

# The Professor's Diary



The end of term. A time for reflection. It is a fact, and it happened again just yesterday, that occasionally when I am explaining something to a class, something I believe in, something true, and I see the students taking it in, concentrating, one perhaps nodding, another smiling slightly in the recognition of a point at once obvious and new, I get a shiver down the spine. It's true.

In the current climate, unfortunately, it would be asked whether such shivers could be quantified and fed into the financial calculations. But could it be that there is more to this job than being counted, more even than the next pay raise, or the next cutback? In A Man For All Seasons, the movie version with Paul Scofield, there is a scene in which an ambitious young man, who has already proved himself a fine teacher asks the influential Sir Thomas More to get him a post in the court of Henry VIII. More tries to dissuade him, arguing the corruption of politics.

"Be a teacher, Richard," he says gently, "You're a good one".

"But who will know it?"

"Your students will know it. So will you. So will God... Not a bad audience, that."

The absence of the Promotion Committee from this list is surely striking. And closer to home, what of that scene in the Miracle Worker, in which the blind and deaf little Helen Keller has one hand under the pump and the other in the hand of Annie Sullivan, who -- perhaps for the hundredth weary time -- finger-signs W - A - T - E - R? In a heart-stopping moment of insight, Helen realizes that what she feels in one hand is the same as what she feels in the other, that there is a gift we call language, and that everything in the universe has a name. This is the finest moment in the play beyond doubt, but there is another very fine one a few minutes later. In a frenzy, Helen now demands the name of everything she touches: pump, dress, ground, step.. then mother, father... then Helen. Finally she turns back to Annie Sullivan herself. And Annie spells out not her own name, but T - E - A - C - H - E - R. A glorious and humbling moment.

- that biology wimped out in the hockey game against the engineers.
- that D.H.D. stinks bad.
- that pinhead Paul now sleeps outside.
- that everyone was lit after the 107 Christmas tree was decorated.
- that Miminegash now lays anudder head in da bed.
- that the man in 302 is finally able to pooh.
- that a certain first floor Bernadine don skips the first half of House Committee meetings to be with her most gorgeous guy.
- that the Human Laura is a very "straight" person.
- that a miminegash who has had the experience says that "it is best to go to write math tests with a hangover.
- that Myrtle loves to work the hockey games so she can meet all the drunks.

# Comment

The Professor - Leaps tall buildings in a single bound. Is more powerful than a locomotive. Is faster than a speeding bullet. Gives policy to God.

The Biology Student - Leaps short buildings in a single bound. Is more powerful than a switch engine. Is just as fast as a speeding bullet. Walks on water when the sea is calm. Talks to God.

The Poli. Sci. Student - Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds. Is almost as powerful as a switch engine, but not quite. Is faster than a speeding BB. Walks on water in an indoor swimming pool. Talks with God if special request is approved.

The Education Student - Barely clears a quonset hut. Loses tug-of-war with locomotive. Can fire a speeding bullet. Swims well. Is occasionally addressed by God.

The Chemistry Student - Makes high marks on the wall when trying to leap tall buildings. Is run over by locomotives. Can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury. Dog paddles. Talks to animals.

The Engineering Students - Runs into buildings. Recognizes locomotives two out of three times. Is not issued ammunition. Passes water. Talks to walls.

The Business Student - Sleeps against mud huts. Has the brains of a locomotive. Speeding bullet does not impair empty head. Communications with septic tank.

The Arts Student - Lifts tall buildings and walks underneath them. Kick locomotives off the tracks. Catch speeding bullets with their teeth and eat them. Freezes water with a single glance. God's chief advisors.

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### Rumor Hath It....

- that the pub following the hockey game on Saturday night was the best ever.
- that Pissstank went on 'er again this weekend.
- that Jane Hickey and Kathy Arbing are Winter Carnival CO-Chairpersons.
- that Professor is now spelled with "two f's"
- that engineers aren't really all that bad.
- that twins are born on the same day.
- that exams start in 7 days. Head for the library.
- that Dexter T. Gnome is a Knobber! (and so is F.M.)
- that Little Aural Annie will make the comic strip soon.
- that Blanchard Hall has a waiting list.
- that Patti Bradley and Cynthia King watch weird films in weird places. Wanna buy a horse?
- that Father Phil doesn't live here anymore.