Opening Remarks

Well, the resumes for Residence Times staff positions have absolutely swamped me, which is why this edition is a bit late. As a result of the tremendous demand, the application deadline has been extended (until the day after hell freezes over or every one of you graduates, whichever comes first). All literate individuals (or illiterates who have someone else take down their work by dictation) are encouraged to come talk to me—I'm really not asking for that scary of a commitment. A column here or opinion there...surely SOMEONE out there remembers how to use basic English?

MSAC News

A lot of things were discussed at the last MSAC meeting (10/13/92) and new officers were elected (if you don't like who we are, tough, because you didn't show up to vote against us). Your new leaders and thinkers are: President: Tom Young, VP, Public Relations: Steve Goodbred, VP, Faculty Relations: Karen Smith, Treasurer: Brian Bendis, and Secretary: Chris Kellogg.

In February 1993 GE and DOE are sponsoring a science bowl and have asked MSAC to help out. We aren't exactly sure what a science bowl is, but we're guessing it is either like a science fair or a quiz bowl trivia contest. Either way, it's something for us to think about. We'd be showing some civic involvement (good PR move), and it's always nice to have an opportunity to boss high school kids around (practice for parents and parents-to-be, and just plain fun for those of us who hate children).

There is a new policy in the computer room (and a pretty controversial one, apparently). The computers will be turned off over the weekends, and maybe at night. The idea is to conserve energy and lower wear and tear on the machines. If this is confusing or annoying to anyone, talk to Brian Bendis.

Heather Penta has graciously offered to be in charge of our annual Christmas party. Do not be a bunch of jerks and leave her to do all the work. If you see Heather in the halls, ask her what she needs help with—some important areas are food, beverages, and decorating. Get the holiday spirit early and make her life a little easier.

Speaking of parties, we will be having a special Halloween TGIF this Friday. Rumor has it there will be pumpkin carving and...(gasps!) those famous frozen burritos!

It was brought up that a lot of students do not know we have a new faculty member. Let this stand as an official welcome to Paula Coble, our multi-talented new professor.

Next Thursday is the all important groundbreaking ceremony. Mark Luther has rescheduled the 3pm Physical Oceanography class to another day, so all the people in that class have no excuse not to be involved in this. Students will be needed to help serve refreshments, give tours of the labs, and in general, look like you are learning something here which makes our department deserving of future grants.

November 7th Heather Penta is throwing a babyshower for Katrina Bendis. Look for the signs, and get ready to give a pre-welcome to Baby Boy Bendis.

Blackholes In Our Hallways

Yes, we've been TOLD that those closed off, black shrouded areas are there because workmen are removing asbestos...but is it safe to believe EVERYTHING you are told? There is some speculation and some quiet underground rumors which suggest they might be much more. Rumor #1: They are just big play tents, like the kind kids make by throwing blankets over tables, which the workmen amuse themselves in. Rumor #2: They are secret MASH units for Cubans and Haitians who swap the whole way. Rumor #3: They are stations where space aliens take people to conduct secret experiments on them. You decide...if you're sure you want to get that close to them...whatever they are.

FACSS Makes Splash at Showcase

FACSS, better known as the Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, went all out this year at the Campus Showcase, and definitely made an impression. Their display was very colorful and interesting; in addition to their poster (which can still be seen, in the mail room), they had a running game of Chinese Chess, paper lanterns, painted vases, flags, free bookmarks, samples of calligraphy, and a video of Shaolin Temple (THE BEST kung-fu movie, according to Weinh). I understand they later had some food to sample, but when I was there they had a large and constant crowd even without that additional lure. It was
really amazed (and commendable) to see the enthusiasm FACSS members put into their display and presentation. It would be nice if we saw more of that in our department (instead of the rampant apathy). In any case, FACSS is now open to all students, and they are always willing to provide information or answer any questions you might have about China or Chinese culture. They also do fun stuff like picnics and play soccer. Check them out for an alternative to being a couch potato.

Kudos

To all the devoted and motivated students who helped with Superstars and saved Steve Goodbred and Bob Jolley from having to do it all by themselves.

And to Mike Simons and Mike Swain, for providing live entertainment at Mark Luther’s Phys Oce BBQ. For anyone who missed it, it involved a live snake (about 3ft long) accidentally crawling into Mike Swain’s pants...his attempts to remove it...and the comments sparked by the whole production.

USF Federal Credit Union

The Credit Union has put an ATM in the lounge (not ours, the one over in Davis) for withdrawals and deposits. They are also using the First Union on 1st ST. South and 4th Ave for withdrawals. What does this mean? That we could actually use the Credit Union without being in Tampa. Tom Young has the application forms for those of you who are interested. The only charge is a flat fee of $3.50 per month, and the minimum balance is $25 (something even a Marine Science student could scrape together).

Trivia

What is the name of the brown, waxy aromatic substance with squid beaks embedded in it, which is produced by sperm whales during digestion and was used as a fixative for perfumes and make up? (airgrebrah)

Jugglemania

As anyone who was at the TGIF two weeks ago can tell you, a juggling craze is sweeping DMS. It is rumored to have been started by Nan Schmidt, who promptly infected her whole lab, who then began to work on the rest of the department. Handful-sized square balls and not so handy beanbag killer whales filled the air. Sunny Jiang proved to be a natural, and Tunch Orsou came this close to perfecting the "over the shoulder" toss.

For those interested in some history of the hobby, read on...

The word "juggler" comes from the Latin joculare: "to jest." Juggling was a highly developed art long before the medieval period, according to evidence found in ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman sculpture, coins, and manuscripts. One early manuscript depicts a bear standing on its hind legs and juggling three knives. The modern Russian circus features a bear lying in a cradle and juggling a flaming torch with its hind legs (kids, don't try this at home).

One of the most famous jugglers, Enrico Rastelli, could juggle ten (that's 10) balls at a time. Fortunately for our fledgling jugglers, juggling large numbers is no longer popular, because the same effect can be achieved with three balls by a juggler with a sense of style. The modern tendency (and I swear I did not make this up) is to wow by some spectacular presentation, such as blindfolded on horseback, or on a unicycle on a highwire.

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