



OPENING REMARKS

Publishing News

Two can do better as one.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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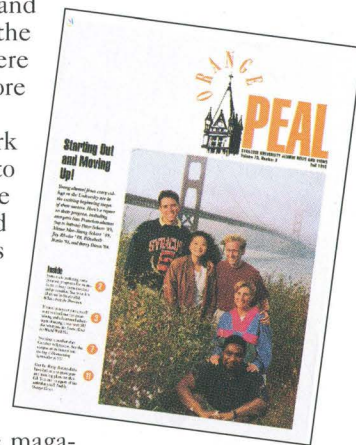
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You hold in your hands the largest issue of *Syracuse University Magazine* ever printed. It's the result of a marriage that took place a couple of months back, and we're all still a little giddy from the reception. We refer to the marriage of the *SU Magazine* and *Orange Peal*, the alumni newsletter from the Office of Alumni Relations. Where once there were two publications, now there is one: a larger and more comprehensive magazine doing both jobs better.

As in any good marriage, both partners must work to make things tick. The magazine will continue to feature SU newsmakers and campus news; the *Orange Peal* section will report on information and activities of special interest to alumni, retaining its own unique voice.

Why? To spend money more wisely, for starters. No one gets married just to save money, but nevertheless, two can keep house more economically together than apart. There's an additional benefit. Because the magazine published one issue more a year than *Orange Peal* did, and because the magazine reaches a wider audience, more of you will be receiving more information more often. We're spending less on postage and more on pages. Just as people get married because they're better together than apart, we believe the same applies to the magazine and *Orange Peal*. We hope you'll feel the same.



Some of you might not agree with the language contained in the article *Sure, But Can We All Get Along?* beginning on page 24. It's not that it's X-rated, but outdated. We've used terms like *black* and *white* instead of African American and European American. Terms some say we shouldn't be using because they focus on meaningless descriptors instead of cultural identities.

We believe the University has a responsibility to take the lead in helping its constituents appreciate the pluralistic society we live in. Language is one way to achieve that goal, and we will continue to be sensitive to the labels the magazine assigns to groups and individuals. But sometimes, as when a European American woman reinforces a stereotype by clutching her purse more tightly, it's not because the young man she sees walking toward her is Haitian, or Ethiopian, or African American. It's because he's black. And it's likely that the African Americans who attacked Reginald Denny didn't really care if he was Irish American or Yugoslavian. He was white. Sometimes that's all it takes. Sometimes that's all that matters.

Like the decision in the Rodney King case, some events are so unbelievable or awesome that they permanently etch into memory where you were and what you were doing when you heard the news. The assassination of John F. Kennedy. The explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger. For anyone at Syracuse University in 1988, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

The bombing is, and most likely will forever be, the most massive loss ever suffered by this institution. Thirty-five students enrolled in our Division of International Programs Abroad were killed by a heinous act of terrorism, for which, nearly four years later, no justice has been served.

As we report in the article *We Who Remain*, beginning on page 30, it's a sad irony that good things are often borne of tragedy. A University discovers its sense of community. Families who never knew one another form life-long bonds. Friendships taken for granted are instead cherished.

All of us would have rather learned these lessons in some other way

—THE EDITORS

IN BASKET

Talking Politics

About the coverage of election issues appearing in our September edition:

One major contributor to our failure to reach a balanced budget that was not discussed (because it affects too many retired alumni such as ourselves?) is the burgeoning cost of social security. Warren Rudman '52 and Paul Tsongas, on the McNeil-Lehrer program of September 14, 1992, discussed the formation of the Concord Coalition. It's intended to be a national grass-roots movement that points out to our elected representatives, who are afraid of political suicide, that the American people will make enough sacrifices to regain our economic stability, provided the sacrifices are clearly and fairly distributed. Senator Rudman pointed out that there are a lot of people with incomes of \$50,000 to \$100,000 who don't need the levels of social security income that they enjoy.

Count us among that group who grew up during the Depression, enjoyed the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights after World War II, and prospered during the Eisenhower fifties when the U.S. dollar and U.S. technology had unimaginable relative strength. We may be accused of excessive greed, but given the right programs I think we could become examples of the courage required by the average American to begin to forgo some personal comfort in the interest of national well-being.

JAMES B. SISSON '48

DOROTHY M. FUNK SISSON '48

BARTOW, FLORIDA

Outraged

I was disappointed by *Syracuse University Magazine's* lack of editorial responsibility in the September 1992 issue. The homophobic letter from R. Bruce Skewes ["In Basket"] is, quite simply, hate mail. It is hardly conducive to the kind of rational discourse one might hope to find in the letters column of an intelligent publication.

Syracuse University Magazine ought to have had the wherewithal at least, and the respect for its many gay and les-



MICHAEL PRINZO

bian readers, to remind Skewes, in print, of such realities as the scientific findings that strongly indicate a biological basis for homosexuality. These findings directly contradict the notion that homosexuality is a choice, as Skewes implies. Who on earth would "choose" a "lifestyle" that attracts the ire of people like him.

The *Daily Orange* is to be commended for its support of the right of gay and lesbian people to live on equal terms with the other 80 to 90 percent of the population.

ANDREW RASANEN '73

SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

The letter from R. Bruce Skewes... was just another hateful moment on the far right.

Homosexuality is simply a naturally occurring phenomenon; homophobia, on the other hand, is an acquired attitude. Indeed, it is the bigotry expressed in Mr. Skewes' letter which is the "compulsive disorder [clamoring] for acceptance" and it is the profound hatred which fuels such expressions of bigotry that is "bizarre and dangerous."

MARC D. WEINER '82

BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY

I'm saddened more than outraged to read R. Bruce Skewes' narrow-minded view of homosexuality.

How fortuitous for Mr. Skewes he was born heterosexual, so that it was unnecessary for him to pursue a lifestyle which is "bizarre and dangerous."

And what a waste of a good college education.

FELICE ITZKOFF '60

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

Miscellany

I was appalled that a university which boasts a school of information science, a journalism school, and a department of international relations would publish such a trite and biased article as "Push Ups" about the SU ROTC program ["University Place," June 1992].

... The bottom line of the military is to kill the enemy. That is the mission of the military. Why not ask the ROTC participants about these purposes and not just how many push-ups they can do?

CYNTHIA BANAS '69

VERNON, NEW YORK

Correction

I am writing to correct a misstatement in the sidebar on "AIDS Policy" in your September 1992 issue.

The U.S. Public Health Service currently estimates that more than one million Americans—one in every 250—are infected with the HIV virus. While this reflects a less bleak picture than the "one in 25" number I cited, it is certainly not an optimistic one.

In 1991, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that one in every 100 adult males in the U.S. is HIV-infected. The rate of infection among women is increasing, representing almost 14 percent of all AIDS cases by March of this year. Infection rates are rising more rapidly in smaller metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas than they are in major cities. The number of AIDS cases among teenagers has increased 25 percent in the past two years.

And the National Commission on AIDS estimates that by 1992 the years of potential life lost to AIDS in America will grow to between 1.5 and 2.1 million.

BRIAN GORMAN '71

ROOSEVELT ISLAND, NEW YORK

Editor's Note: Syracuse University Magazine welcomes letters from readers. Address letters to Syracuse University Magazine, 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040. Letters are subject to editing for style and space limitations.