

◆ Collegium News ◆

Volume 3, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

February 18, 2000



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Newsletter

Annalee Larson

Fall students analyze rocks, presidents and novels

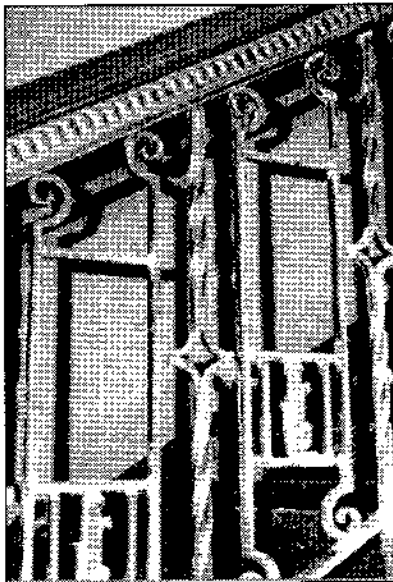
Those who ventured forth to explore "The American Presidency" with Jim Reiley received a recipe for judging candidates for that auspicious office. Class members made their own list of

necessary qualities for the "perfect" president, but their instructor also had an approach. Reiley's recipe went something like this: Look for the pattern of *style*, the habitual way of performing in the areas of rhetoric, personal relations, and

homework. Look for *world view*, the conceptions of social causality, human nature, and central moral conflicts of the time. Look for *character*. Is the candidate active-negative—exhibiting energy, but no joy? Is he/she passive-negative—exhibiting little energy and no pleasure; a fundamental sense of uselessness? Or is the candidate active-positive—able to grow personally and adapt, enjoys challenge, not an ideologue.

Finally, is he/she passive-positive—loves politics for its own sake. Low self-esteem and let's others set goals?

Students enlisted in the pursuit of Thomas Mann's



"Magic Mountain" found themselves on a climb that reached elevations rarified but stimulating. Numerologists found magic in Mann's use of

numbers. Few knew that the number seven holds special qualities. Political theorists,

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Austen, Activism, Communism or Cloning—some picks for Spring

Encouraging the participation of high school students with their elders, **Winds of Change: Four Decades of Activism** will be co-taught by two seasoned activists, Jane McWilliams and Molly Woehrlin on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:30 in the Community Room of the Northfield Public Library. The class will consider major movements for social change in the last 50 years. The format will be guided discussion.

Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 students will get acquainted with **Women of Mystery: from Dorothy L. Sayers to Elizabeth George** led by Don Norris. The survey will address such questions as: In what way has the crime novel, the classic detective story, evolved? And how do women uniquely contribute to the evolving genre? Class meets at Trinity Lutheran.

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Spring term starts April 5. Register starting March 1 at the Senior Center. Sign up early; get your favorite.

The Collegium is accepting course proposals now for next year's program. Do you have a good idea? Something you've always wanted to study, teach? Call 645-2311 with a proposal.



CVEC
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www.cvec.org

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Says it all: "You can only play so much bingo!" --*Julia Savina*

Fall re-cap continued
 of whatever persuasion, found food for their needs. Sociologists could theorize to their hearts content about tradition versus spontaneity. Psychologists, mystics,

**"Everyone loves rocks."
 —C. Sansome**

bio-chemists, diagnosticians, musicians—all fields of endeavor find their place on this magic mountain. And so, whoever the reader, also found a niche there.

Connie Sansome's rock class cavorted on field trips reveling in, what else? Rocks. "Everyone loves rocks," claims Connie. Students who had lived in Rice County for years found public parks and nature centers they'd never heard of. Margit Fredrickson was one of those who could finally justify her long-protected rock collection. Who is there among us who has never loved a rock?

—Elaine Thurston

Spring courses continued
 New this term is the lecture course, **The Rise and Fall (and Rise Again?) of the Soviet Union** offered by Bill Woehrlin on Mondays starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Northfield Retirement Center. For a total fee of five dollars an unlimited enrollment can attend.

George Soule will lead a group through **Jane Austen's "Emma" and George Eliot's "Middlemarch"**. Both great novels but "different in almost every other way." Class meets Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 at the United

About the picture:
 Joyce Madole was finding the assigned triangles, "hot-spots", contrast and texture for a lesson in Fred Gonnerman's photography class this winter. The class has been snapping landscapes, architecture, people and animals with an eye to improving their photos by knowing what to look for. If you see a senior hanging over the bridge with a camera in 20-degree weather, she's just doing her homework.

Methodist Church.
 Ross Shoger is offering **Life's Beginning**, using a minimum of scientific jargon to describe basic processes underlying human reproduction, recent developments in fertility therapy, and cloning. Class will discuss pertinent ethical issues. It will meet Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 at St. Peter's Lutheran.
 To develop ways to approach short stories and gain insight into the human condition in a few pages, join **The Short Story as a Form of Literature** taught by Marion Hvistendahl Thursdays in the NRC from 9:30 to 11:30

CVEC appears in Modern Maturity F.Y. I.

Four CVEC board members and founders Ron and Bettye Ronning are pictured seated on the Northfield Library steps in the November/December issue of *Modern Maturity* where Mark Wexler writes "they weren't sure if anyone would register" for classes in the newly founded college for seniors. But in fact, as many have discovered, CVEC has had to turn people away, Ronning said, even while accommodating more than a hundred registrants each term. Wexler cites the variety of classes and the rigorous material—not always the case with courses designed for older students. The writer notes, "The response—both from the academic community and the community at large—has been overwhelming: The collegium has waiting lists for classes and is helping about 50 other groups get similar projects off the ground." He closes by giving the CVEC web site—look for more budding collegiums on the map.