

Pats on the Back

Syracuse University Magazine has evolved into a first-class representation of a university whose publications previously did not reflect the quality taught at its own school of public communications.

Your "First (And Probably Only) Fall Fashion Preview" issue [September 1988] was a beautifully designed, well-written, *contemporary* magazine. I loved the sharp writing and the flashy, funky cover and fashion layouts. I'd like to see more "theme" issues that focus on successful alumni working in various industries. . . .

MINDY POLLACK '77
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

An issue on Hollywood, perhaps?

I received a Ph.D. from the University in 1979, but this, in fact, is the first issue I have seen [December 1988]. I enjoyed it immensely. . . .

Keep up the good work. The magazine has an attractive, interesting format and a nice balance of news and feature items. I enjoyed especially the news item on Raymond Carver.

JOHN PAUL VINCENT '79
WILMORE, KENTUCKY

For more on Ray Carver, see page 34.

One minor quibble: In the article on Phyllis Bryn-Julson [September], you refer to her moving to "Concordia, North Dakota." There is no such place. Concordia is a college, not a town. I suspect you meant Fargo, North Dakota.

ANN KNUDSON '74
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Public Minded

I read with great interest your article in the December magazine on the difficulties facing public television. It was a very accurate and well-written piece, and I enjoyed seeing some of my colleagues here at Maryland Public Television (MPT) quoted in the story.

Linda Taggart was right. Part of the challenge in public television is to reach people in their teens and twenties. Here at MPT we have been producing a rather unique program that is reaching that audience. It is a

satirical sketch-comedy show called *Crabs*, and we produce it and air it live, before a studio audience. We do six shows a year, and are in our fifth season.

Crabs has been a huge success in Maryland. . . . In the high schools and colleges of Maryland, *Crabs* is one public TV program that is well known. . . .

The difficulties facing public television *are* large, but we are finding innovative ways of dealing with them. I hope one day to convince PBS executives that a show like ours, aired nationally, can bring a younger audience to public television, as it has in Maryland.

DICK GEORGE '70
OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND

George is the creator, co-producer, and head writer of Crabs, whose pilot was produced by Michael Styer '63, now MPT's vice president of broadcasting.

George and Styer are two names on a very long list of SU alumni working in public television. Some others not mentioned in our article are, at WPBT in Miami, Craig Brush '74, director of development; at Connecticut Public Television, Lisa Bothwell '80, producer/director; at WKPC in Louisville, Kentucky, John-Robert Curtin '71, general manager; and at WNET in New York City, Audrey Jones '83, associate producer. Syracuse's WCNY also employs a large number of alumni. Evidence suggests that public TV stations nationwide are rich with SU graduates.

On Conan Owen

I was pleased to read the "Postscript" portion related to Conan Owen on the inside back cover of your December 1988 issue. I, too, believe that Conan Owen is innocent. But that belief and feeling belies the point that we must take seriously and try to understand how people of other cultures view reality. It is very natural for people when under stress or faced with a seeming injustice to rely on their own personal cultural framework for perceiving other's intentions. Neither the Spanish nor Americans are free from this guilt. However, your "Postscript" adjured us to understand that the Spanish are a well-developed civilization with laws and rules they must live with. . . .

Although the process of adjudication in Spain was politicized by both U.S. and Spanish citizens, each criticizing the other of vile intentions, the court in which Conan was judged was, after all, Spanish in nature.

So, from the point of view of someone

who has given his life to promoting the understanding between peoples of different cultures, I appreciate the fact that at least in a postscript the integrity of the University and your magazine was upheld by cautioning us to understand the context of the problem, no matter how hard it is to accept the guilt of innocence of Conan Owen.

MICHAEL SMITHEE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

Mr. Smithee is assistant director of SU's Office of International Services.

[Owen] said it all in his whining, vindictive letter. Only in this country is it possible for a boy to reach the age of 24, complete a university education, and remain naïve and parochial. His childish reaction to adversity is typical. Unable to understand, he resorts to a verbal tantrum. Poor baby. I hope he never learns what prison can be in a Third World country, or Cuba and Nicaragua. Perhaps he has learned something from his ordeal and will remain within his own small backyard.

CHARLOTTE L. KUHLMANN '71
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Ms. Kuhlman refers to "A Letter from Conan Owen," which accompanied our story on Owen's conviction in Spain on drug charges—a conviction that many considered unjust. In the letter, Owen complained about conditions in La Modelo prison.

At the time our article appeared, in December, Conan Owen had been transferred to the United States and assigned to a Pennsylvania prison. Since then, he has been furloughed to his parents' home in Annandale, Virginia, where he serves his term under "house arrest"—allowed to leave only for work and medical care, and required to wear a paging device that confirms his whereabouts. As we took this issue to press, he awaited a parole hearing on March 12 that might free him of house arrest. He and his parents express hopes of gaining a presidential pardon to clear his record.

Back to '68

About our June 1988 article on student activists of the late sixties. . . .

I did not expect, nor did I see, the slightest sadness over the plight of the people of Vietnam—those who died, those in camps, the boat people, etc., from the opponents of our involvement.

I remember writing an article at Syracuse

which suggested that, if we withdrew our forces and the Communists imposed their will by force, the first thing they'd do is kick out all the reporters. Then the real brutality would commence. But there would be no news of it and the world would call it peace.

The Ifshins of that era said they wanted peace and freedom. Ifshin should ask the boat people or the souls of millions of dead Cambodians if he got what he wanted.

NEIL WALLACE '72
ITHACA, NEW YORK

Wallace, one of seven alumni featured in the article, was an organizer of Young Americans for Freedom. He refers to Student Government president David Ifshin, a vocal anti-war advocate at SU in the late sixties.

Miscellany

Of the 47 pages making up the magazine [June 1988], there are five devoted to women's causes, seven pages to alumni active in the New Left/anti-government business, and nine pages on the affairs of the American Negro—about 20 percent of the magazine. . . .

There were, in addition, some seven pages on oddball Andy Warhol, who had the distinction of never having done an honest day's work in support of his country.

With the exception of one page, outlining an alumnus's activity on behalf of the Young Republicans, there was no attempt to include details of or describe efforts by Syracuse alumni to move the country forward, so to speak. By the nature of things, we must have a great majority of alumni at such work. . . .

The limited percentage of graduates whose inclinations are other than with meeting the nation's serious needs are, fortunately, just that—limited in number. Their actions and pronouncements are viewed by the majority with amusement, detachment, or disgust, as appropriate.

But if a university magazine is to reflect all of its graduates, it can hardly devote a major portion of its space to a minority.

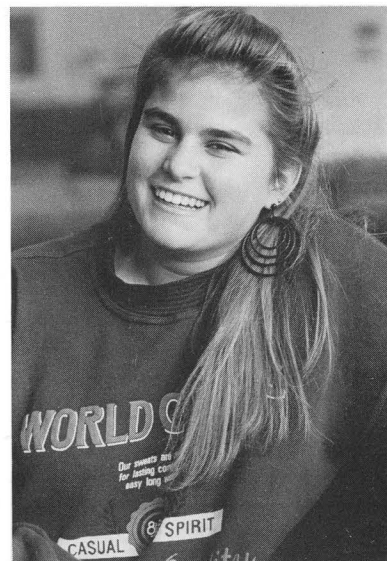
MARVIN S. ZIPP '34
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

I thought the June 1988 issue of the magazine the best and most interesting in a long time—not that I share the enthusiasm for Cabbage Patch Dolls.

FLORENCE C. SAYLOR '25
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The issue featured Roger Schlaifer, whose company licensed use of the Cabbage Patch name and image.

***“I learned a lot,
not just
academically,
but about myself
and what I want
to do in college.
Summer College
at S.U. has given
me a lot of
confidence.”***



—That's what one high school student said about her summer at S.U.

If you would like information about the Summer College/Precollege programs, please fill out the attached coupon and mail it to Syracuse University, Division of Summer Sessions, Suite 230, 111 Waverly Ave., Syracuse, New York 13244-2320. Or, telephone (315) 443-5400.

Yes! Please send me information on S.U.'s Summer College/Precollege, July 3-Aug. 12.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

INDEPENDENT STUDY AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

The Campus Has Grown

There's no place like home...

Complete your SU degree or earn another without disrupting your present way of life. SU's fully accredited Independent Study Degree Programs combine brief on-campus classes with home study. Senior University faculty teach you on campus, confer with you by phone or mail.

Programs:

- ◆ B.A./Liberal Studies
- ◆ B.S./Business Administration
- ◆ B.S./Food Systems Management
- ◆ M.B.A.
- ◆ M.F.A./Illustration
- ◆ M.F.A./Advertising Design
- ◆ M.Social Science/International Relations Emphasis

These are challenging programs, but with your SU background, you'll feel like you're coming home.

Call or write for a 1989 catalog. Indicate program of interest.

Syracuse University ISDP
Room SM
610 E. Fayette St.,
Syracuse, NY 13244-6020
(315) 443-3284

