

Fire Chief Warns of School Arsonist

By MIA FINEMAN

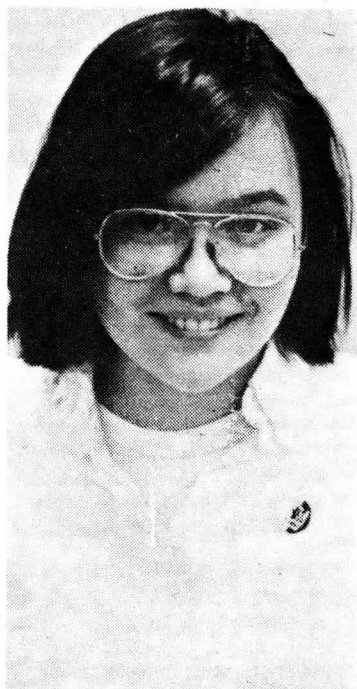
A fire was started in room 325 at approximately 1:45 on Friday, January 29, the day of the entrance examination. Neighbors in a nearby apartment building on 95th Street spotted the flames and called the fire department. The chaos that would have resulted if students were still taking the exam was avoided because most had left the building by the time the fire broke out. Smoke filled the third and fourth floors, but the fire crew kept the flames under control and there were no injuries and no extensive damages to the building.

Dr. Miller has since expressed concern, confirmed by the fire chief, that Friday's blaze was no accident. The following excerpts from a letter distributed to all

faculty members on February 1st clarify the seriousness of Dr. Miller's suspicions:

"I fear we have a sick student in this school who is threatening all of us." (An account of the fire follows) "Nonetheless a fire was started by someone. The investigating fire chief called this person a possible pyromaniac. We have also had a small fire in a locker, and a false fire alarm within the past week. All these events may be unrelated but your help is needed to alert our students to the danger we all face when an irresponsible person starts a fire."

The administration has not yet succeeded in identifying the person responsible for any of the events mentioned.



Catherina Celosse, Student Representative on Search Comm. for Director.

Robert Loscalzo

Search for New Director: Through A Student's Eyes

By SUSANNAH SHEFFER

ICY Catherine Celosse, chosen from a group of "concerned, qualified students" represents the student body on the search committee looking for a Director of Campus Schools to replace Dr. Bernard Miller. The committee is now reading applications and will make the final announcement of their selection in July.

The committee is headed by professor and alumna Louise Fox and includes Allan McLeod, administrative representative, Maria LoFrumento, faculty representative, Kathleen Capra, PTA president, Mildred Speiser, alumnae association president, an elementary school teacher, three Hunter College professors, and Catherina. Ms. LoFrumento was not chosen to represent the administration because "as administrator I would be looking for my own boss" but was then chosen to represent the faculty.

Catherina, as a full member of the committee, may bring with her the view of the students and speak out for their interests. Though the committee must present its choice to Dr. Donna Shalala and Dean Scott of the College for final appointment, members have time to devote a great deal of thought to the decision. Catherina says she is looking for someone who is "dynamic, with a lot of energy," and opinion originally voiced by Dr. Shalala. In addition, the candidate must, according to Catherina, demonstrate the ability "to bring money from a private source into a public one," such as the school.

The committee will not consider a candidate who is not committed to our style of education. "He must not necessarily believe it is the only for us," explained Catherina. "He must work for it, work his best at it, and eventually make it better."

Differences of opinion exist within the committee, but none severe enough to cause disharm-

ony. Students may be uncertain of the extent to which they are being considered in the decision, but Catherina insists that "One of the most important things is concern for students," and without it the candidate "wouldn't have a chance with me."

Catherina further considers willingness to make increased use of being a model school an asset to a candidate. Though the school was originally intended to be a showcase, efforts in this direction have decreased, says Catherina, and it would be beneficial to recapture some of this again. More exposure to other educators would give Hunter's methods more publicity and more credibility.

Those interested in the job have responded to an ad run once in *The New York Times*. Dr. Miller's contribution has been to write the original job description for the committee, but beyond this he has little effect on the decision. Dean Scott, interested in increasing the interaction between the High School and College, sent letters to administrators notifying them of the job's availability. In this way, a fairly wide variety of candidates will be attracted. The committee will review the applications, make some immediate eliminations based on the criteria explained, and will then recommend the final choice to Scott and Shalala, who will conduct an interview and decide. According to Catherina, there are several strong candidates already, and said Ms. LoFrumento confidently, "I assure you that this committee is going to pick the best person for the job."

Minority Students Reorganize

By RONNIE WEINER

The Black Student League's transformation to the new Hunter Minority Association has called for a redefinition of purpose and a less exclusive membership.

Though the group had always operated with an open membership system, many felt that the "black label" excluded some minority students who could benefit from the group's support. "There were groups left out who couldn't identify with anyone," said the group's adviser Irene Dabney. "Members of the Black Student League felt that those students should have a club to join. The black name was a stigma which blocked many of them out, so the club was revised to include more cultures."

Hispanic students have been the group most inclined to take advantage of this expansion. The club's purposes say original members, is to provide workshops which help members develop "coping skills" for the discrimination they may face. Treasurer Denise Taylor explained, "In essence the club is for minorities to get together to express feelings about being a minority in this world, without feeling inhibited intimidated or wrong." President Tiffany Scott added, "Each week we talk a lot about being Black or Spanish or whatever minority you are in Hunter, which is basically a white school. Although I feel that there is no actual racism in Hunter, the many cliques which exist sometimes lend themselves to situations in which there is obvious inferiority among certain students."

Clearly absent from the minority association's membership are the Oriental Students, who seem to prefer to remain in the Oriental American Society. Each group uses the club to unify students of a distinct ethnic background, but the underlying purposes differ. Tiffany Scott commented on the apparent similarity of the two groups. "It appears that both the OAS and the Minority Association have similar goals in that it was necessary in both cases to bring together Hunterites of a like culture so as to make that cul-



Jay Fischer

ture a significant participant in school functions," she said. OAS treasurer Nancy Leung said, however, that the primary goal of the OAS is not to assert Orientals in the Hunter scene, or combat discrimination, but rather to introduce Chinese culture to Hunterites, through the incorporation of many Oriental traditions in the activities and events which the OAS sponsors. The OAS, therefore, seems to have arisen out of a need to keep up tradition but not to provide support or teach "coping skills."

The newly expanded Minority Association seems to be providing the support it intended. Tenth Grader Rose Velasquez, who joined after the club's expansion, spoke of the bond she felt with the other members. "We share a common culture. I can explain things to them that others just don't—or can't—understand." Many members of the Association share this opinion.

White students are also encouraged to join, though as yet only one has taken up the offer. Marina Kantos, the club's only white member, said she joined because many of her friends belong and "... because there is no reason I shouldn't stand up for my friends' rights." Club members appreciate Marina's support. Denise Taylor commented, "The fact that they (whites) are interested helps. Marina provides insight, we get to see another viewpoint."

The expansion of the club has provided an incentive for greater

visibility and more activities. Visiting speakers are planned, and the club has already established their own section of the school library and donated *Crisis*, an NAACP periodical, and several books, to it.

Kim Martin Elected to Replace Chris Chu

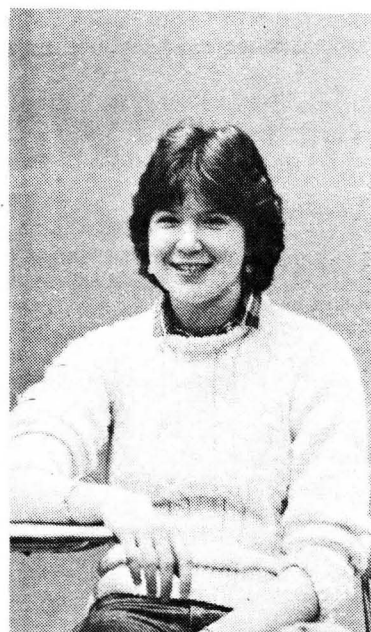
By AARON RETICA

In the aftermath of the Chris Chu controversy, the ninth grade has elected Kim Martin to the term presidency and been provided with an incentive to finish the term government by-laws which were in the works at the time of Chu's removal.

Mrs. LoFrumento removed Chu from the presidency last December as a punishment for pulling a chair out from under another student. Faced with no term president, "the class was handed a situation and had to deal with it," according to ninth grade adviser Susan Meeker. Kim Martin, not previously an officer, won a race against two other candidates.

Kim said that she found the ninth grade, on the whole, receptive to her presidency. She noted, however, that a number of ninth graders wrote Chris Chu's name on the ballot.

Though the original storm of



Kim Martin, replacing Chris Chu

Robert Loscalzo

protest has calmed down, some students still remain displeased with Chu's removal. Kim, among them, added that she found the decision unfair. Ms. Meeker said she "would not say whether Mrs. LoFrumento was right," but added that "Mrs. LoFrumento has full power as principal to do what she did."

The newly passed by-laws offer only minimal provisions for the election of a candidate. They state that a petition with signatures which equal "20% of the total term enrollment" is the only requirement for running for office. No by-laws exist governing the consideration of a student's record in the campaign, nor is there a law specifying the conditions under which an elected president may be removed. Forty percent of the total vote is required for election, however, so a candidate who is found unsuitable by the majority of students is not likely to be elected.

TO OUR READERS:

WHAT'S WHAT asks its readers to recognize that financial difficulties are responsible for the missing issue last month and the shortened issue this month.

Feel Smart, Not Superior

That Hunter students may feel superior to others is less significant than the ways in which this comes to be so. We may have reacted to the "Joyful Elite" article with dismay because we feared misinterpretation by those not familiar with the school. Yet it is hard to deny that some feeling of being different exists from the time we leave neighborhood schools to attend this one. Why do most students make this change? Usually it is said that being admitted to Hunter offered an opportunity which could not be passed up. Once here, this feeling is reinforced by teachers who assure students that they are special, the *creme de la creme*, destined to remain in the upper ranks, intellectually, of society. But what, then, does one do with this? If Hunter students are, in fact, endowed with greater intellectual powers (and this, of course, is open to question) then it should follow that they have a greater ability to perceive others around them, and, perhaps, to understand them. In other words, intellectual ability should not in itself foster elitism. A strength in an area should not mean contempt for those without it. The message of this school—and the true reason for its being an opportunity—should be that it attempts to provide a community of people who value intellectual ideas. No superiority should be implied. If intelligence could be measured, we would perhaps have justification for feeling superior, and thus, elite. But if it is only assumed that we have been admitted to the school on the basis of an examination which seems to predict success at this type of school, and that many equally qualified candidates were denied admission, then it would be understood that we have the privilege of an opportunity, but are not, from the moment we arrive, better than everyone else.

It is true that Hunterites may feel superior to students of other schools based on feelings of their own. Yet it is likely that if they were not made to feel that no other school provides an opportunity for intelligent students to develop, but instead that students exist everywhere with all kinds of qualities, some which show up on tests and some which do not, the reason for feeling elite would disappear. Many factors contribute to a Hunterite's feeling of superiority, but if an implied message that the feeling is true exists within the school, efforts should be made to eliminate it.

By-Laws Not Enough

Though much mention has been made of the removal of Chris Chu from the ninth grade presidency, WHAT'S WHAT would like to make a final suggestion about the matter before letting it rest. Though the ninth grade has passed a set of by-laws concerning term government, in accordance with WHAT'S WHAT's original advice, the rules seem to have fallen short of the goals we had hoped they would achieve. By requiring a fixed amount of signatures to enable a candidate to run and then specifying the margin by which he must win the students ensure support for the president. But would this not have existed without such a rule? Perhaps the rule serves as a protection against a candidate winning by a small percentage in an election in which few voted, but it does nothing to prevent the recurrence of a removal such as Chris Chu's. If the ninth grade was as angry as it claimed to be by the removal, it should have looked to the by-laws as a constructive means to channel the anger. Laws such as these can guarantee that a candidate is supported by the majority of students; they can also specify conditions under which he can be prevented from running, and those under which he can be removed. Without coming to some conclusion about these issues, neither the ninth nor any other grade will be justified in protesting an officer's removal in the future.

Affirmative Action:

As Bad As Racism

By MARK ROSENFELD

Affirmative action is an attractive phrase. Who could oppose something that sounds so wonderfully benevolent? Who but a vicious reactionary could support "negative inertia"? "Not I," you say? Wait. It is time to dismantle the protective wall of euphemism and to discuss the issue, the use of race, for whatever reason, as a determining factor in decisions of employment and academic admissions.

"Color-blindness" is a basic American principle; it is an ideal. We cherish the notion that individuals should be judged according to their abilities, not their race. The abolition of race-related judgements is the fundamental goal of all genuine civil rights activity. Affirmative action, in its support of race-related judgements, is, despite its noble intentions, a racist policy. It makes no difference whether the aim of a racial policy is to limit or augment minority representation in a given area. In either case, racial affiliation replaces merit as the measure of an individual's worth.

This is the essence of racism.

Furthermore, ignore philosophical questions for the moment, and consider the victims of affirmative action. Consider the qualified white who is denied a job or admission to a school solely on the basis of his/her race. What of the qualified black who is forever stigmatized and patronized by others' doubts regarding his/her true merit? These victims are considered insignificant by those who support affirmative action as a just policy.

The problem of racism cannot be solved with policies which continue to recognize race as a significant character trait. The only long term solution is the elimination of such policies. Liberals should understand this; they have always been defenders of long term principle over perceived short term practicality. They defend the First Amendment rights of the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan, despite their utter abhorrence of these groups' views. The liberal stance on this issue is absolutely correct. The danger posed by the subjective denial of basic freedoms is much greater than that posed by

any temporary result which the exercise of those freedoms may engender. Why are the staunch defenders of the principle of free speech unable to see that, in their support of affirmative action, they are rejecting a basic principle which they claim to defend, the principle of race-blind judgement?

I am not suggesting that a university or employer should completely overlook an applicant's background. Any extreme obstacles which an individual has had to overcome should be taken into consideration. However, this only applies on an individual basis. General racial policies, designed either to promote "racial balance" or to pay back a collective racial debt accrued over years of discrimination against blacks are wrong. Such policies overlook the basic fact that each applicant is an individual who should be judged as nothing but an individual. No individual should be considered part of a racial balance or as a member of a race which either "owes" or is "owed" something because of the sins of the past.

Part of Democracy

By AARON RETICA

Affirmative Action, a positive step in the direction of racial equality, has come under heavy criticism. The program (now mostly volunteer), which was created to help "minorities" into the mainstream of society, has been attacked by people who cry "anti-racism." The program has received no real support from the Reagan Administration but it continues to aid "minorities" from all over the United States.

The critics ask what these programs have done for them, and for the country. They say Affirmative Action has done nothing for them. But one can not look at one's own status to see how a program has affected others. The Affirmative Ac-

tion program has helped thousands of "minorities" to enjoy better lives. Even within the Hunter community, many would not be here if Affirmative Action did not exist.

Critics say that Affirmative Action has displaced whites from positions in business and education. But Affirmative Action has tried to change what has always been a problem in our country: the oppression of blacks and Hispanics. Up from slavery, but where are they supposed to go? A.A. affords "minorities" a chance.

We owe it to the "minorities" to give them a chance to even the score. Affirmative Action enriches everyone's life by giving everyone an equal try. If a change in atti-

tude can occur in the education and business worlds, then the relationship between whites and "minorities" will change. Less anger, more harmony. Who will deny our society more harmony?

I wish that Alan Bakke (a white man who sued for entrance into a medical school because of anti-discrimination) could have been there years ago when the student who got accepted in his place could instead have been picking cotton or working as a janitor in the school. I wish all the anti-Affirmative Action groups could have been there when the first black student in Alabama University history had to fight his way in, blocking rocks with his hands. Affirmative Action: yes.



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71 East 94th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028

Editor-in-Chief
Susannah Sheffer

Managing/Layout Editors
Lawrence Rosenblatt
Brian Shelley

News Editor
Mia Fineman

Business Manager
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"Joyful Elite" Sparks Controversy

By ADAM DOLGINS

The appearance of the article titled "The Joyful Elite" in *New York* magazine a few weeks ago has received an overwhelmingly critical reaction, surprising the author and dismaying the school's administration. After the article was published, hundreds of letters poured into the *New York* offices, some defensive, many angry, others appreciative. The Hunter community, though it had waited for a long time to be featured in the media, found itself subject to more criticism than it had received as a little known school.

Alumnus Katherine Davis Fishman, returning to magazine writ-



Katherine Davis Fishman, author of "The Joyful Elite"

ing after a decade of work on her recently published book *The Computer Establishment*, originally set out to explore the question, "How does an institution respond to social change?"

After visiting classes and interviewing students and faculty, Ms. Fishman concluded that despite coeducation and the increase in minority enrollment, what was special about Hunter thirty years ago has remained the same. "Hunter seems to have reached into the present with undiluted elan," she wrote. Yet much of the article, whether it was through students' quotes or the author's own interpretation, portrayed an elite student body, which, joyful or not, looks down upon the rest of the world.

Many students reacted angrily to the assumption that they were elitist, and claimed to be "appalled" and "disgusted" at the article's "snobbish" and "self-serving" tone.

"I was absolutely shocked at the reaction," admitted Ms. Fishman. "I expected provocative letters, but nothing like this. Some that I got were pretty close to hate mail." The author insists that she "loves Hunter students and Hunter teachers" and meant the article to be a salute to them, an "unabashed valentine." In defense of the article's tone, Ms. Fishman explained that when she visited the school she found the general attitude of Hunter students to be "irreverent and very snippy" and so decided to write the article in the same "lighthearted" tone she found so delightful. She was disappointed, she said, that people read the article with such "desperate seriousness."

"We took it seriously because we knew other people would take it seriously," said eleventh grader Sharon McMenanin. "We could

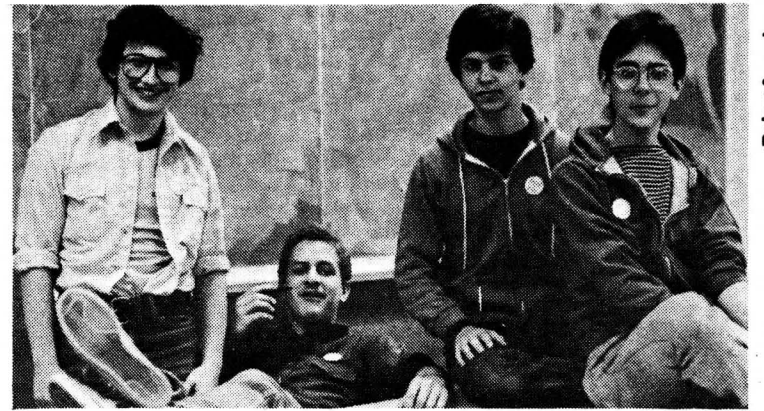
laugh at the underlying truths in the article but we knew people unfamiliar with Hunter wouldn't understand." Years of being a Hunterite tended to make upper termers more reflective and to concede that underlying truths *did* exist, though they were distorted and overemphasized and subject to an inappropriate overall attitude. "Hunterites are sort of like that but toned down a bit," said ICY Carrie Costello. David Wollard, with the perspective of a Hunter graduate ('81), commented, "There were small grains of truth running around in the article but the whole slant was wrong."

Students were correct in assuming that outsiders would take the article seriously. "Hunter has been trying to rid itself of its elitist image for years," said ICY Saul Lichenstein. "This article is a great setback." The administration has received several hostile phone calls from schools around



The famous button

the city, particularly the principals of Bronx Science and Stuyvesant. Critical reaction from readers not connected with any institution (see below) indicates how charged



Creators of the button: (l-r) Chuck Kane, Andrew Clateman, Bob Glickstein, Steve Stern.

the subject of elitism is in this country.

Chairman of the Counseling Department Allan McLeon found the article "dangerous" precisely because of this attitude. He said that moving into the world conscious only of one's own intellectual superiority is bound to alienate others. He continued, "Most people reading that article had to be offended."

The administration appears flustered by the flak it has received over the article. Principals of the High School and Elementary School came to Hunter's defense in letters to *New York* (see below) but when questioned seemed tired of the entire issue, and, according to Dr. Miller, wished to "let a sleeping dog lie." The issue does not appear to have come to rest as of yet, however. Students continue to discuss the impact of the article and the sale of "Joyful Elite" buttons, manufactured by three tenth graders and worn in joking re-

sponse to the article's characterizations, still continues.

Commonly pointed out by those who defend the article is that many of the article's most "snobbish" phrases were made by the students themselves. Yet the students quoted claim they were quoted out of context, or edited to include only the most extreme assertions. Other students argue that those quoted were not "average" Hunterites anyway.

Though one student complained I used to feel proud to tell people I was from Hunter. Now I feel a little embarrassed, I'm afraid people will think I'm a snob," students' basic sense of pride does not seem to have diminished as a result of the article. Fear of outside misinterpretation (including college admissions offices) dominates instead. The following excerpts from the *New York* letters to the editor column show exactly what the outsiders are saying and how Hunter is defending itself.

What They're Saying:

Pro

Despite the fact that we may be generations apart and strangers when we meet, we Hunter alumnae experience a phenomenon that I call "instant recognition." There is a quintessence of being a "Hunter girl"; we do not dentalize our t's and d's, nor do we click our g's in pronouncing "Long Island"; we can translate the Latin motto on a pack of Pall Mall cigarettes; and we know that momentum equals velocity times mass. But there is more: the love of learning, the spirit of inquiry and independence, and the sense of purposefulness in our lives. All

this, and some of the happiest times we have ever had.

Leonora Lombardo Ianzuzi
Mohegan Lake, N.Y.

The students at Hunter are not snobs, and not "elite," and we resent being called that. We are just bright young people fortunate enough to attend this school.

Amanda Edelbaum and
Alix Pustilnik, Manhattan

After reading Katharine Davis Fishman's article "The Joyful Elite" (January 18), I feel that I owe an apology to the thousands of students who attend New York City's public and private schools. I am very much aware of the many honors achieved by the "creme de la creme" of other schools, such as the Nobel-prize winners from Bronx Science or the Westinghouse winners from Stuyvesant and Cardozo. Not all the gifted students in New York City attend Hunter College High School. I assure you that 99 percent of our

students bear no resemblance to those described by Ms. Fishman. Contrary to what she wrote, the administration, faculty, and students of Hunter certainly believe that "humility is not an overrated virtue."

Maria LoFrumento, Principal

Ms. Fishman provided a great disservice to the vast majority of the youngsters attending this school by depicting them as cocky and boorish. The most uninformed and egregiously outlandish statement was the remark that they

Many of the kids in my school feel a sense of pride stemming from the description of us as the "creme de la creme." . . . Myself, I dislike the way we are portrayed as snotty. It's an attitude we show because, as a social group, we tend to be rejected by the other private and public schools.

Name withheld, Manhattan

In Defense

"never do a lick of work or acquire a serious thought." Ms. Fishman obviously obtained this information through osmosis, for she chose never to visit the elementary school or to speak with any teacher, parent, or pupil on this level. Her "findings" were based upon her own experiences as a student over 30 years ago, when the school was a tower of elitism and snobbery.

Stanley Seidman, Principal

Con

To constantly instill in children a phony sophistication and condescending attitude toward their peers is unforgivable. I would not like my children to go to a school that teaches them that any problem in life must be due to outside forces, for they are so special the problems cannot lie within themselves. It seems to me a way to raise neurotics who cannot deal with life."

Maureen Cox, Brooklyn

As a teacher of many years, I assure you that no tests exist to measure or even define human intellect; "laboratory school for the intellectually gifted" indeed! All our children suffer from this constant static "measuring" of their intellectual lives. When I join the final charge against my old alma mater, it won't be because I didn't have fun there. It was swell. It'll be because I resent the years I spent getting all that damned "creme de la creme" out of my head.

Gioia Shebar, Manhattan

On the one hand, we are asked to embrace democracy, and on the other, elitism. . . . The statement "They're there because they're paying, and we're here because we're intelligent" is inaccurate. It should be "They're there because they're paying, and we're here because they're paying."

M. Darrow, Manhattan

Katharine Fishman replies: (1) My article did not claim that Hunter College High School kids are the only gifted students in New York. (2) As a school that admits by entrance examination, Hunter is, by definition, elitist. But it is too bad that American social custom makes it a taboo to applaud bright kids for being bright. (3) It was recent Hunter College Elementary School graduates themselves who said they didn't have to work hard at the elementary school.

Speak Up

By JAY FISCHLER

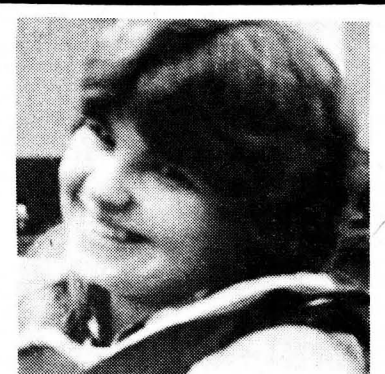
What are your feelings about the article on Hunter in *New York* magazine?

David Russekoff, 9—I don't think that this article is truthful about the school. We don't say that we are better than the other schools, we know we are better.



Chuck Kane, 10—I think the article hit a Hunter sore spot. People dislike the article because an impartial (?) observer has shown us a facet of ourselves we wish to deny. It also provided a good opportunity to make money on buttons.

Sharon Blanchard, 10—I think that the article made us seem conceited. Even though we might say things like the ones in the article, joking, people should realize that it isn't seriously meant.



In Short

Laster Named New Eng. Chairman

After reviewing about sixty applicants since last fall, the search committee has chosen the candidate closest to home to head the English Department next year. Rose-Marie Laster, currently acting Chairman of the department, will assume the position in the fall.

The Personnel and Budget committee, chaired by Maria LoFrumento and containing representatives from the faculty and administration, received fifty to sixty responses to an ad placed in *The New York Times* last fall. Seven of these applicants were soon chosen for careful screening, and the committee made the final decision to select Ms. Laster last month. It is believed that Ms. Laster will "add to the stature of the administration" of the English Department, according to members of the committee. Ms. Laster will replace Miriam Burstein, who resigned in June, 1981, after thirty-six years at Hunter.

Greg Boyle to Replace Sue Eichler

Greg Boyle, the imposter recently invading the Social Studies Department, is now posing as Sue Eichler for the remainder of the semester. Ms. Eichler is taking a temporary leave of absence to have a child, expected in April.

Mr. Boyle, a graduate of the Columbia Graduate School's Department of Political Science with an M.A. in philosophy, is currently working on his dissertation on American politics. Boyle's interests include running and listening to "everything from Beethoven to the Clash."

Seventh Grade Holds Olympiad

Class 7-2 was the winner in the recent seventh grade Olympiad, which was conducted with all the pomp and circumstance of the real event. Competitions were held in various athletic events, as well as in cheerleading.

Disorganization Prevents Chorus Trip

The Senior and Jazz Choruses recently held a major fundraising campaign to finance a musical tour, but the venture proved unsuccessful due to poor planning and pressure from the administration.

The Choruses had originally planned to participate in the "World of Music Festival," which sponsors trips for musical groups. There was also the possibility of a trip to Hawaii. "The purpose was to enable these very talented students to go on a musical tour and participate in music festivals in different areas," said Chorus leader Campbell Austin. The drive to raise funds for the tour consisted of writing letters to various companies for their support, and selling candy to other students around the school. Seventy chorus members were each given three boxes (\$90 worth) of candy to sell for fifty cents apiece. The chorus made \$11.25 profit on each box sold, but they have not yet calculated the total amount raised, according to Mr. Austin.

The administration approved of the venture, said Mr. Austin, but would not support it. "They realized it was handled poorly and advised me to reconsider," he said. Part of the problem was failure to get B.O.G. approval to raise money inside the school. "I hadn't intended for the candy to be sold in school," said Mr. Austin. "B.O.G. didn't approve because we went beyond them." Austin also attributed the campaign's failure to lack of genuine enthusiasm on the part of the students. "The inception was handled badly," he said. "We hadn't realized the enormity of this venture." The Choruses have not yet decided whether to use the money already raised for an event of some other nature this year, or to continue in a two-year effort towards the musical tour.

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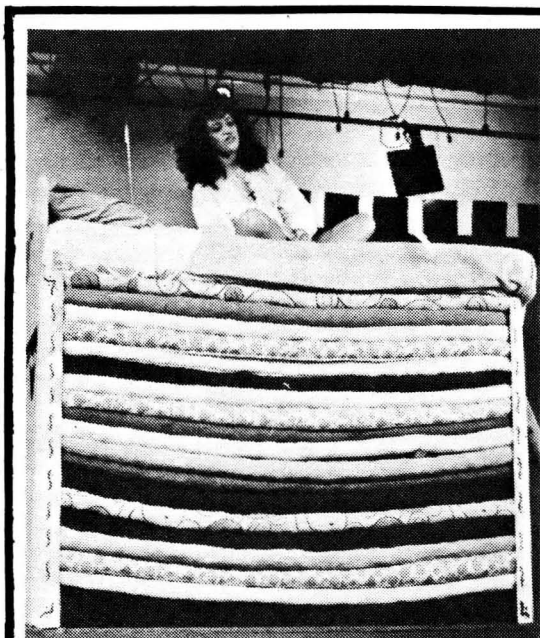
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Musical Rep's Once Upon A Mattress

By MIA FINEMAN

"Once Upon A Mattress," presented by the HCHS Musical Repertory Club, was received with much enthusiasm, playing to nearly full audiences on February 3rd and 4th, and to a full house with standing room on February 5th. Among the members of Thursday afternoon's audience was Mary Rodgers, composer of the music for the play. Although this was one of the first amateur productions of the play she has seen, Ms. Rodgers commended the cast highly on all aspects of the production, describing the performance as "charming and funny, with miraculous spirit."

The play, directed by Stephanie Schulze, is a humorous version of the fairy-tale "The Princess and the Pea," set in Medieval times. Queen Aggravain, outstandingly played by Elissa Jiji, is the loud, domineering mother of Prince Dauntless (Philip Rogosky), her wishy-washy young son for whom she must find a suitable mate. But the Queen is reluctant to marry of Dauntless and delays it as long as possible, to the dismay of the Lords and Ladies of the court who are forbidden to wed until Dauntless finds a wife.

Among the lords and ladies-in-waiting are the dashing Sir Harry (Tobin Kovacs) and Lady Larken (Laurel Whelton) who find themselves in a tight spot with Larken pregnant and eager to marry as soon as possible. Harry resolves to find Dauntless a wife himself, and returns from his search with strong, loud, energetic Princess

Winnifred (Anne Ebersman), who sings of the swamps of her home.

The Queen finds Winnifred totally unsuitable as a wife, and devises a "sensitivity test," a trait Winnifred seems to be lacking, placing a pea under 20 mattresses. As in the original story, if Winnifred is kept awake by the pea, then she is a real princess and suitable to marry the prince. Despite the Queen's efforts to exhaust her, Winnifred manages to stay awake all night counting sheep (with the help of the Jester and Minstrel), passes the test, and marries Prince Dauntless. And of course lives happily ever after.

The entire cast showed a great deal of musical talent and acting ability, along with an inexhaustible spirit. Tobin and Laurel displayed their excellent voices in their two duets, "In A Little While" and "Yesterday I Loved You". Anne Ebersman shined in a show-stopping number "Happily Ever After," one of the few solos in the play. Danny Barrish gave an excellent performance as the mute womanizer, King Sextimus the Silent, both in a "trio" with the Minstrel (Jesse Matz) and the Jester (Liza Quintero), and in "Man to Man Talk," explaining the facts of life to Dauntless in pantomime.

The first act came to a high-point in "Song of Love," a fast, lively number sung by Dauntless and the company, as Winnifred (Fred for short) bounces energetically around the stage. Among the best dramatic moments in the play was a violent fight scene between Larken and Harry, when Larken

mistakes Princess Winnifred for a chambermaid. One of the most memorable scenes was "Nightingale's Lullaby," in which Winnifred is lulled to sleep by a pink-feathered nightingale on roller-skates, humorously played by Rachel Kramer. Other excellent performances were given by Eric Weisbard as the Wizard, and Rebeca Arbona as Princess No. 12.

The choreography, by Bella Sirugo, complemented the score and showed a wide diversity of styles. Among the most outstanding numbers were "Spanish Panic," a lively Virginia reel-type dance, and "Very Soft Shoes," a smooth soft-shoe number in which the Jester and his father (Joe Grad) shuffle gracefully.

The technical aspects of the play were professional-looking, and showed a great deal of work and careful design, exceeding that of previous productions. David Robison succeeded in combining a simple set composed of silhouetted castles and medieval flags with varied lighting to create different moods and effects throughout the play. Particularly good was the scene showing the Wizard bent over his cauldron, enhanced by a subdued light. The costumes were colorful, and fit in well with the medieval flavor of the play.

Musical accompaniment was provided by a nine-member band exceptionally large for this type of production. In addition to backing up vocals in the various musical numbers, there was also a long overture, excellently played by the entire band.

Hawks: Mid-Season Report

By SUMIN ENG

Posting a 10-5 record midway through the season, the Hawks have shown themselves to be a championship team. Consistent good playing and hard work seem to be the key to the team's success.

Coach Campbell Austin said he is pleased with the team's play thus far, most notably the improvement of Mike Lillard, the intensity of Phil Keller's play, and the quality of Phil Isom's leadership. Isom is the team's leading scorer, averaging 26 points a game, including a season high of

45 against Rhodes. Player Doug Levine attributed the team's strong defense to ICY member Mike Lillard. "(He) has been playing consistent defense lately. He's been a human eraser."

First year players have shown the needed enthusiasm. Keith Yuster, in particular, has shown enough improvement to move up from J.V. ranks to a starting position on the varsity.

The team this year faced the added pressure of participating in two leagues. Austin is pleased with how well the Hawks stood up to the P.S.A.L. teams, but still has

mixed feelings about joinign the league. Austin plans to meet with the department chairman to discuss becoming a full member of the league next year. Meanwhile, he anticipates close playoff games against A.C.I.S. teams. "We need the consistency and intensity so we can do well in the playoffs... (but) every game will be a close game."

A recent article in the Sunday Daily News featured the Hawks and Fordham Prep's team and provided some exposure for Hunter's athletes, but Austin once again expressed a desire for more spectators at the games.