

Viewpoints

Long Term Marriage Study

Rodetis, Degas
and His
Circle

*Humanities West
Goes Platinum*

Roatcap on Gordon Craig

Hair

American Orient
Express

Garden
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Responsibilities

Passports to the Perfoming Arts

Once
In a Lifetime
Oct. 24, 2003

Enrollment
Draws To A Close

SCHOOL BRITANNIA!

“Only two things are infinite,” Albert Einstein once noted, “the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the former.” Well, Mr. Einstein, neither are we.

Just yesterday someone tossed up onto the “*Rooftop*” the results of a recent GCSE exam, the British equivalent of our High School Equivalency Test. Could it be that our allies are just as dumb as us, or is this just another hoax hurled at the media to discredit the country that gave us Isaac Newton, John Maynard Keynes, Edward Gibbon and Bertrand Russell? Is this another cruel deception intended to humble a great nation or further proof that all empires must fall? You’ll have to be the judge.

Bear with us as we expose some incredibly stupid (and particularly funny) answers presented as fact by the teenagers of the UK for their General Certificate of Secondary Education. After you’re done chuckling, consider what your answers might have been to these questions at that age... or now. Finally, before you render your verdict, please recall that at a recent medical lecture when our guest speaker asked a packed auditorium to name a major disease associated with smoking, one of our lifelong learners quickly answered, “Premature death.”

From the GCSE

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. *Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar*

Q. What is a planet?

A. *A body of earth surrounded by sky.*

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A. *Flirtation makes water safe to drink, because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.*

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Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on leaves and makes them perspire.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house, they may insist you are well endowed.

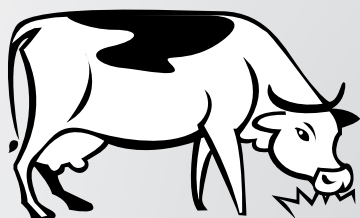
Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.



Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.



Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

Q. How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g. abdomen)

A. The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels A, E, I, O and U.

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman emperor.

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarian section'.

A. The caesarian section is an area in Rome.

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. What does the word "benign" mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.



WORDS TO PONDER:

OK, EINSTEIN, SO WHAT'S THE SPEED OF DARK?

VOLUNTEER



LONG TERM MARRIAGE

UC Berkeley is seeking couples to participate in a study on long term marriage and adult emotional development. They are looking for the following: couples who are between 54-64 years old and have been married for 29 years or more, or couples who are from 74 to 84 years of age and married for 49 years and who speak english at home. **For more information or to see if you qualify contact The Henne Group at 415-348-1700 x 205 or toll free at 1-877-737-5782 x205.**

RARE BOOK ROOM LECTURE

EDWARD GORDON CRAIG

The Gleeson Library's Donohue Rare Book Room presents the exhibit **The Cranach Press: Hamlet and Edward Gordon Craig through November 26, 2003**. The exhibit celebrates the acquisition of the English edition of the Cranach Press Hamlet (1930). This copy is an *hors de commerce* copy printed for the founder and proprietor of the Cranach Press, Count Harry Kessler. Accompanying the volume is a collection of 153 woodcuts signed by the artist/illustrator Edward Gordon Craig. For this exhibit Fromm Institute **Professor Adela Roatcap** will conduct the opening lecture **Thursday, September 25 at 5 p.m. in the Rare Book Room**. Her lecture, "*Edward Gordon Craig: The Man Who Would Be Hamlet*" promises to be an engaging examination of Gordon Craig's amazing woodcut illustrations for the volume. **For more information, contact the Donohue Rare Book Room at 415-422-2036.**



LEGION OF HONOR LECTURE

DEGAS AND HIS CIRCLE

Professor George Rodetis will be speaking at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in conjunction with the upcoming exhibit *Degas Sculptures* which opens on October 18, 2003, and showcases all seventy-three bronzes the sculptor made during his career. The lecture, "**Degas and His Impressionist Circle,**" **will be held Thursday, September 25 at 1 p.m. in the Gould Theater**. In this lecture, Professor Rodetis will talk about Degas, his sculptural work and his peers. The lecture will both compare and contrast Degas' sculptures with those of Renior's and the other impressionist sculptors of the period. **For more information please contact the California Palace of the Legion of Honor at 415-866-3300 or email Legion of Honor contact, Rene Baldocchi at rbaldocchi@famsf.org**. You may also explore the museum's full calendar of art history lectures and special museum events at their website, www.thinker.org/legion.



PLEASE NOTE

All good things must come to an end. That is true for lots of things, and especially for the Fromm Institute enrollment period. Next week on Thursday, September 25, 2003, the enrollment period will officially come to a close. Please make sure you have made additions to your student schedules by the close of business on that day. After that date, you will not be able to ADD a class. As always though, you may drop a class at anytime during the session. Both class additions and drops can be made by filling out an ADD/DROP form that is located on all of the information tables in every classroom. Once completed, bring it by the **Fromm Institute office located in University Center, Room 538**. You may also call your requests into the Fromm Institute office at 415-422-6805.

COMMAND PERFORMANCES

Well, here we are in the second week and busy with classes. All the main performing arts organizations have already begun their seasons or will shortly, and it is important for those of you who wish to subscribe to do so as soon as possible if you want to take advantage of your great student discounts as Fromm students.

This summer I was able, after a lapse of 10 years, to convince the marketing departments at the *San Francisco Opera* to once again consider Fromm students for their great student discount subscriptions. This is a huge 75% discount on limited series of 7, 5, or 3 operas. The order forms are in your classrooms now or in the Fromm Institute Office (University Center, Room 538), so if you are interested pick one up. You can order two tickets with your Fromm Institute/USF Student ID card and a copy of your student schedule.

The *San Francisco Symphony* brochures are also available, and already over 100 students have subscribed for the current season. You can get two tickets per ID at 50% savings, but most of the series begin within a few weeks – so hurry! You may also prorate a series if you miss the first performance. Once you have read the symphony brochure, call the box office if you have any questions.

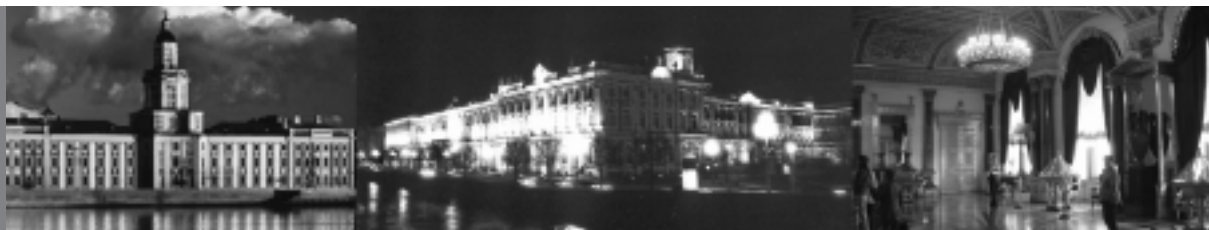
A.C.T. begins their season this week with “*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*,” and the order forms are in your classrooms for 50% off at student rates. All new students should have gotten their Fromm Institute/USF student ID cards by now. If you haven’t, please do so at once as it is your passport to huge savings in the performing arts and museums.

There are many other brochures – from *Berkeley Rep* to *Theatreworks*, *Marin Theatre* and much more, so be sure to visit the information tables frequently in each of your classrooms. I will be in the Cowell 113 classroom on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and in Professor Ryan’s class in McLaren 252 on Tuesday mornings. I will be available before these classes to answer any of your questions.

Much more to come in my column in weeks ahead. Wishing you a great fall session! *Bob Morgan*

ST. PETERSBURG’S HISTORY AT HUMANITIES WEST

Views from St. Petersburg, which will be the subject of the inaugural Humanities West lecture series this fall. Prof. Roberta Shaw lectures on Saturday, Oct. 11th.



Three centuries have now passed since Peter the Great began building his grand city on the Gulf of Finland. Join *Humanities West*, in its 20th Anniversary Season, as they present *St. Petersburg’s 300 Year Legacy on October 10-11 at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco*. On Friday, the program includes a slide lecture with Edward Naimark on the city’s history. A musical performance will showcase the wealth of artistry from the city’s 300 year history. On Saturday, October 11 a lecture by Jack Kollman on the architecture of St. Petersburg begins the day. Fromm Institute **Professor Roberta Shaw** will conduct a slide lecture on the State Hermitage Museum and its many treasures. A ballet performance and a lecture by Richard Taruskin on the great music of the city begins the afternoon and a panel discussion moderated by Gregory Friedin of Stanford University with all the participants, will conclude the weekend’s events.

Keep in mind, *Humanities West* 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Friday, November 21, 2003. Join the *Humanities West* team and past lecturers as they celebrate 20 years of great interdisciplinary programs on the great cultures of yesterday and today.

For more information on *St. Petersburg’s 300 Year Legacy* or the 20th Anniversary Celebration, please call *Humanities West* at 415-391-9700, or email them at info@humanitieswest.org. For upcoming lectures or more details on any of the events, point your internet browser to www.humanitieswest.org.



THE DR. WALTER BIRNBAUM MEDICAL LECTURE SERIES

BIOENGINEERING COMES CENTER STAGE

On **Wednesday, September 17, at 10 a.m. in McLaren 252** the Dr. Walter Birnbaum Medical Lecture Series will present a fascinating lecture that looks at advances in, and new concepts for, medical devices now under development that should be available for patient care in the next few years. **Richard L. Popp, M.D.** will be our guest and his lecture is entitled **“Bioengineering Innovations for Cardiovascular Treatment.”**

There have been revolutionary advancements in medical technology recently as engineers and physicists have brought their skill and experience to medical problems. Devices such as minimally invasive catheters and robotic surgical instruments are already making important differences. This week, Dr. Popp will review them and discuss the state of the art in imaging of the body as well. Some ideas for future advances in tissue replacement and artificial organs will also be presented.

Throughout his career Dr. Popp's work has sought to recognize and treat heart and blood vessel disease without entering the body. He helped develop ultrasound as a means to make detailed images of the heart from outside the body that are now the most commonly used imaging methods (echocardiography) for diagnosis of children and adults with heart disease. He is also involved in the teaching of innovation for the development of medical devices, and in the ethical aspects of the process of innovation.

Next week on **Wednesday, September 24**, you'll have the chance to hear about hair. On that date, and at the same time and location as noted above, our guest speaker will be **Vera Price M.D.**, Professor of Dermatology at UCSF. Her topic asks **“Why Did Delilah Choose to Cut Off Samson's Hair When She Wanted to Weaken His Strength and Virility?”**

TOUR AND TRAVEL NEWS

ALL ABOARD!

Here is a unique trip with a special price for Fromm Institute students, family and friends. The American Orient Express

Train, a vintage steamliner, travels on an exclusive journey each spring from the Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C., on a trip through the “Ante Bellum” South, ending in New Orleans, LA. Experience the comfort, service, fine dining and spectacular scenery as it was enjoyed in the golden age of rail travel over 50 years ago. Visit sites of the Civil War from Richmond through Charleston and Savannah to Vicksburg with an on-board historian. Space will be limited. March 22-29, 2004, with a \$500 per person discount. See the flyers in every classroom or call Susan Kennelly at 707-257-1804, email spk@napanet.net.

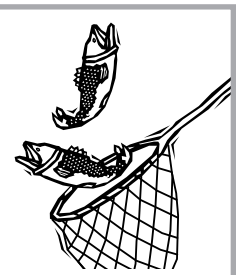


A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Lifelong learning's next assignment will be a place where learning last lifetimes! Come and see for yourself. We're planning the most special event in the history of the Fromm Institute and the University of San Francisco on Friday, October 24, 2003. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Soon, you'll be invited to be a part of it . . . but before that happens, please save this date!

student by-lines

Our first Student By-Lines column of the school year features a resident Fromm Institute humorist, Pat French Swendsen. "Port Out, Starboard Home" is her 'be all you can be' challenge to the rest of you who may be walking through life without the inspiration to reach for the stars. Go for it! Set sail with her in this flight of fancy as she launches another year of original writing from the Fromm Institute student body.



*At the fish market
I've asked to have
the salmon steaks
gift-wrapped, but
the purveyor of fin
and crustacean
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nonsense factor.*

PORT OUT, STARBOARD HOME

By Pat Swendsen

In "1000 Clowns" – that wondrous movie, Jason Robards upbraids his fellow tenants in the New York apartment building for not upscaling their garbage. "More caviar tins! More champagne bottles!" is his mantra, shaming them into higher-class refuse.

I figure that's what we all must strive for. Show the USF students what it is to be gleaned from observing the seasoned oldsters on campus.

First of all, I've taken to carrying a surfboard onto the bus, even though I don't surf. And it's really only a paddleboard, but people react in awe.

Another thing – I do not own a cell phone, but I cup my hand over my right ear periodically and make meaningful grimaces as I walk to class.

The supermarket is fair game – especially a toney market. When I was little, Goldberg Bowen had walnuts for sale the size of peaches. Now that's impressive! At the fish market I've asked to have the salmon steaks gift-wrapped, but the purveyor of fin and crustacean doesn't understand the American nonsense factor so I stopped annoying him.

At the theatre (a.k.a. movie house) I always sit in the dress circle (at the Balboa) which is a bit dangerous since there are no hand rails and the lights dim even before the movie starts. And there are stairs. O.K., so it's the balcony, but I can see better from a slight elevation.

In Golden Gate Park on Sunday afternoon there's dancing at the bandstand. I prefer to promenade under my parasol and smile enigmatically (a touch of Mona Lisa, you know).

At croquet at Sigmund Stern I suggested erecting a white tent *a lá* ascot races in England so we could have tea and cucumber sandwiches. They told me just to concentrate on getting the ball through the wicket.

I want to get as affected as possible. I've even saved a selection of dust covers from such epic writers as Tolstoy, Jung, Aquinas to wrap around the Mary Higgins Clark detective stories that come my way.

Clothing stores are a wonderland. I. Magnin's wouldn't let you rummage their racks. They knew better about taste. So a sales representative, dressed to the nines, would profile you on the spot and parade garments she knew would be more appropriate. Trouble is, when I had to go to such a store, I wouldn't start with color or design or even size but with price tag scrutiny.

Even so, I have excellent plans for continuing the game of being a phony. I love it. It's all so P.O.S.H.

POETRY READING IN YERBA BUENA GARDENS

On Tuesday, September 16, 2003, at noon, two Fromm Institute students will be reading their original poetry on the outdoor stage in Yerba Buena Gardens which is between Mission Street and Howard, and entered at either 3rd or 4th Streets. The two are Peggy Cartwright and Mel Flyer, who are members of the Todco Poets, a group that has been reading every summer in the Gardens since their opening.

Pack a lunch and join the lunch-time crowd gathering in one of San Francisco's most beautiful settings. Take the Mission bus to 4th, or the #30 to Mission and 4th, or park in the garage between 4th and 5th, and walk by the Metreon to the entrance to Yerba Buena Gardens.

BACK TO SCHOOL NOTES

After your first week of classes, your minds are most likely already packed with interesting historical facts, innovative concepts, artistic images, and mythical references to not only ponder, but also remember for the next time you meet. We the Fromm Institute staff, also ask you to keep at the forefront of your thoughts a few simple (but extremely important!) responsibilities you have as a student. In fact, they are musts!

Please remember to...

- Turn off your cell phones, before you come into your class. It never fails, one or two go off each class – which leads to a mix of disrupting chuckles or smirks.
- Check off your name on the class lists. Don't worry, you're not on surveillance. We do, however, like to know how our professors are doing. Attendance often speaks volumes.
- Try not to wear strong colognes or perfumes. This may seem funny, but many scents, though alluring, are often too noticeable in our full classrooms. They often become allergy triggers. Please, keep your neighbors' noses in mind.
- Last but not least, try to arrive at your classes on time. It's the opening and closing of the doors that can make for a bumpy start for the lecturer and the lecture. You don't want to miss those important dates, facts, and notions the professor puts forward both passionately and articulately.

We are most grateful for your thought filled attention to the flow of classroom etiquette. We want everyone to get the most out of Fromm Institute academia and it's rich atmosphere. Finally, don't forget... we wish you a very fulfilling session!

FrommToons by Randy Harrison



Between You and Me - Intergenerational Film Series

Monday, Sept. 15/Thursday, Sept. 18 *Harold and Maude*
1 p.m., McLaren 252

Monday, Sept. 22/Thursday, Sept. 25 *King Lear*
Noon, McLaren 252

Dr. Walter Birnbaum Medical Lecture Series

Wednesday, September 17 Medical Lecture Series *with* Richard Popp
10 a.m., McLaren 252 “Bioengineering Innovations”

Wednesday, September 24 Medical Lecture Series *with* Vera Price
10 a.m., McLaren 252 “What’s New in Dermatology?”

other events and reminders....

Tuesday, September 16 Fromm Institute Student Association *presents*
Noon, UC 400 New Member Luncheon

Thursday, September 25 Enrollment Period Ends
close of business (5 p.m.)



**The Fromm Institute
For Lifelong Learning**

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