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The Daily Collegian

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The Heat's on: Why Don't They Cool Things Off

Yes Virginia, there is such a thing as air conditioning. It's still on the job cooling, dehumidifying, and in general making life more comfortable on hot muggy days for we mechanically dependent humans.

You may need this reassurance if you are a student at the University and don't get outside the grey mountains that surround the University much. For chances are Virginia, you spend many hours during these hot muggy days and nights going to the local movies.

You probably have noticed the heaters seem just as hot, sticky, close, and arid inside if not more so than outside in the street. Well no wonder, for none of the three theaters in State College are equipped with air conditioning. The only cooling systems employed are fans which merely shift the hot, sticky, close, and arid air from one side of the theater to the other. This is why you roast to death when you attend the movies in the spring and early fall.

Just to refresh your memory Virginia, air conditioning is by no means a new air cooling process. It goes back before the war years. However most of the theaters that are equipped with air conditioning today were converted right after the war.

Up until two years ago there was no chance at all to get air conditioning installed in the three local theaters as they were all owned by the Stanley Warner theater chain. Since all three theaters were controlled by the same interest there was no need to install such a system. There was no competition to worry about. The students either went to one of the three theaters or else they didn't.

Two years ago one of the theaters was sold to a private interest. It was hoped at that time that, since there now was some competition, one of the theaters would install air-conditioning to increase its attendance. If that had been the case, the other theaters would also have to install air conditioning or else suffer a tremendous drop in attendance.

But alas and alack Virginia, nothing happened. Both owners adopted a watch and wait policy, wondering which one was going to make the first move. They are still waiting for that first move on the other's part.

Let's look into the situation as it stands now. One theater is far too old and small to even think about installing an air conditioning system. That leaves two other medium size theaters which are likely candidates for air conditioning.

It was estimated that a system capable of producing 60 tons of cooled air an hour would be needed for each of the two theaters. The cost would run upwards of \$35,000 to install such a system.

Now, what plans have the owners of the theaters made concerning air conditioning in the future? The theater operated by the Warner chain plans to install air conditioning "sometime in the future." No specified date was set, so the future date might be anywhere from two months to ten years from now. There are several other theaters in the Warner chain that have been picked ahead of the local theater to re-

ceive air conditioning. As soon as the money is available, the local theater will also be air cooled.

The other theater owner is also planning on air conditioning sometime in the future. However, there is no money in sight to convert the theater.

What we can't understand is why the local theaters aren't at the head of the list of theaters to be air-conditioned. It's no secret they receive most of their revenue from students and play to near empty houses in the summer months when students are on their vacations, presumably enjoying movie entertainment in their home town theaters which are air-conditioned.

It is quite a letdown to come back to State College in the fall, and be forced to sit in a stifling movie house in order to see a movie. Perhaps if a fourth theater was established in town, increasing competition, the theaters would find it mandatory to install air conditioning to capture back their audiences which were going to rival movies.

Yes Virginia, we all know that movies constitute the greater part of student entertainment throughout the week and especially on weekends. The trouble is the theater owners know it also, and figure as long as they have the students within their grip, they can continue putting off improvements in their establishments.

Well Virginia, if you don't like the situation as much as you and many other students say you do, you could probably solve your problem by boycotting the downtown theaters. It might be hard to miss some of those movies you especially wanted to see, but if attendance fell off enough, and the theater managers complained loud enough to the owners, the situation might be altered.

The owners have too great an investment in State College to close down the theaters completely. Besides someone who knew what the students wanted might come in and take the profits they were getting now. The only way therefore the owners could continue would be to install air conditioning and please the students.

Of course you can't please everybody all the time, but since this seems to be a campus-wide gripe, the installation of air-conditioning would probably reduce all other complaints about the movies to a mere whisper.

Several years ago when television was threatening the attendance at the theaters, Hollywood agents dreamed up a big promotion stunt which declared that movies were better than ever. True, we now have Stereophonic Sound, Vistavision, Three-D, and a host of other technical advancements, but while the inventors were busy making the quality of the reproduction better, they forgot the most important factor in show business—the customers.

Yes Virginia, there is air conditioning, and as soon as the theaters discover this, perhaps it will be installed. Why don't you and the rest of the students attempt to enlighten the owners of this fact. We're sure they would be delighted to find it out.

—The Editor

Safety Valve

Gad, Aren't Men Cads?

TO THE EDITOR: Spring brings out flowers, leaves, Bermudas, tennis rackets, and students. It is of the latter that presents a problem. One of the most disgusting things I have ever seen is the way the male population of the West Halls gather in the courtyard after the noon and evening meals.

It isn't a friendly gathering for they line up along the walls, on the grass and the walks, and act like a bunch of organized hoodlums. A female walking to or from the dining hall is subject to most everything from being bombarded by tennis balls to whistling and very ungentlemanly remarks.

As I have observed the crowd that participates in this activity I have noted that it is not one of the campus leaders, of the gentleman or the good all-round male. It is the crowd of West Halls men (?) that have so little respect for themselves that they lower themselves to this figure of an immature child.

This is not entirely a problem of the male sex, for there are a few girls that dress, walk, and act in a manner very unbecoming to themselves. I feel very sorry for this female that craves attention so much that she lowers herself to this cheap admiration. She is a mixed-up female. Regardless of how a few appear there is no excuse for the treatment that the rest receive.

A male of college age, average mentality and psychologically normal should not permit himself to partake in this form of showing off. They are strong only in mass, showing off for their friends, or trying to get admiration from the girls. We girls do not admire you or think you are very clever. We think you are a part of one of the most disgusting and repulsive demonstrations we have ever seen, and we hope you will grow up and follow those that know better so we can say we admire the male population of Penn State.

—Anne Richards

The Campus as Tribute

TO THE EDITOR: In regards to Mimi K. Hoover's letter, I would like to question several points she allegedly assumes as absolute truths. These points which Miss Hoover bases her arguments on are in reality mere guesses on her part.

In the first place, religion does seem to be a one-hour-a-week affair for the great majority of the students on this campus. The idea that the University chapel will continually have students in it who are meditating seems a very far fetched one when the number of students who go to the churches downtown to meditate is considered. The idea that student conversations are "humdrum" may be a part of Miss Hoover's experience but not of some others.

The idea that God must be worshipped in a chapel because we will not worship Him elsewhere seems to be another fallacy. I feel that God is everywhere, and the idea that human beings are only aware of his presence when in church is to claim that college people are incapable of abstract thought unless given a direct stimulus. Once again, this may be Miss Hoover's experience, but not mine.

It seems to me that our duty to the Creator, as college trained people, is to serve humanity. Our constant reminder is the sufferings and needs of humanity, and we should need no other. This whole campus is a tribute to God, in that it testifies to the wisdom with which he endowed man.

In summary, the idea that man needs a special place to worship God is an example of the narrow ideas that a blind adherence to religion teaches. God's greatest gift to man was giving him a brain to think with. The use of this gift is a greater tribute to God than the blind, unquestioning adherence to a religion of a past age.

—William Eisenberg

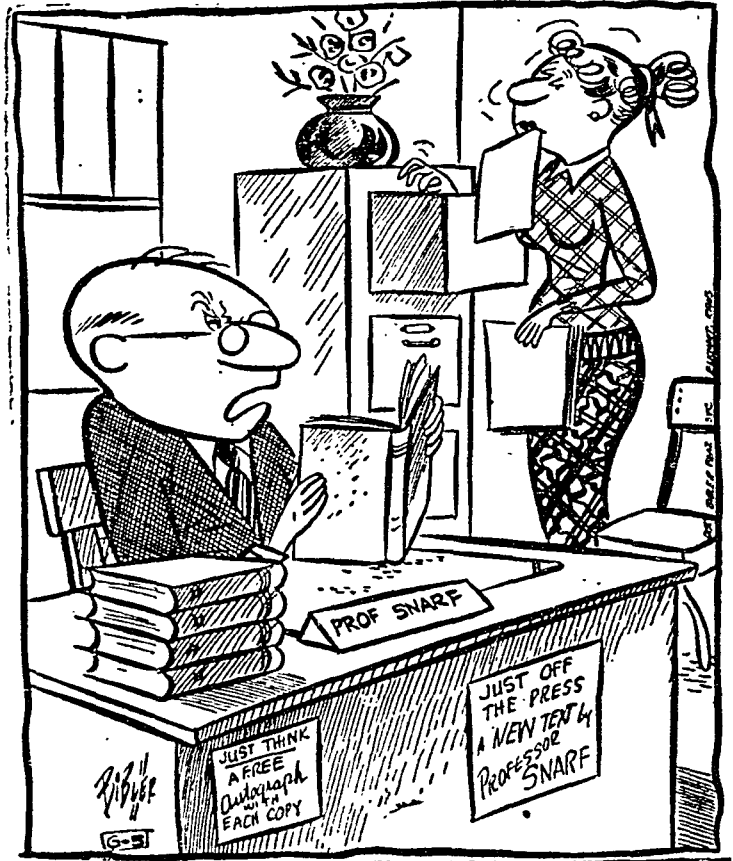
Gazette

Today

HILLEL, Lox and Bagel Brunch, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Hillel Foundation
NEWMAN CLUB, TV Party, 8 p.m., Student Center

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"We must have failed to proofread all of my new text, Miss Slurp—why, parts of this chapter are written so clearly I even understand it."

—pebbles on the shore—

Penn State Critic

by ted serrill

The final line falls upon a stage-struck audience of "drama enthusiasts." The yellow beams of light dim and blacken out. An enthusiastic beating of limp hands follow and, depending on the show, the cast theatrically poses on the stage, taking its encores.

So ends a typical Penn State Players' production. Then, according to most viewpoints, I, as the Collegian "drama critic," surge out of my hard seat and beat a lively retreat to the Collegian office where I hurriedly dash out an interminable list of vitriolic words.

Such reaction to these reviews! It is deafening in its dreadful silence, as far as my ears are concerned. All "interested" persons comment, but never to me. But on the basis of my special grapevine, I could bet I can predict the reaction of practically anyone on campus to a review—provided, of course, I know where they stand in relation to a production.

What about a Penn State dramatic critic? In this column I shall attempt—what, to many, seems impossible—to evaluate his position or role on campus.

To start—I can't think of anything more interesting and yet more useless than the comments everyone gives to a review. They are bound to please or displease. But could anything be more natural? Could the opinions of anyone, especially the exceedingly biased thoughts of enthusiasts of the Drama, really mean anything? Of course not.

So where does that leave the critic? Should his ego bound if everyone is pleased or should it fall plunk if no one is pleased? Idealistically, it should do neither. But it does rise and fall—couldn't help it. For another reason, though, it often leaps upward. It's pleasant to know that people read your "stuff" and take the time to talk about it—even if almost never to the critic personally.

I rest my case. Comment means nothing. An exception, though—one may respect the opinions of certain professors and instructors, and possibly talented and experienced graduate (rarely undergraduate) students.

In all honesty—believe me if you wish—I get the greatest of "kicks" out of hearing of these derogatory comments. What a thrill to get a trifle of letters to the editor decrying my lack of everything!

A big question keeps popping up. Is the role of a Penn State critic any different from that of an "outside" critic, that individual who reviews everything from Broadway shows to straw hat

circuit productions. A difficult question, since no one professes to know what this outsider's role is.

All this critic does—with his unstateable knowledge of the theater and writing—is to set down exactly what he thinks within the time and space limitations. Occasionally, I exceed both limitations, but this is fairly unimportant.

I attempt to do this objectively. This means closing out of my mind all the comments on a production I hear on the way to my typewriter. Some will say this is impossible. Some will say this is just not done. I try.

This, simply, is my role as critic. As such, every student could be a critic. It seems as if the basic question, then resolves to this: What is the role of a college audience?

I could immediately state that the role of many theater arts majors—especially those closely connected with a production—is to disagree with this critic because they believe they know more than I. Fine. However, it will take a long time for me to discover whether they are really right or wrong in any specific instance—if I ever learn at all.

Everyone who has not seen the production actually has no right to agree or disagree with me. They would know nothing about a play or production I reviewed.

So . . . the role of any review reader is to practically disregard (Continued on page five)

Officers Elected By Belles Lettres

David Powell, sixth semester arts and letters major from Ardmore, has been elected president of the Belles Lettres Club, literary society.

Other officers elected were Sandra Cunningham, sixth semester education major from Philadelphia, vice president; Judith Cornwall, sixth semester arts and letters major from Hellam, secretary; and Georgia Cohen, fourth semester arts and letters major from Melrose Park, treasurer.