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Culture Takes a Back Seat

In view of the efforts of Dr. Albert Christ-Janer, director of the School of the Arts, the obvious question is: Has culture really come to Penn State? After all these years?

We think not.

It seems the more lei-ure time people have, the less use they make of it, and the less they use their time the more rushed they feel.

"I never have enough time" is the frequent observation of the end resurt. For many stu-

dents it is a truthful statement, for others it

is not.
One author, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, points out that it took our ancestors a long time to painfully acquire the "free time" we now have. So now their descendants have more leisure time. They have, so one would think, greater access to their cultural heritage, which has also been painfully gained. And what use is made of this unmortgaged time we have been so long in acquiring? acquiring?

Some students will excede the speed limit to save time getting back. Upon arrival they join the nearest bull session, the topics of which are

hardly cultural.

To many students the "sack" or the movies are the most important uses of their spare time, and in some cases, takes precedence over studies. For others radio and television take up the slack.

These spectacular inventions seem somehow to have cheated social reformers of the fruits of their victories. The accumulated time which people are still trying to save, they consume in useless "entertainment." This, according to Lazarsfeld, is a "social narcotic" in as much as it is a method by which many people avoid action, or even thinking about it.

or even thinking about it.
So this is the cultural atmosphere Christ-Janer

has to work in. Culture at Penn State is giving ground. Slowly perhaps, but giving ground.

To some people Picasso seems to be some sort of foreign food; Bill Haley and Fats Domino have buried Beethoven on "Blueberry Hill."

Captain Video" has just about shoved Edgar Allen Poe "out of the picture," and Herman Melville is now "way out in left field."

Meville is now "way out in left field."

Mozart and Brahms suffer because they have nothing in common with Elvis Presley. Whistler, Mother & Co. are equally "out of it." Everyone wants to know what's behind the Green Door, and Playboy never fails to outsell the New York Times. Students who can't afford a Newsweek find it easier to come up with the correct change for Confidential correct change for Confidential.

The social narcotic works in many ways. The "doped" student, upon coming aware that perhaps he should find out about certain things, does look at the paper. After reading the comics, he takes in the sports page and perhaps the headlines to make sure he is well-versed.

.. This done, he breathes a sigh of relief. His ...This done, he breathes a sigh of relief. His social conscience remains spotlessly clean. He is concerned. He is informed; and has all sorts of ideas as to what should be done. But, dinner, followed by a bull session or "Rack Duty" takes his immediate interest. For lack of money to go to the movies he studies till 12. So . . . it's been a hard day, and it's really time for bed. Our hero now turns out the light, confident that if anyone has taken full advantage of his time, he has time, he has.

This is not to say, though, that movies are to be avoided and popular music should be banned. On the contrary. However, they should not be indulged in to the exclusion of everything else. As students we have access to the things that many of our relatives never dared hope for. As students we are expected to be more aware of such things than those who never went to

We are glad to see such a person as Dr. Christ-Janer bring to this University a portion of the arts, whether they be artists, lecturers, or musicians. We wish him lots of luck and urge him to "get outta" that kitchen and rattle them pots and pans!"

-Thom Shiels

Two? What's in a Life or

So what if you wreck a car; so what if you kill a few of your passengers; so what if you kill yourself. There are a great number of people waiting to take your place at the University. Your family and others very close to you will find someone to take your place in their hearts.

Most likely you have insurance to cover wreckage or burial. If not the state will bury you.

By all means, don't worry: the world will keep turning without you.

What are you waiting for; really, why should you drive expectable?

What are you waiting for; really, why should you drive carefully?

There are a great many reasons why you should drive carefully. However, according to statistics released by the National Safety Council, a great many Americans must have the negative approach cited above. The council says that 660 people will be killed in highway accidents between midnight Friday and midnight Tuesday.

Supposedly a college education gives you maturity, added knowledge, and self-control. We hope Penn State students will use their education to advantage in their vacation driving. It is neither mature nor wise to drive fast, drive carelessly, or to be in a hurry. As the

drive carelessly, or to be in a hurry. As the adage says "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Furthermore, the good driver cannot afford to just drive carefully himself—he must consider every other driver on the road as an idiot who is incapable of driving. A good driver does not just handle a car well; he does not just keep from causing accidents. He realizes that the

other driver is also capable of causing accidents, and that he must avoid them with good judge-

It is generally typical of students to think in the short range. They are interested only in reaching their destination in the fastest way possible.

This short range thinking causes some of them to take chances, Many develop the attitude that "it can't happen to me." We hope students will have the wisdom to feel that they would rather reach their destination 15 minutes late than not at all. This will lead to careful

and safe driving.

In a purely economic sense, the college student owes it to society to be a careful driver.

A great deal of individual and state money has been poured into his upbringing and education. College students are the future leaders of the

nation. In this sense the country suffers a real loss each time a college student is killed.

Part of education is realizing responsibilities. We hope students will face this particular responsibility and drive carefully.

This vacation will involve worse driving conditions than former vacations. The University evidently did not consider that the driving conditions would warrant a change in the dates of the vacation. We disagree: we feel that driv-ing conditions for Penn State students will be worse than they have been before. However, we hope that students will not prove the University wrong by driving carelessly and getting killed.

-Sue Conklin

Safety Valve

Dissatisfied Commuter

TO THE EDITOR: I am a "displaced parker." That is, a commuter who has been assigned to a parking area which is so far from my main-interests on campus that I do not intend to park there, but rather seek out a better place in town. As a result, I have come to wonder how far from optimum parking assignments the present Campus Patrol system of "first come, first served" really is. In other words, how many students presently assigned to parking lot A would rather be in parking lot B and vice versa. It is my guess that most commuters would rather have a definite preference for particular park-

ing areas based on their major academic interest. To explore this idea would probably require a survey conducted by means of a simple questionnaire directed to those who commute. It doesn't appear that it would be a great task to analyze the answers and relate them to available spaces at the various areas. Once done, it would be possible to draw up a master plan of area assignments which would require only small changes from semester to semester.

I submit this suggestion in the hope that it may contain enough merit for study, and that there may result a saving of time and a lessening of inconvenience.

—Thomas Jones

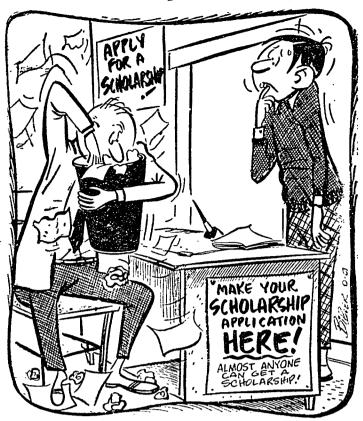
Gazette

Today
NEWMAN CLUB DISCUSSION, 7 p.m., 104 Chapel
NEWS AND VIEWS STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY, 6:45
p.m., Living Center

PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY, 7 p.m., Armory
University Hospital
James Borden. Sylvia Kaley, Catherine King, Jerome
Kleisath, William Sabatina.

Little Man on Campus

by Bibler



"Why yes-I have your application here someplace."

Round the Rim

With Tinsel and Trim

By BECKY ZAHM.

With Santas, singing and shining decorations all over campus Penn Staters are wrapping things up for the final stage of the campus holiday celebration—the trek home.

Studying has taken a back seat to shopping and Christmas parties—for the past two weeks at least. And it appears

that a lot of the real spirit of Some of those living at magnifi-shuffle, too.

For example the little angel who brusquely charged through the door of a campus fraternity to attend its annual Christmas party. One of the fraternity men walked up to the child and genially asked, "Whats your name?"

"Just skip the name and take the coat," the cherub muttered. It finally emerged that his name was Mike after the others at the party called him Skip for a while.

It seemed that the same house had troubles in another departhad troubles in another department. They chose the owner of their oversized canine mascot to play Santa for the party. Unfortunately, every time Santa bellowed for one of the youngsters attending the party to come to see him and sit on his lap he was attacked by one huge boxer. In the future Santa would be wiser to stick to raising reindeer.

While on the subject of Santa there's a story told about Boots

Witapped and Table Trapt with the presence of Christmas.

Criminologist

To Be Speaker

Dr. Mary L. Willard, professor of chemistry, will speak on the subject of crime detection at the meeting of the Block and Bridle

there's a story told about Boots Bahrenburg, daughter of All-University President Bob Bah-

the room to find her giving a running description of Santa Claus
over the phone. Thinking nobody
her speech with one or more case

phone rang and Mrs. Bahrenburg devoted n answered. The voice on the other end of the line admonished her for interrupting one of the most interesting conversations he had Advent Services ever had.

The speaker — Ross Lehman.

The speaker — Ross Lehman, assistant executive secretary of the Alumni Association.

Christmas is the time of traditional songs, but one of the old tunes "O Tannenbaum" underwent a change of lyrics. The new version below is confined to the University and is being sung by rival fraternities.

"Oh SAE, Oh SAE Where Did You Get Your Christmas Tree?"

On the constructive side—the Nittany Christmas decorations were well-worth the cold jaunt down to see them. Their presentations of Santa's Workshop, The Nativity and others exhibited weeks of work and careful planning. Seems funny that the eyesore of campus living contributed the most lovely decorations while

cent quarters at the University could only put forth effort to swipe their decorations.

At least the Yule season has cleared up one question that's been bothering many people. It's that song which constantly asks "What's Behind The Green Door?" A recent TV show provided the answer when after the song the

door opened and jolly old St.
Nick bounded out.
Thought for the holidays—
Too many of us get overenthused with presents being wrapped and not enough are rapt with the presence of Christ-

there's a story told about Boots
Bahrenburg, daughter of AllUniversity President Bob Bahrenburg.

It seems that Boots has a proclivity for talking on the phone—
whether somebody's on the other
end of the line or not. end of the line or not.

Last week her Mother entered evidence to prove themselves in-

was on the other end she ordered Boots to hang up the phone. Boots did, promptly.

A few minutes later the telephone rang and Mrs. Bahrenburg devoted much time to studies in

Will End Today