

# CRIMSON AND WHITE

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THE MILNE SCHOOL, S.U.N.Y., ALBANY, N. Y.

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## A Gallery Grande on Art

by Margaret Anne Francella

Snuggled under a barber shop and next to a book store is a small display window filled with paintings and drawings—this is the face that the Petite Gallery turns to the world. Then if you open the door and descend the stairs to your left, you'll confront a sampling of what is hung and stacked, leaned and piled behind the door with the little sign that says: "Welcome to the Petite Gallery. Ring bell and walk in. If door doesn't open please ring second time, may be in storeroom." So, the door opens and Mr. Dennis ushers you in. He'll answer any questions that may occur to you about his hundred or more canvasses, and he'll tell you a bit of local art history and a bit of his own history at the same time.

For instance, he'll explain that that large, dark painting over there is by D. C. Lithgow, the artist who did the murals in the State Education Building, and the backdrops for the Indian displays in the museum that we are all so familiar with from our field trip days. And if you ask, he'll tell you that the portrait by the same fellow is of another artist and mutual friend, William Schoonmaker. The photograph of just paintings shows mostly his work, which ranges skillfully from wild animals (about which he also wrote a book, for which he did his own photography), to seascapes, to portraits of litesome young ladies.

Then perhaps Mr. Dennis will introduce you to some of his own work, telling you how it was he happened to make that collie blue, or where he got the idea of putting a ballerina in a bottle. Now, you may or may not like his paintings, but he paints for his own pleasure, and to please others is not their primary purpose. It is the learning from experimenting, and the attempt to express an idea or a feeling that is important.

So, perhaps one day when you're strolling downtown, looking in at the boutiques, you'll turn down Lark Street and take a look at the gallery's window, and maybe you'll want to go inside and find out where it is that paintings go after they leave the art class.

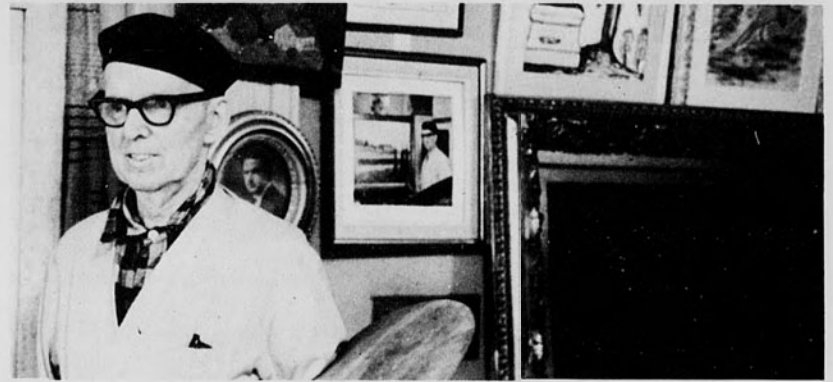
## Does Pass-Fail Fail?

With all the controversy in schools today concerning the pass-fail grading system, it is interesting to note the problem that many college students are experiencing when they apply to graduate school. Most graduate schools will not accept applicants with pass-fail grade records. These colleges are looking for grade equivalency, and with so many other applicants under consideration, they don't have the time to test pass-fail students to determine this equivalency. As a result, many students are discovering that they must repeat their four previous years of college on a grade level basis.

In addition, students who have graduated college on a pass-fail basis are having trouble finding jobs. Many employers feel that pass-fail grades are not good indications of a prospective employee's potential and will, therefore, not hire him.

Perhaps a pass-fail grading system is the answer to the grading dilemma, perhaps not. However, the fact remains that until it becomes an accepted mode of evaluation, working under the pass-fail system can be a very risky undertaking.

—N.F. and M.R.



A petite example of the Petite Gallery; above, Mr. Paul Dennis.  
(Photos by Dave Slawsky)

## Field Work

Man and his recreational facilities will be the focus of attention in a mini-mester course entitled "Open Minds and Open Spaces: Recreational Areas in the Capital District." The group, which has 26 student members, is being headed by Mr. Michael Lamana and Mr. Gary Spielman, both members of the Social Studies department.

On the surface, the course appears to be just a bunch of people getting together to have fun on a camping trip. However, the purpose of the group goes much deeper than that, as topics directly related to certain environmental issues will be explored.

The first week of investigation will consist of conferences with Environmental Conservation officials on State policy regarding land acquisition for recreation and how such decisions are made. The group will also define the issues that will be explored in the following 3 weeks, such as public vs. private facilities, sit locations, access, capacity, physical resources, degree of development, cost to users, and users' needs vs. cost to taxpayers.

The group will go on field trips the second weeks to places like Camp Dippikill (Gore Mt. area), Caroga Lake, and Glimmerglass State Park. Transportation to these places will hopefully be provided by SUNYA buses and living quarters will be tents. Under the culinary expertise of Mr. Lamana, the students will also attempt to prepare their own food.

Through actual use of the facilities provided (fishing, hiking, etc.), the students should be able to determine the variety and quality of public recreational service provided in N. Y. State.

—Joe Lapidus

## New Math

It has recently come to my attention that there is a program presently being experimented with in this country whereby teachers receive bonuses for improvement in their students' grades.\* Some of the implications of a system of this kind are obvious—teacher-oriented pressure on students, and increased competition between classes and schools. However, the program which on the surface appears to benefit only teachers, might also be the opportunity for some bright, industrious student to discover that school really can "pay off." Perhaps a conversation like this one will become commonplace in the future:

Bright, industrious student: You know something, I really think I can get an A in Algebra this term.

Teacher: Really Bill? That's wonderful!

Student: Yeah, but I need a little incentive to get a grade like that. I think 40% of your Math bonus should do it.

However, don't panic! Maybe most teachers won't even accept this new system. Just to get an idea, I tried to call a teacher friend of mine, Mrs. Jones, to find out how these promised bonuses were affecting her life as an average teacher. I never did talk to her, though, for I was informed that she had just retired to her newly-purchased houseboat in Florida and could not be reached.

\*Editor's Note: This appeared in a newspaper as an A.P. article.

## A LIGHT WAR

by Frank Perlmutter

Science has given us many discoveries and inventions that have rapidly grown too big to control. Television and ditto sheets are two of technology's benign children that have since conquered their host and conquered his house, for example, and a moment's reflection will turn up many others.

Electricity is another force that has gradually infiltrated society and caused drastic change, and **The Great American Light War** is a play describing man's struggles to use electricity for his own dubious purposes. Acclaimed as a "comic horror show", **The Great American Light War** shows the clash between Con Ed and Western Electric from the 1880's to their final climactic battle in the future.

The SUNYA production effectively combines projections, special effects, and multiple screens to present the play's message. The cast will be accompanied by the Star Spangled Washboard Band playing everyone's favorites, such as "I Get a Charge Out of You" and "Mr. Phonograph."

The play will run from March 1-5, and tickets are now on sale in the Performing Arts Center box office for \$2.00, but anyone with a SUNYA student tax card can buy a ticket for \$1.00. Reservations, which I strongly advise, can be made by calling 457-8606 or 457-7535 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Any reserved tickets not picked up by 8:15 on the evening of the performance are sold to the trusting people who have put themselves on the WAITING LIST, but this is a precarious way of getting in.

In other words, the meek and passive will get jostled away, since an early arrival and an aggressive attitude are the only ways to handle the crowds that will be clamoring for tickets—because **The Great American Light War** promises to be one of SUNYA's best productions of the year, as well as one of its most elaborate.

*No News is Good News*



## Letters to the Editor

To the Editors:

I believe that there is no solution to the so-called "generation gap." Trying to define what is happening between our parents' generation and youth is a difficult task. The "gap" has evolved from both generations. Neither can be fully blamed for the existing situation.

The best known cause of the "generation gap" is "lack of communication." I agree that "lack of communication" is a definite cause, but only up to a certain point. The "lack of communication" is a result of the lack of understanding that exists between generations. Many times people will not and cannot communicate with each other unless they are able to understand why people feel as they do. Is it necessary for a parent or a child to come out the "winner" in every discussion he has? Is it not true that more times than not both lose in some way? After three minutes of talk, most conversations between a parent and child wind up ten decibels above screaming. This might not occur if each party understood why the other felt the way he did.

There are certain basic problems in most homes. If I could live my life over I would have tried to follow a different set of rules. I would never engage in an argument until I calmed myself down and thought out what to say. Normally, I would have said something that would have ruined my chances of doing anything for a week, instead of the one night I was arguing about.

A perfect example of this is once when I asked my parents for the car. They said "No," for the simple reason that I had had it the day before. I thought it was a poor reason but said nothing and went back to my room. A half hour later, I came back and calmly discussed the situation. This approach worked.

All I did during that half hour to so radically alter the outcome of the dispute was to try to understand my parents' position and try to anticipate how they would react to different things that I might say. Keeping these things in mind, when we talked I appeared mature and logical to them.

If I only had done this before!

—Name withheld by request

## Yes, Virginia, There is a Decent Radio Station . . .

You guessed it . . . this is another in a series of articles that will attempt to put down AM radio stations. This latest attack was inspired by an all too-frequent event. I was driving along in my car and turned on the radio to one of the local "super pop" stations, only to be told that "Coffee Beans and Human Beans were meant to be the best of friends." Upon switching the station, I was asked what color orange Ford I wanted. I again switched stations on my radio in a desperate attempt to find some music, and was caught in the middle of a mindless contest. Well, to make a long story short, twenty minutes after I had set out, I had heard one song (Clean-up Woman) and approximately eight commercials. (At times I must admit the

To the Editors:

As I sit here writing this letter (Feb. 18), I know that there are many Milne kids working hard for the school. There are boys practicing hard for a game this weekend that less than half of the school (including faculty) will attend. Girls are practicing their cheers only to go hoarse the night of the game because so few of the spectators seem to be cheering with them. Meanwhile, a frustrated student body president is trying to get a quorum at a meeting he's called. The Student Council officers are struggling to get enough student teachers for cafeteria duty.

The participants are willing but there's a lack of support. It seems that the students and faculty can't give up any of their time to show interest in the people that work every day to represent their school. There was a time not that long ago when this school sent a spectator bus to all sports events. Student Council never had to worry about having a quorum. We used to have so many extracurricular activities that just about everybody was involved in at least one thing. Maybe it's coincidental, but during that time we were also number one in most sports in our league.

I think it would benefit everybody to devote some time to help their fellow students instead of just talking about what is wrong. Besides going to the games you could think of a club that might interest you and if there is not one already you can start one very easily, talk to any Student Council officer for help. All you have to do is show some interest and give some time. Students make a school, the school itself is just a building. It's what is inside that makes it work.

We are now at a standstill. We can never progress this way. School spirit is a responsibility for all. It would improve the attitude of the students and there would not be all these cliques within the classes. School would become a place that kids would want to come to. All this depends on the students which means every one of us. The future of Milne depends on us!

—Barbara Linter

music that accompanies the commercials is better than some of the records the Boomer plays.)

My answer to this sad situation is WRPI, an FM station located at 91.5 on your dial. The music that is played is as varied as the people who listen to it. The station plays quality music, album cuts of Cat Stevens, Carol King, J. Geils, Neil Young, Black Sabbath, Bob Dylan and on and on. You won't hear commercials or teeny-bopper super-hit songs. On 'RPI, for the most part, songs by currently popular artists are played, not the "hits" which you can hear on AM stations. Songs a year old are not "Golden Oldies"! Special programs include "Mostly Folk", Sunday nights at seven, which features folk all the

## Love is All You Need

In Warwick, Massachusetts, by the side of a long, winding road, there is a community, mostly of young people, called the Brotherhood of the Spirit. It is a beautiful place. Perhaps it is one of the most beautiful places in the world.

The Brotherhood of the Spirit is a place where people come to work on themselves and learn to stop playing games. It is a place where they can become real, and where they can learn to love and be loved. This is really the key to it; the members of the Brotherhood are learning to become attuned to the infinite source of lovepower in the Universe.

Crazy? Not at all. When you see the members and prospective members, you realize just how real it is. They all look each other squarely in the eye—and they will look into your eyes too, if you will let them. And that is a unique experience. You can even try it right now, at Milne. Whoever you are talking to, or listening to, look into their eyes. Do not look away. Give them your whole attention. The feeling is a truly remarkable one.

The creature comforts of life are missing from the houses in Warwick. There is a sign at the entrance, "No alcohol or drugs allowed beyond this point." The sleeping accommodations are far from luxurious—the beds are wooden slabs, mostly without mattresses. The food is very simple and not very tasty, and there are missing many of what we consider staples: milk, bread, fresh fruit.

And yet, no one seems to notice. No one does notice. Anyone who has been there for more than two months is usually so stoned on love that the concept of smoking grass or drinking liquor is ludicrous. The beds are easy to sleep on, and the food is nutritious enough to keep anyone healthy, and that is enough. For the pleasures of a steak dinner are pale next to the joy of being able to put your arms around just anybody there and say, "I love you." And mean it.

## Congratulations!

The C&W would like to congratulate New York State Regents' Scholarship winners Frances Adams, Merle Bachman, Stephen Benko, Sara Boomsliker, Sue Hacker, Margaret-Anne Francella, Brent Michiner, Frank Perlmutter, Linda Pierce, Tom Schrodt, and Debbie Stinson. Steve Benko scored the highest on the test for Milne but no Milnites were among the top five in the county. There may be no alternates this year because of the state budget crisis.



Senior Johnsky Polydourisovich at last week's Senior Hat Day.

The activities are very simple and very diverse. They meditate, and chant, and climb mountains or take walks, or work around the houses, or just hang out together. They help each other grow.

The community helps support itself by a rock band, called **Spirit in Flesh**, which is perhaps best known for its brightly colored posters which always get ripped off soon after they have been put up. Their music is good, and very pure in spirit. Their female vocalists are outstanding. They've released one album already, and are now recording another.

Also, many of the members work, at outside "right livelihood" jobs. Recently, they've started a publication called **Free Spirit Press**, which sells for thirty cents an issue (Three dollars a year; write to **F.S.P., 37 Ferry Road, Turner's Falls, Massachusetts 01367** to subscribe. Don't forget your zip code.)

Beautiful things are being done at the Brotherhood of the Spirit. They are working on life's seven basic laws: order, balance, harmony, growth, God-perception, spiritual love, and compassion. No newspaper can adequately tell what's going on. It's LOVE, and that's just a word on paper, but in a human being that's purity, beauty, truth, infinity, God! And, the members say that there is infinite love in everyone. What they are doing is getting it out.

If you can find the Brotherhood of the Spirit, it is a great place to visit. But the important thing is—YOU. NOW—this very instant. RELAX. Look into someone's eyes, and tell them that you love them. If you can't do it now, keep trying until you can. And you'll have changed the world.

—A recent Milne Alumnus

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I don't know if it would impress you or not, but I first heard "American Pie" on WRPI. Who knows, by listening to 'RPI you may be the first on your block to hear the "hits of tomorrow"!

—Libby Derrico