

# THE OTHER SIDE

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Pitzer College

Feb. 22, 1980

## Admissions, Financial Aid Office Merger Pending

By PAULETTE DOLIN

The issue of merging the Admissions Office with the Office of Financial Aid is raising controversy. Abby Parsons, Director of Financial Aid is now also filling the position of Admissions Director, which was vacated when Bill Lowry resigned. President Ellsworth is now considering merging the two offices permanently under one director. When questioned at a faculty meeting he answered, "I have no doubt that one person can do the job."

Those who are in favor of merging the offices comment that other colleges and universities have combined financial aid and admissions under the same director. Those opposed say what is right for other campuses may not be in Pitzer's best interest.

The main arguments in favor of merging Admissions and Financial Aid are that the change will improve staff effectiveness and cut costs. However, Admissions and Financial Aid committee member Peter Loy comments that "whether or not this is a cuttable corner is questionable."

For Karen Sontag, who recently resigned both her position on the Ad-

missions and Financial Aid Committee and her work-study job in the Admissions office, the issue is an emotional one. She expresses her concern over the events taking place in Admissions. "Since Bill Lowry left," she states, "there has been a downward trend. The merge has escalated confusion...the office is extremely understaffed."

The Office of Admissions is not the only office that is shorthanded. With the absence of former Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Margaret Carothers, Abby Parsons is presently running two full offices on her own. The hiring of a new Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Sandra Boyd, may relieve some of the pressure, but it will not be until March 3 that Boyd will assume a full-time staff position. Meanwhile, without an assistant, it is premature to speculate on the success of merging Admissions and Financial Aid.

There are a variety of arguments against combining the two offices under current circumstances. While Sandra Boyd is highly qualified in the field



Pitzer Administrator Abby Parsons

of financial aid (she is currently Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Cal Tech) and Abby Parsons has proved to be a very competent Director of Financial Aid, neither has experience in the field of admissions. Professor Lew Ellenhorn questions whether she can handle the situation regardless of their ability. He continued, speaking highly of Ms. Parsons remarking, "She is a hard working person with a great deal of integrity. My view has nothing to do with my respect for Ms. Parsons." From a managerial stand point, "My general concern is with current changes that function as overloading staff."

While the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee has a say in the hiring of Financial Aid employees, their powers are limited in the area of admissions. The duties of the student members include reviewing policy, letters sent to prospective students, public relations work and applications that do not have unanimous staff approval, known as borderline applications. Karen Sontag feels that the committee's responsibility should be extended to encompass the hiring of admissions staff as well as "being aware of jobs being done by employees presently, and any review of

current staff."

Another area of controversy is more ethical. One of the main points made by students and faculty is that the merger may lead to decisions in admissions that are based on financial factors. Sontag described the situation as "a symbolic conflict of interests." Although it is illegal to select applicants on a monetary basis, it may be difficult for staff to keep an applicant's qualifications and their financial needs independent."

Under present procedure, Financial Aid Forms are frequently mailed in with a prospective student's application for admission. This technically makes financial information available to staff. However, as one work-study student points out, the staff does not have the time or inclination to bother with financial aid forms and they have a "Conflict of interest," those in favor of the merge view as an advantage. Ms. Parsons is planning to coordinate the mailing duties of the Financial Aid Office with those of Admissions so that applicants will receive their acceptances and financial aid awards at the same time. This will improve upon the current process of admissions and enrollment, because in the past, accepted applicants endured a lag period before being informed of their financial aid awards. Financial awards may be of increased significance this year with proposition 9 (Jarvis II) pending.

The problem involving the Offices of Financial Aid and Admissions may not be the current staff, but rather the lack of it. Understaffing only serves to complicate the issue of merging the two offices. "It is too early to tell if the merge will be successful," Parsons realistically commented. She then smiled and added, "Talk to me on March Tenth..."

## CGS Prof. Raps Carter On Foreign Policy

By DON CAMPBELL

"Carter over-reacted ridiculously," Dr. Fred Warner Neal of CGS's Dept. of Int'l. Relations asserted Thursday afternoon (Feb. 14th). In his 4 p.m. lecture in Harper Hall, Dr. Neal, who just recently returned from Moscow, sharply criticized what he felt were "gross distortions of reality" inherent in Carter's characterization of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan as "the most serious threat to world peace since World War II." According to Dr. Neal, who is an expert on Soviet political history and diplomacy, the U.S.S.R.'s actions in Afghanistan were a response to a perceived threat to a strategically important area. These actions, he said, were comparable to the U.S. military intervention in the Dominican Republic, and were in no way linked to some broader plan to take over Persian Gulf oil fields.

While acknowledging that the Soviets had acted precipitously and heavy-handedly, Dr. Neal insisted that he sees little chance of a military

confrontation between the U.S.S.R. and the United States. That point could be reached, he cautioned, if the pressures on the Soviet Union are increased, since that could drive them into a position of "armed isolationism"—a reaction he said the Russians have often taken, throughout their history, when they were under attack politically. Such an eventuality would be a grave threat to world peace, Dr. Neal observed, owing to the increased chance of a nuclear confrontation.

In Dr. Neal's view, the Carter administration's response to the Soviet's actions in Afghanistan is just the most recent example of an excessively militant foreign policy largely formulated by President Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Referring to Brzezinski's "Arc of Crisis" model of the current political state in the Middle East and Southwest Asia as one of many "grandiose ideas" advanced by Brzezinski, Dr. Neal asserted that "(it) bears little

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## Housing Issues Persist

By Jon Graham

One area of life at Pitzer that students often complain about is dormitory life. Most complaints are about overcrowding, lack of single rooms and inadequate security.

This is a particularly good time to examine these problems for several reasons. First, Pitzer has recently hired a new Associate Dean of Housing, Ms. Jane Holcombe. Additionally, both the newly organized Community

Relations Committee and the Inter-Dorm Council have been charged with responsibility for certain aspects of campus housing. The way in which on-campus students live in the future will be directly related to the decisions and actions these people take this semester.

The issue of overcrowding has been around for at least four years. Every fall (and sometimes in the spring) more

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## News Briefs

### Faculty Meeting Gets Hot

On Thursday, February 14, the faculty meeting was sparked by the topic of listing a course of military science in the school catalogue. Ten different professors expressed their views on the subject.

Inge Bell, a Professor of Sociology, said that she would find the military science listing unacceptable unless the course would be titled, "Applied Course in Mass Murder."

Others argued that the listing would not attract more applicants for admission, and that the R.O.T.C. instructors would not be regulated by Pitzer or any other college.

In support of the course's listing, one Professor felt that omitting the course title from the Pitzer catalogue would be a form of censorship, and to allow the class description into the course booklet would be the fundamental practice of a liberal arts college.

In the end, the issue was tabled until the next meeting on Thursday, February 21, when the faculty will vote upon the practicality of permitting the course to appear in next year's catalogue.

### Hertel Wins Award

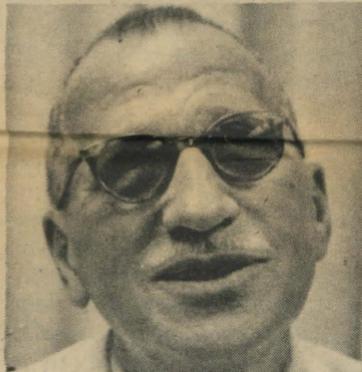
Congratulations to Professor Carl Hertel, who yesterday received the Alumni Association's annual award for faculty academic excellence. As the Alumni Association chooses different themes each year for their Faculty Excellence Award, the A.A. selected community involvement as the theme of the 1980 honor.

## Neal Raps Carter

(from page 1)

resemblance to reality." Brzezinski, he reminded the audience, is known to favor a massive buildup of American arms in the world, ostensibly to counter "unchecked Soviet expansionism." Such a buildup, Dr. Neal asserted, would merely provoke the Soviets to do precisely the same thing, thus edging the world ever closer to annihilation resulting from an almost certain Soviet/American confrontation. "What we need," Dr. Neal said, "is more detente, not less."

It is Dr. Neal's opinion that what is needed now is not increasingly strident military threats, but rather more imaginative diplomacy. The United States must resume diplomatic moves which will get the U.S.S.R. back to the negotiating table. "The over-riding major objective is avoidance of military confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. This cannot be ac-



Professor Fred Warner Neal

complished through military means," Dr. Neal declared. The de-escalation of the present military threats being exchanged would be a necessary first step, Dr. Neal said, and would have to be followed by pursuing high-level talks to restore a clear understanding between the two nations of each other's vital interests. "We must have at least a minimal level of co-operation," he insisted.

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## Housing Issues (cont.)

(from page 1)

people want to live in the dorms than there are rooms available. The Administration has in past years been charged with taking the school's monetary considerations more seriously than the quality of life in the dorms. This is certainly part of the reason that we have overcrowding.

Dean of Students, Joe Mark, also points to a variety of problems in calculating the number of people that will want to live on campus in a given semester. Difficulty in determining how many accepted applicants will choose Pitzer, what percentage of those students will choose to live on campus, and students' unwillingness to inform the Administration of their plans to return or withdraw, all contribute to the problem. Obviously no one can be expected to calculate precisely how many students will show up. However, the college has consistently erred on the side of overcrowding in order to obtain extra revenue. Hopefully this trend will be abandoned. The new president, Frank Ellsworth, claims to be committed to the notion that all fresh-people should have a regular room to stay in from their first day on campus.

Single rooms, as we all know, are much coveted at Pitzer. This fact has prompted many to point at certain inconsistencies in the single room selection process. For example, sometimes a senior or junior is unable to get a single though a younger student has one by virtue of living on a theme corridor. The concept of theme corridors has been attacked as being simply a vehicle for the acquisition of desirable singles by those who could not obtain them otherwise. People apply for thematic corridors every spring and those that are accepted are expected to in some way benefit the community as a whole. A few corridors have truly helped the community and corridor members in both tangible and intangible ways. Other corridors have completely failed in this respect. There are notable examples of both

types of corridors. Have you even heard of more than one or two of the eight (yes 8!) thematic corridors on campus?

The Dean of Students Office has been aware of the problem for some years but the situation has persisted to the disadvantage of the students (admittedly the office has completely turned over in the last two years). When questioned, the Dean indicated that this year's Community Resources Committee, on which Mark sits, will probably take a harder line when making decisions on the establishment of next year's theme corridors. Perhaps this will somewhat alleviate the problem of single rooms.

The last issue that students complain about is that of dorm security (however I will not air here the views of those who claim that there is too much). "Anyone that wants to can get into the dorms", "no one cares about anyone else's safety", "the dorms are never locked on time", have all been commonly heard gripes over the last few years. The source of the problem is attributed to inadequate concern by the Office of the Dean or Maintenance. The Dean attributes them to lack of concern on the part of students. As usual at Pitzer, the truth probably lies between the two views. The college has mishandled security in the past and is perhaps too concerned with finances (e.g., sharing a lock-up man with Scripps earlier this year).

Students also share a large portion of the blame for security problems. Propping open doors, failing to relock them, and failure to inquire of strangers are all contributing reasons for generally lax security. Supposedly, great strides in this area have been made over the last few years. Hopefully more will be done.

In a sense students are themselves responsible for all the above-mentioned problems. Though these problems have been around for awhile almost no one has made an effort to force the college to improve conditions. So it goes at Pitzer.

## Cultural Exhibit Ends Soon

By DEBBIE ANDERSON

Native American art and culture has come to the Claremont Colleges in the form of exhibits, demonstrations, and lectures. An exhibition of native American pottery, basketry, and beadwork will be on display at the Lang and Montgomery galleries only until tomorrow, Saturday, February 23. Admission is free, and the exhibit is open 7 days a week between 1:00 and 5:00 pm. The lecture series will continue until Thursday, February 27.

The organizer of this series, Kay Koeninger, is the Curator of Anthropology at the Claremont Colleges galleries. Through her efforts, and funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the collection of native artwork, that has been in storage under Big Bridges Auditorium, has finally been placed on display. Included in the 300 object collection are Southwest pottery from the Mogollon, Hohokam, and Anasazi

cultures, as well as modern ceramics from the Hopi, Zuni, and Acoma tribes. Variations in size, shape, color, design and use of pottery are emphasized. Basketry from Arizona and Southern California is also shown, along with examples of Great Lakes beadwork, Kiowa traditional dress, Sioux leather and beadwork.

In the coming week, Wilcomb Washburn, the director of the Office of American Studies, Smithsonian Institution, will be lecturing on "The Legal Status of the American Indian" on Wednesday, February 27, in Balch Auditorium, Scripps at 8 p.m.

Three years of planning and work by Kay Koeninger have gone into this project. It is aimed at making us all aware that the native American culture is an important field of interest, and that the arts and crafts are not just for utilitarian purposes, but are significant art forms in themselves.

## Cal Grants to Pitzer Jeopardized

## Prop. Nine Threatens Private Colleges

By PETER BLUMEN

Howard Jarvis, the co-author of Proposition 13, has collected enough signatures to place another tax reducing measure—Proposition 9—on the ballot for the June State Elections. Jarvis has charged up his electoral engines and is prepared to have Prop. 9 (also known as "Jarvis II") cut state income taxes in half. The main idea of this legislation is to decrease the state's surplus and to raise the administrations's cost-efficiency.

In November, Jarvis said that he expects a good fight "from those people on the public 'gravy train' who have marinated in the political grease too long." In fact many Pitzer students may be considered gravy train passengers. Presently, a great deal of Pitzer students are financially protected by the California State Financial Aid Program. Flowing directly out of the State Education Department, these scholarships are often referred to as 'Cal Grants.'

If Jarvis II is accepted by the California populace in the election booths a few months from now, the College stands to lose a great deal of State money in the form of tuition. In

fact, Abby Parsons, the Admissions Office and Financial Aid Director, estimated that Proposition 9 will eliminate roughly one quarter of Pitzer's Cal Grants. This means that about \$126,000 of this year's \$500,000 will not arrive next year from the state treasury.

One of the rudimentary reasons why the proposition will lower next year's Cal Grant allocations is that the State will not be willing to sacrifice their State Universities—U.C. Davis and U.C. Riverside, for instance—in order to protect the private colleges. If the

State decides to keep private institution tuition scholarships at the present rate, it would be at the expense of the State educational institutions. Why would the State allow the

closing of any of their campuses around California while they could just as easily lower the private colleges' slice of the money pie?

In the meantime, for economic and/or efficiency reasons, Pitzer's Financial Aid Office has merged with the Admissions Office. At both the student representative's meeting and the faculty meeting, the feasibility of this transformation was weighed. In

last week's student rep. meeting, many felt that it would present a conflict of interests for financial aid information to be accessible to the Admissions Officers. This is the situation that those entering the Pitzer Financial Aid Program from the Cal Grant Program will face.

Students receiving grants directly from Pitzer may also feel the pinch of Jarvis II. With the competition for scholarships becoming more rigorous, more students will be applying for tuition money from the College as well as from the State. Thus, the scope of the Pitzer Scholarship funds will be diluted by the overabundance of applicants to the Financial Aid Program.

Another threatening effect of the Jarvis proposition is that it may deter low-income students from applying for admission to this Southern California educational institution. For example, with less chance to receive a state scholarship, a student with no economic resources may be discouraged from applying to the Cal Grant program, and, as one Pitzer student phrased, "may be shut out of the liberal arts market." Along with cutting down the paper work in Sacramento, this course of action would stagnate and standardize the student bodies of private institutions

all over California, and hinder Pitzer in its own efforts to achieve a diverse and interesting student body.

On campus it seems that people are aware of the controversial legislation, but rarely is Prop. 9 discussed. "It's really strange to think that an 80-year-old man can decide if I can go to school or not," reflected one student who is almost totally on financial aid.

Presently many plans are being drawn up to oppose the Howard Jarvis' proposal. A 'No on Nine' campaign has been generated, but the prospects of killing the proposition seem dim. One worker for the campaign commented on the difficulty of defeating Jarvis II: "It's definitely an uphill battle and we'll need all the support we can get our hands on."

Claremont students, faculty, and staff can play a major role in the battle against the legislation. With the help of the college community, Proposition 9 may be defeated in Claremont and neighboring areas.

The campaign headquarters, located in Los Angeles, will soon be accepting volunteers to help oppose 'Jaws II.' Anybody interested in distributing literature or helping the cause in any way is welcome. Volunteers should mail their name and telephone number to: Box 71, Pitzer College.

## Brain Eaters on Campus

## Frisbee is Ultimate

By JEFF LANDESMAN

In 1968, Joel Silver and Buzzy Hellring of Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey started Ultimate Frisbee. The game is played with seven players on each side. The object is to gain points, accomplished by scoring goals. The frisbee is passed, and when a player successfully completes a pass to a teammate in the end zone, a goal is scored. If the frisbee

hits the ground, the defensive team takes possession of the disc. The game has a good deal of freedom and informality implicit in the rules. In the first match, November 6, 1972, Rutgers met Princeton and won 27-25.

The game was a nostalgic updating of the first football game played 103 years earlier to the day on the same field.

The original members of the Columbia High School team spread throughout the States developing an intercollegiate league. As of this year, the Ultimate Players Association has been formed; its purpose is to coordinate all Ultimate activity and to distribute information. The U.S. has been divided into 5 regions and each

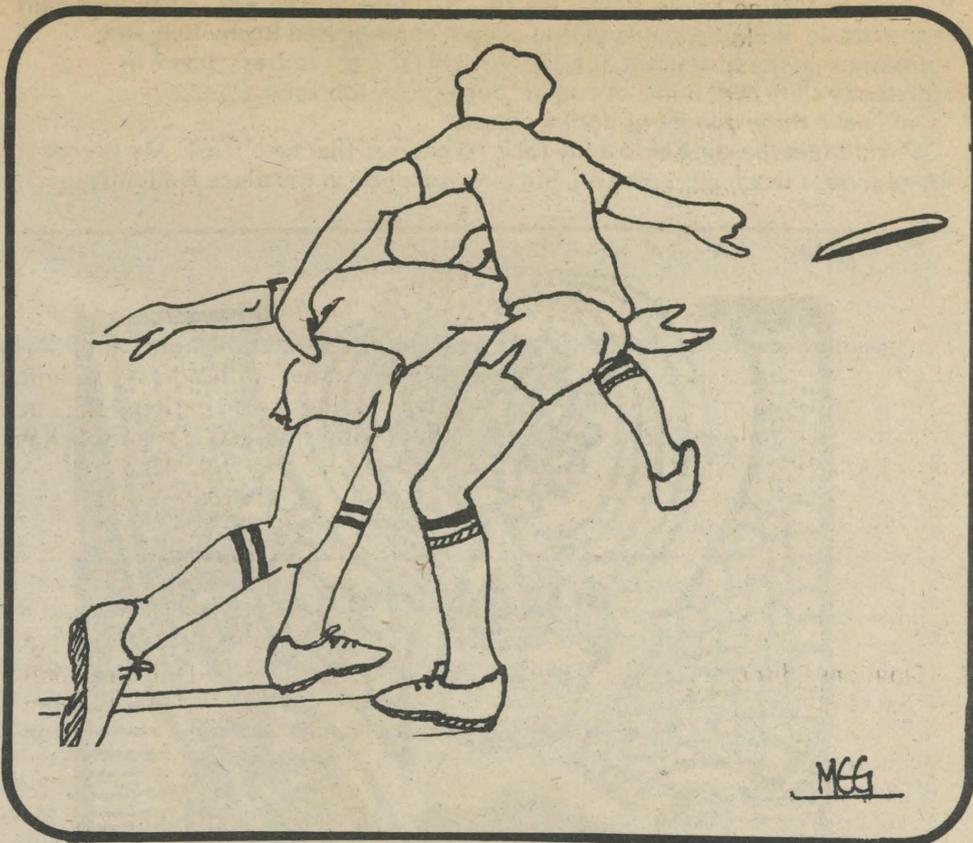
region into several sections. League play will start sometime between this Spring and next Fall, preceding regional tournaments. Eventually a National Championship will be held.

Pitzer's Ultimate Brain Eaters, Southern California section of the Western region, is registered with both the International Frisbee Association and the Ultimate Players Association.

Thus, the team is eligible for all tournaments. The rival teams in the Southern California section are extremely strong and experienced, while the Pitzer team is younger and less experienced. On the other hand, most clubs do not get the chance to play every day as do the Brain Eaters. This factor, when combined with our team being in better shape than our competitors, leads to equal competition.

The leader of the U.C. Irvine team, last year's top team in Southern California, said "Your team can easily beat any of the other teams in Southern California with your stamina."

Games are scheduled for every weekend and practice nearly every day. The team has come far since its formation in early November, but still has a way to go. Meanwhile, Ultimate



Frisbee has come far since that first game in 1972. As well as spreading throughout colleges and clubs in the United States, Ultimate Frisbee is now played in several foreign countries. There are clubs in Canada, England, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, and Japan. Obviously international play will make new demands on the game, but Ultimate is a new game and participants can make it what they want.

It is the responsibility of the players and emerging organizations to see that the sportsmanship and good, clean, fun remain the goals of the sport.

The Features Editors apologize for the lack of credit given to Lisa Urov as the writer of "Six College Parcourse Begins Construction" in the February 8 edition of *The Other Side*.

## Literature and Poetry

## The Truth About Hollywood

"Hey, wait! My cat is out there somewhere!" He's mean so this is writing between the lines because my sister left the who cares. I guess little Snowsniff can handle himself. The typewriter on double space and I didn't notice until too late other day he beat up eleven Samoan cats. It was actually a friendly sort of cat fight, they were all ripped on pulque and having a good time tearing up each other's fur. There's no stopping the claws from scratching.

"Poetry isn't manufactured," he said, "it's breathed from the soul and then it's sent to the shop to make sure it's in good working order."

"Yes, quite." I said, trying not to act frightened.

"Hey," he said, pulling out a switchblade. "Ya see this line in this poem? I don't like it so I'm going to cut it out. I cut out a lot of things I don't like."

"I'd do the same." I said.

"What!"

"Well, um, if it didn't suit it'd be a crime to leave it in."

"Crime? Hey, John, c'mere..."

Oh God, I thought, why did I ever walk down this alley. Everybody with a leather jacket and a knife thinks they're a poet these days.

"Hey, Haight, this guy thinks he knows something about poetry. Tell John here what you think about writing poetry."

he said suddenly directing his attention back to me.

Oh, I was in too deep now I thought. "Well," I began;

"Christ, it's the cops!" Haight said. And they ran off. I was so relieved.

"Those guys give you any trouble?" one policeman said.

"You're really lucky" the other cop said "they call one of those guys 'The Editor' and the other one was Haight. Haight's one of the toughest dudes around, we've been trying to pin something on him for years."

Back at the Hong Kong Wang the last customers were finishing up their dinners. I waited in the vestibule watching a watery oriental ceramic lady take sheer perfume delight in being inanimate among the plaster bamboo. "Hohkay, moob in stopf now." We moved in the stuff and went to dinner down the street.

It's 3:14 p.m. It's a winter day. She looks out the window. There is carpet. There are curtains. It's powder spilled on Washington's shoes; a state he never saw. She is Palmer. She has blond hair and she gazes on a land with a visceral pair of glasses that she alone has ever owned among all the residents of Puyallup. She will return later in this story.

We walked into 'T. Fine's Flapiacks and Sex' "Don't order the sex" I caution "it ruins everything." The waitress arrives. "Drated Hollywood." I say. Yup, here it goes again. We all get up and sing and do complicated Busby Berkeley formations in the restaurant. It is the 'Arrival Of The Waitress' scene in somebody's life. Not mine, of course, oops spoke too soon....

"I'll have three ounces of Vodka please."

SLAP! I feel the sting across my face "What was that for?" I ask. My friends are oblivious to what is going on, but everyone else in the place is silently

staring at me.

"Why must you be so impetuous." the waitress, (Joylyn, according to her name tag) says. -

I have forgotten what 'impetuous' means but decide to keep the scene going. It's hard to be a film director. Your friends know it and other film directors can tell right off but people, public people who just see your films, they just don't know much about it I guess. Subconsciously I must know what 'impetuous' means.

"Joylyn, we must stop meeting like this."

"I don't know why I ever answered your letter."

Of course, she never did answer my letter, but drama is drama. "Why, Joylyn, does this mean...??"

"No more sex. We have run out of sex tonight." she said.

"Well, in that case I'll have the Chicken Poulet." said Gary.

"I'll have the Beans'n Beans with a side of fish heads." said Bill.

"I'd just like a cup of hot water, a bag of hair, and a piece of Thai pie." said Tim.

"Would you like the Ma and Pa Kettle? It's bigger than the cup of hot water and it actually costs less." said Joylyn.

"Ok, I'll have that then." said Tim.

I got up to play the piano. They laughed when I said I could play the piano. Unfortunately I don't know how to play the piano and I found that I was not going to learn in the next five minutes. I go back to the table.

"I think you're all lesbians." said Joylyn returning with the food.

I knew that we weren't lesbians because we were male. But I've taken psychology courses in school and thought perhaps that Joylyn was trying to tell us something. Could it be true? Was it possible? Could she be saying in some subtle way that she didn't like ice cream at all (but just the licking)? I decided to act as if I understood.

"Does that mean we can't ever be friends? Does that mean it can't ever be?" I said.

"It's hard to say" she said. "This is just a movie. But it's based on your interpretation of life."

"Well," I said "I want us to be friends. I had thought for awhile that perhaps you were a lesbian but I also thought it would be worth risking to try and get to know you. I don't know you a bit. But I felt I wanted to. It's stupid....well I think it's a stupid part of our culture that feelings don't count for anything and that business, political, or seemingly plausible reasons are more important. Who can make friends but the clouds themselves, for they have everything in common and are blown together in the winds. You shouldn't have quit your job teaching at an expensive private college to work here."

"Well, I'm going to quit here and go back and teach."

"If you don't like letters or you don't think we can be friends then why don't we just send paintings and collages to each other. I think the creative part of a person's mind can carry on a conversation with the creative part of another person's mind as well as the part that was "meant" to talk."

"Ok." said Joylyn.

by Fenton Slippay



4 Feb. 80

Eddie Rock was just a rock. Philoughby Forkspoon owned a picnic table. One day Philoughby put a glass of water on his table. It was only half a glass of water and he only put it there to be annoying. Philoughby was annoying by nature.

A crow came along named Terry O'Waight. Terry was thirsty. He had been flying nine miles in the morning sun and was dying for a drink. Terry had read Aesop's Fables the night before and proceeded to put little rocks into the glass of water. And this is how Eddie Rock met Shirley Eng Zor.

Shirley Eng Zor was a glass. An intelligent glass. Anyway, Eddie and Shirley moved to New York and formed a new wave band called "Efram Zimbalist Buick." Thier big song, as you may remember, was "I'm Meltin' in Santa Fe Springs." Shirley, of course, had her name legally changed to Plastic Bag.

But then the problems began. Shirley, or Bag as her friends called her, began drinking a lot of vodka. And Eddie was becoming convinced that he was the reincarnation of Christ. "I haven't committed a sin yet." he used to say. One drunken eve Bag suffocated Eddie. Eddie's nude body was found in the bathroom the next day. Bag said she didn't do it but more precisely she couldn't remember. And the the cold February day. Bag fell off the ledge of a building. "It was an accident. She was up there to get high, not die." the coroner said.

By Tony Powell

# Poetry

## Creation

writing is like weaving  
a tapestry of words  
carefully made  
a work of art  
is slowly manifest  
in the clack-clack of the typewriter loom

Tillie Fong

## Net

as the planes quickly shuttle  
their way across the sky  
a net of pollution is woven

I look with horror those shuttles  
they draw threads of death after them

slowly, but surely  
the net will be completed  
and we shall flounder like fish  
gasping for air

## The Room

She took me to her room  
And it was the room  
In the fire just one twig burned  
"It will never be the same" she said  
I'd hoped she'd let my heart in on a lie  
But it was true  
The fire place would never burn burn  
Not after The Day.  
When she left for a moment  
I turned up the thermostat  
And waited in the room

Tony Powell

## (3 Nov. 78)

Late nights  
Working Working  
til 3.  
Learning confusing things. about  
My friends.  
Going to the 24hr. Market  
To feed myself.  
No sleep.  
Nasty things in my life  
Trying to find the answer  
In songs on the radio.

## Los Angeles

Images and Death  
look way too fine  
From the hell  
of cement that binds.

Look through our  
technicolor smoke-screened dream,  
And can't you  
see the sun scream...  
It is our knowledge that is our fate!

By Chuck Oken, Jr.

Waking early, within his embrace  
you lift the bedclothes that held you in place  
and dress in silence, and kiss his head,  
you leave the room quickly, and the bed  
and walk the still dark corridors  
alone and unseen, you write upon my door:

"Lover—  
I've had a dream"

## FLASH...Writing On The Wall

Due to the structure of this newspaper, i.e., the powers that be, it has recently been asked of us, "Why do you print the material that you do?" Well, it is currently 1:30 and this article, rather this explanation is due at 2:00 and so we will spare you from all of the allusive alliteration and literary verbosity of which we have been so accused. Are you ready? Good—since none of us really know our "selves," our real self lies in the grey area of what we want to be and what we think we are, all of our actions, including this one, can be taken for nothing but fantasy on the great stage of life in the theatre of the world where the actors and the audience are one and the same. Part of our acting is to print the stuff that we do and there are four reasons for this: 1) it is the only stuff we receive, 2) it will make you laugh, chuckle, cry, or urinate and that will generally entertain you, 3) it will provoke some thought, memory, or form of mental masturbation, and 4) it will at least get some reaction out of you. Let me clarify this last point (don't worry it is 1:50, time is running out)—in the great theatre of life there is nothing worse than a dull actor—could you imagine a lisping Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz?!! But, in order to improve the quality of literature appearing in this paper, we searched this week's Time and found you all a little fable written by one of the biggest and greatest acting companies in the world—Mobil Oil:

Once upon a time in a far-off jungle, a variety of animals lived in perfect

## From Your Literature Editors

harmony. During the day they all worked at their respective jungle chores. But in the evening, they would gather at the community watering hole, for this was the source of their energy. The elephant's job was to explore strange jungles, move huge boulders and lift great trees in a constant search for new watering holes. But even so, the other animals were resentful because...it looked like he consumed too much. It didn't occur to them that his job required someone his size...and that his size required comparable nourishment. The elephant tried to reason with them. 'Though it may seem to you that I consume a great deal,' he said, 'it's not more than my share. Because I'm large, not fat, it just takes more to keep me going. After all, I can't live on peanuts.' But the animals shouted 'Nuts to you!' And they kicked him out of the community. Time went on and the animals forgot the elephant. That is, until the day they noticed the water level was not as high as it used to be...Before long the water was almost gone.

Luckily, the elephant heard their cries and came to the rescue. 'I've found a new watering hole,' he called. The animals were grateful enough for his new discovery. And that was sufficient for the elephant...The moral of this tale shouldn't surprise you. Meeting America's energy needs is a big job too. And like the elephant, if our energy producers don't earn a profit proportionate to their size, they won't be able to find and produce more energy. And that's no fable!

An Other Side Editorial**Grading System Corrupt**

One of the most popular arguments suggesting that the traditional four point grading system benefits students is that it gets us used to the competitive spirit by forcing us to develop the ability to perform well under pressure. It is commonly held that this socialization process is necessary for one to make it in the world.

However, among college students everywhere, bitter feelings are inevitably stirred up whenever the issue of grades is brought into focus. Students complain that grades do not reflect learning, and are, in fact, counterproductive to the learning process. Suspicion arises as to the validity of grades as a measurement of learning when one student gets an "A" in a course without showing any interest whatsoever, but did well on the final exam and term paper, while another, who involved him or herself intimately with the course material, gets a "C" because he or she turned the paper in late and had a bad case of diarrhea on the day of the final. Realistic students, being aware that these injustices occur, see grade-getting as a pseudoacademic game which is external to the learning experience.

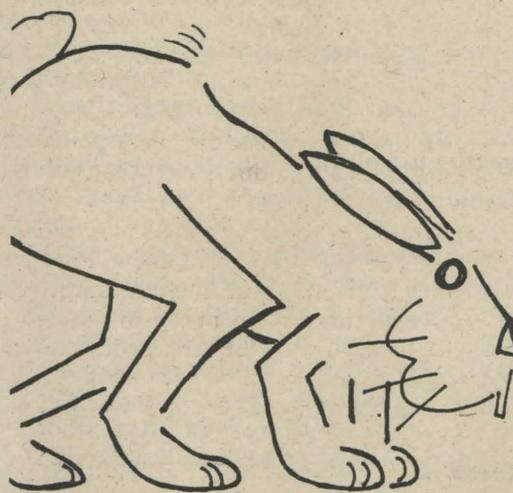
It seems that academic evaluations are constructive only when they communicate valid and believable information concerning the student's intellectual achievement relevant to a particular course.

Needed at the end of each semester are detailed and personalized reports of each student's academic performance. To improve upon the present grading system these reports should require professors to make evaluations from the perspective of being intimately involved with each student's learning experience. For the sake of graduate school admissions, these reports should be standardized as much as possible.

This new system could avoid the use of testing, a second hand appraisal of learning, as the most important criteria for evaluation. Instead, professors could employ more humane methods such as regularly scheduled meetings (with each student) to discuss and evaluate each student's work. In light of the generous amount of student contact afforded by Pitzer professors, who sacrifice much of their time for office hours, this alternative seems perfectly feasible for this college.

Although the limitations of the traditional four point grading system appear obvious, the argument is often advanced that it is indispensable because it accustoms students to the live-and-let-die reality of the outside world.

The absurdity of this argument lies in its needless over-emphasis on the negative aspects of life. Does it make sense to make life miserable for four years



4.0

Going For the Big "A"

in hope that we may become more inclined to emphasize the same values for the rest of our lives?

While in school, people should explore new ways of finding meaning in life. An evaluation system which emphasizes the learning experience in itself can help students to develop the ability to enjoy and value other experiences in themselves (such as life in general).

The present system works fine for those students who are able to distinguish between a good grade and a fulfilling learning experience. Unfortunately, many others are corrupted with the notion that outdoing the competition is the most important end in life. The over-emphasis of competition at the college level socializes people into accepting a stressful, over-competitive, and dehumanizing lifestyle as a permanent reality, outside of which true happiness cannot be found. In light of the alternatives available, it is absolutely despicable that our present academic evaluation system effects the lives of so many students, and society itself, in such a negative way.

**Inge Bell Responds to Open Letter**

Don, I read your letter to Ambassador Dobrynin with considerable sympathy, for both your utopian hopes, and your grief at their betrayal are very familiar emotions to me. I have the unfair advantage of age. I realized 35 years ago that the USSR was a dictatorship with imperialistic designs on its immediate neighbors. The purge trials of the 30's and the postwar takeover of Eastern Europe bore clear witness to that.

It sounds to me that, during the 60's, your moral outrage at racism and the Vietnam war led you to believe that, because our own side was so wrong, the "other" side must be the good guys. Now you have discovered that they aren't and your letter sounds a bit as if you might now be on the way to reversing your position and concluding that maybe the Americans are the good guys after all.

The confusion arises because our culture teaches us to evaluate every conflict as a struggle between "good guys" and "bad guys." This probably stems from the Judeo-Christian belief in a cosmic battle between God and the devil. Eastern philosophy has long seen that what we call "good" and "evil" are inextricably intertwined.

Let us look for a moment at the question you raise: is the Marxist utopia bound to end in disaster? On

this score you are really stacking the cards when you assume that Russia is the Marxist experiment. Cuba, China and Yugoslavia have all developed workable socialist societies which, while certainly not utopias, have many positive accomplishments to their credit. The "communist world" is no more a collection of incompetent tyrannies than the "free world" is a collection of democracies.

I am struck, for example, that your accusation that the Soviet leadership has indulged on "continual increases in military spending while your country has been involved, ostensibly, in negotiations to decrease arms...and that this continually increasing military spending has gone on while your own citizen's standard of living decreased..." applies equally well to the United States. The fact is that the militaristic leaders of the U.S. and Russia have, for the last thirty-five years justified a truly insane, but highly profitable arms race on both sides by convincing their respective citizenries that the "other side" is the incarnation of evil. The leaders of both sides have used the "threat" to justify oppressive regimes, secret police operations against their own citizens and military attacks on smaller countries.

A second confusion which arises from basic conceptualizations of our culture is the idea that, in a conflict, somebody "wins" and somebody "loses". If you work with this concept in your personal relationships, you will inevitably encounter shipwreck. In a quarrel between two lovers or friends, there must be a process by which both parties use the quarrel to work through to a higher level of understanding of each other's feelings and needs. This doesn't mean that there won't be some screaming and cursing. But that is only one stage in the conflict. Subsequent stages must create a new and higher equilibrium. If this does not happen, both parties have "lost", because the relationship has been damaged. If it works, both parties have "won".

In America, we even make an adversary relationship between parents and their offspring, the parent believing that he must "tame" the child and the child fighting back furiously against the humiliation implied in the parent's behavior. One only needs to observe parent-child interactions in public places to see the constant misery this pattern produces.

The same principle applies to conflicts between nations. When two countries are able to handle their differences short of war, both sides "win". Even though one country may

come out a little worse than the other, the price is inevitably tiny compared to the price of a war. When two countries go to war, they both "lose". Again, the one we call the victor may lose a little less, but that is slim comfort to the victorious cripples and widows and orphans.

In his nonviolent action campaigns in India, Gandhi taught his followers never to try to "win". He merely attempted to apply enough pressure to bring his adversary to the negotiating table, where he always tried for an accommodation which would save the feelings of both sides.

Consider for a moment: would a war against Russia help the situation of the dissident intellectuals in Russia? Or would it really profit Afghanistan to be turned into a battlefield on which tactical nuclear weapons might be used?

It is in the nature of human beings to become confused by the categories they project out into the world. Russian and American leaders are so confused that they speak of "winning" a nuclear war. And if you really want to fathom the depths of this confusion, consider that the Pentagon has, among its contingency plans, a scenario for how a war with Russia could be continued to "victory" after an initial exchange of nuclear bombardment.

The very process of war  
(continued on page 7)

Draft needed now

Anti-Draft View

## We Must Face Soviets

By Don Ceglar

Ever since the President's announcement of the re-instatement of registration once again raised the possibility of a draft to a realistic level, there has been much discussion regarding conscription. The vast majority of opinions I have heard or seen in print have been in opposition to the draft. As I believe much of this opposition is due to misinformation or naivete, I will offer a few reasons as to why I believe the draft (not just registration) is necessary.

Since its very beginnings, communism in general and the Soviet Union in particular has driven, by whatever means necessary, toward its ultimate goal of world domination. Throughout the years the Soviet accomplishments toward this goal have been more than a little impressive. In the 40's, the Soviet Union successfully brought under its direct influence virtually all of eastern Europe. In the late 40's and 50's, China and several other Asian countries; in the late 50's-early 60's Cuba; in the 70's parts of Africa; and in the 80's, it appears, their goal is the Mideast (and these are but a few examples which readily come to mine). The point to be made here is that communism has continuously sought to bring under its influence a greater share of the world's population. But then what's so bad about that?

people who have been killed, imprisoned, or otherwise oppressed in the U.S.S.R., China, and other communist countries (most notably by Josef Stalin and Mao-tse Tung), the crimes of Adolf Hitler and the alleged crimes of the deposed Shah of Iran seem meaningless by comparison. Many liberals I talk to seem to feel that life under a communist government would not be all that bad; changing the old adage "Better Dead than Red" to "Better Red than Dead." If the examples set by our good friends in Moscow and Peking are any indication, it seems inevitable that under "red" a good many of us would be dead.

Another very important factor in this overall issue concerns the tremendous increase in Soviet military capability which has occurred during the "Detente" years. They went from a position of having only half of our

nuclear capability to a position of having over three times our capability (in terms of nuclear throw-weight). The American Heritage Dictionary defines detente as "a relaxing of tensions, as between nations". How such a needless increase in capabilities corresponds to a decrease in tension is beyond me.

While the Soviet increase in nuclear capability is almost unbelievable, it does not even match the comparative increases they have made in conventional forces. (Soviet tank production, for example, outstrips that of the U.S. by a factor of seven to one, while tactical aircraft production is three times as great). Given the resources devoted to the conventional forces, it seems clear that the Soviets are not of the mentality that many Americans are—namely that they don't necessarily believe that a U.S.-Soviet war would end up in a nuclear war. They are probably right. Even if they continue their aggressiveness, it seems very unlikely that the President (current or future) would be willing to take the responsibilities and face the consequences of a U.S. first-strike. As we cannot, by conventional means, come anywhere close to matching them, it seems most likely that Soviet aggression will basically go unchecked—that is, unless we take action to increase our capabilities (which includes, among other things, a reinstatement of the draft).

What, then, are the consequences of allowing a malevolent power such as the USSR to become the dominant international force in the world (which they will be if current trends continue)? It is hard to detail specific consequences. Nevertheless, given the USSR's past and current constrictions on those under its influence, it is clear that we as well as other currently free people, will be constrained. Since Webster's defines freedom as "a being able to choose or determine action freely", we will clearly be losing some of the freedom that 200 years of struggle has given us—to quote Alexander Hamilton, "Vigilance is the price of freedom." Also given the ever-growing influence of oppressive governments (such as the USSR), a few years service to one's country seems indeed a bargain.

## Inge Bell Letter (cont.)

(from page 6)

automatically negates any humanitarian purposes the war ostensibly has. World War II was billed as "the war to make the world safe for democracy."

Perhaps the currently discussed struggle in the Middle East could be billed as "the war to avoid gas rationing." I doubt it though, people are not very prone to give their lives for the real reasons behind wars, and it might even occur to a few improperly socialized people that the war was wasting more gasoline than either side stood to win.

The Vietnam war didn't have a slogan, which is perhaps why it failed to catch on. It was rumored that the military's private slogan was "sure it's a rotten, lousy war, but it's the only one we've got."

But of all the war slogans we have had, I particularly like the one which was invented for the First World War, because it is such a fine example of early Newspeak. That one was billed as "the war to end all wars."

I think that it would help us to become more realistic if we ponder the words of A.J. Muste: "There is no way to peace. Peace is the way."

## War and Predestination

By TONY POWELL

So I dislike war a whole lot. It seems to me that if I feel so strongly about it I must have some valid reasons for doing so. Let me try to explain how I feel.

I don't want to go to war, and I don't think others ought to go. First of all, I value human life—all life, in fact. Perhaps my weakest argument for preserving human life is the fact that I have experienced great pleasure in living, at times. There are many people, of course, who could simply retort, "Well, I've had a terrible life, and I don't think human existence is necessarily worth preserving." And, no doubt, that's a legitimate point of view, for them. I don't agree, however.

Others insist that it is dishonorable to suggest that one need not defend one's country. And, while I feel I live in a very fine country, it seems to me that if I must fight, and possibly die, to preserve it, then, perhaps, it's not so fine a country, after all. "Fighting for your country" is not a valid criterion for determining either my worth, or the worth of my country, in my opinion.

I could possibly fight for another person—someone whose existence was important to me. Bridget or Lisa, for example. They are beautiful girls, and I hope they survive. And, I must admit, I'd like to survive, too. Bridget and Lisa are real. I'm real. And it's real people who die in wars, not countries.

It seems to me history has been predetermined. I'm not speaking of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, but rather of the following way of looking at events: Past events are permanently fixed. Future events become permanently fixed when they pass through the present into the past. If past events are fixed and future events are always a result of past (or previous) events, then future events have been predetermined. It's not just that past events can't be changed. Nor is it just that one can decide, freely, to put one's arm on the back of a couch. The fact is that the future can't be changed if it can slip permanently into the past.

Why, you ask, do I bring up predestination? Because it is relevant to making a decision about how one stands on taking part in a war. We can consider this from both the standpoint of the individual, and from the stand-

point of humanity as a whole.

It seems inevitable to me that humankind will eventually annihilate itself. If the preservation of human life were the primary concern of humanity, it would be very simple to accomplish. We could give all our weapons to the Soviet Union or simply destroy them. Or the Soviets could give all their weapons to us. Then neither side would have a reason for starting a nuclear war. It seems more likely, however, that the reasons that all the weapons were created to begin with will ultimately win out over the cause of preserving human life.

If this is so, then it doesn't matter what we—you, or I, or anybody else—does. We might as well continue doing what each of us pleases and avoid being drafted, avoid killing, and avoid being killed for as long as possible. Once we die, we no longer have a country.

I said earlier that I value life. I do. And it seems a sin to have to argue in defense of preserving it. To me, life is its own justification for continued existence. It doesn't need appeals to Christian values, or any other religious grounds, to defend it. And when it is destroyed, I cannot believe religious beliefs can either explain or defend its destruction, nor any individual's contribution to that destruction.

Nor do I feel that the prospect of conquest by another nation is sufficient justification for war. It seems to me that, under those circumstances, if one is really concerned about the continued existence of human life and civilization, then one would realize that the best course would be to allow the conquest, and then deal with it afterwards. It hardly seems worthwhile to invite total destruction in order to make a point.

In the end, I feel the most legitimate and incontrovertible argument against fighting and dying in a war is that emotion, itself, which compels one to refuse—the horror and repugnance that comes when one thinks of the consequences. Feelings are, by their very nature, irrefutable. One can't bring about a change of heart by arguing. And so I believe it should be sufficient for someone to express these feelings in order to be exempted from military service.

### Don Campbell replies:

*Dr. Bell: Thank you for your response. I found it very sensitive and thought-provoking. I fear that my choice of a somewhat polemical style for my letter inadvertently led to its presenting a misleading impression of my position regarding a possible military response to the Soviet Union's actions in Afghanistan. While I confess that the U.S. has looked a tad more attractive, by comparison, since the Afghan invasion, I have no illusions about the nobility or virtuousness of the American government or the military-industrial complex. I don't*

*see the situation in terms of this-or-that "Good-guys-or-bad-guys" sort of choice. I see it in terms of degrees of freedom. What I was criticizing the Russians for was their share of the responsibility for creating an atmosphere of militarism and oppression in which truly revolutionary life-options are unavailable to people. That is not to say the U.S. is not partly responsible, too. As far as war is concerned, I agree completely with your sentiments. It is unthinkable, and I encourage everyone to refuse to participate in it in any way.*

## Features

## Dungeons and Dragons at War

By MIKE SELLERS

Dungeons and Dragons, called D&D by those familiar with it, is a game of unrivaled proportions that has swept across North America, Europe, and parts of Asia in the past few years. Gathering people into what sometimes seems to be a cult following, the number of players grows daily, as do the rumors surrounding the bizarre game.

Invented in 1973 by Gary Gygax, D&D was meant to fill a void in the world of wargaming. Games have been created to simulate possible battles and re-fight others; nevertheless, there had been little done on the fantasy-wargaming side of things. With

the growing popularity of fantasy/science fiction novels and short stories, a game designed to simulate these aspects was somewhat of a logical step. The game utilizes many types of fantastic settings, involving sword play and magic, set in a quasi-medieval time frame where knights,

" D & D is an effort to tabulate and calculate probabilities in life. "

hobbits, elves, demons, dragons, and much more, abound. Thus, D&D was born, although it has undergone countless changes since then.

Many of the changes in the game have occurred on the player level; therefore, enabling today's D&D to be more individualized and streamlined.

It is still extremely complicated, in some ways more so than when it was first created. This is necessary in order that the kinds of swords and sorcery involved in the game can be dealt with. D&D is an effort to tabulate and calculate probabilities of many different occurrences in life, thus making the game as "real" as possible. The realism reaches into every phase of the game, wherein lies both its charm and danger.

Wargames are designed to present impossible or unfeasible situations in a limited amount of space and time, making use of many devices to do so without the game becoming totally ludicrous. In D&D, for example, tables and dice are used to determine such things as the chance of a sword thrust being able to pierce someone's armor.

If the attacker is using a broadsword and the defender is wearing chain mail, you would look on the fighting tables for the row entitled "BROADSWORD" searching across until you find the column for armor class 5, being that which chain mail is designated. The number found at the intersection equates the chance out of 20 that the thrust would be successful.

In this case, it is a 10, meaning that when rolled on a twenty-sided die, there is slightly more than a 50% chance that the mail would be pierced. If the weapon was a dagger, the chance would be much lower—about 10%. Fighting tables are not common to all D&D systems, although probability devices are one of the main components of the game.

Another unique point about D&D is that players do not command an army to take over a country or province, but instead a single defined character with his or her own strong and weak points, personality flaws and idiosyncrasies.

The character is essentially made up. Each character has six basic traits, the numbers rolled on dice represent a value on a continuum for each trait. The traits are strength, intelligence, wisdom, constitution (health), dexterity and charisma. After getting the six values, the player decides whether the character will be male or female, good or evil, and possibly elf, hobbit, or dwarf. Once these characteristics are decided upon, they are permanent.

After the character's personality has been drawn, possessions are bought: these cover the range from sword, shield, and armor, to wineskins, extra bowstrings, a cloak, and rope. Nothing can be forgotten or assumed in the game; and virtually all aspects of life can come into play. Once the character, now complete with name, is outfitted, he or she gets together (via the players) with several others. Together they go out adventuring for fame and fortune. There are usually six or eight characters in a party, which corresponds roughly to the number of

people playing the game. There are a few fighters, some wizards, and one or two clerics (priests). They all work to the good of the party by fighting monsters and dealing with anything else they might encounter. At times a character gets mad at another, stabs him in the back and claims his treasure. The purpose of adventuring is to gain wealth and power, both of which are almost always found in abundance for those characters who survive.

The way in which the characters are run and their personalities shaped as they gain experience and power, is determined by extensive role playing by the player. Since the game is played sitting down around a table, all of the adventures and battles take place solely in the minds of the players. They are responsible for making the game more than mere random rolls of the dice; thereby creating a high spirited game.

" D & D can be a time-consuming escape to another world. "

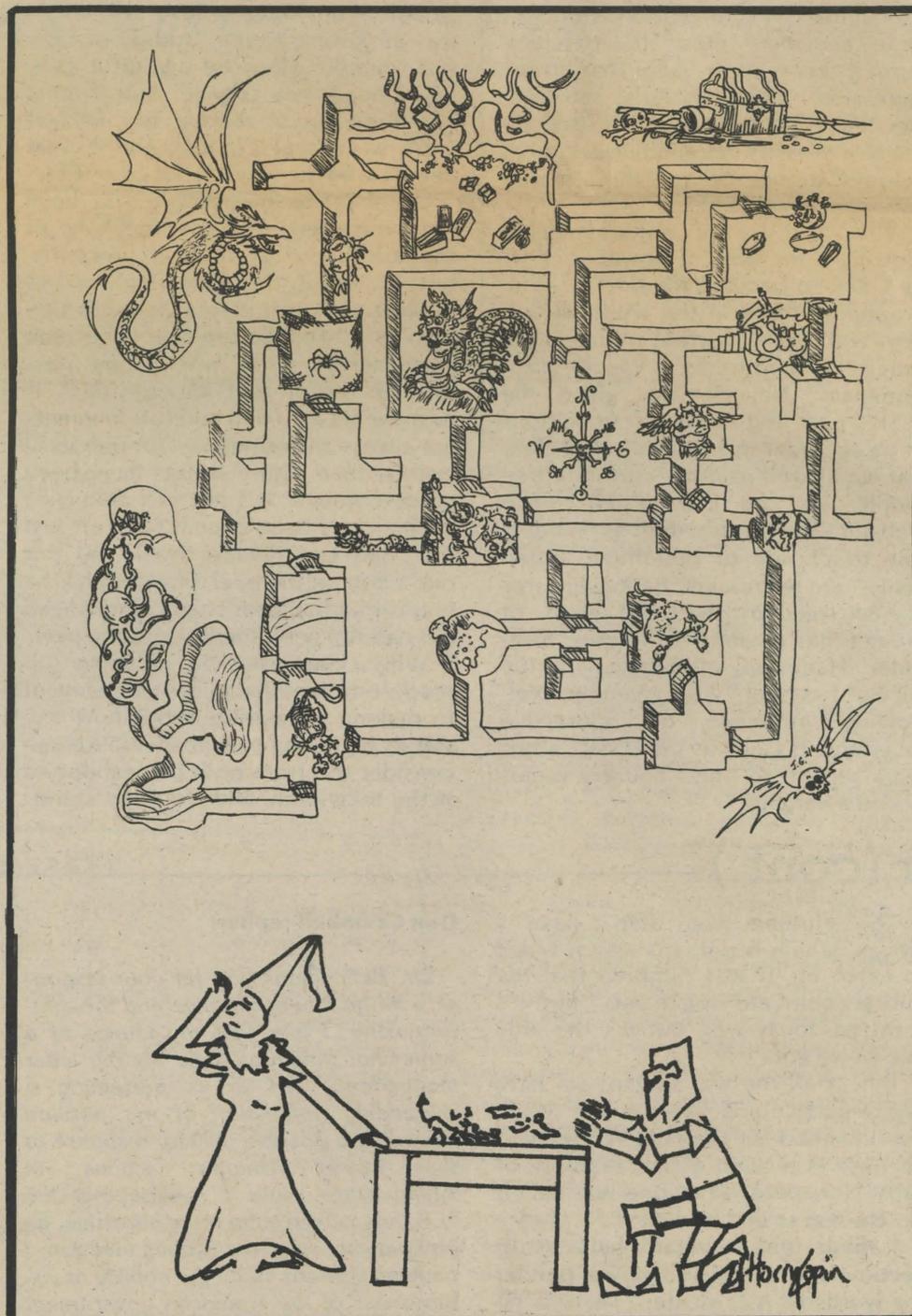
Because of the role playing and the fact that the game does not end when a session breaks up (characters live and gain power until killed—and they do tend to die a great deal), D&D can become a time-consuming escape to another world. There are people that

play for as many as 50 hours per week, and almost everyone that plays becomes addicted to one degree or another. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but it can detract from one's studying and social life.

All of the adventuring, battles and encounters that the characters undergo are laid out and described by someone called the Dungeon Master, who plays as a referee/God. He or she is the final arbitrator and the most vital link in the game, for it is from the DM's mind and imagination that all the adventures come. Any number of characters may partake in a session of the game, but a single DM is needed.

The Dungeon Master does not run a single character as the other players do, but instead plays all of the people and monsters the party runs into, taking on their parts in the drama of the game.

The best way to learn about Dungeons and Dragons is to watch it being played, if not trying the game yourself. If you are a person with imagination, spirit of adventure, and a streak of insanity, D&D is probably the game for you.



The top picture illustrates one of the infinite dungeon designs, and below are two D & D players matching wits against each other.