Opening Remarks

Well, it's been a quiet fortnight in Lake Wobegone. Not much has been happening, or at least nobody has told us anything. Of course, we're all breathless from the current run of seminars.

MSAC News

Not much here either. Pres. Moody is out of town, down under in Australia. Please, no coup.

Planning has already begun for Spring Party '91, directed by Tim Leary.

Pigeon Key trip in April? See Shana.

The MSAC will be hosting a wire-and-cheese-hour for the TOS meeting here on Tuesday, March 26. Somebody should be organizing this event. Which reminds me! We would like to put together a list of local restaurants for the visitors' information. Forms for you to fill out will be available so that you may review your favorite joint.

TGIF manager Helen Talge would like to thank those who generously supported TGIF after the recent burglaries. She desperately needs people to sign up to close TGIF; without you, TGIF will have to shut off the spigot completely.

Stuent Government News

The next free Legal Clinic, staffed by a local attorney, will be tentatively held on Feb. 26. Call or drop into the SG office to make an appointment (DAV 116, ext. 9144).

A major issue facing all students is the proposed change to a plus/minus grading system. Little information from the Tampa administration has been made available to this campus. Students in Tampa were given the opportunity to express their opinion in a referendum placed on the ballot during their recent election. Of course, less than ten percent of the main campus student population ever bothered to vote. Plus/minus grading was opposed by 60% of those voting. If you have an opinion, please let your rep's know (Mark Meyers or Heather Melton).

Further university budget cuts may be on the way, along with hikes in tuition. Start saving those pennies.

Events on Campus


A series of lectures on the Bill of Rights continues on Monday nights at 6:00 pm in the Campus Activities Center.

For information on these and other events, call Student Activities, ext. 9596.

Seminar

8 February (TODAY), 4:00 TGIAF
Jose Torres and Greg Tolley (DMS, USF), "The Ocean -- The Movie."

13 February (Wednesday), Noon
Boris Galperin & Robert Weisberg (DMS, USF), "Recent Findings on the Circulation of Tampa Bay: Initial Results from Data Analysis and Numerical Modelling."

15 February (Friday), Noon
Judy Parrish (U. of Arizona), "Cretaceous High-Latitude Paleoclimatic Reconstructions."

20 February (Wednesday), Noon
Ann Boersma (Microclimates, Inc.), "Recovery of Planktonic Foraminifera After the K-T Boundary Extinctions: Nutrient Soup."

Oceanography Society

TOS will be holding its meeting here in St. Pete during March 24-28. Daily sessions are The Ocean and Global Climate, CO2 Transport and Transformation in the Ocean, The Influence of Mid-Ocean Ridge Processes on the Ocean, and Perspectives and Future Directions in Oceanography. The format has invited presentations in the mornings and poster sessions of submitted abstracts in the afternoons. It is designed to be less formal than the large AGU meetings with plenty of personal contact and dialogue.

All students are encouraged to register for the meetings. The deadline for regular registration has been extended to February 22. Late registration costs more! Any students who can't squeeze their major professors for the cash should speak to dept. chair Peter Betzer for financial assistance. Forms are available from the chairman's office (all of you should have received one in your mailbox). You can sign up via Omnet's e-mail service (Compose tgos.meeting.reg).

Kudos

To Lynn Leonard, for passing her comprehensive exams.

[The RT will gladly accept Kudos announcements for any Marine Science student, faculty or staff submitted by their peers, colleagues or advisors. Place them in the RT box in the mailroom.]
Oy Vey!
by Myrtle

I'm totally ZZZZ'd. Like, el zonko. I mean, I know I'm not the only one. All these totally awesome courses in this department just, like, sprung up all of a sudden during the Spring semester, and everyone including me is taking all of 'em. And, like, there's no time to sleep. I mean, I'm writing this very column in my office and it's eleven-thirty at night -- ELEVEN THIRTY! -- and I just got out of my "Waves, Whales, and Winona Ryder: Perspectives on the Letter "W" in Oceanography" class. These classes are great and all, but, like, they go on for HOURS. Which would be alright except that my complexion is breaking out all over the place. I mean, I'm never home to wash my face. And I couldn't imagine trying to bring my Clinique Dramatic Difference 21-Step Facial Care System to school. Oh, the hardships of being a graduate student! Well, there's always the glamour of a writing career. Strange and exotic places, odd and enticing people (like, especially MALES), millions and millions of dollars....

Okay, BACK to reality! I know I'm not the only one who's busy now. It's just that the rest of you dudleys and dudettes accept the workloads all too totally gracefully. Boy are you square! I mean, OY VEY! Ya gotta bitch a little! Guess that's why I write this column. Like, most of you fellow students just walk around and say "Hi, how are you today?" with a perfectly satisfied grin on your faces. And of course, the omnipresent answer is something like: "Gee, Biff, I'm fine thanks. How are you?" Like, you think nobody wants to hear about any problems. Okay, so nobody does. But WHO CARES?! God, this place is so dull sometimes; I wish SOMEBODY would, for once, answer with how they REALLY feel: "Well gee, Biff, I'm glad you asked. Got a few minutes? See I've got so much work I just don't know what to do. Would you like to hear about it all? First, I hafta collect my samples. Then, I've gotta go to class. Then..." Or "Get outta my face, Biff; I'm in a sh---y mood..." or "I'm fine Biff, but if you don't lose that pink and green alligator shirt I'm gonna lose it for you..." etc. Of course, I know that nobody would ever say these things. And I'll be just as totally happy-faced as the rest of you, but when you tell me "Gee, I'm fine, thanks," I'll know what you're really thinking!

So to change the subject, one thing I've seen that's pretty cool is that lots more people are hitting the noon seminars. Not that I'm any champion attender myself, but I noticed, anyway. It's the funniest thing to watch people trying to eat their lunches inconspicuously while the seminar's going on. But, like get this -- I'll tell ya right now, duds: there's NO WAY you can eat your lunches without the rest of us noticing! Come on, I see you tenderly unwrapping your cow-meat sandwiches. I see EVERY SLOW CHEW of that blood-rich meat! I see you! So have fun! I like, gnaw away while the poor, hungry speaker drones on and while we civil vegetarian-types shudder! Go right ahead! Before I sign off for this issue, I gotta spread some awesome gossip: LYNN LEONARD PASSED HER COMPS AND, IN CELEBRATION, HAS RUN OFF TO JAMAICA WITH NEW STUDENT PAUL BISSETT! This is true! Like, go check for yourself and never call Myrtle a liar, okay?

Don't just stand there; say OY VEY!

Major Aloha,
Myrtle

[Ed.: Myrtle awaits your replies, c/o the RT. Say, how did you know that Winona is our favorite Hollywood fantasy figure.]

Monroe in a mud tidal flat. Small mud mounds form under the icefoot as a result of ice pressure which expels air, water of liquefied mud from the underlying strata. These features owe their name to the late movie star, Marilyn Monroe. (from H.E. Reineck & I.B. Singh, 1980, Depositional Sedimentary Environments)
Letters

The RT appreciates your submissions. Text (unformatted) files on disk or mailed to JW2::MARK on the ViX VMS mail system would be appreciated. We are not responsible for correctly interpreting handwritten notes! We request that all submissions include your real name; names can be withheld upon request. The following, our first letter, was submitted anonymously and has been edited (censored).

Dear RT editors,

As a concerned member of the marine science department and the US of A, I have become alarmed by the liberal nature of the Times coverage of major news events and of its editorial positions. We are supposed to be scientists, not ideological philosophers! A number of my colleagues alerted me to the January 18, 1991 issue of the Times and I, like a large fraction of the department, was appalled to find it riddled with liberal propaganda. For instance, under the guise of "Student Government News" was a blatant solicitation of support for free legal advice at the Legal Aid Clinic Sounds Utopian, eh? Well, I know better. It is these very free clinics that allow gangsters, hoodlums and thugs to roam the streets "scoot-free" after committing heinous crimes (clearly, they wouldn't have the means to pay).

Many MSL residents also took exception to the rantings and ravings of Myrtle, who time and again demonstrates her left-wing tendencies. I would cite examples from the text in order to debunk her, but, personally, I think we're better off with her reputation intact on your side.

... I could go on, but I'm getting hungry, so I'll just end here with the warning that much of your readership is aware of your tactics, and, if they persist, would gladly subscribe to a rival biennial (by the way, you guys give new meaning to the word "periodical"). For now, however, I will be satisfied if this note sparks some debate. In fact, I challenge any reader in disagreement to confront me in the MSL halls and state their opposing view.

-- Anonymous

[Ed.: Well, we liked the crack about "periodical." One of us takes great offense about the implications that he has any political leanings whatsoever. And very brave of you to challenge any of us to a debate while signing yourself anon.]