

OPINIONS

Spending a Sunday the best way

So what?!
— Art Poley

The events of the day happened around us, cascading around and down like the shiny green leaves of a weeping beach. We started out having brunch on the veranda of a colonial mansion in Fairmount Park and ended up eating ice cream and waffles downtown in a funky little shop at an hour close to midnight. Although the convertible in which we rode ran on unleaded gasoline, our day was fueled by dreams and desires.



Art Poley

It was Sunday and I was home for the weekend. I had spent all week convincing myself that I would be able to study for a midterm and to write a column at home — "No problem, I work well on the dining room table" — and when Sunday morning intruded on my Saturday night slumber I found myself going with my mother to meet her boyfriend Arthur, and his daughter Linda at a place called Valley Green for brunch. Being the manic student that I am, I guiltily went to brunch, looking forward to the company, but quite anxious about the exam that I had to take at noon the next day. Brunch was a delicious two cheese omelet on a veranda in the middle of Fairmount Park, the largest park within a city in the world (Philadelphia isn't all bad!). Aside from the bees and the spacey waiter we had a

great time. As we ate, we watched other people enjoy the park and the beautiful weather — running, playing, walking, or horseback riding through the park.

The sight of people horseback riding gave us the idea which escorted us along the next leg of our journey. "Linda's friend Joan owns a stable in the park, wouldn't it be fun to go riding?"

Well, riding is one of my passions, I rode all through high school but haven't been able to since I've been at school. The thought of studying for my exam or writing my column paled in comparison to horseback riding on a picture-perfect day with people whom I don't get to see too often.

Leaving the restaurant, we spent the next hour oozing and aahing at country mansions nestled in the sylvan wonderland of Fairmount. My mother saw the house of her dreams. I asked some construction workers whether or not a metal veranda trellis was going to be kept on the house they were remodeling (it didn't match the new decor at all).

After randomly roaming the area in this fashion for enough time (never enough) we finally ended up at the stable. As it turned out I didn't get to ride, but it was nice to see the horses anyway. At the stable was what Joan called "her perfect tree." If one could isolate a candle flame and put it in a forest one would find that they had this tree. Brilliant yellow, it was the physical image of autumn.

Next Arthur suggested that we go in town — "the Art Museum or a movie perhaps?" — and my exam found itself losing out to "Art Nouveau" and to "Madam Sousatzka," a new British film with Shirley MacLaine.

The rest of the day fantastically followed suit.

What can I say but that becoming

buddies with a drunken museum guard. ("Don't touch that!"), taking pictures on the regal steps of the museum, watching other people taking pictures of themselves with Arthur's nifty convertible. ("Just getting to see it is thanks enough"), watching a peace protester do aerobic flag dancing in an Uncle Sam hat and kaleidoscope colors, drinking Mimosas and eating cashews in the Four Seasons Hotel, buying hats for everyone on South Street, (Hats in the Belfry), and getting a leftover flower arrangement (Birds of Paradise in her nose) from some fancy affair at the Warrick Hotel, makes for a spectacular day.

I actually managed to get the test out of my mind for most of the day. I planned to leave home early enough Monday morning so as to have around an hour in which to prepare.

The column, on the other hand, happened to me along the way. And here I sit, Monday afternoon at four o'clock writing, the column is due by five. I have never done this before, manic me usually has them written, at least in rough draft, two days ahead of time.

The midterm was pretty awful. But what I got out of yesterday makes up for the grade that I'll get because of it (Wow! is this really me?). I realized yesterday that all I own in life is the moment. And although I shall never stop planning for the future of remembering the past, I shall take more time out to wander through parks on beautiful fall days, and to eat waffles and ice cream with people whom I love. After all, day and dream begin with the same letter. ... I can still taste the bitter tangy sweetness of the Mimosa upon my lips.

Nomi Buch is a junior majoring in English and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

READER OPINION

Missed point

I appreciated the Oct. 17 *Collegian* editorial on fighting ignorance about AIDS but I believe a key point was missed. The HIV virus causing AIDS can have a latency period of seven or more years. Therefore, a fifteen-year-old may be sexually active but not develop a full-blown AIDS case until the age of twenty-two.

We college students demand immediacy with everything: money, food, rewards and pleasures — including sex. In our own ignorance we expect immediate deaths from AIDS. We are not seeing them so we are not frightened. We need to fear the unseen. AIDS is still a death sentence. "Safe sex" can't cure it. The thin membrane we entrust our lives to never promised to prevent it. The drugs we have only prolong life, and the "just say no" philosophy requires too much selflessness and too much self-control.

Take a look to the left and the right. Say good-bye now and do not wait for a homecoming celebration. There may not be one.

Natalie Botdorf
senior-microbiology

Russia

Russia! What comes to mind when you hear this word? Most likely, you instinctively associate it with other words like "enemy," "Commies" or "cold."

Unfortunately, that mentality still pervades American society. It is an ignorant view of a country who is truly not our enemy. Contrary to popular belief, Russians don't spend their entire days plotting and conspiring against the United States.

Presumably, college students are the "hope" of a society. They are the ones who will eventually guide the country into the future. I am disturbed to have heard such ignorance and prejudice in their discussion about "The Evil Empire," our arch-enemy. I am no expert on the topic but I wish to voice my opinions based upon what I do know.

Only some 45 years ago, our countries were allies, fighting against a common enemy. After World War II, America returned to a prosperous period of industry and world dominance. Although the United States lost 392,000 soldiers in the fighting, we got off comparatively easy. Above all, the United States was the only country in the world to hold nuclear capacities (hurray for us). Russia, on the other hand, took a severe beating in the war. They lost over 13 million soldiers, civilians were killed, their cities lay in ruin, families were shattered, and the economy was crippled. What was the best thing they could have done? Turned to Democracy and Capitalism ... or bonded together to rebuild their country under Communism/Socialism?

Unfortunately, the United States could not accept their decision for Socialism/Communism. It was the right choice for them, but not for us. Since then, Americans have been "conditioned" to fear and distrust anything communist or Russian.

In the post-World War II period, people were understandably wary and untrusting of others. Today, we can no longer afford such ignorance. We are both at a standoff ... and what is the best solution to a standoff??? No, not to beat each other into the ground, but instead to reach a peaceful accord of acceptance and understanding.

In this highly modernized and changing world, attitudes and values change rapidly. It imparts no benefit to either party to play such a power game. For the Russians, they would much rather be spending billions of [rubles] on domestic causes rather than on defense from the United States.

Similarly, the United States must reduce military spending and begin to look inward at our declining nation.

Russia is now at a turning point. Hopefully, the changes of glasnost will bring about a better life for the Russian people. Americans should welcome and encourage this change for the better. It is ignorant, though, to consider the Soviet's decision to "open up" as a victory on our part. We have not "won the Cold War." The Soviets are beginning to thaw themselves out of the Cold War mentality, but we remain stuck.

Though we see it as a great step for the Russians to incorporate the "American Way" in their society, we are steadfast in refusing to accept socialism in our culture. In my opinion, a modern society would best benefit with a healthy combination of the two ideologies.

Daniel Prestayko
freshman-science

The *Daily Collegian* encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than one and one-half pages. Forums must also be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than three pages. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

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