


The Alchemist

A Newsletter of the Canisius College ACS Chapter



Department wishes a fond farewell to Mary Dow after 15-year employment

Special to The Alchemist

It was the end of a 15-year era when our faithful secretary and good friend, Mary Dow, retired from the Canisius College Chemistry Department. When she left at the end of October, she ended a relationship with the College that stretched back to August 1981. To her, though, the entire time was nothing but a "wonderful experience." Recently, Mary shared with *The Alchemist* some of her thoughts about working in the Chemistry Department.

Mary reflected joyfully on her times at Canisius and the opportunity "to develop skills I never knew I had, as well as to reach out to people, and meet friends that I will have for a lifetime." She never even expected to stay as long as she did: she first took the job to help finance her children's college educations, but wound up staying six years after her youngest child graduated.

Mary describes retirement as wonderful, though she remains quite busy. Not only does she take the time to do some volunteer data processing work at the convent of Annunciation Parish, but she is also back to school! She is taking a scripture course right now at The Biblical School, and is up to her elbows in homework and tests. These classes can lead up to

certification which will allow her to organize and teach classes at a church, such as CCD or Bible Study. Right now, though, Mary is taking these classes for her own "personal enrichment."

The Chemistry Department threw two parties for Mary. On October 30, students and the entire Canisius Community gathered together in the Grupp Fireside Lounge to wish Mary well. The Physics Department staff presented her with a portrait of "Mary Einstein" (imagine, if you will, Mary's face inserted into a head shot of Uncle Al). This party was a success, with the blissful tune of "request-only" violin music in the background, as well as those sinful Spanos "practically biodegradable" brand gourmet cookies.

The house really came down, though, on the evening of November 10 at Dr. Bieron's Crystal Beach cottage. Here, the Chemistry faculty, as well as Mary's family, dined and celebrated the 15 years Mary shared with Canisius. The faculty presented Mary with many gifts, including an elaborate porcelain collectable. Dr. Bieron exclaimed that a "good time was had by all!"

At this time, then, *The Alchemist* wishes all the best to Mary Dow and her family, for 15 years of service, dedication, smiles, and brightened days.

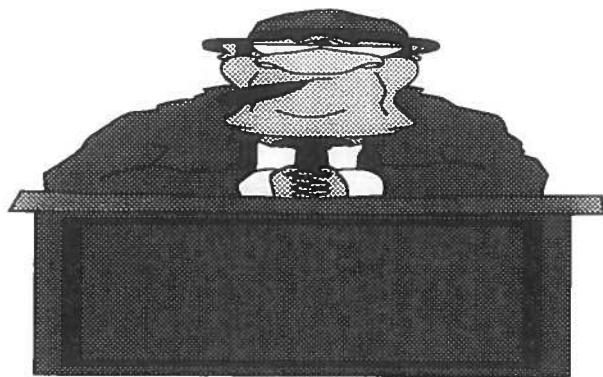


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It's Christmas time again and the money is beginning to leak out of my wallet. I went to the Galleria two days after Thanksgiving, and the sidewalks and hills were filled with vehicles. I swear that people buy sport utility vehicles just so they'll be able to get a space at the mall for the Christmas season. Makes me sick. I got out of there as soon as I possibly could.

Speaking of getting out, we are about to leave the daily grind of classes for a while, and I thought I would try to use up some empty space in this one-person newsletter to fill you all in on some of the events that ACS has participated in this semester. The ACS room has been full of people all year, but the Euchre madness has subsided for a while. Maybe it will be rediscovered next year, but with the departure of Steve

I swear that people buy sport utility vehicles just so they'll be able to get a space at the mall for the Christmas season. Makes me sick.

Schjkelhfjukdkvjfn there is no more overwhelming pressure being put on every able-bodied student who comes near the ACS room to participate in a "quick" and "relaxing" game of euchre. The new dart board was fairly active, at least for the lifetime of the darts, which can now be found (much like Osiris in Egypt) in little pieces scattered throughout the room. We now have a phone in the room thanks to the efforts of Dr. Bieron and Tom Stabler who finally convinced Maintenance that the building had no asbestos in it and that no one was going to die as a result of the phone installation.

Getting the room in condition took up most of our efforts in October. We waited until November to begin the traditional ACS events which bring such immense joy to all the members. Our first event in November was a demonstration for students at St. Bernadette's school in Hamburg. Damien Jones, Amy Rappold and I prepared three different sets of demonstrations for three different student groups of different ages. Besides the CO₂ rocket that exploded in my face, everything went quite well. After this event was the ACS vs. Tri-Beta football game in which the ACS proved its superiority to the biology "honor" society in a fantastic 50-20 win which thrilled the sparse but emotional crowd. (And don't let anyone tell you it was 44-20.)

November 16 was the Campus Ministry food drive

A Message from the ACS President (Sorry, Tom, kinda hard to keep this one anonymous...)

which ACS participated in at Quality Markets on Delaware. This successful event was organized by your lovely and talented editor, Joe Ippolito. We collected about 15 boxes of food and \$140 from the customers at Quality Markets. The next day was the Bills game vs. Cincinnati. Fifteen members attended the game but only six members and Dr. Bieron attended the well-supplied pre-game party. November 23 was the Canisius Open House. A few members of ACS set up a table outside the ACS room where we conducted liquid nitrogen tests and some relatively unsuccessful slime making demonstrations. Mary Biondo showed some of the potential incoming science majors around the chemistry building while Joe Ippolito and Todd Bojanowski conducted experiments next to the ACS room.

With the onset of December came the annual plant sale which was in process at the time of writing. Hopefully, this will be as successful as in previous years and earn the club some greatly needed extra funding.

I am looking forward to another productive semester, and hopefully we can get as many members involved as possible. Happy holidays!

The Alchemist

ACS Student Affiliate Chapter — Dec. 1996

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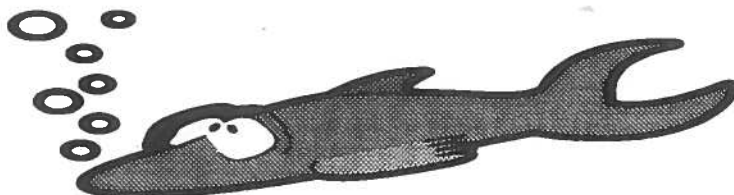
Opinions expressed in The Alchemist are not necessarily those of Canisius College or the Chemistry Department, which in itself is a good reason for a holiday.

The Text Box Page

Top Ten Things We'd Pay to Hear Dr. Kozik Say Again, and Again, and Again, and Again...

(Editor's Note: Look, maybe the past Top Tens were hard to understand, but if you are at all conscious of your surroundings, then this one should be pretty self-explanatory.)

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10) "Guoy" | 5) "Banana Bonds" |
| 9) "Guppy" | 4) "Parallelopiped" |
| 8) "Thistle" | 3) "Student Solutions Manual" |
| 7) "HOMO and LUMO" | 2) "Phenolphthalein" |
| 6) "Gerade / Ungerade" | 1) "Rubippy" [Ru(bipy)] |



As promised, *The Alchemist* is experimenting this year with its first ever alumni mailing list. Here we go:

Hi, Steve!

Hi, Kevin!

(Guys, if you didn't receive this message, let us know and we'll send another one.)

The Alchemist (*i.e.*, Joe) would like to wish everyone a most blessed holiday season. As for mischief over vacation, remember this anonymous quote: "With my luck, my 15 minutes of fame in this world will come as the shirtless guy who gets busted on 'Cops.'"





Adam's Revenge



(Editor's Note: As some of you may have noticed by now, The Griffin has postponed its annual "MUD" issue until the spring. Unfortunately, Adam had written an article before the cancellation, and I was stuck: what do I with it? I finally had an idea: this article is good enough to have an audience, so why not put in here? Adam, this Bud's for you!)

Christmas-themed claymation and cartoon shows from pre-1970 are flooding the airwaves as that holly jolly season rolls around again. One in particular was the classic "A Charlie Brown Christmas," created by Charles Schultz, who brought his Peanuts comic strip to life in other specials such as, "It's Your Rotten Pumpkin Charlie Brown!"; "You Cooked the Stuffing Inside the Turkey, Charlie Brown!"; "You Couldn't Buy a Date for Valentine's Day, Charlie Brown"; and other classics.

All of these specials have two things in common. Charlie Brown is always cast as the anti-hero, and they always leave me wondering about the oddities surrounding this so called "Peanuts" gang. First of all, how old are these kids exactly? They seem old enough to be able to ponder philosophy, such as Lucy does, but not old enough to be balding. Although in the case of Charlie Brown, it is understandable. This loser worries about pretty much everything—no wonder he has a melon head with just a few curls left up front. Perhaps it was some traumatic event that took place in his life that left him a tentative manic depressive. Heaven knows what the incident was; maybe it will show up as a lost episode: "You're in the Ladies' Room, Charlie Brown!" If Charlie's not talking to Linus about how everything was all his fault, then he's talking to his dog, Snoopy, about the little red-haired girl he stalks at school but doesn't have the "peanuts" to ask out on a date. Linus is another peanut worth mentioning. A real boy doesn't have a baby blanket, and if he did, he wouldn't openly admit it by carrying it around and sucking his thumb—a sure sign that Linus was bottle-fed. Talking about bottle feeding, it is quite obvious the parents, and for that matter, the adults in these shows, have been feeding off the whiskey bottle. If

you're familiar with the shows, then you know that the adults in the show are never seen, and speak in an incomprehensible muffled language that only the Peanuts understand, sounding something like, "Mwah muah muah mauah." This makes them sound drunk, or as though they are sending secret messages that when played backward say something like, "Worship the Devil, Charlie Brown!" Speaking of devils, a Dirt Devil is in order for Pig Pen. Pig is the quiet, dirty little kid—hmmm, double entendre possibly? Speaking of double entendre, how about Peppermint Patty and Marcy? Patty is the domineering tall redhead, and Marcy is the little lackey in the orange dress that follows her around calling her "Sir." Marcy seems to have a hard time determining gender differences, but then again, you would too if you had no eyes. It's true—viewers have never seen her eyes since she has never taken off her opaque white glasses; maybe the fact is revealed in another lost episode entitled: "Marcy Has No Eyes, Charlie Brown!" Another female Peanut of significance is Lucy. Lucy is the model aggressive female, picking on Charlie Brown to constantly exercise her power over him. She is, however, not invincible. Schroeder exercises another kind of power over Lucy with his tiny piano, although it's not the size of the instrument, it's what he does with it that counts for Lucy. Schroeder is the quiet type, however, who keeps to himself and doesn't seem to be too interested in Lucy's advances—a quiet, introverted genius type. If I were Lucy, I wouldn't aggravate Schroeder too much—no telling what he might do. Then again, maybe there is an episode that does tell: "Schroeder's Got a Gun, Charlie Brown!"

Of course, I left out some other key characters, but this is sufficient enough, I think, to show you the various mysteries and oddities surrounding a seemingly innocent show.