Opening Remarks

Well, here goes another issue...just when you thought I'd forgotten about doing these things. Far be it from me to put things like class work and lab experiments over something as important as journalism! Besides that, I was just waiting until I actually had some news to write about. The editor wishes everyone a happy Easter, Passover, Spring, or whatever they may be choosing to celebrate.

MSAC News

The Spring Party--Brian and Steve are working very hard to pull this thing together and could use some help now (and later) especially since Steve is leaving on a cruise next week [there's a smart guy for you--when things get to be a pain, he books for Jamaica]. Most of the planning has been done, but people are needed to do shopping, cooking, setting up, etc. Now we all KNOW that everybody is willing to help...but it would really make the management type people rest a little better if they had advance volunteers, instead of just crossing their fingers and hoping the necessary number of people will just show up where they are needed on the big day. Is that too much to ask? So at the next meeting when that quasi-threatening volunteer sheet comes around, take a deep breath and sign that puppy! Trust me, it builds character.

Kudos

To Shana Smith, on her engagement (yes, I know she's already told everyone living and dead, but I thought she might like to see it in print, too). It seemed like the proper thing to do.

To Howard Rutherford, on his safe return from the intoxicatingly beautiful British Virgin Islands (when do I get to see the pictures?).

Garrels Commemoration

Last Sunday there was a reception to remember Dr. Robert M. Garrels, and to celebrate the establishment of an annual fellowship in his name. Now, I admit, my only connection to Dr. Garrels was having read his paper on the ionic composition of seawater in Chemical Oceanography (and the repeated iterations that followed it), and having been told he used to hold an endowed chair here. In light of that, I rather expected the speeches and the atmosphere would be overly dignified and even a little dry. Was I ever wrong! Two of Dr. Garrels' former graduate students, several faculty members (from here and away), and of course, that master of ceremonies, Peter Betzer, all had personal stories to share which really made Dr. Garrels come alive for me. He wasn't just another brilliant professor or "distinguished colleague"--he was someone who (apparently) played more tennis than Andre Agassi, conducted an ongoing search for the "best hamburger in St. Pete," knew that Fepin's makes awesome martinis, and wrote poetry. [A request was put in for a copy of his poem The Cycle of P--look for it here in future issues]. All I can say is that Robert M. Garrels must have had as much (or more) personality than he had intelligence, because he left such a huge impression on people that I could see it from miles away.

Several plaques were given out to people who helped set up the endowment, and special thanks was given to Brian Bendis and MSAC for the money the students contributed.

Eric Wright (known for his former position as editor of the RT) was recognized as the first student to receive the scholarship funded by the endowment--they made him stand up, and we all clapped, and he looked suitable embarrassed.

Seminar

17 April (TODAY) Originally, Marc Frischer had been scheduled to give a TGIAF talk on something, but according to Sunny, he had to go to Chicago this weekend "to pass out." Marc swears she meant "Passover" but I'm still a bit skeptical...

Social Events

It's been a couple of weeks now, but anyone who was at the party following Scott's defense remembers (sort of, at least) that it was a blast...except for poor Scott who was too ill to attend. The food was plentiful, the music choice, and the atmosphere relaxed. It ranks right up there with the party Steve Goodbred had at the beginning of last semester. Scott, hope you weren't unnecessarily put out by a certain professor (who shall remain nameless) and his band of rowdies who intended to "MOO" under your window. It should also be mentioned that the Rat (as in "Head of the") made a special appearance. It was really scary (well, at least for Liz Paul who didn't know what she was drinking...).
Hollywood Minute

Two popular men died this past week: Isaac Asimov and Sam Kinison. (Bet no one ever expected to see those two names in the same sentence.) Asimov was famous for his science fiction novels, and Kinison was known for his loud and obnoxious comedy routines (and his new show on Fox). Asimov died of heart and kidney failure—he was 72. Kinison died of a head-on auto collision with a pickup truck—he had just been married less than a week before. Ooooh, oooooooh!!!!

Trivia

From old TV: What was the name of the "Six Million Dollar Man" and who was the actor who played him? (sroJaMeL, nitsA evetS)