

Opinion

O.K. I think I'm done now
It's not nice to rip on people

Hi! I'm back. I've put much thought into my first column of the semester. I'm going to tell you what a horrendous first two weeks of spring semester '93, second half of the 1992-1993 academic year I've had. (I'm sure yours wasn't that pleasant either.) Yes, I do complain a lot but someone has to.

What if I'm stuck
on the John
number two-ing
for eight hours
straight?

Let's start with our schedule of classes. Now Advance Registration began on November 2. Schedule Adjustments ran from Dec. 7-18. Therefore, if you weren't pleased with your first choice of classes, you had the opportunity to make another choice. Then why on earth were there 29 hundred people lined up outside the registrar's office to "adjust" their schedules? We already did that folks! It's why they call it a schedule ADJUSTMENT

period. What a strikingly novel idea.

Now, now. Don't get all huffy and puffy. I understand that things do come up between the time we "adjust" our schedules and the time we actually start classes. But for those of you who "adjusted" your schedule because you didn't like the teacher or you and your best friend didn't get in the same section, give me a break! There are those who had better, more legitimate reasons: job or family situations, a change of major, they just couldn't make it out of bed for that 8:00 class...just kidding.

Moving on...I just love this "attendance policy" some teachers have. You are only excused if 1) there is a death in your family and you provide a death notice; 2) you have a form signed by an "authorized, influential, top collegiate authority" excusing your absence; or 3) you provide a doctor's excuse.

I have a situation that is not covered in the above rules and regulations: what if I'm stuck on the John number two-ing for

eight hours straight. No one nor nothing has died except for maybe my digestive system, I certainly wouldn't have an "authorized, influential, collegiate top authority over for



alicia
hartman

cake and tea until I've fumigated my house, and a case of the runs doesn't really call for a doctor's diagnosis.

I'm not trying to be gross here, just realistic. This is my call for action.

Don't forget, it is stated in the student and/or teacher handbook that a teacher may use attendance in determination of a student's grade. Yes, attendance is important, but if a student misses class, he/she is already down one for missing the day's lecture or presentation. The only inconvenience for a teacher that a student's absence can cause (as brought to my attention by one of my teachers) is the timely consumption of providing the student with materials that were handed out in class that day. Solution: if a student does not have a legitimate excuse, then don't give them the hand-outs.

Here I am in college, but I sometimes think I was treated more like an adult in high school.

And some of you drivers out there! I know you're in a rush to leave and all, but here in the United States we have what they

call TRAFFIC LAWS. Those red colored, white lettered, octagon signs supported by a black or green post are called STOP signs. That means you must place your foot on the brake.

I realize that several of you

**Those red
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STOP SIGNS.**

think these signs are worthless creations of art, but there are those who do pay attention to these "nuisances".

Stop signs do have a place in this world. They reinforce that kindergarten lesson of sharing. You know, the person at stop A goes, then the person at stop B goes. The person at stop A goes, the person at stop B goes. I'm sure you get the point.

Sharing is a wonderful thing. It provides equal opportunity for all to go home or wherever your destination may be.

The year in review, according to Dave

by Dave Barry
Syndicated Columnist

JANUARY

1--George Bush, while practicing the Secret Handshake of the Six or Seven Top World Leaders club, glances out the Oval Office window and notices that the darned U.S. economy is STILL in trouble. He vows to write a stern note to his economic advisers, Wayne and Garth. Meanwhile, Bill Clinton -- a virtual unknown on the national scene, despite the fact that he has been governor of Arkansas since he was 17 -- arrives in New Hampshire with a truck containing 957 separate eight-point policies and enough hair spray to immobilize the Brazilian rain forest.

8--President Bush flies to Japan accompanied by 237 high-level aides, 322 leading U.S. business executives, 517 journalists, 856 security personnel, the first lady, 26 grandchildren and both White House dogs. Left behind, tragically, is the black briefcase containing the presidential Pepto-Bismol.

10--In Tokyo, President Bush scores an economic coup as the Japanese government, under intense pressure to open its doors to U.S. imports, agrees to purchase a 1992 Chevrolet Caprice. At a formal dinner hosted by the prime minister, the President formalizes the agreement by performing the ceremonial Ralph of Friendship.

20--The Japanese government's Caprice develops transmission trouble.

26--In a surprising Super Bowl outcome, the Washington

Redskins and the Buffalo Bills stop playing in the third quarter so they can watch Bill and Hillary Clinton discuss their marriage on "60 Minutes."

FEBRUARY

11--Bill Clinton's character comes under further scrutiny when the news media obtain a 1969 photograph showing him reporting for a draft physical wearing a dress.

17--Jeffrey Dahmer is sentenced to life in prison with no refrigerator privileges.

20--Ross Perot announces that if his supporters put him on the ballot in all 50 states, he will have them investigated.

MARCH

11--In the trial of accused Mafia kingpin John Gotti, the judge considers a defense motion to declare a mistrial because "The air seems to be running a little low inside the 55-gallon drum where we are keeping your honor's mother."

31--"Silence of the Lambs" is the big winner in the Academy Award ceremonies, which culminate in an emotional moment when Best Actor Anthony Hopkins breaks down on stage and ralphs up what is later identified as a segment of Best Actress Jodie Foster.

APRIL

9--Great Britain elects an entire new government following a campaign that took less time, total, than U.S. politicians will need, later in the year, to agree on a debate format.

17--Downtown Chicago is paralyzed for what will turn out to be several days of a massive,

multimillion-dollar flood, the cause of which is ultimately traced to the home of Arnold Spooterman, whose last words, according to his wife, were "We don't need a plumber. I'll just tighten this..."

MAY

21--In what will later be viewed as a mistake, the crack Middle East Peace Negotiating Team is sent into what used to be Yugoslavia.



26--The Food and Drug Administration announces a ban on molecules.

JUNE

3--Clinton, seeking to improve his image among young voters, goes on "The Arsenio Hall Show" and, after donning a pair of dark sunglasses, smokes a joint.

10--Scientists detect a large new hole in the ozone layer, believed to be caused by fumes from flaming desserts served at the Earth Summit.

17--Seeking to boost the sagging U.S. humor industry, Vice President Quayle gives a spelling lesson.

JULY

7--A freak tidal wave hits Daytona Beach, Fla. Scientists are baffled until satellite photos detect Ted Kennedy breast-stroking about three miles offshore.

17--Clinton begins his speech accepting the Democratic nomination.

19--Clinton concludes his speech and sets out on a bus tour of the Heartland with Al Gore, whose body is unable to bend enough to fit in the bus seats, so his aides just stick him up on the luggage rack, still in a waving position.

29--In Olympic basketball action, the Dream Team defeats the Republic of Zwit 563-4, with Charles Barkley scoring 153 points before being ejected late in the second quarter for arson.

AUGUST

5--The Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, rules that, once on the island, Gilligan is not legally required to obey orders from the Skipper.

20--General Motors announces that, in an effort to cut costs, it will stop making cars.

21--Delegates to the Republican Convention reaffirm their support for Traditional Family Values by burning a suspected witch.

SEPTEMBER

10--The U.S. Congress, long ridiculed for avoiding the tough issues, courageously passes a low regulating cable-TV rates.

25--In a landmark ruling, an

Orlando, Fla., judge declares that a 12-year-old boy has the right to select his own parents. He selects Marge and Homer Simpson.

OCTOBER

13--Clinton promises to increase spending for jobs, education, health care, the environment, the infrastructure, the outrastructure and parking, while at the same time reducing the deficit and cutting taxes. Bush says Clinton is a bozo. Perot says it's time to cut bait and talk turkey.

23--Clinton promises to give every voter a briefcase full of money while at the same time fighting cavities and saving Bambi's mom from the hunters. Bush bites Clinton on the leg. Perot says it takes two snakes to cross a puddle.

NOVEMBER

25--In Britain, a fire strikes the Queen's clothes closet, destroying 4317 hats with an estimated street value of \$11.

26--Superman dies, probably as a result of wearing the same underwear for 50 years.

DECEMBER

1--What begins as a friendly transitional get-together between the Bushes and Clintons ends in tragedy when Millie ralphs up what is later identified as Socks the cat.

15--NASA suffers another setback when the space Shuttle Determined, attempting to deploy a military satellite, is found to be unmaneuverable due to the fact that a previous commander accidentally left "The Club" on the steering wheel.