

# Spokesperson

October 28, 1998

**“But why keep silent when it’s something truer than truth?” Erasmus**

## **OUR EDITORIAL POLICY**

*The Spokesperson* is dedicated to publishing everything that is “truer than truth.” The campus already has enough outlets for the real truth, first among them *The Cooper Point Journal*. Therefore, all material published by *The Spokesperson* must first be rejected by *The Cooper Point Journal* because it does not meet the *Journal’s* high standards for truth. Mind you, the material published here cannot be deemed inappropriate for the *Journal*; it must be found inappropriate. Therefore, all submissions to *The Spokesperson* are handled by *The Cooper Point Journal*. Take your work to CAB 316. If they find your work inappropriate, they will send it, along with a formal letter explaining the journalistic standards you failed to meet, to *The Spokesperson*. Boy have they got our number. (The articles in *The Spokesperson* will keep the reader apprised of any journalistic standards at work among our authors. Those standards are another “something truer than truth,” which have been rejected time and again by *The Cooper Point Journal*, and they have, therefore, sent them to *The Spokesperson*.)

## **NEW POLICY HELPS VICTIMS AND LOW SELF-ESTEEMERS**

**by Consumers & Faculty in  
“Fictional Sociology”**

Students in “Fictional Sociology” experienced, first hand, the useful effects of a new, helpful college policy. Administered by Rey Slovar, Assistant Vice President for Consumer Relations, the policy requires administrative review of classroom material that might adversely affect self-identified victims and those suffering from low self-esteem.

Under the policy, faculty members must submit to Slovar all handouts and films that might have a negative effect on the “target groups.” Due to “academic freedom” the administration cannot tell a faculty member not to use material he or she thinks is “educational” but the

administration can suggest that the material be accompanied by an Immunizing Declaration, a statement designed to attenuate the negative effects of the material.

In “Fictional Sociology” faculty member Bill Arney wanted to show students copies of a letter and documents he received two years ago from the Foundation for the Continuity of Mankind’s cryo-bank in Spokane. The letter, soliciting his personal donations to assist in the “preservation of healthy, stable gene pools of [endangered] species,” began, “Your outstanding achievements have been noted by the board members of our foundation . . .” Arney said, “I wanted to distribute this material in response to a film Sara Rideout showed on in vitro fertilization and infertility. I wanted

students to see the issue from a male perspective. Anyway, I thought the beginning of the letter could have a negative effect on students with low self esteem. They might think I was trying to brag in class or, worse, that I wasn't acknowledging that everyone is a person-of-outstanding-accomplishments. I thought it was a good idea to have the material reviewed.

After the review, Arney distributed the material to the class but accompanied it with the following Immunizing Declaration:

*"1. In showing you these documents I am not trying to brag about my 'outstanding achievements,' but I acknowledge that the distribution of this letter may adversely affect those whose outstanding achievements, which everyone has, have not been noticed by a foundation or institute of similar standing.*

*2. This project is, very likely, elitist, racist, sexist, and agist, the latter two in only their strict senses."*

"I got some good help with the statement from the Counseling Center," Arney added.

The policy was instituted last year because more and more students are self-identified victims and intake scores from Admissions were showing a decrease in average self esteem scores for entering freshmen. One faculty member in the Arts has been asking his students every year how many are victims. Ten years ago, only 20% of the students were victims. When his tally reached 80% two years ago the

college decided it had to act. This policy is the first step in a long-term initiative to protect victims and those predisposed to low self esteem.

Asked if he thought the policy was a good one Arney replied, "Sure. Anything that helps a student remain who she or he is in response to our educational materials is good. Protecting students from the negative effects of teaching is one function of a good college."

In fact, the policy has led to some divisiveness on the "Fictional Sociology" teaching team.

Arney said, "I thought Sara should have cleared her film, 'Underexposed: The Temple of the Fetus.' It's hard to know how many consumers in our class are victims of infertility. There are even faculty members suffering from infertility issues. It just wasn't sensitive."

"I didn't know about the policy. I'm a librarian," Rideout claimed.

Asked how he learned about the policy while his teaching colleagues remained uninformed, Arney said, "I learned about it the way I learn about everything here--on the Web. The *Faculty Handbook* is updated frequently now. The section on Consumer-Faculty relations (sec 4.600) is helpful in all my relations with consumers."

Charles Pailthorp, the third member of the "Fictional Sociology team, agreed. "I try to follow all our rules all the time, especially in my relations with consumers," he said enthusiastically.

Most students are unaware of the policy. Typical of the responses we got is this from “Enduring Stories” student Jane Florentino (no relation to Art Constantino, Vice President for Student Affairs, or to Jane Jervis, President of The Evergreen State College). When asked if she knew about the policy, Jane said, “No.” When the policy was described to her and she was asked for an opinion, Jane said, “Good I guess? We’re studying the Bible, you know. I like it.”

Students will see the effects of this policy more and more often in their classes. If your faculty member doesn’t know about the policy and subjects victims of low esteemers to negative material (and doesn’t accompany the material with an Immunizing Document), a gentle reminder to the faculty can go a long way to improving communication and

building community. If that doesn’t work, consumers should file a Formal Grievance. “We’re trying education around this place, but enforcement seems to be more effective,” said the College Grievance Officer.

Slovar was not available for comment on this story, but a spokesperson for Art Constantino said, “We expect his presence to be felt more and more over the year.”

Consumers and faculty in “Fictional Sociology” are devoting 20 weeks to wiping out The Therapeutic Mentality in our time. “Fictional Sociology” turned away a record number of students this fall, making it the most popular program on campus.

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*“Friends don’t let friends be sanctimonious.” Garrison Keiller*

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**INTERROGATING THE  
ACADEMY: THE VOICE OF  
THE CONSUMER**  
by **Judith Ravsol, Consumer of  
“Fictional Sociology**

*The Spokesperson’s* article, “New Policy Helps Victims and Low Self -Esteemers,’ by the Consumers and Faculty in “Fictional Sociology,” is bound to cause confusion, especially among those with IQs below 85 who happen to read the article unaccompanied by a teacher. In addition, after the College Grievance Office received ten complaints about classroom material distributed without an approved Immunizing Declaration , a spokesperson for the Grievance Officer said, “We know nothing about this policy.” *The Cooper Point Journal* received and rejected this clarifying interview with Bill Arney, faculty member on the factious “Fictional Sociology” teaching team, and we har happy to rpint it here. The interview was conducted by Judith Ravsol (No relation, except anagrammatically, to Rey Slovar, Assistant Vice President for Consumer Relations).

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Rumor has it that the Rejections Editor at the Cooper Point Journal leaked copies of the article to his cornies before rejecting it. Another rumor has it that all ten complaints were filed by CPJ staffers. As far the *The Spokesperson* ire rise only to the level of dirty rotten rumor and mtenion.

**Judith Ravsol, Consumer Protection Journalist (CPJ):** Dr. Arney, isn’t it true that there is no Rey Slovar at the College and there is no college policy to protect self-identified victims and low self-esteemers?

**Dr. Bill Arney:** I’ve never met Dr. Slovar, of course. You don’t have to know people nowadays in order for them to help you. I submitted my material to Dr. Slovar using the MS-Exchange system and got my Immunizing Declaration Approval Code (98-AR004) back right away. Following this policy is very easy and efficient. It doesn’t matter to me whether Dr. Slovar is anything more than a “presence” because a person doesn’t really have to exist to have effects, especially in the field of policy implementation. Heck, lots of people think there’s a real College Grievance Officer. I’ve heard that they, just like the Department of Social and Health Service, use MS-Mediator for Windows and MS-Enforcer to handle consumer complaints.

By the way, have you ever met Dr. Art Constantino in real life?

**CPJ:** No.

**Arney:** See! . . .As for the policy, if there weren’t a policy to protect victims of infertility issues, among others, I wouldn’t have

had any reason to Call Sara Rideout insensitive. Sara's a nice person-of-outstanding-achievements. It's just that in this case, and vis-a vis this policy, her decision to show a satire on infertility was insensitive. Besides, I wouldn't want to work at a College that didn't protect victims and low-'teemers from our teaching.

**CPJ:** We've interviewed Sara Rideout and she denies saying, "I didn't know about the Policy. I'm a librarian."

**Arney:** The facts are that Rideout didn't know about the policy and she is a librarian. Pretty weak defense for insensitivity, if you ask me.

**CPJ:** OK. But you don't believe that students need the protections this policy offers, do you?

**Arney:** Consumers . . . I know it's easy to slip into the old "students" language, but it's better to call them what they prefer to be called. Consumers have always had ways to protect themselves from the negative effects of teaching. It's documented, for example, that victims of domestic violence have gone to college and learned math, chemistry, even sociology, as if their abuse didn't matter. Psychologists call this "splitting." And we have lots of anecdotal evidence showing that low self-

esteemers can accept an A on a test without a second thought for the meaning that A has for their identity. With a new policy in place, that consumer wouldn't have to go "in denial" because the college is insisting that the instructor not just grade her on her accomplishments but that he take the whole consumer into consideration. Geometry teachers never used to think about how a consumer's victims status was connected to learning geometry. This policy just asks faculty to open themselves to seeing the connections. Opening yourself to new possibilities is a good thing as far as I'm concerned.

**CPJ:** That's clear enough. But it's not true that something called The Foundation for the Continuity of Mankind solicited your sperm, is it?

**Arney:** Here's the letter. Publishing it and the Foundation's phone number (509-838-1167) would help validate the whole first article, I suspect. The Foundation is as real as Spokane. Have you ever seen Spokane?

**CPJ:** No.

**Arney:** It's quite real. Of course, I not at liberty to say whether or not I'm participating in the program or how much I'm paid for each donation.

**CPJ:** Then you really are concerned about endangered species like mankind?

**Arney:** Just like everyone else, I do my part.

**CPJ:** One last thing: We called the Office of Dr. Art Constantino, Vice President for Student Affairs, and the person who answered the phone said that Dr. Constantino has no spokesperson.

**Arney:** That was him! In fact, the College hired four new spokespeople over the past summer alone, one for Parking Enforcement, one for Police Services, and two in Wellness and Life Arrangement Counseling. Call Mike Wark. He's the College spokesman. He can tell you all about it.

This CPJ was unable to reach Mike Wark for comment. His spokesperson issued the following statement: "Mr. Wark believes that most of the trouble the College is having in the area of improving communications is due to the fact that everyone wants to speak for himself, except for the women, who speak in a different voice, which is a different problem. That is why Mr. Wark has been and remains a strong supporter of the College's policy of hiring spokespeople both for those who deserve them and those who should use them."

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"Fictional Sociology" is the first for-credit education program in the country to turn Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot into a required college textbook.

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**REMEMBER:** You, too can have your article published by *The Spokesperson*. However, it must be rejected by *The Cooper Point Journal* first. The spokesperson for *The Cooper Point Journal* issued the following statement: "The have set the bar pretty high. We don't reject a lot of pieces. We can't, of course. All those pages to Fell. All those advertisers wanting their ads surrounded by real information. Its tought to fill up a weekly newspaper anymore and still remember the difference between its and it's. We *can't be rejecting* jjust anything. The spokesperson for *The Spokesperson* has learned, from the College Budget Officer's spokesperson, that the spokesperson for *The Cooper Point Journal* is paid \$24.50 per hour. That final sentence cost the college \$17.25. So Remember: submit.

*The Spokesperson asks that all comments on the exorbitant salaries being paid to the College's 16 spokespeople be directed to the Legislative Hotline, 1-800-562-6000.*

# PSYCHOLOGICAL DEFICITS IN MALE SOCIOLOGISTS WHO FIXATE ON INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTS: A SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT

## I. BACKGROUND AND CONCLUSIONS

The College has in place a grievance policy (i.e. Grievance Policy) administered by an actual, factual Grievance Officer<sup>1</sup>. The veritable existence of this policy and this officer will be newsworthy to those readers (perhaps many) who took as gospel Bill Arney's<sup>2</sup> recently rejected-by-*The-Cooper-Point-Journal* opinion to the contrary<sup>3</sup>.



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<sup>1</sup> name withheld, under the CPJ's Invasion of Privacy clause which states that "material published must be more than mildly embarrassing--it must be private information that would humiliate or seriously offend an average person if it were revealed about them," otherwise known as the "Cigar Standard").

<sup>2</sup> The photograph of Bill's posterior (see next page) is the most accurate extant representation. It has been well established, as a community value, that this view of the scholar best depicts the force of his intellect as well as the style of his approach to colleagues and students. This photograph also falls within the CPJ's Code of Ethics (IV.E.6) "Staged photographs should not misrepresent the situation." See Also VI. Publication Criteria. e. Invasion of Privacy, (3) False Light: "careless cropping or enhancement of a photograph that deforms a person in the photo."

<sup>3</sup> The CPJ wisely--as always--refused to publish this potentially inflammatory piece, citing as their reason "certain

The Author, Sara Rideout  
Photo by Lily West  
Mirror Images Institute, inc.

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issues." Although these issues were not made publicly available, we are safe in assuming that they had something to do with college students' sense of propriety, sense of decency, concern with The Truth, sense of responsibility, dedication to objective and unbiased reporting, and constant professional preoccupation with identity politics and victimology. We also know with a high degree of statistical certainty that the student staff of the CPJ is willing to risk everything in their service of The Truth. None of their editorial decision is ever based on fear of "getting in trouble," a fear more typical of elementary school students and younger children and, sometimes, little babies.

Whereas Arney's assertions are only opinion, this piece is based on solid, objective, unbiased, independent reporting practices.<sup>4</sup> Unlike Bill, who is overblown with his own sense of self-importance, I<sup>5</sup> am capable of subordinating my own interests and agenda to the College's interests and agenda which are, as they stand, a monument to well-being and truth.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, I am sincere in my dedication to the truth. This is, in no way, a slam against Arney. He's a man of outstanding achievements, with a high sperm count<sup>7</sup>, to boot. The truth is, he

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<sup>4</sup>The Code will be often cited; here, as reference to (IV.E. Accuracy and Objectivity) Section 11 "Partisan comment which knowingly strays from or obscures fact or reality is dishonest." of Section 4, "There is no excuse for inaccuracies or lack of thoroughness."

<sup>5</sup> See photograph of author. This is a picture of "I," just so you know. This depiction is included as yet another sincere gesture toward full disclosure to the reader. The same practice of author-portraiture is widely spread among members of the IEEE who publish in their many, highly esteemed journals on every technical topic imaginable (or not). We know by looking at the accurately cropped pictures of these engineers that they are not just foolin' around.

<sup>6</sup> IV Ethics Code, A.1. "The duty of journalists is to seek and provide information that conforms with fact or reality so people can determine the truth."

<sup>7</sup> It has been well established in the literature that the Virility Factor can distort a male subject's perceptions of The Truth (journalistically speaking) and of The Good (platonically speaking). Motivated by physiologically-induced lust, such men are known to engage in

can't help himself: he's a social scientist. It is his own high opinion of his own opinions that leaves him outside the mainstream of responsible and scientifically sound sociological journalism. If he weren't so busy

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predatory gratification of their urges. The most likely explanation for Arney's departure from reality--specifically, his claim that the Grievance Officer is no more than an institutional effect--is his late affair with The Officer which he has attempted to conceal by diverting attention to his crackpot theory about "institutional effects." He seeks safety in the "it takes two to tango" mentality of all philanderers, and expects us to believe in his social-scientistic rationalizations rather than in what may have the appearance of rumor and gossip. As a victim of the Virility Factor, Bill deserves our pity, even though he's made his own bed. We know, for instance, that he has a life outside of school, replete with reproductive activities, including a pregnant wife who is entering her third trimester, a two year old son, and a teenage son. If Arney's affair were to be made public, the scandal would surely demolish this domestic house of cards. Thus, the motive for lying--under the guise of pseudo-scientific argument--was very high.



pumping and posing, if he'd bother to do a little more unbiased research, he would have been able to reach the truthful opinion that Grievance, in all its forms, is alive & kicking & screaming at T.E.S.C.

## II. METHOD

In order to establish the journalistic truth (as opposed to opinion or commentary or whatall)<sup>8</sup> about the state of grievance at The Evergreen State College, the researcher had to abandon earlier theories, specifically the Sinclairian<sup>9</sup> notion that fiction has a higher

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<sup>8</sup> The CPA has wisely discarded any other standard for truth than that which is declared in IV Ethics Code A.5 "The press was made free not just to inform or just to serve as a forum for debate but also to bring an independent scrutiny to bear on the forces of power in society." With this in mind, the Journal will not accept satire as truthful, unbiased reporting, as well they should not. Instead, in the interests of their public, such pieces--when and if they are published--are clearly labeled as such. Again, the well-being of their readership is all they have in mind as they sort between what's good and what's bad for their readers. Clearly, it's not good for readers when they are unwittingly duped by some irresponsible satire that plays fast and loose with The Truth. In part, we may thank Tipper Gore for this deeply paternalistic and also deeply caring advocacy of labeling dangerous or subversive or unhealthy works.

<sup>9</sup> In 1997, Leon "Pete" Sinclair claimed that fiction has a higher standard of truth than non-fiction. He was never able to verify this through objective measures or methods. And, so, there is no need to continue to worry about it.

standard of truth than any truth arrived at through empirical methods. The method employed in the present study was embedded in an objective-interview-process<sup>10</sup>, in which interviewees were subjected to a battery of questions concerning their present state of awareness about grievance policy, procedures, and practices and, more importantly, about the person of the Grievance Officer. These questions included various prompts intended to elicit purely spontaneous utterances that would reveal something about the subjects' beliefs and real-life experiences pertaining to these important things. In recording the results of these interviews, the researcher documented all aspects of the subjects' demeanor and recorded all of the noises, including articulate speech, that were emitted. In the interests of unbiased reporting, virtually nothing was omitted that could be described or recorded. Afterall, The Truth was on the line.

In another stage of the study, the researcher looked for artifactual evidence of the Grievance Officer. This consisted in digging up documents that have been attributed to and allegedly distributed by the Grievance Officer. In this case, the

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<sup>10</sup> See Rideout's Mental Measurements, (1990 Vol 10, No. 54) for a complete description of this incitement-based protocol.

digging was performed through the latest in telephonic messaging, where voice mail is left and received.

### III. RESULTS

The results of the interviews indicate, with statistical corrections, that everyone who is aware of grievance is also aware of the grievance officer and of grievance policies. There was some doubt among the subjects about the specifics of this. But there was no doubt about the physical existence of a person, a place, and lots of supporting paperwork.

The results of the second stage were much more controversial. In this case, a voice mail was left at the office of the supposed Grievance Officer, requesting copies of the documents produced by that office for the educational benefit(s) (of which there are many) of the community. The message was returned, indicating that copies were in short supply but that copies could be made using program moneys. The point is that there was a measurable responsiveness--albeit responsiveness lacking in cooperativeness--from the on-campus telephone of the Grievance Officer. This provides a strong suggestion that there is an

actual person at work there doing something. Stronger evidence emerged as artifactual evidence was uncovered, specifically, "Signs & Symptoms of Drug Use," and "How to Approach Students with Alcohol and Other Drug Problems." The existence of these documents provide convincing evidence that the Grievance Officer is not only on the job but also hard at work increasing her own workload. Anyone who would systematically make their own job harder and bigger must be a real person--a corporeal presence and not simply an institutional effect. And that's f\*ck\*ng it.<sup>11</sup>

### IV. FURTHER STUDIES

As a result of this study, we will pursue inquiries that shed light on current classroom dynamics that may have been shaped by the artifactual evidence

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<sup>11</sup> According to CPJ's IV. Publication Criteria, I., Expression which [sic] Causes Material and Substantial Disruption of School Activities, D. Profanity, 1. "The CPJ encourages writers to find creative, articulate alternatives to the use of profanity; excess profanity obscures detail and meaning." Indeed. And, so, when I found myself in a rhetorical situation that demanded the use of an expletive--for the sake of succinctness and precision--I employed the 18th Century practice of disemvoweling the potentially offensive word. I'm pretty okay about this, and don't particularly feel that I have engaged in self-censorship which would be destructive not only of my scientific work but also of community trust and respect.

disclosed during the course of this investigation. Specifically, we will test the effectiveness of the Grievance Officer's documents, as this is borne out in teaching and learning at Evergreen. We will focus primarily on the following questions, which we will pose to actively teaching faculty members:

1) How have you integrated the surveillance of students into your curriculum? Specifically how do you look for and respond to the following common symptoms of drug use:

a) changes in attendance in program meetings.

b) changes in the character of work turned in.

c) unusual flare-ups or outbreaks of temper

e) subtle changes in dress and personal hygiene.

f) furtive behavior regarding drugs and possessions.

g) lowered concentration/attention span.

h) borrowing money to purchase drugs.

j) finding the student in odd places during the day such as closets, storage rooms, etc., to take drugs.

k) stealing small items.

l) wearing of sunglasses at inappropriate times to hide dilated or constricted pupils.

2) Has the increased workload involved with this surveillance been an effective

argument for boosting your program budget? For instance, have you requested and received a larger allocation for special equipment or program aids?

This study and the proposed further studies will document a new departure in creativity within the academy, as teachers learn how to corner and interrogate students<sup>12</sup>; how to communicate effectively with the Grievance Officer; and how to integrate--*across the curriculum*--any and all mechanisms of surveillance and control

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<sup>12</sup> Aside from his many personal problems, it is undoubtedly this institutionally-approved-pedagogical-predation that derailed Arney in the first place. In the twisted realm of *The Sexual*, male sociologists are likely to reroute their scientific interests into various and all forms of hanky-panky. In this case, Arney unconsciously or subconsciously (or whatever) targeted the Grievance Officer, herself, as a replacement-object for the otherwise serious subject of study, which is grieving and the institutional role of *The Grievance Officer*. It happens all the time. See *Rideout's Mental Measures*, "Testing for Degrees of Corruption in Male Sociologists," 1985 Vol. 5, No. 10,867; *Ibid.*, 1985 Vol.5, No. 10,868, "Evaluating Academic Predators: An Exhaustive Battery."