



Opening Remarks

Yes, it's true--this issue is politically motivated. It isn't being put out because people told me to get off my butt and write it (although they did) or because I felt particularly inspired this weekend (I didn't). It is being put out because a lot of things which are important to every student in this department are being discussed in MSAC meetings, but the attendance isn't even scraping piss poor. In trying to be helpful, this edition is recapping the last meeting **AND** giving all of you advanced notice that there will be another meeting (probably at the end of this week), at which we need to elect new officers. Consider this your Cliff Notes to the last meeting and get off your butts. We need some new officers, and it really isn't as horrible a position as you may have been led to believe. Look at it this way--you volunteer to be an officer, and all the "retired" officers like you and are willing to give you advice and support. Nobody takes responsibility, the old officers get stuck, and either quit (and nothing gets done) or continue on while resenting the rest of the student body at large (and next to nothing gets done because they don't feel like anybody cares one way or the other). Either way, our department looks bad. **YOU** have the power to change this...(strains of the national anthem, pictures of manatees holding American flags in their mouths and waving them in time to the music, etc...).

I also have one personal comment to make: What is with Student Government and the massages? What next--escort services for formals? Cheesecake bikini calendars? I guess I'm just not New Age enough or something. I find it strange. Now, of course, if I later find out that the Swedish Bikini team is somehow involved, it'll make a great news exclusive and I can say I was onto it from the beginning.

MSAC News

The last MSAC meeting was Friday, September 4, at 4pm (conveniently scheduled so that all the TGIF people would be enticed to the meeting). Only a handful of people showed up so here is the recap of the agenda:

Hurricane relief: As was posted around the department, MSAC planned to donate \$100 to help the people in Miami recover from Hurricane Andrew. After these signs went up, various members of our department contributed money out of pocket to add to the amount. The total donation was \$190 and it was decided to direct it specifically (if possible) toward the marine science graduate students at the

University of Miami. [It was suggested that this was dangerous, as said students would probably just go out and buy a couple of kegs, but a unanimous decision was that they deserved to do that if they wanted to].

A request was put out to the students to please try to minimize incoming personal calls (such as from your mechanic or pharmacy), or to have necessary calls directed to your advisor's secretary. The reason for this request is that the front desk people are getting swamped with general calls. (Remember them? The people who handle our pay-checks? It's a good idea to keep them happy. Be nice. Call people instead of making them call you back).

The xerox machine--any unpaid copies will be taken off your 500 free copies/year. (New students can relax, you haven't had time to become delinquent yet). If any of you are having problems (ie, feel that someone has been making copies using your number) you can choose a new number to prevent use of your social security number (which is probably more easily accessible than you think). See Carol Marot for a new number if you are so inclined.

We have purchased a 50 gallon aquarium from Frank Muller-Karger (a really good deal!) and are planning to set it up in the lobby with local fish. People will be needed to volunteer some time to maintain the tank, but that shouldn't be any big deal, because it'll be fun.

Steve Goodbred is in charge of Superstars this year. If you don't know what that is, your butt better be at the next meeting to find out. The games are scheduled for Saturday, October 17, and we have 32 teams this year. As usual, lots of volunteers are needed, but again, it's fun and we get money for it, so that should be no problem (RIGHT????!!!!).

TGIF--there are rumblings in the works about building a new grill (the old one got stolen). We may also go for a change of scenery and move TGIF out front into the circle of grass and bushes. What a concept!

Security--this neatly follows the stolen grill bit. Any suggestions people may have for improving campus security are welcomed by Peter Betzer. Some of the options tossed around the meeting were that we arm ourselves or perhaps loose Dobermans in the halls at night. Interesting, but are they really cost effective?

Finally, the main purpose of that meeting and this edition of the Residence Times: New Officers. At the meeting, two positions were elected; Karen Smith was reelected Faculty VP, and Brian Bendis (hopeful Former President) took over as Treasurer. There are other offices which need to be filled. That will be the purpose of the upcoming meeting which will have **FOOD**. Do us all a favor and show up.

Back-to-School Splash

Friday, September 11, Campus Activities hosted their annual "we're so glad you came, we'll even feed you" pool party. And did they ever feed you. They had a buffet line which was catered by Saffrons (cool Jamaican restaurant in NE St. Pete), as well as traditional grilled food. They even had island music by Maa-she'sound. I don't think I have to go into major detail, because I'm pretty sure most of you were there (definitely more of you were there than at our last MSAC meeting...maybe the food will help that). What can I say--the ginger tea and coconut chicken made me glad I go to school here.

Party Games

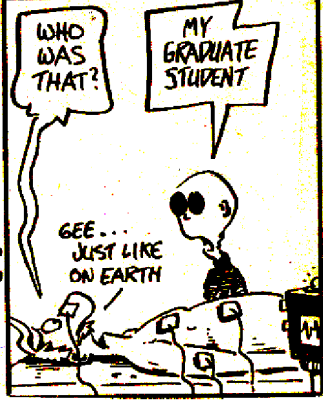
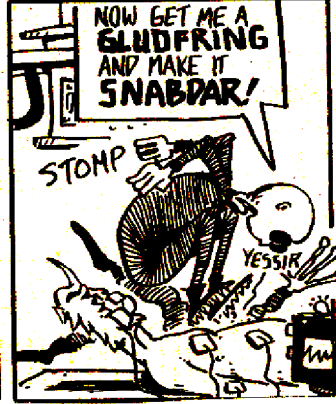
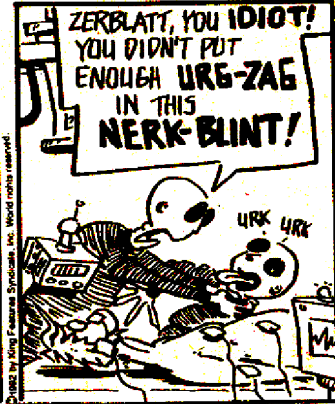
There's a new game which is rapidly becoming popular in the marine science party circuit (and since you can even play while drinking beer [or bourbon], it promises to become more popular still). It's actually an old game, but we're adding our own touches to it, so that makes it new. It's croquet. The Encyclopaedia Britannica informs us that lawn croquet evolved from *paille-maille* (French; English "pall-mall") which was played in France at least as early as the 13th century. The game that became known as croquet combined the basic elements of *paille-maille*--running a

mallet-driven ball through a hoop or hoops to touch a peg as a goal--into a somewhat more complicated sport, involving a series of six or more hoops laid out in a pattern, which had to be run in a specified order.

Enter the marine science department with the next step. One addition, witnessed at Marc Frischer's Labor Day BBQ, was citrus fruit. The wickets (hoops) were laid out in a pattern under a grapefruit tree which happened to be covered with unripe fruit of approximately the same size as the croquet balls. Bystanders hurled these unripe fruit at players with the hope of (a) hitting them in the butt and spoiling their shot; (b) hitting their mallet and spoiling their shot; or (c) hitting their ball and spoiling their shot. Players often retaliated by hitting the fruit with their mallets in the direction of the bystanders. This produced a lovely, juice-like odor on the playing field.

A second variation (definitely not for the weak, or those with a low pain threshold) was tried out by Lynn Leonard at Mark Luther's Labor Day get-together. The new rule, in this case, was for the player to slam his or her own foot with the wooden mallet as hard as possible, and then continue to play; the pain functioning like a handicap. While more environmentally friendly than the citrus approach, I was not personally drawn to this version. Call me a wuss, I liked the grapefruit better.

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