

et al.: Front Matter

# SYRACUSE

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

VOL. 2, NO. 3

AUGUST 1986

## HAPPY ENDINGS

COMMENCEMENT 1986, PAGE 6



## Down the Well

**F**or some years, I sent occasional cards and letters to a friend of mine and never got a response.

Eventually, I began to suspect that he wasn't really much of a friend after all. Recently, however, I talked with a mutual acquaintance, who confessed that she had the same experience writing to the same person, and had come to understand it.

"Writing to John," she said, "is like dropping a feather down a well."

Her comment brought back to mind one of my long-forgotten, childhood pastimes: dropping pebbles down the well. For those readers who missed out on a country upbringing, I should point out that the game was neither so easy nor so aimless as it sounds. Our well was narrow, and it took considerable practice to perfect a clean drop, so that the pebble fell directly to the water without hitting the sides. As well, it led to numerous (if unsophisticated) experiments, dropping stones of different sizes, shapes, and weights simultaneously and trying to interpret the results.

But what made the game so appealing was the eagerly anticipated and distinctly magical "plunk" when the pebble finally hit the dark and invisible water some 30 feet below. I can still hear that sound clearly. Actually, it was more like "floop."

**I** suppose the connection between playing a child's game and publishing this magazine is a bit unclear to some of you, but it's perfectly clear to me: both demand an attitude of experimentation, and both depend, eventually, on the sound of the response.

With this issue, for example, we are testing several new ideas that raise intriguing questions.

- We have increased the length of the magazine to 48 pages, compared to its normal 32. Will this make it better, or only bigger?

- We have included two rather weighty articles on academic subjects (the changing relationship between liberal and professional education, and SU's emphasis on dual degree programs). Will this make the magazine more substantial, or simply heavier?

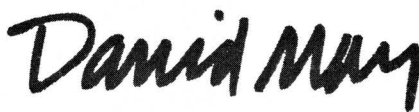
- We have devoted 10 pages to a picture story on student photography, most of it in full color. We think it's an attractive change of pace, but you may think it's just a waste of space.

- In the section on University news, we have reported on fewer subjects but at greater length and with more editorial comment. Our intention is to present a clearer picture of what's happening on campus, but you may find it too long and detailed.

**T**he answers to those questions will come only when this issue, dropped down the metaphorical well, finally strikes the surface—that is, when you read it and let us know what you think of it. As always, the sound of your response will guide the shape and weight of future issues.

Over the years, there have been a lot of gratifying "plunks" and "floops" from our readers. By far the most resounding came in response to our story on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, written by alumnus Joel Swerdlow and published last November. That article resulted in a number of comments and phone calls, and a flood of letters that is still continuing 10 months later.

That kind of response is what makes publishing this magazine worthwhile, and also what makes it fascinating and rewarding. As long as it continues, I'll happily keep dropping pebbles down the well.



**David May**  
Editor

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### Syracuse University Magazine

is published throughout the year by Syracuse University and is distributed free of charge to its alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and parents of current students. Requests for subscriptions, changes of address, and other communications should be sent to *Syracuse University Magazine*, 820 Comstock Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040.

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### Photographs

Dan Cornish/ESTO, 26-29; Mike Janeczek, 48; National Broadcasting Company, 42 (bottom); Steve Sartori/Bill Gandino/David Broda (SU Photo Center), cover, 1 (left), 6, 7, 9, 10 (bottom), 13, 15, 34, 39-41, 42 (top).

# SYRACUSE

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**2 Communications.** Our November '85 story on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial remains a focus of reader reaction.

**4 Perspectives.** The University marshal describes 30 years of Commencement choreography; also, a new lyric for the "Alma Mater."

**6 The University.** Commencement '86 was made extra special by a coincidence of the calendar; also, the proposed technology center has earned state support.

**14 Research Report.** This new department describes ongoing journeys into the frontiers of knowledge.

**16 Picture Perfect.** SU's two photography programs produce images as varied as the students themselves.

**26 Renewing the Flame.** Alumnus Richard Hayden, director of the Statue of Liberty restoration, reflects on the project's greatest significance.

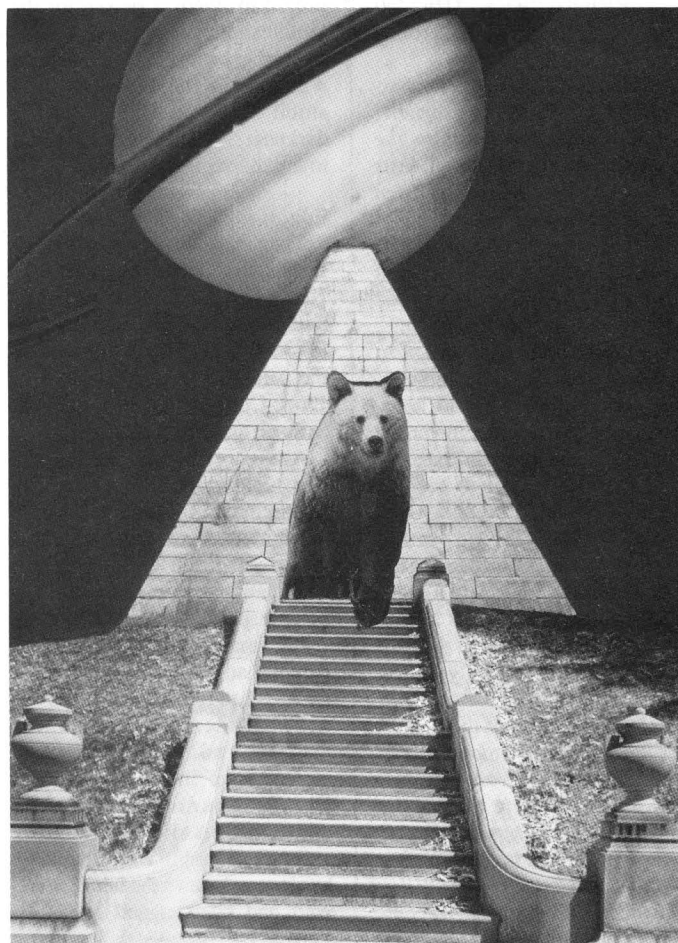
**30 The Future Shape of Education.** Outgoing Honors Program director Peter Marsh describes an attempt to overcome the professional/liberal arts duality.

**34 Pieces of the Picture.** Cross-disciplinary degree options allow the great diversity of Syracuse to serve a student's specific needs.

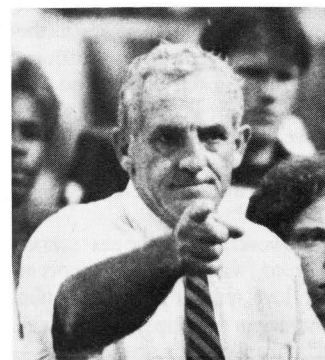
**40 Painting a Brighter Picture.** Thanks to a new curriculum, students in the School of Art will be more visible in classrooms throughout the University.

**42 SU's Who.** The future is now for two busy entrepreneurs and for a pair of SU sports legends whose pro careers are underway.

**46 Sports Journal.** There's no doubt that Dick MacPherson has strengthened Syracuse football in his first five years, but the question is, How much?



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MAC YEARS, PAGE 46

**48 The Last Word.** Alumnus Lee Richmond pays tribute to Mary Marshall—perhaps the best-loved of all Syracuse teachers.

### On the Cover

Commencement is a time for many emotions, but certainly jubilation ranks high among them, as this Class of 1986 senior proves. About 3,400 degree candidates were on hand May 11 to mark accomplishment and completion and to receive the congratulations of Governor Mario Cuomo. Our report on Commencement '86 begins on page 6.