

Live From Guyana

The lazy bug disorder

AYODELE JONES

I'm tired, just tired, tired, tired. If it sounds like I'm whining, it's because I am (Hey, ask my mom, I'm really good at it). Ever since I returned from Spring Break, it seems like the semester has just been flying by. Every week another paper is due, and there is another test I have to take.

I mean, don't teachers know that after Spring Break students catch this disorder called the lazy bug and it just takes over our lives? Teachers are so concerned with finishing everything and anything that they are totally oblivious to the twenty-something students sleeping or daydreaming in class.

In addition to the lazy bug, the beautiful weather we've been having doesn't make the situation any better. Nice weather + a couple of lazy bones = laying in the sun. When the weather gets really nice, who really feels like reading that 18th chapter in our history book?

I don't know about you but each day that passes, I am one day closer to turning in my final research projects and hours away from being an insomniac.

In addition to all of this work, do you notice that the little things are really becoming big things, and those

big things are really pissing you off? Well, I have. For example, you may have never noticed that the guy behind you in political science really breathes heavy or the annoying way your roommate harps about stupid, petty things, like putting spoons and forks in the right sink. But the worse thing is, it's not only your roommates or your classmates but it is also your so-called "friends" who begin to work your nerves. Why does it take the end of the semester to see people for who they really are? I mean, all year long, you've been studying and partying and just chilling and now is

the time that the people who you thought you were cool with turn out to be nothing more than a couple of "slim shades."

I know it's the end of the semester and everybody is on edge, but enough already. I'm tired of all the attitudes and all the tempers. Why can't we all just get along? There's only 3 days left before the end of the semester. I ain't mad at cha, if you're not mad at me; because I got nothing but love for you baby.

Ayodele Jones is the managing editor of the Beacon. Her column appears every three weeks.

The Lobster and the Music to the Dance of Life

Is the guitar solo dead?

MIKE PERKINS

I like a lot of today's music. There are many very talented musicians in the Rock world, but most of the music is lacking in one respect - the Guitar Solo. Gone are the glory days of the ten minute guitar anthem with the soulful joining of man, guitar and amp.

The world today is populated with the blaring power chords that any reasonable musician can emulate. What it lacks is the skillful blending of bends, taps and dives - the trademark of a master guitarist.

With the increased use of synthetic sounds, many modern bands are covering up their lack of ability by simply not utilizing the solo. In times gone by, one of the greatest indicators of a band's merit was their solos, but this is being replaced by presenting a complete freakish image (Marilyn Manson) or appealing to teenyboppers (Hanson) for the sole purpose of selling more albums. Some may argue that Rock and Roll bands of the past dressed up. This was however before the time of MTV where it was used to pump up a crowd in concert. Nowadays bands simply try to look weird

on TV in order to gather more media attention.

I don't think that guitar music will ever die because it is too ingrained in our musical heritage. But the solo, on the other hand, is quickly becoming only a fond memory for those of us who appreciate a talented musician transforming his emotions into art with his bare hands.

In today's media driven society, image and lyrics have pushed guitar skill into the back seat. In the past the most known member of a band was the lead guitarist. Those who think of Led Zeppelin usually think of Jimmy Page first. I am not saying the lyrics were not important in yesteryear; who can deny that Stairway to Heaven speaks mountains? However, when music takes a backseat to image, Rock can be considered mortally wounded.

I play the guitar and can respect the sheer amount of talent and practice it takes to reach the skill of the great soloists. Simple power chord jamming that is rampant in today's music can be played by many mod-

erately skilled musicians. While it takes decades of practice to develop the skills of a true soloist.

Just to clarify something that some may consider an omission. Rap music is bad and therefore does not count at all.

Following is a list of some of the Greatest Guitar Solos of all time.

Stairway to Heaven- Led Zeppelin (Jimmy Page) Without a doubt the greatest solo.....Jimmy=God

Freebird- Lynyrd Skynyrd (All THREE of Skynyrd's lead players) IT grabs you by the balls and doesn't let go.

Sweet Child O' Mine- Guns N Roses (Slash) Les Paul + Marshall = magic

All Along the Watchtower- Jimi Hendrix- Arguably one of the greatest guitarists ever.

Heartbreaker-Led Zeppelin (Jimmy Page)- Pure speed and slinky licks make this solo one of the best.

Crazy Train- Ozzy (Randy Rhoads) Lightening quick fingers and more distortion than you can shake a stick at.

Hotel California- Eagles (Don Felder & Joe Walsh) Not just one great guitarist...but TWO.

My Sharona- The Knack (Berton Averre) Great tone and awesome phrasing are just two of this solo's attributes.

Little Wing-Stevie Ray Vaughan- A Hendrix tune turned instrumental and given a new edge with Stevie's tone.

You Shook me All Night Long- ACDC (Angus Young) A Gibson SG through a Marshall on ten Layla- Eric Clapton and Duane Allman- One of the greatest love songs, with a two brilliant guitarists working together to push the solo to the limit.

Eruption- Van Halen (Eddie Van Halen) 1 minute and 42 seconds of orgasmic Whammy Bar dives, tapping and blazing speed.

Mike Perkins is layout editor of the Beacon. His column appears every three weeks.

Editor's Note: Tim Eckel, 02, ME contributed to this article

Guest Column:

Real manhood: character

Manhood. It's a dream that all aspiring, pre-adolescent males dream of achieving one day. But what exactly is it? How is it achieved? If you asked ten people to define manhood, chances are you would get at least ten different answers. Some would say manhood is achieved when you can smash beer cans on your forehead. Others would say that manhood is achieved by sleeping with a different woman every weekend, then bragging about it. Others might say that manhood is such an ambiguous term that the definition can't exactly be pinpointed. Even though many people have many different definitions of what manhood is, I believe that there is one ingredient essential to achieving it: character.

A strong personal and moral character is quintessential of the foundation of being a real man. Without this ingredient, a person will have no backbone of principles and values that they base life's decisions on. Instead, they will base decisions on the emotion and desire of any given moment, without even considering what the future consequences would be. They will have no standards of conduct or behavior that they hold themselves to, and a person without standards can't be fully trusted.

Strong character consists of having integrity, courage, and humility; having the integrity to do the right thing, even when nobody is looking; the

courage to stand up for what is truly right, even if it is not popular; and the humility to take life's greatest lessons and learn from them. Having integrity is vital to having strong character. It is achieved when people have enough trust in you and your values that they can take what you say for face value, they know you will be true to your word and promises, and they know that you won't have any ulterior motives. Integrity is also the foundation of trust, which is the foundation of a relationship. Trust must be obtained and sustained in a marriage, a parent/child relationship, a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, and even a business relationship. If the other person can't trust you, what you stand for, or what you say, then the whole relationship is inevitably doomed. Trust is such a simple idea, yet for so many it is too difficult to comprehend. With this concept of trust, one thing must be remembered: it takes a long time to build up, yet it only takes a single bad decision to destroy it. Once destroyed, it is virtually impossible to build back up.

Courage is achieved when you have high standards and principles that you live by, and you stick with those principles even in the midst of adversity. You know what the right thing to do is, and you do it, no matter how afraid or hesitant you are, and no matter how unpopular it may seem

to be at the time. Courage is also not being afraid of making a mistake, then being able to admit a mistake when one is made, and then learning from that mistake. Courage is also required when life's difficult adversities and experiences come calling. You must be able to handle these situations with grace and a continuously renewed sense of optimism and hope for the future.

Humility is simply being able to learn from life's most difficult lessons in a noble and honorable way. Many people just don't like the idea of being humbled, yet this is essential to continually growing throughout life as a person. Almost every one will eventually be humbled one day when they go through difficult experiences and adversity in life, when they realize that they can't do it on their own and have to rely on others for strength. During these difficult experiences, a person's true character will shine through, and people can see what that person is really made of.

That's why adversity will be the real test of character, and it can also be life's greatest teacher, but you must have the proper paradigm, the proper perspective of seeing things. A real man knows how to humbly accept the lessons and curveballs that life seems to relentlessly throw. Strong personal and moral character

cannot be developed overnight, nor can it be bought at a quick-fix-it shop. A person must conscientiously make the decision that he will be a person of character, and then he must stick by that decision, no matter how hard it seems to be.

Being a real man means that you have the integrity to honor the promises and commitments that you make, to others and yourself. Being a real man means that while you're dating a girl, your motives will be pure and blameless, that you will respect her, her body, and her values. Being a real man means that you hold yourself to standards that most people don't have the courage to hold themselves to. Being a real man means that you know you don't have to drink to have a fun. Being a real man means that you have the courage to resist negative peer-pressure, and the courage to stand up for values. Being a real man means you know who you are, what you stand for, what your limitations are, and what your weaknesses are. You know how to fully express yourself in the midst of opposition. That, my friends, is a real man.

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A view from the lighthouse

Give us a break!

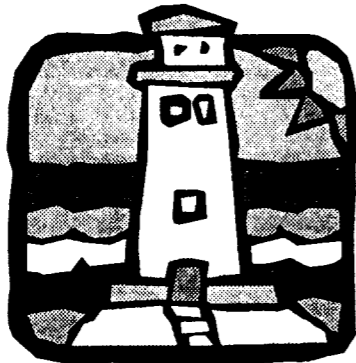
What's up with the fact that Penn State students receive no days off for Easter or any other holiday for that matter? Several universities nearby have several days off for the holiday. We don't even have one measly day off to observe Easter, not even Good Friday. Besides that, we have no other holidays off during the school year, including Passover, Yom Kippur, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's birthday, etc.

A large majority of students on campus are Christian and do celebrate Easter. Why can't Penn State make the Easter holiday an official day off for these students?

Also, students need days off some time in their schedule, especially during the spring season. This is a time when students become a little "antsy" with all the work and tests they have

been bogged down with. They also want to spend more time outside due to the nice weather. Why not give hard-working students a break by giving them a day off?

This day off would nevertheless benefit Christian and non-Christian students as well. It would give both groups of students time to relax — for once!



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