

## A Subjective Look at the Film Short

## 'Kinetic Art' Both Original and Exciting

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part series analyzing the short film subject as an art form. Currently, Cinema X is presenting a collection of short films entitled "The Kinetic Art." Part two of the three-week program will be shown tonight in Forum.)

By PAUL SEYDOR  
Collegian Film Critic

- Circle the correct letter:
- Question: Jordan Belson—  
(a) writer, (b) director,  
(c) actor, (d) singer.
- Question: Bruno Bozetto—  
(a) "La Vita," (b) "La Notte,"  
(c) "L'Aventura," (d) "La Plomine."
- Question: Zoltan Huszarik—  
(a) Budapest, (b) Paris,  
(c) San Francisco, (d) Prague.
- Answers: b, a, a

Don't be too embarrassed if you

scored zilch; before last week I couldn't have even made up the quiz, let alone pass it. The three persons named are directors, whose opuses are included in "The Kinetic Art," a series of 26 short films, ranging in length from about one minute to just under an hour.

Brant Sloan, an art-film impresario from the West Coast, assembled "The Kinetic Art" package after viewing hundreds of short films produced in the last few years.

His selections, culled from several countries, are supposed to represent some of today's most original, exciting, and stimulating work not only in short subjects, but also in the cinema generally. Undergraduate Student Government, due mostly to the efforts of Dave Shepard of the theatre department and Joe Chitra, president of Cinema X, is presenting the second American engagement of "The Kinetic

Art."

Part One was shown last week. Parts Two and Three are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today, tomorrow and Friday in Forum. Each program is 105 minutes long. Tickets are available at the door at \$1.25 a person.

The history of the short-subject is sad. Its heyday was during the silent era when it was used primarily for slapstick (although Salvador Dali, among others, made some notable early advances in the form). The cartoon, subsequent to Walt Disney's development and perfection, gradually replaced the live-action short. Newsreels, too, gained popularity, though, thank goodness, they haven't survived.

Nowadays, about the only shorts released commercially to first-run theatres are the frequently very unfunny cartoons (Roadrunner and Pink Panther excepted), those dreadful

travelogues, and Disney's often excellent wildlife films ("The Grand Canyon" and "Seal Island" especially).

Considering, then, the usually poor quality of shorts, their demise is hardly a cause for lament. What is sad, however, is that the form has rarely been given a fair chance to prove itself. The reason is that, as Benjamin Fogey, a reporter, noted in the Washington Star (March 31, 1968), "the purpose of the 'short subject' as practiced for too many years was to keep the movie patron half awake between viewings of the feature attraction."

Recent years, on the contrary, have seen more serious attention paid to short film. "They are being made," Fogey wrote, "by film-makers whose primary interest is in the expressive possibilities of the film, especially the film in segments of less than an hour."

"This is an admirable and intelligent position. A short film can be

liberated from the often stultifying demands of plot and character development. And in cases where these elements are used, the points can be made more incisively. Short films can do many things long films probably cannot do. They can do things that longer films do, and do them better."

Part of that, sounds remarkably similar to a statement by Federico Fellini. This belly-aching of directors about the rigidities of plot and character development is sheer laziness. Their expostulations are, by turns, irritating, amusing, and boring.

Joyce and Hemingway invented two of the most revolutionary technical-stylistic innovations in literature while hampered by the "stultifying restrictions" of plot and character development. D. W. Griffith and Alfred Hitchcock managed similar accomplishments in the cinema.

Yes, it is possible to produce a film

that is almost all technique with just the slimmest excuse for a story. Note "8½," "Last Year at Marienbad," and "Eivira Madigan." And, certainly, the results can be brilliant, spectacular, and dazzling. Yet the net effect is about as artistically significant as a performance by a pianist whose input is a virtuosity enabling him to toss off, say, an "Emperor" concerto as easily as he snaps on his white tie, but whose output reveals all the elan he would bring to sipping coffee made from yesterday's grounds. What good is technique unless it is made to serve the purpose of art, which is that of codifying, arranging, distilling, and thereby giving purpose and meaning to experience?

There is a place in the cinema, however, for pure experimentation, for the exploration of new horizons that will, hopefully, lead to new techniques, forms and styles of dramatic application.



NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVES OF WDFM, University radio station, are (l. to r.) John Gingrich, program director; Gary Schwartz, station manager; and Jack Molnar, chief engineer.

## Coed Takes Honors at Show

By BRUCE RANDALL  
Collegian Staff Writer

How did it feel to become the Reserve Grand Champion Showman of the 51st Little International Livestock Exposition held last month at the University? "I just couldn't believe it," Becky Boyd said.

Miss Boyd (9th-animal science-Glen Rock), who competed with about 140 other entries, has the distinction of being the second girl in the show's history to win the honor. No girl has ever won Grand Champion Showman, the highest title, which she just barely lost.

This honor was her reward for the long hours she spent clipping and grooming her cow, Arrow-smith Polyana, and training her to walk and stand properly for the judges. In the month she had to prepare for the contest, Miss Boyd worked on Polyana six days a week.

Miss Boyd entered and left the show ring with a limp, since Polyana stepped on her toe—almost breaking it—a week earlier. As if that wasn't enough, Polly "restomped" the same toe during the judging. "But it was worth it. It didn't hurt so bad after I won, and I forgave her," she said.

She wasn't worried about her foot, though. "My main worry was that Polyana, who seemed bored with the whole affair, would fall asleep during the show right there in the ring," she said.

Her first step toward the title was the Champion Shorthorn Fitter award. Shorthorns are a particular breed of cattle. Fitting refers to the showman's ability to make the cow as clean as possible, to clip it in the proper manner for the species and to comb its hair properly. For this she received a trophy and a plaque.

Next Miss Boyd won the Champion Shorthorn Showman. This event was judged on the showman's ability to display the animal to its best advantage. Another trophy and plaque were hers.

Cash Award  
Her next victory was the Champion Beef Showman. This event encompassed all breeds of cattle. For it she won a silver tray and bowl as well as a cash award.

Then she tied with Richard Kuzemchak (12th-animal industry-Clymer) for the Grand Champion Showman. In this event they had to rotate around the ring and show a cow, horse, sheep and swine. Miss Boyd repeated this procedure because of the tie, the horse acted up and she lost the title. She had never shown a horse before.

"That horse really scared me. It wanted to eat my hand," she said.

In the final event, Reserve Grand Champion Showman, Miss Boyd found herself in another tie. Again the event was repeated. "After this second tie I was so tired I could hardly walk through the sawdust and sand of the ring," Miss Boyd said.

This time she emerged victorious. She received another trophy and silver tray, along with a cash award of \$175.

She is not a very talkative person, but her friends all said that they knew she felt by the ecstatic expression on her face. It lasted for three days.

"With all the confusion of a long banquet which began an hour after the contest, and with cleanup of the Ice Pavilion at 8 a.m. the following day, it was a full day before I had time to realize what I had done," she said.

Miss Boyd is a member of the Livestock Judging Team which just returned from Ohio State last weekend. She helped represent Penn State in the North Central Spring Livestock Judging Contest. Penn State placed fourth out of 10 competing colleges.

Miss Boyd placed second overall in the Spring Livestock Judging Contest sponsored here by the Block and Bridle Club. She had been secretary of the Pre-Veterinary Club, and is secretary of the Block and Bridle Club. She is also vice president of the Coaly Society, an honorary agricultural organization. With all her activities, she maintains a Dean's List A-U. She is also active in 4-H.

She has shown cattle, sheep and pigs and her room in Delaware honor House is practically papered with blue ribbons from contests.

## Class Battles, Hazing, Scraps, Pranks

## Rivalry Part of PSU History

(Continued from page one)

held in November, and the rules required the freshmen class to get a barrel of cider on the campus in the area of Old Main without being detected by the sophomores.

If the freshmen could deliver the barrel and give some of the cider to members of the junior class, they were declared winners.

## Guarded Area

Needless to say the sophomores carefully guarded the area and the freshmen also made elaborate plans to smuggle in the barrel.

Sometimes an empty barrel or one filled with water would be used to divert the attention of the sophomores. On one occasion, "The cider barrel was brought to the campus in a laundry basket on a cart by a student disguised as a rustic."

One of the most persistent of the contests was the flag scrap. "In the beginning the freshmen always sought to place their flag on the tower of Old Main, but if the sophomores got wind of it, there was sure to be an all-over contest upon the stairways leading to the tower or even on the platform of the tower itself."

## Event Moved

Later the event moved out of Old Main and the freshmen would place the flag at the top of a high pole and try to prevent the sophomores from removing it. Another of the class duels was called the pushball scrap. In this event, teams of five from each of the classes were required to push a huge ball into the enemy territory of a pre-arranged field to score points.

More often than not, the game quickly degenerated into a all-out battle between the classes with scores of students fighting their way onto the field.

## Tug-of-War Survives

The freshmen-sophomore tug-of-war, that was recently revived, is the last surviving contest between the classes, and even that is not as spirited as it used to be.

The scraps were frequently violent affairs in which uncountable eyes were blackened and noses broken. In 1907 during the sophomore-freshman rush, "500 participated, a number were hurt and one was killed."

But not all of the customs were so brutal. Many of the pranks that the students played were centered around Old Main. The bell, which had rung for

years calling students to classes, was a favorite target of the earlier classes. The students delighted in turning the bell upside down, filling it with water and leaving it to freeze during the winter months.

The tower has always had some mysterious attraction for the students because they have done some strange things up there.

There are records that indicate a number of animals have been stranded in the bell tower. These include some of the local cows and mules.

Probably the best known example is "Old Snowball," the campus mule who frequently climbed the five flights of stairs to the preiding of snickerdoodles. He was often painted by the students and finally died after being covered with a "zebra-like coat of green paint."

## Demand 12 Reforms

## Blacks To Meet With Lewis, Rackley

(Continued from page one)

The confrontation with Lewis in Old Main was in part the result of an article in Sunday's Bulletin.

Speaking to a Bulletin reporter about dissent at Penn State, Lewis said that the situation is not "as dangerous as at Columbia" because Penn State is "not in an urban area and not contaminated by Harlem."

The black students resented the word "contaminated" and the implication that the Douglas Association was associated with the Students for a Democratic Society, a nationwide leftist group with a chapter at Penn State.

The black students demanded that Lewis retract the statement during the meeting Monday. He immediately called Philadelphia and made the following statement to the Bulletin,

printed in yesterday's issue.

"I said... the situation at Penn State differs from that at Columbia in response to a comparison question. I tried to point out that decisions and situations at State College of necessity differ from Columbia and other schools. Penn State is not faced with the same situation and decisions as those confused by an urban situation with Harlem adjacent to the campus."

"I do not consider the Douglas Association to be black militants as in the context of the article... 'The Douglas Association is not and has not been affiliated with SDS.'"

"I am deeply sorry a wrong interpretation can be put on the quotations to make it sound anti-black, anti-Harlem, anti-anything."

Manley told the Bulletin Monday night that Penn State now only has three black teachers, about 35 black grad-

uate students (out of 3,900) and about 10 black athletes.

Concerning the Douglas Association's demand for more black graduate students, M. Nelson McGeary, dean of the graduate school, said last night that he doesn't know how many black graduate students there are and that he has no plans to give blacks special consideration in the future.

Johns Samuels, president of the Graduate Student Association, said that his organization has made no attempt to count the black

graduate students because it would be construed as discrimination.

"On the graduate level, I don't think there is that much inequity," Samuels continued. Samuels said it would be "ridiculous" to lower the standards of the graduate school just to admit more black students.

Samuels called for a "revolution" in the educational system which would allow the "lower classes" to get a proper education in high school and undergraduate school.

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VICKI BROWN  
Woman's Air Force

## Careers for Coeds Offered by WAF

By WILLIAM ROY  
Collegian Staff Writer

What does a single girl want to do after graduating from Penn State? For Vicki Brown, a recent alumna, the answer was the Women's Air Force.

Miss Brown, a native of Alexandria, Pa., graduated from the University in 1964 with a bachelor of arts degree in music education. She received her masters degree in 1967. She had been teaching for about two years at Western Parkway Junior High School before she got the urge to fly, and on December 28, 1967, she hung up her civies.

Her first stop was the Air Force Officer Training School at the Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Texas. When the 12-week session was over, Miss Brown came out with a "distinguished" record and was the Senior WAF trainee. Now she is a second lieutenant.

Communications Officer  
Miss Brown decided to be a Communications Officer. She's presently at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi attending a 43-week training course.

To be eligible for a commission in the WAF, women should be college graduates or seniors, be from 20 to 29 years old, a U.S. citizen, in sound physical condition and able to pass the Air Force Qualification Test. Any girls excited about joining the WAF's should see Dave Stetson at 119 I. Beaver Ave.

## YAF-SDS Debate Set

A debate on "What to Do About the Ghetto Poor" has been announced by Douglas W. Cooper, chairman of Penn State Young Americans for Freedom. This debate with Students for a Democratic Society will be at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow in 215 Hetzel Union Building.

Representing YAF will be Donald Ernsberger (10th-secondary education-H' (thoro) and

Harold Wexler (4th-liberal arts-Levittown). James Cregan (7th-history-Philadelphia) is expected to be one of the debaters from SDS. The other will be a member of the Douglas Association, according to Cooper.

The format of the debate will consist of 10-minute constructive talks with five-minute rebuttals and questions from the floor.

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