

Water, water everywhere...

Leaks in buildings around campus have spread to even the Reed Building

by Glee Jesteadt
Collegian Staff

The big winter storm that occurred this semester has caused many students to wonder if it is ever going to be dry again.

There are students being driven out of their homes and having to deal with wet areas in classes.

What is going to be done?

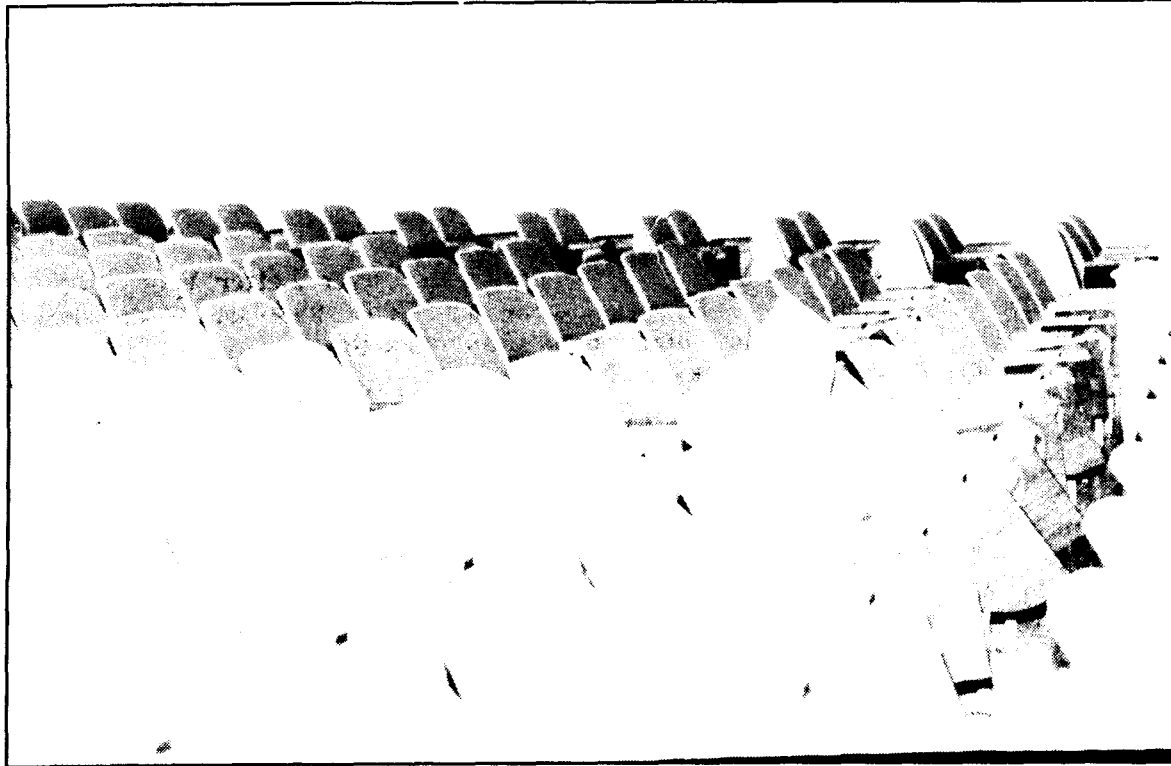
There have been many reports of leaks in the past couple of weeks, including a new leak in the Reed Union Building outside of the Wintergreen Cafe.

The problem seems to be caused by a tear in the rubber membrane that covers the roof, said John Reem, Operation Manager in the Business Office.

"It is a simple patch, somewhat like patching an innertube," Reem said.

Insulation soffit vents have been installed in Erie Hall to stop leaks in the lobby. It seems to have taken care of the problem of water dripping onto the stairs making them a hazard.

In most cases, ice has been removed from the roofs to stop further leaks in the buildings. A short term fix has been provided temporarily by placing electric heat tapes on the roof.



Holly Beary/Photo Coordinator

Are classes cancelled: No, but Reed Lecture Hall did receive a little damage from the recent leaks in the Reed roof. Although the damage was limited, some classes and even the SPC movie of the week was cancelled.

The university is looking into a long term fix for the future. There are solutions being discussed and a decision will be made sometime this week.

"The university is concerned that we provide buildings that are dry," said Reem, "We are actively developing solutions that are leak free."

The suites have had a major problem with leaks, as well, causing damage to wall coverings and carpets. The students troubled by the bad

conditions have been offered new housing in the residence halls and apartments.

"We are not at all happy with what is happening," said Chris Reber, dean of Student Affairs. "I commend all the students that are working with us on this matter."

Housing is giving the affected students a 20% discount in housing costs.

Erie architect Herman Weber, from the firm of Weber, Murphy & Fox, has been brought in to work with the university to make recommendations to prevent this from happening again.

"The work done was not adequate," said Reber, "We will not make the same mistake again."

A few recommendations have been taken to University Park, but nothing can be done until UP goes through the information and decides what steps to take. University Park has the final decision.

"We can recommend that they please make sure on the architect so the work can be done this summer," said Reber.

The Balkans, up close and in person

John Rossomando
Collegian Staff

Dr. Zachary Irwin, professor of political science, recently returned with his wife, Monica Johansson, from what used to be Yugoslavia.

He received a grant to study the relations of the Yugoslav republics before the federation broke apart.

Irwin travelled throughout the republics of what was Yugoslavia studying the current situation in this troubled Balkan region.

This type of hands-on experience serves as an added plus to Irwin's lectures in his current courses. In particular, POLSC 421 focuses on the failure of communist countries. Basically, the course includes a recount of Irwin's trip in detail.

The first republic which he discussed was Macedonia which is a tiny country about the size of the state of Maryland with two million people.

Compared to most of the other former Yugoslav republics, Macedonia is comparatively stable. Its food supply is rather

stable because it is self-sufficient. Unemployment however runs about 30%. The majority of the unemployment is concentrated in the west which is ethnically Albanian. The Macedonian economy is in shambles.

"When I was in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, I had a check from Chemical Bank that I needed to get approved, and it took over two hours," Irwin said. "Ultimately, the approval from the bank president was needed in order to get it approved."

The war has taken a heavy toll on Serbia, a nation of about 10 million people.

"It has created a hyperinflationary cycle like you would not believe," Irwin said.

Inflation hovers around 20% per day leaving the government with no choice but to print a new currency series every two to three weeks. There is a black market for hard currency, but it is practically inaccessible.

Human rights are a serious problem in Serbia. Opponents to

the Milosevic regime are routinely beat up for speaking out.

Milosevic is all that Serbia has and the more that the West tightens the embargo, the more popular the Milosevic becomes. Montenegro is a republic of about 500,000 people who are divided between pro-independence city people and pro-Serb hill people.

Croatia is a nation of about 4.5 million people in which most of the area is controlled by Serb forces. The Serbs are concentrated in an area called the Krajina.

"They have an attitude similar to the attitude held by the Afrikaners in South Africa," Irwin said. "They have a constant memory of the Turkish occupation and the terrors of the Croatian Fascist Ustashi in World War II."

Irwin hopes to apply all of this experience to his POLSC 421 class, appropriately titled, "The Failure of Communist Europe."

Maya cancelled

by Paul Marini
Collegian Staff

After originally rescheduling her speech at Behrend, Maya Angelou had to cancel her appearance the day of the event due to illness.

Angelou was scheduled to speak in Erie Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday January 25. On the day of the event, Angelou's press agent called Behrend to inform them that Angelou had to cancel.

Director of Student Activities David Shields said he was upset that the event had to be cancelled.

"I was disappointed for the students who wanted to see her so badly. That was really the extent of my disappointment," Shields said.

Shields also said that people from as far away as Edinboro and University Park were coming to see Angelou speak.

"It was the event of a lifetime for us. For the Speaker Series, we try to get the best speakers for the money we can spend."

The Office of Student Activities

will not be rescheduling Angelou because her schedule is pretty much booked, Shields said.

"This year, when we heard we could get Maya Angelou, I was very excited, and to me, getting her would be the 'Super Bowl' of the (Speaker) Series--the premiere speaker," Shields said.

Dr. Diana Hume George, a professor of English and women's studies, was one of the main reasons why Behrend was able to have Angelou scheduled. George could not be reached for comment.

Shields is very optimistic that the remaining Speaker Series events will go better than the Angelou speech.

"We have two very good, cutting edge speaker events coming up," Shields said.

Among the final events is a speech by Dr. Louis Sullivan, former Secretary of Health and Human Services under President George Bush. The speech on the future of the health care system will be on Tuesday, February 15 at 8 p.m. in Erie Hall.