

Jerry Policoff  
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3/20/91

Dear Jerry

Your silence requires no explanation. Its meaning is obvious. I've been debating whether or not to write you and ask you to ask yourself, suppose there is some basis in what prompted me to write you. If you are really Roger's friend I think you should and in this should ask yourself what factual support there is for what he says. I don't know ~~he~~ he told you and I don't care to. But among the things he told me is that Hood is not much better than a diploma mill, in effect. Before any of this developed I'd told him that its plans for the archive include making its content available to other institutions by electronic means I do not understand. When Lil showed me a mailing that had come some time ago and I had not looked at before she threw it away I decided to send you part of one of the pages. The first part says it is currently ranked 15th in all northeastern colleges and ~~is~~ among the small colleges has been ranked first of all east of the Mississippi. The second refers to the electronic stuff I do not understand that will make it part of "an international library system," a two-way deal although this refers to one only. Real jerkwater, huh?

I'd taped it here and then remembered something else. Greg left an envelope for McKnight, the Hood history professor. Greg's sister sent it to him. He's been ill so he has not come here because I'm weak and he doesn't want to give me anything. He did tell me, however, that it consisted of or included, I now do not recall which, the relevant pages of Sylvia's will. Meaning relevant to her records.

I know the will was to have been read a week or so ago in Los Angeles and that Greg's sister was to be there. Because I really do not have any personal interest, meaning interest of my own or any kind of selfish interest in where her papers are deposited, I have made no effort to learn what the provisions of Greg's will are and I don't know.

Whether or not you or Roger believe it, my only interest in having them at Hood was because they had a better chance of being used and used responsibly there. And of being wanted there, something Roger has never addressed to me about whatever he may have in mind, if anything about any other place.

If you or <sup>he</sup> think making them available to any student anywhere in the world without having to travel from his own institution's library to have access to them is not in accord with what she wanted, I say only that you are entitled to your opinions.

I do not know what sinister purposes Roger attributed to me to you but I am confident that I invited you to examine my file. In this regard, in the event I did not tell you, what I did tell Greg when he made it clear that he really did not want to have anything to do with the chore Sylvia saddled him with, and I knew he'd had opportunities he did not use for doing at least some of it, I suggested that he ask Roger to do it. He said he liked the idea and would think about it. I told Roger immediately. So, ask yourself what might have been if Roger had phoned or written him and said he was willing. Is it not possible that those materials would by now have been in whatever condition Roger regards as necessary for people to use them?

If you are really Roger's friend I again urge you to think this whole thing through, including what he wrote me and other things he has done, particularly if it was after you gave him the information he told me he was going to get from you because you have access to a toll-free phone. You know that. I don't. But I can now guess.

Sincerely,

Harold

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### **Hood Cited for Excellence**

In a report to the nation highly critical of all levels of education, the director of the National Endowment for the Humanities singled out a handful of colleges and universities as exemplary. In a section titled "Good Practices," Hood was cited for its "rigorous and coherent" core curriculum by NEH Director Lynn Cheney (who was awarded an honorary doctorate by Hood in 1987). These two facts are not connected!

And Hood was not ignored in the most recent rankings issued by *U.S. News and World Report*. The College was among the top 15 in its category based on the opinions of the presidents, academic deans, and admissions directors at the more than 170 northeastern comprehensive institutions. Unfortunately, this set of rankings did not get included in the newsmagazine's October 1990 education edition; it was, however, in the *U.S. News and World Report College Guide*, which appeared on the newsstands the same time the magazine came out. Many in higher education have criticized the rankings because each time they are published, the groupings of the institutions and the selection criteria are different. Hood, for example, was ranked number one among smaller comprehensive institutions east of the Mississippi in 1985. In the most recent poll, we were compared with all northeastern comprehensive institutions—many of them very much larger than we.

While I often join my colleagues in questioning the objectivity of these rankings, I cannot help but be pleased that Hood College has been on the list of top institutions in every survey the magazine has conducted, no matter with whom we have been compared and on what criteria!

### **Beneficial-Hodson Gift Helps to Fund Information Technology**

Beneficial-Hodson Trust Chairman Finn Caspersen did not disappoint Hood when he presented the Trust's annual "holiday gift" on November 29. The check for \$725,000 will be used to fund the information technology initiatives connected to our new library—participation in an electronic international library system, development of an on-campus computing network, and purchase of the considerable hardware and software that is required to make Hood College a model for small colleges nationwide. Perhaps the most exciting capability is imaging, which will allow those in the Hood network and library patrons to see, on the computer screen, virtually any printed page, complete with pictures as well as text. This means our students and faculty will have almost instant access to materials worldwide.