

Editorial Opinion

No Time for Studies

This time of the spring semester often finds students afflicted with bad cases of "activities-itis" with rehearsals, meetings, work sessions and frantic last-minute cramming replacing studying.

This springtime plague spreads faster than German measles and lasts quite a bit longer—usually through the entire semester. Contributing factors include sorority and fraternity rushing, Greek Week, Spring Week and multitudinous elections.

There appears to be no real cure for the problem other than dropping extra-curricular activities. While many students could well afford to drop some of their individual activities, it would hardly be desirable or even very feasible to eliminate from the calendar such events as Greek Week, Spring Week, rushing and elections.

But the crowded spring schedule means that being a student in the true sense of the word is next to impossible.

A partial solution would be to move Greek Week to the fall semester. It might be scheduled for the relatively slack period between the end of football season and the beginning of the pre-holiday rush.

The only Greek Week activity which could not be held in late fall is work projects, and these could be scheduled for an off-weekend during football season or for the spring.

Nor would scheduling Greek Week for late fall interfere with Interfraternity Council workshops, since these are usually held considerably earlier than the end of the football season.

The Association of Independent Men and Leonides switched Indie Week to the fall semester only this year, apparently with some success. A similar move by IFC and Panhellenic Council might prove equally successful.

Perhaps the two programs might be scheduled concurrently, with some joint events sponsored by all four groups. The IFC-Panhel Ball, which is notorious for losing money, might be combined with the fall AIM-Leonides dance.

A number of problems, including the scheduling of big weekends, would have to be ironed out, but moving Greek Week to the fall semester and perhaps scheduling it and Indie Week at the same time would appear to be a sound way to improve spring semester scholarship and at the same time promote even better feeling between Greeks and Independents.

Damp Ground, Not Spirit

The weather man has other things to consider besides Spring Week Carnival. Someone might have wanted rain yesterday.

But don't let the postponement in carnival postpone your spirit for the once-a-year evening.

An evening on the Greek midway is a festive event. It's the other side of college life and human nature that people are always talking about. And it's student ingenuity at its best.

Students ignore elections and football games, but they can't ignore carnival. This is the final test of combined efforts—of cooperation—in the student body.

Let's face it, it's a lot of fun.

One View

Many Snakes Are Harmless

Students are not the only creatures that enjoy the sunshine on a warm spring day. All kinds of moving things come out of their winter hideouts, even snakes!

I know of two cute little garter snakes that were sunbathing last week for the last time. Because of the stigma of their kind, they paid for the sunbath with their lives.

Two teenage boys were walking down the road and noticed the garter snakes enjoying the sun. These boys had undoubtedly been taught that all snakes were dangerous and "no good," so they ran for help.

Dad and the boys came back armed with a .45 automatic pistol and gloves. Dad used the pistol and the boys did the rest of the work with their heavy shoes. The two little snakes didn't have a chance. What brave boys!!

When I asked them why they did this, they simply answered that all snakes are bad, so why not kill them?

This is just another example of human ignorance and how it is carried on from one generation to another. These boys probably will teach their children that all snakes are bad, and so it goes.

Actually, Pennsylvania has only three species of poisonous snakes. They are the timber rattlesnake, the copperhead and in a few counties, the massasauga or swamp rattlesnake. There are no water moccasins here, only harmless watersnakes.

Garter snakes are the most common of our snakes and are completely harmless. The boys could have picked them up and the snakes wouldn't even have tried to bite them. Some people who know, think garter snakes make good pets.

—George Harrison

Gazette

- TODAY
Az Hill softball league deadline, contact Bob Devlin
AIM, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
ASAE, student branch, 7 p.m., 206 Ag Eng
Camera Club, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Chess Club, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks
Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., HUB
Choir Practices, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
Department of Education, 9 p.m., HUB
Hillel, Beginners' Hebrew, 7 p.m., Foundation
Hillel, Dr. Raphael Patai Lecture, 8 p.m., Foundation
May Queen Court, 5 p.m., 218 HUB
Metallurgy Seminar, 4:10 p.m., 317 Willard
Mining Society, career opportunities forum, 7:30 p.m., Mineral Sciences Auditorium
Novena, 7 p.m., Church
Neu Bayrischen Schuhplattler, 7:30 p.m., 3 White
Outing Club, field and stream division, 7 p.m., 317 Willard
Penn State Flying Club, 8 p.m., 110 EE
Philosophy Club, 7:30 p.m., 214 HUB
Riding Club, 7 p.m., 217 Willard
Spring Week Carnival, 7-12 p.m., Golf Course
WRA Tennis Club instructions, 6:30 p.m., White Gym
WSGA Honor Code, 8-9 p.m., 217 HUB
Zoology Club, 8:30 p.m., 113 Frear

Spring Concert To Be Given

The University Symphony Orchestra will present its annual spring concert at 8 tonight in Schwab auditorium.

The concert will be free to the public. No tickets are required for admission.

The orchestra will open the program with a Russian Eastern Overture by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, followed by the Chorale "Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee" by Johannes Brahms. Mary Jane West, junior in music education from Bethlehem, will be soprano soloist for "Marta's Song from 'The Dead City'" by Erich Korngold.

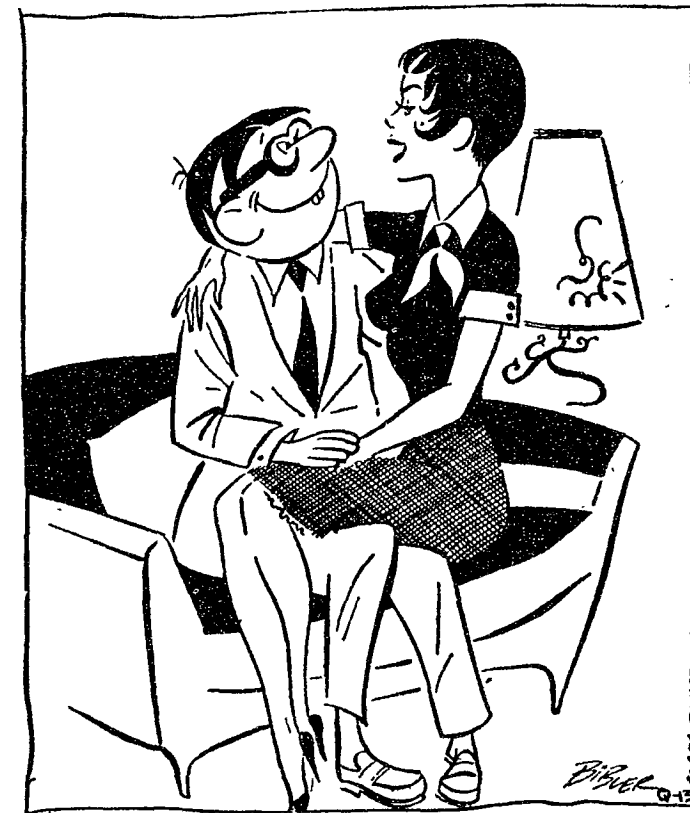
The program will also include "Serenade for String Orchestra" by Robert Volkmann and "The White Peacock" by Charles Griffes.

The final composition will be "Through the Looking Glass Suite" by Deems Taylor, narrated by Raymond Brown of the music department.

WDFM Programs

Wednesday night: 6:50, Sign on and news; 7, Telephone Bandstand; 7:50, State News and National Sports; 8, Jazz Panorama; 9, News; 9:15, At Your Service; 9:30, Music of the People; 10, News; 10:05, Virtuoso; 11:30, Sign off and news. *Also carried on WMAJ.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Imagine! A Phi Beta Kappa finding ME interesting! Why, I barely have a 'C' average!"

Behind the News

Our Infirmary Visit - Student Utopia

By Bob Franklin

The brick face of the Ritenour Hospital—also known as the infirmary—presents to many students a mysterious facade behind which lurks they know not what.

We recently made a first-hand investigation of the hospital—not because we were particularly interested in finding out how it operates, but merely because we got sick.

We were admitted after waiting about 20 minutes to get to a doctor in the dispensary for a diagnosis (we knew what the trouble was all along and he proved us right).

During our stay in the hospital we made a number of interesting observations. For instance, we discovered via a wall plaque that the building "is the gift of more than 1400 Pennsylvania potato growers."

It was also revealed to us that one is not supposed to bring radios into the hospital, presumably to keep the noise down. Ours was locked up during the time we were there. But we also discovered that a portable transistor radio can be "smuggled in inside a shaving kit and can provide much quiet entertainment if tuned low enough so as not to reach nurses' ears.

Another discovery of ours involved contact with the outside world. We were quarantined, so this was limited to a plug-in type telephone, which always seemed to be in use. We were cut off from all outside contact only once—when we tripped over the telephone

cord and pulled the plug from its socket.

The nurses, we discovered, are a pleasant, hard-working lot who don't receive nearly the praise they deserve. And they are ready for almost any situation.

When one nurse began to take a patient's pulse, he promptly reciprocated. "Aha," he announced, holding her wrist, "Your blood pressure is down to 45. You're sick!"

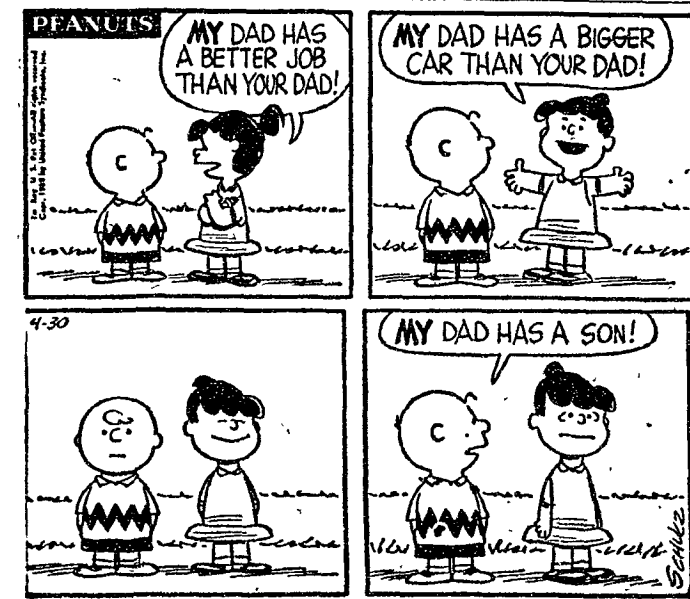
"Oh, no," she replied, without batting an eye, "It's just what you do to me."

We found the infirmary a wonderful place to get a rest—if one can keep from worrying about making up the bluebooks he is missing—despite the "early to rise" policies.

A couple of our discoveries were less fortunate. For instance, it appeared that the hospital's pajamas were made for an ephemeral character known as the "average student," and thus would fit perfectly only someone seven feet tall and five feet wide.

Also, many of the hospital personnel did not seem to share our belief that when someone becomes seriously ill or suffers an injury of some kind that this is generally news.

But with nothing to do but read, play cards and sleep and with the best food we have found in any building on campus, what better utopia could be asked by a student who is not seriously sick?



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