

Blue Skies

BLUE SKIES and warm temperatures are simply out of place in a typical Winter Term at Penn State. But who's arguing with the beautiful yet premature spring which arrived yesterday? Most everyone just settled back to enjoy it.

The social world at Penn State seems to consist of two distinct, six month cycles: one of hibernation, the other of hyperactivity. Hibernation generally begins midway through Fall Term and reaches its lowest point at the end of Winter Term.

Spring Term is the perfect contrast. Everyone — meaning everyone, not just students — is outside having a great time, regardless of how many exams there are next week or even tomorrow morning. Somehow, those things just don't have any meaning then.

IN PLACE OF the long cold winter sleep the campus comes alive. Faculty members move whatever remains of their classes outside to the Mall; students mob the lawns of Old Main and the Hetzel Union Building, throwing Frisbees and playing ball, and the usual dedicated group of Wall-sitters forms on that familiar campus institution on College Avenue.

Days like yesterday fit a mood of activism, but the days of revolution and demonstrations seem to be only a memory. College campuses have lost the old "radical" atmosphere; the only political activism apparent now is in the voter registration movement.

And with the weather we had yesterday, only the ever-present members of the Workers' League, selling The Bulletin in town, seemed to have their minds on anything else.

THE BEST THING about yesterday was the change it offered. Fall Term and most of Winter Term were not just uninteresting but were downright boring. Nothing happened to make being a college student worthwhile; even the weather was below average.

But for two days, or three or four if we are lucky, we will get a taste of spring. A trace of cynicism reminds us that 31 days of March must pass before April; but knowing that days like this will return in that short a time makes the waiting a little easier.

SO ENJOY IT while it lasts — and start counting the days. Now we know there's more than snow to look forward to.



Letters to the Editor

Typist's confession

TO THE EDITOR: 'Tis I, a fledgling typist, and not technology proper, who is to blame for the incorrect telephone number for ARHS on the cyclists' flyer. O, that our budding tender efforts would not be squelched by a stray index finger; O, that our hopes will not be crushed by the heavy heel of mortal error — the correct number for ARHS is eight six five nine nine eight two.

Dave Kanally
(5th-liberal arts-Port Allegany, N.Y.)

Beyond Siberia

TO THE EDITOR: The East Hall dorm complex of P.S.U. is proudly proclaimed by the administration to be able to house 3,814 students, making it the second largest dorm complex in the world.

But few students know this: They know it only as the dorm complex on the other side of Siberia, out beyond that vast wasteland of asphalt, wind, and ice known as parking lot 80; the place where the ratio is a disgusting four guys to every gal, the worst on campus; the place where you can wait fifteen minutes in line for dinner if you are unfortunate enough to have a sixth period; the one place on campus where you are the farthest from both town and academic buildings; that place where the animals run wild until one in the morning every week night and to who knows what hour on the weekend?

Oh, what memories I will have of East and, for that matter all P.S.U. when I look back on my days in confinement here.
James E. Mullen
(2nd-economics-Holland)

Milk production

TO THE EDITOR: Regarding the Associated Press release in The Daily Collegian of Friday, Feb. 25, and concerning how cows make milk, to my knowledge neither Ross Silcock, a former graduate student of mine, nor myself made the statement that "have come as close as you can" to understanding how cows produce their milk.

My own philosophy about the science of natural phenomena is that it is an ever widening darkness and that it is always possible to learn more about such matters. In any event I do not feel we "have come as close as you can," in fact, I suggest that we may have a long way to go. A more precise description of Silcock's sandy understanding (or lack of it) of lactation at the cellular level is published in the February issue of the Journal of Cellular Physiology.

The Collegian was not in any way responsible for this misquotation.

Stuart Patton
professor of agriculture

Individual rights

TO THE EDITOR: We all realize that there would be some benefits to society in general if abortions were legalized and that some women would be saved from embarrassment, and in some cases even from hardship. However, when we consider changing the law, we must consider the rights of each individual and be sure that no one's rights are violated.

All Americans are supposed to be guaranteed the right of life, as well as the rights of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. How then can we permit one person to decide that an innocent life should be taken without violating the most basic of all rights?

Statements from recent pro-abortion opinions appearing in The Daily Collegian include, "Such a law (one which permits abortions only in the case of rape or incest) shows no consideration for the unwanted child" and "if a state claims

Jumping on Nader bandwagon: Doing more harm than good?

By DOUG STRUCK
Collegian Managing Editor

It is fashionable these days to jump on the Ralph Nader bandwagon, but it's best not to put the cart before the horse.

The Central Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group is doing just that. With the cry of "consumerism," this group has taken up the cause of the little people, but their blind haste may do more harm than good.

The only definite action to come from PIRG so far is a plea for money. John Bittner, organizer of PIRG, claims he needs \$1 per student each term to get his organization going, and with a petition of 13,000 student supporters will try to force the University Board of Trustees to collect the money.

All Bittner has promised in return for this \$75,000 yearly income is a sure-fire formula for instant bureaucracy. He said PIRG will hire "10 or 15" professionals to "insure continuity." There is no proof of the need for that

many employees, only of the convenience of having them around year after year.

Nor does PIRG seem to have any concrete idea of what these professionals will do once they are in their comfortable, continuous jobs. Bittner lists four main areas PIRG might study, but the subjects are too general to insure any more than consumer rhetoric about the evil by-products of capitalism.

Beyond that, PIRG doesn't want to name specific problems it will approach for fear of arousing special interest opposition before PIRG is an entrenched institution.

PIRG's entire approach to the idea is backwards: an organization is being set up before goals are selected, people are to be hired before their jobs are defined, and students are being asked for money before being told how it will be used.

Students deserve better treatment for the amount of money they are being asked to donate. There are many other uses for activities fees which offer more certain rewards. Two obvious examples are a lawyer for the Undergraduate Student Government (for litigation involving the University) and a lawyer for the Organization of Town Independent Students (for civil and criminal cases downtown).

There is no doubt there are serious problems in the State College area which a consumer group could treat, but PIRG has ignored such real problems in favor of an emotional pitch for public consciousness.

Unless the group realizes its mistake and comes up with some serious, concrete proposals it is doomed to failure. For even if it obtains the written support of students, the Board of Trustees, which includes many hard-headed businessmen, will see through its lack of preparation and reject PIRG's proposal.

International Films Presents

FORBIDDEN GAMES

France

1952

Rene Clement's FORBIDDEN GAMES is most definitely the greatest of modern anti-war films, yet it does not deal with actual warfare. Two young French children become playmates during the German occupation in 1940, and imitate the cruel adult life that surrounds them by building a "play cemetery" using dead animals dragged from battle-torn fields. In order to make their cemetery complete, they steal crosses from a local graveyard, and as a result the little girl is placed in a refugee center. Miserable and disoriented, she becomes but one more victim of this adult "game."

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