

## Language Professor Makes Corruption Charge

By MARLENE PETLICK

In a document read to the Faculty Senate October 17, Professor Garcia-Mazas of the Department of Romance Languages has requested an investigation of what he called the "corrupt administrative practices" within his department. Members of the department seem in doubt as to whether Mazas was actually treated unfairly, as he



Chairwoman Waldinger

claims, or whether this is merely one more incident in his long conflict with Renee Waldinger, Chairperson of the department.

Last winter, a student told Mazas that he would be unable to attend graduate school, since he was lacking \$250 to pay the tuition. Mazas decided to conduct a fund-raising attempt among the department's faculty. Waldinger,

however, did not approve, and sent a letter to department members stating that although the idea was "laudable," it was unauthorized, since it had not been brought before the department's executive committee.

That same semester, a decision was reached by the department's executive committee concerning the teaching of extra courses for extra compensation. The committee ruled that there would be no extra classes because of insufficient funds, but, in the event that any courses became available in the fall, graduate students would be offered them instead of the full-time professors who had been teaching them for extra compensation.

When it was discovered this fall that there were extra courses available, and that they were to be given to graduate students first, with the remaining going to adjunct (part-time) professors, Mazas, a full-time professor, protested. According to Mazas, the same day the letter regarding his right to raise funds for the student was sent out, he received the letter informing him he would not be able to teach his extra compensation courses. Waldinger maintained that there was "absolutely no connection between the two whatsoever."

Mazas also charged that "illegal" methods were used by the department to reach the decision on the extra courses and to prevent reconsideration. In a prepared statement he says:

"The chairman of the Department of Romance Languages, in the meeting on September 12th, 1974, was questioned by Professor Garcia-Mazas if this decision to take away these extra courses for extra

compensation from the full-time professors was a decision of the Executive Committee. Madam Chairman replied that it was her personal decision." The whole department heard this statement. Professor Garcia-Mazas replied: "Then you should bear the responsibility."

However, members of the department say that Waldinger had misunderstood Mazas' question, and had meant "it was her personal decision" to assign specific classes to the teachers, which it is her job to do. She emphasized the fact that the Executive Committee, not she, decided on the original question of who would get preference for the extra courses.

During the department's September 12th meeting of the department, Garcia Mazas moved that the extra courses should be taught by graduate students, full-time professors, and adjunct professors, in that order of preference. He says his motion was tabled twice ("until the next meeting") thus preventing any change in the status of the full-time professors by putting off debate. Others contend that it was already too late to reverse the decision when he made the motion, since classes had begun September 10th.

Members of the department trace the conflict between Garcia-Mazas and Waldinger to the election in 1973 when he ran against her for the office of chairperson and lost. Some think that the roots lie in the divisiveness between the different groups (Cuban, Puerto Rican, American born, etc.), which prevented unified attempts to elect a Spanish person. Others are inclined to believe that

there is more division between the younger members of the department who would like to see changes, and some of the older members, who are traditionalists.

Concerning Mazas' attempts to investigate the department accusations of illegal actions on its part, one professor remarked: "His intentions might be good; however, since September, at all the meetings, all we have discussed is the hiring and firing of (a few) adjunct teachers." He also added that since May, the department has been unable to discuss any other matters, such as the Language Lab, because of Garcia-Mazas' interruptions. However, one supporter of Garcia-Mazas referred to him as an "honest, courageous man"; one who is not political, as his detractors contend.

## BHE Group Will Ask Rule Change

By MARC LIPITZ

The creation of a disciplinary committee at every school in the City University (CUNY) system, consisting of students and faculty, and charged with the power to censure the college press, will be among the recommendations made by the Board of Higher Education's (BHE) Student Fee Task Force when it issues its final report within the next few weeks.

The proposed committee would create a channel for any student or group who wishes to challenge an item printed in a college newspaper. The committee would study the accusations and would have the options of censuring the paper and/or making recommendations to the school's fee allocation committee (usually the student senate) on further action, including the suspension of funds.

This would be, in effect, a form of financial censorship, allowing the board if it were so inclined to ensure a cut-off of funds to any student newspaper.

The Task Force is also expected to request that at the beginning of each term, all student organizations be advised of their senate's by-laws to prevent any misinterpretations of the senate's actual functions. Additional recommendations by the Task Force will probably include further safeguards in the signing of checks, the keeping of accounting records, and fiscal dealings of all student organizations.

According to Jay Hershenson, Chairperson of the University Student Senate, (USS) the proposed disciplinary committee system is a concession the Task Force found necessary to make in order to placate legislators. But he asserted, "I still think they will make a strong reaffirmation of freedom of the student press."

## Financial Aid Decrease Hits

As of November 1st, 30% more students have given financial reasons for leaving the College this year than in the past two years, according to the Registrar's office, and their numbers are bound to increase as the term progresses. The current meshwork of bureaucracy and red tape, supposedly designed to aid aid students from low income families in obtaining a college education, is almost impossible to understand, due to complex eligibility and priority rules. In order to understand the situation today, a look at the late 1950's is necessary.

The National Defense Student Loan Program (NDSL) was initiated in 1958, the year after the Russians launched the first Sputnik satellite. Politicians feared the standard of U.S. technology would fall behind the Soviets', and wanted to encourage more people to go to college, especially to study defense-related subjects like science and engineering.

The Supplementary Economic Opportunity Grant (SEOG), on the other hand, was the result of the Johnson

Administration's "War on Poverty," as was the college Work-Study Program (CWS). On the local level, New York started its own program, SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge). By the mid-60's, the number of programs was getting confusing.

When the Nixon Administration took over in 1968, the situation became further politicized. Robert Sherman (Director of Financial Aid), says that Nixon "wanted to scrap the programs, and Ford is on the same kick." In 1968, the guidelines for most of the programs, which had been designed primarily for the urban poor were changed to include middle class and rural students, and students at technical and vocational schools were also made eligible.

But although more students were now covered under the program, the Federal funding remained the same, even decreasing in some years. "Since Nixon took office," Sherman said "they (the Federal Government) shifted the emphasis from the poor and spread out

the programs to help more the rural middle class population." This procedure has resulted in a sharp decrease in financial aid for many of those already receiving it at urban schools. At the College, for example, financial aid has been decreased from \$2.5 million total to less than \$1.5 million in the last two years, while the number of students involved increased from 3800 to 4000. An increase of 200 does not seem very significant, except when one considers that each student would need nearly \$4000 annually to live properly, according to the Federal Government. That would amount to an additional \$800,000 per year. Few students, of course, actually receive this "minimum amount." Instead, they receive closer to \$1000.

The SEEK program, whose recipients are chosen by lottery from "designated poverty areas," has many more students eligible than it can possibly support. Every student granted SEEK funds

(Continued on page 3)

Continued on page 3

# A Common Language

By ANNE MANCUSO



editorial

## Real Fiction?

"This will be the last issue of OP that you will see this semester," editors Carver, Fox and Mancuso disclosed early yesterday. "We are forced to cease publishing due to an inadequate and unfair process of monetary allocations."

The editors asked Dean Bernard Sohmier if he would donate money to OP following the same procedure used to fund The Campus. The Campus was the first paper to find themselves in this insecure financial predicament, with OP following soon after with a mere \$1,000 deficit. Sohmier refused to release money from the Dean of Students Discretionary Fund which was used to fund the Campus, saying that "one paper functioning in such an unorthodox manner was already too many." He added that any paper "which consistently prints such unadulterated trash as the cartoon of the masturbating fun (Feb. 13, 1974) deserves to cease publishing."

Asked about the "sins of the fathers not being passed on to the sons" rationale that was one of the determining factors in Sohmier's decision to rescue The Campus from its financial slump, Sohmier replied that "what is good for the goose is not necessarily good for the gander." The OP editors pointed out that while the "sons" and the "fathers" of the Campus were interchangeable, OP is managed by an almost entirely new editorial board. Sohmier closed the meeting with a curt, "That's not the point."

In fact, the Administration's reaction to the news that OP was soon to become obsolete, was overwhelmingly in favor of seeing the end of this "filthy, oily rag." President Marshak, echoing the feelings of the BHE and the USS said that he "harbored a heartfelt and deep-seated resentment against OP for giving all CUNY newspapers a bad name." He added that if he had been able to expedite OP's closing, he "certainly would have set the wheels in motion."

Phil Waga, Editor-in-Chief of The Campus was asked if he didn't feel the Administration had shown some favoritism in choosing to fund The Campus but letting OP fold. Waga said he felt that the Administration's decision was "logical, because The Campus serves the entire College, while OP is obviously written for a minority of students with depraved minds. Let them read Screw," he added. When it was pointed out that thus far this semester OP has been a model of "responsible journalism," Waga said that he felt that the "editors were only biding their time until an opportunity arose to run another obscene cartoon."

In disagreement with Waga, Michael Oreskes, also of The Campus said he was upset because he "wouldn't have OP to kick around anymore." Donald Murphy, President of the Student Senate, added a new twist on this saying when he quipped "I'm glad because now OP won't be able to kick me around anymore."

Note: Fiction has been called, "a lie truer than reality."

## observation post

Voice of the Student Body, Conscience of the Administration,  
Watchdog of Human Rights, Keeper of the Sacred Flame,  
Guardian of the Holy Grail, Defender of the Weak,  
Protector of the Oppressed and Helper of the Poor  
since 1947.

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When I got into the cab and said "Astoria," the cabbie hesitated. He looked into his rear view mirror and I saw the reflection of his coal black eyes and moustache staring back at me. He only nodded when I asked if he knew the way and then I realized why I had been the object of such scrutiny.

A few minutes earlier I had read the story about the murdered cab driver. He had been killed the night before at an intersection that was only a few blocks from my house. His cab was found idling at a corner where both a Catholic church and a butcher shop stand. His trip sheet indicated he had probably picked up his last fare at 52nd Street and First Ave, which is where I now entered this cab. No wonder the cabbie was jumpy.

But, how would he have felt if he knew that I had let about twenty cabs pass before I decided that his would be "safe" to take? A few weeks before I had chosen a cab more hastily and experienced a nightmarish encounter.

I had just left the typesetters after OP's customary 4 AM deadline and hailed a cab, expecting the usual ride up Third Ave to the Queensboro Bridge. Instead, I found myself in a cab that was slowly pulling into a dead-end street off the FDR Drive. I didn't wait around for an explanation. I jumped out of the cab and ran towards some distant headlights. A car stopped and after a hurried explanation the driver offered to get me out of there. Jumping from the pan into fire? I thought of that too, but standing alone at 4 AM on the FDR Drive does not leave one many alternatives. I accepted the ride. The driver's comment that "that guy was up to no good, honey" did little to calm me, but I was relieved and grateful that the "Good Samaritan" still lives.

The experience left me feeling angry, frightened and vulnerable, but it is this vulnerability that has bothered me ever since. "Why me?" is the usual question but "Why Women?" may be the more appropriate remark. As long as women are considered "passive and docile" creatures by most of society we will continue to be hounded by such incidents. The driver in whose cab I now sat probably felt just as open to attack, but for women the greater risk is obvious. It is visible in daily living. Total strangers, spurred on by the "passivity" of women, feel free to comment upon or criticize women who pass by. Most men, unless they have experienced harassment by homosexuals, do not know the intimidation and fear that this situation generates.

In a recent article in Ms, Letty Cottin Pogrebin uses the societal image of women as weak and vulnerable beings to refute Dotson Rader's charge that women make men violent by "goading (them) into bloody role-playing" to prove their manhood. He blames dominant mothers and female teachers for "their repressive, defeating authority" which

emasculates young men and forces them to reassert themselves in violent actions. Pogrebin challenges Rader's assertion first by quoting from a Police Foundation study of women and police work which found "a reduction in the incidence of violence when women are assigned on patrol... women tend to diffuse volatile situations and provoke less hostility than men." Pogrebin then recounts the socializing processes which have rendered women helpless and asks, "Can it possibly make sense for women to be the promoters of male violence if we are likely to be the victims of it?"

And "victims" women are. In Sexual Politics, Kate Millet writes, "the female is rendered innocuous by her socialization. Before assault she is almost universally defenseless both by her physical and emotional training."

Women are taught from childhood what activities are "feminine" and therefore acceptable and you can be sure that self-defense is not one of them. As Pogrebin puts it, "we learned to choose compromise rather than confrontation; charm and coquetry, not fists and force." She ends her article with the thought that "a more peaceful set of values and the ambition to prove not our manhood but our humanity" will break us away from our violent society. I admire her idealism and hope that such a change comes about, but something must be done in the meantime. The events we face now are too dangerous to ignore.

Somehow, the image of a woman as a more formidable, less docile person must find its way into the psyche of those who would prey upon her. If criminals thought that women were stronger, they would be less likely to claim them as victims. The Sullivan Law restricts the use of weapons, but I am not for an indiscriminate distribution of weapons: I am not a vigilante. But I think that a tangible way of changing the passive image of women is by granting them an added measure of strength. Perhaps it can be done by making self-defense as much a part of the female elementary and junior high school physical education program as folk dancing is. Perhaps it means encouraging people, especially groups of women, to assert their independence and venture into the streets at night, making them less desolate and less tempting for acts of crime. Perhaps it lies in the threat of a victim being armed. I don't have a ready solution.

But here, the moustachioed cabbie and I sat, sizing each other up through the scratched and smudged partition. As the cab pulled from the curb, I felt that our fears were in equilibrium. He didn't know me; I didn't know him. His fear of the unknown matched mine. He wanted to get me home as fast as I wanted to get there. We were speaking a common language, and hating every minute of it.

## Time to leave

By MARSHA LANGER

Dusk, grey light-airy vague, misty vague and sad. Sad, happy, sad. Afternoon movies on T.V. Stepping on my index card homework on the way over to this notebook. Mood disappears as I move to capture it.

Grey light and grey music and cramps and sadness and avoiding work and daydreaming and feeling guilty and wondering who and how I can communicate this airy grey sadness to.

The music changes—not right—I block it. And notice yellow light from the yellow bulb and remember that I never wore the combination of grey and yellow.

And telling myself that this is worthless. And fantasizing Herb's sympathetic and vague nod of approval. Thinking of Larry, my brother, he said my review was worthless (I should be writing), this would be worthless (I should be working). I should be serious, he said, crack down. Study. Work. If I loved it enough, discipline would follow. I have to shit and I've got cramps and feel like being high.

And I got into the White album Beatle pictures

An OP Cut-Out

Cut here along dotted lines

YOU HAVE JUST INSULTED A MAN.  
THIS NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN HORMONALLY TREATED.  
YOU WILL MENSTRUATE CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS.  
YOU HAVE JUST INSULTED A WOMAN.  
THIS NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN CHEMICALLY TREATED.  
YOUR PRICE WILL FALL OFF IN THREE DAYS.

For women

For men

yesterday and John looked soft and tender, soft frames on broad nose, until Herb reminds me of John and bawdy barroom fights in Los Angeles.

I feel like having apple pie and know I shouldn't, and now the music is bad (what am I doing?). Trying to justify this and afraid to. Affraid to make this real for me.

I'm holding the pen differently and I fantasize about making dinner for Steve Simon—and shouldn't I be writing a poem? or making this a serious column? About me, seriously?—You know, I don't take myself seriously.

Review. Write. Photo. Write. I'm lost. Who will take care of me—how can I take care of myself?

Cramps.

It's turning night—the most depressing part of day. Man's night life is frenetic. Of course, there is no way to fight night. It belongs to the trees.

Want to be with Herb and lay-ze in his arms, soft and quiet and warm and somehow going to Woodstock seems to be an answer. Simple, simple. But Larry says take it seriously. Take myself seriously.

An answer: I can write a thirty too, you know.

## Letter to the Editor

After having the fifth article in a row rejected, I have realized that your staff for the most part is nothing but a poorly organized bunch of pseudo-intellectuals with authority problems. I have been lied to time after time again by staff goons.

I realize that my minority opinions are not well liked here. I will not waste my time writing you another article.

Freedom of the press for those who own one. Dig?

Conform or split.

Yours Truly,  
George Leifer

## Ethnic Studies Grant

The College's various ethnic departments have received a \$60,000 Federal grant earmarked for the development of programs concerned with the problems of multi-ethnic areas, such as New York City. The funds are part of a \$2.3 million package which the Federal government has distributed to 42 institutions.

The monies sent to the College will be used in an effort to compile bibliographies for inter-ethnic references and for the development of basic introductory texts at the college, high school, and primary levels. The departments involved here will be the

Asian, Black, Jewish, Puerto Rican, and Slavic Studies Departments, and will include the developing Italian Studies Program. Professor Amoda (Chmn., Black Studies) and Professor Rittenband (Chmn., Jewish Studies) are chairing the committee.

One of the end products of the research conducted by the departments will be an inter-cultural survey course to be given here. The course should have been offered this fall, but procedural and organizational problems have caused a delay, according to the members of the committee.

-Lipitz



Chairman Amoda

## File Law Challenged

College Press Service

As the date nears when students will be allowed to see their confidential school records under a new federal law, educational organizations around the country are attempting an 11th hour stay of implementation.

The most recent attempt is an appeal by college and university administrators urging Congress to delay implementing the law for one year while they establish procedures for handling student requests.

When Congress reconvenes on November 18, it will have one day in which to amend the law, which was signed by President Ford, before it goes into effect on November 19.

Barring a dramatic reversal or delay of the bill on November 19, which seems unlikely, schools of higher education will technically have to begin processing student requests to examine their files. However, because schools have 45 days in which to respond to such a request there is a good chance that a change in the law will occur during that time.

Sen. James Buckley (C-NY), who first introduced the private records disclosure bill, plans on the 18th or 19th of November to introduce amendments to clarify parts of the bill that are causing administrators the most worries.

Buckley's amendment will seek to exempt from "full disclosure" confidential materials that went into the record earlier than 30 days after the enactment of the law (August 21, 1974). A legislative aide to the senator said the amendment, a response to pressure from higher education circles, would also provide a means for a student to "waive his right of access to specific statements," like letters of recommendation.

Educators fear that without such a clause the privacy of those who write letters of recommendation would be violated and that in the future such letters would be difficult to obtain.

Because of these unanswered problems, educators say failure to postpone the bill's enforcement may create chaos for school administrators. The Office of Education which is in charge of issuing regulations says that guidelines won't be established before next spring.

A spokesman for Senator Buckley admitted that "there have been one or two legitimate questions raised... about oversights in the amendment," but he criticized attempts to "delay" implementation of the law as "unreasonable, unjustified."

Failure of a school to comply with the new law could mean a cut off of federal aid.

## BHE...

Continued from page 1

The Student Fee Task Force was established last summer to review student fee appropriations at the CUNY colleges, after allegedly obscene articles appeared in several college newspapers. Last February, *Observation Post* printed a cartoon which prompted Senator James Buckley (C-N.Y.) to call for investigations on the national level. At the direction of the Student Senate a Board of Review was established at City College to hear complaints of students dissatisfied with student-run newspapers. The proposed Disciplinary Committee is a spinoff of that idea.

Also under consideration by the Task Force is the repeal of a current University by-law which requires that there be a 30% turnout in college elections in order for them to be considered valid. Such a turnout is extremely rare and elections are traditionally validated by the college presidents. Several members of the Task Force have predicted that the 30% rule will be abolished by a nearly unanimous vote.

The ten member committee was created only for hearing testimony and making recommendation to the BHE, although their findings are expected to be adopted as part of the by-law. The Task Force will hold its final public meeting on November 13 before it issues its official report.

## Financial Aid Funds Shrinking....

Continued from page 1

receives a monthly check. Since the funding is limited (even though total funding has risen this year), many must be turned away, and some turn to Federal aid programs.

According to Malcolm Robinson (Director of SEEK at the College) the number of students in the program has remained fairly constant (2200-2300 per year) while the state funds allocated have risen from \$1.8 million to \$2 million

Opportunity Grant (BEOG) to replace some of the other programs. "Why this maze of programs? It's only more red tape," complained Sherman. "It seems to be the way they work in Washington." Only freshmen are eligible for a BEOG grant.

A booklet put out by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators illustrating its position, and a guideline for legislation, suggests an increase of \$6 million in the Federal financial aid programs. It also criticized the frequent changes in federal guidelines and the reduction of programs. David Shark, the City University's Director of Community Services felt that the current

administration "does not have its priorities in the field of education." He hoped, however, that "with a change of administration it's very likely that we can get some help."

The essence of the financial aid problem is connected to shifting federal policy. In the case of NDSL, for example, the government seems to have lost interest in the programs it created to maintain American technological superiority.

Of those interviewed, all agreed that the only solution could be "more money from Washington." Robinson has a concrete suggestion; "They should cut the \$85 billion defense budget."

## Vaginal Infections May Be Lesser of Two Evils

Liberation News Service

New evidence on the dangers of Flagyl, one of the most widely prescribed drugs for women, suggests a link between the drug's use and birth defects, stillbirths and premature deliveries. This follows information revealed last March that Flagyl causes cancer.

Flagyl, whose generic name is metronidazole, is prescribed about two million times annually to women suffering from a common vaginal infection—trichomonas vaginitis ("Trich"). About one-third of the 2,260,000 prescriptions for Flagyl in 1972 were for diseases which cannot be cured by the drug, however, such as nonspecific vaginitis, fungus infections and gonorrhea. This is over 700,000 prescriptions and therefore makes Flagyl a major drug abused by doctors.

In a paper he presented October 22 to an international medical conference, Dr. Marvin Legator, head of genetic toxicology at Brown University, revealed that the urine of people treated with Flagyl contained a substance showing the occurrence of gene mutations. Genetic mutation is one known cause of birth defects.

Other studies also point to connections between Flagyl and birth

defects. One study that will be published in December shows tests made on people who took the equivalent of one Flagyl tablet revealed a significant increase in the mutation rate of bacteria normally present in the human body.

The importance of these discoveries was stressed in a letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) written by Sidney Wolfe and Anita Johnson of the Health Research Group. HRG is a Washington-based, public interest organization that has been pressing for the removal of Flagyl from the market for several months. Last March HRG filed a petition with the FDA to ban the drug because of evidence that Flagyl causes cancer.

HRG's letter to the FDA includes a chart prepared by the Drug Administration itself, which shows that Flagyl given to seven different species of animals induced malignant tumors causing breast and lung cancer.

HRG demanded not only the banning of Flagyl, but also that Searle Inc., the drug's sole manufacturer, collect all human evidence on birth defects and cancer for the ten to forty years that it often takes for the disease to develop, and pay for all medical care wherever adverse affects from Flagyl are observed.

### TRICHOMONAS VAGINITIS AND HOW TO CURE IT WITHOUT FLAGYL

"Trich" is most often contracted through intercourse and its symptoms in women can include slight to severe burning of the vagina and a thin and foamy discharge that is yellowish-green or gray with a foul odor, or no symptoms at all. Men with trich often have no symptoms.

The trichomonas vaginitis organism is normally present in a large number of women. The vaginal conditions that encourage an overgrowth of trich can be lack of air caused by clothing that is too tight or an unusual vaginal alkalinity.

The disease is sometimes cyclical in nature, with symptoms appearing for a few days, disappearing for a month or many months and reappearing again. In some cases the condition can become latent altogether without treatment.

Spermicidal jellies and foam have been found to inhibit the growth of trichomonas, as well as non-prescription "feminine hygiene" suppositories. But avoid the sprays—they can be harmful.

An acid-based, non-spermicidal jelly such as Aci-Jel has been found effective in treating trich when used throughout an entire menstrual cycle. Treatment should be continued during one's period, because blood is alkaline and helps to create the right environment for trich to grow. Sanitary napkins should be used instead of tampons. Men having intercourse with women being treated for trich should use condoms during the treatment both to avoid re-infecting the woman and for their own protection.

Women who are prone to trich should avoid tight fitting clothes and wear cotton rather than nylon underwear, because cotton is more absorbant and provides better ventilation.

Other ways to prevent trich recurrence is to use spermicidal jellies every couple of weeks. And in the case of chronic infection, some women have found douching with white vinegar—1 tablespoon of vinegar to 1 quart warm water—effective although excessive douching can affect the mucous lining of the vagina.



Robert Sherman  
A maze of red tape

since 1972. Many of the SEEK students who formerly received Federal financial aid in addition to their SEEK grants have lost the additional aid. They have low priority in Federal funds, since they are already receiving the SEEK money.

### BEOG Just More Red Tape?

In 1972, the Nixon Administration implemented the Basic Economic

## CUNY Wants More Italians

A drive to inform Italian-Americans and recent Italian immigrants of the opportunities for free public higher education in New York City has been initiated by the City University (CUNY).

For the past week, a team of Italian-American faculty, administrators and students from CUNY campuses conducted a sidewalk counseling project out of a sound and projector equipped mobile van provided by the New York Telephone Company. The CUNY team, headed by Angelo Proto of the CUNY Admissions Information Service, spoke to parents and students in Italian and English.

Proto said that he would like to expand the project to cover all areas of the city as soon as possible, but the idea will have to wait until organizations in those communities volunteer money and personnel to sponsor the program. He also mentioned that no new academic courses or other changes in the curriculum of the CUNY branches are planned yet, although they may be as larger numbers of Italian-Americans enter the University, and Italian studies programs are initiated. Open Admissions has enabled more Italian-Americans than any other ethnic group to enter the CUNY system, according to Proto.

DIMARIA

# Stigmatized Smoker Speaks His Mind

By GARY ANDERSON

Imagine a classroom. Any classroom. And imagine me. Even those of you who do not know me know me. I am a smoker. Lurking in the dark recesses of any classroom, indeed, of every classroom, I am the infamous, insidious poisoner of the academic air. Lest you think you are my only victims, let me assure you that I am a nondiscriminatory smoker. I smoke everywhere. Men's rooms . . . libraries . . . women's rooms . . . well, you get the idea. But let me tell you what it's like these days. It's not what it used to be, you know.

Once there was a time of social unawareness. Those were the days. Days when you could light up anywhere and no one would say anything. Maybe it was courtesy. Maybe it was fear. But whatever it was, no one said anything. And now? Well, let me tell you what it's like now. Smoking in classrooms (not to speak of other places) has become a genuine hazard to my mental well-being. And I'm going to tell you why. I'm going to take you on a brief journey into the demented mind of a smoker just prior to lighting up in a classroom:

The classroom. The door is open, yet I do not enter. I am leaning against the hallway wall, smoking a cigarette, watching the other students enter the classroom. I especially watch the nonsmokers. I hate them. Secretly, mind you. And they hate me. I know they do. We look at each other and smile, but I know in my heart I hate them and they hate me. What am I to do? The class is about to begin. The professor enters the classroom and peers at me curiously through the open door as I take those last sweet drags. It's time—though I hate to admit it—it's time to enter the classroom, and with great reluctance I let the butt, what little there is left of it, drop from my jaundiced fingers to be crushed mercilessly to death by some insensitive clod's boot.

It sounds like I'm alone, doesn't it? All smokers feel alone. I'm with my friends, and though we all feel together in the face of such formidable odds, we all feel alone. Alone I cross the threshold, feeling as if Fortunato would have felt had he known what lurked within the catacomb. But when I reach the inner side of the threshold my terror runs instantly to aggression and my eyes rake desperately the back of the classroom for a lone chair, a chair away from the others. I must find it! (You remember, of course, that I am not alone, and that my fellow smokers are doing much the same thing. If there is but one lone chair, you must understand that this gives rise to some havoc and hostility.)

This problem is, of course, confounded considerably if the professor has taken an ill turn for the day and has arranged the chairs in a circular pattern. This, you see, is a special and significantly

more difficult situation to deal with. It is fraught with dangers and terrors many times over those of the lone chair situation. I will describe to you only the lone chair palpitations and your imagination can surely take you the rest of the way.

Assuming the lone chair is in the back of the classroom (which is certainly not always the case) and assuming I have claimed the chair for my own (which as



Panic before a six-hour lab

you can see by now is no mean feat), I am ready to light up. So soon, you say? Yes, smokers are that way. They can't bear to put out one butt even if it is to light up another. But being ready physiologically and emotionally is not the whole story. Not by any stretch of the imagination. For now is the time to look about the room at the other students. Perhaps someone else will be smoking. That always makes it easier. One transgression or two transgressions, what's the difference? All too many times, though, no one else is smoking. That puts it back in my lap.

Now I must look around again. Who

are these people sitting nearest to me? Are they smokers? I squint to see their fingers, looking for those wonderful nicotine stains. Perhaps I will find some! But perhaps I will not. And if I do not, then the terror begins to creep in. These people—these people nearest to me—are (dare I say it—certainly not aloud—but even to myself?) NONSMOKERS!

Stigmatized. Oh, Good God! Now I must decide, surrounded as I am, whether or not I have the courage, whether or not I dare, to reach into my pocket for a cigarette. Yes. Yes, I must! And ever, ever so slowly (see *The Tell Tale Heart*) I inch my hand toward my breast pocket (that's where they always keep them, you know). Someone looks at me. I jerk my hand down. Maybe it was only a look in my direction. Well, no matter. I can't take chances like that. Again slowly, ever so slowly, I inch my hand toward my breast pocket. I feel the lump of the package beneath the material. It's heaven. And ever so slowly—and noiselessly—I probe for my heart's desire. I feel it. Yes, it's wonderful. I can't describe the feeling to you. Simply wonderful. (This is the hardest time. You want it, you can feel it, and you know you're so close to getting it, but yet you know you cannot let your passion get the better of you. You must be ever alert lest you be caught by the NONSMOKERS.)

I stop myself. My fingers tremble and my breathing is heavy. (Now how many of you will say that you don't know what a feeling like this one is like?) No one is looking. Oh, sweet Lucifer! I feel the tip of it in my hand, ever so delicately between my fingers. I draw it out slowly, oh, ever so slowly, and hold it in my hand. My eyes are glassy and wide. I reach into my right pants pocket, and my hoary but trustworthy Zippo is there, waiting for me. It's warm to the touch, and I relax. Someone looks at me. I

freeze. Try to smile. You must. Try to smile, I tell myself. I try to make my tightened lips change their shape. They will not. Now I'm in real jeopardy. Not only am I alone amidst the OTHERS, but what's worse, I'm sure to have offended one of them with my drawn face and impassioned, terror-stricken eyes. Oh, now I must be careful. I try to relax, but it's not easy. I discover I'm sitting on the edge of my chair. Settling back, ever so slowly, mind you, so as not to be noticed, I draw the Zippo out of my pocket in a supremely natural movement, all the while keeping it hidden, clutched within my fist. Now I have it! My beloved in one hand and my fire in the other. I can feel the passion building again. I must have it! I must!

"That's it for today," rings through the air, stunning me unexpectedly, and I collapse limply into the chair.

I don't believe it. I cannot. And the others file out of the classroom.

So, you see, being a smoker is no easy thing these days. A smoker's life is a rough one. Smokers are the last of America's pioneers. Can't you see how they struggle to maintain themselves in the face of insurmountable odds? How would you feel if you were in my shoes? Hmmmm? It's a pretty grizzly prospect isn't it? But look, you don't have to get into my shoes. If you've read this you know what I go through. It's not easy, and I don't like it. No sirree, I don't like it one bit. But I have cut down smoking in the classroom. A little. Honest! I could lie and tell you that I have stopped completely, for that, indeed, is what the story indicates. Try as I might, however—though admittedly my attempts may be described as being without true conviction—I have not stopped smoking in the classroom. But then do you know how annoying gum smackers are?

## New Law Spurs Bounty Hunting

By Jeffrey Tauscher

The next time the person sitting near you in Psych I lights up a Kent and it bothers you, ask him or her to put it out. If you are refused, tell whoever it is that it is now illegal to smoke in public places in New York City, except in specially designated areas. The penalty for violation of this new law is a maximum \$1000 fine, and/or one year in jail. The smoker will get the message.

On November 1, it became unlawful to smoke in supermarkets and elevators throughout the City. Smoking in theaters, hospitals, museums, libraries and classrooms is restricted to specially designated areas. In classrooms, an instructor can set aside up to 20% of the

seats as a smoking section. Smoking in classrooms has been banned by the Fire Department for many years, but this regulation was rarely enforced.

The wide publicity surrounding this new law should make it easier for instructors to enforce it. If they are not doing so, students can direct complaints to Dean Bernard Sohmer, Vice Provost for Student Affairs. He can be reached in Room 201 Administration Building, or by phone, 621-2426. Dean Sohmer has stated that he is now "going to try to enforce a total ban."

The basis for this new law, which was enacted by the Board of Health, is the finding that smoke-filled air is unhealthy for people in the vicinity of smokers, as it

is to the smokers themselves. Smoking in certain public places is already prohibited by the New York City Administrative Code, and the Fire Department for safety reasons; the new law was passed specifically to protect the health of non-smokers.

An interesting aspect of the elevator smoking ban is that any citizen may serve a complaint upon a person who violates this law, and he or she will collect half of the fine the violator must pay. The penalty for violation is a \$50 fine, or fifteen days in jail. Although this might lead to bounty hunting, it will provide a wide ranging means of enforcement of the law.

## Calculators Add To Cost of Education

By DAVID BAHARAV

Students in the Engineering and Chemistry Departments have a new expense to deal with in these days of inflation and advanced technology, a calculator. Most find it indispensable to do their homework or take their tests without one.

A typical calculator costs about \$79. Slide rules have been made obsolete by this new invention, except in courses such as Mechanical Engineering 101, where the teacher insists that students use slide rules on tests. But contrary to what some students think, there is no departmental rule against using calculators in classes.

Prof. Coulter, Chairman of Chemical Engineering, said "If there is such a rule, I'm violating it." David Kong, an engineering student, finds the calculator especially convenient in his Chemistry class, and uses it to do his homework. Apparently they are useful in doing

analysis and titration.

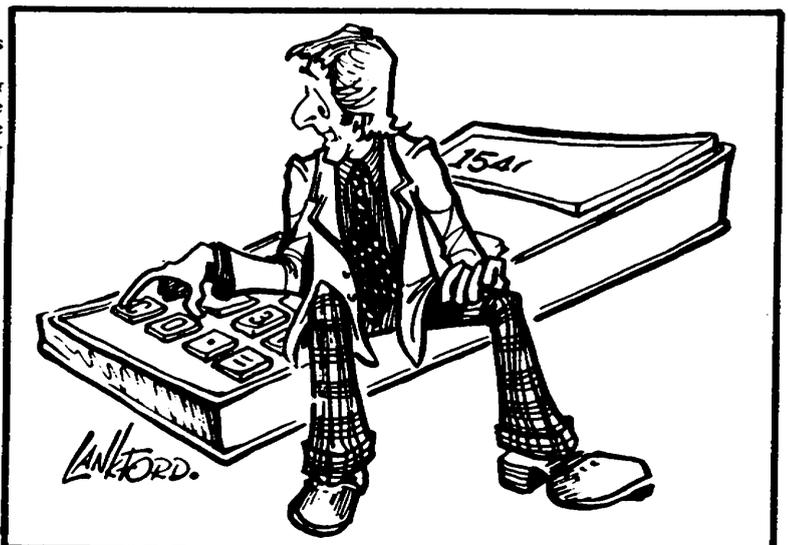
"Almost everyone uses one now," says Kong. "It started about a year ago."

Despite the great surge of calculator buying, Beaver Bookstore says sales have been sluggish. "We're not selling any more than last year," Howie Edelman, a Beaver employee, confides.

Strangely enough, calculators are all but useless in the Math Department. Except for a few eager students in the Bio-Med program taking Math 61, no extraordinary number of math majors are using them.

Prof. Miller, Remedial Math supervisor, doesn't mind the use of calculators in courses, since "They're only useful in a couple of places."

There is a famous joke about a student who boasted that he "cheated" on a test by using a calculator. Like most math jokes, it's not really funny unless you have a strange perspective. The punchline of this joke is that the teacher doesn't mind.



# Independence Rally Draws Crowd To Garden



Angela Davis among speakers at rally

By AL SERGE  
On October 27, more than 20,000 people, many coming from as far as Denver, Los Angeles and Puerto Rico converged on Madison Square Garden in a spirited act of solidarity with the Puerto Rican struggle for independence. This was the culmination of six months of

organizing by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee and its co-sponsor organizations which included the American Indian Movement, the African Liberation Support Committee, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The massive gathering which drew attention to the colonial status of Puerto Rico, was dedicated to five Puerto Rican Nationalists who have been incarcerated in U.S. federal prisons for the past 20 years.

The Garden was brightly decorated with multi-colored banners and posters carrying slogans such as "Bicentennial Without Colonies" and "Viva Puerto Rico Libre," a slogan also used during the 1868 Puerto Rican uprising against Spanish colonialism.

The principal speaker was Juan Bras, the General Secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Sporadically interrupted by cheers and foot stomping, he pointed out that the Puerto Rican independence movement comes at a time when U.S. imperialism is "on the defensive."

"Its defeat in Korea, Cuba and Vietnam signals the accelerated pace of that fall," he said. He also denounced Puerto Rican capitalist politicians as "a clique of lackeys."

Bras ended his speech with an appeal for continued support of the independence struggle. "We express to you, representatives of all nationalities and corners of America and the world gathered here today in this manifestation of support for Puerto Rico, a greeting of solidarity and the fervent gratitude and unbreakable commitment of a Puerto Rico in struggle."

Other speakers included actress Jane Fonda, Russell Means, the leader of the American Indian Movement, Corky Gonzales of the Crusade for Justice,

Angela Davis who represented the Communist Party, and Pedro Albizu Meneses, the son of don Pedro Albizu Campos, leader of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico.

## Perspective: An Interview With The PLO

In light of the controversy surrounding the arrival of Yassir Arafat, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, OP is printing an interview with a New York representative of the PLO, Ibrahim Ebeid, to give this organization an opportunity to explain some of its views.

By HAIG TIMOURIAN

The New York office of Palestine Liberation Organization is on the third floor of the Architects' Building on lower Park Avenue. There is a police guard in front of the building as well as an armed guard sitting next to the office door. There are a few small offices inside, each consisting of little more than a desk and two chairs, all emptying into a hallway stacked with pamphlets and paperback books on the PLO. This is an undecorated, sparse office of an organization with few friends and many enemies here in New York. The only people in the hallway were a young secretary and a small but sinewy man of about 30 years. The man, Ibrahim Ebeid, talked about the recent events concerning the PLO in New York and Palestine. The following is a portion of that discussion:

"The American politicians are not looking for the best interests of the US in the Middle East. They are only looking for their own interests; they are looking for votes. It was very obvious, especially last Monday at that demonstration in front of the UN. Politicians like Jackson, Javits, Ramsey Clark and the rest of them were inciting Zionist gangs to commit terrorism against the Arabs and anyone who supports the Arab cause. If you recall a few days ago our office was attacked by the JDL and it happened that one of our members was here and he was hurt. They beat him with pipes on the head and on the side and they also fired some shots in the office.

"The JDL is the same to me as any other Zionist organization. What the JDL is doing is completely ridiculous. They are chickens; they are really very cowardly. They just go and attack from behind. They are doing more harm to their fellow Jews than they realize.

"I believe that the Zionist movement is unfortunately controlling most of the Jews. They are using the methods of Hitler horror on them: 'If you don't do what we say it will happen to you again just like it happened in Germany.' Of course this is all nonsense. We never persecuted the Jews. We were living peacefully with them all our lives. The only time we started fighting with each other was when the Zionists came and took our land and kicked our people out. Even now we are not against the Jews; we are against the Zionists.

"We differentiate between the Jews and the Zionists. Our struggle is with the Zionist movement, but unfortunately what Hitler has done to the Jews sticks in

the minds of the Zionists and they are using the same methods against the Arabs. So to me Zionism is exactly like Fascism or Nazism, exactly. But this doesn't give the right to the Jews or to any other people to go to a different country and expell the people and take it for themselves just because Hitler persecuted them. We have no objection if they come and take refuge in our country but not to come and take our property and our land and kick us out and establish a colonial settler state.

"Even the Israeli Jews from Asian and African backgrounds are treated as second class citizens. They don't have a single member in the cabinet. Who rules Israel? The western Ashkanzi Jews. The Semitic Jews, the Oriental Jews, the Middle Eastern Jews are also persecuted by the Khazar, the Ashkanzi Jews. (The Khazars or Ashkanzi are an ancient Turkish race from Morgolia that settled in southern Russia. They were converted to Judaism in 740 A.D. Most of today's East European Jews are descended from the Khazars, indicating that their ancestors had never set foot in Israel.)

Even so we are willing to accept the Ashkanzi to live in Palestine, a democratic Palestine, but not to be our masters.

"The Palestinians never lost hope in liberation. The life there is the same as it was 20 years ago. Life in the camps is very miserable. Those people are living on relief from the UN. Every individual receives about 7¢ a day. It's miserable. They hate to see the world treating them as refugees because every one of them considers himself a struggler and a fighter. The new generation, people who were born after Palestine was lost, are the fighters now. They are more militant and more aware of the situation that their parents. Take me for instance. Of course I remember Palestine vaguely because when I left my hometown in Palestine I was 10 or 12 years old. I am more militant than my father and my son is more militant than me. Believe me, he's American-born, seven and a half years old and he knows what's going on. He sees the situation, how bad it is, and of course he's not going to forget. Our hope for liberation is the future generation of the Palestinians

because they have a chance to get more education. They know more and they realize the danger of such a racist state in our midst.

"In my opinion four genocides were committed against the peoples of the world. The first was against the native American Indians of this world. The second was by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians. The third was Hitler against the Jews in Europe, and the last one against the Palestinian people. The Jews were not the only ones to suffer genocide. Can we forget the massacres committed against the Armenians by Pasha and his gang? What the Israelis are doing now against the Palestinians is the same as what the Ottoman Turks did against the Armenians, the same as what Hitler did against the Jews. But they found a different system: systematic destruction - kicking the people out, killing them, blowing up their houses. The latest atrocity that tortures the Palestinians is the arrest of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Jerusalem, Italian Capucci. They accused him of operating

Continued on page 12

## Changes in Store For Psych. Dep't?

By PETER GRAD

A proposal that could conceivably revolutionize the concept of education as we now know it is currently in the planning stage, according to Professor Donald Mintz (Psychology).

Mintz, who as department chairman introduced an experimental version of the Personalized System of Instruction (PSI) to the psychology curriculum here last year, will propose the abolition of courses as individual sections and will instead call for the establishment of a single comprehensive unit encompassing all the materials and objectives deemed necessary for an adequate appreciation of the



Mintz beside pigeon cages

fundamentals of psychology. Successful completion of this one "jumbo" unit would fulfill the requirements for a major in psychology.

Mintz, saying he was "disenchanted" with the current concept of courses, contended that this proposal would put an end to "the arbitrary division of subject matter into four-month three-credit fragments called courses" and would instead allow a student to pursue a "properly integrated body of information." He feels the current system of individual courses "may be convenient for the registrar's office, but they're not conducive to education."

Perhaps the most significant feature of Mintz's proposal is the introduction of the concept of self-pacing. Students are allowed to progress at their own rate and can arrange for an appointment for any of the exams whenever they feel ready. "A student can complete the material in three months or two years" said Mintz, reaffirming his concern that recognition be given to the varying abilities and capacities of students to comprehend and review information within a given period of time.

But the feature that will most concern traditionalists and interest students is the system of grading.

"Everyone who enrolls for this unit will receive an A" asserted Mintz. But it's not quite as simple as it sounds. Mintz says that in giving A's, he would settle for "nothing less than complete mastery" of the course content. Thus, a participating student will

be expected to have a thorough and complete knowledge of the principles, objectives and applications of all materials covered in the unit; no one will be able to pass the course until such competence - or A level work - is demonstrated through written and oral interviews.

"When instructors pass students with a B or D, they are accepting imperfect mastery" said Mintz. "Given adequate time to learn and review all classwork, there is no reason why any student should not get an A."

One possibly negative feature of this program in which much of the class time is spent in independent study, is the lack of contact between student and teacher.

Mintz, who spends much of his time training pigeons to peck buttons and rats to run mazes in his experimental lab and the rest of his time teaching the only pure behavioral (Skinnerian) course at the College, readily admits that the personalized system of instruction actually risks "depersonalizing" the teaching process. He therefore emphasizes that PSI is only one component to be considered in the program and said he would make arrangements for students to participate in ad hoc seminars to be held spontaneously in which they can exercise their acquired skills. So, for instance, after reviewing theories of conditioning and extinction, students will convene in a laboratory where they can work with live

Continued on page 12

# Author Seeks Gods From Outer Space

By FRED SEAMAN

In 1968, a Swiss hotel manager and convicted embezzler named Erich Von Daniken wrote a book entitled *Chariots of the Gods?* where he put forth the hypothesis that extra-terrestrial beings fled to our planet after losing a huge inter-galactic battle. They tinkered with the genetic stock of our prehistoric ancestors to improve the intelligence of the species and after having created a rudimentary human civilization, they departed. On subsequent visits, they interbred with the human population which worshipped them as Gods.

Six years and several books later Von Daniken has sold 40 million copies worldwide and has become an international celebrity. Jesus freaks picket him, archeologists and theologians debate him, and over a dozen refutations of his theories exist in various languages and degrees of sobriety or hysteria.

Von Daniken's second book, *Gods from Outer Space* was somewhat disappointing in terms of sales, but his latest, *Gold of the Gods*, is again selling in the millions. Toward the end of the book he offers a summary of his revised and expanded theories. He writes:

1. In the unknown past a battle took place in the depths of the galaxy between intelligences similar to human beings.
2. The losers of this battle escaped in a spaceship.
3. As they knew the mentality of the victors, they set a "trap", in that they did not land on the planet that was "ideal" for their existence.
4. The losers chose the planet earth which was just acceptable in comparison with their home planet...



Erich Von Daniken

5. They burrowed deep into the earth and made a tunnel system out of fear of their pursuers who were equipped with every kind of technical aid.
6. In order to deceive their opponents completely, they set up on the fifth planet of our solar system (i.e. not the earth) technical stations and transmitters which emitted coded reports.
7. The victors fell into the trap and believed the bluff. They brutally annihilated the fifth planet...
8. The victors thought that the losers were destroyed. They withdrew their spaceship to their home planet.
9. Owing to the destruction of the fifth planet the gravitational balance of our solar system was temporarily thrown into confusion. The earth's axis moved a few degrees out of position. This resulted in tremendous inundations (there are legends of floods and deluges among people all over the world).
10. The losers began to emerge from their magnificently built catacombs and began to create intelligence on earth. Using their knowledge of molecular biology, the losers created man in their image from already existing monkeys.
11. The former losers, now absolute rulers and therefore gods, found that the progress and evolution of the human race was too slow... The gods were often hot-tempered in their impatience; they were quick to punish and wipe out the malcontents... The gods had no "moral" feelings about such radical cleaning up operations (Sodom and Gomorrah) for they felt that they were responsible, as creators of men, for their future development.

In points 12-16 Von Daniken explains that men were afraid of the "gods" and their "punitive expeditions" and began to dig themselves "subterranean shelters... out of fear of 'destruction from the cosmos.'" According to Daniken such "underground dwellings" can be found at San Augustin, Colombia; Cholula, Mexico and Derinkuyu, Turkey.

At the end of this presentation, the author boldly adds, "I know I am offering my head on a platter to every critic because of this daring speculation. But I am used to that by now."

And critics there are many. They claim that he distorts evidence, gives insufficient scholarly references, reasons superficially, seems blissfully ignorant about archeology, geology, mythology, astronomy, and physics, and writes in a gee-whiz style fit only for kiddies.

Von Daniken argues that today's scientists stubbornly persist in refusing to admit that they need to change their methods and theories. He insists that mythologies

and scriptures actually record encounters between and astronauts. What "rigid" scientists describe as ornaments and battle armor are really gas-m ray-guns, antennae and space suits. Cave painting floating astronauts and archeological mysteries of every continent all point in the same direction, present mythology, ancient scriptures and archeological facts." Von Daniken stated in a recent college press conference at Bantam Books' midtown Manhattan office, "but I interpret them in my way." "If you don't ask the right question," he said, "you don't get the right answers."

Daniken employs the same four-step formula in most of his writings. He reports an interesting archeological discovery, recounts a mythological tale, or cites a passage from ancient literature. He describes it as partly explained, or even baffling when examined in light of conventional science, and proceeds to raise rhetorical questions regarding its true origin and meaning. He interprets it as suggesting evidence of the presence of ancient astronauts, thus lending support to his own theories. Then he goes on to another subject.

In *Gold of the Gods* Von Daniken claims that he actually inside one of those subterranean hideouts built by extra-terrestrial spacemen 800 feet beneath Ecuador and Peru, and he calls this "the most incredible, fantastic story of the century."

He writes that he was guided through the enormous cave by its original discoverer, South American adventurer Juan Moricz, and claims to have seen ancient furniture made of plastic, a vast "zoo" of gold animal statues and an astonishing "metal library" of imprinted gold-leaf "documents." But Moricz insists that he never took the author into any such cave and accuses Von Daniken of writing "lies."

"Yes, there is a lot of controversy to this business," Von Daniken acknowledged. "Juan Moricz

## Probing T

told me a fantastic story when I first met him... fantastic that even I had trouble believing it, and used to all sorts of things. He wanted me to write about the cave he had discovered and we agreed that he would show me a side entrance if I promised not to publish the geographic location."

I was in there at the side entrance for only six hours. I came into a big room where I saw the metallic library and that collection of animal figures, but I had no chance to make an analysis of what it was made of.

Moricz and his lawyer told me that the objects down there were made of gold and that's why I published it."

When Von Daniken was asked whether he believed that these ancient visitors from another world still had an active interest in our planet he replied, "They might be interested in one thing at least, that is, in the further development of intelligence."

"Because ultimately," he continued, "each intelligent form of life should have no alternative than to make space travel, which is very logical..."

## Teacher At City

By BRUCE MERMELSTEIN

We have all heard about it, talked about it or often wondered what it is. There are those who fall for the believable as the existence of "little green men", then there are those who believe in its existence because of a show of a doubt. The issue is ESP.

Professor Shmiedler (Psychology) believes strongly in the existence of ESP and Psychokinesis (PK) and states that we all have it, in some shape or form. People who are more open and outgoing tend to "possess" it in stronger forms.

According to Shmiedler, ESP can exist in three of the following ways:

Telepathy - which consists of mind communication between two people.

Clairvoyance - which is the transferral of thought between a person and object or event.

Precognition - which is response to a future event.

For these processes to occur and be authentic, basic requirements must be met. The information cannot be inferred or sensed, and the subject matter of the question must truly exist.

PK causes changes in the physical world, without direct contact of human muscles or glands. It's a type of "mind over matter" situation.

Experiments in PK have been done under scientific conditions, and have yielded some convincing results. One such experiment involved a person and a thermostat. The subject was asked on command to raise

## Famous UFO Mystery Endures

By PAUL DIMARIA

Few mysteries are as tantalizing and elusive as the question of unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

Despite the large number of sightings made over the last thirty years there is no conclusive explanation. Hoaxes, crackpot reports and mistaken sightings have confused the evidence, but there have also been many sightings by commercial and military pilots, police officers, astronomers and other competent observers. UFOs have been photographed and recorded on radar screens but, they remain part of the unknown.

The problems of sifting out and interpreting the evidence in any one case is shown in the sighting made by Barney and Betty Hill, of Portsmouth, N.H. on the night of September 19, 1961. The case ultimately became one of the most spectacular ever reported. John G. Fuller, a journalist who was doing research for his book about flying saucers incident at Exeter, thought that the case was important enough to write a second book, *The Interrupted Journey*.

The Hills were driving home from a vacation in Canada when they spotted a UFO late at night on a lonely road in New Hampshire's White Mountains. An object with bright lights trailed their car for several miles. At Cannon Mountain, the couple could see the object clearly: it was a disc-shaped object as large as an airliner with windows and rudder-like protrusions. Amazed, Barney Hill stopped the car and got out to get a better look with his binoculars.

As the UFO hovered over a nearby field, Hill walked towards it and peered through his binoculars. He was astonished to see a group of human-like creatures staring back at him through the windows: they seemed to be wearing uniforms and manipulating the levers of a control panel. Panic seized him, and he dashed back to his car and drove off at high speed. Both Hills had the impression that the UFO might be flying directly overhead as they rode along. At this point, a series of beeping noises was heard and the couple lost track of what happened. This period of amnesia lasted for two hours. When The Hills came out of their daze they were driving in their car, toward Concord, thirty-five miles south of the place where they had seen the flying saucer.

When they reached home the following morning, the Hills were still marveling at their strange experience, especially after they noticed some odd shiny spots on the trunk of the car. They reported the incident to the Air Force and the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). Both organizations filed reports on the incident and NICAP sent out an investigator to interview the Hills. The investigator reported back that Barney, a postal clerk, and Betty, a social worker, were both intelligent and apparently honest people and the incident was not to be taken lightly.

The White Mountain sighting went unnoticed for two years until December 1963, when the Hills found themselves depressed, anxious and increasingly obsessed with the UFO experience. They were referred to a prominent Boston psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon, for treatment.

It should be noted that Dr. Simon was highly skeptical of the UFO report and was not interested in proving or disproving its existence. He realized, however, that to treat the Hills he would have to find out what happened during the two-hour period of amnesia on the night drive from Cannon Mountain to Concord. Through hypnosis, the memory of amnesia victims can sometimes be restored, but the subjects will not necessarily relate the absolute truth, but rather what they believe to be true. Thus, the possibility that the Hills had suffered hallucinations or illusions during the missing time period could not be ruled out.

As Dr. Simon recorded everything on tape, the Hills were put into hypnotic trances over a period of several months and questioned about the two hour gap. Later the Hills were allowed to listen to the tapes while fully conscious, at which time their memories began to fill in more of the missing details.

The separate accounts of Barney and Betty were pieced together to form a story that seemed utterly fantastic to everyone involved. They related that soon after they sped away from the scene at Cannon

Continued on page 9

# Owen Rachleff: Psychic Sleuth

By MARC LIPITZ

"I have never found anyone who was deeply involved with the occult from an integral angle, from a functional angle, who was not also emotionally disturbed," so said Owen Rachleff from his Brooklyn Heights townhouse.

Owen Rachleff, Professor of comparative religions at New York University, and often labeled the "psychic sleuth", says that he studies "credology" — a combination of the occult, religion, and metaphysics. "Credology is a discipline. It is a method by which one can study all patterns of men's beliefs without reverence to some, and denigration of others. In this system, we would put together the communion of Catholicism, with the black mass of witchcraft, with the superstitions of circumcison. Put them all together without any predilection about them."

Defying an unreliable tape recorder, attributable to poor batteries and not satanic demons, we sat in his study, sipping brandy by a sizzling fire and discussing his views on the subject.

Although Rachleff feels that all religions are created because of man's need for theology, he will argue that something beyond him that is not terminal, which seems supernatural entity. "That is clearly demonstrated by the fact that we are not alone on this planet. Man is not the only thing here. There is nature itself, there is biology, there is everything that we do not create. That is a demonstration that there is something besides us."

"Now, to make it provable that it (this something else) is God takes a bit more doing, and that has not yet succeeded. Now, in the same way, Uri Geller or some witch can say, 'I will demonstrate my ability', and they do so. It is a demonstration. Now it is open to testing. When it is open to testing it fails to become proof. In the question of God, it doesn't fail to become proof, it just fails to be accepted as proof. It sounds technical, but it is what the whole of science is based upon."

Rachleff discards the psychical studies conducted at such institutions as the Stanford Research Institute (not affiliated with Stanford University) as open-ended tests. "Anything can be done. How many times did he fail?" he asks of the experiments conducted with Uri Geller.

Scores of other individuals have also questioned the validity of tests where the experimenter is able to deceive scientists. Challenges made by other tricksters, such as the \$50,000 award offered by the Amazing Kreskin to anyone who can perform a simple psychic test which he has devised, usually go unaccepted.

Rachleff has his own request. "The defiance of gravity would be an astonishing proof of any such powers, so therefore, let us see an accurate, repeatable, provable demonstration of levitation. We will have a body of witnesses, film, every technical means to record it. Never been done."

"Now you must ask yourself why anyone who could prove something to dispel centuries of skepticism would not do it in a way that would be conclusive. The crappy answer that I get from all these witches is that they keep it to themselves; they have powers but they don't use them for the world; that they're not seeking this kind of universal recognition. To all these people, this is why my challenge of *turn me into a toad* is made, because I'm trying to get the audiences and students to understand the nature of proof."

Rachleff smiles when he mentions the challenge to turn him into a toad. "One witch said she couldn't care less about doing it because I was already a jackass."

As the "psychic sleuth", he is often invited to appear on television and radio programs when a seer or witch is the scheduled guest. However, his growing notoriety as a debunker has caused many well known psychics to avoid appearing with him lest they be forced into a debate.

"The media is a kind of double edged sword for them", he says. "The media tends to expose as well as glorify, because it sucks in all those who want to be known, and then destroys those who don't deserve to be known. That's what it did to Nixon, and that's what it will do to these people."



Owen Rachleff

In his book, *Sky Diamonds: The New Astrology* Rachleff disputes the claims made by most astrologers.

"The radiational magnetic effects upon us by celestial and other bodies are so irrelevant to our psychology and destiny. Air pollution has a far greater effect on us. Getting knocked over by a taxi cab is a much more significant thing than being influenced by Saturn descending."

"Even if celestial bodies, alone or in conjunction with each other have influences upon us, magnetic or otherwise, astrology is all mixed up because it does not deal with the actual bodies as they now exist. In the last two thousand years the various bodies that astrologers refer to have not been actually, or even in the illusion of their light pattern, in the places that the astrologers thought they were. And this is not an error in calculation. They just didn't know. Two thousand years ago the earth shifted in relation to these stars, so that the place of Aries is no longer where the stars of Aries are. To make it worse, the stars of Pisces are there."

"To depend upon it is fallacy. It's just like depending upon a railroad which gives you its timetables that are twenty years old."

Regarding the theories of Erich Von Däniken which claim that extra-terrestrial beings landed on earth during the early days of human development, artificially affecting evolution and leaving behind monuments of their technology (pyramids, Easter Island, etc.), Rachleff remains unconvinced.

"It's full of holes, everything he says. The artifacts that he sometimes says are helmets or this and that certain of them have been found in graves and elsewhere and they are not helmets or gas masks. They are what archeologists assume them to be."

"There is one central question to all these people. As to Uri Geller, why does he always stick to a certain repertoire of effects to demonstrate his psychic abilities? Why is it always the bent nail, the bent key, the telepathic drawing? If he has superphenomenal powers, then they should be open-ended in their demonstration. To Von Däniken I say, why is it that this phenomena that you discuss, this coming to our planet by outer-space individuals — which is possible in its own confines — why does it occur outside the time period when we could record it? Why wasn't it recorded as such, and why wouldn't they come now when we could record them more easily?"

On the question of motivation of psychics, witches and all those involved with the occult, Rachleff explains that the need to be worshiped is their basic drive. "They don't care about you and me. They only care about their followers and their worshippers," who he says are drawn to the occult in a "psychedelic fascism".

Owen Rachleff denies the possibility that he might be as close-minded to psychic research as those he attacks are to reality. "I'm totally open minded. I am looking for proofs, but like any court room, there is a time when the evidence must be regarded and inspected and decided upon."

## Occult Bookstore

By MARLENE PETLICK

As I started to enter the little shop at 734 Broadway a male voice called out to me, "Hey, whatever you do, don't go in there!" Unaccustomed to taking these warnings very seriously, I walked in anyway. Inside was a plethora of books on every weird and dark topic I had been fascinated with as a teenybopper.

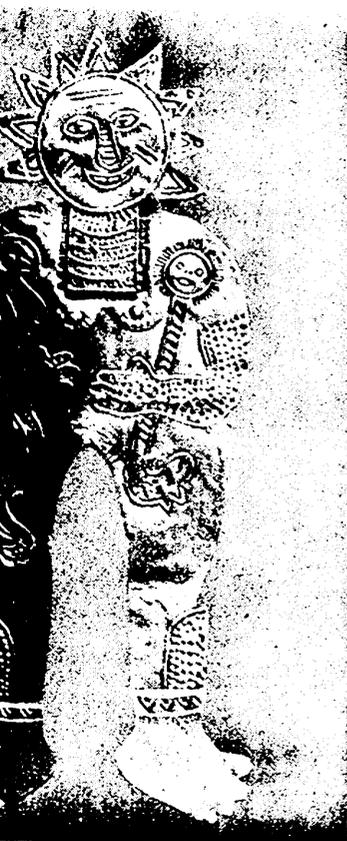
The store is called Weiser's and its specialty is the occult and metaphysical. Thirty years ago, it was just a general bookstore, with only one section devoted to the occult. Employees of the store are well-versed in subjects such as astrology, magic, witchcraft, the Kabala, alchemy, meditation and the martial arts. There are also shelves of books exploring such phenomena as dreams, flying saucers, hypnosis, telepathy and ghosts.

According to employee Clark Stillman, the best-selling books are those in the astrology category, with meditation a close second. If you browse around for a while, you can be sure to discover a title which will catch your attention if not have you voraciously read through the book. I felt like Alice-in-Wonderland among such books as, *Music — Its Occult Basis and Healing Value*, *An Experience of Phantoms*, *Visitor from Other Planets*, *Who is Mona Lisa?* (by someone who, through astral projection, whooshed back and got to meet her), *Palmistry Made Easy*, and so on.

Weiser's also offers a feast of books on philosophy and psychology. I spotted many of the works of Freud, Jung, Francis Bacon, Heidegger, Plato, Alan Watts — and even Reich's *The Greening of America*. If there's anything you need to know about the paranormal, the supernatural or the spiritual (whether it be vampires Tarot. (Ching or the name of a woman who'll read your palm) Weiser's is definitely the place to go.

As I was leaving, I picked up a free pamphlet advertising a "singles" occult cruise to Nowhere. I certainly hope the destination isn't the Bermuda Triangle.

November 15, 1974—Op—Page 7



found in Ecuador Von Däniken claims depicts an Astronaut

## Unknown

### Specter of Inflation

generosity left in the world? It seems a price for their services nowadays.

Last weekend OP has a plan to ferret out reputedly haunts the Tau Epsilon Pi 14th St. We were looking forward to the Campus to yet another fast-breaking of making complete fools of ourselves work out. But then, danger never faded

h is this: inflation screwed us in the everyone else. We needed a medium to things smoothly, but the prices they eous. Dispirited in more ways than one, cancel the project.

edium out there someplace who is both ? If you are a medium with impeccable ount rates, come up to our office or remember, we are an equal opportunity e never discriminated against anybody, on't be shy.

—DiMaria

## Witches ESP

ature of a liquid in the thermos bottle, to prevent direct or indirect outside

alter the temperature of the liquid in i, and never physically came in contact

how did the subject "get his thoughts o raise or lower the temperature of the ion that brain waves were the medium n discarded, since they are only strong entime ters from the subject's head.

overnment and private funds for fields as ESP and PK are very limited of those available in the Soviet Union. are provided, we will have to rely on such people as Uri Geller, who claims SP and PK. Studies on wether Geller fraud has been conducted by various

een positive but skeptics claim the nditions were poor and easily and that Geller is only a cheap an.

or others like him actually possess ESP mystery. There is evidence in both eliminate the possibility of ESP and e of another, according to people like ave all had Déja-vu experiences, vibrations."

# What's Happening?

## RALPH NADER RESURRECTED

Consumer Advocates Program of New York City's Urban Corps has begun an internship program for qualified college students. On-the-job experience in consumer protection earns credits as well as salary. Those interested should contact without delay: The University Year for Action Projects, 51 Chambers Street, New York City, 10007, or call 566-0315.

## ROLLO MAY

The distinguished psychologist will lecture at Brooklyn College November 20, at 2 PM: on *Myths in Our Day*. Brooklyn College is at Bedford Avenue and Avenue "H." 638-8308.

## YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, BUT...

Group psychotherapy exclusively for artists is being made available at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. For further information call 597-1000, ext. 222.

## JEAN COCTEAU THEATRE

...at Bowery Lane Theatre, 330 Bowery (677-0060). "Waiting for Godot", and "Ghosts" are included in the Theatre's repertoire. Student price is \$2.50. Phone for playing schedule.

## CHILDREN OF AFRICA

Photos of African children are currently on exhibition at the American Museum of Natural

History, Central Park West at 79th Street. Admission is by contribution (We've seen this show it's beautiful).

## THURSDAY FACULTY FORUMS

...are being presented by the Speech and Theatre Department in Room 102 Shepard, at 12:15 PM, November 21: Professor Gloria Borden on "Speech, What Is It, How Do We Decide It, and Where Did It All Begin?" December 12: Professor Charles Gattng; "Concerning the Origin and Function of Language - an Inquiry."

## PLAY ON

The Music Department is currently holding its Fall Concert Series in Room 200, Shepard. Monday, November 18, 3 PM: Concert of works by Joni Mitchell, Carole King and other popular female composers will be performed by City College students. Thursday, December 5, 12:30 PM: The City College Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ed Summerlin. Thursday, December 12, 3 PM: Brahms' *Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano* and Schoenberg's *Serenade, Opus 24*, performed by Professors Galimer, Ulmer, Jahoda and Hauptman. Monday, December 16, 3 PM: The City College Latin Ensemble.

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ONE DAY, Penny, the campus sweetheart, was strolling down the sidewalk whistling a funky tune.



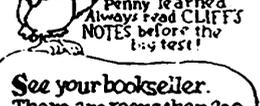
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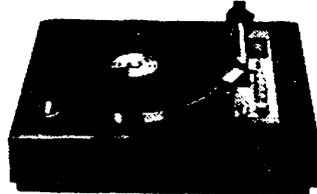
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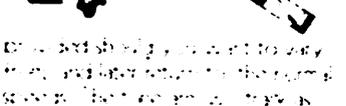
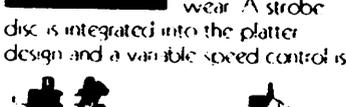
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# As a British company we'd like to explain our 810 OX automatic turntable in plain English.



## How the 810 OX reproduces recorded music accurately.

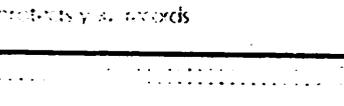
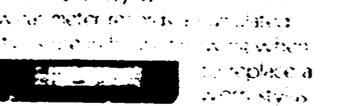
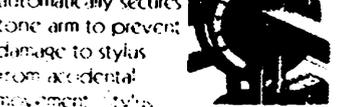
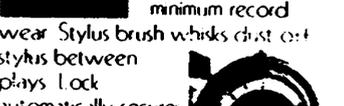
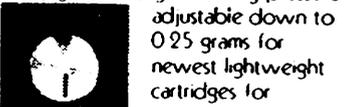
The BSR 810 OX has a sophisticated synchronous motor, spinning a heavy 7-lb platter for accurate speed (regardless of voltage supply or record load) and all-but-nonexistent wow and flutter. Anti-skating force may be adjusted for optimum pressure with either conical or elliptical stylus, so stylus sits perfectly centered in groove for precise stereo separation without audible distortion or uneven groove wear. A strobe disc is integrated into the platter design and a variable speed control is



of the stylus tip is a variable speed control mechanism that allows the user to adjust the speed of the turntable to match the speed of the record being played.

## How the 810 OX protects records and cartridge stylus assembly.

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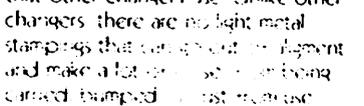
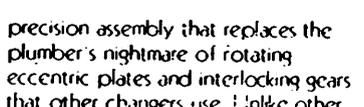


## How the 810 OX provides convenient operation in any desired mode.

After touching a single feather-weight button, the 810 OX can either play a stack of records, shutting off after the last one, play a single record and shut off, or play a single record, and repeat it indefinitely until you stop it. Manual operation uses a single button to start the motor, and the cue control to lower the stylus.

## How the 810 OX operates quietly, emitting no sound that can intrude on the music.

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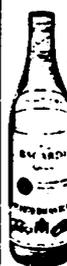
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# UFO's

Continued from page 6

Mountain and had heard the beeping sound, some sort of telepathic force took hold of them, causing Barney to steer the car into a winding side road. They saw the glowing UFO sitting on the ground ahead of them and half a dozen human-like creatures blocking the road. The couple were in a semi-conscious state as they were taken out of the car and dragged up a ramp into the disc-shaped craft.

Both Barney and Betty claimed that they recovered sufficiently to be aware of the interior and its crew members; the latter were described as being about five feet tall with grayish skin, large oval eyes and thin lips and nostrils. The Hills claimed that they conversed with the creatures, but were not sure if this was done by actual speech or telepathic communication.

While on the ship, both Hills were subjected to physical examinations and tests and samples were taken of their hair and nails. Betty was offered a strange-looking book as a souvenir of the experience but the aliens changed their minds and took it back. As the Hills were led back to their car they were told that they would automatically forget everything about the encounter, which apparently did happen until Dr. Simon brought it back from their subconscious minds.

What can one make of a story as incredible as this? Certainly the Hills had nothing to gain from an outright lie, and no desire for publicity. (The story wasn't even made public until a reporter in Boston wrote an article about it in 1965 without the consent of the Hills.) Nor was any indication of mental illness found in either of

them.

Dr. Simon believes that the Hills probably did see some kind of phenomena in the sky, but that the abduction incident and the amnesia was more likely an illusionary experience brought about by fear and overwrought imaginations. He thinks that the kidnapping idea originated in Betty's later nightmares and then were subconsciously transferred to Barney.

Yet their accounts are highly detailed, with no glaring contradictions. The Hills themselves were very skeptical about the existence of UFOS before the experience. What is most frustrating about this case, as in most UFO sightings, is the lack of physical evidence to back up the observations of the witnesses. The shiny spots on the Hills' car were not examined by an expert; neither were the warts that appeared on Barney's body at the places he claimed to have been touched by the examining devices of the aliens. The possible site of the abduction was found, but not a trace remained of anything unusual.

Interestingly, the description of the exterior of the craft is similar to many other reports throughout the world. Only the encounter with the aliens sets it off as unique.

Oddly enough, a large number of UFO sightings have been made in central New Hampshire as recently as August, 1974. The descriptions are very much like the object the Hills saw thirteen years ago.

The Hills case will probably remain only partially solved, in a limbo between unproven claim and incontestable fact. Even if most of it is simply an illusion, as Dr. Simon believes, it would still be intriguing as an example of how the mind can break under stress. If it is true, it may represent one of the few times human beings have confronted a higher intelligence than their own.

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# Gore Vidal: Perspectives on American Culture

By KAREN BOORSTEIN

Upon hearing that I had been to a press conference publicizing the release of Gore Vidal's *Burr* in paperback form, one of my professors asked me if he was as perfectly good-looking in person as he is on television. "No," I said, "he is a good looking man, but he looks older, grayer. He has jowls which don't show on television."

A college press conference is comparable to my conception of a football game, where everybody tries to grab the conversational ball and run with it, holding on to it until it is grabbed by someone else.

Never having met an internationally famous person before, I expected Vidal to be pretentious, egotistical and bored with the idea of answering questions put to him by the student press. Surprisingly, he never showed any signs of visible irritation, and in fact seemed interested in answering the variety of questions which centered mostly on America, politics, writers and writing.

For an hour and a half, he willingly answered our questions, talking in his marvelous "ruling class" accent. He talked of himself, "My cynicism is realism, but Americans don't like realism, so they call it cynicism. I'm just very realistic. You show me a hole in the road and I'll say 'look there's a hole in the road,' and they'll [Americans] say, 'God he knocks America.'"

The mood of the conference was light, with many of his remarks causing laughter among us. Vidal's answers were always open, always honest, and always reflective of his own personal brand of realism.

Asked if there was a relationship between *Burr* coming out now and Watergate, he answered, "No, but I think I've got phlebitis," whereupon everybody laughed. "Nixon and I have always had a symbiotic relationship," he continued, "in fact I think I am Nixon a lot of the time. My first book came out the year that he went to Congress, and he has always been to me the Dark Side of America, and of course I'm morbidly inclined to the Dark Side."

"I've just been suffering with Nixon through all this, and *Burr* was tremendously helped (the hard cover edition) by Watergate because Nixon just couldn't stop talking about Aaron Burr. And he'd go on, he'd tell one lie one night, then he'd go on the next night and tell it again, and [he] never got the story straight, about the John Marshall trial, and I think that was extremely useful from the publisher's point of view."

"And also, I think... we're all in his debt because Nixon revealed, through his eerie incompetence, the total corruption of the system. And a writer like myself, I've been spending, you know, nearly thirty years trying to explain to people how the country works and who owns it and how they're ripping us off. Nobody paid any attention. Suddenly Nixon did it, ah, so in a sense that made a book like *Burr*, which is a cold view of the first 50 years of our history, suddenly acceptable. I would say without Watergate it would not have been half as much read."

Vidal began work on the book four or five years ago. Its uncanny parallel to recent history is merely coincidental.

Not many of the people present at the conference had actually read *Burr*, though most, myself included, had at least started it. Being that this was a

conference of supposedly budding journalists and writers, many of the questions centered on the subject of writers and writing.

Asked what he thought made a writer a good writer, Vidal leaned his straight-backed chair against the wall and repeated the question, "what makes a writer a good writer?" "Well," he said leaning forward, "I guess it's good writing. And good writing is nothing but sentences, and some people write sentences better than others." People began staring at him incredulously.

He went on to clarify his statement, "And, ah, this is very much underestimated now because language is in serious decline, due to a great many things. I think this has to do with the use of television as a pacifier as they are growing up. In most houses there are no books and things. The set is turned on, the child is parked in front of it for the first dozen years of his life. And, if you don't get interested in reading and writing, ah, before you're ten or eleven, you never will, because you can't learn it. So, I think there is a change taking place."

Someone had to, of course, ask the obvious question, "does this reflect a movement toward anti-intellectualism?"

Vidal didn't even have to think before answering that one. "Oh well, the United States has always been anti-intellectual. My heavens we're based upon that. No nonsense about commie-weirdo-fags taking over our lives... Intellect has always had a tough time amongst us. But it persists, I mean, [there is] the one percent that's bright, that continues the culture, generation after generation, that's here today, just as it was yesterday. I'm not worried about that, I'm worried much more about a kind of broader spectrum, which is in effect the electorate of people who can't read or write or think or talk."

Even best selling books like *Burr* reach only a small percentage of the population because of "two depressing statistics: one is only three per cent of the American people read books at all, and only 10 percent read magazines, and after all 10 per cent of the country is 22 million people. That's the maximum, I mean what is it Playboy about 22 million copies? I think *Playgirl* has now passed it having a wider range of appeal."

One of the student journalists tried to be helpful at this point by offering the



Vidal ponders deep question.

information that there are a lot more women than men.

"I guess that's it," Vidal said, then added, as an afterthought, "also there are overlaps."

Returning later to the theme of the American reading public (or lack of it), he told us that "Every society plays the games it wants to. A novel was center stage culturally from the 17th century until about the second world war. That's one of the reasons that the writers of my generation, of which there are only about three of us left, there's Capote and Mailer and me; and one of the reasons we're all three turned into sort of grotesques, sort of show-biz figures, is that when we began, the novel was the center of the culture and we thought of ourselves as the heirs of Hemingway and Fitzgerald and ah, Dean Howells and Henry James, Melville and Hawthorne. We saw ourselves as part of an unbroken chain, which was central to the culture, with the poets out there on the periphery."

"In 26 years we have observed that the novelist is now out on the periphery, the poets are, if they don't go reading their own verse, they tend to be in farther space, and at the center of the culture is the film director. So, Mailer, Capote and I were the last real generation who knew what it was like to really be at the center..."

"I mean a new book by Mailer or Capote or me, it was a great event around the country. It's the kind of event that you have now with a Fellini movie, I mean everybody's going to talk about the new Fellini movie or Ingmar Bergman, there's nobody's new book that interests anybody in the country."

Vidal feels strongly pessimistic about the future of the novel. "People will go on writing. It will become mostly university stuff which will be used like Rorschach tests... Professors will write them and they'll teach them and the students will grimly have to learn them. And the public novel will continue to be. There will always be a certain amount of junk published, thinly disguised mythical tales, Judy Garland's sad life and decline thinly disguised. And I think the movies will go on and on."

"The new thing happening with the movies is that they're beginning to understand that movies are written and the great classic movies were generally triumphs of the screenwriter, and not of the director."

"In the old days in Hollywood they used to say that the director is the brother-in-law. He's the man who just goes down on the floor and stands around during the day while the cameraman shoots it and the editor selects shots. Because the scripts in the old days in Metro and Warners were all prepared by producers working with the writer. "I was under contract with Metro

from '54-'58 ending with *Ben-Hur* which I wrote part of. That's how I got out of the contract. I said I'd write that if they'd let me go."

"And even as late as '54, when the script that they were going to shoot was decided on, the director would be called in, and he couldn't change one line. He couldn't change a 'the' to a 'but' and you, the writer, wrote every shot, if you wrote 'med. close shot' it was a 'med close shot,' and if he tried to change it to a 'close shot' on the floor, all the boys would be watching the rushes the next day, and he'd be called in. 'What are you doing?' [they'd ask him].

"These are all the great auteur de cinema that the French who get everything wrong, have managed to make gods out of. Continued on page 11

## See The Light

By DAVID BAHARAY

"Please don't smoke during the show. You won't have to."

With those words, *Laserium*, the world's first laser show opened last year at the Hayden Planetarium. Probably realizing that watching big red circles dance on the ceiling would appeal only to the most stoned out of druggies, the management wanted to discourage getting high in the theatre from the start.

But the warning was unnecessary when I dropped in last week. *Laserium* featuring laser lights, dancing to classical music alternating with Emerson, Lake and Palmer, had an audience composed of affluent older college students. The neighborhood around the Planetarium is too dangerous to encourage thirteen year olds to show up, and maybe the stoned out druggies have had enough of light shows.

Besides, after the first half hour of bending ones head back to look at the "sky", the neck begins to hurt. The seats were too narrow to dance in, but plenty of people shift their bodies around trying to ease the aching neck.

The discomfort doesn't last forever, and the clever use of the lights in time to the music kept one from being bored even after the initial awe at seeing real live laser beams.

The show (like everything else nowadays), would have been more appropriate at the Court of Versailles than New York City. While I struggle to get carfare together to go to City every day, the wealthy lay out \$2.25 for admission, plus 50¢ for Ticketron, plus \$2.50 for parking space, all for a show that lasts just slightly over an hour. Somebody must be making all the money I don't have anymore.

## Satchmo Honored at Carnegie

By FRED SEAMAN

Since it was brought into life last January, *The New York Jazz Repertory Company* (NYJRC) has recreated the styles of various jazz eras, both traditional and contemporary, in an orchestral setting. During its first season the NYJRC presented programs featuring the music of the legendary bands of Fletcher Henderson and Jimmy Lunceford, as well as tributes to the music of John Coltrane, Charlie Parker and even Jimi Hendrix.

Now in its second season, the NYJRC is devoting its first two concerts to the music of Louis Armstrong, who has influenced and inspired several generations of jazz musicians during an incredible career that spanned five decades of active musicianship.

The first concert on November 8 provided a retrospective of "Satchmo's" early career during the 1920's. Pianist and musical director Dick Hyman had assembled a band of renowned musicians featuring Kenny Davern on clarinet, Vic Dickenson on trombone, Milt Hinton on bass, and Bobby

Rosengarten on drums. The first two songs "Creole Belles" and "St. Louis Tickle" were representative of Louis' period with the legendary King Oliver. The trumpet solos were played simultaneously by Joe Newman, Mel Davis and Pee Wee Irwin.

Vocalist Carrie Smith was featured next in a beautiful rendition of "Cakewalking Babies Back Home," a song which was a product of Satchmo's collaboration with Bessie Smith in the early '20's. The "Hot 5" and "Hot 7" period was sketched by classics such as "Potatoe Head Blues" and "Willie The Weeper." Again, the trumpet trio dazzled the audience with its precise simultaneous playing, and was rewarded by frequent outbursts of enthusiastic applause.

In the second part of the concert, jazz' two most famed cornetists, Ray Nance and Ruby Braff, were featured soloists, followed by Carrie Smith, who closed the concert with a gripping version of the famous "St. Louis Blues."

This concert was interesting in more than one way, as it employed a multi-media approach in illustrating Louis

Armstrong's career. Excerpts from a filmed interview with Louis were projected on a movie screen suspended above the stage, thus enabling "Satchmo" himself to narrate part of the program. One of the highlights of the evening was a lengthy film clip of Mahalia Jackson with Louis Armstrong at the 1970 Newport Jazz Festival.

In addition to the film clips, an informative and entertaining narration written by jazz historian Stanley Dance and recited by Dick Hyman added to the enjoyment of the program.

The second NYJRC concert, featuring the music of Louis Armstrong in the big band era will be presented at Carnegie Hall on Friday, November 15. In an effort to attract wider audiences, the NYJRC has even lowered the admission prices, which now range from \$3.50 to \$5.50.

If you're into music--any kind of music you owe it to yourself to check out these concerts. You'll experience a unique and rewarding excursion into one of the most creative forms of music evolved by any culture.

# OPOP



**Bowie a la Hollywood**

By MITCHELL SCHNEIDER

Dethroning himself as maestro of the glitter-rock brigade, and shunning an obtrusive stage production, David Bowie's recent five-performance run at Radio City Music Hall was essentially an enigma. Bowie has peeled off his glitter, discarded most of his highly-touted theatrics, and has cast himself into a Hollywood hero role, immediately reminiscent of Fred Astaire.

Clad in high-waisted baggies, a short double-breasted sport jacket and loosely knotted tie, flat shoes, and sporting

# GLITTER ROCK GONE SOUL

moderately short hair parted on the side, Bowie displays the precise, slick showmanship of a dancer. The gold lush drapes hovering over the stage and the art-deco elegance of the hall provided an excellent backdrop as the artist executed smooth struts, balancing himself with a cane.

The rock and roll anatomical structure of Bowie's songs was somewhat marred by his new back-up group, the Garson Band, consisting of predominantly Black and Puerto Rican musicians, a first for Bowie. While they individually displayed some expertise on keyboards, guitars, saxophone, and percussion, on the whole they injected doses of sloppy funk into the Bowie sound and gave birth to a confused arrangement of "Rebel, Rebel," the opening number.

Bowie was rescued, though, by Vandross, his almost all-black back-up singers. These three women and three men echoed the soulful hymns of 60's R & B groups and implanted jet streams of gospel's vibrant harmonies into Bowie's

rock and roll tunes, sometimes succeeding in a blistering fusion of both styles. But Bowie's attempts at gutsy, rough-edged vocals and Vandross' repetitive choreography were so obviously poor that I had begun to wonder if this new musical adventure was just a parody of soul music.

If Bowie was being serious about his new sound, his installation of black musicians is the logical extension of the current discotheque boom where the much-hailed Progressive Soul flourishes, transcending the confines of a cliched rock sound.

Bowie and the Garson Band, as well as the audience, seemed most comfortable with the older material, performing a heart-stopping version of "Jean Genie" with its staccato, though persistent beat. But the evening's apogee was clearly "Suffragette City" when the enthralled audience joyously spat out the "wham-bam thank you mam" line along with Bowie. It seemed to be some oracular cry of the 70's.

With the ticket price of a Bowie

concert resembling that of a Saturday night Broadway show, \$12.50 to be exact, it ceases to be only a concert, it becomes an event. Hordes of Bowie's descendants arrived bedecked in grotesque apparel, an obscene throw-together of thrift shop clothing. They tried to imitate the old-Bowie look but his unexpected new dress style sustained his star image, keeping him a notch above the audience.

The artist also lets you know he's conducting a party. He bumped and grinded like some classy burlesque queen, teasing the audience who filled the aisles and rushed towards the stage. In their rock and roll lust for a touch of the majestic star, total mayhem reigned as some fans made it on to the stage grabbing Bowie, but were politely-tossed back into the crowd by the stage-hands.

En route to my home I stopped by Radio City's backstage exit where an assemblage of fans were waiting for the dance master, and maybe even an autograph. I was waiting for Ginger Rogers.

## Gore Vidal

Continued from page 10

"The problem with American writing is that there has hardly been a great novel written by anyone under 40. I don't want to depress you. There has been a lot of talented writing, clever writing, good writing, but for a novelist, unlike a poet, middle age is the time. You have to have a sense of the duration of time. Time is the subject of a novel. No matter what you think it is it is about time. You have the chance in a novel to actually make time move for you, Proust is a perfect example.

"Well 40 is the morning of a novelist's life, and most of our writers ah, are hungover in that morning, or they're dead or sold out, or just deranged. So we have all sorts of marvelous beginnings which can occasionally produce a lovely book like *The Great Gatsby*.

"At my age, Fitzgerald had been dead five years, at my age, Hemingway couldn't write anything. That thing about the fish, you know, was actually written when he was very young.

As if it wasn't bad enough that a novelist cannot write a really good novel until after 40, Vidal completes the paradox by saying that people who finally become famous at 40 cannot enjoy it.

"I've observed over the years that those people who become successful in middle life let's say, usually go right round the bend. They always leave the wife or boyfriend, and get another one, they have their teeth capped, which is always good, that happens immediately. They really just go right absolutely out of their skulls.

### THE BIRDS AND THE BEES (AND THE FLIES)

The use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers has reduced the number of honeybee colonies in the United States by 20 percent over the last ten years. In California, the leading state for bee keeping and use, as many as 20 percent of the state's honeybees have been killed in recent years.

And according to a spokesperson for the National Wildlife Federation quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, "last summer the bees were dropping off like flies in Virginia."

Bees pick up the poison from sprayed fields along with the pollen and nectar they need for food. Chemical fertilizers have eliminated the use of plowed under seeds whose flowers were an important source of food for bees.

In addition to making honey and wax, bees are necessary for the pollination of almost a hundred food crops, and their pollination improves a much larger number.

War Stanger, an agriculturalist at the University of California, is seeking to have honeybees declared an endangered species. "All indications are that it's going to get a lot worse," he said. "It's a serious situation."

LNS

whereas those who have been successful very young, get very used to it.

"I mean, obviously there are some exceptions: people who blow up and don't continue. You see when you are young, you expect to be successful, you know you're absolutely wonderful, and when everybody else tells you how wonderful you are, yes, you say, it's quite just, the world is working properly the way I thought it would. But if you haven't had it by the time you're 40 however, and then it happens to you, then you're so bitter, and in such a rage, that it is difficult to live with."

Gore Vidal, however, became famous at a young age. His first book, *Williwaw*, was published when he was twenty, but he really wanted to be a politician. "I was brought up in the house of a senator... I was brought up to be a public figure as everybody in the family was."

Like most true artists, he never decided to start writing, it just happened.

"I was born a writer. I never had any choice. I didn't want to be one. I would much rather have been president, but ah, writing seized me... I found out you couldn't do both. Writers must always tell the truth, and politicians must never give the game away. These are two warring impulses."

It is his reputation as a writer, which caused one of the students to ask him if he finds himself "becoming one of those mythic figures."

*The Tonight Show* as a late-night cultural institution has certainly helped, or at least added, to Vidal's celebrity status.

"Television gives you a very peculiar sense, because you are physically recognized an awful lot. And it means that you, ah, the nice thing about it is that you can start in the middle of a sentence. They always pick you up on what you said the night before. 'Now I disagree with that,' you know, so it makes kind of that Global Village McLuhan threatened.

"But there are other days that you get very sick of yourself. I get very sick of seeing my name. I guess I'd get sick if I didn't see it. I really get bored seeing myself on television. I always say 'he's not.' It's always 'he' too, maybe I should go to an analyst [this in reference to a question about whether he had ever been to an analyst], I say, 'he's not going to say that.' And then 'he' does. You know. And I worry a lot about my chin. Those of you who know me on television know that I've started talking to Johnny Carson like this [he put his hand under his chin to hide a budding double]. There's a special angle at which the chin just hangs over the collar which I think is indecorous. These are the things you worry about if you're mythic.

Sometimes even "mythic" figures find themselves doing mundane things...

"I was in Miami trying to lose some weight [he's not fat] in a hotel room, and I was watching television, something I do

very rarely, there was Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, now I thought they were both dead. They are two of the oldest men I have ever seen, I mean they were old men when I was ten years old. You know, they were *already* middle aged. They were still on. Aren't there any new people in the country? Then I switched [channels] and there was Frank Sinatra,

who's had a face job done, he had his face lifted. It's full of wax. You know he had silicone put in and it's all lumping. You know it's the most extraordinary... I just didn't want to stare at this old tennis ball up there."

But, no one, except a "mythic" figure could charge such a commonplace situation with such a rapier wit.



By ROMAN ROZIJ

It was last year that Jethro Tull's *Passion Play* came out and the critics tore it to bits. Verdicts ranged from too "obscure" to "contrived" from "verbal doubletalk" to "boring and banal lyricism." The music, however, earned an excellent rating. Ian Anderson, spokesman and eldest member of Tull, went on the road with the band regardless of the critics' harshness. He proved to the critics in the worst way, through overwhelming concert success, that people craved and admired his work, which incidentally is more theatrical than one will admit.

The sad part of the tour was Anderson's own statement regarding the dubious return to concert engagements and possible annulment of recording. Instead, he said, he would turn to film. Nearly a year later, Tull comes out with *War Child*, their simplest and clearest effort to date since *Benefit*. The album cover, showing Anderson's silhouette against a pale backdrop of city skyline, reveals his loneliness, and more importantly, his individuality. The back cover is a picture sequence that explains and parodies each song.

The songs all done as single cuts, are crisper and cleaner than *Passion Play*, and thematically wound with his past albums. Ultimately, what Anderson has done is exposed himself nude, in a primer for the critics, whose obscure and contrived comments obviously hurt him. On the other hand, they might have been an enormous advertising campaign.

Anyway, the songs are original and melodic. Even the weaker cuts stand up. Lyrically the album is self explanatory. Allusions to *Passion Play* recount Tull's frequent preoccupations with the Life-Death theme. Statements like: "Do you ever get the feeling, that the story's too damn real, and in the present tense or that everybody's on the

stage and it seems like you're the only person sitting in the audience," reveal Anderson's own alienation motif.

The songs, besides reflecting on the group directly, branch into many themes, including the afterlife: "You'd better lick two fingers clean, before you shake his hand"; the city and everyday life: "Lions and tigers who sleep in the shadows-down by the waterhole, drunk every driday," and sad, but true revelations about people in general: "Look how we balance the world on the tips of our noses-like a sealion with a ball, at the carnival."

The songs are deft and polished, but are not Anderson's best effort. What results is a product made simple as a compromise to be accessible. Thematically, the album carries two main thoughts; that of war, in past and present, and that of everyday and after-life. There is one song, however, that stands amiss from both these standards. Called "Only Solitaire," it is Anderson speaking directly to the critics, bathing them with the conviction that they all suck. He speaks for himself through them, saying: "Well who the hell can he be, if he's never had VD and doesn't even sit on toilet seats? Brain testing, never resting, he must be very cunning, to assume an air of dignity, and bless us all, with his oratory prowess." Finally, in reply to the hunch that Steve (the critic) thinks Anderson is playing intellectual chess, Anderson himself replies with: "But you're wrong Steve, you see, its only solitaire." Again the loneliness and individual motif.

Jethro Tull is an important band, whose fame to many rests only on *Aqualung*. They are cryptic, musically superb, and thematically vivid. To be understood, if that is the major contention, they must be given more than the simple run through critics bless them with. Don't miss *War Child* it speaks for itself... very clearly.

# A Marathon Movie Celebration

By FAKHRUZ ZAMAN

With today's prices, an opportunity to enjoy something for free can seem as improbable as finding a tiny oasis in a vast desert. However some freebies are so fantastically billed that one's natural reaction is skepticism. That's the way I felt when I first heard about a free 20-hour movie marathon to commemorate Columbia Picture's 50th anniversary. The whole thing was supposed to get under way on Saturday midnight and last until Sunday evening. The movie lineup consisted of 10 of Columbia's most popular films: *It Happened One Night*, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *His Girl Friday*, *From Here to Eternity*,

*On the Waterfront*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *The Professionals* and *Funny Girl*.

Figuring on a rather large crowd of movie freaks, I arrived at the Columbia II at about nine-thirty. There were already two hundred people standing in line, and by 11 o'clock the number had multiplied to three hundred. This rapid multiplication resulted in howls and screams from some of the more vociferous elements of the crowd who suspected (and rightly so) that people were sneaking into the line. After all only the first 215 people who entered were to be presented with free posters, books and other and assorted memorabilia.

By a quarter to twelve the horde that had been relatively quite began to get restless and the line that had been three to four people deep was suddenly ten deep.

Finally, when one glass door was opened, the crowd formed a dangerous semi-circle around it, viciously edging, and pushing against it. I was shoved towards the tiny entrance by a very determined lady in a mismatched wig. Some fifteen minutes later I finally made it inside, minus a sweater that I had casually tossed around my neck. I raced the little old lady in the wig to an area of rapidly disappearing seats. All the vacant seats filled up in no time and people started spilling into the aisles.

Though not a veteran of many marathons, I had wisely chosen to bring with me a supply of food, most of which had dwindled away on the line. A half - pound of salami and the same quantity of M&M's don't offer much in the way of sustenance, but then *foie gras* will not preserve itself at body temperature for twenty hours without losing some of its flavor. Unfortunately, toward the end of the marathon, the salami began to assume the texture of greasy silly putty, and the M&M's did melt in my hands instead of my mouth. To make matters worse, the lady I had

outraced to the seats - took mine when I went out to get a coke. When I returned, I found her lying in a ridiculous posture in my seat, feigning sleep. And when I tried to dislocate her, gently, with a soft kick of my boots, she feigned rigor mortis. Adieu seat . . .

All of the films were really worth seeing, and the greatest compliment I can pay them is to acknowledge that in the twenty hours I sat there with my eyes glued to the screen, not once did I even come close to dozing off.

There are many more things worth mentioning about this occasion, including the condition of the men's room after the event. But perhaps it would be better to let all that pass, after all, the whole affair didn't, cost me a penny (well, to be exact, it did cost me a sweater) and the free coffee and donuts weren't bad either:

## PLO...

Continued from page 5

with Fatah and the Palestinian organizations. They tortured him, they beat him, they spat on his face, and his trial is still going on in Jerusalem. They are trying to frame him so he will leave Palestine but he said he will never leave because he is Palestinian and he is there to stay with his people. He refused to cooperate with Moshe Dayan, Abba Eban, and the Israeli government. He was always telling his people not to cooperate. He was

struggling, believing in the fate of his people.

"The Israeli government doesn't recognize that such a people, Palestinian people, exist; they are always trying to deny it. *But here we are. We do exist. We fight. We have our organizations. We never give up. For 25 years we have been fighting for our rights. Even the United Nations has come to recognize our existence. 105 states have come to recognize our existence. We do exist.*"

## Psych...

Continued from page 5

animals and apply learned theory to actual practice; or when discussing emotional disorders they may choose to visit a hospital. "We will take advantage of all the spontaneity and ingenuity the students and instructors can muster" said Mintz. He also anticipates inviting guest lecturers to participate in class seminars, such as was done in the recent Psychology 110 lecture series at which B.F. Skinner, Zimbardo and other well

known speakers attended.

In actuality, this concept is quite logical. It recognizes the fact that what exams are really testing is how well a student can respond to an arbitrary set of questions in which the odds of doing well are highly dependent upon how fast a student is able to cover, comprehend and store information up to the prescribed date of the exam. The difference, then, between a student who receives a 95 and one who gets 70 is the difference between a student who can grasp information at a faster pace and retain it at least until exam time and a student who might very

well have just as adequately covered and learned the subject matter given a little extra time. Thus, the element of time often weighs heavier than the more important criteria of one's ability to eventually comprehend.

Mintz cautioned that the program, still at least 2 years away from being fully realized, will require thoughtful, intelligent and reasoned deliberation. If and when his program is enacted, Mintz declared "You'll see the most important and potentially the most powerful change in college teaching in general."

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