

Sex in violets a fact of leaf

By KEITH BARNES
Collegian Staff Writer

Pliny the Elder, hanging out in his date palm patch 2,000 years ago, thought he noticed something peculiar. The plants with softer foliage all seemed to be leaning towards a specimen that was "bristling with erect leaves." Pliny, his suspicions and God-knows-what-else aroused, later visited other orchards and noted that when the bristly-leaved dates were absent, the softer "females" were bearing no fruit. He had discovered sex in plants.

Pliny's nephew (Pliny the Younger) also was a biologist, but apparently there were some things an uncle didn't tell his nephew in those days. As a result, the knowledge of plant sexuality lay barren for centuries.

Awareness of botanical sex was rare because most species of flowering plants (90 to 95 per cent) have both male and female parts present in the same flower. For a while, the stamens, now recognized as the male sexual organs, were thought to be excretory units for emitting particles unfit for nourishment.

Often, male and female plants were improperly branded. Since they did not produce seeds, many

plants were considered weaker and hence, "female." It hasn't helped that many seeds are shaped like testes, either.

In the 17th century, Rudolf Camerarius furthered the cause of plant sexuality. Rudy removed the "stamens," or male parts of a castor bean flower (that's right, the first castor bean), and induced a miscarriage — the ovaries dried up and fell to the ground.

Green Thumbs

In 1736, Sweden's Linnaeus presented a sexual system of classifying plants that paved the way for modern labeling systems. King George II's official botanist rejected the idea as an insult to his profession. Some didn't like the use of such terms as "ovary" and "sexual"; words the free-thinking Swedes had bandied about for years.

The most common sex life is found in such plants as tomatoes, apples, geraniums and lilies. Every flower on these plants has a circle of stamens surrounding one or several "pistils" — the vase-shaped female flower parts.

Some plants, such as corn, have both sexes present on the same plant, but not in the same flower. In corn, the ear contains the ovaries and the tassel at the top of the plants is actually a bunch of stamens.

The single-sexed plants have led to some interesting cultivating practices. Your average date-matcher will grow only one male for every 50-100 females, much in the same way a farmer keeps a barnyard bull.

The sex life of marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*) has been described by more than one scientist as "extremely bizarre." You can expect to find equal distribution of both sexes but under abnormal conditions the ratio can go as high as ten females for every male. If the environment becomes really threatening, pot plants can switch to a hermaphroditic (bisexual) state.

Marijuana males are taller, skinnier and paler than their better halves. They even develop a tuft of leaves at the top that resembles a shoddy crewcut. Females are squat, rounded in profile, and live up to five weeks longer.

Pot's cousin, the hops plant, demonstrates similar habits. The females are prized for their

abundance of the resinous powder, lupulin, which makes a fine beer ingredient.

With both of these members of the Cannabaceae family, you can't tell from the seeds which sex the sprouts will be — you just have to try pot luck.

Some plants haven't had any luck in cons. Such species as philodendron have never displayed their flowers and are doomed to lives of neutrality.

Somewhat shocking (even pine-boggling) are those plants which bring in a third party to complete the sex act. Showy flowers aren't for your benefit, they function as attractants for plants bent on insectuality. Flowers may also exude an odor that the six-legged fiends can't resist. Bees, wasps and moths are among the insects frequently found necking in the nectar of plants whose pollen won't disperse itself properly.

The odors of other plants may have been their undoing. Female ginkgo trees are rarely planted any more because their fruit drop every fall lends a smell that humans don't seem to appreciate. Nobody asks the male ginkgos, however, who, deprived of their sexual outlet, allegedly have been ginkgoing crazy.

Sacramento jury acquits Soliah in bank robbery

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — A jury acquitted Patricia Hearst's underground lover, Steven Soliah, of a fatal bank robbery charge yesterday, rejecting the testimony of two eyewitnesses who had said he was one of the bandits.

Two of the jurors said the government didn't have enough evidence to link Soliah with the holdup.

The eight women and four men of the jury deliberated for 6½ hours and cast several votes before declaring Soliah innocent of the \$15,000 bank holdup during which a woman customer was killed by a shotgun blast.

As the court clerk read the verdict, Soliah and his two court-appointed attorneys embraced emotionally. Elsie Soliah, his mother, broke into tears and threw her arms around him.

Soliah, free on \$100,000 bail during the seven-week trial, later told reporters the verdict "was the right thing." "I didn't know what to expect, but I'm glad it happened," he said.

The husky blond, former collegiate track star, originally charged with harboring the fugitive Hearst, spent four months in jail after his arrest and before he was released on bail. The harboring charge was dropped when he was accused of the bank robbery.

"I'm going to use the next couple of weeks to ponder the whole thing," said the 27-year-old housepainter, adding that he may return to college.

He refused to comment on his relationship with Hearst or members of the Symbionese Liberation Army. Jo Ann Parker, 38,

forewoman of the jury, said the government presented "a weak case. The evidence just wasn't there. It took a long time; it took a lot of votes."

Juror Alan Spencer told reporters as he left the motel that the government "just didn't have enough evidence linking him to the bank."

A deputy U.S. marshal said members of the jury told him that they voted on the first ballot for 7-5 for acquittal. He also reported some members "cried their eyes out" in an emotional release of tension at a motel where they had been sequestered for 29 days.

During the trial, Soliah testified he became involved with the terrorist Symbionese Liberation Army through pity and affection for Hearst, but he denied participating in the April 21, 1975 robbery of the Crocker bank.

The verdict came on the heels of a disclosure that the name of a defense witness who weakly supported Soliah's alibi, was listed on a guest book at Folsom State Prison the day of the robbery.

On that day, Soliah said he was in San Francisco, 90 miles away from the holdup in Carmichael, a Sacramento suburb 10 miles west of Folsom.

During the trial, masseuse Emily Toback, 26, said she left her San Francisco residence at 11 a.m. to attend a college physics class. She said she had spent the night with Soliah, but did not recall seeing him that morning.

During their deliberations, however, jurors were unaware of the disclosure by the Department of Corrections that the name of Toback was listed on a Folsom guest

book that day as visiting Alfred Ingram, a two-time convicted robber.

Speaking with reporters at federal courthouse, Toback denied the report, but refused further comment until she spoke with an attorney.

The prosecution presented two eyewitnesses who identified Soliah as an obnoxious-shouting, shotgun-toting bandit who stood near a door in the bank during the robbery.

But the defense argued the two witnesses, both bank employees, were confused by the presence of Victor Kops, a clinical psychologist who bears a striking resemblance to Soliah.

Kops testified he stood in the same location where the prosecution witnesses said Soliah stood during the robbery.

Soliah testified he first helped Hearst and SLA "soldiers" William and Emily Harris because he was afraid they might be killed by police. He recalled the death of Angela Atwood, one of six SLA members to die in a fiery shootout with Los Angeles police in May 1974.

He said he kept in touch with Hearst and the Harrises while they lived in a dingy flat in Sacramento during late 1974 and early 1975, part of Hearst's so-called "missing year" about which she refused to testify before her conviction at her own bank robbery trial.

"At that time, I felt really close to Patty," he said. He detailed how he and the newspaper heiress later shared a San Francisco flat until they were arrested last Sept. 18.

Spring Week carnival set for weekend

By PATTY RHULE
Collegian Staff Writer

The arrival of spring at Penn State means warmer weather, cut classes and the annual Spring Week carnival sponsored by the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council this Friday and Saturday on the grounds outside Beaver Stadium.

Spring Week will feature

competition among Greek and independent organizations on campus, this year benefiting Strawberry Fields, Inc. of State College. According to Debbie Keller (7th-IFPS), co-chairman of Spring Week, groups participating in overall competition will vie for prizes in five categories: window, mad-hatter (a costume worn by one person),

booth, skit and billboard. Six groups earning the most points will receive overall awards.

A trophy will also be given to the winners of the tug-of-war, but Keller said there will be no Greek groups participating in this event.

"We're really excited because we have 16 groups participating in the overall competition this year," Keller said. "Last year we had only 13."

According to Keller, one independent group from Beaver and Stephens Halls enrolled in the overall competition, but because of lack of funds, dropped out.

According to Eric Graham (12th-speech communications), RA in Beaver 'Zoo' house, they dropped out of the booth and billboard competition, and thus will not

be eligible for awards in the overall competition.

The theme for Spring Week is the Bicentennial, with groups finishing the phrase "What if..."

Each group enrolled in the overall competition has painted a window on the ground floor of the HUB or in one of the downtown stores.

The billboards will be placed outside the groups' tents at Beaver Stadium, advertising the skit and the group involved.

Spring Week festivities will begin at 7 Friday night with skits every half hour. The groups will be participating in booths, mudsliding and other contests.

The weekend carnival also will feature rides for children and adults and concessions.

The carnival will continue Saturday, from noon to

midnight. The mad-hatters will be judged Saturday afternoon, and the skits will continue in the evening.

According to Keller, the parade has been cancelled this year because too many bands are participating in the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.

The money earned from Spring Week will go toward construction of playground equipment designed for the mentally retarded by engineering and architectural students at the University. According to Keller, the playground will be the first of its kind in the United States and construction will begin as soon as sufficient funds are raised.

Awards will be presented to the winners 6:30 Sunday evening in the HUB Ballroom.

Global birth rate drops

WASHINGTON (AP) — Birth control programs have spread across the globe and have contributed to a significant decline in birth rates in the past decade, a new government-financed study said yesterday.

The study said more than two-thirds of the world's

population lived last year in countries with birth control programs of some kind. It added that birth rates now are falling faster than death rates for the first time in many years.

It said the world birth rate declined from 34 per 1,000 people in 1965 to 30 in 1974.

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

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ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN BEING STUDENT ADVISORS FOR THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 29th, IN ROOM 201 BAB AT 7 PM.

UNIVERSITY OF PARIS - SORBONNE
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Undergraduates in philosophy and related majors earn 30-32 credits in regular Sorbonne (Paris IV) courses. SUNY-Paris IV agreement insures students avoid cumbersome pre-inscription and attend Paris IV, not provincial universities.
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Orientation, language review, Sept. 16 - June 16. Estimated living, airfare, tuition, fees: \$3200 N.Y. residents; \$3700 others.
Prof. D. Blankenship
Philosophy Dept., S.U.C.
New Paltz, N.Y. 12561
(914) 257-2696

Caldwell to speak at PSU

Noted opera director Sarah Caldwell has been chosen to speak at commencement exercises May 29 at Beaver Stadium.

Caldwell, artistic director of the Opera Company of

Boston, was the first woman to conduct at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Caldwell directed the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and was artistic director for "Be Glad Then America" in

February. In 1974 she was named Musician of the Year by Musical America. Last year she received an honorary doctor of arts degree from Harvard University.

Saturday, May 1
MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) will hold a
"Pot Luck Dinner"
at 415 East Foster Avenue
from 5:00 - 7:00
tickets \$1.50 sold at 212 HUB

ISRAEL

Representatives will be in the HUB Basement on Wed. afternoon with information concerning:
• Aliyah
• Kibbutz Life
• Tours
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HOPS SPONSOR'S GAY AWARENESS WEEK MAY 2 - MAY 8

- Saturday, May 1: MCC Pot Luck Dinner 415 E. Foster Ave Tickets \$1.50 5:00 - 7:00
 - Sunday, May 2: MCC 7:30 - 8:30 PM at the main chapel at Eisenhower Chapel Coffeehouse at 415 East Foster Ave from 8:30 - 12:00. Disco music and refreshments will be provided. 50¢ donation
 - Monday, May 3: Religious debate panel will be held at 165 Willard Bldg. on campus 8:00 - 10:30. Representatives from many denominations will discuss homosexuality.
 - Tuesday, May 4: The Lesbian Collective will meet at the Woman's Resource Center at the corner of South Allen St. and E. Beaver Ave.
 - Wednesday, May 5: Mental health seminar on gay awareness (Details forthcoming)
 - Thursday, May 6: A film on the gay lifestyle: "Lavender" 165 Willard 8:00
 - Friday, May 7: HOPS annual Spring Dance from 8:00 - 12:00 PM at the Unitarian Church 709 Ridge Ave. Disco music and refreshments. 50¢ donation (25¢ for dues paying members)
 - Saturday, May 8: "Meet Elaine Noble" social will be held at 415 East Foster Ave from 5:00 - 7:30 PM. Elaine Noble will speak at the HUB Assembly Room from 8:00 - 10:30. Rural Gay Caucus Meeting 12:00 - 6:00 225 HUB
- Stop in at 212 HUB or call 863-0588 for details

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 28, 1976

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sports: Men's tennis, vs. West Virginia, 2:30 p.m.
102nd John Henry Frizzell All-University Speech Contest, sponsored by the Penn State Forensic Council. Preliminaries and semi-finals, 7 p.m., Room 121 Sparks.
Poetry Reading, "Eugene & Kathrine Platt," 7:30 p.m., Room 101 Kern.
Behrend College Studio Theatre, "La Ronde," 8 p.m., Behrend College.
Black Arts Festival Concert, Rufus Harley - Jazz Bagpipes, 8 p.m., Walnut.
Musica da Camera, 8:30 p.m., Music Bldg. recital hall.

SEMINARS

Astronomy, 4 p.m., Room 445 Davey. Dr. Joel A. Eaton, University of Alabama, on "Atmospheric Properties of Binary Stars."

FILMS

Free Shakespeare film, "Macbeth" (Orson Welles), 6:30 p.m., Room 101 Chambers.
Eco-Action films, "Diet for a Small Planet," "Last of the Dolphins," 7:30 p.m., Room 119 Boucke.
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MEETINGS

College of Education faculty, 9:30 a.m., Room 101A Kern.
Earth and Mineral Sciences Student Council, 6:30 p.m., Room 341 Deike. Election of officers.
NSCAR, 7 p.m., Room 304 Boucke.
Nittany Grotto, 7:30 p.m., Room 217 Willard.
PSU Sports Car Club, 7:30 p.m., Room 367 Willard.

LECTURES

Emanuel Shimoni, Israeli Consul General, on "The Middle East, the United States and the United Nations," 8 p.m., HUB. Sponsored by the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East.
Dr. Paul Berg, College of Science Alumni Fellow, on "Genetic Engineering: Challenge and Responsibility," 8 p.m., Room 108 Forum.