



# Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

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*L'amour*, by Todd C. MacGarvey



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Please Recycle

## Hostile Humor

By Mookie Harrington

Humor is an intriguing art form that allows speakers to spread their opinions and values in a unique form to their listeners. Despite being confronted with difficult topics and often disagreeing with the orator, the audience remains transfixed and simply enjoys the humorous observations. Meanwhile, a sneaky underlying message creeps into their brains. At least, that's what a good comic is supposed to do.

Which brings up the argument over which comedians are the great ones. There's no doubt that Bill Cosby, Richard Pryor, Steve Martin, and Chris Rock are all funny and talented men. Still, I believe the true innovators of progressive comedy did even more. They were radical individuals who dared to push the envelope and attack the establishment. I'm not talking about "beer n' titties" bathroom humorists like Andrew Dice Clay and Howard Stern. Instead, I refer to the legendary figures that liberated comedy through their free speech. In our epoch of modern thought, there have been but a handful of truly outrageous and outstanding comedians. These comics stand out as unique people who laid all they had on the line as they climbed and fell with their success. They were not unusually popular men, and their lives were filled with guilt, pain, and displeasure. They mainly experienced a lot of rejection, exploitation, and confrontation. However, when you ask professional comedians whom they admire and find creative, the same names come up: Lenny Bruce, Andy Kaufman, and Bill Hicks.

I have dubbed these men as the "Hostile Humorists". I'm not using this term because I feel any of these men were incredibly bitter and angry. Instead, I believe they are among the most creative and funny people that lived. Each dared to attack the establishment and they each accepted the controversy, conflicts, and worldly consequences of their free speech. I refer to them as hostile because that's how society viewed them. They were rejected and misunderstood. They didn't say popular things or even necessarily the right

thing. But, at the very least, in this world's swirling, confusing masses, these men actually tried to say something both important and different.

This week's biography focuses on comedian Lenny Bruce. Among the outspoken, Lenny Bruce stands as a giant. His scatological discourses have been deemed offensive, vulgar, sick, and dirty. They have also been hailed as pure genius. In the confined atmosphere of the conservative fifties, Lenny Bruce dared to look into the not-so-golden soul of America. His material was broad, sarcastic, and sometimes difficult. It left no listener untouched and earned him a great number of enemies. Lenny Bruce did daring bits that have liberated future generations. His candid speech set the standard for using comedy as means to change the way that people think.

In 1925, a Jewish boy named Leonard Schneider was born in Mineola, New York. At age 16, he enlisted in the Navy for five years and served during WWII. Returning home in 1946, Leonard studied acting and started creating a stand-up routine under the stage name "Lenny Bruce." Eventually, an appearance on the Arthur Godfrey television program earned

Lenny Bruce status as a national figure. He began to cause a stir with his shows in Miami, Chicago, San Francisco, New York, and LA.

Lenny Bruce's act was judged as scandalous in traditional America. He was one of the first to truly attack politics, religion, sex, and ignorance. He spoke in the language of the street. People were attracted to his honesty and creativity. He stood on the stage and swore and told dirty jokes. As friend Ralph J. Gleason put it, "Lenny Bruce had an incurable disease. He saw through the pretense, hypocrisy, and paradoxes of our society."

The truth is that Lenny Bruce was sincere in his criticisms. Yet, that's not what society wanted. As the public realized that meant he really meant it, they turned on him. In 1964, Lenny Bruce was arrested on an obscenity charge following a Greenwich Village show. He was taken into custody because his jokes were considered vulgar. He was arrested because he attacked religion and politics. He was arrested

***If something  
about the  
human body  
disgusts you,  
complain to the  
manufacturer.***



because he used his freedom of speech to creatively agitate people's minds. He rocked the boat.

Upon his release, Lenny Bruce returned to the stage that very night. He had these simple but legendary words to say:

"I'm sorry I haven't been funny, but I'm not a comedian: I'm Lenny Bruce."

Lenny Bruce was more than just a stand-up comic. He demonstrated an entirely new approach to using spoken word as a weapon against idiocy. His cynical and sardonic style was a revolutionized approach to comedy and thinking. It was a controversial means of addressing social and political topics.

Soon after this incident, Lenny Bruce was banned from performing in Australia and England. He would eventually become blacklisted throughout America. In each city, police officers would fill the club. Sometimes he'd be taken to the station on false pretenses (usually drug possession), and held for hours just so he couldn't work shows. Other times he was

arrested on obscenity charges. Having trouble finding work, Lenny Bruce eventually went broke just from hiring lawyers as he sought vindication.

Here we encounter the other themes that come with genius: Despair, Pain, Agony and Trouble. Lenny Bruce knew these all too well. During his twenty years on stage, desperation filled his life and he did become bitter. Some would ask whether he was ever even trying to be funny.

Now, see the dark side of Lenny Bruce. Imagine a drug addict who used to be sucked off by strippers while waiting to hit the stage. Paranoid, he even set up his friends in dope busts. In reality, Lenny Bruce was a nihilist whose habit allowed him to both work harder and to "flake out." Neurotic, crude, and oversexed, Lenny Bruce died from a heroin overdose in 1966. In 50s America, Lenny Bruce explored social hypocrisy with his free-form honesty, and using the language from the street he became one of the most controversial figures of the time.

Musicians really miss this guy. You might remember his name from the REM song "It's the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)". His face is peeking around a corner on the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club* album cover. Both Bob Dylan and Simon & Garfunkel wrote the songs about his death. Dustin Hoffman starred in the 1975 movie *Lenny* loosely based on Lenny Bruce's story. Another interesting read is his autobiography, appropriately entitled *How to Talk Dirty and Influence People*.

Now, Bruce's contribution to comedy was not simply the art of being vulgar. It's been proven by the majority of stand-up acts out there that simply using a variety of four-letter words whilst poking fun at airplanes and women drivers is not considered original material. Lenny Bruce attacked the establishment. He discussed drugs, sex, religion, politics, moral values and traditions using radical thought. He used comedy as a tool to shine light on ignorance. But dedication and effort was painful and Lenny Bruce burnt out as the world attempted to smother him.

Next week, I'll discuss the life, comedy, and creativity of Bill Hicks.

# My Time with the Laymen

By Sir dalas MacArthur Verdugo III

“...do the people that really like GDT a favor, and stop writing for laymen.”  
—Ms. Dover, in a letter to GDT

It all began at the sporting club. Sir Reginald was talking about how he had spent several months with a tribe of New Zealand Pygmies. Not to be outdone, Sir Walter Hampshire idly commented that he had spent no less than a year with a group of North American laymen (*Homo Simplicus*). I was taken aback, and inquired as to how he had managed such an adventure. Sir Walter then proceeded to tell me, in great detail, all of the specifics of the groups of laymen currently roaming this land of ours. It was then and there that I decided that I must meet these laymen for myself, and after hiring a native guide and two able whores, I was off.

The first week we spent merely searching for the laymen. They were hard to find until we discovered a delightfully elementary trick; by simply setting a “television set” down in the middle of a clearing, we were able to attract large amounts of local laymen. At first, we attracted only the males of the species, thanks to the nature of the shows on the television, mostly (events of sport). We tried showing programmes such as *The View*, but this attracted only the females and the mentally retarded. Finally, we found the perfect show: *America’s Funniest Home Videos*. Members of every Layman demographic popped out of the woodwork.

I started my communications with the laymen slowly. I approached them with items that I knew they would find comfort in, such as fishing poles and Nascar

merchandise. They accepted me happily. I found that this species is very accepting to outsiders. As I tried to talk to them, I discovered that I would have to learn a whole new language. The first thing I asked them was “How are you doing in all of your endeavors, laymen?” My native guide advised me on how to better pose this question (my two whores stood silently on the side, as it should be). I tried again. “What the fuck up, you dumb assholes?” This garnered a better response. They told me “Abso-fucking-lutely nothin. Just shootin’ the shit.” My guide told me that this meant they were in a period of rest and rejuvenation. I spent the rest of the day enthralled in the new learning process. I taught the laymen about wealth and fabulous celebrity parties, and they, in turn, taught me about prejudice and oppression! It was truly a joyous occasion. Soon I was speaking fluent Laymanese. “Shut the fuck up, man, ‘fore I cut your ass,” actually made sense to me!

I left the laymen with a heavy heart. I was sad to depart from them, and I could tell that they were sad to see me go (they had also grown fond of my comely whores). When I returned to proper society, I resolved myself behind a new goal: to bring the culture of the laymen to the learned classes. I took a post with a small publication, and the rest, as they say, is history.

PS—Fuck you, Dover; I write for myself and no one else.



THE LESSON, KID, IS THAT EVERYBODY GIVES IN TO THEIR DARK SIDE ONCE IN A WHILE. WHAT A SATISFYING STRIP... THANK HOME VIDEO, KIDS!! E-MAIL GIL@CSU.UT.EDU

# MUCKRAKER

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# SUBMIT.

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## “Caught” Student Leads to Awareness of Campus-Wide Perversion

By Theo Parkinson

ROCHESTER, NY—Citing a darkened room, an unwillingness to remove a blanket, and generally suspicious behavior, RIT freshman Ronnie Stevens is “pretty sure” that his roommate was “whacking it.”

Stevens claims to have entered his dorm room at 2AM on Sunday, April 16. “The door was locked, but I used my key to open it,” Stevens said. His roommate, whose anonymity is being preserved for the sake of his parents, was sitting at his computer when he allegedly pulled a blanket over himself quickly as Stevens switched on the lights.

“He totally covered himself up and pretended like nothing was going on,” Stevens said. “And I’m pretty sure that he was looking at Internet porn, even though he minimized the browser window when I came in.”

Stevens’ roommate denied all allegations. He is currently being questioned by Campus Safety.

“We can’t have this kind of self-abuse going on inside our dorm rooms,” a spokesperson for the alleged RIT policing force announced. “If you want to do that kind of thing, take it off campus.”

However, according to an unnamed RA., this perverted behavior is going on all over RIT. “This is nothing new. Students all over campus are masturbating. Even in the apartments. It’s not just a freshman thing.”

This Reporter did some unofficial polling among RIT students and found that an overwhelming 96% of males admitted to self-stimulation, although they would never admit it in front of their friends. Of the females polled, only 2% admitted to touching themselves, although this reporter is pretty sure that the rest were lying.

Even the unnamed RA admitted to losing self-control every once in a while. “That’s why I became an RA—for the single room,” he said.

It is unclear what could be causing such barbaric behavior. There are theories. One involves a CIA conspiracy. Another is related to RIT’s notorious ratio

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of bricks to elevators. However, nothing yet has been proven beyond a pet theory.

The administration is regarding this on-campus behavior with trepidation. RIT President Al Simone said that he was waiting to see what develops in the aftermath of this tragedy. “It remains to be seen whether this rash of the Sin of Onan represents a serious obstacle to the well-being of the RIT student body. I do not want to be in the position of dealing with a parent whose student’s studies have fallen by the wayside

in the name of the limbic system.”

Students across campus are a more than wary of their roommates. “You just don’t know who does and who doesn’t anymore,” one female student said. “It could be someone you sit next to in class. Eeewww.”

Whatever the long-term outcome, Ronnie Stevens is still a little shaken by the incident. Yet, he remains optimistic. “They let me move to my own room because of it. So I guess that I’m pretty lucky after all. A whole room to myself.”

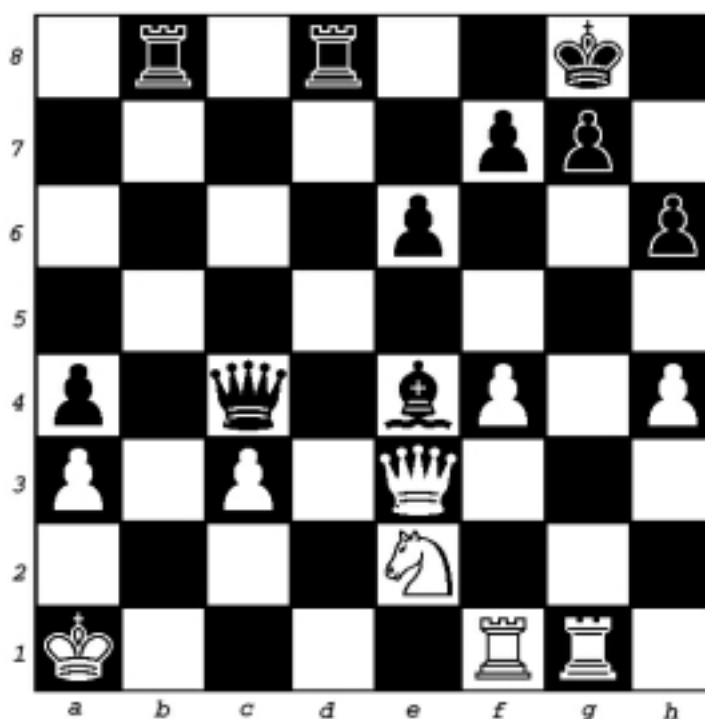
## Positional Magic

By Adam Fletcher

The problem to the left is from a game played by Komal Kamat, guest writer and donator of many problems to this column. Komal’s checkmate in the position to the right is very nice; see if you can find it.

Komal is clearly winning in this position because of the forced checkmate, and even without that, his extra pawn. Take a look at just the pawns. The formation of a player’s pawns is called the *pawn structure*. As you can see, Komal has two groups (*pawn islands*) of pawns: the group on the king side and a lone pawn on the a-file. White has four groups of pawns, each a single pawn with a file between it and its neighboring pawn. A pawn without another pawn to support it is called an *isolated pawn*. This is an exploitable weakness, and isolated pawns should be avoided. Pawns that have other pawns to support them are *connected pawns*, and are superior to isolated pawns. Why? Because isolated pawns are targets. Pieces aren’t afraid to attack an isolated pawn because they can only be defended by other pieces. Connected pawns don’t have this problem—the material value of the pieces tells us this. Next week I will discuss pawn chains, and other pawn formations.

Could you find the winning move? It’s Rb2!!, sacrificing the rook for the checkmate. If the king doesn’t take on b2, the queen plays checkmate on a2. After Rb2, the queen plays check on b3, and the king is quickly checkmated.



**Black to play and win.**

**The RIT Chess Club meets every Thursday at 8pm, in the 1829 room of the SAU.**

[www.rit.edu/~chess](http://www.rit.edu/~chess)

## Blame Game

By Randall Good

*Please note that the following article is not funny, satirical, or humorous in any way*

Back on March 11, the Pope offered a public apology for the many sins committed by Christians throughout the years, including the Crusades, the Inquisition, and the failure to speak out against the Holocaust.

However, looking a little closer at these apologies, one will find some careful omissions. These weren't actually apologies for the sins of the Church. In fact, the Pope apologized for the "sins of Christians" throughout history. Why the distinction? Because the Church and Pope—and everything they decide—are still considered to be infallible (never in the wrong).

A simplified example of these apologies is as follows: "We're sorry that Christians killed a lot of Muslims during the Crusades, but it's not the fault of His Holiness, Pope Urban II, who ordered the attack...he's infallible."

Please say that I'm not the only one who has difficulty finding logic in this argument. Okay, so the Pope and Church are supposed to be infallible, right? Does that include Pope Alexander VI, who fathered numerous illegitimate children and declared war on the Ottoman Turks? Or the aforementioned Urban II, who also established a system by which noblemen could buy favor with the church by giving other land and title?

Assuming that those who give the orders are never given results is a *non sequitur* which, when applied elsewhere, seems quite preposterous. If you don't see what I mean, then consider this: there are people out there who feel that Hitler is not to blame for the Holocaust. See what I mean?

I realize that I am focusing on all of the negative things about the church. What about all the good aspects of the church and the positive effect it has had on the world? I will not pretend that there is a fliside to all of this negativity. As a writer interested in attacking the status quo and promoting social change, I feel I am justified in my criticisms. I was raised Catholic and I hope and believe that the church can do even more good in the world. However, when badness has been done, I am not at all comfortable with allowing the powerful to blame the weak. Not at all.



### DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

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