

Photo by Jodie Maier

spectrum

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS VOL. 12, NO. 5 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

TEXTILE DEPARTMENT:

GOOD REP, POOR FACILITIES

By Tom Romano

The condition of the textile building at present is poor; they are, in actuality, the most delapidated buildings on campus. Facilities are often poorly ventilated and heated, and textile students, especially in the weaving departments need proper loom facilities. Students cannot work at home because they need to use these looms at night just as much as during the daytime. Often students spend a good deal of their working time in the studios until the wee hours, and of course they need comfortable studio space, with proper air circulation.

According to Lia Cook, guest instructor of weaving at CCAC, the Textile Department has often been ignored while other departments are getting much better facilities. President Harry X. Ford has promised that the Textile Department

will be housed in a new facility following the next one for the Sculpture, Metal, and Glass Departments. Still, in the mean-time, the textile classes will continue to be moved around in a frustrating game of musical chairs while the rooms they now occupy are demolished practically over their heads. All too often the department instructors have been informed by the administration of their condemned classrooms without being notified of their intent to destroy the buildings, or without it being specified what classrooms could be used by the department as their next working facilities.

Building A-1 is a classic example, commented Ms. Cook. Currently, it is occupied by the advanced weaving students. Unfortunately,

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due to limited space in other buildings, it happens to be the advanced weavers' only available building. If this building is soon to be torn down, it seems there will have to be a lot of quick negotiating and scratching of heads to determine where the main weaving building with their bulky looms will be put next.

Ms. Cook also said the Bay Area is becoming a growing center for the recognition of textiles as a fine art (as opposed to the East Coast where it is very industrialized) and the college has one of the finest graduate and undergraduate departments in the textile arts in the country. However, it is ironical to find it so continually harrassed with reorganization and relocation problems. Yet the department is never at a loss for enrollment. New

students from all over the country eagerly flock to the Bay Area to enroll in the textile classes, and applications for enrollment continue to pour in. The department is ever growing with a vital robustness and creative energy.

But that is not all. An awareness is sparking in this third largest department on campus. Students who are beginning to be more aware of their seemingly second-class status in relation to the priority shown to the other "fine arts" departments are becoming more outspoken for equal treatment and respect.

I can only hope that the Textile Department will soon have facilities that can truly show off its reputation and growing potential.