

ALL CHALLENGES

Nov. 15, 1962

"In teachers we trust,
All others do your own work."

Vol. II #3

GUEST EDITORIAL

The question as to the value of certain courses at Canisius is one which is often brought up. What is the reason we have to take four years of scholastic philosophy? It has advantages of course. It is an example of a truly marvelous logical synthesis, but it has lost sight of man and his existence. It has degenerated to one of the less important philosophies in the modern world. It's adherents are not caught up in man and his existence, but in an antiquated terminology with many ridiculous sounding words with incomprehensible meanings.

The philosopher himself has lost any honor his students may have given him. The very life to hair-splitting and related subjects is revolting, and this is the student's eye view of a philosopher. However, it would not be so bad if they had only lost the honor of students but they no longer have any great influence in the world. Most students would be hard-pressed to name the important scholastic philosophers of this century, and even if they could, names such as Gibson and Maritan pale in the shadows of Sartre and Russell.

It is a tragedy that in a world of trouble and despair, we are forced into a philosophy and morality of life that seems best suited for counting the angles on the head of a pin! Fortunately, there are those in the church who recognize this problem, who see that scholas-

tism has lost sight of man and the situation in which he lives. It is my hope that their view will prevail, and that the next generation will not be forced to study man through his formal, material, or proper objects, which even though we try to rationalize them to the natural order, are in the last analysis total abstractions and fall from their pinnacle to level of mere words. If we are going to philosophize let us not study a being made up of abstract principles, but let us study man in all his fears and emotions, for the abstract man does not live and die, only the flesh and blood man does.

..M

EDITORIAL

There exists a fiction among us according to which hard work, application, and perseverance are established as the only norm of success in scientific life. Not that there isn't some truth to it, but I believe that this is strongly overplayed, mainly because it is a method of incentive to students. But this is not all of the story. We ourselves feel that it isn't, but sometimes it's difficult to articulate such a hunch.

Recently, I came across a discussion classifying scientists into two types. The first is termed Aristotelian, who forms a hypothesis early in the investigation and then tests it by experiment. The second, termed the Baconian accumulates data until a generaliza-

tion is obvious. Putting the two in other terms, we may term them the romantic and the systematic type. The first type is the one who gets ideas, flashes of insight. The second type will be more useful in systematically working out the hypothesis or insights.

There is a little of each type in all of us. Some are closer to one pole than to another. But there are few who fit completely in either characterization. This is the mistake that we sometimes make. We way one side of the scale too much. We all pretend to glory in the constant application, meticulous care, etc. that is characteristic only of one type of worker. In doing this we are repressing another side of our scientific personality. Not everyone is the same, but for some reason we find it hard to accept, or if we accept it, to apply it. If we were a little more frank with ourselves, our work itself would go more readily. If we accepted ourselves as we are and tried to build ourselves into the type of scientists that our personality suits us for we would be infinitely more successful than now when in effect we curse the square peg for not fitting in the wrong hole.

AAJ

CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Szymanski. He is the proud father of a bouncing baby girl named Mary Louise. The latest Szymanski weighed in at 7 lbs..... Myke beat Bernacki and Drew in a bowling match a couple of weeks ago. Myke got 135, John 113, and Drew refused to divulge his score.....Fr. McEvoy in science building looking for Mike O'Mara to pin a parking ticket on.....Why doesn't Frank Lauchert ever pay Burke for his coffee and donuts. It isn't free, you know, Frank.....Tom Beras came to the mixer last Friday and spent all his time in the Chem.

library playing checkers with John Bernacki and Arpad Juhasz.....Mike O'mara tries radical new synthesis, is successful in brominating arm. Mike reports the IR gives peaks in some unusual places.....Alchemist editors trying to convince a sophomore to spy for the paper. Watch it guys.....Mr. Signeur reports someone put a couple of fish in his distilled water bottle. He says he will make the class pay for the water. The Alchemist staff feels he is being very generous, and should impose a harsher punishment.....Myke has two goldfish on her desk. They seem to be the center of attention..... Dr. Erickson gave another one of his snap tests. If he makes them any easier everyone will get an "A".....Open House for high school seniors two weeks ago. It went over well except that Fr. Gillen seemed depressed.....The administration wants the labs kept clean. We suggest that the students be thrown out of the building entirely and that it just be used to show what labs are supposed to look like.

RJM

THE HIRED HELP

During the past month and for some time before that, the Alchemist staff has noted a rather surprising attitude in the hired help around the school. This includes both the men in blue and the other assorted incompetents who cling like leeches to the payroll. It was particularly visible when the Alchemist staff was making a valiant effort to get the paper out in time for last months meeting. Let us start at the beginning.

Leo, our janitor, is known and loved by one and all for his evidently sincere effort to get a shine on the floor using just water, no wax. In this titana struggle, we wish him well. And in working up this shine, he certainly must get tired. It is only

human, However, why must he threaten with physical violence the typing staff of the Alchemist just because they happen to be using his favorite bedroom when it's time to go bedie-bye. Despite all his threats and tired looks, we remained firmly entrenched in our work and evidently Leo found another hiding place for he looked quite rested the next time we saw him.

Later in the day we ran into some trouble in the printing office. (ed. note. Yes, the school prints the Alchemist) The head witch insisted that they had too much to do to complete the paper before the meeting. And you could see from the condition of the office the truth of her words. There was nothing going on and nothing was being prepared.

It seems morally unjust that these people are being paid for not working. Why not pay the students for not working. Why not pay the students for not working. The school might get its moneys worth then, at least.

RJM

DON'T FORGET ME

For those of you who have never seen it, that's what it says on a coffee jar in John Burkes office. There is a slit in the top of the jar. The slit is there so you can put money in the jar when you take any coffee or donuts. There are cobwebs covering the slit.

When we asked John about the condition of his finances for a week he reported that he often loses as much as five dollars a week, John has been justly complaining as of late. One of his pet peeves is people who pay a quarter and proceed to clean him out of coffee and donuts.

Now we all love old, lovable, John Burke. We wouldn't like to see him go broke, would we? So why don't you pay for the stuff?

RJM

HEARD AROUND THE SEMINAR TABLE

Seminars can be fun as well as educational. Noone will deny that we have learned much since the beginning of the seminar season. Yet, many people appear blind to the fact that these educational conferences can be fun. This aspect becomes apparent when we see the pitting of wit vs wit which is so characteristic of vigorous intellectual life. Take only these examples:

In a lecture on solid state NMR the following exchanges took place.
Dr. Swierzinski:

"Is that the area under a curve?"

Student:

"Yes"

Dr. Swierzynski:(standing suddenly and forcefully)

"You're nuts! That is not the area under a curve!"

(General Uproar)

Student:

"But Doc, don't you agree that is related. . ."

Dr. Swierzynski: (in despair)

"He doean't believe us, Ray! Oh, go ahead. . .,don't get excited, Henry."

Dr. Szymanski:

"He, He, He,"

Another instance comes from a lecture on the reduction of organic molecules:

Dr. Skwierzynski: (challengingly, disbelieving)

"Do you mean to tell me that you quantitatively know the intermediate?"

Student:

"Well, I was merely trying to suggest. . ."

Dr. Annino:

"Look Dick, let him get through, he can come back...."

Dr. Skwierzynski:

"Well, I see, six divided by two is three."

Dr. Szymanski:

"He, He, He."

These are, of course, more instances of such statements of vigor but their vitality defies capture on mere paper. But we all know that those words are deeply inscribed in every seminarist's heart. Ask Koch and Mango.

AAJ

WORLD WIDE NEWS

The Alchemist staff has always been aware that the chemistry student spends a lot of time in the laboratory -- so much in fact, that he seldom has time to learn of the events that are making news today. Recently, crises which affect our national security have been brought about, and we, of the Alchemist staff, who don't spend much time in lab, hereby take this opportunity to inform our hard working brothers of these crises and other related events, in order to correct for any deficiencies in these areas.

For example, the Alchemist recently learned that the Huns, under the ferocious leadership, of Attila, have sacked Rome. Italian new correspondent, Bob Mamone, was fortunate enough to get a personal interview with "big mouth" Attila.

When asked what his future plans are, Attila answered that he will attack and conquer the island of Sicily. Mamone then questioned the leftist insurgent as to the purpose of his momentous conquest. Attila pointed out that he was highly dissatisfied with present day rulers and wished only to give the conquered peoples "more things for more people", all on the basis of a balanced budget. He stressed that he will not raise taxes and will use a "pay as you go" type of financing.

Attila denied charges that he was a puppet for political bosses, and that he was not a member of any political party, but was rather an independent conqueror.

Attila concluded the interview by promising the subjected Italians a big highway spending program, and our reporter, Mamone reported that

construction had already begun on the Appian Way, which promises to be Europe's longest high-speed thoroughfare (and toll free, too!)
KJH, B.S.

FAREWELL TO KJH, B.S.

The old timer is leaving us to go to that great old timer home in the stag, otherwise known as the Army. We of the Alchemist staff, who have worked so closely with Karl have come to see him in his true light, and feel it necessary to bid him a fond, perhaps tearful, farewell.

As one of the founding fathers of that illustrious bit of yellow journalism, the Alchemist, it was he, perhaps more than any other person, that set down the lines to be followed: We of the present staff are just following his footsteps through the mud, dragging as many people as possible.

As vice-president of the ACS it was he who never made any helpful suggestions, and it was he who led the unsuccessful revolt against president Bob Sand.

He is solvely responsible for corrupting the minds and morals of a normal healthy group of College (?) boys who formerly thought only of carbonium ions and doing their P-chem.

And now, the paragon of American manhood, (ha, ha) this future leader of men, this shining specimen of a Jesuit education is about to leave us. Words escape us on the alchemist staff at a point like this, Action will show him how much he will leave in our lives. There is only one thing to do, we have the tar and feathers, who has a rail we can use.

RJM

serve notice that such behavior may have dire consequences. I pledge to take any and all means necessary to secure the cooperation - willing or unwilling - of said co-editor in said matter.

AAJ

The editors of the Alchemist have noted that the chemistry majors are the most problem prone group in the school. Therefore, in an effort to stop as much of the suffering as possible, we have engaged the services of that well known problem solver, Dr. Irving Fink. His column will appear in each issue of the paper, so if you have any serious problems, just drop a line to Dear Irving, c/o the Alchemist and your problem will be delicately dragged through the mud and printed up for everyone to see and laugh at. (He, He, He.)

DEAR IRVING:

Dear Irving,

My wife just ran away with my boss, my house burned down yesterday, I owe \$4,000 in gambling debts, I wrecked my car this morning, I have halotôsis, my shoes don't fit and some janitor just threw my unknown down the sink. If I don't get help soon, I'll jump off a science building.

Despondent

Dear Despondent:

Geronimo!!

Dear Irving,

Everytime I see a distilled water bottle I get a funny feeling. All of a sudden I have the strangest compulsion to put a goldfish in the water bottle. I can't help myself, I've tried my best, but everytime I see a distilled water bottle I go beserk. Can you help Me?

Phantom Gold Fisher

Dear Phantom

I would not advise that you suppress this desire since it is a perfectly normal tendency. Suppressing this desire might have a serious consequence which quite possibly could manifest itself in an intense hate of the grandfather image. As a matter of fact, goldfish dipping is rapidly becoming Europe's number one spectator sport.

Dear Irving,

I feel that I am not getting as much out of my philosophy course as I should, Do you have any suggestions?

Former Insomniac

Dear Former

To get the most out of your philosophy course, I suggest that you drink a warm glass of milk before going to class. Other aids are a blanket and/or a teddy bear.

CNR

Ed. Note.

Never as the mail slip of the Alchemist been so full. President Koch's fans have rallied to his side in surprising numbers. These are just a few of the letters we have received thus far.

Dear Editor:

The letters in the last issue disturbed me, not because of what they said, but how they said it. I could call Hagler names, but I wouldn't waste the ink on that Jackass. Far be it from me to stoop so low as to call that fink a name. In writting this letter I am simply trying to bring attention to the immaturity of this jerk, and his friends, as shown in their lousy letters.

Arthur T. Koch

Dear Sir:

I have long admired Mr. Koch as a man of vigor and I know the ACS will move heads under him. We have a polish saying often used by my Italian uncle, which is "Never believe a Hagler".

Sincerely,
A Koch admirer, Wash. D.C.

Dear Editor:

Tell that Hagler fellow to leave my Friends along.

Yours in evdry way,
Christa Speck, Pres.
Speck, Inc.

Dear Editor

Haglah!

J. C. Kim.

Dear Editor:

Come on Hagler! Lay off the members of my fan club
Jungle Jay

Dear Editor:

This Hagler character is obviously not an organic chemist, in fact his tastes have definite analytical tendencies.

Yours in carbon,
Marrison

Dear Editor:

Obviously!

Boyd.

Dear Editor:

Koch is a fink!

Mrs. Hagler

Dear Editor:

We applaud Mr. Koch's brave stand against the decadent imperial forces represented in the famiculus form of Haglerism. We, therefore, would like to offer him a political science fellowship to our great, grand and glorious university.

Thank You, Carlos Ineuos, U. of Havana

Dear Editor:

Your paper just doesn't have the dirt it had last year.
KJH, B.S.

Dear Editor:

Joe Brown says, "Art Koch is no piker!"
Jeanne

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REWRITE

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TYPING

MYKE