Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In January 1939, “Arroyo” student newspaper Executive Editor Marvin Hayman asked members of the Riverside Junior College faculty to write a series of opinion pieces under the title “Instructor's Viewpoints” (in late February, the title was changed to “Instructor's Views”). Today, 75 years later, we can see what was on their minds. The eighth article appeared in the March 8, 1939 edition of the newspaper and was written by Francis C. Fullenwider (Professor of Business 1927-1946). In the 1939 “Tequesquite” yearbook it was said: "Francis C. Fullenwider has helped many students in his business courses find employment after graduation. His recommendations and his general contribution to the sum of knowledge in business studies are considered of great value to those students who wish to make business their career."

Fullenwider wrote on the world of literature in an article entitled “Open Door To Culture”.

"Mr. Robert Anderson in a recent issue of the Arroyo, suggested the desirability of voluntary friendships over those forced on one by professional or business associations. The same principle holds good in another realm in which the student may find satisfactory and long life-long companionship—the world of literature. Compulsory reading in connection with certain courses is valuable but in the nature of the case must be limited to a few works of the highest rank. Besides these, every library contains a ‘Treasure Island’ to which each student has a key—his own will to read. Not a few mature readers will readily confess to a closer emotional kinship with a handful of secondary writers than with the great figures of literature. After all, the accepted works in fiction, drama, history, and poetry were composed not as instruments of mental discipline, but for the pleasure of the reader. No obstacle hinders the students from the complete enjoyment of this opportunity except his own lack of will.

NOT WIDELY READ

Considerable evidence exists for the conclusion that the present college generation in America does not read as widely as its predecessors. On the part of the serious student, there is a decided trend toward that over-specialization which James Hilton gently ridiculed in his whimsical ‘Lost Horizons.’ The less serious consume too much time in campus small talk and cinema entertainment. The well-rounded personality—the ‘golden moderation’ (aurea media) of the Roman Horace—should again become a conscious objective of the candidate for the bachelor's degree. Nothing is more conducive to the development of such a personality than a wide range of unhurried voluntary reading.

ENTER AT WILL

One may enter into and withdraw from the world of books at will. With the friends acquired in fiction or in history, the compromise and adjustments necessary in personal relationships with our contemporaries in the flesh, are not required. One may visit them without invitation or announcement and leave them without apology. There is counsel
for difficult situations and encouragement for periods of depression, but only when the reader seeks them. The student who ignores the inspiration and stimulation of literature, overlooks one of the few sources of real enjoyment which have not changed as time marches on.”

The photos below of Fullenwider appeared in 1930s “Tequesquite” yearbooks. The top two came from 1932 and 1933. The bottom pair appeared in the 1938 and 1939 yearbooks.

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It is 1 year and 15 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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