



At left, Bob Hummel spins a newly completed turntable as Phil Swayne (7th-mechanical engineering) watches. Above, Swayne works on a switch. Many of the miniatures are handcrafted as is the Ruin tower, above right. A diesel engine sitting in the freight yard bears the markings of the UP&E.

## The model railroad to Ruin

By BRIAN GAMERMAN  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Guys are repairing trains, painting trees, spreading gravel and painting mountains all around me. "Should be nice," I say. "You know, pictures of big guys working on little toy trains and all..."

Work stops. Heads turn. Eyes glaze over. A pin drops in the distance. Long pause.

"... ummmmm, scale model railroads."

"That's better."

The members of the Penn State Model Railroad Club are nothing short of serious about their work. The 20 active members are busy in "Ruin" for the club's open house this weekend.

"This used to be called the Stream of Consciousness," Bob Hummel (12th-electrical engineering) points to a plaster gully. "The town is called Ruin and this used to be the road to Ruin," he points out.

There is lots of graffiti under the layout. "First screw in Newest Layout, JWS + VWG, 9/3/78." Club president Martin Zdzinski (8th-engineering science) explains that the double entendre refers to the beginning of construction on the club's layout in the HUB basement.

(NOTE: This is not the basement with the bookstore and pinball machines, it's one more flight down, with the pipes and wires and stuff.)

The origin of the Ruin design is something of a mystery, because its planners have long since graduated. "Occasionally people show up who say 'Oh, yeah, I worked on that 20 years ago,'" Zdzinski says.

Zdzinski estimates the layout is about half complete. "Either you're tearing it down or adding to it. There's always some detail you can make better."

Bob Swayne Jr. (11th-civil engineering) looks up from his work on miniature gravel. "It'll never get done. You see how long it took them to get to this point. We enjoy tackling projects — to finish is not the point."

Dave Wohlwill approves of the progress that has been made since he worked on the University Park and Eastern railroad seven years ago. "It's really hard," he says. "Kids graduate and it's hard to put a lot of time into it. It's amazing what has been accomplished."

The club put Wohlwill to work painting rail during his visit. His only criticism was that Ruin is hidden in the HUB catacombs. According to club literature, when the club was founded in 1955, its layout was on the ground floor.

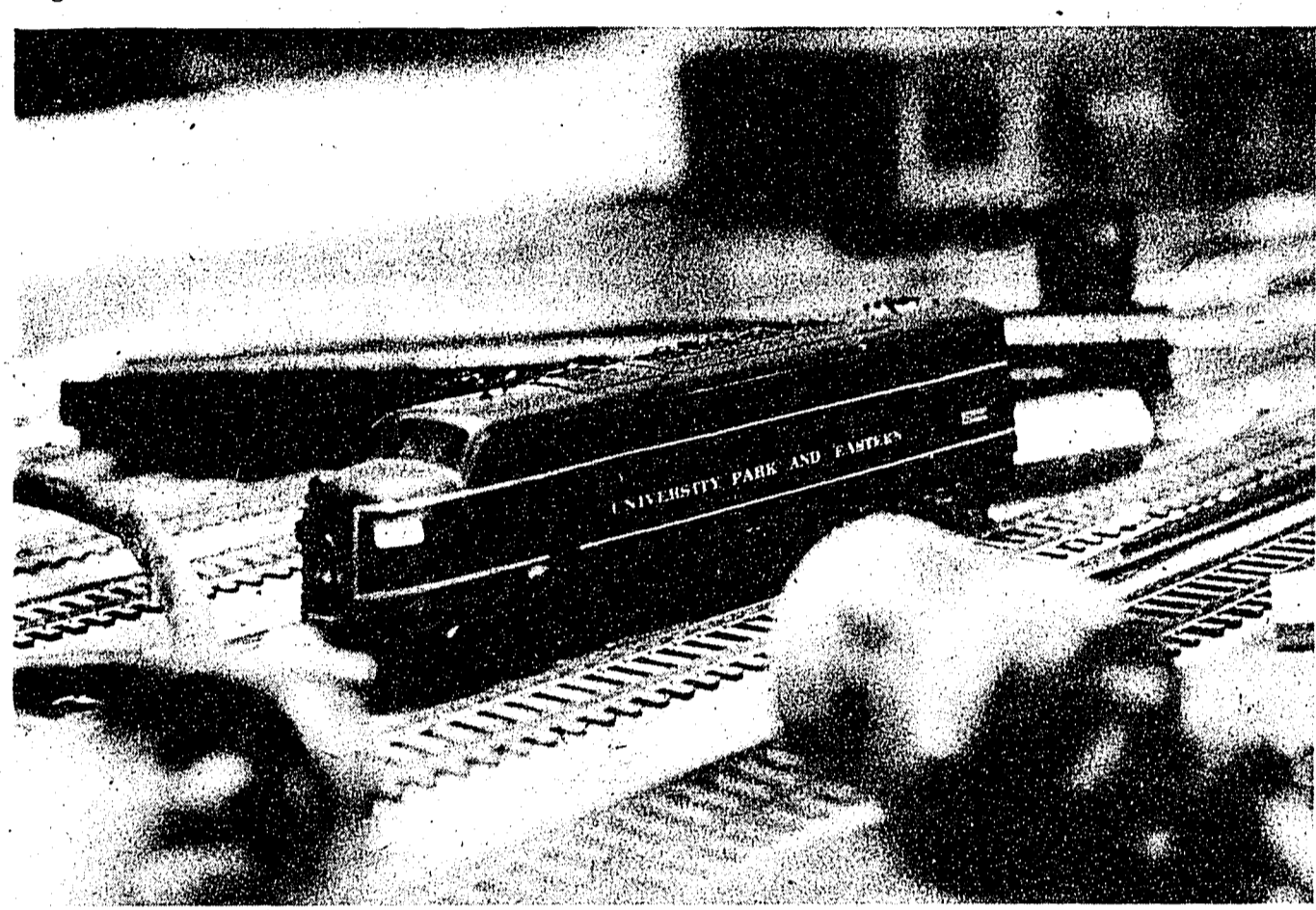
The UP&E operates just as a real railroad would have been run in central Pennsylvania during the mid-1950s, at the height of steam-to-diesel locomotive transition.

Places and equipment on the layout all bear names of towns that the HO-gauge UP&E serves, like Mifflin and Bellefonte.

The club is open to the public and is not limited to engineering majors (chortle, chortle). Zdzinski says membership includes landscape architecture, architecture and business majors. "We are all just interested in trains."

The club's annual open house will be held this Saturday evening from 7 to 9, and Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4. "We'll try and fit everything we have running on the layout," Zdzinski said.

The club meets Friday evenings at 7 in the HUB basement to work on Ruin. It also sponsors trips to train-watching spots in the area.



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YES MA'AM, I'VE BEEN READING THE BOOK...  
WELL, NOT ACTUALLY THE BOOK YET...  
I READ THE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, NOTES, THE INTRODUCTION, THE PREFACE, THE FOREWORD AND THE DEDICATION...  
IT'S BEEN UPHILL ALL THE WAY!

**DOONESBURY**

MISS LATOUR, WE WANT TO DISCUSS THE AMENDMENT WITH THE OTHER KIDS.  
WELL, DEAR, I THINK THAT'S A FINE IDEA.  
THEN IT'S OKAY? WE DON'T WANT TO GET IN TROUBLE.  
DON'T WORRY, GIRLS. FREE SPEECH IS ALWAYS GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION.  
GREAT! WHAT'S THE CONSTITUTION TUTOR?  
IT'S WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO AMEND, DEAR.  
OH, COULD WE GET A COPY OF THAT?

**SHOE**

SKYLER, COULD YOU TELL US THE CAPITAL OF NEW YORK?..  
SKYLER?  
OH, YOU'RE TALKING TO ME?  
ONE OF THOSE ALL-TIME GREAT STALL TACTICS.

**JOEL**

Stop trimming the tree a second time, I've just a job for you.  
Another large prepaper or a medium one heavy to make?  
I want you to take this to the north of town.  
Great, but I don't know my way around!  
Let's face it, the best way to get there is to show me the way!  
Yes, that's the point!  
Look at this... Address: Coney!

**BIFF & AL**

CIMON SUSAN, I WAS JUST JOVING!  
YOU REALLY ARE A JO!  
ALL HELL WOULD YOU BANK MEK?  
THANKS A LOT, PAL!

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The Daily Collegian Monday, Dec. 7, 1981—23

**Crossword**  
Minding the P's and Q's by Mike Sheak  
(answers in tomorrow's Classifieds)  
1980 EXAMARK NEWS SERVICE

**Across**

1. Oceanic
2. Lima's land
3. Shovel's student
4. Berly's Grabbe posters, for example
5. Bony floor
6. Items in a will
7. In the air
8. Gail's meat
9. Shakespeare's type of dance
10. Finding "not guilty"
11. Conductor's
12. Challenge
13. "Can't find"
14. Like a porcupine
15. Fraction of a year
16. Member, for short
17. Velocity
18. Heavy
19. Singer Frank
20. Jaws II and the Godfather-part II
21. Lawman Wyatt

**Down**

1. High peak
2. Not bone structure
3. As red as —
4. Offend by sighting
5. Celtic goddesses variant
6. Ruler
7. Unpleasant surprise for students
8. Vase with a figure, abbr.
9. Garden flower
10. Incense
11. Mexican food
12. Tropic
13. Made Slightest
14. Biceps
15. Stellar bar
16. Back to work
17. Swedish
18. Piece of soap
19. Search
20. Brocade
21. Capital of Victoria
22. North Pole explorer
23. Partridge
24. Abah's ship and namesakes
25. "I beg —"
26. Boats
27. Song for two
28. Capote's river
29. Vase for Sotoleros's nights
30. Five popular kings
31. Stripes or poplar
32. Equal
33. Sudan's threats
34. Play part
35. Sociologist's concern
36. Biceps
37. Brocade, in old Rome
38. Also of World War II
39. Ice German
40. Signa

Watch out for bikes!

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