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Magazine

Spring 2000
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Featuring...

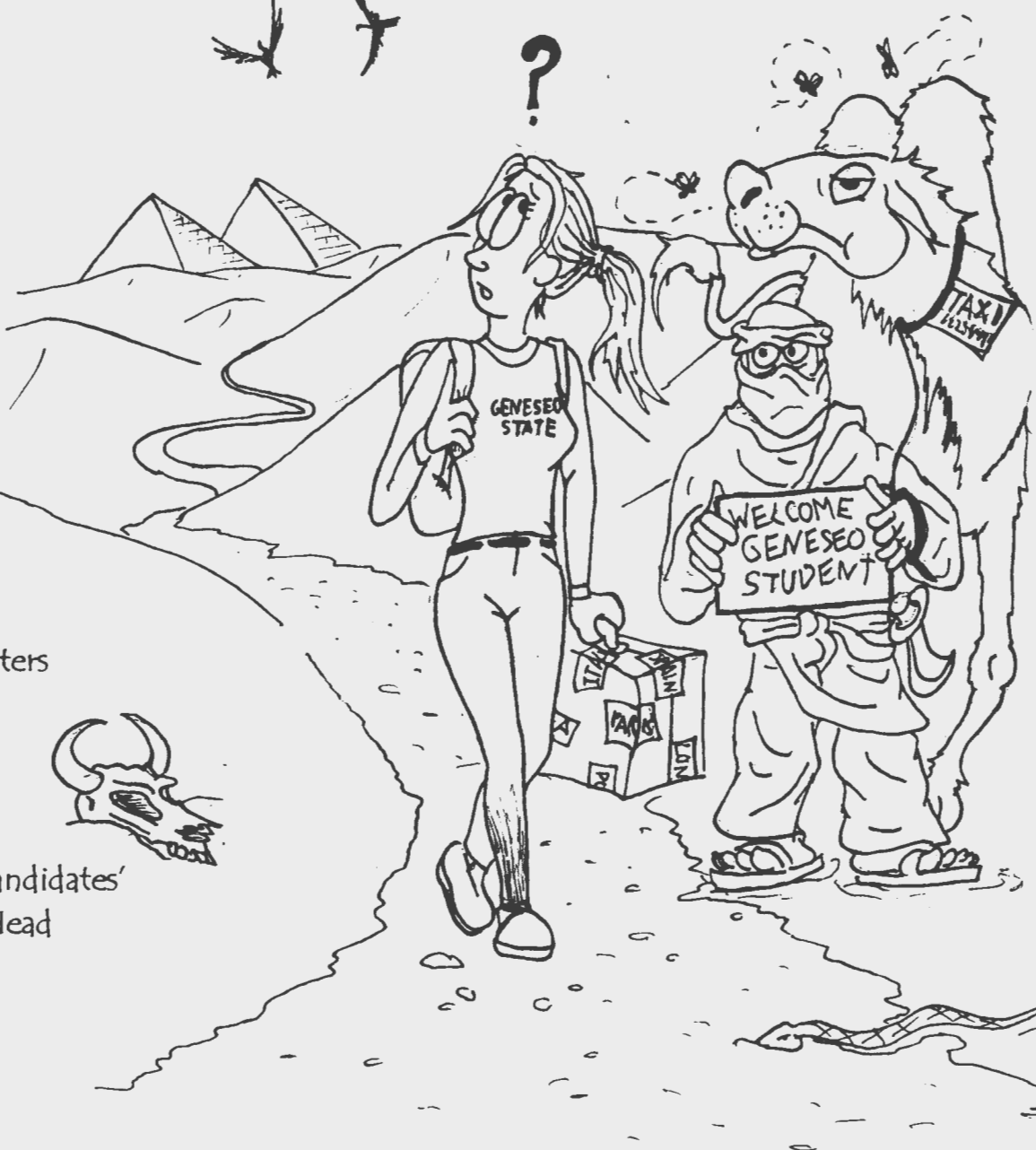
Studying Abroad
Could it be for You?
by Ann Bufano

One Student's Own
Travel Experience
by Elena Laurich

Poetry by student writers

Crazy Prose
by Pete Lombardi

A Political Debate: Candidates'
Fans Battle Head to Head
*by Aria A. Camaione
and Dave Doerr*



The Free River of Speech: The Poetry Page

What it Comes Down To

I was listening to you talk
about city lights and darkness under bridges
about girls, pianos
blues guitar.

Rhythm held tigh against your wrist
you sang drunk
to me
words of Neil Young
who says you are nowhere.

Phone booth walls echoed your voice.
Neon lights shadowed your face.
The desert stretched smooth and dark
all around you.

I do not write songs.

But if the color of this midnight
could come into words.
swirl into sound
I would sing it to you.

I would make your forget that your hair is too short
that your clothes are to stiff
and your cockroaches too big.
You could come home in my song.

I would sing loud.

Even if I sounded empty
it would be better than being nowhere
because you would hear me,
and know
that your colors come to the edge of my mind with
every fit of words.
You would know
that I can't reach them with a pen
but I will croon like a sorry bird
for you, trying like hell to say that you are
a starry night to me
A darkness I do not fear
a solid I know but cannot hold
a place to lay down and cry with my eyes wide open
to the world

-Claire Ouderkirk

A Sparrow in the Garden

The dubious young sparrow whose descent
to the concrete walk has gone unnoticed.
is the naked body I have buried
by tomato plants my mother is growing.

In foil, I wrap its eyes, feet, and benign
beak. Silver fold over thin silver fold,
giving the garden my parcel of tin.

I pack and press, deeply planting the design
of wrinkled mirrors and burgeoning mold--
What is dead, I have trapped--sinew and skin--

In Summer the tomato plants are bent
low. Mother plucks those red globes coolly dressed
in dew. She cuts one fruit, finding neither seed
not pulp--only flightless feathers flowing.

-Albert Abonado

Dead Poets' Society

Great poets passed short of truth-
souls that leapt with subtle grace
and raced with wild tongues-
those greatest leapt highest
without great effort.
Youth graced them late in life,
and honest words once more
lions leaping from their tongues-
always toward truth, never at it.

Simple minds, savage minds-
flocking herds of deer frozen
in the glaring light
of honesty-
sheep at their looms,
weaving patternless wools
to hide behind.

Great souls still leap and dance
towards truth, and race with wild tongues-
such tongues drop nectar onto paper,
and the honeybees come to eat and dance,
and make their gentle overtures toward truth.

-Mark Gross

A POEM THAT IS TOO TIME-SPECIFIC AND WILL MEAN LITTLE BY WEDNESDAY

by Dave Everson

Neither one knows who the other is
but each assumes the other knows him.

While interviewing John McCain supporters at a rally,
George W. Bush and a local TV news anchor meet
and decide to get a drink together.

"Classy place," says the news anchor.
"Pretty nice."

Bush props his head up with his right hand, slowly spins his glass with his left.

"I don't think McCain can do it," says the reporter, grinning.
"I hope not," answers Bush.
"Oh, not too keen on McCain, eh?"
"Not especially, no."

Bush is listless, unbuttons his collar, stuffs his tie in a coat pocket.

The reporter presses on, "You ever met McCain?"
"Yes," replies Bush, "several times."
"How 'bout his wife-you meet her?"
"Yes, I've met her, too."

Bush barely pays attention. His drink is only half finished.
"Can I ask you a question?" the news anchor asks.

Bush looks at his companion for the first time since walking in the bar.
His lips are parted and his face is quite pale.

"Go ahead," replies Bush.
"You think she's hot?"

Bush stares at the TV news anchor with the expression of someone trying to
explain why toast has just been ejected by his VCR.
Finally he rises, leaves five dollars on the bar, and slowly walks out.

The TV news anchor smiles and starts talking to the bartender.

"You seen me on TV?"
"Can't say that I have. You some kind of actor or something?"
"No, I'm on the Channel 10 news."
"Oh."

The bartender walks to the other end of the bar to make a phone call.

The reporter, smiling, fixes his hair in the mirror of the compact
he has just taken from his breast pocket.

The Democratic Stance

by Aria A. Camaione

In an effort to familiarize Geneseo students with some of the different campaign issues relating to the Primary and Presidential elections of 2000, *Speak* writers have excerpted three: abortion, education, and gun control, outlined the candidates' positions and added their own thoughts.

The mountains and valleys of the Clinton Administration have left much to be desired yet much to be celebrated as well. The nation probably could have done without all of the scandal but educational reform and sound economic decisions saved ol' Bill from losing all of our favor. As we approach the 2000 presidential election, Democrats must decide which party member will represent their interests best. At times, Al Gore and Bill Bradley appear to deviate little from a standard Democratic platform while at other times they seem alarmingly conservative or refreshingly liberal. Some of these issues affect us as students, while others merely affect us as inhabitants of this country.

ABORTION:

Al Gore maintains that women should always have the right to choose, regardless of income or any other factor. However, while in Congress he voted against Federal funding of abortion. As the intensity of the Primary races mounted, he decided that he, in fact, does support Medicare funded abortions. He also contends that abortion is a question for women, not government.

Bill Bradley has remained consistent in his approach to abortion throughout his political career. He believes that not only should women have the right to choose but that the full force of the government should be used to resist

clinic bombings, etc.

Gore's stance is admirable, as he tries to please both pro-choice and anti-abortion Democrats but his contradictions force him into uncharted waters. In voting against Medicare funded abortions Gore made sure that women receiving that service (most likely women receiving welfare aid) would not be eligible to receive an abortion, thus reinforcing the stagnant class/ privilege he professes to disagree with. In his assertion that abortion is a question for women, not government, Gore neglects to recognize that abortion must first be accepted as an alternative for unwanted pregnancy (in addition to adoption) by the government before women can decide whether or not to take advantage of their right to choose. Bradley, on the other hand, has maintained consistency in his support of a woman's right to choose and also advocates that sanctions be made against extreme groups who use violence to impede a woman's right to control her body.

EDUCATION:

Both Gore and Bradley support a move toward educational reform. In terms of spending, Gore has developed an Education Plan that would invest \$115 billion in America's schools over a ten-year period; Bradley's plan promises slightly less funding at \$90 billion over the same amount of time. In terms of post secondary education, Gore outlined a National Tuition Savings Program and a plan to provide the first two years of college for free. Bradley calls for \$400 million per year for Community Colleges, earmarked for technology and jobs.

Each candidate's plan appears solid, though his total expenditures are different. Bradley, however, deviates from good judgement by recommending that students from urban areas be sent to boarding schools. This sugges-

tion appears under his "Experimentation is solution in urban schools" banner. His idea, though experimental, seems a bit more reactionary than conventional (or even revolutionary) politics would allow. His effort to provide scholarships and loans in order to create 60,000 new teachers seems to be a viable alternative.

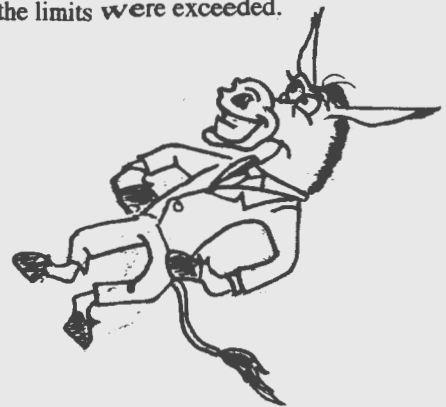
GUN CONTROL:

Gore takes a firm stance against the gun lobby- hoping to ban many types of guns and "supertrace" all firearms. He is in favor of child safety locks and more restrictions, as well as countering the gun lobby with a "family lobby." However, his congressional record reflects that he voted against some gun limitation legislation.

Bradley advocates registering and licensing all 65 million handguns, nationwide. He is also interested in "standing up to" the NRA/ gun lobby.

In support of each candidate's gun control plans, they provide fairly detailed courses of action. In criticism, however, Bradley addresses the handgun issue but fails to deal with the number of other types of guns circulating on the street. Also, neither candidate truly addresses the basic issue dealing with gun control- the manufacture of surplus weapons. Each does a good job of outlining ways to regulate the current firearms community but they do little to suggest a change in policy toward gun manufacturers. (I.e. Gun manufacturers knowingly make more guns than can be purchased legally, therefore saturating the market).

An effective gun control stance would address this issue by limiting the number of firearms a manufacturer could produce, then provide for sanctions if the limits were exceeded.



The Republican Smackdown

by Dave Doerr

We all know that we have crossed into a new millennium, yet the basis of the 2000 election is how to build on and reform the policies of the past. The Clinton administration is left floundering under the "fame duck" status and Republicans of this country couldn't be happier. As I have conversed with people on this campus, it is widely agreed that the Republican race is consuming the bulk of the attention. This can only indicate that people are looking for a sweeping change in D.C. The past leader of our nation has degraded our highest-ranking position and dignity is being sought out. Enter George W. Bush and John McCain who are engaged in what can be categorized as an attempt to unify the Republican Party in order to form a more perfect union. A few of the main issues pertaining to our lives here at Geneseo and the lives of others around us are to be considered.

EDUCATION:

This is a broad topic that deserves a lot of attention. The conditions of our city schools are pitiable, the violence of our schools is intolerable, and the low standards that a good chunk of our nation's schools do not meet are degrading.

BUSH'S LAST STAND:

Bush is looking to the regional and local governments to increase their roles in terms of school standards. In turn, this would allow for federal funds to be increased by improvement of the individual and district schools, and not by the standards of the whole nation. This way, the inner cities would be rewarded by taking little steps toward improvement while having the federal government help them with funding. Bush also supports a National Assessment for the nation in reading and math to gauge the nation's progress. This will help us slowly increase the standards of the nation and in turn improve the future of our state. Higher standards will mean smarter kids to run the barriers between schools and law enforcement agencies so that information and protection can be more readily available for

the schools. He also looks to improve charter schools by providing \$3 billion in loans to either establish or continue these charter schools, which allows the local people to get more involved in their school systems.

MCCAIN AND ABEL:

This might be the one issue that the two candidates agree upon the most. McCain, like Bush, wants there to be a more localized influence on the education system. McCain accentuates this idea the most when referring to the school charter system and the idea of letting a child go to a private school if he has the credentials. The monetary support will be provided by his administration if elected. He opposes federally imposed mandates on schools, for it punishes schools that are already in trouble.

ABORTION:

This is a perennial hot topic when it comes to the big wigs in government. Without much exception, Republicans are pro-life and fight against the Roe V. Wade decision. How far they go in fighting this is what varies.

BUSH FOR LIFE:

Bush is pro-life with exceptions for rape, incest and if the life of the mother is in jeopardy. I think this is the way the law should be. Bush is in favor of adoption and supports giving a \$5,000 tax credit for people who adopt. This could be an effective way of discouraging people from practicing unsafe sex and of eliminating abortion as a means of birth control.

MCCAIN AND HIS SLIP-UP:

McCain is like Bush in that he is pro-life except for rape, incest, or the risk of the mother losing her life. He has voted numerous times against abortion while in the senate, yet he was asked if his fifteen-year-old daughter could have an abortion if she became pregnant and he responded that she could only after she talked to her fam-

ily. Here you can see the selfishness I was talking about earlier. He can vote how he wants but when it comes down to the matters of his family, he doesn't want his family name degraded. He also said that he would not require his Supreme Court nominees to be against abortion. I'm sure he won't be running on the pro-life ticket.

GUN CONTROL:

Nothing sickens me more than guns, but if they weren't around, everybody would be kung fu fighting. They have to be very controlled and restricted so criminals can't have easy access to them, yet people can defend themselves if need be.

BUSH FIRES FIRST:

Bush looks toward the existing laws to be strengthened and providing more funding for aggressive law enforcement programs. He also supports instant background checks at gun shows to avoid gun-wielding maniacs coming in and selling guns to anyone with a pulse. Bush does, however, support law-abiding Americans' constitutional right to bear arms to protect their family and home. He supports the ban on automatic weapons and wants to increase the age of owning a gun from 18 to 21.

MCCAIN GOES AUTOMATIC:

McCain voted in 1994 against the ban on assault weapons. This is in large part due to the war he fought, I feel. This man was surrounded by guns and thinks of them as something people should have. I hate to let my bias run rampant, but I do not want a man like this in office. The last thing we need are assault weapons. Get a grip McCain!

So now that I have said what I feel and what the issues are, remember, vote for Bush!

Broadening Horizons within this Whole Wide World

by Ann Bufano

It's the start of a new semester and you're back into the old routine...yeah you know. You get up and go to class (or not), study a little, do lunch with your friends, study some more, and go to bed hoping to get at least four hours of sleep before starting it all over again. You don't get out much because you just don't have the time. Your idea of traveling is seeing what's on sale at Wal-Mart, or, if you're lucky, taking a road trip with your friends. If you're like me, you feel trapped in a bubble, out of touch with the rest of the world.

Well, there's something you can do about that. How does a year in New Zealand sound, or a semester in France? How about experiencing London theater first-hand or taking Humanities II in Oxford? By studying abroad, you can free yourself from the old routine and see the world.

Ever since you were little you've wanted to go to Australia. Perhaps it was the Crocodile Dundee movie you saw as a child or your love of those furry kangaroos. So, you want to go "Down Under," but you don't know what to do next. How much is it going to cost? If you go during the school year, can you still graduate on time? Will you receive credit?

The first step to overseas study is to visit the study abroad office in Erwin 106. I spoke with Dr. Kathleen Broikou, director of

International Programs, about getting started.

"Some students have criteria already; they know they want to go to [a certain] city and they want to live with a family and they are going for specific reasons. Other students come in not having any criteria, and that's okay, too," said Broikou.

Broikou compares finding a study abroad program to choosing a college. She recommends reading about a number of programs and searching the Internet, where she says there is a "wealth of information."

"The more knowledge you have, the better questions you ask and you find a program that is [best] suited for yourself," explained Broikou.

One of your best sources of information is other students. Just ask Joe O'Connor, a Spanish major who studied in Madrid in the spring of '99.

"Once you talk to [Dean Broikou], take the opportunity to talk to other students. They're going to give you the most insightful information. They'd be more than willing to show you pictures and share experiences, as I am," O'Connor exclaimed.

There are other ways to hear what students have to say about their overseas experiences. All Geneseo students who study abroad are given an evaluation form to complete when they return. According to Broikou, the forms are a "wonderful source of information for students. It just gives them a feel for what studying abroad is about and what

kinds of questions to ask."

As for those worried about receiving credit, there's good news. Broikou explicated, "All the credits transfer back to Geneseo. They will come in as transfer electives. If you need a course in your major, just as any other transfer course, you need approval from [your] department chair." Just like a transfer course, the grade a student receives in an overseas course does not transfer. However, the student must get at least a C minus to receive credit.

According to Broikou, with careful planning, graduating on time is possible, even for students who have to complete a lot of hours in their major. Students may decide they need to take a course or two during the summer or intercession, but most students have been able to graduate in four years.

For those worried about affording the trip, there are scholarship opportunities available. Applications are in the study abroad office.

No matter how much an overseas journey costs, the experience is priceless.

"We were all kind of like a little family together," said O'Connor, referring to the Spanish woman and the two other Americans he stayed with in an apartment in Madrid. "[Studying in Spain] opened my horizons as far as understanding Spanish culture."

So what are you waiting for? Get out of that bubble you're living in and travel the world!

THE REAL DEAL: TRAVELLING TO LONDON

BY ELENA LAURICH

This past intersession I took Dr. Drake's Medieval Literature class in London. London is an exciting city, rich with history and a lot of things to do and see. Our class stayed at the Ridgemount Bed and Breakfast which is owned by charming people and whose rooms invited us to explore the world outside of the hotel.

Being a student in London did not just mean hitting the books, it also meant learning how to get home and how to get around for ourselves, as we were quickly and not unhappily, left to our own devices. Figuring out how to navigate the London Underground was an important lesson, and soon riding the subway became second nature. As students, we tried to combine tourism with learning, and were willing to experience everything

As a class we visited the Tower of London where the crown jewels are now kept, where prisoners were tortured, where armor is on display and you can view the Tower Bridge.

We also toured Westminster Abbey where coronations take place, queens and kings rest in peace and the unknown soldier reminds us of the men who give their lives in service. We used a British railpass to explore areas outside of London as well. Norwich, Canterbury, Winchester, Dover and Oxford are all places we visited. We explored churches, cathedrals, and found many good places to eat. In Dover we explored a castle, viewed the south of France from a turret and many people ran to experience the blinding white cliffs of Dover.

The most exciting day trip however, was an optional trip to Bath, where it was easy to fall in love with the quaint town and its cobblestone streets, fresh air and lively excitement. We toured the Roman Baths, inspected the Bath Abbey, checked out the English teddy bear company and laughed at the engaging street performers.

Another fun daytrip was an optional one to Windsor Castle, which is a short ride outside of

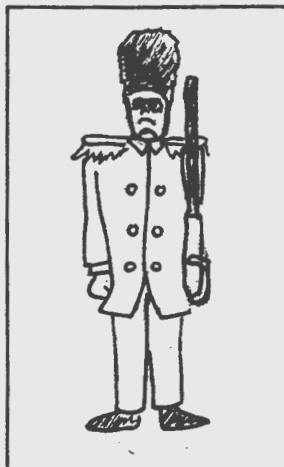
London and was inspiring in its splendor.

We also had opportunities to travel outside of England. Some people opted to visit Scotland where they visited castles, stayed in youth hostels, and came back loaded with wool sweaters. Another option is a day in Paris, which was quite an adventure, as we toured the whole city in one day, but were able to visit Notre Dame, the Louvre, L'arc de Triomphe, and the Eiffel Tower. It ended up being a slight misadventure when half of our group got stuck in the glittering tower at closing time, although everything turned out for the best in the end.

Another form of entertainment in London was shopping, Covent Garden proving to be one fun spot, Harrod's department store offering more selection than others. Theater in London is cheaper than in New York and half of us were able to see *Chicago* and *The Lion King*, which was a highlight of the trip. The pubs and the taverns were attractive as well, since the legal drinking age is 18, and they open at lunch time. We wrote our final exams in the basement of the University Pub, some people

with a pint of beer to help them get through it.

One of the negative aspects of taking a study abroad course in such a short time, however, is that everything is a little rushed and condensed into three weeks, as you learn to juggle being a student, a tourist, and learn to adjust to your new surroundings. By the time everything becomes familiar you are checking out and are on your way back home. For the three weeks that you are there, you are not as entirely immersed into a different culture as you would be if you studied for a longer period of time. However, it was one of the best experiences of my life and was the best winter break that I have ever had. Over all, studying abroad during intersession was a wonderful experience and for me it created an itch to travel to other countries and experience even more of the world.



AIR (plotke and me)

by Pete Lombardi

"GIVE THIS PEOPLE AIR!" I chanted as I stood there and stared at these people dancing so fluidly in their dirty underwear-
 'Tis only on and has its share
 In an endangered world so ill-prepared
 All we need is some fresh clean air.
Ahhh yes the air, the solemn fresh and glorious air is all we need and all we share.
 A brief thanks to prayers, soothsayers, lacklusters in pairs
 That we may see a possible solution for us so sparkling one day in the air,
 Yapping any anti-trust words would be but unafraid-
 For it would tarnish the beauty of our dear air.

 Oh the air the air I doth declare
Is all we need so if we dare, praise the earth and its mounds, all elements being fused in our sight,
On sheeny surface maxillary Middle Ages doth we to inhale air to be compounded in our lungs
 and to be exhaled as fire water when fear and magic ruled the land-
Against a backdrop of marauding barbarians should we in peace be allowed to breather our air,
In small shanty villages where alchemists cross over searching on an endless quest to find the Elixir of Life-(oh what they so sorrowfully lacked was a shallow bottle full of crisp air, the special gaseous potion able to cure all the ailments imposed upon one's soul by life experience)
 Powerful! Magic! Air causes even water to burn and humans to breathe fire,
And also with fresh daily dosages of air as needed to stave off any invading airborne impurities, air is said to have a fascinating effect on the visual machinery of the brain where one may lay claim to see visions of like cotton embroidered dragons breathing synthesized Styrofoam flames-
It is the natural mystical qualities of this substance called air, a fresh breathing substance that in pink liquid form sustains the precious life of an unborn baby swimming in its motherly pool of placenta, promotes health in the wealthy and creates a cynical abominating effect on the leather-esque acetone treated shelling of those curse-fire'd camping scenes of the poor-
The loveliness of air, the purveyor of life and in death the medium through which rigor mortis achieves its most insatiable outcome do I breathe particles of bacteria and do I also become rejuvenated with the cellular blueprints of that dying human air at the same time-
And with air shall these cells be, by way of ciliary gooifying processes implemented by the bronchioles of the lungs, turned into a viscous blackened gum resplendent with high dosages of semi-solid air-
And with air shall a bubble be blown of this gum from my mouth to which it may explode, And from this explosion may a new glorified form be derived and shaped of wax to stand proud directly in front of me
 and my air-
A kiss will be given on the lips of this wax figure-(air will provide for the suction sound that characterizes the typical kiss)
This kiss will cause small blue neuro-electrical currents to flow through this wax form, Waning, and through the circulatory system this electricity shall flow around to touch, charge, coerce every cell to life with the most subtle tenuous impressionable bioelectric shocks to the core-
With air will this new Form come to life and it shall breather its first breath of air triumphantly

and with a swollen chest ransacked by its first taste of air will the following language arise from the belly of its throat:

“GIVE THIS PEOPLE AIR! OH GIVE THIS PEOPLE AIR I SAY I SAY SHOUTING FROM UP HERE (as it jumps) AND DOWN THERE! (as it crouches)”

“Give this one air and give him and her air and pacify all the seven seasons outgrowing and spanning all 10 directions; protect all latitude and longitude with warmful and subsequent equal burstings of pure glaciated air. For from the far eastern delicate yawning bellies of all our Hindu holy bodies, sisters and brothers participating in the act of air to inhale, exhale a resounding OHM out onto creation to let your thoughts creep over country mountain and trickle into sad roadside stream, to let out cradles of rocks and quiet chirping protests of mosquito farts, to silently chant out the name of the Creator and hide beneath a layer of Lotus petals, teetering brink-like on the edge of a Mandala moon and the charred edges of the open air that has been so tattered, so torn and worn after making its peaceful way through frictioned open spaces, between mountains with their sharp shale stratifications slice air, draw blood, diminish purity as breezy air shake grass-
Grass dance and pillows bake while lazy chomping cows say in unison and peacefully meditate...”

Over such years and years has it been shown the sustaining importance of air.
Shall it many times offer itself up peacefully and when I call upon it shall it not perhaps young seasons off wayward the moon oh dear promising air-
where the eagles cross paths
and over Miorand's carcass choose to loom.

With my infared vision scanning the earth late at night I see individual particles or air.

I see air here, there, and everywhere-

Why I feel it now as it peruses my brain and bathes my psychic medium in liquid components of pure air, through the hair on the back of my neck does it run its gustful fingers and I, chilling violently, clasped within the great firm grasp of excitational amuse, extend a smile across my face,
tickled gently by a clean gust of cool Canadian air.

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Love is Longer than Four Letters

by Aria A. Camaione

Red Roses. Candy Hearts. Lovers strolling arm in arm. Valentine's Day! Depending on your mood, you either want to vomit, or grin ear to ear. A holiday corrupted (some might say) over time as the day when two people focus solely on each other, to the exclusion of their friends and family (some, possibly single). Sounds irreversibly to the disadvantage of those with no one to share that crazy day of fun and romance, right? Wrong! Valentine's Day (and everyday) can be fun depending on your choice of perspective.

I have had Valentine's Days full of flowers, chocolate, love poems and serenades. I have also had Valentine's Days when I felt alone, and the one card I received (though appreciated) was from my mom. The most recent Valentine's Day had the potential of the latter description- I decided, however, that I did not want to spend a day like that, holiday or not. I set about changing my perspectives of this particular day.

Love has always been central to my being- romantic love, outrageous love, platonic love, clandestine love- all different kinds, everyday. I am aware that if I want to accomplish my duty as a

human being I must always move from a place of love to a new place of love.

In keeping with my personal philosophy, on February 14th I distributed little bags of candy and cards to all of my friends. I called my sister, and sent cards to my parents and grandparents. I donned a red sweatshirt and matching socks. I sported my favorite lip-gloss. In essence, I created a day so spectacular that no other human being could have impacted it positively or negatively. I relied on my positive frame of mind and my belief that I control the root of my happiness and sadness in order to create a beautiful day out of a potentially not-so-beautiful situation. I defied tradition by proving that I could have a fun time with a holiday generally reserved for couples. I showered love and attention on my friends (regardless of their relationship status) and it was, perhaps, the best Valentine's Day I have ever had. For once I was not waiting for the flowers to arrive but instead, planted the seeds that will eventually bloom into respect, appreciation and versatility- for myself and all the people I love.

A Glimpse of Geneseo Past

by Sarah Kehoskie

So you want to know what Geneseo was like years and years ago? We did, too. Looks like the place was hopping and swinging just as much as it does now. Check these facts out:

*** The Village of Geneseo was called "uptown"**

***The basement of Letchworth dining hall was a popular hangout when the drinking age was 18, and it was called the Rathskeller or "The Rat."**

***A tiny steakhouse, the Statesman, was transformed in 1978 into a full-fledged disco with strobes, colored lights and occasional fog**

***You had to stand in line in the gym to register**

***In 1959, there were about 400 students who attended the college**

