

outpost

volume 3 no. 12

may 30, 1974



Probing the Health Center

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Table of contents



4

Thumbas Down!
by Michael Puskovich
Illustrations by Mono
photo by Christine Judd
An obituary to the dying art of Hitchhiking.

8

Probing the Health Center
by Lynette Bayless
Illustrations by Janine Tarteila
cover photo by Mark Katayama
Find out what students think about the Health Center.

12

Architects in Ne-Man's Land
by Ann Marie Rogers
Designing females on the rise.

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From the Editor

This issue of outpost is the termination of our final lap of the year. The checkered flag is waving behind us, and the race is over.

Every editor reaches the time when he must turn his ear over to a new driver. When he looks back on issues produced during the year, he realizes that his dedicated, hard working pit crew made the school year extremely worthwhile for him as well as outpost. He also knows that when outpost always and lugs in the future, a new editor must steer it in the right direction. For outpost, the new editor is Ellen Penaty. Ellen has been with outpost — writing or editing — since its creation. She's experienced in every operation of the magazine.

Ellen has chosen Janet Herring and Lynette Bayless, who will serve as assistant editors, as part of her crew for next year. Paul Palmer will work as the advertising and business manager, and Mark Katayama will continue shooting pictures for outpost as photo editor.

These people will assist in keeping outpost's engine running with the help of writers, photographers, and ad salesmen.

I'm sure Lynette is glad that she will be helping Ellen coordinate next year's crew, because this quarter has seemed like one continuous pit stop for her. She has spent two months researching about precision journalism, interviewing students, and preparing this issue's lead story about the Health Center.

Assisting Lynette with interviews and computer work were students from Journalism 355X and members of the outpost staff. Thanks team.

This article reveals some interesting data on student opinions about the Health Center. So read on.

outpost will start its engine again early Fall quarter. Watch for the green flag.

William Mattoe, Editor

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Thumbs Down

by Michael Ruckelshaus
Illustrations by Marc
photo by Christine Judd

These words are gathered together today to pay tribute to a dying way of life. . . hitchhiking.

Summer is fast approaching. It is the time of year when many students will leave school for other places. Some of them, taking advantage of the good weather summer provides, will hitchhike. If they do, they may find that they are in for bad weather even if the sun stays out all summer.

Last summer I thumbed it from coast to coast and came to the same realization that many of the "road people" I met along the way reached: hitchhiking, at least the kind that gets a person across the continent, is on its way out of existence.

Too many super highways, interstate freeways, energy shortages, state laws, crimes, fast cars and bad reputations have given hitchhiking a terminal illness.

From the time I left New York City for California, I was haunted by the fact that the once popular "sport" of hitchhiking was no longer on the favorable side of motorists. They seemed, more than I had ever noticed before, to be wary of the wayfarer at the roadside with his thumb extended. I thought that the reason was,

perhaps, that there had been a nationally publicized crime involving some hitchhikers in the state of Texas. The crime, a murder case, had taken place just a couple of days before I started my journey and I suspected my poor success at charming drivers into stopping was due to a wave of fear generated by the murders.

But I was to learn along the way that there was more to it than that. Though I made it to California in less than two weeks, (which isn't bad for covering a distance of more than 3000 miles) I was not inspired enough by the trip to ever want to make it again. The only way I'd try to thumb across the country again is if I could carry plenty of money with me. Then I'd just take a bus out of slow places.

Most of the hitchhikers and drivers I met along the way shared the same sentiments. I met a couple of fellows outside of Chicago who said they had been on the road almost a month (they were returning to Chicago from Florida) and would never attempt it again. When I told them I wasn't doing too bad at getting rides, they seemed to think the novelty of holding out a "CALIFORNIA" sign in the east might have contributed to my success.

"But wait till you get closer to home and the novelty wears off," one of them warned me, "the rides will start getting tight then."

was wrong. I didn't have to get home for the ride to start tight. The Midwest saw to it that I was inching my way across these flat fields of corn.

In a small town along Interstate 80, I met a man who had to be the most qualified expert on dying ways of travel. His name was Albert and if I'd had the time and money and ambition, I'd have stayed with him for a while so I could write his life story.

My first impression of him was confused and hazy. He was sitting on a bench, smoking what I thought was a cigarette but turned out to be a joint. He was reading an old magazine and his canteen sat next to him on the bench.

Now, if you can imagine meeting somebody like that right in the middle of the small town of Sidney, Nebraska, you can get some idea of how I felt. He looked about 80 years old but told me he was only in his sixties.

I could see he was hitchhiking it, and since hitchhikers were rare around Sidney, I was glad to meet one of my own kind. "Having any luck?" I asked him.

"Not much," he mumbled, handing me the smoking object between his fingers. It was at this moment that I realized it wasn't a cigarette, and I was feeling paranoid enough from all the nasty looks I was getting from the townspeople that I refused his offer. He shrugged his shoulders and went on smoking.

He wasn't going anywhere in particular, but everywhere in general. He was a real-life drifter, the first true gypsy I'd ever met. For years he used to ride trains around the country, but "I started hitchhiking when they started cracking down on hopping trains," he explained. "Now they're cracking down on hitchhikers too much. I guess I'm getting too old anyway so it will give me a good excuse to settle down."

He explained how he had just gotten out of Colorado by the skin of his teeth. "The damn cops wanted to put me in jail for vagrancy just 'cause I had my thumb out on their precious highways." Not only had his thumb been out, but his pockets had been empty.

"It's damn lucky they didn't search me 'cause I still had a quarter of a lid in my pocket." I can see why they didn't search him. Who'd expect a guy that looks 80 years old to be carrying grass?

Anyway, we talked for about a half-hour and he decided to move along. I wouldn't have minded going with him for a few miles, but he was headed east and I was going west, so we said goodbye and went our separate ways. I suppose I've never been more impressed with a man. I kept thinking of a poem all the way home after meeting him. I could only recall a couple of lines but I knew it was by Robert Service:

"There's a breed of men
That can't stand still,
They want to stop,
But never will."

I wondered if Albert had ever read the poem and found myself thinking about him all the way home. And it sure felt good to be home. But I was still glad I made the trip, because I had become aware of the fact that in a few more years a journey like that would be next to impossible to make. It was an experience that would eventually become very rare.

"Already hitchhiking is against the law in all the western states but California. And even in California it is prohibited on the freeways," explained Ron Richioli of the AAA Automobile Club of Southern California. "I think the same holds true for the eastern states, too," he said.

"The reason that people can still get away with it is that some of the states do not enforce the law," Richioli said. "But some of them do."

Colorado does. And according to some of the people I met on my journey, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Utah enforce the law, also. It was upon their recommendations that I avoided these states.



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Hitchhiking, of course, is still practiced extensively between such cities as San Francisco and Los Angeles. But if you're planning to thumb it as far as I did last summer, take my advice, do it within the next couple of years, because the odds are stacking up against making it if you wait too long. There are too many legalities and drivers are no longer willing to stop.

As one man put it after picking me up between Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming, "You hear too much stuff about you hitchhikers, you really wonder if it's worth running the risk of stopping."

From the hitchhiker's point of view you have to wonder, also, if it's worth the risk and the hassle. It's rapidly becoming tradition that whenever some poor guy on foot sticks out his thumb, some guy in a car sticks out his middle finger. Either that or he turns his thumb down and his nose up. Both ways are fatal blows to hitchhiking; a dying way of life. □



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Probing the Health Center

**Diagnosis:
satisfactory condition**

by Lynette Bayless

Illustration by Janine Tartaglia
photo by Mark Katayama



Bob and Jim were walking toward the campus Health Center on an unusually warm afternoon last winter. Bob shuffled his feet and gently kicked at the loose gravel on the hard-surfaced parking lot. He turned to Jim.

"I've had an earache the past couple days and it's really bugging me. You know, I think I'm gonna go to the Health Center and see what they say."

"I don't know if I would go there if I were you," Jim answered as he studied the red Porsche that had just wheeled into the parking lot. "I've heard some things about the Health Center. You're taking your life into your own hands when ya go into that place. It's like going to your own funeral."

"Yeah, I know, I've heard stories too."

Bob and Jim are among the majority of students on campus who have heard favorable and unfavorable comments about the campus medical facility.

Outpost has heard comments about the Health Center, too. For the past year, outpost has been trying to write a story about the Health Center. Advertisements were put in *Mustang Daily* asking for students' comments and compliments. Only one letter was received, and it listed a series of complaints against the Health Center. So, outpost staff members began asking their friends and roommates if they had any experiences with the Health Center.

Outpost found seven students who had been badly diagnosed, inconvenienced, and irritated by the Health Center's doctors and staff. Their stories of unsatisfactory experiences made interesting reading. But, they were only seven irate patients, out of a possible 13,000 students on campus who have access to the Health Center.

The stories this magazine gathered could have been damaging to the Health Center, and we did not know if the

unfavorable stories were actually representative of the entire student population.

In an effort to find the truth about the Health Center, outpost decided to do a survey by employing the systematic research methods of precision journalism. This method involves using social science research methods to conduct a survey of public opinion.

Outpost used the school's computer to select a random sample of 400 students from the entire student population. This random sample meant that every member of Cal Poly's student body had an equal chance of actually being chosen for questioning. The sample is representative of the entire student population.

Outpost and other interested journalism students then made up a questionnaire, and began telephoning and knocking on doors to question, probe, and investigate students' opinions of the Health Center.

And it was no easy task. One brunette interviewer had trouble contacting a male respondent because his wife wondered why she kept calling back so many times.

Another tall, thin journalism major was disappointed because his list of interview people contained only two girls' names. He enthusiastically made interview appointments to meet them at school... and both girls stood him up.

A female interviewer routinely asked a male respondent if he would go to the Health Center for hepatitis. She was startled when he gazed at her and said:

"Why do you want to know, would I have to go there to get it?"

The results were finally compiled and the statistics were found to be quite interesting. Outpost's investigation found that 77% of the interviewed students had been to the

Health Center for medical treatment. Respondents had been there from one to fifty times, with 88% of them saying they had been there ten times or less.

Subject examined student opinion of the doctors and uncovered interesting stories. Refer to the chart for statistical evidence telling how students rated the physicians, and find out why they rated them as they did. A senior majoring in education told of her experiences with one doctor.

"I went to the Health Center for a pregnancy test, a VD test, and for a diaphragm fitting," the 22 year old respondent frankly admitted. "I encountered one doctor to be very judgmental. I left the Health Center a couple of days crying because I could not stand him."

She gave the doctors a rating in the poor category. When asked what happened to him at the Health Center, an 89 year old married respondent enthusiastically replied, "The female intern doctor didn't do anything interesting."

Twenty-five per cent of the interviewed students rated as physicians at the Health Center as incompetent and inefficient.

According to Dr. Billy Mounts, director and 18 year man of the Health Center, one out of every three doctors in California has been or will be sued. The Health Center average is impressively below that level. The campus medical facility has never had a malpractice suit against it.

There is one in the hopper now, filed by Georgia Pemberton of San Luis Obispo. She was thrown from a "tumbling barrel" at the 1972 Poly Royal amusement carnival. Her attorney, Raymond L. Girard, said that Miss Pemberton suffered a fractured vertebra, as well as complications resulting from "negligent and careless diagnosis and treatment" at the Health Center. The Health Center, the State of California, the Board of Trustees, the Poly Royal Board, and Cal Poly were among those named as defendants.

Recently there were two openings for doctors at the Health Center, and 40 applications were received for the two spots. But, according to Dr. Mounts, doctors who practice at the medical facility take an almost 80% cut in salary to work there.

Why would a doctor want to leave private practice to work with students for such a drastic cut in pay? Dr. Mounts knows.

How did students rate the overall performance of the Health Center Doctors and Nurses?

| | Doctors | Nurses |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| Excellent | 13% | 12% |
| Very Good | 40% | 48% |
| Good | 26% | 29% |
| Fair | 16% | 10% |
| Poor | 5% | 3% |

Why did students rate the Doctors and Nurses the way they did?

| | Doctors | Nurses |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| Competent & Efficient | 55% | 51% |
| Incompetent & Inefficient | 25% | 13% |
| Considerate & Friendly | 12% | 28% |
| Inconsiderate & Slow | 8% | 8% |

What kind of comments have the students heard about the Health Center?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Very Unfavorable & Unfavorable | 51% |
| Neutral | 16% |
| Very Favorable & Moderately Favorable | 33% |





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Probing the Health Center

"I have been here for 18 years," he said. "I had a successful private practice, but I also had four sons I hardly knew. When I came to the Health Center, my salary was reduced, but I was able to see more of my family."

The physicians the Health Center recruits are not those interested in creating an estate, according to the director. They are those who want to spend time with their families. The working day hours are not as irregular as those kept by a doctor in private practice.

Since money is not a motivator, Dr. Mounts said that the Health Center physicians find a satisfaction in working with young people, and they find a challenge in being part of the academic community. The Health Center employs eight full-time and one part-time physician.

Health Center nurses were examined by the students. Respondents rated the nurses and gave reasons why they rated them as they did. Refer to the chart for these results.

One interviewer could hardly hide his surprise when an 18 year old female journalism major told him about her observation of a nurse.

"While I was in the infirmary, a nurse tried to take blood from one patient, thinking he was someone else. The nurse insisted she was right."

The Health Center is a popular topic of discussion on campus with 73% of those interviewed saying they had heard comments about the medical facility. What kind of comments did they hear? The chart has the results. The comments they had heard only made 23% say that they were hesitant about going there for medical treatment.



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The majority of the interviewed students had not voiced their opinion to the Health Center about its services. It was noted from the survey that over one-half of the students on this campus can afford to go elsewhere besides the Health Center for their medical needs.

Female respondents rated the doctors as incompetent and inefficient more often than male respondents. The male respondents more often rated the Health Center doctors as competent and efficient. But, when the results were tabulated, the females had a greater percentage saying they were actually receiving satisfactory treatment from the Health Center.

Students also differ in their views depending upon their major. Students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources saw the doctors as highly competent and efficient.

Students in the School of Science and Mathematics had a different view. They did not generally see the doctors as competent and efficient. Why such a wide difference in attitudes?

Students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources are more conservative in that they are not as critical and questioning as students in the School of Science and Mathematics. Ninety per cent of the students in the agricultural majors were satisfied with their treatment at the Center. Only 66% of the science and math majors were satisfied with the treatment they received at the Health Center.

No matter what their major, the director of the Health Center sees the biggest problem in the Center's service to students as the waiting time. The Center has over 60,000 patient visits a year and smooth traffic flow is a problem.

It is hoped from the results of ongoing investigative and exhaustive study into the students' opinion about the Health Center that improvements can be made in their service to the students. □

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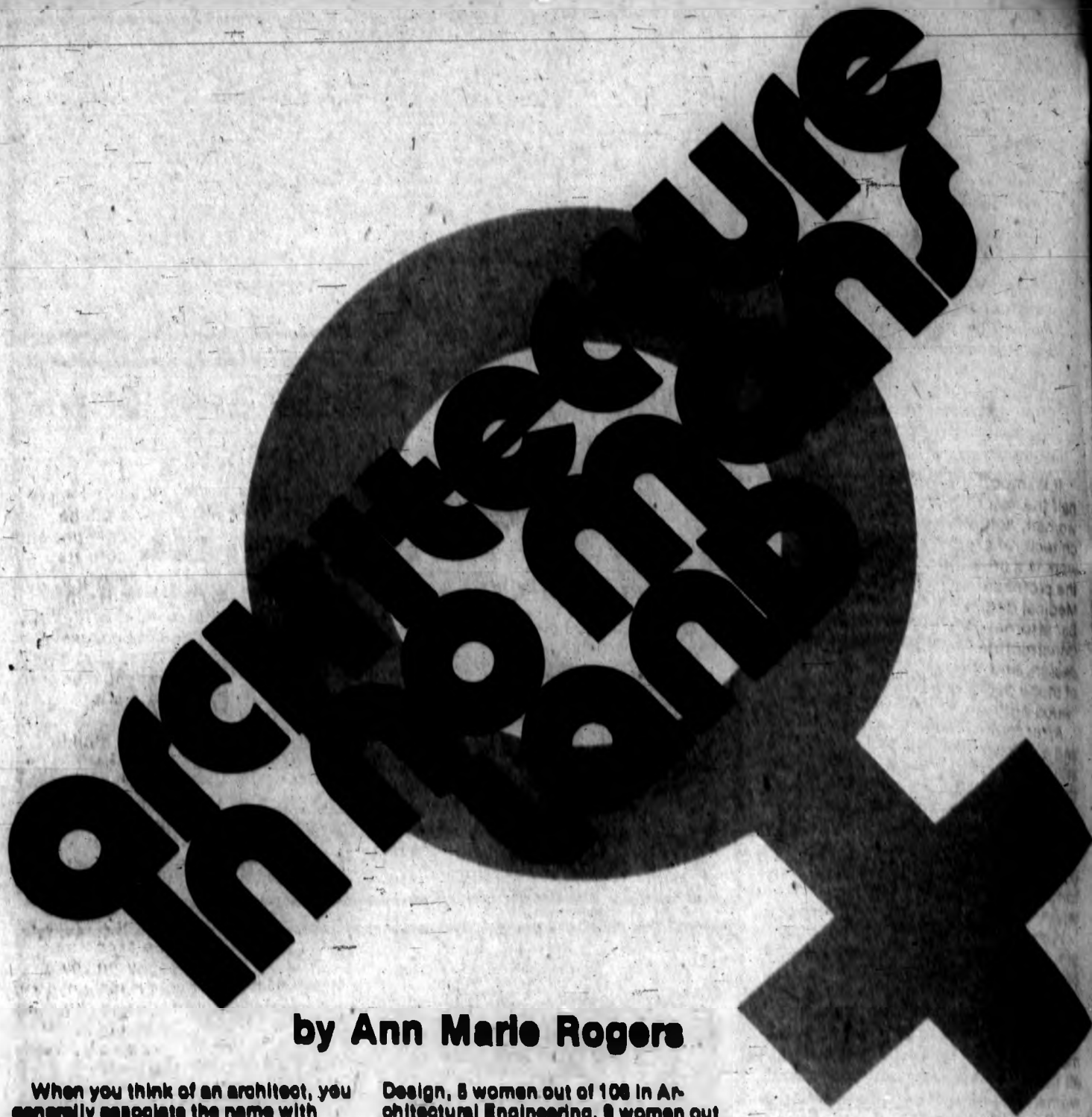
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by Ann Marie Rogers

When you think of an architect, you generally associate the name with education, creativity, and social responsibility—unless the architect in question is a woman. Then you usually add "Feminist" to those mental associations. The reasoning behind this association is that any woman entering a predominantly male profession must be an advocate of Woman's Liberation. Amy, however, has a different story. She feels, that as a person, she should be able to enter whatever field she wants.

Amy is one of the few female architecture students here at Cal Poly. Although the female enrollment increases yearly, there are presently only 78 women in the School of Architecture. The total enrollment is 1,407. That's 51 women out of 1,000 in

Design, 8 women out of 100 in Architectural Engineering, 9 women out of 110 in City and Regional Planning, and 13 women out of 80 in Landscape Architecture. In the profession itself, the proportion of women to men in American Architectural jobs is 2 per cent.

Despite the statistical evidence of male-dominance, most people in architecture would doubt Amy's experience with apparent sexism. They contend that Amy is right. Any person, male or female, able to do the work should not feel discrimination. Amy's male counterparts in architecture at Cal Poly almost unanimously claimed to see "no noticeable difference" between the way female and male students are treated, talked to and graded. "I think

it's more in the girl's head that she's put down or mistrusted than it is in mine," said one representative male architecture student.

Many female architecture students agreed that the classes are equal. They emphatically denied any sexism in classes. After initial uneasiness about being the only girl or one of two girls in classes, they adjusted their psyches and became, as one co-ed put it, "one of the guys." But is being "one of the guys" a situation of no sexism? What about the mortality rate of women in Architecture? Why is it that only 1 in 30 women make it through undergraduate programs as compared to 1 in 6 men?

It is important to note that only one-half the entering students, men and women, actually complete the architectural program. Undergraduate work is a grueling endurance test with the professional equivalence of a medical degree or the status of a pre-law attorney. Mathematics, Physics, Construction Materials, long hours of design, and the soul-rending critiques of these designs are guaranteed to "weed out" any but the die-hards.

After four or five years of hard labor and a degree, the aspiring architect still hasn't arrived. It takes two to three more years of experience in the profession before one can apply for a license. The license guarantees a small amount of professionalism; it doesn't guarantee success. Fame and fortune reside in a combination of talent, hard-core dedication, and luck.

Women, like any newly liberated group, face some additional stumbling blocks in an already hard road. For one thing, women are still debating the marriage or career question and waiver between serious motivation and "just killing time." Not all faculty members trust that a woman will have the courage to stick out the four long years or the sense to get out of the department if it isn't right for her. She represents a potentially "wasted seat" in their classes, a seat better filled by a more deserving bread-winner—a man. In a



department such as architecture, where the competition is acute, subtle tests of endurance by the faculty and pressure from her peers strain all but the firmest females determination.

Because of her newness in architecture, the woman has to fight off mistrust while formulating her own image. She has little to emulate. She doesn't see female teachers nor often hear about famous female architects.

Michèle Lucas, a senior in City and Regional Planning, spoke of her growing assertiveness, a feeling that what she had to say on planning boards was valid, well-educated and different. For many, proving female ability in architecture is no longer the question. Instead, many are questioning the nature of Architecture itself. If a woman must be "one of the guys," and answer to all-male approaches to problems, then a more subtle discrimination is going on. It is the guiltless discrimination of the status-quo. No one is to blame for any subtle oppression a woman may feel in a technologically-oriented, functional architecture established by men. In the past most architects were men.

But in the future? "We don't know what the future architects will be," said Franziska Gehrig, color specialist on the School of Architecture staff. She hesitated to talk of sexism or specific pro-female attributes that make women vital to architecture. An architect is valuable not because of his or her sex but because of ability. The faculty job is to train all men and women to be active parts of a changing profession.

The lack of basic background in mechanical reasoning has kept women from feeling secure about their abilities. Second and fourth year Design Instructor, Gary Dwyer, stated that he'd like to see more high school shop and mechanics courses for women. Better counseling for women interested in careers other than housewife or secretary was suggested by Zelma Wilson, who's been a practicing architect for seven years.

According to George Hasslein, dean of the School of Architecture, the field is ripe for women. The recent Equal Rights Amendment creates a demand for female architects. Hasslein's acceptance policy towards women reflects this trend. Judith Reinisch, Cal Poly's only female graduate student in architecture, welcomes this windfall for women. "I don't care if a firm takes me in as their 'token woman', at least I get my foot in the door. Once there, I still have to prove myself."

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In an afternoon talk, Dean Hezel and Zelma Wilson discussed women in Architecture, the future for these women, and for men. The two voters in the field agreed that as women become liberated, so do men. No longer will the emphasis be, "Get a job, get a job," for the man; "Get a husband, get a husband," for the woman. With this liberation from social roles a greater amount of people will choose their field and excel not through competitive ambition to "get ahead," but merely to "make a buck," but because they like and breathe their work. Architecture demands this kind of dedication.

More and more women are entering professions like Architecture. Basically it's a resource problem, but the scarcity crunch is on us all. We need both men and women to create environmentally aware people—the architects—to watchdog future building.

The architectural challenge is open to anyone brave enough to face it, liberated man or liberated woman. The reward? Zelma Wilson spoke of this too. "It's a euphoric feeling when you actually see your designs built. It's your baby. And if it's a good design, it's a child to be proud of. If it's bad, well, maybe it came from HIS side of the family." □



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