

THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT

subtitled dextrose doesn't always imply sugar

by Samantha Bower

The other day I was looking around in my head for a poem. Yes, I, Too, am one of those people who try to put down their thoughts about things in a vague verse form. Anyway, I was holding one of those nifty Bic Pens which can write on anything. Well, it wasn't even writing on paper at this point, 'cause I couldn't think of anything to say. I started to look at the pen, then got distracted by my hand. Maybe I would write a "hand-poem", a poem-hand?, a poem of hands, a hand of poems, a land of poems, land of hands?—yeah, a land of hands. You see, I have this hand, two, actually something for me. Hands are really something. You can use them to flirt (remember the old fan-flirtation bits?), to eat, especially that category of foods called finger foods (check your Emily Post as to which ones are socially acceptable before trying salad in public). You can type, write, play music, make friends, make love, make pies, make fun and make war. Some people can do things with their hands that amaze. Think about Michaelangelo, Al Capp, Helen Keller, Casey at the bat.

People are usually dirty with their left hands. Some people are ambidextrously dirty. Think about the dirty things you do with your hands. I'm not going to give any examples here—think dirty and come up with your own. The left hand has been given the name of sinister, which certainly signifies something. Do you have a dirty left hand? Ask the nearest janitor where the most convenient bathroom is and go use that pretty pink soap! You want people to think you are sinister? evil? or even worse, just plain dirty! Save yourself and wash a hand today.

Just an unrelated thing here—did you know why it is considered correct when setting your table for dinner, to turn the blades of the knives inward toward the plate? Well, here it is—in ancient times, when people gathered to eat, the host would turn inward the knife-blades of his friends, thus preventing them from cutting themselves on the over-sized blades. He would turn outward the knives of his enemies, thus showing them that he hoped they would come to harm...end of divertissement.

Now, onto the right hand—dextra. This is a highly overrated preference. Think about the poor people who are primarily left-handed inclined. Go ahead, tru to use a phone

booth reversing the roles of your hands. It's nearly impossible. All the equipment for smoking in cars is placed on the right side of the driver, which must be why left-handers don't smoke as much, and consequently fewer die of cancer, I think. People have written books about the physical and psychological handicaps of left-handers, so there must be quite a problem involved here. Thank god there are such things as combs, mugs, pencils and such two-handed objects to make up for phone booths, most doors, scissors, and guitars. Be nice, invite a left-handed friend to dinner. But make sure you turn his knife-blade inward.

To continue—what would conversation be without hands. Try to talk to Kati while her hands are tied. Bet you won't get a word out of her. Hands can sometimes give an indication of the personality of the person, a la Sherlock Holmes. If the person has relatively short fingernails and callouses on all eight fingertips and the inside of the right thumb—you have a student who has just finished typing eight papers. If the first two fingers and thumb of the right hand, or left hand (let's not be prejudiced about those left-handers) are stained with ink, you have a student still in the process of writing eight papers, especially if there are slight worry lines about the eyes and a tendency to mumble in answer to greetings from friends. Treat these people with tenderness and feed regularly.

Hands have been used as symbols in many paintings. What they symbolize is for you to determine, but they are usually quite inspiring. Even better yet, make your own pictures by using a light or candle and cast shadows on a wall with your hands. Be creative, go beyond monsters and swans to butterflies and people's faces. Remember Peter Pan trying to seduce Wendy to go to Never-never Land by making pictures on the wall with his hands? By the way, what were Peter's intentions towards Wendy anyway? They were considered the mother and father for the lost boys, weren't they? and had a house made for them? hmmm.... Think about the phrase "I gotta hand it toya". Hand what, why hand, why not foot? Then there are words like handsome, handy, handicap, forehand, backhand, hand-in-hand, bird-in-hand—well, anyway, make up your own. My hands are tired write now and would rather get something in them to put into my mouth, so this is all. Keep those left hands clean.

Alive ...

(con't. from p. 1)

University policy, USG unanimously granted a charter to the new organization, officially known as "The Other Vision: Homophiles of Penn State."

CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Now having official status on campus, members of HOPS began an extensive publicity campaign to acquaint the Penn State community with the group's objectives. During the first week of that campaign Dr. Raymond Murphy, Acting Vice President for Student Affairs, informed HOPS that our privileges had been suspended pending the results of an arbitrary investigation of the organization's "Legality."

Despite this unforeseen and enraging act of discrimination HOPS not only carried out its planned activities, among them "gay" workshops in the Colloquy 71 program, a picnic, and numerous group discussions, but also began soliciting student support by raising the HOPS issue at other organizations' meetings, in classrooms and at student raps held by the administration. On May 20 some 25 chartered student organizations picketed Old Main to demand the return of HOPS' privileges, but Murphy's only response was that the investigation had not yet been completed.

OFFICIAL STALL

The stall continued throughout summer term, but the handful of members who remained in town were not discouraged; they continued to meet. Finally on September 1st the administration released its decision which was to revoke the charter completely and permanently. The stated grounds for this bold but typical act of repression was that HOPS is in "conflict" with the counseling and psychiatric services on campus (true, it must be difficult to convince gay people they are sick in the midst of an entire community of painfully well-adjusted homosexuals who are ready, willing and able to contest the issue.)

On September 14 our acting president wrote a letter to Dr. Murphy requesting a clarification of Murphy's ambiguous letter of the 1st in which the only clear statement was that HOPS was being denied its charter. Clarification was sought regarding exactly what policies we conflict and who "advised" Murphy that we do. A more explicit definition was sought in reference to "the legalities involved" exactly what laws HOPS breaks by its very existence.

The ultimate insult came in a brief response from Murphy on September 16 in which he acknowledged our inquiry and closed the matter by saying, "It is not my intention to become involved in prolonged discussion on that decision."

We still intend to carry out our fall schedule which includes a gay orientation program, a dance, continuation of our Free University class, movies, and rap sessions for women.

Rather than stifle our activities, the administration's decision has inspired the addition of one new item to our agenda: See you in court, Dr. Murphy.

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Classified Ads

Happy Anniversary, Paulette. I love you.

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OFFBEAT STORY TAKES TO ROAD

In an age when motion pictures grow more complex, but not necessarily more successful, Warner Bros.' "The Rain People," opening....at the....Theatre, is a simply contrast. Made on the roads of America in the best "cinema verite" tradition by a mobile film-producing unit self-contained in eight vehicles, the movie nonetheless has enormous stature.

"The Rain People," starring Shirley Knight, James Caan and Robert Duvall, deals with an erratic housewife who abruptly decides to start driving across the United States rather than stay with her husband in a confused marriage.

The offbeat story, written by director Francis Ford Coppola, was deliberately constructed to allow inclusion of local color, local people and local incidents as the woman wanders. To accomplish that, the film

company organized a caravan of vehicles ranging from a bus to minibikes. In the bus were installed facilities for view and cutting film and a production office.

Eventually, "The Rain People" company went to 18 states in 18 weeks and concluded shooting in the Denver airport. Because of the resources of the caravan, footage obtained one day could be viewed and edited—and reshot if necessary—literally on the spot. Or, if one location had not yielded useful material, the caravan could pick up and move to another that was more interesting. This technique helped give "The Rain People" great warmth, spontaneity and authenticity.

This flick will be shown in the main building auditorium on Saturday, October 9, at 8:00 P.M. The price of admission will be 35 cents with an activities card, and 75 cents without one.

SCREW RIDES AGAIN

For those of you who remember, the ficked Nittany Screw thunderously entered the life of an employee at Capitol Campus last year but was curtailed by some very energetic students. All of you thought that the Nittany Screw was under control but to our surprise it struck again. This time it hit right where it hurts, the pocketbook.

If any of you visit the Student Center between the hours of 7:30PM to 1:30AM, you will notice that the student help is no longer there. Instead, student help has been replaced with full time employees. What has caused this to happen to our students

who looked forward to a little spending money to help in the rising costs of an education?

While researching this dilemma, it was found that the Main Men at the Palace decided that the Student Center was not making a profit. This could not happen at a NON-PROFIT organization. So it was decided to replace student help with higher paid employees.

So the students got the screw for giving larger than normal scoops of ice cream. Profit, which is the goal, will now be realized with HIGHER WAGES, SMALLER SCOOPS, and POORER STUDENTS.



October Events to be Sponsored by Delta Tau Kappa

October 7 ---General organizational meeting for D.T.K. members and recent applicants.

---Ratification of Constitution and selection of special committees.

---TV Lounge, 7:30 p.m.

October 7 ---Discussion of Law Boards

---Terry Wimmer and Lee Nell will discuss their experiences in taking the boards with those who plan on doing the same in the future.

---Coffee lounge, 3:00 p.m.

October 12 ---Informal Open House for all Social Science students and faculty.

---Coffee lounge, 7:30 p.m.

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