

Week in Review

BERRY'S WORLD

It was a surprise election week on campus as independent candidate James Womer won the Undergraduate Student Government presidency by the slimmest margin in USG's history. Womer, the first independent candidate to win the top USG post in many years, did what many people felt would be impossible—he defeated Jon Fox.

It was the first major upset for Fox who has been freshman class president, sophomore class president, and USG vice president. His strong voting appeal in the past three years made campus political speculators predict Fox's Student and Lion Party would sweep the election. Fox lost by only 108 votes, but the rest of his slate, Ted Thompson, candidate for the vice presidency, and Harvey Reeder, candidate for the treasurer post, pulled through.

Another election, overshadowed by USG, put Gene Cavallucci into the president's seat of the Men's Residence Council. John Shuman and Sam Edelman were elected vice president and secretary-treasurer respectively.

Meanwhile, the Interfraternity Council elections race has started. Voting for president, vice president and secretary-treasurer will be held Monday.

In other campus news last week, large numbers of students from Pollock Halls suffered a dose of food poisoning over the weekend. Improper food preparation, spoiled food or a virus, according to Otto E. Mueller, director of housing and food services, was the cause. Tests are being run to find out which.

The demand for a campus drug investigation by State Sen. R. Lawrence Coughlin two weeks ago neared reality last week as State Attorney General William Sennet assigned an agent to conduct a probe at University Park. University officials said Wednesday no investigation has been started on campus yet, but the agent is supposedly questioning a coed who supplied evidence of marijuana parties attended by faculty members and students.

On Thursday, the University received a report recommending that seven commonwealth campuses be converted to locally controlled community colleges and that others merge or be phased out of operation.

Heald, Hobson Associates, an independent education survey firm, suggested that campuses in Berks and Schuylkill Counties be converted to single community colleges. The report also suggested that Ogonitz campus be turned into a four year college. At present, Ogonitz carries only two year programs.

The Collegian learned last week that another educational change might be considered. According to correspondence between the Administration and Senate's Committee on Resident Instruction, plans have been proposed for two 15 week semesters and a 10 week summer term, or three 10 week terms and an 8 week summer term or two 14-week semesters and a 10-week summer term. The Senate has not made any formal comments on the plan.

And in less serious investigating, Charwick C. Hansen, associate professor of English, has compiled research tracing today's dance fads back a century or two. His study shows that there's nothing new about the "boogaloo" and that the twist is related to the minuet.



WOMER

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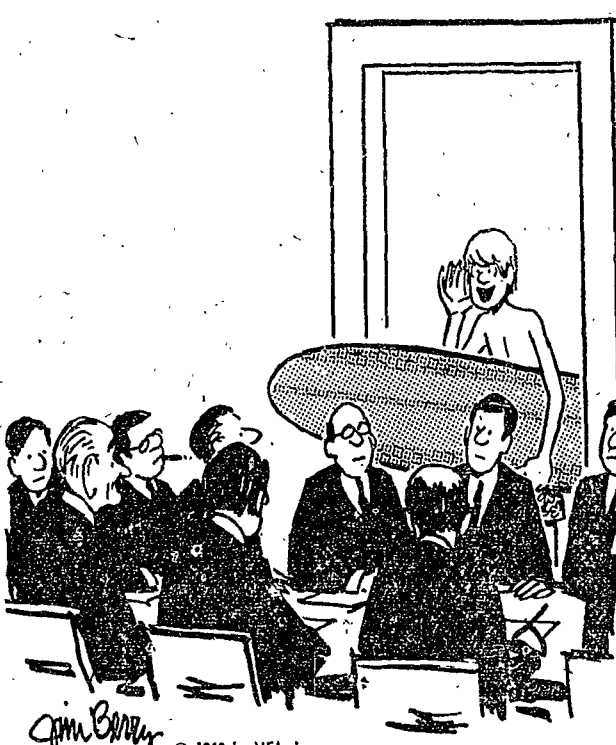
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SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1968



"SURF'S UP!"

Letters to the Editor Don't Blame Judicial Committee

TO THE EDITOR: I present my "Uninformed Newspaper of the Year" award to The Daily Collegian for its commentary yesterday on the Barnard "scandal". Your lack of understanding of judicial responsibility is not commendable.

To present the case from the viewpoint of one who has experienced parallel situations, I would like to make three points:

•The court involved did not make the rules "violated" by Miss LeClair, it simply determined whether or not existing rules were "violated".

•Once it had been determined that a rule had been violated, (admittedly pressure may have been brought to bear in this decision) it was necessary to make a decision concerning the penalty. Now, try and think what kind of a penalty could be inflicted. Suspension is always a convenient thing, but short of that, what is there left? I maintain that the committee felt some degree of agreement with Miss LeClair's actions, and the resulting decision reflects this in that the punishment probably means little actual penalty to Miss LeClair, nor does it signify any to anyone else on the Barnard campus.

•As a result, had I been the one to have rendered that verdict and sentence, (as I have in the past) I would in essence be condemning the short sightedness of the rule that forced me to make such a farcical penalty.

An active small college judiciary often finds itself in a position analogous to the one at Barnard, though it rarely makes national headlines. That they acted as they did should cause some serious thought in the minds of the "powers to be" on the Barnard campus. This is a good thing.

F. Alan Anderson, Graduate Student

(The writer is a former member of the Muhlenberg College Student Court)

Film Critique

'Trains' Disappointing, 'Apes' Entertaining

By PAUL SEYDOR

Collegian Movie Critic

There are just some films about which little can be said. Even a film that is important, and award-winning can render little to the critic's eye.

"Closely Watched Trains," now playing at the Nittany Theater is such a film. It is enjoyable, to be sure. But at the same time it is disappointing. "Trains" was chosen "Best Foreign Film of the Year." Therefore, an audience has a right to expect more than enjoyment.

Briefly, the story is about a young man who gets a job in a small train-station in Czechoslovakia, circa World War II. Milos, the young man, has a sex hang-up ("Whenever the time comes, I just melt").

According to a doctor who treats him after a suicide attempt, the problem is "premature ejaculation." We think he finally overcomes it when a sensual female resistance worker seduces him. At the end, however, Milos drops a bomb on a German munitions train and gets shot because he reveals himself too soon. Premature ejaculation, I guess.

Presumably, Jiri Menzel, the director, wanted to paint a poignant picture of a boy who must assume adulthood before he's ready for it. Thus, his stationmaster's uniform is too big for him. Consequently, Milos dies in a war of his elders' making. Message: the world breaks everyone. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially.

The film lacks impact because the paral-

els between war and a boy's innocence are too easily drawn. Milos is too precious; the women are too ready for bed-play; the men are too dull-witted and unearring.

Worst of all, Menzel begins with one theme—a boy's initiation to manhood—and ends, bereft of a transition, with another—the horror of war. But he develops neither. Thus we ask, what happens when a boy becomes a man? Where does he go from there? If the tragedy is that Milos is denied the chance, so what? We've heard it all before, only done better.

To pick up on my earlier allusion: "A Farewell to Arms" is powerful and profound because Hemingway explores the true horror of war—which is not death—for a young man drawn into it. Rather, it is the trauma one who has experienced war must live with the rest of his life, that makes him sleep with a light on, that makes him occupy his mind with trifles and rituals so he won't crack.

"Closely Watched Trains," a story told with wit, tenderness, and even some eloquence, is essentially a cop-out because it takes the easy way out.

'Planet of the Apes'

Most science fiction films make clear from the first frame that they are completely divorced from reality. What we see so vividly in our daydreams usually rings false and shallow when projected onto the screen, where we must view fantasy through someone else's eyes.

Fortunately, except for some embarrassing apes who mug now and then, "Planet of the Apes," now at the Cinema Theater, is relatively free from such defects. This is an excellent film to unboggle your mind on, especially if you've just finished a murderous brainstorming session of studying for tests or writing theses.

The film is a glorious romp in the finest tradition of space-opera science fiction, pouring in the suspense right up to a predictably hokey conclusion that somehow manages, in spite of itself, to be effective and even powerful.

Letter Policy

The Daily Collegian welcomes comments on news coverage, editorial policy, and campus or non-campus affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced, signed by no more than two persons, and no longer than 30 lines. They should be brought to the Collegian office in person so that proper identification of the writer can be made. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification. The Collegian editors reserve the right to fairly select, edit, and condense all letters.



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