilty each time I read a magazine instead.

Thank goodness for the return of autumn's longer evenings!

Cuyamaca to Host New Senior Sessions



by Leon Hoffman

Upon my retirement, my wife told me, "Lee, I married you for better or for worse, but not for lunch. You've always been busy, so keep doing something to keep yourself busy."

I was invited to a workshop at Cuyamaca College given by Dr. Diana Kelly, District Associate Dean of Continuing Education, who's based at Cuyamaca. Erv Metzgar also attended the workshop. We both found the subject very interesting and challenging, and we both decided to follow through to help Dr. Kelly develop her ideas into a worthwhile program for our community.

Erv and I brought in four top-notch leaders in our local senior community to form an ad hoc committee to work out the details based on input from the 35 people who had attended the original workshop. Our group consists of Dr. Kelly; Metzgar, President Emeritus of Grossmont College and active in many civic organizations; Phoebe Burnham, wife of Bob Burnham, late District Superintendent, and a strong community leader in her own right; Lois French, active community leader in many organizations; Diane Beene, Mt. Miguel Covenant Village Management Team; Genie Thompson, assistant editor of Senior World News Magazine and an expert on senior educational programs; and me. I'm Professor Emeritus, Grossmont College, and in charge of Senior Ministries, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Spring Valley.

Actually, we have begun work on two separate projects. The first is a series of six non-credit, no-fee senior-oriented courses of various lengths to begin in the spring, 1998 semester. They're titled, "Intergenerational Dialogue"; "An Introduction to Theater"; "The Writing Workshop"; "New Frontiers in Medicine"; "Outwitting Con Artists and Muggers"; and "Enrich Your Environment." We are currently developing course descriptions and outlines for these six courses and enlisting the help of some qualified instructors to teach them.

The second project ties in with the national Elderhostel program. It is a variation on the popular model established by Elderhostel Inc., directed to the local community of seniors. In this way, we won't have to provide the housing and meals, which will allow us to greatly reduce the costs to each participant. This program is called "The Institute for Learning in Retirement." So far we haven't come up with the course subjects, but we are working on the task.

Hopefully, this program will be ongoing, and Erv and I will stay involved. It's expected that most sessions will be at Cuyamaca. It's our feeling that our district has invested a lot in us over the years, as well as providing our livelihood. We are simply giving back a little, while keeping our minds active and having a lot of fun. There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available if you are interested. If you are, call Erv, Dr. Kelly at 660-4355, or me. *Editor's Note: Leon Hoffman taught 27 years in the Administration of Justice program at Grossmont*

Governor Wilson Signs Important STRS Bill

by Tom Scanlan

Governor Wilson signed **SB 1026** (Shiff-D) STRS Purchasing Power into law on October 12. This bill increases the *purchasing power protection* for STRS long-retired teachers from the current 68.2 percent to 75 percent. It will be funded partially from the recent sale of the Elk Hills Petroleum Reserve. Existing law requires revenues from school lands at Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve to be deposited in the School Land Bank Fund and interest earnings to be transmitted to the Teachers' Retirement Fund for distribution by the Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account.

The new law provides that the proceeds of the Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account shall be distributed annually in *quarterly supplemental payments to retired members, disabled members, and beneficiaries to restore purchasing power*

up to 75% of the purchasing power of their **initial** monthly allowances.

Because the STRS annual adjustment is a *simple* (uncompounded) 2 percent, purchasing power begins to erode the day we retire, even at current low rates of inflation. Here's an example of how this works. The average annual inflation rate over the past several decades has been about 5 percent, *compounded*.

Suppose that your STRS retirement benefit is \$30,000 the year you retire, and that is exactly what it costs you to live (your 'cost of living'). At 5 percent *compounded*, your cost of living would increase to \$48,867 in ten years. Your STRS income would only increase to \$36,000 during that same time period (2% of 30,000 each year = \$600 x 10 = \$6000 increase). If you compare \$36,000 to \$48,867 (divide), you'll find that your retirement benefit in ten years is only 73.7 % of your 'cost of living.'

In just under ten years, your purchasing power has dropped below 75% of what it was when you retired, so now you'd begin to receive quarterly supplements which would maintain it at the 75% level for the duration of your life (or that of your surviving beneficiary).

Completing this example, 75% of \$48,867 (your 'cost of living') is \$36,650. Based on this amount, you'd receive four quarterly supplements totalling \$650 (the difference between your actual STRS income of \$36,000 and the 75% amount, \$36,650).

Some of you will benefit immediately from the passage of this bill. Those of us who retired more recently won't have to wait long because the current low rates of inflation are an anomaly. Any way you figure it, this new law is good news for all STRS retirees.

Prison Years OK for Burke



It may surprise you to know that **Dr. Dale A. Burke**, long-time

GCCCD Trustee, has been released from Centinela State Prison after a 3½-year stint behind the prison's walls. True, but the whole truth is that the prison stay was served willingly, as Dr. Burke took care of inmates' teeth as an employee of the State of California.

He joined the prison staff in November, 1993, after he sold his Fletcher Hills dental practice which he'd begun in La Mesa in 1959. He had decided that he wanted to get away from the pressure that comes with the business aspects of private practice, though he recalls with pleasure the fact that he had good patients through the years.

He applied for a dental position with the state, and found himself with one other dentist as the dental staff of Centinela Prison, which was about as new as he was. "I wondered what I was getting into," he said recently, particularly because he had been his own boss for years. But he found that the new job agreed with him.

He worked from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30p.m., five days a week at first, then went on a four-day week of 10-hour days.

His patients were all prisoners, but they appeared to bear him no animosity, because he was not a guard. There probably would have been animosity if the dentist had been also a guard. Still, he had some office security-of a sort.

Medical-technical assistants and vocational nurses assigned to the office were given stars to wear, which made them security personnel. Dr. Burke wonders how much security one small woman would have been if some large prisoner had become unruly while having his teeth fixed. But that never happened, and the dentists felt little, if any, tension while they worked.

At the start, there was a shortage of dental instruments, so the work was limited to simple procedures. But the needed instruments came, and the range of procedures widened considerably.

Dr. Burke and his colleague got into a routine in which examinations and simple procedures were done in the morning, in the afternoon they did extractions, put in crowns and did other complex work. They did up to 18 examinations in the morning and four or five jobs in the afternoon.

Then Dr. Burke decided to retire entirely from dentistry and he left Centinela last May.

Back in his home area, he continues his interest in the GCCCD, but pretty much as an onlooker, not as a participant, as he was in his years on the District Board, 1971-1992. He left with the distinction he still holds, as the longest-serving member in the history of the District.

Career Week



*GC students got the word on dozens of career possibilities during Career Week. Medical service was one field which brought experts to the campus; picture on the left. Added attractions included a fashion show by Macy's, with GC participants **Sirkka Huovila** and **Barb Guiette** on the right. Nancy Davis and Teri Feller got credit for producing outstanding Career Week.*

-
- *News and Production Editor:* Pat Higgins
 - *Desktop Production and Layout:* Sirkka Huovila
 - *Photography:* John Dixon
 - *Biblio-Files Column:* Tom Scanlan
-

*The Grapevine is a free newsletter published for GCCCD retirees.
The Grapevine is published in November, April and July.
Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month before publication.
To submit news items, articles or photographs of interest to GCCCD retirees
mail them to:*

The Grapevine
Grossmont College
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

GOVERNINGBOARD MEMBERS: Richard Alexander, Dr. Timothy Caruthers, Rebecca
Clark, Ronald Kraft
STUDENT MEMBERS: Tri Marin, David Parsons
CHANCELLOR:
Dr. Jeanne Atherton
PRESIDENT: Dr. Richard Sanchez



Updated February 18, 1998 by [Tom Scanlan](#)

