

The Soul Of

By Pamela Gilmore
Collegian Staff Writer

The term "Jim Crow" dates back to the 1830's, when Thomas Rice, a white entertainer, capitalized on a song and dance routine which he had seen performed by a black minstrel in a Baltimore Alley.

Rice used the term in reference to the character he "created" and made famous. Like any other white "invention", "Uncle Tom", a modern-day term used by blacks to describe a person afraid to stand up for his rights, was in essence an outgrowth of the term "Jim Crow", which was used by blacks to designate any type of discrimination faced by them during the latter part of the 19th century. It was this term that was given to the thousands of state laws, city ordinances, and local customs whose impassable "color-line" kept blacks from opportunities open exclusively to whites.

Between 1890 and 1910, each southern state wrote into law statutes which kept black men and women from certain American guaranteed privileges. And, in 1896, Plessy vs. Ferguson, the famous Supreme Court case, laid down the separate but equal doctrine which ruled that laws segregating people because of their race did not in any manner violate the U.S. Constitution. Because of this, blacks were

subjected to live under circumstances which were humiliating as well as devastating to their character.

For example, Oklahoma segregated phone booths while Mississippi segregated Coke machines. In Atlanta, black witnesses in court proceedings were not permitted to swear on the same Bible as white witnesses. In Birmingham, Alabama, blacks and whites were faced with a penalty of six months in prison if they played together, or in the company of one another, any game of cards, dice, dominoes or checkers. Southern schools were segregated. And Florida took it one step further by segregating textbooks while still in storage. And let's not forget that, in the center of American democracy and justice, Washington, D.C., blacks could not even bury their dead dogs in the same cemetery that whites used for theirs.

Blacks faced a special kind of "injustice" when up against the Southern Court System. If a black committed a crime against a white, there was almost always exaggerated news coverage and heavy penalties. Often innocent men were accused of crimes and even killed because of their color. If whites committed crimes against blacks, however, more likely the event went "unnoticed."

During the era of Jim Crow, blacks were degraded in magazines, newspapers, nursery rhymes, popular songs, cartoons, etc. They were referred to as being "dangerous," "stupid," "humorous," or childlike. In 1887, a South Carolina white wrote of calling blacks senator, sheriff, or colonel to escape from calling him Mister. A St. Louis Bible society published a book entitled *The Negro Beast*, which tried to prove that a person of color had no soul. It was clearly apparent that blacks of this time had powerful enemies and very few friends.

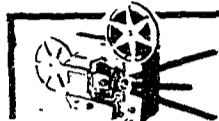
Graduate students bring live theatre

The Traveling Arts Company, a group of graduate theatre majors from University Park, will bring live theatre to Behrend next week. The performances will each include scenes from Arthur Miller's, *Death of a Salesman*, Harold Pinter's *Night*, and Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not For Burning*.

Each term, the Commonwealth Campuses, which are offering Arts 1, a very popular general introduction to all the arts, are included in the tour made by the group. Since the Arts is currently

being conducted in both the Resident Instruction and Continuing Education programs at Behrend, there will be two performances.

The acting troupe will give their first performance in the Reed Union Building Lecture Hall during 4th period (12:15-1:30) on Monday, April 19th, and will give a somewhat expanded version of the same material in the same day between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., also in the RUB Lecture Hall. Admission is free.



Reel and Script

By Ron Wayne
Entertainment Editor

The master of suspense, otherwise known as Alfred Hitchcock, has created another picture to add to the list of his many successful films. His newest is entitled *Family Plot*, a very appealing stylistic film with a clever plot and some very nice performances. The fun doesn't stand up next to such other Hitchcock greats as *Rebecca* or *North by Northwest*, yet it is an enjoyable film and well-done considering Mr. Hitchcock is reaching the age when most other directors are retired.

The film includes such Hitchcock trademarks as the placement of the camera on inanimate objects to emphasize its importance and the use of subjective camera. One such scene puts the audience in the position of the two characters as their car careens down a mountain road after its brakes have failed, getting dangerously close to the drop-off that edges the road.

The acting is surprisingly good considering the actors are not of an extremely high calibre. I haven't enjoyed seeing Karen Black in a role since *Five Easy Pieces*, yet she strides easily under the subtle yet firm hand of Hitchcock. The same situation applies for Bruce Dern and William Devane. Barbra Harris, a very fine yet unappreciated actress, is extremely good.

Hitchcock always uses the best, and his screenplay is beautifully done by Ernest Lehman, a screenwriter of many successes. The structure and dialogue are excellent. Again, in his reverence for established successful names,

Hitchcock selected Edith Head to do the costumes. A multiple Academy Award winner, she designed some extremely attractive outfits for Ms. Black. The music has that typical Hitchcock sound and was done by John Williams, also a long-time successful movie scorer.

Due to the above somewhat, the film has the general appearance of the glossy commercialized Hollywood movie, yet its merits, due to simply being a Hitchcock film, outweigh any overall impressions, and make *Family Plot* worth seeing. P.S. Watch for the expected Hitchcock cameo early in the film.

Survey's findings

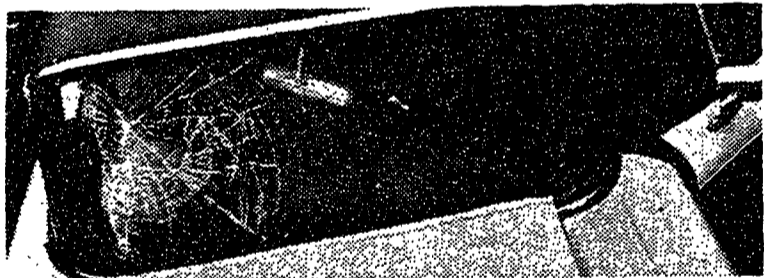
(EARTH NEWS) A lot of things have changed on American college campuses since the protest days of the late 1960's—including the happiness of college presidents. A new national survey is reporting that two out of every three college presidents today enjoy their jobs more now than in

the strife torn year 1970. The survey, conducted by James Glenn Jr., in a Stratford University dissertation, also found that the work of today's College Presidents has become "a bit more bureaucratic and less academic and political."

Aid deadline nears

The deadline for applying for the 1976-77 state tuition grant (PHEAA) and the federal grant (BEOG) is May 1, 1976. This deadline for all Veterans is absolutely final. No money will be awarded for applications received after this date. Also the federal grant (BEOG) must be submitted in order to be con-

sidered for the state grant. If you file late and lose this grant you have no one to blame but yourself. Summer PHEAA applications are also in, so stop in the Vets office and pick one up. While picking up your applications, why not check out the new Vet softball team. Sign up now!



All too often, when the party ends, the trouble begins. People who shouldn't be doing anything more active than going to sleep are driving a car. Speeding and weaving their way to death. Before any of your friends drive home from your party, make sure they aren't drunk. Don't be fooled because they drank only beer or wine. Beer and wine can be just as intoxicating as mixed drinks.

And don't kid yourself because they may have had some black coffee. Black coffee can't sober them up well enough to drive. If someone gets too drunk to drive, drive him yourself. Or call a cab. Or offer to let him sleep over. Maybe your friend won't be feeling so good on the morning after, but you're going to feel terrific.

Concert

Alpha Phi Delta fraternity of Gannon College will present Darryl Hall and John Oats concert at the Gannon auditorium, Friday, April 23, 1976, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$4.00 for general admission, \$5.00 reserved and are available at Behrend by contacting Bill Dale in 115 Lawrence Hall (phone 899-2953) or can be purchased at all Baker Locations, Mace Electronics, Razz Ma Tazz, Attuned Records and Gannon Cashier's Office.

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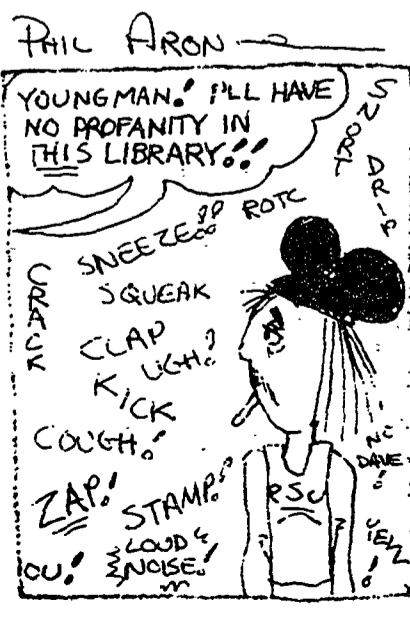
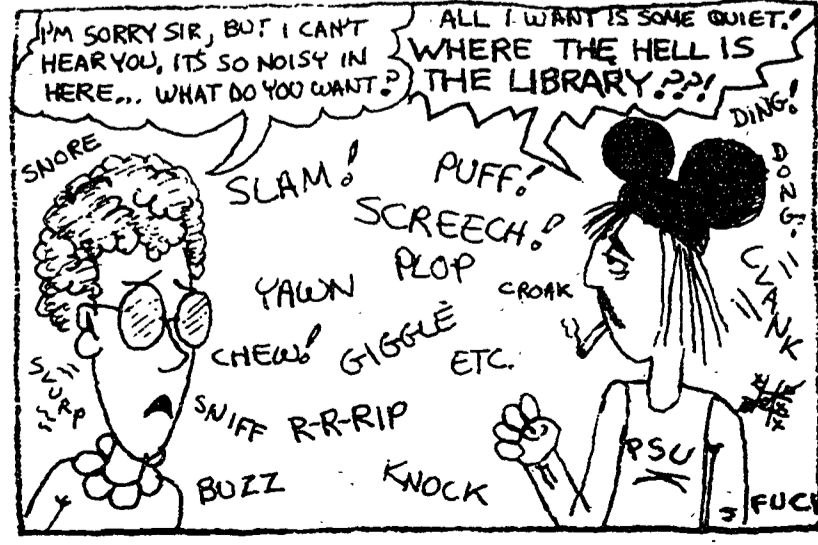
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