

The

APRIL
1981

Alchemist

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CANISIUS COLLEGE CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR LINKED TO
ILLEGAL DUMPING OPERATIONS ON THE NIAGARA
FRONTIER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of uncovering a multi-million dollar clandestine dumping operation in the Buffalo area, whereby toxic wastes are being dumped in nearby residential sections and private landfills. The operation, which has become profitable for organized crime throughout the U.S. is believed to be headed by a member of the Chemistry faculty at Canisius College. Disclosure of the identity of the suspected individual is pending further investigation.

However Joseph Tellurium, head of the EPA, did not refuse comment. He said that the professor in question not only acts as a consultant to these local crime bosses, but actually transports cannisters in his little foreign junk car. That penny-pinching scoundrel never misses an opportunity to make a few extra bucks. Unfortunately, he continued, these cannisters that he transports are quite toxic, and continued exposure to them causes excessive hair loss. Immediately Professor Frank Dinan questioned the EPA official. Tellurium replied: "Don't worry Frank, you're unquestionably above reproach. It is quite obvious that you are in no way implicated in this affair. The operation is much too sophisticated for any Organic Chemist."

Professor Joseph Bieron, upon hearing of the scandal, called a departmental meeting. At the meeting Dr. Bieron emphasized the need to find the source immediately and "dispose of it". He stated, "With this kind of scandal on our hands, I won't be able to recruit any Chemistry Majors within a 500 mi. radius of Buffalo." Dr. Richard Stanton agreed: "Already the average in my P-Chem class has reached an absolute minima of 35%; if we can't recruit any decent majors (due to this scandal) I'll have to order Levine's alternate text; "Physical Chemistry for Basket Cases"."

Although the majority of the department has been cleared (Bieron, Van Verth, and Dinan-organic chemists of limited knowledge of any sort), the villain still remains undetected and at large. However, in his final statement, Tellurium left the department with these words: "Gentlemen, I can't emphasize enough the need to find conclusive evidence to convict this criminal. Just the other day he said to one of his partners in crime: 'I don't give a damn where they dump the stuff as long as they keep it off the ski slopes' ". "

Joanne Huber

A.C.S. STUDENT OFFICERS GO TO JAIL, TEACHER ESCAPES

In a surprise raid of the science building by officers from the Department of Public Safety, a glass pint bottle and a plastic squeeze bottle containing alcohol were identified and seized. Three students and a chemistry professor, who were present at the time of the raid, were taken into custody. They ~~were~~ were later identified as Brian Eckenrode, Bob Kean, Mike Zwick, and Dr. Frank Dinan. When asked about the incident, a spokesman for the Security Office had this to say: "This is the most blatant and outrageous violation of the School Alcohol Policy that we have ever seen. That stuff was 95% strong. To make things even worse, they kept telling us that they only used it as a solvent. I wasn't born yesterday. We're going to throw the book at them. It will demonstrate to the rest of the school that we are serious about this policy. It's just a good thing for them that this state no longer allows Capital punishment."

Mr. Lee Fassl, Director of Student Activities, quickly learned of the incident but could not secure the release of the group. "They're basically good boys", said Fassl, "and I don't mind going out on a limb for them, but this time they've gone too far and there is nothing I can do for them. You know students; you can warn them till you're blue in the face but they never listen till it's too late. Only the good Lord and the Governor can help them now!" The three students are currently in custody at the Erie County Holding center pending transfer to a state penitentiary. Dr. Dinan was released on \$25,000 bail.

Dr. Dinan disappeared shortly thereafter and it seems that he is now living and working in Argentina. In a recent letter, he had this to say: "The weather here is beautiful and so are the women. However there is no one here who can run a stock-room like Tom Stabler. I still swear that I am innocent, but with my reputation I don't stand a chance in the courts. Some good may yet come from this incident. I have given up drinking completely. Instead I use the other mind altering drugs that are so common here. I hope that Brian, Bob, and Mike get time off for good behavior; but then again I doubt it. See you all in about 5 years (the statute of limitations for Alcohol Policy violations). Good luck all." He also sent pictures of his new lab and promised to write again soon.

At present the situation remains:

Three students awaiting trial
(facing 10 to 20)

One cowardly professor hideing out
in South America

A.C.S. MOVIE REVIEW

Albert Einstein meets Godzilla Tagamushi Films 1 hr. 50 min.

You may have noticed that most Godzilla films have the same pattern of events. First; some unusual object shows up either on the beach or in some digging operation. Second; the area is cordoned off and scientists from all over the world are brought in to examine it. Third; the object hatches into a monster prompting everyone to run away screaming EEEEE! . Fourth; Godzilla shows up to fight the monster and kick the crap out of a cardboard model of Tokyo. Well this film is no different except that the action takes place in Hiroshima and thanks to Al and his colleagues, the place is annihilated before Godzilla even shows up.

The part of Albert Einstein is played very convincingly by Leroy Mitsakawa

Rating: U U U

Sadi Carnot Rides the West Orion Release 2 hr. 10 min.

As the film begins, Sadi (of Carnot cycle fame) has become the laughing stock of Europe because of his ridiculous chemical theories. In a burst of humanitarianism, he decides to travel to the American west in an effort to stamp out P-Chem ignorance among the savages. He settles in with an indian tribe and begins to make tremendous progress. His downfall comes when he is caught demonstrating an adiabatic expansion to the chief's daughter and as a result; has a number of irreversible processes performed on his heat engine. He returns to Europe a broken man to find, to his surprise, that his theories had been vindicated and he was a hero. He went on to become very famous; both for his accomplishments in chemistry and for his now beautiful Tenor voice.

This film is well done; being both educational and entertaining. It is recommended for the whole family

Rating: U U U U

J. WILLARD GIBBS: Man of Entropy Warner Bros. 1 hr. 80 min.

The purpose of this movie was to explore the personal, private life of this genius of " Gibbs Free Energy " fame. However, research showed that his private life was boring beyond belief. The film producers therefore simply "made up" a story. After all, history is one thing but money is another.

The entire film takes place in Willard's home; a

small, partially heated, one room upstairs flat. Willard found that a simple lifestyle was best suited to his work. This room was barren except for a small wooden bed and a work desk; above which hung a portrait of Jethro Stanton (no relation), famous medieval P-Alchemist. The only other feature in the room was the PlayBoy Calendar that hung on the north wall (he was ahead of his time in many ways). Willard did have one eccentricity; cats. He kept nearly twenty of them in his house.

As the action begins, Willard is seated at his desk puzzling over a particularly difficult theoretical concept. He puzzles some more and then puzzles again. This goes on for the better part of an hour. At last we see the gleam of success in his eyes. He grabs a pen and begins to write furiously. Unfortunately, Willard has forgotten to eat for the past two weeks and collapses from malnutrition before he is able to finish this work. The cats, which have also not been fed in two weeks, take evil advantage of this situation and devour him. With this the movie ends.

This one looks to me like a real tax-writeoff but it does have some value if looked at as an art film.

Rating: U U

RATING SYSTEM

- U - Smells worse than mercaptoethanol
- UU - pitiful, but possibly of interest to Liberal Arts majors
- UUU - no reaction (either good or bad)
- UUUU - positive reaction (worth seeing)

POETRY CORNER

The Moo Cows Lament

Oh what an awful feeling,
the memory still lingers;
of a cold Winter morning,
and a farmers chilly fingers.

Dora in her dolly's house,
found a cuddly little mouse;
she fondled it and carried on,
and then she flushed it down
the John.

BOB KEAN'S

HELPFUL HINTS FOR DOING YOUR SEMINAR

Being a senior, in the chemistry department, gives a person certain priviledges but also includes certain responsibilities. Foremost among these responsibilities is the guidance of underclassmen, in the hope that they will not screw up in the same ways that you did. In the advancement of this cause, I have prepared a list of hints (arived at through trial and error) which will help even the most ignorant novice survive seminar.

- 1) Man's best friend is not the dog, it is the overhead projector. As long as you have an impressive set of transparencies, it is not necessary to talk much or even understand the material. It is also important to fill up the blackboard before you start. By directing ~~them~~ their attention back and forth between the blackboard and overhead, you can effectively avoid answering any question that may arise out in the peanut gallery.
- 2) Use the ~~pin~~ pointer effectively. Besides its normal job of "pointing", the pointer can ~~be~~ be used in a number of very different ways during seminar. If a Prof asks you a difficult question, simply extend the pointer so as to spill his coffee in his lap. If he is not drinking anything, a smack in the groin or a poke in the face will usually discourage further inquiry. For dramatic effect, the pointer can either be twirled like a baton or swallowed like a sword. If worse comes to worse, you can impale yourself on it and pray for a quick death.
- 3) Refreshments are the most important part of any seminar and your grade is directly influenced by the quality of your fefreshments. In fact the phrase "no eating, no meeting", is one of the most widely accepted postulates of chemistry today. My advice to you is to have your seminar catered by the Park lane or else fill the hot water pot with vodka and replace the cookies with "hash-brownies". In either case, your seminar will be proclaimed the best in years.
- 4) Watch out for power cords. Tripping over them breaks your concentration and makes you look really stupid. Believe me, I know

MASS SPEC SACRIFICED FOR AUTOMATED STAPLING DEVICES

As of January 1st, the Canisius College Chemistry Department has been receiving money under the SDIP grant, a federally subsidized program which serves to fund the College's Chemistry and Industry project. Under the grant, the department is allowed to purchase "necessary" equipment for research and development. In a recent decision, Dr. Joseph Bieron, Chief Organishist and Director of the Program, recommended the purchase of five "automated stapling devices" to be placed in Chemistry departmental offices in the Horan-O'Donnell Science Building. According to Dr. Bieron, not only do the machines cut down on administrative red tape, but they also serve to bring the department "technologically up-to-date".

According to reliable sources, a majority of students believe that the money could have been put toward a much needed and highly desirable analytical tool - the mass spectrophotometer. One student went so far as to remark: "I've been waiting four years for a mass spec and all I get is a stapler that won't do a damn thing for me except maybe save my hand from a few calluses."

In response to these student complaints, Dr. Bieron had the following statement:

"I honestly can't see what the students are complaining about. If they get to my 334 course and can't determine their unknown from a few solubility and other related tests, they might as well not be Chem majors. If they get desperate, they can run an IR or NMR, or even both. In extreme cases, I might even allow a standard molecular weight determination.

Certainly the students don't need a sophisticated instrument like the mass spec. The only thing it does for the student is determine the molecular weight of a compound. The value of the ion peaks, in my opinion, are of little or no value. I've got a PhD in this area and I still can't figure out those damn fragment peaks.

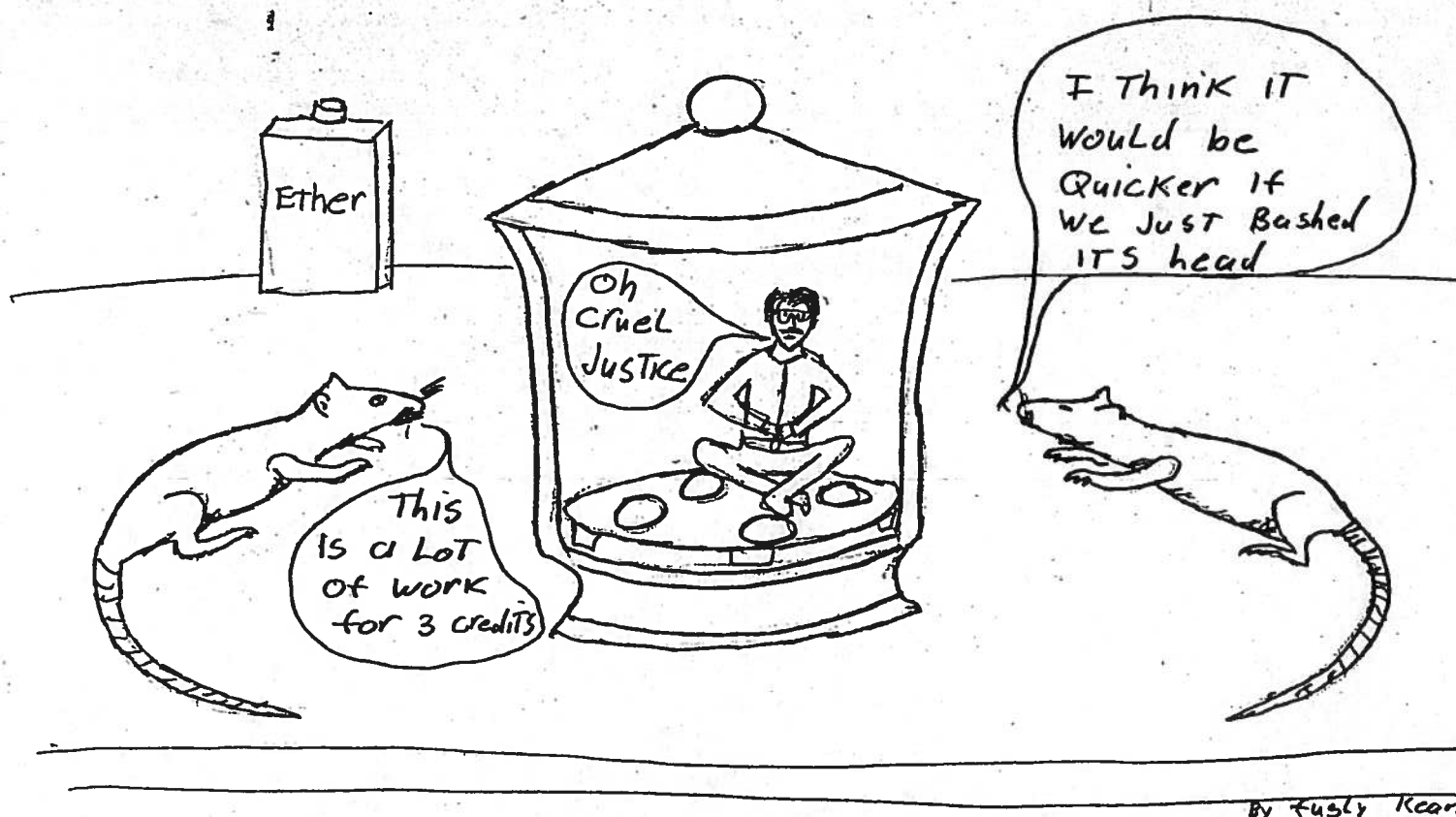
Furthermore, the purchase of these automated devices was in my opinion necessary in order to maintain our reputation as one of the leading and most up-to-date departments in the area. Our major competition, the Univeristy of Buffalo, not only has coffee machines in every departmental office, but it also has faculty relief facilities as well. It's awfully hard to compete with these innovations but we must certainly try."

Thus, in spite of all student discontent, it seems as though the staplers are going to stay.

Büchner



Rats





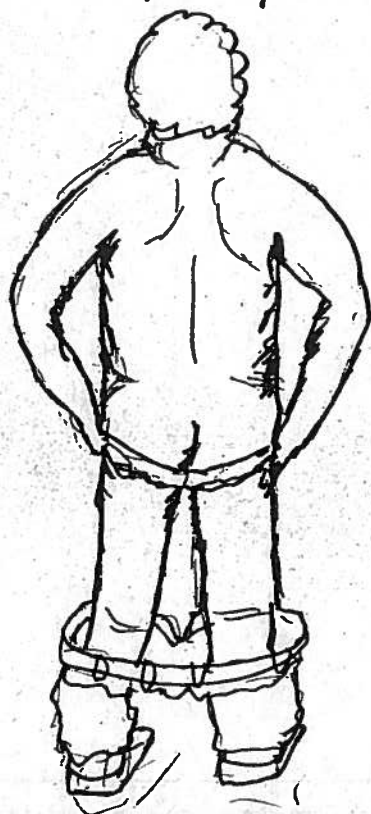
IDENTIFY THESE CHEMISTRY DEMONS

James

WANTED!

DEAD
or
ALIVE

\$100 Reward



Eddie
"The Tush"
Johnson

Alias "Crazy Buns"

Although no photographs exist at this time, eye witness accounts allowed police artists to produce the above sketch. Before Eddie "struck the Rat", he was identified at Record Theater by several people as he was browsing through the Todd Rundgren albums. He is believed to be hiding out in the Canisius College Science Building. Although slightly "looney", he is not considered to be dangerous; except to conservative minds. Eddie has acquired many aliases (i.e. the Tush, Crazy Buns, Moon Mullins, etc,) his latest one is believed to be "Fugly". This criminal must be apprehended and the police would appreciate any help.

CHEM STUDENT SETS NEW SCHOOL RECORD

Diane Balcerzak, a sophomore chemistry major, set a new school record this week by missing her 15th consecutive test. Miss Balcerzak was quoted as saying "To tie the record, I was lucky enough to just ~~be~~ be sick; but to break the record, I damn near killed myself." When asked if she planned to improve her record she replied; "Over my dead body! Wait a minute, let me take back." The old record was held by Mark Grzywna; class of 75', 76', 77', and 78'.

The A.C.S. RICHARD PRIOR AWARD for outstanding ~~ether~~ chemistry was today awarded jointly to:
Lori Rhoadhouse & Ellen Jean Smith