

TO THE A-024 CLASS OF '97

HE RISES OUT OF THE SLOUGH OF SELF-INTEREST,
DISDAINING DIAPHANOUS IDEALISM AND PUBLIC INTEREST HUMBUG,
HE SLOUCHES, TIRED, OLD ERSTWHILE RADICAL,
MEMORIES OF DENIM JACKETS, DYLAN, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES,
INTO A CLASSROOM FULL OF FRESH FACES, OPTIMISM, MEANING, ENERGY,
AND BELIEF.

MOSSBACK, DRIPPING RIVULETS OF CYNICISM IN LONG STREAMS,
HE DOES HIS BEST TO CONVINCE THEM THAT EVERYTHING CAN BE
EXPLAINED BY THEIR OWN AMBITION.
THEY CONSENT, NOT TO THIS DISMAL IDEA, BUT TO THE BIGGER ONE,
THAT BY BEING THERE, TOGETHER, THEY WILL CONVINCE THEMSELVES
THAT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE.

WEEK AFTER WEEK-- THROUGH POOR FRYMIRE, ANGRY JO VEGA, NAIVE
RON BUNN, COSMO BARBARA UEHLLING, SLIPPERY BOB GRAHAM,
ENIGMATIC FRINKS-- THEY LABOR TO BRING HIM TO
ENLIGHTENMENT,
WHICH HE STEADFASTLY RESISTS,
KEEPING THEM AT BAY WITH, "HMM. . .," "SUCH AS. . .," "EVIDENCE???"
AND "HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF. . . ?"
TRUDGING AWAY EACH WEEKEND, WITH ANOTHER LOAD OF DEATHLESS
PROSE AND DAMNED IDEALISM.

THEY THINK IT'S ABOUT AUTHORITY (HIS) AND CONSENT (THEIRS).
WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW IS THAT IT'S REALLY ABOUT THE POWER OF
THEIR IDEAS;
THE STEADY EROSION OF SELF-INTEREST (HIS) BY THE CLEAR, COOL FLOW
OF IDEALISM (THEIRS),
UNTIL IT IS COMPLETELY UNCLEAR WHO IS THE STUDENT AND WHO IS THE
TEACHER, WHO IS TEACHING AND WHO IS TAUGHT.

R. ELMORE, 12/97