

Sun, shorts melt away winter blues

By MARC HARKNESS
Collegian Features Writer

So here you are, wearing shorts in the middle of March. There's snow on the ground beside your feet, and you're sitting outside with a beer. Does it get much better than this?

"Sure doesn't. Maybe it could get a couple of degrees warmer, but this is great," said Mark Jones (junior-finance), taking sun in front of Cafe 210, 210 W. College Ave.

Following Thursday's snowstorm, which deposited 10 inches of white stuff on the ground, this weekend's warmer weather brought a brief but welcome hint of spring just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

This weekend's warm and sunny weather probably will not hold up today and tomorrow, but the rest of the week should be "fairly nice," according to Collegian meteorologist Bob Tschantz.

The temperature reached a high of 52 degrees on Saturday. But it was not a record for this time of year: last year's St. Patrick's Day weekend high was 82 degrees.

Warmth, however, was relative matter this weekend — some students were perfectly comfortable in sweatshirts. Shorts were prevalent. A brave few went about in muscle shirts.

Some had left home wearing winter jackets, but quickly took them off when the weather turned out to be warmer than they had anticipated. Others carried their coats to the library just in case it got cold later.

On Saturday, dorm quads and other parts of campus commonly referred to as "green space" began showing up green again as the layer of snow melted away beneath a bright sun. The East Halls quad, site of a large-scale snowball fight Thursday night, resem-



Members and guests of Alpha Sigma Phi, 328 E. Fairmont Ave., splash and splash in a sudsy hot tub. The group took advantage of the warm weather Saturday in the fraternity's back yard.

bled a model of the devastation after a bombing raid — not a clod of snow left unturned.

Other sites on campus were littered with the melting, broken carcasses of snowpersons. By Friday morning, someone had sculpted a snow cat that appeared to recline contentedly on a Mall bench. On Saturday, the cat was gone — either melted and evaporated, or smashed by Friday-night revelers.

Other public art was created and melted away over the course of the weekend. Some anonymous artists created an accurate replica of the Nittany Lion statue on the HUB lawn.

The sound of melted snow streaming out of rain gutters was everywhere.

Back on campus, passerby's most common reply to questions about the weather was this: "Nice." A pair of street corner canners noted that people were

better disposed toward charity in times of good weather.

"I think people are more happy and want to give more when the sun is out,"

said Amy Spangler (sophomore-elementary education), a member of Phi Mu sorority, 2 Heister Hall. Members of Phi Mu and Phi Mu Delta fraternity, 500 S. Allen St., were collecting money for the Pennsylvania Coalition for Food and Nutrition on Saturday.

But Phi Mu member Colleen McCullum (sophomore-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) said good weather is not necessary to kindle people's kindness.

"Some would say that if it's cold and miserable, people are more likely to feel sorry for you and give you money," McCullum said. "I would say it goes either way."

Clinic aids speech, hearing problems

By SUZANNE YOHANNAN
Collegian Science Writer

When you talk, is your voice always hoarse? Or maybe you're not sure if your hearing is up to par.

If you're suffering from these or other speech or hearing problems, you may find help at the Speech and Hearing Clinic, located in 110 Moore.

The clinic is open to both University students and the public and offers University students free speech and hearing evaluations and up to 10 free therapy sessions. The public and faculty members can receive therapy but must pay a fee.

The clinic is part of the department of communication disorders and was first accredited in the 1960s. Undergraduate and graduate students in the department use the clinic to work with people who have speech or hearing problems.

"It is here basically as a training field for undergraduate and graduate students," said Jodi Stouffer, coordinator of clinical experiences at the clinic.

The clinic is primarily open about 12 weeks out of the semester. One of the oldest clinics of its type in the country, it serves more than 1,000 clients per year.

Undergraduate students are required to work on the audiology (hearing) and speech sides of the clinic, said Chrissy Heinbaugh (senior-communication disorders), who also is president of the Penn State chapter of the National Speech and Language and Hearing Association.

Most of the University students who

come to the clinic have problems dealing with hearing impairment, language skills or speech, or have difficulties because English is their second language, Stouffer said.

One example of a speech problem is if a student comes in because his or her voice always sounds hoarse, Stouffer said. This may be caused by vocal nodules or a variety of other reasons, she added.

"We train patients how not to be hard on their voice. The college years tend to be very hard on their voices," Stouffer said, referring to alcohol use, smoking, cheering and other activities.

Students who work at the clinic are supervised by faculty members, speech language pathologists or audiologists — who diagnose and treat people with hearing loss. All of the supervisors are certified for clinical competence in their field, Stouffer said. At least a master's degree is required for certification.

The speech language pathologists and audiologists also use the lab to work with children and adult clients. Speech language pathologists evaluate and treat people with speech and language problems ranging from stuttering to those that arise from strokes, head injuries and cerebral palsy, Stouffer said.

Many of the clinic's clients are children, said Jodi Waggoner (speech language pathology-graduate).

The clinic offers an intensive treatment program, which requires 10 hours of therapy sessions per week including five individual sessions and five group sessions, she said.

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