

COMMUNICATIONS The ideas and opinions of our readers

Bigger, Better

Editor,

I commend you on the concept initiated with the August issue: the inclusion of "in-depth" articles along with the excellent pithy news items which are a hallmark of the publication. . . .

Your news articles do well in conveying information on all aspects of University growth, but I feel the longer articles will add needed content regarding whatever area you select to emphasize in an issue. In the process the appreciation of alumni for what is transpiring will be deepened.

The "Future Shape of Education," "Pieces of the Picture," and "Painting a Brighter Picture" complemented each other beautifully and left me not only with increased knowledge but also with an appreciation of the wisdom displayed by SU's leaders over the years: keeping the focus in education on the human beings involved and centered as much as possible on whole persons, who are the end product. . . .

Peter Marsh's report on another forward thrust in the integration of liberal learning and professional training bodes well, not alone for Syracuse University, but for college level education in general.

Robert Grant '39
Roscoe, New York

Editor,

In the August 1986 issue, I was fascinated by the articles of Dr. Marsh and Alexandra Eyle ["The Future Shape of Education" and "Pieces of the Picture," respectively, both concerning the mixture of professional and liberal-arts education at SU]. They point to what ought to be the future.

You might be interested that during my year [at Syracuse] in the school of government, Dr. Finla G. Crawford must have glimpsed the new trend.

We students were in two groups, the political science/economics/psychology group and the city-manager group. Mr. Crawford obliged the two groups to meet together in a seminar once a week.

Laurence T. Heron '26
Homewood, Illinois

Editor,

You asked readers for comments about the August issue of our alumni publication. . . .

Kudos to the 10 pages of student photography, as one forum for alums to see what creativity emerges. I think, however, 10 pages—almost 20 percent—was a wee bit too long.

Also, two weighty academic articles is too much. One would have been sufficient, and kept total magazine length closer to the original 32 [pages].

Beatrice Schneck Kolchin '55
Aberdeen, Maryland

Editor,

I just wanted to tell you how interesting I found Peter Marsh's article in the August issue. Looking back on what I expected of and received from a college education, and in light of what I have experienced since graduation, I can really appreciate the points made in the article [pertaining to the unnecessary dichotomy of liberal and professional learning].

Although I was able to pursue both liberal and applied subject areas, I must say that I always considered the study of history as something I did for myself, apart from anything I might do in the working world. . . . When I first started working in New York City, I was struck by the degree to which my literary and professional pursuits were separated. . . . You could be efficient and productive in your job, but your co-workers and employers could care less (and probably would prefer)

if you had no ambitions outside of your skill area.

I am happy to say, however, that this certainly is not the case everywhere. My new job at Oxford University Press has shown me that there are many organizations and businesses that insist on having employees who can do more than add a column of numbers, work at a computer terminal or copy edit a manuscript. It's nice to know that my employers and co-workers care as much about my interest in the fiction of D.H. Lawrence and Pre-Raphaelite painting as in my ability to copy edit and proofread.

Cindi DiMarzo '84
New York City

Editor,

I enjoyed your expanded issue. I believe it was not only bigger, but better. The student photography pages made me jealous of their talents and hope my efforts will improve.

John Candioglos '83
Puyallup, Washington

Editor,

I enjoyed the student photography story a lot. The pictures were beautiful and engrossing. The student photographers' comments were interesting and added a personal touch.

I think the risks you took in changing some of the format paid off!

Roslyn Jefferson-Rhynhart '78
Rotterdam Junction, New York

Editor,

Here's another "feather" for your "well":

I read most of the August issue with great interest. Of the two weightier pieces, I found the one by Peter Marsh more interesting because of its broader implications for higher education. The one on cross-disciplinary degrees would have greatest interest, I should

think, to students or prospective students who might take advantage of that interesting possibility.

I found the student photography feature far from a waste of space. To the contrary, it took good advantage of your magazine medium to present the students' medium, namely photography.

Congratulations on a good job.

John A. Lovelace '64
Dallas, Texas

High Grades

Editor,

This summer I stumbled on your April 1986 issue. I'm not a literary critic, but, for what it's worth, your magazine would get very, very high grades. . . .

I am a high school guidance counselor and I can't tell you how your section on student life was an excellent attempt to let a high school student understand campus life. Large universities like Syracuse at times scare students, but you showed how varied activities allow students to find themselves.

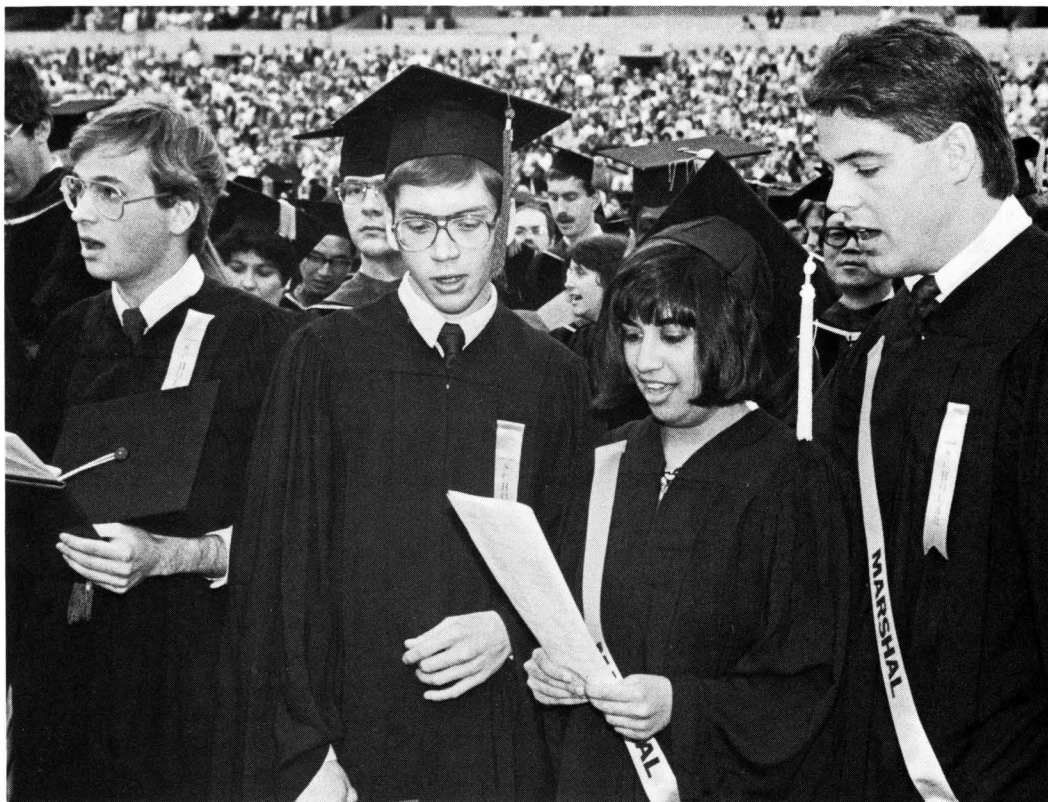
Wayne J. Mehrer
Midlothian, Virginia

Initial Reaction

Editor,

To my puzzlement I find an editorial practice I must inquire about; the spirit of James Thurber demands it. Do you recall his essay "The Spreading You Know"? The title is phonically accurate but reproduced only from memory. He tilts his keen lance at the proliferation of alphabet constructions as the Age of Acronym Opens (AAO). Now AAO shows loose logic and long teeth. Or does it?

Why does the pretty passable prose of page 15 [August 1986] present "(PAFs)" in column three and "(NSF)" in column four, when neither occurs again in the



Peeking at the words is excusable today when singing the "Alma Mater"; even class marshals sometimes need a reminder. But George Wainwright recalls a time when the lyrics were committed to memory.

two "Research Report" short articles? When I studied under Mario Rossi and Leroy Nathenson in newswriting during the late 1960s in Newhouse, I learned that acronyms are properly introduced in copy if they will appear again in the same story—not the same issue of the publication, nor the same year of the reader's life. In the name of MERCY (Man's Endless Reflection on CopY Editing), I ask, has the rule changed or just the game?

Matthew Beach '70

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Editor's note: YRWG. (You're right, we goofed.)

The President and Higher Education

Editor,

In your August 1986 issue, the commentary "The Students Keep Coming" reports that enrollment at SU has continually risen, in spite of low numbers of high school graduates and other adversities. What I object to is your personal judgment that "the cur-

rent presidential administration has decreased aid for higher education. . . ."

The current president, or for that matter any president, does not legislate how much funding any cause is to receive. That is the role of Congress. The president can exert influence over Congress (and President Reagan most certainly has); however, Congress determines how much aid higher education is to be given.

I would like to offer my own personal judgment. It is the positive influence that President Reagan has exerted which has taken our economy to new post-war highs, and that it is this healthy economy which has helped raise the enrollment at SU.

Dan Casey '85

Montgomery, New York

Mary Marshall

Editor,

The reason that I make it a point to see *School for Scandal* and *She Stoops to Conquer* whenever they are performed is because Miss Mary Marshall [sub-

ject of "The Last Word," August 1986] taught the class in Restoration Drama in 1962.

She made the 18th-century characters reflect the attitudes of their time, so that we learned English history as well as literature. I recall that she was very knowledgeable, and it was fun being in the class. After all these years I recall her exclaiming, "Lady Teazle! By all that's horrible!" mimicking the characters.

It was too bad that she was on sabbatical when I would have studied Shakespeare with her. Of all the professors in my undistinguished undergraduate career, I recall her the best. The others are Dorothy Drew, Dr. Terhune, and the formidable Mme. Gourevitch. What ever happened to them?

Janet Schmitt McKenna '63

Grand Island, New York

Editor's note: Dorothy Drew retired from the SU English department in 1967 and currently lives in Maine. Dr. A. McKinley Terhune retired from teaching English in 1965 and died in 1971.

Retired from the French department since 1982, Sylvia Gourevitch is now in California, enjoying gardening and her grandchildren.

Required Singing

Editor,

It is always a pleasure to read the *Syracuse University Magazine* and August 1986 was no exception. However, the article on the "Alma Mater" brought back a sad memory.

When I entered Syracuse in 1923, the first requirement was to learn the first and last verses of the "Alma Mater."

At a Reunion a few years back the Kum-Bak Show was excellent, but the singing of the "Alma Mater" was a disappointment. A young lady with a beautiful voice came on stage and sang the "Alma Mater." However, she did not appear to know the words.

Is it possible that freshmen are no longer required to learn the "Alma Mater"?

George L. Wainwright '28

Brockton, Massachusetts

Editor's note: The singing of the "Alma Mater" is not a requirement faced by freshmen. Memorizing the verses has become a matter of individual choice.

According to campus historians, there was a time when new students were "strongly encouraged" (though not required) to learn the "Alma Mater"; they were required to remove their beanies (mandatory apparel at the time) while singing the song. That era ended at least 15 years ago.

Peary, Not Perry

Editor,

Regarding the August 1986 article, "Some Like It Cold": Admiral Perry did not reach the pole in 1909. Rather, Robert E. Peary is the one who should remain being credited with such, as the rightful achiever.

Eleanor B. Andrews '63

Attleboro, Massachusetts

Editor's note: Commander Robert E. Peary was indeed the first person to travel to the North Pole by way of dogsled. Our apologies.