

FROM THE ROOFTOP

The Newsletter of The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning



Vol. 88 - No. 2 • April 18, 2005

PICTURE THIS! - THE RESULTS

During the winter, back in the dark, rainy days of early January, 614 of the 971 students answered an anonymous survey intended to provide a snapshot impression of the total Fromm Institute student body. In eight different areas approximately two-thirds of our members told us about themselves and allowed us to develop a clearer picture of who they collectively were. In doing so they enabled us to frame a 2005 statistical portrait that could be compared to others taken during our twenty-nine years at USF. How did we look? Had we changed? If so, in what ways?

Curiously, the survey results were somewhat predictable, sometimes surprising and always interesting. For the sake of disclosure they are printed at the end of this article. Comparing this data to that which was collected over the years, some things do seem to have changed while others remained the same.

With a median age of 71, you are mostly married, well-educated, largely Caucasian, middle to upper middle class folks. Most of you were born out of the state and your careers were quite diverse. The only real constant seemed to be your rate of response to this kind of questionnaire. Each time we have asked for your help in completing this census, about one-third of all students do not respond. That was true once again this time.

So what has changed? Looking back over the surveys taken during the winters of 1994, 1998 and 2002, it seems you are finally getting younger. As the membership grows and with life expectancy improving in our country, there are more students over the age of 80, but many more now under the age of 70 attending Fromm Institute classes. Our calculations show that the collective median age of the Fromm Institute student body is creeping downward. Having held constant in past surveys at 73, it's closer to 71 today.



As you know, the Fromm Institute welcomes everyone who is at least 50 years of age and retired. As a part of that inclusive spirit, people of all faiths, and none, come through its doors. Founded by Jewish philanthropists on a Jesuit campus, the Fromm Institute has always had an ecumenical atmosphere, as well as a tolerance for differing viewpoints. As part of our academic and institutional identity we fully support the co-existence of opposing beliefs in an environment of academic freedom. It is no surprise then that there is a wonderful diversity of religious affiliation among our students — 36% Jewish, 22% Catholic, 14% Protestant and almost 4% percent from other faiths. Equally *unsurprising* is the fact that, as the United States becomes more secular, the number of Fromm Institute students stating “no religious affiliation” continues to grow with each survey. This year they comprise 23% of all respondents. That’s up from 20% in 2002 and 15% in 1998.

This year for the first time in our survey we ask our students to self-identify with a level of affluence. The data you returned certainly fit the profile that we had informally drawn of the “typical” Fromm Institute student and the Bay Area retiree. Slightly over 80% reported to be in the middle class or upper middle class and that information came as no surprise.

Other things such as your marital status, pre-retirement careers, ethnic heritage, educational background and place of birth all remained the same. You can see the numbers for yourself and perhaps see yourself in the numbers that appear below.

To all of you who took the time to complete our survey and contribute to the 2005 Fromm Institute Census, the ‘*Rooftop*’ would like to offer a big thank you. Here are the final results reported by percentage of respondents.

WINTER 2005 ANONYMOUS CENSUS OF THE FROMM INSTITUTE

MARITAL STATUS

Single	15%
Married	49%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	18%
Partnered	3%
No Answer	2%

ETHNIC HERITAGE

African	1%
Multi-ethnic	1%
No answer	2%
Native Am.	1%
Latino/a	1%
Asian	2%
European	92%

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Grade school	1%
High School	7%
AD/Credential	7%
Bachelor	40%
Master	27%
Doctorate	12%
Post Doc	6%

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

No Affiliation	23%
Catholic	22%
Jewish	36%
Protestant	14%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Other	3%

AGE

50-55	1%
56-60	3%
61-65	13%
66-70	24%
71-75	22%
76-80	19%
81-85	12%
86-70	5%
over 90	1%

SOCIAL STATUS/AFFLUENCE

Lower	1%
Lower Middle	8%
Middle	37%
Upper Middle	44%
Upper	7%
No Answer	3%



PLACE OF BIRTH

San Fran/Bay Area	22%
California (non- SF)	5%
Out of State	59%
Foreign Born	14%

PRE-RETIREMENT CAREER

Homemaking	4%
Manual/trades	1%
Business/Finance	9%
Sales	3%
Clerical	4%
Administrative	8%
Architecture/Engineering	3%
Civil Service	4%
Managerial	8%
Law/Legal Profession	7%
Medical	15%
Education	21%
Other	13%

SFCASA OFFERS 'BROWN BAG'



On **Thursday, April 28, 2005**, The San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate (SFCASA) Program will make a presentation at a 'Brown Bag' lunch. SFCASA volunteers advocate mentor San Francisco youth who are victims of abuse or neglect and live in foster care. A number of Fromm Institute students and faculty already participated as volunteers. SFCASA is hoping to increase our community's awareness of this program and encourage others to join them in helping these children.

The sad reality is that San Francisco has over 2,400 children and youth who are wards of Juvenile Dependency Court. The social services systems here are overwhelmed and under funded. Most child welfare workers have caseloads of over 30 children; often preventing them from spending much time on each individual case. This is where the CASA volunteers can make a real difference. A CASA volunteer typically concentrates on one case only and focuses on the special needs of that child. CASAs work closely with all of the professionals involved in the case, including the Child Welfare Worker, medical professionals, lawyers, teachers, foster parents and other community organizations to both identify those needs and to insure that critical services are provided. CASAs typically spend 2-4 hours per week on their case, but the actual time can vary depending on case circumstances. Each CASA is expected to meet with the child regularly, getting to know the child and providing a consistent, caring adult in that child's life.

As the name implies, CASAs are actually appointed by the Court and are required to make regular reports to the Court that describe the child as a unique individual and make recommendations on such issues as obtaining services, visitation with family or problems with placements. These reports, along with reports from San Francisco's Human Services Agency, are consulted by the Judges and Commissioners responsible for making the incredibly important judicial decisions that affect these children's lives.

Volunteers are not sent out on their own. SFCASA is one of over 950 affiliated agencies in a network of national and state CASA/GAL programs. The program is staffed with fourteen professionals including case supervisors whose only job is to support volunteers throughout their case assignment. The current local program was started in 1991 and has provided CASA support to over 1,200 San Francisco youth in the Dependency Court. SFCASA staff recruits, screens, trains, and supervises volunteers from San Francisco's diverse communities who advocate for and mentor children involved in Dependency Court proceedings.

SFCASA currently has over 175 active volunteers, but many more are needed. If you are interested in finding out more about the SFCASA Program and what volunteers actually do, we hope you will join us for this informational 'Brown Bag' at **12:00 Noon on Thursday, April 28, 2005, in McLaren 250**. Remember to bring a lunch. Beverages and cookies will be served compliments of the Fromm Institute Student Association and your student dues.

If you cannot attend the meeting on April 28, additional information about SFCASA can be found on the Internet at www.sfcasa.org or you can contact **Ashley Hamlett at 415-399-6132** about volunteer opportunities.



Join other Fromm Institute students and faculty who already volunteer for SFCASA

INTENSIVE ADVOCACY PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER JURORS NEEDED!

This intensive advocacy program is a two-week course for law students who want to practice skills they will use as trial lawyers. The culmination of this process results in trials that are conducted before a judge and live jury. The mock trials are based upon actual civil and criminal cases and the Law School needs volunteer jurors.

As a juror you will hear the student lawyers plead their case, deliberate with other jurors from the community and ultimately, render a decision. Program dates are Saturday, June 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, again from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., USF's School of Law, Kendrick Hall, 2199 Fulton Street (at the intersection of Fulton and Parker Streets, across from St. Ignatius Church). You may volunteer for one or both sessions. Free buffet lunch and snacks will be provided. Parking permits will be provided if requested. **For further information or to volunteer as a juror contact Wendy Heneghan at the USF School of Law, at 415-422-6475.** You can also check out www.usfca.edu/law/iap for some brief info on the program.

WAZ UP @ USF

April 18 – 30

with Eamon & Herbert

“WAZ UP” everyone, this is our first article, and we would like to introduce ourselves. We’re Herbert Gracia and Eamon Sylvester. We would like to take a minute to explain what “WAZ UP” means, and what this column will be doing. “WAZ UP” is a way for students to know what is going on around them on campus. Through this column, we will be giving inside news on what is happening at USF. It might be anything going on during lunch, a sporting event that people can attend, or play in USF’s auditorium. Not only will it give Fromm Institute students information on what’s going on, but it will also allow people to come and participate with the rest of the USF community.



Eamon Sylvester and Herbert Gracia

Since we were both student athletes here at USF, we would love for everyone to come out and support our teams. Not only does it give you something to do, it shows support for many of these hard working folks.

• **Sports events include:**

Tuesday, April 19: At 3 p.m. Baseball – USF VS. Sacramento State, at Benedetti Diamond.

Friday, April 22: At 3p.m. Baseball – USF VS LMU, at Benedetti Diamond.

Saturday, April 23: At 3p.m. Baseball – USF VS LMU at Benedetti Diamond

Sunday, April 24: All day. Women’s Track – USF Track Invitational. San Francisco, CA (USF).

(Fromm Institute students are welcome to sporting events, free of charge, with their USF ID)

For more information on sporting events please call Greg Sempadian, at 415-422-5176.

• **On April 20th: Readings at Lone Mountain** from 7:30 – 9 p.m. in Lone Mountain, Room 141. Short story writer Z.Z. Packer, author of Drinking Coffee Elsewhere reads from her work. For more information, please call 415-422-5109 or email bradyc@usfca.edu.

• **April 21st – 23rd & April 27th – 30th** College players presents “Cabaret,” in Gill Theatre in Campion Hall at 8 p.m. Set in Berlin in the tumultuous 1930s, it’s about an American singer is at the center of a love triangle, while Nazi Germany rises to power. Tickets are \$10 for each regular performance and \$15 for the April 29, Gala. For more information, please call 415-422-6133.

• **Exercise classes.** If you are a member of the Koret Health and Recreation Center (info on how to become a member available in the Fromm Institute Office), there are group exercise classes. Class size is limited and on a first-come/first-served system. For information, call 415-422-2944 or email chambers@usfca.edu.

Not only is he an incredible teacher, but Professor Manfred Wolf is a gentleman of well spoken opinion as well. As such he writes for San Francisco's 'West Portal Monthly' and shares some of those editorial with us from time to time "From The Rooftop." This time he tackles familiar loss, large and small and almost makes it bearable.



LOSING OUR COMFORTS, SMALL AND LARGE

by Manfred Wolf

"That salmon, you know dear, that's farm-raised salmon," said my dear friend Helen. "You know what they feed them? Garbage."

I gulped. Whether she's correct or not, I haven't had non-ocean-caught salmon since that conversation.

Which means that I haven't been to my favorite low-cost Sunset District restaurant in a long time.

The next blow was tofu. For 25 years I've been eating tofu dishes. Not only was tofu healthful, I had always been told, but it also allowed me to order salt-free tofu and mixed vegetables in restaurants, without salt or soy sauce.

No more. Tofu, I read somewhere, has been implicated in prostate cancer.

It has something to do with estrogen. I have no other details, but reports of this study sounded authoritative. I've not had tofu for a while.

Then came what I've been eating for lunch the last three decades. Tuna.

I consider tuna one of the four food groups. I can't do without it. Evidently the consumption of tuna brings with it the risk of excessive quantities of mercury. Pregnant women are urged to avoid it.

I'm not a pregnant woman, but I now avoid my beloved low-sodium tuna.

I was musing about all this, walking past my favorite café, now closed, and feeling a bit bereft. I realized this is not an earthshaking problem, not like losing a fortune on the stock market and certainly not like what people have to live with in the Middle East. Though I should say I've often, while eating these foods, jotted down my thoughts on various crises, which the *West Portal Monthly* then sent out into the world.

What did my musing lead to? Well, I quickly realized that these losses, these gradual and sudden removals of my comforts, are comparable to the losses we all face during aging.

Our comforts are taken away one by one.

We lose the ease of our bodies. Rarely do we have in the older years the sense of wellbeing we had while younger. Also, the future is taken away. Instead of thinking, "Oh I'll take care of that sometime," you feel the "dark encroachment of that old catastrophe," as the poet Wallace Stevens described the thought of death.

And maybe even more to the point: gradually your friends are removed, one by one. And your environment grows less recognizable, as young people do strange things to it.

You have to do with less. This is not a cheery column. It's not about how age brings wisdom or fulfillment. No, it's about loss, large and small.

As the 18th century poet Samuel Johnson put it:

*Condemned to Hope's delusive mine,
As on we toil from day to day,
By sudden blasts slow decline,
Our social comforts drop away.*

TOURS AND TRAVELS

"DOES THIS ELEVATOR GO TO THE FRONT OR THE BACK OF THE SHIP?"

No it was not a Fromm Institute student asking this question nor any of the other hilarious one-liners about cruise neophytes that we heard aboard the Celebrity Lines' MERCURY over Spring Break.

Frommies were busy enjoying the amenities of our luxury ship, the interesting ports of call and just relaxing beside one of the three pools, reading in the library or honing their skills in the computer center.

George and Carol Krueger found the onboard Casino a fun place to spend an afternoon at sea, while Helen Skripkin presided daily over tea time in the charming lounge. Vera and Guy LeBreton became shore excursion experts taking in the sights of each of our five destinations: Monterey, Catalina, Mazatlan, Puerto Villarta and Cabo San Lucas. Ruth and Oleg Obuhoff headed straight for the beautiful Mexican Riviera beaches.

Ethel Friedrichs and Genevieve Plusa ventured forth to join the religious festivities at Cabo San Lucas on Easter Sunday; Jerry and Marilyn Jacobson celebrated their 36th Anniversary at the Captain's Champagne Party. Renate and Philip Tubman could be found on the dance floor every night along with Tom and Susan Kennelly.

There were three formal nights on the 10-night journey, and we all prepared for cocktails together one evening dressed in our finery, memorializing it with the photo pictured below.

At Open House a number of persons approached me inquiring whether there would be trips to China, New York Theaters, Rivers of Europe, etc. While none of those specific itineraries are in our current schedule, I often have information about special travel opportunities which I'm happy to share with my fellow students. So please just ask. I'm on campus on Tuesdays and can also be reached at my direct line 707-257-1804.

The **Ashland Shakespeare Festival Tour June 20-23** is now *Wait List Only!* We are trying to clear additional hotel space and theater tickets, so if you want to join this tour please contact me immediately. The same is true for **South Pacific Wonders**.

I cannot stress too often the importance of an early reservation.

Don't miss out on Happy Travels,

Susan Kennelly

KEEP IN MIND: *CAJUN HOLIDAY and LEWIS & CLARK COLUMBIA RIVER flyers are now available in the classrooms.*



UN BUÉN VIAJE -

Fromm Institute students, friends and family members pose for a photo on board the Celebrity Cruise ship *Mercury*. The cruise journeyed south from San Francisco to Monterey, Catalina, and the Mexican Riviera - including the ports of Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas.

Left to right: Tom Kennelly, Tour Coordinator - Susan Kennelly, Ethel Friedrichs, Alta Psiliacos, Helen Skripkin, Genevieve Plusa, and couples- Renate and Phil Tubman, Vera LeBreton with her husband Guy LeBreton, Carol and George Krueger, Ruth and Oleg Obuhoff, and Marilyn and Jerome Jacobson.

COMMAND PERFORMANCES

OPERA AND A.C.T SEASON RENEWALS • TIPS FOR NEWCOMERS

Many of you have already asked about when to expect information on your student renewals for the *San Francisco Opera* for next season. I have been instructed that the student subscription brochures for the 2005-2006 season will be out in early May. The *Opera* has also advised me that you will probably not get them in the mail, so you will have to look for the one-page information sheet in your classrooms at the Fromm Institute. I have not yet seen the new program, so I can't tell you what they will be offering, but again I will let you know in my column as soon as I am notified. We have also applied for tickets for the final dress rehearsals for three operas. In May, I will let you know if we get any tickets (it is a lottery) as well as the price and date.

Those of you who subscribed this year to A.C.T.'s student season discounts should already have been notified in the mail of when and how to renew. Please be sure to notice the deadline for your renewal as well as any changes that may affect you. If you have not received your student renewal in the mail be sure to call the A.C.T. box-office at once. Those of you who would like to subscribe at 50% off to A.C.T. for the next season will have to wait until late May before we get the new student subscriptions. Again, I will let you know as soon as they are in.

For all of you new students, be sure to look on the information tables in your classrooms for existing brochures and postcards for the current season to many of the performing arts organizations in the Bay Area. Also, there will be some programs of shows marked "OFFICE COPY- PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE." These are to be left behind for your fellow students after you have looked at them.

This Spring Session we will get new season brochures for the upcoming 2005-06 seasons, and of course we will continue to get *Arts Monthly* at the beginning of each month. If you do not find the information you need on the classroom tables, be sure to ask me or go to the Fromm Institute office to ask if they have copies there. Hope your new classes are going well, and be sure to read this column each week to see what's new.

Bob Morgan

RABBI KRAUSE'S CLASS CANCELLED NEXT WEEK

Because Rabbi Krause will be traveling for Passover, he will not be able to meet his class "350 Years Young: Jewish Impact on America/American Impact on Judaism" on Tuesday, April 26. When it returns to our schedule on Tuesday, May 3, it will include a special performance from the Traveling Jewish Theatre entitled "The Wonders." For that day, and only on that class day, the meeting place will be McLaren 250.

"THE FOG OF WAR" THROUGH A CAMERA LENS "Paths Of Glory"

This week on **Wednesday, April 20 at 10 a.m. in Cowell 113**, Professor Donna Brasset will be screening the first of seven films for the students who are enrolled in her class "The Fog of War: Through an Anthropological Lens." This week the selected film is "Paths of Glory" starring Kirk Douglas and directed by Stanley Kubrick. "Paths of Glory" is a compelling masterpiece that is a blistering indictment of the military politics of World War I. Released in 1957, *Newsweek* hailed it as "an unforgettable movie experience." The film runs 1 hour and 27 minutes.



Fromm Institute Events & Reminders

EVERY MONDAY AT 12:20 P.M. IT'S THE *SPRING STRETCH* ON THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY LAWN NEXT TO FROMM HALL. COMFORTABLE CLOTHES ARE THE ONLY REQUIREMENT. CAN 72 FROMMIES BE WRONG? JOIN THEM !

Tuesday, April 19
Noon, McLaren 250

Fromm Institute Student Association presents
"New Member Luncheon"

Wednesday, April 20
10 a.m., Cowell 113

Professor Brasslet presents *The Fog of War - Films*
"Paths of Glory"

Tuesday, April 26
1 p.m., UC 400

CLASS CANCELLED
Rabbi Krause's "350 Years Young: Jewish Impact on America"

Thursday, April 28
Noon, McLaren 250

Court Appointed Special Advocate 'Brown Bag'

REMEMBER:

Please don't forget to be on time; check off your name on the class lists; turn off your cell phones while in class and only take one copy of any duplicated material. Also remember to have a great time while here at the Fromm Institute. Make sure you enjoy every minute of your time on USF's campus.



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