

The Fulcrum

Broome Community College's Number 1 Newspaper

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NO. 1

February 18, 1991

Worried About Terrorism, Campuses Beef Up Security

(CPS)- Fearful they might be targets for terrorists working for Saddam Hussein, several U.S. campuses have beefed up their security.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation warned all Jewish-related and Arab-related schools that they might be tempting targets for terrorists.

In some published reports, moreover, a few observers speculated that guerrillas might try to disrupt private schools in Washington, D.C., because they are in the media center and because it is likely that they could injure the sons and daughters of the government officials now waging war against Iraq.

Many schools are taking the possibility seriously.

Brandeis University, a nonsectarian school with strong Jewish ties, blocked one of two roads leading to its Waltham, Mass. campus with barriers and set up a security checkpoint on the other. Anyone entering the college must produce identification.

At Utah State University, where the campus was evacuated Jan. 17 because of bomb threats, campus police are "more alert," said USU chief of police Larry Arave.

Arave added that the force's bomb technician has been busier

than usual, waylaying three suspicious packages since the war started.

At the University of Rochester, members of the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) were told not to wear their uniforms for their first drill date of the term Jan. 22, as a precaution against campus protests and possible terrorism.

"Until we get a perspective, we ought to be cautious," said Captain Ralph Martin, a professor of naval sciences and commanding officer at the Naval ROTC program on campus.

Others think terrorism fears are a bit unfounded.

"I personally discount all this talk about attacking the schools because it doesn't make for good copy," said American University government professor Emilio Viano, a specialist on terrorism.

Viano said terrorists would be deprived of their key objective - sympathetic publicity - if they attacked a school.

Security officials at American nevertheless are alert to suspicious activities, said Jorge Abud, an assistant vice president for finance and facilities management.

"You have to look at it from two fronts. Terrorist acts can hap-

pen at any time, and there is little to be done to prevent that," Abud said.

"We feel that our security measures are adequate for any problems that might arise," said Yale University spokesperson Cynthia Atwood.

At Broome Community College, Security Officer Carol Gupton says, "The security staff feels there is not a problem here." The security staff is taking normal precautions.

Director of

CEANY Elected

Kathleen Habel has been elected a director of the Continuing Education Association of New York. Election to the Executive Board reflects the significant achievement and the high esteem of Habel's peers.

Habel became Director of Community Education at Broome Community College in October 1990. She is responsible for BCC's non-credit course offerings. In addition she administers the corporate services program which provides training and skills updating to local business and industry.

SLEAZEBALL: I LOVE YOU & I MISS YOU!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.
LOVE, DIRTBAG (TOP THIS!)

The Light At the End of Titchner Hall

From Focus BCC

The city of Binghamton is having no more frustration in getting its baseball stadium built than BCC is having in getting Titchner Hall renovated.

However, on December 27, BCC took a giant step forward. The county legislature approved bonding for a \$2.6 million new Service-Maintenance Building that will initially be used to house temporary classrooms while Titchner closes for renovations. As most of you already know, the main obstacles to the Titchner project have always involved proposals to house the displaced classes and offices. The County was never pleased with proposals for modular structures or leased facilities. With costs being so great, BCC was asked to come up with something of more long range merit.

During this period BCC also dealt with state building inspections that nearly condemned the Maintenance Building. (Duplicating was kicked out due to heavy machinery vibrations that threatened the whole structure.) We also had room occupancy quotas lowered and storage spaces denied-and the student population was increasing.

So, against the mess of everything going wrong at once, the college proposed a totally new permanent structure that would eventually house ancillary facilities:

maintenance and janitorial services, purchasing offices, shipping and receiving areas, central mailing services, vehicle maintenance, storage, and the Copy Center. The 22,000 square foot building would be designated, built, and located for its eventual permanent use. However, initial use would be for temporary classrooms while Titchner is renovated.

After considerable lobbying which included legislators visiting the campus to see our situation first hand and dealing with cost estimates far above expectation - we made it! The idea was accepted, the cost was accepted, the preliminary architectural report has been done by Bryden and Trozze, and we expect construction in 1991.

The building will be a pre-engineered structure with masonry exterior; it will not be a tin eyesore to the campus. It will be located in back of the area of the current "N" parking lot (admittedly not the most convenient place for classrooms, but the most ideal for its eventual use).

BCC officials believe this approach gets over a major hurdle to moving forward on Titchner. It also gets us a long term structure to deal with the college support systems' space problems.

The Titchner Saga goes on - but maybe now, more smoothly.

HELP:!!

We need volunteers at the *Fulcrum*...and lots of 'em, or this may very well be our last semester in print.

At this time, we have very few active writers and an editor with very limited experience. This will be very apparent in this issue. We need students with an active interest in journalism, writing, reviewing, art, cartooning, advertising, business, editing, typesetting, layout, and computers. This is *your* paper. If you have something that you'd like to see in print, or if you just have an abundance of school spirit and/or charity, show up at our office in the Student Affairs building and fill out an application.

Let's be frank. If we end up turning out papers containing an overabundance of padded, poorly laid out, amateurish crap, then it is not inconceivable that we will lose our funding to continue the paper next semester--and it would be deservedly so.

Oh yeah, if you get involved in advertising or snag one of the available editor positions, you actually get paid in addition to the course credit that all staff members get.

Don't let 1991 be the year BCC's student newspaper was phased out.

Join us.

Students Get Etiquette Tips For Job Hunting

(CPS)- Hoping to get some help finding a job in a terrible market, about four hundred Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute students attended a seminar on Jan. 26 to learn how not to be slob.

The session included tips on everything from which skirt to wear to a job interview to how to knot a tie.

"We're doing this to help our students gain a competitive edge," said Vicky Lynn, director of the Career Development Center at the Troy school.

The marketplace has turned sour and probably will get worse, Lynn predicted. "Our students are concerned."

In December, nationwide surveys by both Northwestern University and Michigan State University found corporations cutting their campus recruiting dramatically.

In response, students attended the Careerathon seminar, where they learned various tips from Ernestine Mann, an expert in business etiquette.

"I always go back to first impressions," she added, explaining that it's important to have a firm handshake, keep

heads up and make eye contact at an interview.

"Students should be especially careful to mind their manners at meals," Mann said.

"Don't cut spaghetti, don't 'saw' at meat to cut it, don't use your napkin to blow your nose and, most importantly, leave any utensil placed at the top of a place for dessert only," Mann advised.

In terms of fashion, women's interview skirts should always be at least at knee-length and men should not wear button-down collars, Mann advised.

It's also important to watch how people already with the company do things, Mann said. Different rules apply to different workers.

Lynn denied that students at Rensselaer, a school noted for its science and engineering programs, needed etiquette advice any more than students from other colleges.

"It's a popular myth that engineering and science majors are geeks, and we do have those here," she admitted.

However, the majority of students at Rensselaer "are just like other college students," Lynn said.

ACROSS

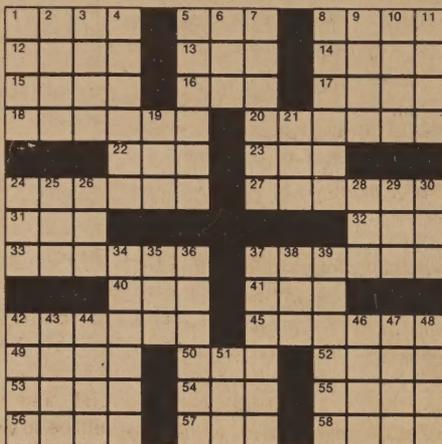
- 1 Frog
- 5 Tear
- 8 Carise and carmine
- 12 Unemployed
- 13 Metric measure
- 14 Great Lake
- 15 Jump
- 16 White House nickname
- 17 Baptisml basin
- 18 Tests
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- 50 Wooden pin
- 52 Name for Athena
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DOWN

- 1 Tip
- 2 River in

- Germany
- 3 Turkish regiment
- 4 Leave
- 5 Lifted

- 6 Irritate
- 7 Looked intently
- 8 Reject
- 9 God of love
- 10 Eat



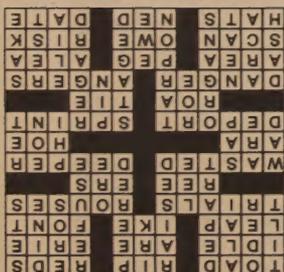
COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ZOO U. by Mark Weitzman



"One more semester and I'm out of here!"



PUZZLE SOLUTION

The Gulf War

The General Educational Steering Committee has developed the following schedule of talks on the Gulf War Crisis. They are open to the campus community and will be held in AT200.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend as well as students. This program has been endorsed by the College Council.

- 2/11 "Hitler/Hussein: A Valid Analogy?"-*Firsching*
- 2/13 "Civic Obligation in Time of War."-*Higgenbottom, Chambers*
- 2/14 "The Gulf War: Prejudice"-*Santos, Koster*
- 2/15 "Truth, Censorship, Media, and the Gulf War"-*McVannan, Pagura*
- 2/18 "Friends at War: Coping Strategies."-*Smith, Battisti*
- 2/19 "Economics of the War"-*Romano, Throup, Herbert*
- 2/25 "Terrorism"-*Rossi, Garnar*
- 2/26 "Moral Context of US Foreign Policy"-*Maniago, Chambers, O'Niel*
- 3/4 "Women Warriors"-*Dickson, Wingate*
- 3/5 "War as an Instrument of National Policy"-*Maniago, O'Niel, Garnar*
- 3/6 "War and the Environment"-*Firenze*
- 3/11 "Regional Political Implications in the Gulf"-*Firsching, O'Niel*
- 3/12 "Time for a New National Energy Policy?"-*Oldfield*
- 3/18 "After the War: What Next?"-*Firsching, Kasper, Jerome*
- 3/19 "The Gulf War will not be Another Vietnam?"-*O'Niel, Garnar*

Any questions should be directed to Doug Garnar (771-5333, 5021) or Ben Kasper (771-5084).

Super Bowl Reflections

By Micheal McMullen

Super bowl XXV and bud bowl 3 similarity or off handed prediction. Let's face it, super bowl XXIV wasn't much of a contest, but some individuals found bud bowl II interesting. Though we do realize that the bud bowl commercials found exclusively during the super bowl games are unique advertising gimmicks they seem to have a certain appeal.

This year bud bowl III was the same type of fare as the last two. As I witness the last bud bowl commercial aired about 3 minutes left in the 4th quarter of super bowl XXV. I had no idea that the commercial and the game would be so similar.

For instance, there was the time similarity: the bud bowl's last 3 seconds and the super bowl last 8 seconds were to be the most crucial to both games. Also in both the commercial celebrating seconds prematurely. In the commercial a player makes a surprise touchdown fighting through band members. In the last 4 seconds after the ill-fated Norwood of the Bills missed the extra point, photographers and players swarmed the field only to be cleared so the final seconds of the game could be played.

Two final similarities not to be ignored. Number one, in the commercial a character named Ralph makes the winning field goal. While back-up Quarter Back Hostetler leads the Giants to victory. These seemingly unknowns both become heroes.

Number two: the scores are somewhat similar. The bud bowl was 23 to 21 and the super bowl was 20 to 19, both only a few points difference.

In the end, Super Bowl XXV broke three records. Number one was the longest ball possession during a Super Bowl by the Giants which was over forty minutes. Number two was the closest super bowl point difference since Super Bowl V, when kicker Jim O'Brian helped the Colts beat the Cowboys 16 to 13. Number three was the Bills' first ever Super Bowl appearance.

The only point that remains is the commercial and off-handed prediction or just a coincidence?

by Merle Sanderson



Theater Review

"Foxfire"

Americans love to romanticise the life of the pioneers: those people who blazed a trail through the wilderness, killing and ex-ploiting the natural inhabitants in an attempt to "tame" it.

In the play "Foxfire," by Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn, the pioneers themselves are being displaced.

This time in the form of lucrative real estate deals that turn farmsteads into condos with Cadillacs and barbed wire to keep the hillbillies out.

Annie and Hector Nations (played by Noni Smith and Richard G. Smith) are third generation hillbillies of the Stoney Lonesome Farm that has now become of interest to real estate agent Prince Carpenter (Rob Flynn) who wants to do the condo thing.

Holly Burrell (Diane Arbes) is the local schoolteacher, young and attractive she seems quite content to live and die in this Southern Appalachia backwater and constantly reminds us of the good old days when neighbors were always welcome. Chris Nickerson plays the

young Dillard Nations, a successful country and western singer with a failing marriage and no wish to inherit the Stoney Lonesome farm now that he lives in Florida. His songs are real and come from the heart but he wears the fake western clothes that so often adorn "real" country singers these days. His change to the contemporary and its resultant success is in contrast to Holly Burrell who longs for the illusory good old days.

Despite the flawed logic behind romantic pioneers and displaced hillbillies this was an interesting play and skillfully done. It's worth your time if you're a realist. (If you're a developer you can enjoy the superb set by Don Guido.)

Director David Colwell had some very clever stage directions and lighting designer Jennifer Karger made maximum use of a very small stage.

"Foxfire" will be at the Cider Mill Playhouse until Feb 24, 91. You can call 777-2787 between 12:00-5:30 for ticket information

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Baldwin Award Recipient Selected

From BCCNEWS

The Broome Community College Alumni Association has announced the selection of the 1991 Richard Baldwin Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Douglas S. Lukasik, Director of Financial Aid at BCC since 1988, is this year's winner.

The award is presented each year to an individual who has served BCC with dedication and enthusiasm. Faculty, staff, alumni and/or friends of the college are eligible.

Mr. Lukasik has spent countless hours in local high schools informing prospective students about financial aid packages available to them. He gives classroom presentations, conducts workshops on completion of forms for students and parents, and follows up with students and appropriate college staff. When he is not teaching an evening course, he can be seen cheering on the BCC ice hockey team.

In his letter of recommendation, Vice President John Pierog said, "A financial aid director can make a student or break a student. Doug Lukasik makes

students. He makes a tremendously positive contribution to the well-being and financial survival of our students. We are indeed fortunate to have Doug as our Director of Financial Aid."

Mr. Lukasik received a B.A. from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA and a Masters in Educational Administration from Temple University in Philadelphia. He is a member of the New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association. Before joining the BCC staff, he was coordinator of Guaranteed Student Loans at the Community College of Philadelphia; and Financial Counselor at the Niagara County Community College in Sanborn, New York.

International Art Contest Open To Students

International Art Horizons

International Art Horizons has announced deadlines and \$30,000 in prizes in the 10th New York-International art competition, which is open to artists working in a number of different media.

The competition is open to all students and to emerging as well as established artists working in the following fields: painting, drawing, sculpture, watercolors, mixed media, photography, printmaking pastels, miniature art, illustration, graphic art, computer art, metalwork, fibers / textiles, furniture, ceramics, jewelry, glass, woodworking, and design.

Applicants will submit slides to be judged by these distinguished jurors: Lynn Zelavansky (Museum of Modern Art, New York City), Nadine Grabania (Frick Art Museum, Pennsylvania), Roger Selby (Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida), Marla Price (Modern Art Museum, Texas), and Ruth Meyer (Taft Museum, Ohio).

An exhibition of the winning art works will again be held at the elegant Art 54 Gallery in the heart of New York's Soho district in June, 1991.

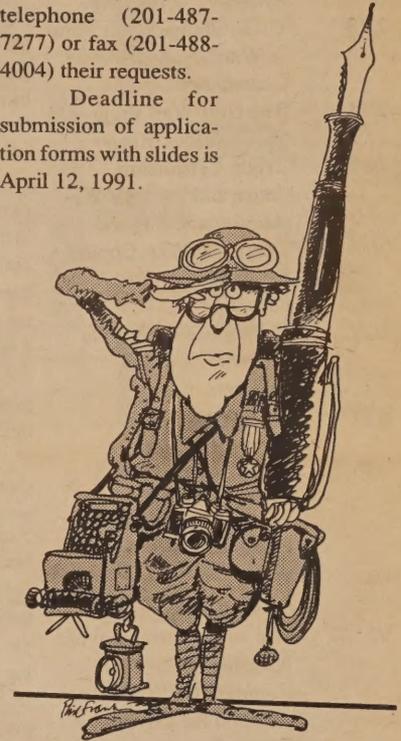
Steve Wade, spokesperson for International Art Horizons, noted the advantages to entrants in this New York competition: "This is by far the most economical way for students and artists to gain exposure in New York, the center of the art world. They won't have to travel to the numerous New York galleries themselves, yet the major collectors, critics, and gallery owners can see their work. The artists will benefit from the competition's fine jurors, and its professional, experienced and caring staff. And there are no politics in this competition - the only criterion is the quality of the work."

This New York - International Art Competition is one of only three major art competitions recommended by the prestigious New

York - International Art Competitions Organizations (NYIACO).

Entrants must use an official application form. To receive one they should simply send a postcard to: International Art Horizons, Dept. RASU, P.O. Box 1533, Ridgewood, NJ 07450. They may also telephone (201-487-7277) or fax (201-488-4004) their requests.

Deadline for submission of application forms with slides is April 12, 1991.



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WE UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, PETER.



Opinions Researched

By Joe Santangelo

This column will be devoted to the voices of opinion, without the mummification of opinion. Freedom of discussion is our concern. I don't want to hear that personal views can cause a lot of trouble, nor do I want to report on any issue in a one sided context. I will try to frame a balanced arrangement for unity and diversity. The issues are many and opinions are even more numerous than the issues themselves.

This column will reflect the sense of this campus. The opinions will offer a style and method of deliberation that hopefully can be imitated by others in the BCC community. I welcome criticism and opposing viewpoints.

My goal is to get readers to think and to talk, to question and evaluate their own ideas, as well as mine. Promotion of dialogue is central. I welcome opinions from every quarter, from the politically correct, and from the politically incorrect. Whoever you are, give us your opinions on the issues. Gut-feelings

America

By Joe Santangelo

America, this lady wears her garment well. This lady of issues and opinions, her garments woven with change after change. Sure, many times this lady was torn and tattered, but this lady upheld her wisdom, grace, and strength. How many times have we hurled insults at this lady with our quickly drawn opinions, without totally understanding the issues at hand? This lady still went on. This lady will always remain standing.

Mario Sings Budget Blues

By Bill Frobe

New York citizens are the most taxed people in the United States. Governor Mario Cuomo gave his proposed budget for fiscal year 1992 last week, proposing to raise more money by raising taxes, cutting state employees paychecks, raising college tuition, and cutting school aid by ten percent.

How can he do this to us? On the day he was reelected, Cuomo told New Yorkers that he had spent seventy million dollars of the failed environmental bond, and that we would have to pay for it. He wrote a bad check. If an individual wrote a check for seventy million dollars and it bounced, that individual would be arrested. It's a bit hard to arrest everyone in the federal or the state's government for spending money they don't have because there are so many people spend-

ing our money in Washington and in Albany.

New York State needs some cost cutting measures other than laying off or cutting pay; that sort of thing turns us off. Government officials need to examine other possibilities. The New York State LOTTO is making a lot of money; but where is the money going? It is supposed to go to education, but it's going to the general fund, meaning that money can be used for anything. The government should put that money back into the school aid fund. Instead of cutting pay rates and overtime pay, cut the amount of hours a person works. Make forty hours a week the most anyone can work. Raise the fee of Interstate 90 by a nickel.

There are many other alternatives. We just have to search for them.

ZOO U. by Mark Weitzman



"Food fight!"

Campus Activities

by Eric Moyer

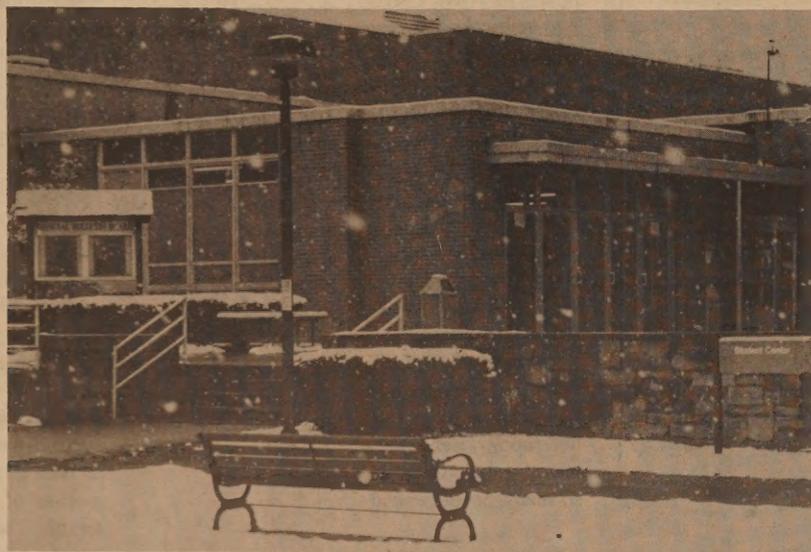
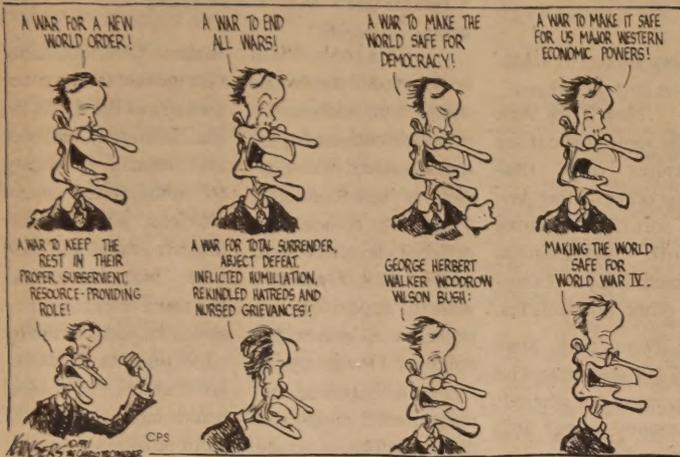
There are many different things happening on campus during the month of February.

On Wednesday, February 20, a teleconference is scheduled on "The Rise in Campus Racism- Causes and Solutions." It will be in AT 200 from 1 PM until 3 PM. It is open to all students, faculty, and staff.

On February 25 and 26, a Red Cross blood drive will be held from 10 AM until 2 PM.

Looking ahead to March 15 at 7 PM, "Three Men and A Little Lady" will play in the BCC Little Theater. It's free to all students with a current student ID card, \$1 dollar for adults, and \$.50 for children.





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AMERICAN RED CROSS HOSTS FOOD FAIR THE BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IS HOSTING ITS SECOND ANNUAL FOOD FAIR SATURDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 16, FROM 7-10 P.M., AT THE METROCENTER MALL IN BINGHAMTON. COME AND SAMPLE APPETIZERS, ENTREES, AND DESSERTS FROM MANY OF THE AREA'S FINEST RESTAURANTS. A FASHION SHOW, DIRECTED BY MICHAEL BUTLER, AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE A PART OF THE EVENING'S FESTIVITIES. TICKETS ARE \$25 PER PERSON, WITH ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING THE BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 722-1241

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The program is located at the Ealing College of Higher Education in the London borough of Ealing, about 10 miles from London center (Picadilly). The atmosphere is that of a busy suburb with many shops, stores, parks and entertainment facilities and is served by convenient bus and underground transportation. The college enrolls approximately 5,000 full and part-time students from Great Britain and Europe and over 300 United States students each semester. The college offers all students a full range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as team and competitive sports, student clubs, and reduced travel within and outside of Britain. PROGRAM: Programs of study are offered in Liberal Arts, Business, Hotel and Catering, Criminal Justice, and an Internship Program. The internship program can be tailored to your specific area of study and interest. The academic programs offer the student two alternatives: students can study with British instructors in American style classes or they can study in the British system alongside British students. All students are required to enroll in a course titled, Colloquium on British Culture. This course is composed of lectures, field trip, and excursions led by British instructors. HOUSING AND MEALS: Students are free to choose their residence arrangements. The three options are: 1. Full Students Board: students are housed in a British home listed with the Accommodations Office at Ealing College and will have all breakfasts and evening meals with a British family. 2. Bed and breakfast: Students are provided a room and breakfast 7 days a week in a private family residence. 3. Self-Catering: Students rent self-catering apartment-type accommodations. COSTS: Program costs are about \$3500 per semester. This includes BCC tuition, housing and half-board (breakfast and evening meals), instructional and administrative costs in London, textbooks, field trips and more. All financial aid, Veterans benefits, and student loans are applicable to this program. For more information and application procedures stop by or call; Richard Romaro 771-5228 m-215 program.

HELP WANTED SPRING BREAK 1991 INDIVIDUAL OR STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEEDED TO PROMOTE SPRING BREAK TRIP. EARN MONEY, FREE TRIPS AND VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE. CALL NOW!! INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS: 1-800-327-6013. (9 AM - 5PM CENTRAL TIME)

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THE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE EMPIRE STATE MINORITY HONORS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. APPLICANTS MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: 1. MUST BE FULL-TIME MATRICULATED STUDENT AT B.C.C. 2. MUST BE A MEMBER OF A HISTORICALLY UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY GROUP. 3. CONTINUING STUDENTS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) OF 2.8. 4. NEW STUDENTS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGE OF 80%. 5. MUST APPLY FOR PELL AND TAP GRANTS. APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE E.O.P. OFFICE IN WALES 111. THE DEADLINE DATE TO APPLY IS FEBRUARY 28, 1991.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Fulcrum needs photographers and developers. No experience necessary, will train. Equipment supplied. See Jay Elbretch or Bill Frobe at the *Fulcrum*, or call 771-5110 or 798-7049.

BCC STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Spend the fall semester in England or Ecuador or Italy or Ireland or France or U.S.S.R. or one of nine other countries. FACTS: * No previous language study required * Varied programs to meet your degree requirements. * You can use your financial aid package. * Cost comparable to a semester away at SUNY colleges. FICTION: * People like you don't go on study abroad programs. * You'll miss Binghamton.

For information and applications stop by Mechanical 215 or 222 call 771-5078 or 5087 or 5228. The college offers all students a full range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as team and competitive sports, student clubs, and reduced travel within and outside of Britain. PROGRAM: Programs of study are offered in Liberal Arts, Business, Hotel and Catering, Criminal Justice, and an Internship Program.

LIFE GUARD TRAINING OFFERED THE YWCA OF 80 HAWLEY STREET, BINGHAMTON IS OFFERING A LIFE GUARD TRAINING COURSE SET TO BEGIN ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 4TH BETWEEN 7 AND 10 P.M. THIS 8 SESSION 4 WEEK COURSE WILL COST PARTICIPANTS 15 YEARS OR OLDER \$65. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL BONNIE ROGERS, YWCA AQUATICS DIRECTOR AT 772-0340.



Twisted Visions

by Clint Jahn

Ed. Note: This is a new opinion column which will rant about a different subject each issue and will offend certain close-minded individuals. If you are close-minded and/or easily offended, please feel free to skip this column. If you have an opposing viewpoint on any of the subjects covered, please feel free to send a reply to our Letters to the Editor section.

SEX AND THE STATE

Today's topic is about government meddling in a place where it has no business at all--your personal sex life.

If statistics are correct, over 50% of you people reading this could be considered felons under NYS law. Yes, boys and girls, oral sex (anal too, for that matter) is a felony in New York and several other states--it is called "sodomy", and is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. It was originally instituted to curb homosexuality back

in the days when your average man on the street felt that such activity was "a crime against God and nature", but in recent years there have been cases (usually in the course of a vicious and very messy divorce) where people have been charged with, and sometimes even convicted of consensual, heterosexual "sodomy".

It is also highly probable that a few of you out there might be considered rapists under NYS law and not even know it--and no, I'm not talking about "date rape" or having intercourse with an individual incapable of giving consent because she is passed out drunk...any man who participates in such activity should, in my opinion, be emasculated and branded with an "R" right in the middle of his forehead--no, what I am talking about is 3rd degree rape, better known to the layman as "statutory rape". According to NYS Penal Law, anyone having intercourse with an individual who is 15 (or younger) is guilty of this (however, I assume that they mean "any individual 18 or older", because I've never heard of a 16 or 17 year old being brought up on charges). And, if you are 21 or older, under this same law you must choose a partner who is at least 17 years of age (by the way, men aren't the only ones who've been charged with this). This is bullshit. Don't get me wrong, I don't condone diddling high school kids, but it happens.

Consider this: many high school girls consider it the "cool thing" to put on their makeup and best clothes and try to get into nightclubs--and sometimes it works. It is also "cool"

to get into fraternity parties where alcohol is served--and we all know how often you get "proofed" at one of those. I've met 15 year olds who could pass for 21 and I've also met people in their late 20's who continually get "IDed" whenever they try to get in a bar or buy a 6-pack. If you meet a 16 year old in a bar, of course you assume her to be of legal drinking age--a liberal judge might take this into account and dismiss the charges, however, it is still "rape" and you can go to prison for that--and we all know what happens to rapists in prison. When in doubt, ask for a photo ID.

Another subject I feel needs to be addressed is prostitution. In my opinion, I feel that a woman has the right to sleep with whom-ever she chooses, and if her acquaintance(s) wishes to part with some of his money in return for her attentions, then more power to her. However, I do feel that prostitution should be a government regulated, licensed profession. Those engaged in the said profession should be required to report for regular medical exams and pay taxes on their earnings. As it is now, prostitution is illegal in the United States (with the exception of a few counties in Nevada) but is practiced in almost every metropolitan area, and being

illegal, in many cases is a sleazy, dangerous, unpredictable business (much like the black market for drugs). You take the illegality out of it and pimps, junkies, mugging teams, and disease infected individuals would be almost unheard of in this line of work. Prostitution also serves a very important function in society--though many are loathe to admit it. Having sex on a regular basis relieves tensions and frustrations which, in time, can lead to psychological problems which in turn, under proper conditions, can lead to anti-social behavior. Sadly, but true, many people are too unattractive or socially inept to merit sex on a regular basis--legalized prostitution would remedy this.

Many people are also inflicted with a family/church/society which has a very repressive, Victorian view of sex...you know, the people who tell their children that they will get boils on their palms, go blind, and burn in Hell for the horrendous crime of masturbation. Most people who fit in one or both of these categories make the best of their situation and sometimes are successful in overcoming it, but some turn to other outlets: excessive amounts of booze & drugs, acts of sexual deviancy too vile or putrid to see print in this paper, or suicide

...I am not joking. If you are one of these Victorian fetishists who thinks that sex should only be done within marriage, once every 9 months, in the dark, in under 5 minutes, and in the "missionary position", then don't even bother scribbling me a hate letter...go purchase a hairshirt and check yourself into a monastery/convent instead.

If I had more space I'd use it, because

there's a helluva lot more on this subject that needs to be addressed. The main point here I'm trying to make is that government has no right inflicting biased, church-based laws on honest citizens performing normal, natural acts, which injure no-one. We have a right to our privacy.

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