

EDITORIAL

Time to end torture

As term papers are almost due and final exams glower threateningly in our imaginations, students and faculty alike may be finding themselves gripped in the talons of that form of psychic torture called semester-end-paranoia. Students fear facing fractious typewriters in night-long vigils, and unreadable notes in cramming sessions; while professors dread the aftermath—piles of depressingly malformed manuscripts and coma-causing exams to grade.

While such a condition can cause real pains, varying from migraine headaches to erupting ulcers, still we momentarily harassed American students and teachers have much for which to be thankful, even during this agonizing period. We know that "this too shall pass" and that most of us, at least, will survive with nothing more permanent than a few gray hairs and hopefully a little knowledge to show for once again completing the process.

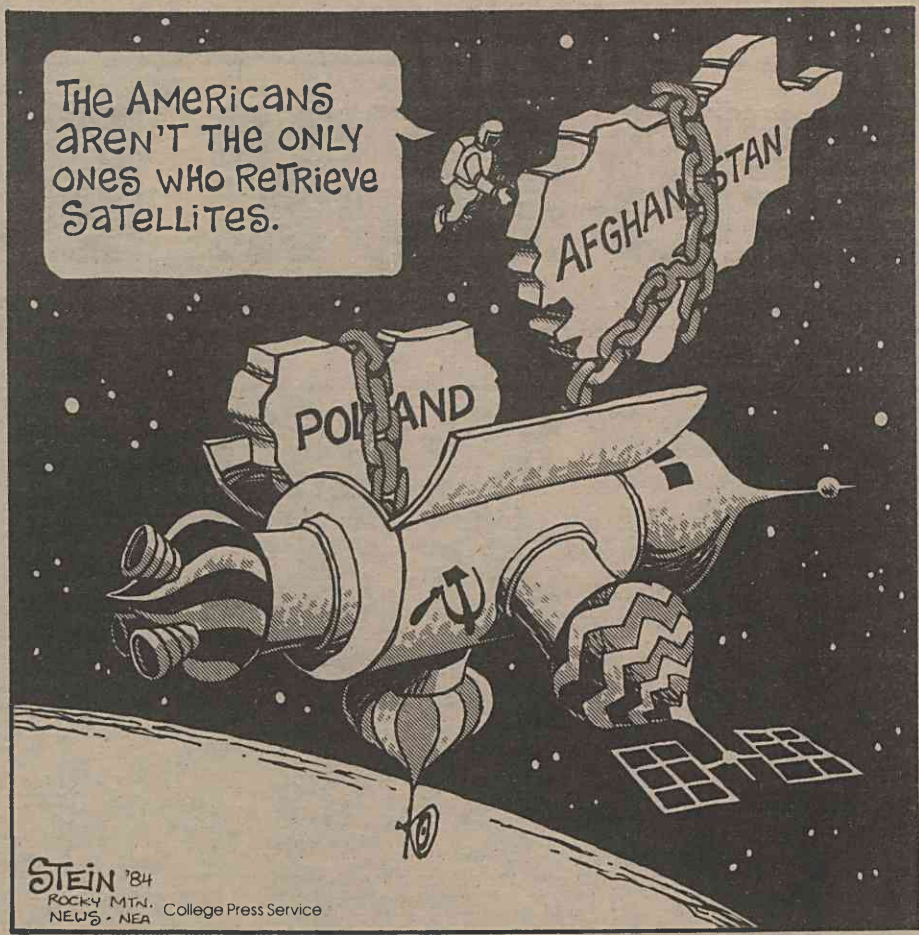
Our brothers and sisters in one-third of this world's nations are not so fortunate. They are not so fortunate because their governments systematically torture, physically, mentally and emotionally torture, the citizenry even though international law specifically prohibits torture.

Many prisoners, both men and women, in nations such as Brazil, the Philippines and the United Soviet Socialist Republic, suffer such abusive and degrading treatment as beatings, sexual assaults, lengthy suspension from the feet or wrists, cigarette burns, and injection with mind-altering drugs.

According to Amnesty International, which seeks to obtain freedom for such prisoners, "a government's immediate reason for torturing its citizens may be extraction of information or 'confessions,' infliction of punishment, or intimidation of its perceived opponents. The desire to dominate and to strip the victim of his or her humanity underlies all use of torture."

This week, Dec. 3-10, is Amnesty International proclaimed "Stop Torture Week." During this week, Amnesty International is issuing an "appeal to all governments to condemn torture, establish safeguards against the use of torture during interrogation and incarceration of detainees, conduct impartial investigations of torture allegations, and provide compensation and rehabilitation for torture victims."

We wish them all possible success in this project. And we feel our small pains much less for glimpsing those of others.



IN YOUR OPINION

Invitation to readers and thinkers

Dear Editor:

From reading some of the letters in your newspaper, one has the impression that the elections are not over. Well, they are, and nationally they produced a split-decision. So, neither party can lay claim to the American conscience, not even to the conscience of this generation of college students.

Isn't it, therefore, time to bury the campaign slogans and to start thinking again about the future?

To that end, I propose to create a **Great Books Club**. As a starter, I suggest reading **The United States Constitution**, Aristotle's **Politics and Ethics**, Thomas Aquinas' **The Teacher**, and Cardinal Newman's **The Idea of a University**.

Anyone interested may contact Dr. Giguere, Foreign Languages Dept., Carmichael Humanities, Room 221.

Signed,
Ronald Giguere

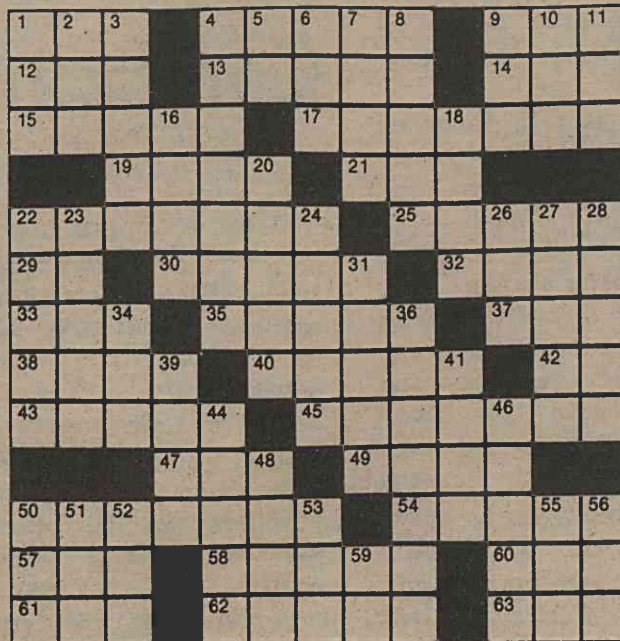
Crossword — Answers on page 8

ACROSS

- 1 Condensed moisture
- 4 Transactions
- 9 Limb
- 12 Devoured
- 13 Consumed
- 14 Pitching stat
- 15 Posts
- 17 Clothesmakers
- 19 Musical instrument
- 21 Watering place
- 22 Commanded
- 25 Shrewd
- 29 Artificial language
- 30 Heavenly bodies
- 32 Solo
- 33 Wedding words
- 35 Scoff
- 37 Slender finial
- 38 Bacteriologist's wire
- 40 Surfeits
- 42 Spanish article
- 43 Part of face: pl.
- 45 Formal proposals
- 47 Obtain
- 49 Hard-shelled fruit: pl.
- 50 Dinner course
- 54 Checks
- 57 Mohammedan leader
- 58 Condescend
- 60 Lamprey
- 61 Marsh
- 62 Prophets

DOWN

- 1 Obstruct
- 2 Greek letter
- 3 Uncanny
- 4 Sandy wastes
- 5 Babylonian deity
- 6 Unit of Siamese currency
- 7 Meadows
- 8 Cuts
- 9 Sign of zodiac
- 10 Transgress
- 11 Aeriform fluid
- 16 Dregs
- 18 Tibetan priest
- 20 College officials
- 22 Constellation
- 23 Cowboy competition
- 24 Vision
- 26 Exist
- 27 Mature
- 28 Caudal appendages
- 31 Surgical thread
- 34 Predecessor of CIA
- 36 Comes back
- 39 Detects brain waves: abbr.
- 41 Location
- 44 Sows
- 46 Willow
- 48 Woody plant
- 50 Bespatter
- 51 The self
- 52 Sink in middle
- 53 Stalemate
- 55 Prefix: new
- 56 Crafty
- 59 Apothecary's weight: abbr.



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THE BLUE BANNER

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The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly. They should be signed with the writer's name followed by year in school, major or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification.

All submitted articles or letters are subject to editing. The BANNER regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any article submitted. Deadline for submissions is Friday noon.

Correction

Paul Storm and the Mid Atlantic Opera can be reached at 645-4777. Last week's issue of **The Blue Banner** listed the number incorrectly in the article entitled, "Local Opera Company Looks for Musicians."