

the polemic

Volume III, Number VIII

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

PETE!

back and better than ever

Now gather 'round kiddies and I'll tell you a story. A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away (well, actually it was RPI about two years ago), there lived a Grand Marshal named Pete. He was considered by most to be a bumbler, someone who exemplified the words inefficient, ineffective, and incompetent. We at the Pole saw through this disguise though, and realized that Pete was doing it all in jest. Anything for a laugh, because that was the kind of warm-hearted guy he was. He would cancel meetings at the last minute, he'd make wrong decisions, he'd publicly embarrass himself, all because he knew that those things would make the students laugh.

Meanwhile, with our unique understanding of Pete's inner motives, the Polemic flourished. Some say Pete was the best thing to ever happen to the Pole. So, we laughed right along with Pete. We laughed along as he laughed himself to a 0.000 GPA.

Then, we were forced to bid Pete adieu, and we hoped his replacement,



Jeff, would be as much fun as Pete had been. Snore! Then, we hoped Jim would be able to fill his shoes. Snore! Well, we got impatient and went to the Dean of Students Office, paid them off, and we got Pete back. So, here he is: PETE! Back and better than ever!

Good luck, Pete!

Lundy requisitions Union

Director of the Union "Mob" Lundy resigned his post late last semester after supposedly being caught red-handed attempting to requisition the Rensselaer Union. Slick "Big Heart" Hartt was quickly railroaded into the vacant office by the E-Board so as to keep the social side of the Tute Screw turning smoothly.

Lundy's resignation was snatched out of his hot little hands moments after he finished the letter, by vulture-like E-Board members waiting for it. He

was then released from the E-Board's custody with a stern warning from P.U. Paul "Scar" Burrow to "tell 'da truth... er else... heh heh heh..."

When questioned Lundy could respond only in a timid voice. "Bu-but I wanted to leave! After all, it was al-almost Christmas!! I always qu-qu-quit my job in time for the Christmas bills. You s-s-see, I was looking for a challenging position in un-un-unemp-p-loyment!"

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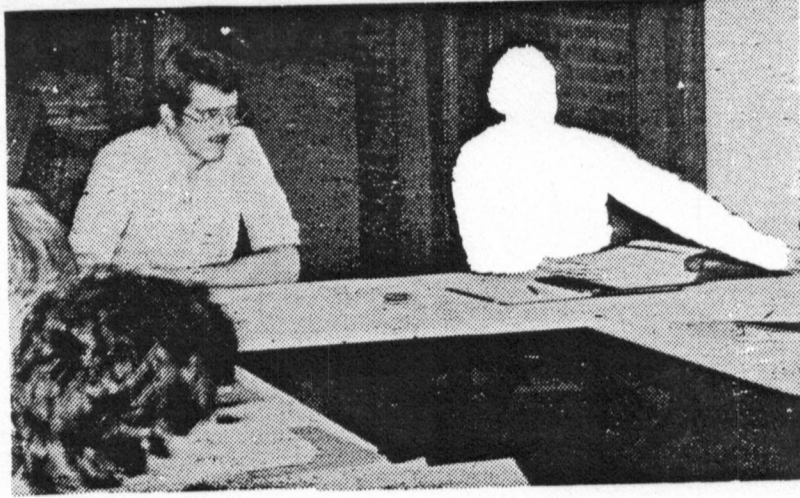
Students vanish

A recent survey indicated that only sixty-seven percent of all entering freshmen remain at Rensselaer to graduate four years later. This statistic has the school administration baffled, as they have no idea where the students have been disappearing to. A task force was appointed by the Dean of Students office to look into the matter, and they issued a statement recommending a task force be appointed to consider the possibility of appointing a task force to find the vanished students. After much deliberation, it was decided that such a task force would be appointed.

In a surprise news conference last week, the task force reported that a number of breakthroughs had allowed them to pinpoint the fate that had befallen the absent students. Said the task force, "We've determined that the students were either transported onto an alien vessel and horribly burned to death in their 5000 degree artificial environment, they were stolen by roving bands of Troy youths and sold on the black market, they were teleported to a French castle with Martha the Wonder Aardvark, or maybe they were simply lost in the administrative shuffle."

A strange pattern of similarities among those missing has begun to form. According to the task force, one-third of the students had very low Grade Point Averages, and the other two-thirds had

(Continued on another page)



The Pole Proudly announces

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(Staff Member, that is!)



students...

(Continued from another page)

become disenchanted with RPI. "However," says the task force, "we can find no reason for there to be a correlation between grades, contentment, and disappearance from school, nor do we suspect foul play."

The task force has called in a famous detective, Sherlock Meltzer, to look into the matter. Says Meltzer, whose methods have been compared to those of Kojak, "I feel strongly that by performing a good deal of work, we can force the culprits to physically reveal themselves by accelerating from their equilibrium position."

drinking proficiency proves poor

Recently, suprisingly sharp and widespread criticism has been raised concerning student drinking. Says Dr. Iama Sot, "Students can't seem to hold their juice like they used to. Shameful, it was never like this in my old college years." In recent tests administered through the H&SS program, four out of five students lost their cookies after their tenth beer. Further studies showed that over eighty-six percent of those tested either passed out or became mindless zombies after only twelve shots of bourbon. Three seniors survived the rigorous battery of testing. Dr. Sot attributes this to thorough preconditioning.

The results of these tests have surprised a great many people in the Rensselaer community. President George Sloe commented, "I knew that the problem existed with freshmen but I never realized the problem was so widespread." Responding to the immediate need, Professor Medicus is pushing for a new course called Introduction to Science of Beverages. This course will be available to all students and will cover the important subjects of "How to Hold Your Booze" and "Non-Vegetable Behavior". Though still under discussion, a "drinking laboratory" may be required.



Heart stoppage is hazardous

In an attempt to justify his existence and the money he gets, Dr. Fault has recently released a paper which has been seven years in the making (three years on the typewriter as nobody at the infirmary has the motor skills to operate a keyboard). The result of all this expenditure of our money is a 25-page report that comes to the conclusion that the stoppage of the muscle known as the heart can be fatal.

"I too was shocked at the statistics", said the proud author, "but the numbers are there in black and white. 95% of the time when the heart stopped beating permanently, the specimen died." Later in the report, it is shown that 97.6% of dead people no longer have hearts which function properly. (2.1% work for the government, and the other 0.3% teach gym.) Whether this is related to the previous statistic is unknown, but Fault vows to investigate further. "Of course, it will take at least five more years of being on salary and three grants", he explained.

When asked if these newfound facts will change the way he treats patients, Dr. Fault answered "No!"



APO proclaimed as evil

In a not so surprising turnabout, our so-called "Service" Fraternity on campus has been proclaimed as "Evil" by not only Local and State level legislature, but by the entire state of New Jersey and the anti-Christ as well.

In response to these charges, the President of this evil-bound organization vaguely stated, "only a few of our Brothers are practicing witches." In compliance with this shift in goals, the Chapter has thrown 35 plus years of "Leadership Friendship and Service" to the four winds, now to be replaced by "Sex, Drugs, and Rock'n'Roll."

According to Richy Tarrot, President of this sinister group, "Our new Fraternity motto shall be '...any pledge is a potential slave of ours.' It's been this way for years, why not make it official?" One of the first big changes made shall be the new "Drug Paraphenalia" Exchange. Office Manager Luuzatte Soursacks explains, "Now, the campus junkies we've been supplying for years have a place to bring their old pipes, bongos, roach-clips, etc. All items must be cleaned and not resemble anything phallic, and as always we keep 10% off the top to keep our 'encouragement girls' for the Rugby team in good spirits."

Since one of the four fields of service is to the campus, APO has volunteered a "Sex Supply" for all RPI students. Says Ex-President Shorty Greenstalk, "even I have to let off a little steam now and then. Having Brotherhood meetings in the Cinema Arts is helpful, but no replacement the good old 'in-out in-out'. And we'll be getting 20 bucks from every encounter, so who's complaining? Once you get used to the little ducks it's not so bad..."

Their major interest, secondary only to profits, is fun. Misspelling names in the directory, returning found items

to the wrong people, and "Keep off the Sidewalk" signs are but a few. Lynn Manattee informs us, "This semester it's buspool! Who would ever guess that we have no busses? This way, we make more money. I tell you, there's one born every minute! We already have our pledges jumpier than a jackrabbit, why not keep the rest of the campus on their toes?"

As a final note, the Devil worshipping Fraternity will be offering classes next semester to the general public. Such courses will include Voodoo, How to Buy as Much Liquor as You Want With a Tax Exempt Number, Properly Drawing a Pentangle, and How to Completely Monopolize a Housing Project such as RAHP Apartments.



Humor Magazine

Ingredients: Humor, satire, advertisements added as a preservative.

THIS ISSUE OF THE Unicorn was published 123 years ago. Originally a regularly published humor journal, it has grown into a campus humor magazine.

snow usage

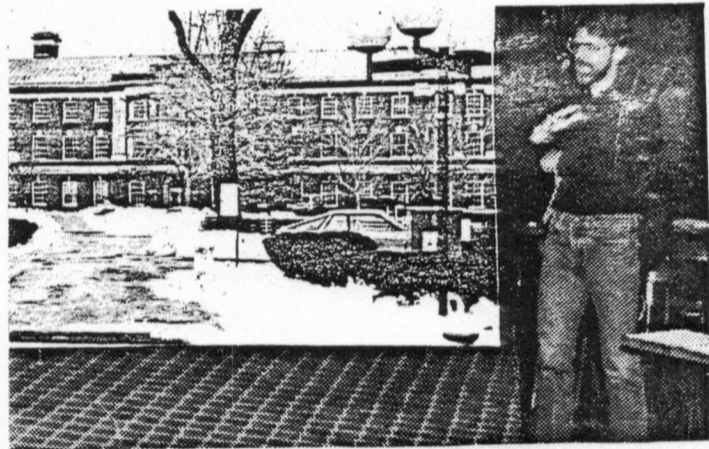
The Institute moved with amazing alacrity in response to the recent heavy snowstorm that hit Troy at the start of classes this year. Even more surprising was that the 'Tute did not appoint a task force to either study the problem or actually suggest a possible course of action. However, in keeping with the usual Institute policies, the snow was not removed.

The reason for this is that one of our esteemed alumni has recently been conducting revolutionary experiments at the Nome, Alaska Graduate Center in the field of snow usage. Snow usage is an engineering science whose main basis is that snow is useful and that you never get rid of anything that you might possibly ever use.

In order to test the theories and methods discovered and created by this pioneering grad student, the Office of Student Affairs, in close cooperation with the Office of Alumni Affairs, decided to use RPI as a proving ground. Therefore, as the snow continued to fall and accumulate Saturday evening, and students were huddled warmly in their rooms praying for classes to be canceled, Lee Welcome was conducting a seminar for the college's snow removal crews on the new snow usage techniques.

When asked about the nature of these new techniques the 'Tute bureaucracy declined to explain them and IPAC didn't know But it was readily apparent by walking (or falling and sliding) across campus what these methods were. For example a way has been found to remove two feet of snow and yet still leave a completely unmarred layer of ice beneath, such a discovery could possibly destroy the market for non-stick cooking surfaces, only available through special television offers. Another possible application of this technique is the creation of more skating areas, like the Union patio, to relieve the crowds that now frequent the Houston Field House.

One of the interesting things discovered by the Nome research was a method of creating snow from thin air. This technique was used on the path from the bridge to the JEC. First the path was cleared and then the following day some strange new device resembling a machine that was used to clear paths was brought in and in no time where there had been none before there was four inches of snow blocking the path from no apparent



source. This could put weather out of business.

It appears that this new technology has no bounds on possible applications. For example, a long term complaint of students has been that there are too many stairs on campus, well indeed now there is no basis for these complaints and IPAC need no longer worry about people asking to know the number of RPI stairs, because there are none. All the stairs have been miraculously transformed into ramps. RPI is now the most handicapped-accessible campus in the world.

It is because of the dedication and work of RPI graduates such as this and the cooperation and help of the RPI campus staff, that RPI will always be a leader among colleges and institutions in research and application of such important and useful technologies as "snow usage".

Lundy...

(Continued from another page)

"I'd like to focus on what has been ac-ac-accomplished," he continued, "The Union has gr-grown and I like it here!! I really do! I do--- er, I mean I'd just love to leave..." At this point the E-Board hauled Lundy outside, stuck a 20¢ stamp on his face, and shoved him in the mailbox.

Curiously, the E-Board refused to disclose what parts of the Union Lundy supposedly made off with, nor how he did it. They simply commented, "Lee Wilcox told us so..." As for a replacement, "Scar" Burrow indicated that a search would be held, but that it shouldn't be long before one is found, as "I've got Lee working on it..."

Cereal

As the security officer stared stupidly at the panicking pair, Sid and Martha ran for the exit. Martha slid in the slick foyer, gasping with pain as she fell on her back. "Aaargh," she cried, "Labor contractions!"

Sid wondered what he would have to do to deliver. "I'm going to carry you to the infirmary, Martha. Hang on!" He lifted the bulging woman, noticing she bore far less resemblance to an aardvark than she had five minutes ago. Now she looked like a lizard.

Jon and Dave, forgotten by their friends, stood frozen outside the Z-Board chamber as George Lowly stalked his two victims. "Sacrifices!", he gloated to the rest of the chamber's occupants. "Blood!!" shouted the puppets on the Z-Board.

Jon pulled a crucifix out of his pocket and shouted "Linear regression!! DeBroglie's equation!!! Van der Waals

force! MTS!!" George fell into a whimpering heap, and the rest of the Z-Board began to dematerialize.

Meanwhile, back at the infirmary, the duty nurse told Sid to bring Martha back in the morning. But Martha began to deliver right there in the waiting room. The duty nurse fainted dead-away, as a baby Tyrannasaurus Rex emerged, and gave a first gasp in this strange world. Sid joined the duty nurse on the floor, leaving the baby with his delighted mother.

Jon and Dave dashed out of the Z-Board chamber as it crumbled to the ground behind them. "Thank you, Jon!!", cried Dave as they flew up a staircase that led to...

The Creatrix took a short break writing to snort some of that LOVELY white powder an imp had given her, before deciding the fates of Jon, Martha, Dave, Sid, and Rex.

Are You A Potential RESIDENT ASSISTANT?

Take this easy TRUE/FALSE QUIZ!

1. _____ I enjoy sharing my stash with the rest of the floor.
2. _____ I crave intervening between roommates who are mortal enemies.
3. _____ I have the potential to organize enjoyable, healthy activities for freshmen (i.e. drinking parties).
4. _____ I wouldn't mind cleaning up after #3.
5. _____ I feel good when I'm harassing people.
6. _____ In recompense for working my tail off, I would love to eat daka grub, live in a cramped room, and accept a paltry pile of cash.

Applications are being accepted for the 1987-1988 year. Applicants must have at least Sophomore status (or at least be sophomoric), have a minimum 3.8 QPA (it will drop to 2.0 quickly), and have demonstrated the ability to bitch at people.

R.A.'s — the few, the proud and the tired.

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pole

EDITORIAL SECTION

polemic

Vol. III, No. VIII

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Ode to a Rag

Staff box, staff box,
 Full of bagels, full of lox.
 Here to tell you all about
 The thin Polemics and the stout.
 202 of House Wiltsie
 Is where the Pole is first built,
 see?
 We're not responsible, we claim,
 And you don't even know our name.
 Send us ideas, don't be a chump,
 (Though we'll send them to the
 Troy dump.)
 To buy our thing for the whole
 Spring,
 Just send a check for two bucks,
 Bing.
 Let stupidity be your guide,
 We're 11 inch high and 8 inch wide.
 (8 1/2 inches actually, but with
 poetic license...)

 And just then, Shakespeare woke up.
 It had all been a dream.

Military registration tied to Red menace

Ever since the government began trying to reinstate military registration for the draft, it has been simultaneously convincing the public that said draft would make us stronger militarily, and thus more able to resist Soviet aggression. This propaganda campaign has been largely successful. At the worst, people believed that draftees were to be used as cannon fodder, hence protecting the trained members of the armed forces.

But suppose there is another explanation for the resurgence of the Selective Service. Could it be part of an intricate, subtle, and long-range plot on the part of God-forsaken Communists who have infiltrated our government? (Communists who haven't forsaken God wouldn't touch our government with a ten-foot Little Red Book.) True, we would become stronger for a short while, but after a few years we would decline back down to near our present level of strength. After all, how much weaker are we now than during our last great police action, Vietnam? But, by having a draft, it would be much easier for those who wish to take over this country to locate and eliminate possible opposition, as well as making us easier to manipulate in general.

We've got to wake up to the fact that nobody in Washington is man enough to expose the insipid schemes of the godless Red hordes of rabid Marxists, like MacCarthy was. We've got to look after ourselves and not let those Pinko Commie Poly editors brainwash us. Remember, just because you're not paranoid doesn't mean people aren't after you.

June's Unisex Freshmen

- * Open every Monday
- * Helping to alleviate the ratio
5 : 1 : 3
- * Appt. not always necessary
- * Evenings until 9:00 p.m.

2248 5th St., Troy, N.Y.
Across from The Copper Mu

it's alive.



~ Greek Beat ~

Help Lick fraternities

In a surprise news conference Sue Livedin, president of the Incompetent council, announced a new Winter Carnival event. This event sponsored by the IC is called Greek Beat. The general idea of course is to beat on fraternities.

The format of this new activity will be similiar to the GM week scavenger hunt except teams compete to earn the most points by attacking greeks. Of course only non-fraternity members may compete.

Scoring will be as follows:
Pushing a Greek.....10pt
Punching a Greek.....15pt

retention

This article explores the word retention, an important word in today's society. Retention is defined by Webster's New World Dictionary as :

1. retaining or tending to retain
2. having the power of or a capacity for retaining
3. having a good memory

Now,(pause).....
(what was I writing about just now ?
I'd better look and see....ah!)

This article explores the word retention, an important word in today's society. Retention is defined as :

1. wait a minute, I wrote that already. (pause) That's redundant, and Redundancy is the title of next week's article. Now (pause) where?...retention...Webster's... ..redundancy...oh, right!

So we must all strive to retain our retentive abilities, lest we forgetforget...forget whatever it is we are striving to retain. When we write, we must be certain we don't anything out, and we must retain our subject and a sense of continuity in our writing.

The capture of aardvarks is a long and arduous task, better left to those too incompetent to look it up in the dictionary. I mean really, doesn't everyone know what retention is? Who would bother writing an article about it? rotate tires, avoid quiet people, change I mean, what publication could possibly do such a stupid thing as...(pause)uh-oh (as what...?) er... ah... oh well...

Anyway, retention is to be, and redundancy is three a. In conclusion, never forget anything ever, especially coming back to this slimy hellhole, or we can't sell you another prescription. Do not forget, next week Redundancy, and the ability to repeat oneself and say things more than once or even a few times.

- Knocking down a Greek.....25pt
- Knocking unconscious a Greek.....50pt
- Killing a Greek.....75pt
- Paddling a Greek.....100pt
- Hazing a captured Greek.....500pt

Special bonuses will be awarded for beating each member of an individual fraternity or for beating a member of each fraternity. Also the usual bonus as awarded in "Hit the Pedestrians for Points" will be awarded with brothers, normal value; pledges, double value; and elders, triple value, score extra bonus.

Dear Polemic:

Your mail file on Myron was overwhelming so I had to use the antiquated system of campus mail. Perhaps you should read your mail once in a while so that you can say you at least looked at it before you threw it away. Anyway, I have been a subscriber to the Polemic for as long as I can remember and I have never seen an article that will tell me about the many and varied Union clubs available to us interesting students at RPI. Recently there has been a lot of talk about some clubs in particular; I think it is your civic duty to inform us as to the nature of these clubs, how we can get involved, and so forth. Specifically I am interested in finding out about four rather controversial and rather recently formed organizations.

The first of these is the GAMMA ALLIANCE, a club formed to promote heterosexual relationships. It has often been said that being heterosexual at RPI is like living in a cold shower, and the GAMMA ALLIANCE is supposedly trying to alleviate this deficiency. I have heard that the club, still in its organizational stages, has informal meetings on Friday and Saturday nights at one or another of the members' apartments. I was told that once I came I'd come again and again. I'm not quite sure what this means though. The club members themselves all seem to be happy; they walk around with contented smirks on their faces, especially on weekends.

The next club that I am interested in is the RAC; the Rensselaer Atheist Community which I'm told meets any day except Sunday to discuss Atheist concerns. I hear that these people enjoy getting together to sing anti-religious songs on several evenings on the upper floor of the Union. I was told that there is an RAC booktable in the lobby of the C+CC, but I have never seen it.

There is also the RSA; the Rensselaer Society of Apathetics which has no meetings, no dues, and no responsibilities. This club sounds particularly interesting to me.

The final club which I want more information on is the RSCS; the Rensselaer Society for a Communal Society. I have never seen any of the club members, but I hear that they all have beards, speak with a thickly Eastern European accent and drink lots of vodka. I have

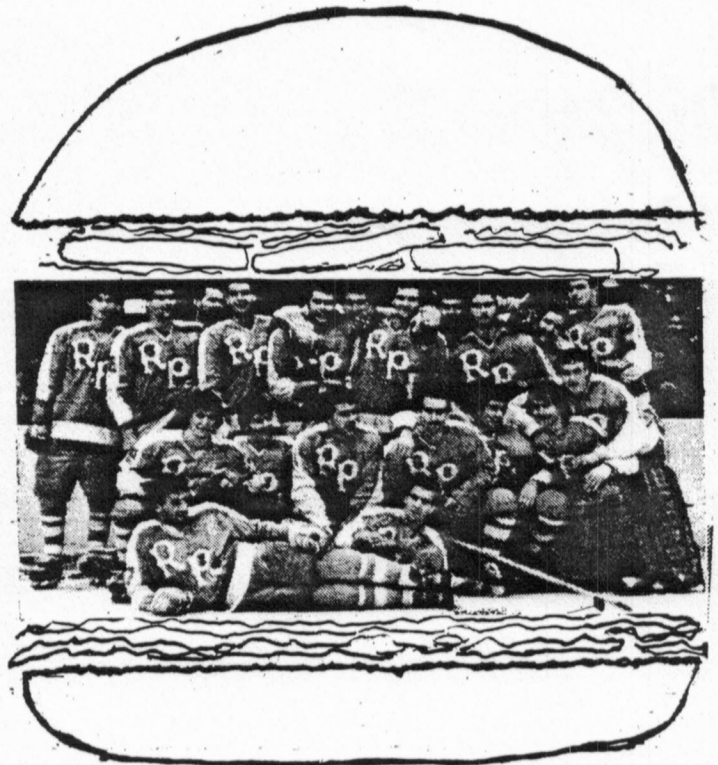
been told that the club likes to bring in MARX brothers movies as well.

As I said before, I would like to learn more about these clubs and I think the Polemic is the finest publication to do this job. Please let me know what these clubs see as their purpose and objectives, and what I will find if I become involved in them. Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours,

Joe K. Student

Engineer Express ...



... On
A Roll!

Sports

Engineers stretch Athletes

As part of RPI's new practical education program, the Materials Engineering department has begun a new research project funded by the Governor's Commission on Sports. The commission is naturally very interested in isolating the primary causes of athletic injury. Professor I.M. Madd of the commission believes that these injuries are mainly due to inherently defective materials used in the construction of the human body. In an attempt to prove these theories, Prof. Madd has undertaken the stretching of several 'Tute athletes to determine coefficients of elasticity and major stress points.

Phase One of this experiment has already been completed, but Phase Two has barely begun. Prof. Madd comments, "Several athletes have shown great resiliency of spirit, but I fear that the second series of tests will really 'break' them."

Athlete of the Week

This week's Athlete of the Week is Assistant Dean of Students Bonnie Hagen. Dean Bonnie demonstrated her athletic prowess this week by expertly catching, carrying, processing, and passing back over two million party permits. According to Dean Bonnie, "The toughest part is getting up those two stairs in the Dean's office."



ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS BONNIE HAGAN

Icers give State department the slip

A surprise raid by agents of the Federal Department of Immigration on the Rensselaer hockey team's locker room took place last Sunday. Despite the fact that the raid was held immediately after practice, the only people in the locker room were five Troy residents who claimed to be cleaning up, and a plumber who was fixing a broken toilet. All but the plumber were soon released.

The raid was later revealed to have had the purpose of arresting a good number of French-Canadians on the team who are in this country illegally. Said one government spokesman, "Until recently, we always believed what the coach, Mite B. Addled, told us, that they were all French majors from the Bronx. But we recently learned that this is not true".

As none of the players were actually apprehended, the team obviously knew that something was afoot. The Polemic recently talked to its official leak on the hockey team, who wishes to be known only as Ima Pseudonym, but who is, in fact, Russell Jenkins of BARH D 528. "We've been doing it for years", said Jenkins. "Everyone knows that all the best hockey players are from Quebec. But getting a visa is a pain in the ass, and foreigners have very little chance of getting financial aid. So we've been smuggling them in. About 80% of the team is foreign and here on scholarship."

When asked how they knew about the raid, he replied that "we knew something was up when these strange guys in three-piece suits, dark glasses, and crewcuts started following us around, and we became very suspicious when we went into practice Sunday and those same weirdos were there with machine guns and were constantly snickering at us. But what clinched it was when the Alumni office called and told us we were about to be raided." The team made its escape by walking out a side door into their cars, and driving to Williams College for a few hours, saying they were on the exchange program.

But the government isn't giving up yet. It is declaring open season on French Canadians. As the spokesman put it, "\$15 for each body of a Frog-Mountie that's brought in, and it can't hurt your loan applications".

Film at eleven.