

# EDITORIALS

## Arson Isn't Humorous: Burns Hurt, People Die

In the era of National Lampoon's Animal House, some things are just not funny. Starting fires in a dormitory is at the top of the list.

Burns hurt. Roasting flesh stinks worse than any meat you've ever smelled burning in an oven. Ugly? Yes, but this is not a laughing matter. Read on.

The hallways in Fisher's dormitories are about the same width as the hallways in the Holiday Inn in Greece. When the Holiday Inn burned in November, six of the 10 people killed were within 15 feet of the fire exit. They died of smoke inhalation after one person fell, blocking the hallway. The bodies were found on top of each other.

Burning plastic produces an acrid black smoke that can kill. While a fire in a trash can probably won't do much structural damage, it can produce enough smoke to kill.

In a smokey fire in Fisher's dormitories, it would only take one person to fall in the corridor to cause a repeat of the Holiday Inn tragedy.

The Holiday Inn fire, like the two recent fires at Fisher, was deliberately set. It is a wonder the arsonist can sleep at night.

So far, Fisher's arsonist has been extremely lucky not to have killed someone. The potential is there. Who ever is setting the fires is reminded that killing someone sticks on your conscience for a long, long time.

## Lay Offs Hurt Students

The lay offs in the work-study program raise some questions.

Why didn't the college manage the flow of the money better? If most of the money has been used and the academic year is only half over, it seems that there has been less than careful management of the money.

If, however, they planned to deplete the money, as Rudolph Koletic said, then careful management should have at least kept the program afloat until the supplemental money was received.

Why weren't the students notified sooner? They are the people who will be hurt by this situation.

Some students working for the physical plant department were told Monday they were being laid off. Monday was also the last day to withdraw from the college with an 80 percent tuition refund. The current refund is only 60 percent. After Monday, it will be 40 percent.

Students depend on the work-study income, and some may now be forced to withdraw from school. By announcing the lay offs this late, a student will lose not only his or her wages, but a sizeable portion of the tuition refund if they withdraw.

Whether mistakes have been made is now water over the dam. Students deserve more careful management of the money the financial aid office has told them they are eligible to receive.

## Elvis Costello's Album A Conventional Sound

By Randy Nash

In fifteen months, Elvis Costello has released three albums. No small feat when you consider the two years it takes bands like Boston and Foreigner to come up with an album that sounds just like the one before it. In these days of performers who are more concerned with the technology and hype that goes into a record than with the quality and immediacy of the material, Elvis Costello is a rare and refreshing artist.

*Armed Forces*, Costello's latest album, is different from his last record, *This Year's Model*, in much the same way that album was different from his debut, *My Aim Is True*. The raw freshness of the first album and the streamlined punch of the second have given way to a deeper and more conventional sound. There is much more instrumentation on *Armed Forces*, most notably the use of a concert piano on several of the tracks.

The piercing organ of Steve Nave, the throbbing yet melodic bass of Bruce Thomas, and the energetic drumming of Pete Thomas all stand out from the dense mix of producer Nick Lowe, but it is Costello's voice that jumps out and grabs the

listener's attention. The vocals are strong and distinctive, but Costello doesn't seem to have the same menacing edge that he did on the other albums. The slightly commercial production may have robbed Elvis of some of his impact. Whatever the reason, he just isn't as threatening on the new album when he cries in "Senior Service," "I want you dead/I want to chop off your head and watch it roll into the basket" as he is on *This Year's Model's* "Lipstick Vogue" ("You wanna throw me away/Well, I'm not broken").

Lyrical, Costello's finest moments on *Armed Forces* occur in "Oliver's Army" and "Two Little Hitlers." The former is a stab at the conditions in South Africa ("If you're out of luck or out of work/We can send you to Johannesburg and 'Only takes one itchy trigger/One more little one less white nigger"). "Two Little Hitlers" is the album's most humorous track. Against a subtle reggae guitar lick, Costello spits out one-liners about wanting to join the party but not being invited. When discussing his 'new Valentine', he says the situation is 'all so calculated/She's got a calculator.'

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Jim Spina looks dignified while Scott Knox and Angela Uttaro ham it up at a recent Glee Club practice. photo by John Callard

# LETTERS

## Band Agent Does Best For Fisher

To the editor:

I would like to take this time to express my feelings to the article in your December paper.

I, Debbie Sills, agent for Great Lakes Booking, have been working with Joe Rogliano and Carol Cooley in providing musical groups for the Campus Club throughout the year. It was one intention to provide the Campus Club with as many groups as possible for as little as possible.

We have succeeded in doing so for St. John Fisher, not only by doubling the groups to appear, but also giving a financial boost to school funds.

The agencies to provide St. John Fisher with music have been: Valex, Music Star, Sky

High, D.M.R. and Great Lakes Booking.

Joe, Carol, and myself would have liked to have provided you with Duke Jupiter but Peter Morticelli, agent for the group refused the dates we offered him.

In the article, Larry Rand was quoted as saying that exclusive booking with one agent just wasn't done and was unethical. Since the article, Mr. Rand has extended his apologies to me, which I accept; and he realizes that we haven't been unethical, although he does not like this practice.

As for Peter Morticelli, whose agency is located across the street from the campus there is no reason in the world why he

couldn't have provided his exclusive services to St. John Fisher. As I previously mentioned, Peter Morticelli refused us dates on Duke Jupiter. In the future we will still be calling on Peter Morticelli for the exclusive bands he represents. If they do not appear at St. John Fisher it only means that Peter Morticelli did not accept the dates. I feel I have given 100 percent to St. John Fisher and I have been getting that in return. My intentions are honorable and I will continue to give my all to St. John Fisher this year and whenever I can be of service.

Debbie Sills  
Agent  
Great Lakes Booking

## Rogliano Seeks Clear Prospective

To the editor:

When the article about Social Affairs came out last December, I did not react by calling up the agents who spewed out their feelings. I thought there was already enough pity in the article. To be honest, no matter what agency was used, and how many bands were represented by this or that agent, I don't think the article was even worth printing. It came off like an attempt to stir up some dirt, rather than inform, which it did inadequately.

In response to a few things concerning the article from last December and also Debbie Sills' letter, I would like to clear a few things up:

—Both Carol Cooley's and my responsibilities to you, the students, was to provide weekly live entertainment, within one given budget. This was done, and we hope we have pleased you.

—The fact that Mr. Morticelli's bands were not used in no way cheated anyone. I do not appreciate his not willing to give Great Lakes any commissions for

his groups. I do not appreciate his accusations though, as I guess no one likes to be talked about in a negative sense. I was of the opinion that I explained my position to Peter, but I imagine he just wasn't satisfied. I also realize that Pelican Productions has lost some expected commissions from Fisher—but to throw in some cheap quotes because he didn't get our business was a very small tactic to resort to.

—I have learned a lot about the competitiveness of the band business. I have also learned that D.M.R. agency, who quoted our actions as unethical because we did the majority of our business with Great Lakes, (Mr. Larry Rand is the agent I refer to), have exclusive booking with Alfred. Who's unethical now, Mr. Rand? Was there any sense to place your talent as an agent into such a tight corner by pulling a cheap shot—that backfired. Give me a break.

The *Pioneer* failed to mention that D.M.R. will have bands this term playing at Fisher. So much

for exclusive booking, huh?

—Our hopes were to bring in some bands that have not played Fisher before, but that we felt would please those who take advantage of hearing the bands in the club. It's sick how things got warped and out of context, but I hope that this term we can hold your confidence in booking bands for the students that you can enjoy.

As I said, I did not want to write in response to the article, but the inaccuracies contained in it were too hard and many to forget. I respect the *Pioneer* and its staff; have worked with them and enjoyed it—and I hope to work again with them this term, but I wanted things clear so that maybe future prospective articles will be thought about twice before they get printed.

Joe Rogliano  
Co-chairman  
Social Affairs

P.S. A sincere thank-you to everyone who gave their support last Friday with "New Breed".

STAFF

**PIONEER**  
ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE  
3690 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14618  
716/385-4740 -If no answer, call 586-4140, ext. 242  
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Editor-in-Chief .....	Jim Redmond
Managing Editor .....	Mark Obbie
News Editor .....	Mike Lamendola
Associate News Editor .....	Glenn Burdett
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