



## ANIMAL'S DEN by Animal Bill

Although the Registration for courses in the Spring Semester is now completed, several courses still exist around campus which could prove to be of the utmost value to you, the student. One such course being offered is Organic Chemistry PSI (Ch22BC). Contrary to its name, this independent study course encompasses almost every Chemistry course offered at Canisius. Under the guidance of Dr. Van Verth, Chemistry students are permitted to study each at their own set pace. Instituted at Canisius by Dr. Phil Heffley and Dr. Frank Dinan this PSI (Personal System Instruction) course revolves around certain units of study, (20 per semester), along with a 15 minute test at the culmination of each individual unit. Students progress at their own rate, and are graded pass, or non-pass, immediately after each test. These tests are taken at the student's discretion, and only when one test is completed with a passing grade can the student proceed to the next unit. A final exam is given at the end of the semester, and is also graded accordingly.

Dr. Van Verth gave his wholehearted support to this course, stating that although it is past the Experimental Stage, he would like to see it expand to many other subjects at Canisius. Dr. Van Verth continued with the fact that his PSI course operates on the Mastery Concept; that being each student must show complete mastery of a unit before he is allowed to proceed. This causes a more intense and lasting knowledge of the subject matter, which in the opinion of Dr. Van Verth, is equal to, if not better than the lecture system of teaching. He also points to the large enrollment of students as further proof of the widespread acceptance of this system of learning.

From a student's point of view, this course offers complete freedom to the student, which could be beneficial to other subjects with regards to time. Attendance is not mandatory, so long as the student proceeds at some rate of learning. Many students readily approve of this method of learning, which may indeed expand to other subjects in the future. Dr. Van Verth explains the widespread use of this system throughout the country, and with few resultant problems, I strongly urge those of you who might be interested in such a course as this, to see your advisor or contact Dr. Van Verth. It could be the chance of a lifetime!