

# Page of Opinion Bell Tower—Augie Myth?

Remember when you were a high-schooler considering colleges? The Admissions man from Augie came, showed you pictures of Old Main, the Science Building and the new buildings on the campus, which were then the Fine Arts Building and Centennial Hall. You may or may not have been impressed. Then, with a twinkle in his eye and a silly grin on his face, he showed you a picture of the Bell Tower, and related to you what he may have called "An old custom at Augustana" — how a girl at Augie became a coed. Now you were certainly impressed, and just as certainly misled.

The Bell Tower is almost an Admission Department hoax. That which is the symbol of Augustana on every catalogue, year-book and promotional film around is a fraud. For on the Augustana campus today walk fewer than twenty true Augustana coeds.

Why such a minimal number? The theory of the Augie coed certainly has a special appeal. One would think that the lines would extend down to the Fine Arts Building on a particularly moony Friday or Saturday evening early in the year.

Before you jump to hasty conclusions, fellas, the blame does not lie *entirely* with the Augustana female. Truly, a more wrongly maligned and persecuted group of prudes does not exist. It is not that they haven't been interested in the school image, nor is it that they have been adverse to the idea. A recent Obs poll showed that almost half of the girls who responded had been kissed at least once under the bell tower. The blame lies entirely with the blasted bell. In the last three years it has been inoperable for all but a few months. The rope has been too short or the bell has been stuck or frozen . . . or something.

But no more. Someone has fixed the Bell Tower appropriately in time for Homecoming and the returning alumni, who the Admission Dept. has told us, have so many cherished memories related to that acreage. Now there is a good long rope and the bell has been dislodged from its tilted resting place.

The main barrier removed, let's not make liars of the Admissions men.



This near-coed hadn't anticipated that the walk to the bell tower would lead to this kind of joining of hands.

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Editor	Ron Peterson 8166
Associate Editor	Steve Caulpetzer 8383
Managing Editor	Randy Jacobs 8487
News Editor	Dee Velon 762-4811
Assistant News Editor	Linda Becker 7509
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Staff Artist	Joan Lubbes 7664
Faculty Advisor	Harry Stelling
OBS Phone Number	794-7262

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## Letter to the Editor

# New "Overgrown Exit Sign" Tromps on Augie Tradition

Dear Sir:

What stands on two legs, is green and white, and resembles an overgrown exit sign?

Correct! It's the bright new sign declaring "Augustana College" from the corner of 7th Avenue and 38th Street.

Now, there is no contention over whether or not the school needs such identification. Visitors searching for the place could easily whiz right past campus without a backward glance. But the nature of the sign itself obviously deserves some comment.

The Augustana campus abounds with reminders of tradition and, true to the Augustana frame of reference, a conservative Lutheran sign would be very appropriate. However, this work of art is an abomination.

What could be more non-collegiate, impersonal and void of character? It's most surprising that a school which in the past has been so concerned about the "Augustana image" should permit such a vulgar sign to scar its terraces.

Could the reason be a problem of funds? After all, an attractive

sign is expensive. Yet, with the money piling up from the Acceleration Program, it seems highly improbable that this is the root of the evil.

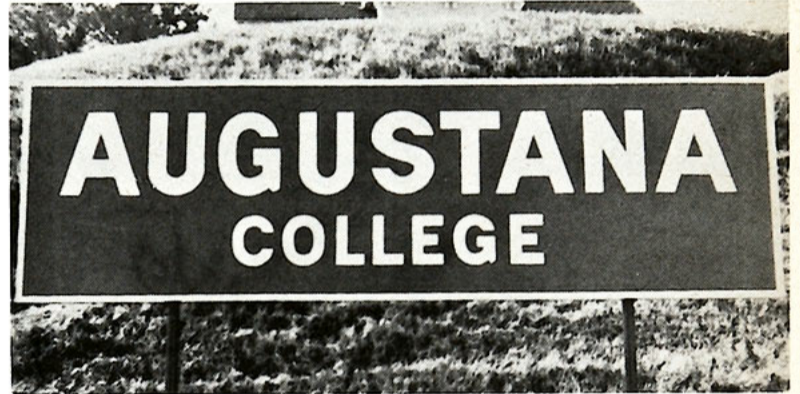
Perhaps one of the distinguished graduates of our school is in the sign-making business, or maybe we could attribute this disaster to the art department.

The source of the sign is not really important now. Its continued existence in the present form, however, is important. And, in this student's opinion, its existence in present form is definitely not in

keeping with the image of Augustana as a fine old educational institution.

Ted Ross '69

Ed. Note — Why was the rustic wooden sign on the median strip in front of Carlsson Hall taken down and not replaced? If it's simply a matter of bad location, it seems a similar sign could easily replace this new green monster on the hill, and thus bring great aesthetic improvement to the "scenic bluff overlooking the Mississippi River" (as the college catalog traditionally refers to the area.) D.V.



Why doesn't someone put it on the Interstate where it belongs?

## Political Perspectives

by Pat Bell

I closed my last 'Political Perspective' column with the observation that, although these problems cannot be cleared up 'instantly', steps must be taken to solve the problems of equality in education, employment, and housing for Negroes. The purpose of this column is to advance some proposals aiming at the solution of these problems.

The most fundamental problem is that of education. Employers are looking for qualified Negroes. Most Negroes that are unemployed are so because of inadequate education. The problem of housing will, in time, solve itself as whites become more accustomed to working alongside Negroes who are their equals in education and ability.

Let us then consider the problem of education. The Administration is attempting to solve this problem by two programs: 1) Head Start and 2) busing of students to achieve integration. I am in favor of the first plan, but opposed to the second.

I believe that the Head Start program is vitally necessary. However, I would favor this as a local, not a federal project. Local school systems can solve their problems better than the bureaucrats in Washington.

The emphasis on the Head Start program should be on providing incentives and encouragement for the children to learn. Many of these children come from homes where the parents have a defeatist attitude which is picked up by the children. By the time they ordinarily begin 1st grade, they are already convinced that they can't learn, and therefore they don't really try. They must be given tasks that they can accomplish, and be praised when they accomplish them. They need to learn the joy of doing something successfully.

My opposition to bussing students from slum areas to other sections of the city should not be interpreted as a stand in favor of inferior education for these students. Every youngster deserves an adequate education. But the solution is not that of bussing to achieve racial

quotas. Rather, let us spend the money to provide decent schools in EVERY neighborhood.

Most importantly, good teachers must be drawn to the schools in poorer areas. It cannot be denied that teaching in one of these schools is a much more difficult task than teaching at other places in the city. The discipline problems are immense. Teachers who are willing to work at schools in poorer areas should be given significantly higher pay than teachers in other areas. They have more difficulties, and they should be paid accordingly.

Additional bonuses should be given to men who will work in these areas. Many of the Negro children, as Moynihan has pointed out, come from broken homes. It is very important for a boy to have a man he can look up to. If there is no man at home, he must look elsewhere. As psychologists have pointed out, male teachers can exercise a great influence on the young boys in their classes.

Finally, more consideration is owed to those students who simply can't cope with high school work. Students ought to be able to go to school where they can learn a trade, at state expense, if they find high school work too difficult.

These suggestions are not politically glamorous. Martin Luther King would not be pacified. However, it is high time that our political leaders stopped making promises of 'instant equality', which are impossible, and settled down to the serious and vital business of helping the Negro prepare to accept an equal role in American society.

## R.I. Housing


Continued from page 1  
mayor and how it acts in the first test case. "It will only be effective if the filing fee is decreased and the fine strengthened." If it is not, outside instigators could cause a great deal of pressure in Rock Island during the next few months.

### odd bodkins

... WHICH MEANS IF JOHNNY STEALS FROM THE FRUIT STAND, WE MOVE INTO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD AND INSTALL PROPER SEWERS, HEAT, AND LIGHTING... THUS BY IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT, WE IMPROVE JOHNNY...



... ALL OF WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY MAKE JOHNNY A CLEAN-LIVING, HEALTHY, NORMAL, RED-BLOODED, AMERICAN FRUIT THIEF!!




3-12 DANONELL

A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, KIDS WHO MISBEHAVED WERE SIMPLY BAD KIDS WHO HAD TO BE SPANKED!!



... NOW, BAD KIDS ARE CALLED "JUVENILE DELINQUENTS" AND INSTEAD OF SPANKING THEM, WE STUDY THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH CAUSED THEIR DELINQUENCY!!



Chronicle Features Unit