

# Letters to the Editor

## Alcohol promises a lie

To the Editor:

A few years ago Father John Powell wrote a best selling book with the poignant title, *Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?* It sold well because it raised a vital question and offered pregnant suggestions for resolution. We are afraid to tell others who we are because we think they might not like us. Motivated by fear, we instead tell them what

we do. If turned away, we can accept that kind of rejection because it is not personal.

On some levels the debate about alcohol on Lafayette's campus sounds like the cries of children who have been told by the parents to put the toys away now because there is work to be done here. Parents have to make some choices for children. Otherwise they eat foods that are not

healthful, fail to get proper rest, and put themselves in dangerous situations. From my vantage point at football games (we occasionally sit in the student section) some of the alcohol use I see exemplifies the ultimate in childish behavior. No responsible parent will allow a child to poison himself to death, but that has in fact happened at football games; fortunately not here. The Administration is saying to the children: "Grow up." It's about time. It needs to be said to Alumni, too (we sit with them as well, and watch their performance at the Annual Parade).

My concern is not with Lafayette's children. In reality, they are few, and they get weeded out by the pressure of the system's expectations. Nor is the issue why students drink. America drinks; students are Americans; therefore students drink. Students drink for the reasons that faculty, parents and administration drink. A comparison of rationalism may yield a little light, but one doubts that he shall find anything new under the sun in the collected list. The question is what role does alcohol play in the social system that Lafayette is? What does alcohol do for students, and for the faculty and parents and administration and alumni who occasionally mix with them? Alcohol lets me tell you who I am, in John Powell's terminology and in my judgment.

My father was an alcoholic. I have spent years understanding what I perceived to be his rejection of me so that I could finally make peace with it. My father drank as he did because he rejected himself. His wounds were open to the healing his family could offer when he was drunk. Unfortunately, we were so traumatized by his addiction that we were unable to help him. We learned to survive by helping

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## Deal with the crisis

To the Editor:

My friend Michael died of AIDS this past weekend. He was nineteen. It was my loss, Michael was an amazing person. We lived next door to each other our entire lives. Two years ago, Michael was given contaminated blood after having open-heart surgery. The funeral was this morning. Michael would have been a freshman this fall.

To those of you who are freshmen now, the next three years are going to go by really fast. A lot of things are going to happen to all of you that may seem unbelievably bad. Especially at Lafayette, the partying situation is constantly turned into a

crisis. Don't let the issue be blown out of proportion. If Markle wants to get rid of pubnites, it will get rid of pubnites. The students who want to meet and drink with friends on weeknights will still meet and drink with friends on weeknights.

It may happen that you personally will have to handle a messed up situation. But if what you encounter is failing a couple of classes; or having to change from engineering to economics; or having someone crazy about you who you aren't "gaga" over; or the superior teacher not getting tenure; or Ferdinand

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## Who should decide?

To the Editor:

My comments are directed to the writer(s) responsible for the piece of artwork on the "Viewpoint" page of the May 1 issue of *The Lafayette* entitled "Capital Punishment Is Justified." Perhaps I am naive or unsophisticated, but I am still confident that someone out there shares this belief with me: there is something morally arrogant about taking the life of another human being, regardless of who they are, or what they have done. I was both surprised and disappointed that the majority

of the editorial board embraces the vengeance mentality.

I do not care to dispute that the crimes which Joseph Henry was found guilty and convicted of were cruel and vicious. How do we get from this point to state sanctioned, funded, and legitimized murder of other human beings? The article cites a familiar dismissal: "he needs to pay both her and society back." Are we to understand this to mean that our legal system is morally justified in designating a person's life as a debt which

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## Politics influences Haitians

To the Editor:

It might behoove a certain author of a letter last week to exercise a little ethnoconsciousness along with her piety and enthusiasm. Much as the L.C.F. may be very dedicated to the propagation of Christian gospel, there are political factors involved. Since the acceptance of the Monroe Doctrine, the U.S. government has encouraged outreach programs (among other less orthodox measures) in an attempt to retain Western hegemony. Nothing has worked better for a colonizing country in 200 years than the implementation of a Christian hierarchy. Disregarding the true intentions of missionaries, it is "very blatant to me" that the transfusion of Christian doctrine and demand for assent in humble

submission is simply a political tool for the capitalist machine.

The capitalist and socialist myths of the superpowers promise Third World countries development and social services respectively, but both exact a high price of sacrifice. The capitalist myth promises technology and industrialization; it exacts further maldistribution of wealth, removal of cultural heritage, and gives them the likes of Botha, Pinochet, Duvalier, and Somoza. The socialist myth promises equality and concern for welfare; it exacts a low regard for human rights, a high level of political instability, and gives them the likes of Castro, Ortega, Pot, and Minh.

These myths must be debunked! The people of the Third World must demand a new model for

growth. If they wish to be Christians, or Satanists, or Atheists, so be it. I simply hope their cognitive inclination to religiosity has not been affected by the proselytizing actions of self-righteous, culturally imperialistic, and ethnocentric missionary mercenaries. Economic and spiritual depravity do not go hand in hand; in fact, I believe they are inversely proportional.

America is one of the most affluent nations, yet I would not hesitate to say that it is spiritually deprived because the Protestant Work Ethic, Papal Infallibility, and the Spirit of Capitalism could not possibly be the basis of my devotion. Tell me that thousands of generations of Haitians have been going directly to Hell because they worshipped

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## From the left

by Patrick Murray

## Making your own choices

I sat in on my very first (and last) faculty meeting on Tuesday — just to see what goes on. What occurred to me is that they were about as able to make decisions on student life as we would be in hiring new faculty. Such is Lafayette! If these four years have done anything in making me wiser it has done so by making me cynical.

That's all right though. After four years I've learned how to make my own decisions, regardless of what the high and mighty ordain. Unfortunately, for the majority of students react differently to every whimsical rule which emanates from Markle or the faculty. They accept it. Why? Because this is just an extension of the indoctrination we receive from birth. There are people who are "better" than we and therefore we must blindly obey and respect them. The funny thing is, that respect is usually undeserved!

For example, I was in a play last weekend and I reserved four front row seats for my family. When they picked up their tickets some jerk in the Williams Center box office had given the tickets to two professors and stuck my family in seats where they couldn't see the stage. Not only was my family physically displaced but they resigned themselves to their fate because, "They're professors. They deserve the better seats." Why are we trained to think like that? Why do we think someone with "position" should be accorded more respect than someone who earns a living by the sweat of their brow?

Our Lafayette education is supposed to provide the means for us to become one of those with respect and position. The funny thing is that most of those "higher ups" have a lower opinion of themselves. They were never taught how to be genuine members of human society but rather are evaluated by symbols of their status. A person who has the ill-begotten money to erect memorials to himself is considered a benefactor, whereas a person who gives a damn and does something to really improve the world around them is called a flake or a bleeding-heart liberal. There is nothing wrong with having a bleeding heart when you see people starving because the wealthy people of our society need the poverty to retain their precarious

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## THE WAY IT IS...

by Martie Smith

## "Gossip unto others..."

I love Lafayette. I always have. I remember coming to visit Lafayette for the first time. I had just had a horrible morning at Lehigh, but I still managed to fall in love with my tour guide here. To give him a hard time, my dad asked, "What's the drinking age in Pennsylvania?" He answered, "The drinking age is 21 but it doesn't affect this campus in any way." I thought he was wonderful and applied Early Decision.

Well, it seems as though the drinking age is going to start affecting the campus, but there's still a lot to love about Lafayette. Complaints about the lack of things to do around here, but I've never found it hard to find things to do that would waste my time. Eating popcorn. Gossiping. Staying up late scoping through the pig books. The possibility for trivial activities is enormous. And looking back (is this my senior reflection?), they're the things that I'll remember.

Growing up in college is a pretty unavoidable experience. Although some kids around here act as though they're still in the High School Pep Squad, the maturing influences are inescapable. The close-knit environment here teaches us a lot about how to get along well — or not so well — with others, whether we want to learn or not.

Gossip. It's so deeply ingrained in our way of life at Lafayette that it should be called a non-alcoholic social event. One thing that you have to learn the hard way is that gossip is born of a kernel of truth and it multiplies thousands of times in a single week. As a freshman and sophomore, it's easy to overreact to the stories that you hear about yourself or others. Youngsters are eager to believe and repeat gory stories that they have overheard in the bathroom at pubnight. Yet when similar stories about themselves come back to them in a grossly mutilated version, they cry injustice, call their mommies and threaten to transfer. It's a sad, sad world.

One of the most important lessons that you can learn here is how to take everything you hear with a grain of salt. It's important for your self-respect... and your sanity. Even if you hear that three years ago you had sex with a formal date on a Lair table, you have to laugh. In reality you might have been holding hands as you checked your mail, but unfortunately that's not a juicy enough story to be repeated. Letting gossip get to you is a way of defeating yourself.

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# that's what you think

Question: What will you do if Lafayette goes dry?

by Claudia Sanefuji



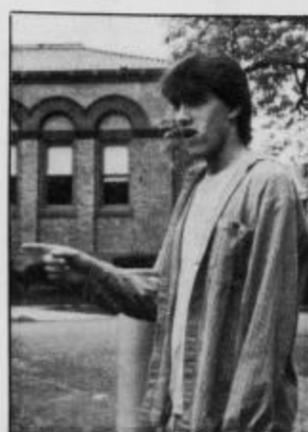
Lynn Eros '90 — Pack up and move to CHT.



Elizabeth Moss '87 — Graduate!



Doug Warden '89 — A lot of MUSHROOMS.



Davin Czukoski '90 — More mushrooms than Doug Warden.



Rick Vannoy '87 — Sell mushrooms to these two guys.

# Letters to the Editor

## The demise of our social system

To the Editor:

I never considered Westchester County an exciting place to live. Perhaps this is because after spending my whole life there I just took it for granted. I never realized how fortunate I was to have New York City at my fingertips, not to mention the numerous museums and theaters available in Westchester.

Easton, PA, where Lafayette College is located, does not have much to offer students. Therefore, Lafayette students must rely upon the school. Because of the small size of the college (2100) and the rather homogenous student body, all this establishment has to offer, outside of the classroom, are fraternity parties and the few cultural events brought to the campus.

College is supposed to be an opportunity to grow and expand

your horizons before facing the real world. Although my professors educate me, I learn through my fellow students. I consider learning the impact people make on me by expressing their views about the world and life in general. Although many students attend fraternity parties and pub nights to drink, I attend them to learn.

Unfortunately, the campus life committee has decided to ban pubnights because they promote alcoholism. I do not blame the administration for not allowing alcohol to be served because they are liable. However, what makes Lafayette College such a special place is the intimate atmosphere created by fraternities bringing together the student body. Members of one fraternity are always welcome in other fraternities.

By banning pubnights the school will succeed in segregating the campus, increase the amount of substance abuse, and destroy what Lafayette College means to its students.

The truth is that alcohol is required at almost all social events in American society. Students will not attend a non-alcoholic "party" — perhaps if the word party was changed to "retreat" then students would attend. Needless to say, the law must be obeyed. Consequently, the school must offer us a social alternative before destroying our social system.

Sincerely yours,  
Denise Binday

## Thanks for Elvis guys

To the Editor:

Thanks have to go out to lots of people who helped make the Elvis Costello concert a success: Tom Makoul for picking up the tab; Plant Op for setting up the field house; the 40 student ushers, ticket takers, ticket sellers and clean-up crew; the committee for their help all day long; Brian Bleuher's "award-winning" stage crew (named the best crew on the tour by Elvis Costello's tour manager); Kevin, Kristy, Joy Glock, Ellis Finger, Dick Marsteller, Nick DeNardo in general; the 1,000 Lafayette students who bought tickets; Nick and Elvis for a great show! And finally, committee chairman Brad Hafer for his endurance and perseverance — it was a long time coming Brad, but it was worth it!

Thanks everyone!  
Bobbi Kerridge

eating liquid food through a tube in his throat. AIDS sucks. Ten years from now you won't even remember the name of the class you failed.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Volpe '86

## Students disappointed

To the Editor:

We are disappointed that the Lafayette community failed to nominate visiting professor Charles Molesworth of the English department for the Superior Teaching Award.

Dieter Klippstein, '88  
Michael Donchi, '88  
Jonathan D. Thayer, '88  
John Reynolds, '88  
Eileen Daly, '89  
F. Cary Scott, '89

## AIDS CRISIS

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Marcos speaking at your graduation — deal with it.

When things seem impossible to cope with at times, remember Michael. Nothing at Lafayette could ever get that bad. For the past two years Lafayette has been primarily concerned with how much alcohol we can all drink every week. For the past two years Michael had been

**The faculty will hold one more meeting concerning the elimination of pubnights on Monday May 11 at 2 p.m. If you wish to speak or just attend, contact Professor Weiner of Campus Life Committee.**

## LAST WORDS

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R.O.T.C. Dunk Booth on All College Day. Or receiving a phone call from an anonymous thug threatening to cut your throat if you write anything more in support of Jeane Kirkpatrick. Last year I was kidnapped by pledges and dropped, bound and gagged, on Theta Delt's porch during a pool party. Instead of freeing me, my hosts trashed me with their beer and called me a "fascist pig." After that, I really had to question the sense of what I was doing. Thanks to whoever untied me.

One message I would offer, however, to those who found themselves so offended, is that perhaps they should not take themselves so seriously. My contributions were gauged to elicit reactions from the real die-hards. And they did. All I could suggest is that sometimes it's easier to laugh at yourself rather than to take offense so readily. Agreed, occasionally I went overboard and was duely chastised. But for the most part, my confrontational attitude was encouraged by the colorful responses.

I had no intention of making this a senior reflection, but I cannot resist offering one reflective thought, focusing on the current social/alcohol dilemma which is this semester's "hot issue." At Lafayette, there is a lot of beer. And, yes, people drink too much. But I believe that Lafayette College — with its excesses — is the single best Alcohol Awareness program conceivable. Students learn how to be submerged in a community where alcohol is available anywhere — just like in the real world. Should we let students face it here with the safety of friends, close homes and helpful programs, or do we hide it from them for four years until they encounter it where the environment is not always helpful and friendly?

Throughout the warfare over social proposals, I have come to gain great respect for a number of people. I'm convinced that Dean Kissiah is not Darth Vader in madras slacks. Try to see his point, and give him a break. Dean Alfredo Hernandez has done a super job at his first year in a tough position. His assistance to Greek leaders has been invaluable. And Professor Weiner of the History department deserves all the praise he has received (and is surely going to receive) for his efforts to better our school. Prof. Weiner's commitment as a concerned member of our community is unmatched in the faculty. If every member of our community were as concerned as he, we'd have a utopian institution. And on the newspaper, so many thanks are due. To the editorials editors who dealt with me consistently missing deadlines and to the Editors-in-Chief Tim Nelson, Ed Ackerman, and Mary Jane Nigro (mostly Tim and Ed — because Editor is a man's job.)

For those who have taken the time to respond either verbally or in written form — or with projectiles — to my contributions . . . thanks. It helped to open my mind and to learn a great deal about other opinions and points of view. After this experience, I feel as if I've grown dramatically (in the figurative sense). I think it will be a long time before another irrational, emotional assertion is heard from me — and I owe that to Lafayette.

In closing, to all you pinkos out there — keep your damned hands off Jeane Kirkpatrick, keep your mouths shut at commencement, and if you have any doubt that she's right about anything she says, just remember — God shed his grace on us, not the Commies.

**The following people have been appointed by Student Government to fill positions on Joint Student-Faculty Committees. Any questions should be directed to Alan Hoffman at Box 6149.**

### Academic Council

Cheryl Burnett  
Eric David  
Hope Sullivan

### Admissions

Keith Costigan  
Kristi Medcalf

### Appeals

Cathy Earley  
Eric Kramer  
Raoul Villegas  
Mary Jane Nigro  
alternate

### Athletics

Paul Cha Fong  
Charles Katz  
Jill Spiess  
Peter Toto

### Campus Life

Mark Basurto  
Alan Hoffman  
Jeri Silberman

### Computer Center

Gerald McLaughlin  
Elizabeth Morgan

### Cultural Programs

- Contemporary Arts  
Jeffrey Mann
- Classical Music and Dance  
Tim Hylan
- Lectures and Drama  
Osman Qureshi
- Visual Arts  
Melissa Lautenberg

### Curriculum

Adam Caldwell  
Scott Schwartz  
Susan Spencer

### Financial Aid

Sloan Weitzel  
Hayes Williams

### Honors and Academic Awards

Paulette Pera  
Todd Raker  
James Sul

### Interim Session

Cecile Anderes  
Karen Feinberg

### Library

Kimberly Capolino  
Jayendra Das  
Joel Hurewitz

### Religious Program

Beth Christie  
Kris Demareski  
Susan Law  
Marie Throop

### Schedule

Linden Frazer  
Stephen Friedrich  
Monika Jaensson

### Scholastic Standing

Warren Chaiken  
James Doughty

### Special Instructional Programs

Christine Borowitz  
Susan Cassel  
Hope Sullivan

### Student Conduct

Jeffrey Bennett  
Jill Edwards  
Peter Holran  
Tim Moeller  
alternate

### Student Evaluations

Harry Atlas  
Diane Fitzsimons  
Paula Goldberg