



# S I M O N & S C H U S T E R

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David Gale  
Senior Editor  
Children's Book Division

November 24, 1993

Mr. Jack Powers  
160 Lawrence Road  
Fairfield, CT 06430

Dear Mr. Powers:

Thank you for letting me read DON'T SPREAD ANY RUMORS. However, it is not something I can offer to publish. While parts of the manuscript are very powerful--notably the scene in which Nicole admits to having HIV infection, and Pete's reactions--I find that too often you sacrifice the story in order to provide information. I agree that teenagers need the information your characters discuss, but to my mind, they don't need it from a novel. That is to say, you have an obligation to present only correct information in a novel, but as a novelist you want to tell an engaging fictional story. I think that the story falls by the wayside here.

I didn't see a way to make the story work without the informational parts, as it would need to be greatly expanded. You may want to submit this manuscript elsewhere, since editorial opinions do vary, and another editor may feel differently from me.

I would like to see future projects of yours. Good luck with your writing.

Sincerely,

*David Gale*

P.S. The information about lambskin condoms on page 51 is inaccurate. The reason that they are no safeguard against HIV infection is not that they can leak or break easier than latex; it's that the pores are larger than the virus, which allows transmission. Also, on the next page, you mean Centers for Disease Control.





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Henry Travis Publishing.  
420 Immaculate Conception Dr.  
Sydney, Australia  
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Travis Henry  
Senior Editor

June 17, 2003

Mr. Jack Powers  
160 Lawrence Road  
Fairfield, CT 06430

Dear Mr. Jack Powers:

After reading and reviewing THE JELLO BRIGADE I am sorry to say that this is not something I am willing to publish. However, I am willing to give you some thoughtful criteria if in the future you decide to revise the story and/or you have the same luck with other publishers. The plot of the story will definitely attract to teenage readers. You really have a good way to relate the teenagers in your novel to today's youth. The aftermath of the prank is what made even me not want to put the book down until finishing the next few chapters. Timmy dying, although mentioning throughout that he may be suicidal, was still forcefully intriguing and suspenseful to the reader and left me wanting to read more and understand exactly what had just occurred, a real page turner.

The readers will not only understand your writing but they will be very interested in it as well. The plot is very catchy and will really draw the attention you are looking for. Reading parts of smoking grass, love and sexual frustration are what will drag readers into the story, however I believe that many people including myself will believe that the story is inappropriate to the audience that you are looking to reach.

Although the story was very interesting and well written it is not something I am looking for to publish. If you have no luck with other publishers you may want to think about a writing a screenplay to this novel, kind of a compilation of STAND BY ME and DAZED AND CONFUSED, to me it has the same type of emotion, drama and immature frustration as these do.

Thank you for letting me read your novel and good luck.

Sincerely,  
Travis Henry

