

Hixson At Large



By DUMONT F. HIXSON, JR.

Listening to President Robert Fleming of the University of Michigan give a talk the other day, I was impressed by how little control such a man has over his own institution.

Such a lack of individual impact is through no fault of his own. Any move, change, or innovation, it seems, will upset someone.

This is because a university or college has multiple publics. There are the faculty, students, alumni, board, and legislators, all pulling in slightly different directions. Therefore, it is almost impossible for innovation or change to take place unless one superimposes new structures on top of old structures.

A rational individual does not, of course, believe in violence. But the fact is that many individuals lack a rational base from which to validate or reflect opinions. In such a situation, honest differences become mere noise.

There are, of course, no easy solutions. Yet it would seem that more attempts could be made at increasing dialogue at experimenting with new structures, at overcoming the fear that blocks out another's opinions.

Yet the fact that so few people understand what I am saying probably indicates that the politics of confrontation will continue to emerge.

THE PROBLEM is even more perplexing for someone like the President of our country, taking office for the first time. He has an infinite number of conflicting pressures, all focusing on him. His only real control is over the instruments of war.

The issue of change, therefore, is really the central issue of our time. There is that within us that resists change. If change were easy to effect, there wouldn't be a Center for the Study of Planned Change at the University of Michigan. If change were easy to bring about, we wouldn't have violence on the campus of San Francisco State University.

If change were easy to effect, there wouldn't be so much attention being given to role conflict by sociologists.

THE PROBLEM is that a substantial segment of our society has become convinced it is not possible to effect change through rational means. Thus, the politics of violence and confrontation are now becoming increasingly prevalent.

The politics of violence caused the resignation of two presidents at San Francisco State—two men who were undoubtedly better men than those who caused their resignation.

DECORATORS NOTEBOOK

BY RANDY TRULL, N.S.I.D., Bureau Design Director

The Gift of Luxury

I don't know about you, but I'm frankly tired of so-called "luxury" gifts—the kind that cost too much and add too little to our daily pleasures. Instead of gifts that have to be hidden in the storage closet until the donor comes to dinner, I'm all in favor of gifting friends with really practical luxury—the kind that will be used and used, without giving away the secret of its budget price.

Seriously, working as a designer makes me familiar with many homes, and I never cease being surprised at the contrast between "company quarters" and "hidden" ones. It seems to me that just about everybody can use a little luxury in their personal quarters—particularly now that winter is so much a part of our fashion in living.

The new book of luxury starts with the bedspread—always the mood maker in a well-dressed bedroom. For the elegant touch look into a new Bates collection that's truly a creative treasury of our European design heritage. What part of Europe? You can choose from La Scala, all dimensional motifs, like the embossed velvets of the Italian Renaissance, with a floor-length table skirt to match... or Sonata, with all-four-sided fringing, for an over-the-holster European pillow fall, as well as the traditional tuck-under... or Mirabelle, in a panel design that mirrors the grandeur of 18th Century France.



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'PROJECT SHOWBOAT' — Lt. Gov. William Milliken is honorary chairman of the Michigan Jaycees "Project Showboat," which seeks to raise \$115,000 to purchase, equip and staff a medical houseboat for use in southeast Asia. From left: Donald DeMoss, executive vice president of the state Jaycees; Robert Padgett, of Westland, chairman of the state Jaycees; Milliken; and Daniel McCafferty, project chairman.

WSU Offers Courses In Livonia

Students planning to attend any of Wayne State University's 16 off-campus credit programs in Livonia are advised to register early for the winter quarter. Courses will be held in Franklin High School, 3100 Joy Road.

The structure of American education; mental hygiene and its relation to the problems of education; supervision of student teachers and psycho-educational information for teachers of emotionally handicapped children will be held on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Courses offered on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. include: Great American books; marriage and family problems; discussion and conference techniques and introduction to quantitative methods. Marketing principles and policies I will be offered on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

For course or registration information telephone 358-2104 or stop at the off-campus headquarters, Wayne State University Southfield Extension Center, 25610 W. Eleven Mile, Southfield.

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