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The Fur Hits the Fan

I disagree with Jay and Ted Kakas's claim in your September 1989 issue ["On Our Short List"] that it is the animal activists who hold a "distorted view" of the fur trade. Indeed, it is they, the vice presidents of E.F. Kakas & Sons in Boston, who are the keepers of such a view.

The Kakas brothers indicated that each fur garment they produce is a "masterpiece." This is the true distortion. The actual masterpieces, as I see it, were the fur coats' original wearers: nature's very own minks, beavers, raccoons, coyotes, foxes, and nutrias.

These two Syracuse graduates see themselves as "the ultimate conservationists." But tossing around words like "perpetuate" and "replenish" does nothing to ease the physical and emotional agony of the animal who dies slowly in a steel-jaw leghold trap or who leads a tortured existence in the wire-mesh cage of a fur farm.

SCOTT BENNETT WALKER '75
EAST HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT

Please be advised that I feel that in any way publicizing people involved in the business of cruelty and inhumane treatment of animals is abhorrent. Why should a good magazine like yours emphasize a business that causes such pain and suffering at the expense of animals for the unnecessary adornment of mankind?

LARRY J. HIRSCH '62
WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND

Mr. Hirsch is president of the Chariho Westerly Animal Rescue League.

I am upset to see your article and pictures on furs and Kakas & Sons. This is 1989 and high time that money is not the only factor—the environment is!

JOHANNA SAYRE G'66
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK

Oops!

John Lennon was shot outside the Dakota on December 8, 1980.

KATHLEEN UTTER KING '80
MANLIUS, NEW YORK

The timeline that accompanied "Exit the Eighties," September 1989, gave the date as December 4.

Flattery Department

Yours is an outstanding magazine, and that is a real compliment coming from an alumnus of Colgate (A.B.) and Cornell (J.D.). . . .

I do believe, however, that the cover of your September issue should have identified *60 Minutes* commentator and my classmate, Andy Rooney, as Colgate '42.

Of course, I am not complaining. As the Regent for Onondaga County, I am proud that it is the home of another great post-secondary institution—SU.

EMLYN I. GRIFFITH
ROME, NEW YORK

Real compliments like that are hard to come by.

I just want to tell you what a terrific publication *Syracuse University Magazine* is.

Recently, *SU Magazine* arrived in my mailbox the same day as the similar publication from my alma mater. While I have always thought that the *SU Magazine* is very good, I became more keenly aware of its outstanding qualities by the coincidental opportunity to read the two publications simultaneously. It is clear that the editors of *SU Magazine* have a broad awareness of serious worldwide issues which is reflected in the articles. The pride in the accomplishments of SU alumni is focused on what they are contributing to their communities, and the acclaim they subsequently bring to the University is secondary to their achievements in their own right.

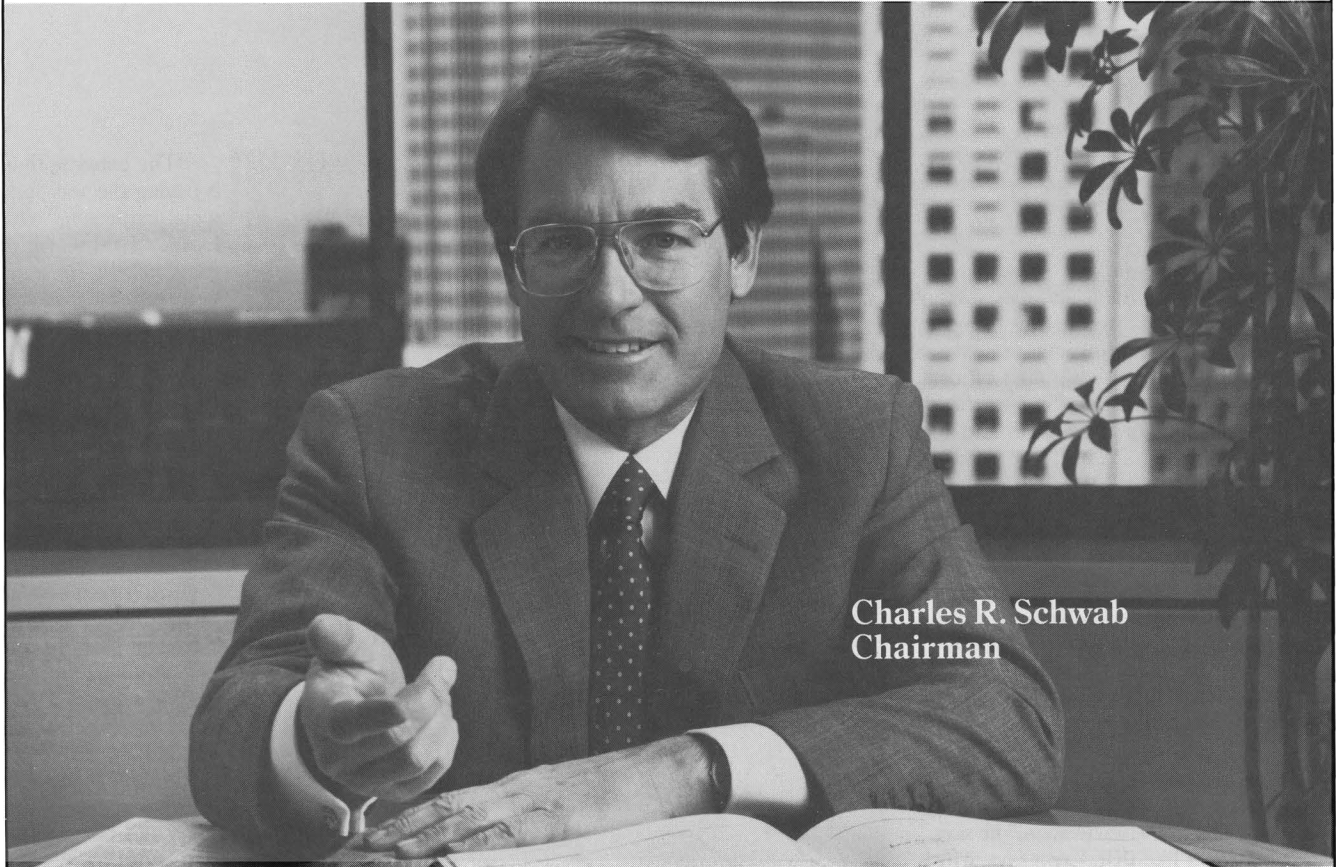
Unfortunately, these priorities are reversed in the publication from my alma mater, with the result that that university appears disinterested in anything occurring beyond its own campus perimeters. The accomplishments of its alumni are lauded in a self-congratulatory tone that diminishes the importance of those accomplishments on their own merits.

SU Magazine appropriately portrays an institution that sees its own existence as a means to ends which are far greater than itself, and the pride in its role in the greater community naturally follows. You and your staff are doing a splendid job. Keep up the good work.

JUDY HAMILTON
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

Ms. Hamilton, who is associate director of SU's Honors Program, neglects to name the alma mater which sends that other magazine. We'll always imagine it Colgate or Cornell.

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