

Communications

Readers' comments, ideas, and opinions

Lady Liberty

Editor,

I recently came across a copy of *Syracuse University Magazine* and really enjoyed it. I especially enjoyed the article, "Saving the Lady" (November 1984).

I have always been proud of the Lady and what she stands for. I was very impressed and moved with the pride and interest Americans have expressed in the great Lady and her restoration. Your article gave me some real insight into her construction. To us she has always been the Great Lady who would always be standing tall to remind us of our freedom and American heritage. I am sorry to see her closed for two years, but all the love and work that is going in to making her shine again will be worth it.

I commend you on your terrific article. It really makes you proud to be in a land of people who pull together to keep the great symbol of liberty alive.

Evelyn Martin '34
Celoron, N.Y.

Alumni News

Editor,

As pleasant as it was to see the new format of the old *Alumni News*, one very important and necessary element has been left out. Where is the list by class year of who is doing what, who had babies, who died, and who just got married? Where is the news that keeps alumni in touch with their classmates? It is the first section I turned to when the magazine arrived.

Ernest W. Krieger '67
Newton Highlands, Mass.

Editor,

One concern I have is with much of the recent communication from the University emphasizing that my wife and I are graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and that our funding loyalties belong there. I hope that same philosophy is not translated into separate editions of the *Alumni News*, one for each individual college.

When I remember my University days, I think of the campus as a whole, and not just one small segment of my experiences there. Please don't divide us in that manner.

Jeffrey M. Parnes '72
Fairfax, Va.

Editor's response: Class notes continue to appear in the Alumni News, now produced as a tabloid. The new format accommodates both class news and more information about alumni activities on campus and off. The most recent issue of the Alumni News, mailed in March, announced plans for Reunion '85. Syracuse University Magazine, on the other hand, is devoted to general news of the University; we hope you continue to find it pleasant and interesting.

Each individual school and college makes its own decision about alumni communications; their efforts in no way change either the Alumni News nor SU Magazine, which remain University-wide in their emphasis. College newsletters, such as Arts & Sciences Report, are an additional source of information about SU that alumni may receive.

Art History

Editor,

It is with disappointment and sorrow that I saw your very small obituary of Dr. Laurence Schmeckebier. I would have thought that a man of his stature, achievements, and devotion to SU for more than 17 years deserved more than 10 small lines.

Perhaps the current students, faculty, and administration have forgotten the many contributions that Dr. Schmeckebier had made to Syracuse University: He inaugurated an important and unique mural program. He elevated the curriculum and standards of the SU School of Art to an accredited art school of significant stature. He increased and developed the art collection of the University to a degree that has brought it national recogni-

tion. He brought world renowned artists to the campus to lecture and teach. And he produced some of the most outstanding catalogs and publications the school has ever had.

This man was a mentor to many of today's finest artists (painter Henry Nordhausen, sculptor James Wines, silversmiths Fred and Kate Pearce), extracting from them more than they ever thought possible. He was an excellent but tough teacher whose door was always open. He strove for excellence and gave his all to every project he touched (most recently the Mestrovic exhibition at Syracuse in April, 1984, two months before his death).

He was the author of some 15 books and countless articles and catalogs, was an avid reader, and has been listed in *Who's Who in America* for most of his professional life.

Dr. Schmeckebier was a truly unique and special man. I ought to know, for as a graduate of the SU School of Art, I am one of those whose life he has touched and changed. I also happen to be his daughter.

Nina Schmeckebier Gardner '69
Manchester, N.H.

Invoking ESP

Editor,

There is enough good science on the Syracuse University campus that you shouldn't resort to the publication of pseudo-scientific drivel. I am referring to the "research" into the "psycho-kinetic" crashing of computers by nervous people (*SU Magazine*, November 1984).

Computers are more fragile than most people realize, and they are especially sensitive to static electric discharge; for example, the spark from your finger to a switch plate. This static electricity is generated readily by the foot shuffles and fidgets of nervous people. Much money is spent on anti-static sprays and carpets to prevent the crashing of office word processors, which are computers dedicated to a spe-

cific task. I don't think that ESP should be invoked to explain this or any other phenomenon.

Devlin M. Gualtieri '70
Ledgewood, N.J.

Editor's response: Whether ESP should be invoked to explain computer crashes is a question that Morris hopes to answer by scientific means. He makes no assumptions about the study's possible outcome, noting himself that his experience with crashes may represent "statistical aberrations." All science begins with hypotheses that will be either substantiated or repudiated. In the meantime, Morris' notions have earned the attention of Omni and Computerworld.

In the Lab

Editor,

The article about Professor Marvin Druger (*Alumni News*, Summer 1984) brought back many pleasant and fruitful memories of the times spent in his biology classes, listening to his lectures and the biology lab tapes.

Oh, the "crazy" music, puns, and "odd" jokes on those tapes! Yes, his enthusiasm and humor did make the subject more interesting, and this helped us to retain the subject matter.

At that time, I did not understand the necessity for his drill and detail in studying DNA. Now that DNA is frequently in the news, I am more appreciative of those biology lectures and tapes.

Thanks to a fine teacher and professor!

James S. Bentley '74
Largo, Fla.

Letters to the editor, pertaining to Syracuse University Magazine articles or similar topics of University-wide interest, may be sent to Editor, Syracuse University Magazine, 125 College Place, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210. Letters will be published as space permits.