

Free U offers classes

Providing an alternative education and an open classroom where students actively participate is the purpose of the Free University, according to its co-ordinator Dean Philips. Since its origin in 1970, Free U has given students and area residents a chance

to develop craft skills and study academic courses without the pressure of grades. "It's great to see a classroom of people hungry to learn and find out, especially in an academic course," Philips said. "Anyone can register for or initiate a course. No limits are set on the courses. 'All we ask is to keep it legal,'" Philips added. To gain listing in the Free U course booklet, initiators should register their course by Sept. 9. Late registrants will appear in a supplement. Student registration will be held Sept. 20 and 21 in the HUB Ballroom. Free U's first term

featured 16 courses. Last spring 130 courses were offered, 1,500 people registered, and approximately 3,000 people in all took part. Free U began by offering mostly academic courses but this trend has reversed, with half the classes concentrating on crafts and the rest divided between academic and sensitivity categories. Some new classes offered this term include the risks of nuclear energy, beginning accordion, living off the land, competitive swimming and diving, white tail deer hunting, and table hockey. Although primarily in the "course business," Free U is also associated with Colloquy and sponsors Gentle

Thursday, the Festival of Life, jammies and a children's film series. The Festival of Life and Gentle Thursday lost money last year and may not be here this spring, Philips said. But prospects are still good, he added. Free U will be pushing to increase its membership this year, since active membership has remained the same for the past few years. "A free university has to change," Philips said. "The average life is three years and Penn State's is three years old." The Free U office is located 203C HUB. —ED

Food demand outstrips supply Relief projects lack food

Charitable agencies which distribute millions of dollars worth of food to needy people overseas warn they may run out of essential commodities because of cutbacks in supplies normally provided by the U.S. government. The problem stems from the increased demand for grains such as wheat, soybeans and corn. This worldwide demand has outstripped the supply, driven up prices and caused the U.S. Department of Agriculture to suspend for almost two months the purchase of commodities for free distribution overseas under the Food for Peace program. The department announced Friday it would resume about 133 million pounds of foodstuffs for distribution overseas in October. Spokesmen said, however, the amount purchased would be only about half the normal order and would not include any wheat flour, corn meal or soybean salad oil — all key foodstuffs. Approximately \$198 million has been budgeted for the current purchase, according to an Agriculture Department spokesman. But officials expect to get

less for the money than they did earlier in the year and they note that, by comparison, purchases for distribution during the entire first three months of the fiscal year cost only \$171 million. The full extent of current cutbacks is still uncertain. Agriculture Department and Food for Peace spokesmen agreed the United States simply will not be able to supply as much food to needy people around the world as it has been. Huge exports last year, including the sale of 440 million bushels of wheat to Russia, have depleted U.S. stockpiles. Worldwide production is down this year because of crop failures overseas. Although record crops are expected in the United States, the harvests have not come up to earlier predictions. Soaring prices have added to the problem. Wheat was selling at about \$1.50 a bushel before the Russian grain deal last year; it was selling at nearly \$5 a bushel on some exchanges Friday. News of the cutbacks and uncertainty over their severity has caused serious problems for agencies like CARE, Catholic Relief Services, UNICEF and

Lutheran World Relief. "We do not know... what size program — if any — we will be allowed to have," said Anthony Foddai of Catholic Relief Services which distributed 800 million pounds of food to more than 10 million people in 58 countries during the last fiscal year. Foddai said Catholic Relief Services could not go out and buy the foodstuffs. Fred Devine, deputy executive director of CARE, said the agency would run out of food in two months if more supplies were not purchased. He said CARE supplied \$69 million worth of food to 30 million persons — most of them children — in 32 countries in the last fiscal year, but has received "almost nothing" for this year. American agencies are not the only ones affected. A spokesman for UNICEF, the U.N. children's fund, said "the picture is grim" for the more than a dozen countries receiving aid. Present supplies, the spokesman said, "will last at a maximum until the end of this year... then we will be completely without emergency reserves."

GSA to hold orientation program

While freshmen are learning about campus life this week through tests, meetings and jammies, about 1500 graduate students also will be getting their first look at the University through an orientation program sponsored by the Graduate Student Association. Graduate students will have a chance to mix with GSA officers and faculty members at a social 8 p.m. Thursday in 102 Kern. GSA President Roger Richards said the social, which has been successful in the past, will give new students an idea of how GSA works. In addition, GSA will provide an information table 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day this week in Kern lobby. Campus maps, graduate school catalogs, University brochures and GSA's "Guide to Graduate Living" will be distributed, along with general information on the University and housing. According to Richards, workshops have been eliminated from graduate orientation this term because such programs have failed in the past. Instead, he said, GSA will sponsor workshops on topics such as thesis preparation during the term. Other GSA projects for Fall Term include a possible graduate student picnic, a film series, and coffeehouses co-sponsored by the Folklore Society. A juried invitational film festival scheduled for February

also is in the planning stages. Richards said the films will be screened before three judges and awarded prizes. Richards called GSA an organization "that tries to do just about everything." He said he sees a "definite change in direction" since last year for the group from programming to social activities. Richards said GSA also is in the process of reorganizing its academic affairs committee and has set up a caucus to work with the University Faculty Senate caucus. Past activities have included: — a four-day "Prison Awareness Colloquium" last January which spotlighted such topics as women's prisons, the role of punishment, Project New-View and the Attica riots; — the formation of a Women's Interest Committee; and — the rental of garden plots to graduate students. According to Richards, all graduate students at the University are automatically GSA members. Students in each department of the University elect delegates to the GSA council, the organization's legislative body. GSA also elects graduate student members of the Faculty Senate. Graduate students interested in working for GSA who have not been elected to the Council may contact members of GSA's various committees. —DN

Boa: football player's roommate

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Tom Osborne, a tight end on the University of Toledo football team, may be the only player on the team with a female roommate. He also may be the only college football player in the nation whose female roommate is a snake. This unusual liaison tends to restrict the Osborne hospitality a bit, too. Osborne's roommate is a pet boa constrictor he named Herbie, even though Herbie is a female. Herbie is only 42 inches long right now, but eventually she will be nine feet long and about as big around as a man's forearm. "She sleeps most of the time, and she's never bitten anyone," said the Bluffton, Ohio youth. "but I guess most people still are afraid of her because she's a snake." "Inez, the maid who cleans our dorm rooms, wouldn't even come in my room for a whole year after I had Herbie. Now she comes in and asks me how the snake is and if it's been eating good. She sort of grows on people." That last statement may be the exact reason few persons come around to see the female roommate. Osborne has another, more normal roommate, his twin

brother Mike, also a Toledo varsity football letterman. Until now, Osborne's mother grew Herbie's diet back in Bluffton. "At first, Herbie ate about two mice a week," said Osborne. "Then she settled into the pattern most snakes have of eating about 10 mice at a time, or about 20 a month." But, Herbie's appetite has

grown. This summer her diet switched to rats. "My mother has tolerated a lot of weird hobbies of mine," said Osborne, but at this point she drew the line. Now he has to begin raising the rats himself in his dormitory room. Herbie, housed in a 10-gallon aquarium, soon will get a new home — a 25-gallon

aquarium. Having a snake as a pet was "just something I had to do," he said. "I hate to think of the money I've spent on her already, and as she grows I'll have to spend more, but she's my responsibility, and I hope to keep her until she reaches full growth."

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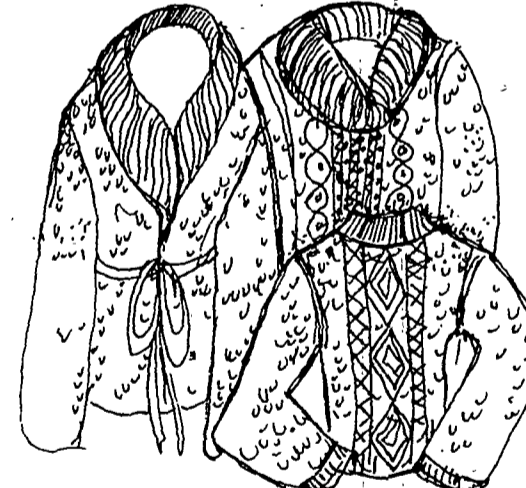
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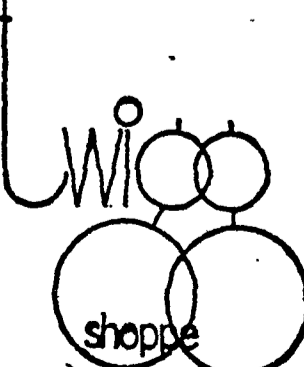
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