

# the polemic

Volume II, Number I

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

## Low takes over Pitts

In a surprise move yesterday, George M. Low singlehandedly took over the Pittsburg Building as an act of protest against the Student Life Action Movement (SLAM). Mr. Low says he intends to continue to occupy the building until his demands are met.

It all started yesterday at 9:32 am, when Mr. Low ordered everyone out of the Pittsburg Building. He then sent, via messenger, a communique to SLAM headquarters outlining his demands: 1) No more demands from the students for a PAC, a new pool, or new fields; 2) More respect of the administration by the students; 3) Student volunteers to serve the faculty at Sage Dining Hall; and 4) The immediate dissolution of SLAM. SLAM leaders were to surprised to comment.

The occupation of the Pittsburg Building by President Low presented problems for the Union. "If we accede to his demands, it could set a dangerous precedent," said PU Sanclemente. The thorniest problem is legal in nature: for anyone to take over a University building is against the law; however, as President of the Institute it could be within Mr. Low's legal right to occupy a building. After an emergency Senate meeting last night, the Union stated its position: Ignore him.

## THE ENGINEER

is looking for Editorial Board and staff

## State law creates hell

Two weeks ago, Albany was in chaos due to a recent ruling by the state legislature. The law designates Troy as the new location for Hell. It appears that many members of the Senate are extremely upset at God, feeling that the Hell He created is not a sufficient deterrent to sin.

The bill, brought about by a large Moral Majority contingent in the state Senate and House, is a test of the radical new idea of combining Divine and human influence in penal reform. It is a desperate attempt, evidently. Although the idea has been tested with some success in certain areas of New Jersey, the data is quite limited.

The essence of the law is to cram Troy full of social misfits, criminals, students, and other undesirable elements. As everyone knows, state law or no, Troy is Hell. When it was pointed out that Troy is already chock full of those types, another bill was drafted to expand the city. A commendation was also prepared for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which beat the lawmakers to the idea of creating Hell in Troy for social misfits by 157 years.

One Senator, who requested that his name be withheld, was interviewed by our staff. When asked why the legislature agreed to such a law, he commented, "Well, it's a hell of a lot better than any other idea we've had recently!"

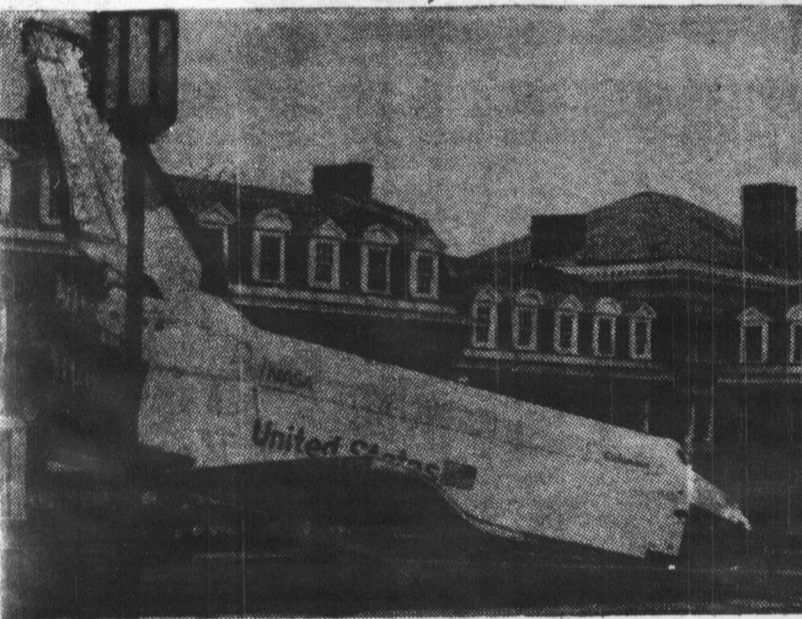
# E-Board rejects Senate

At the first meeting of the Executive Board this year, the new group, for lack of anything better to do, reviewed the members of the new Senate. Unfortunately, they rejected them all, unanimously, citing reasons such as the day of the week, the weather, Troy, and competence on the part of some of the Senators.

As the uproar continues, the Senate has no rebuttal to any of the E-Board's arguments, but will attempt to disprove the charges of competence by the end of October. Thus far, it is the only item on the Senate's agenda. With their full attention, the task should be completed by the beginning of December.

The J-Board came into the fray, investigating whether or not the E-Board's decision was a countermove to repay the Senate's rejection of the E-Board late last spring. Originally, the J-Board was not going to intervene; however, as soon as the Grand Marshal issued a statement saying the claim was nonsense and the E-Board knew what it was doing, the J-Board was on the scene. One wonders whether the new J-Board is as interested in nonsense as its predecessor.

Meanwhile, the President of the Union had no comment on the Student Government brawl, except to say that he pleased that they were so busy.



# sobriety: a health hazard

(The first of a 495 part series on health hazards in modern America)

As one makes a close study of society and its drinking habits, it becomes apparent that most people are victims of a serious misconception. The average person is correct in saying that too many Americans have a drinking problem. However, the problem stems not from too much drinking, as most people believe, but from too little imbibing.

The supporting evidence for America's - even the world's - drinking problem is overwhelming. A glance at heart attack, ulcer, and other tension-related disorder statistics confirm the fact that most people simply do not know how to relax. In contrast, the stereotypical "drunken bum" is quite contented in his squalorous surroundings. The conclusion is inescapable: despite environment, age, and all other factors, drinkers lead happier lives.

Additionally, science backs up this claim. In a recent experiment, of two groups of mice, one group was given nothing. The other group lapped up a steady supply of Jack Daniels (as did the researchers). The first set of mice was laid to rest after three days, while our alcoholic rodent friends survived for nine. Further human experimentation will hopefully confirm the 66% increase in life expectancy.

Finally, allow this journalist a concluding observation. Here at R.P.I. we realize the dangers of sobriety, and take proper precautions. But imagine the plight of the poor soul who attempts to face the stark reality at Rensselaer unanesthetized. That, my fellow students, is the reason for the high dropout rate. I urge you, as concerned, responsible students, never to be an unslashed victim of the "Tute screw.

The Space Shuttle landed safely after its second flight, which lasted 106 hours.

# the pole

## EDITORIAL SECTION

### the polemic

Vol. II, No. 1

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The Polemic has no affiliation with the Student Union, the Teamster's Union, or any other union you have heard of or ever will hear of. Anything submitted to this thing becomes the property of the Troy Sanitation Dept.

To express your opinion, to send a letter to the editors, or to offer an article for publication, mail your correspondence to:

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Ingredients: Ammonium nitrate, sulfur flour, charcoal flour, ammonium sulfate, water, copper sulfate, BHA & BHT added to preserve freshness.

## CAMPUS NOTICES

(The story you are about to read is true. The names were changed to protect the guilty.)

It all started during the doldrums of the fall semester, 1980, when the idea was born to create a spoof on the Polytechnic. There were two such publications at first, the Folly and the Polemic (by the way, "polemic" is a real word --look it up). The Polemic had two freshmen creators, Jonathan P. Moynahan and Maurice T. Hoffenlich. Soon a third person, Milton F. Grossmerkel, joined the staff as a writer. The Folly soon fell by the wayside, but the Polemic continued to prosper throughout the academic year, gleefully mutilating Polytechnic material to bring you all the print that's fit to news. Toward the end of the year, Elaine A. Miranda started writing for the Pole, but the future of the paper (or "thing") became doubtful when Jon and Maurice became human sacrificial material to the 'Tute Screw. But, in case you haven't "noticed", the Polemic is back!

The Polemic is called an "underground newspaper", but that implies a call for a revolution, or something like that. The paper really is still what it originally was planned to be: a spoof of the Poly. All our headlines and pictures come right out of the Poly; we just change them around a little to make them humorous (well, we try!).

As is stated in our disclaimer, the Polemic is not affiliated with the Student Union, which also means we have no connections with the Unicorn (O foul word!). Of course, that means we get no funding from the Union, so what you see here has been paid for entirely by the staff. This situation also has its advantages, however, in that we cannot be censored by the J-Board, the E-Board, or even Z-Board (but you're not supposed to know about that one!).

Hey! You might want to write for the Polemic! Possibly you have a bent for layout, or a knack with a razor. If so, we sure could use you! Drop us a line at the address in the staff box (we can't give a phone number, for ob-

# sports



## Provost scholars demolish Hall of Fame

Earlier this week in an unprecedented action, five students vandalized the R.P.I. Hockey Hall of Fame in a protest against the grants-in-aid program. The five students, all winners of Provost Smell's scholarship, which includes a personal computer for each winner, claim that the grants-in-aid program is lowering the academic standards at R.P.I., and should be eliminated. As a symbol for their feelings, the five broke into the Field House last Tuesday night and completely destroyed the hockey honor area, breaking apart trophies and spray painting Maxwell's equations on the walls. Maxwell was unavailable for comment.

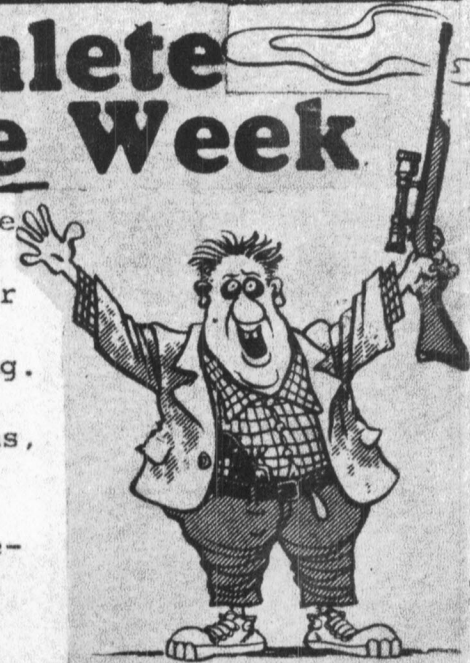
In a fierce retaliative action, the administration issued a statement condemning the students for their "deplorable" actions, saying that the destruction of the Hall was "not in the best interests of the Institute."

Also vocal were members of the hockey team; however, most of their comments are unprintable. Reacting to the destruction of their shrine, the team has started a holy war against computer knurds. Next Monday they plan to picket the Vorhees Computing Center, and they say they're always on the lookout for wild-haired bug-eyed guys laden with computer printouts, muttering to themselves in Pascal. As for the fate of the five vandals, the team captain had only this to say: "TRS-80s, watch out!"

(story not continued on page 2)

## Athlete of the Week

This week's Athlete of the Week is Tom L. R. Schutall, for his outstanding prowess in hunting. Last November Tom shot 2 game wardens, 7 hunters, and a cow to earn this award. Unfortunately, the law took his permit away, stating that cows were out of season and one of the hunters wasn't insured. However, Mr. Schutall says he's satisfied with his 10 trophies.



## Deans have tragic week

It was reported by the administration that the deans had a terrible week last week. Already bogged down with pre-semester work, the deans also faced late registration, cancelled courses, and muddy coffee. Through it all, somehow, the deans managed to cope for the most part, although dean Quilt of the School of Architecture did come apart at the seams in a minor nervous breakdown.

In recognition of the deans' accomplishments, the Institute is designating Monday, September 14th, as Institute Dean Day. There will be a parade along the Ho Chi Min Trail at noon, followed by an official reception at Sage Dining Hall. No students are invited. Of course, classes will be cancelled for the day, but the students will be held responsible for all material missed. So, remember, be kind to your dean, because he really had a rough week.