Opening Remarks

Gee, now where did that semester go? It was just January yesterday, I swear... Well, anyway, summer (along with its 4pm on-the-dot thunderstorms) is officially here--that golden time of cruises, data crunching, and deluding ourselves that classes won’t be such a hassle next semester. What else can I say, but who dies with the best tan wins.

It is part of my duty (and reason for getting off my lazy/frenetically busy butt) to welcome the new students--ie, those coming in the Fall semester. The names on my magic list are: Bryan Black (Weisberg), Jennifer Boehme (Coble), David Burwell (Luther), Todd Christenson (Blake), Lisa Earnest (Fanning), Bianca Garner (Van Vleet), Scott Harrison (Hine), Sabrina Hymel (Doyle), David King (Fanning), Zhenjiang Li (Weisberg), Alex Miller (Paul), Yoav Rappaport (Naar), Andrew Remsen (Hopkins), Michael Simmons (Torres), and Nathan Wood. Welcome! Anybody who is new and not mentioned, it was an error somebody else made and not my fault. Come by and see me, and I’ll do a feature story on you (unless you’re a boring deadbeat, but we hope not).

In anxious anticipation of the above named students’ arrival (yes, Jen, Alex, and Mike, I know you’re already here, but do me a favor and pretend, ok?), a tour of MSL is planned and an orientation on Friday, August 27th (classes start on the 25th). Any current students who are not feeling "with-it" are welcome to attend and be oriented. Can’t find the bathrooms? You should consider being there. An even better reason to be there...immediately following the tour, MSAC will host an ELABORATE TGIF. This means food and drink!!! It has been rumored that the Publix party fare is passe (although some of us really do enjoy deviled eggs), and Ya Ya’s chicken (thanks to Mr. Swain) is the "in" food. It is hoped that everyone (that would include new students, old students, faculty, and staff) will attend. If you have any interest in helping with the tour/orientation, see Heather Penta or Lisa Young.

MSAC News

Most things from the last meeting (April 20th) will be covered elsewhere. One thing that is important: Theresa Greely, football goddess and saint, has taken on the staggering responsibility of the girl’s camp this July. You know, that thing where we scrape young girls out of their boring lives and indoctrinate them with a love for science and all things marine, and provide them with positive female role models, etc, etc. I’m sure Theresa would appreciate all the help she can get; please talk to her about field trips, experiments in your lab, or other interesting activities you envision.

From the office of the president: The illustrious Senor Young would like to make a few things known. He offers thanks to all who helped with the lounge renovations, particularly Lynn (the lounge czarina) and her side-kick Beth Cockey, who got us the lovely new furniture from the Pine Factory; Helen Talge, the plant queen; Mike and his pal Jimbo, the carpenters who made a cabinet large enough to incubate diosaur eggs; and Dallas and Howard, keepers of the aquarium. Things are starting to look good!

Friday, June 4th is the Interclub volleyball tourney--see Steve Goodbred or Tom Young for details.

People wishing to make contributions to the new aquarium (either specimens or money), please see Dallas or E. Howard.

TGIF--attendance is up, and upcoming events are planned to keep it that way. For example, an
ethnic night where you bring in a dish reflective of your ethnic background (we've done Chili night and Italian night already, so why not hit a few more countries... live dangerously). Also, we have slated a TGIF with the construction workers to show our appreciation (no comment) Lynn is coordinating that memorable occasion. Rumor has it that Audra has volunteered to entertain... something about a new T-back she's dying to show off? And dancing on the new cabinets? You hear the most amazing things when minding your own business in the computer room.

Kudos

To Dave Mallinson and his new wife Lisa—they got married May 23rd.

To a whole slew of people, for successfully defending their doctorates:

Strawn Toler (MS)
Mark Peebles (Ph.D)
Tunch Orsoy (MS)
Gina Ruiz (MS)
Ress Brightman (Ph.D)
Tim Leary (MS)
Sunny Jiang (MS)
Andrew David (MS)
Mark Meyers (Ph.D)
Steve Geiger (MS).

Spring Party

Are you confused about Spring Party? Well, you are not alone. I gave up trying to keep track of what was going on when it stopped being Spring and I have been AWOL from TGIF for a few weeks (where all the truly important decisions are made), so I am probably more clueless than most. But there are a few things I have heard, so here they are. First, the overall coordinator is MIKE SWAIN. Remember that name. When in doubt, ask him what the hell is going on. Other known chairpersons and their areas of expertise are: Lynn--Ticket Sales; Howard--Alcohol; Helen and Beth--Food; Steve Goodbred--Pool, Security, and Set Up; Tom Young--Doer; Marc Frischer--Mullet; and Dave Mallinson--entertainment. The primary date is now June 26th (not really Spring, but so what). Word is that instead of having volunteers slave over hot barbeques all day to prepare food, we are doing a Ya Ya's catering trip. Personally, I think that is an absolutely brilliant idea. Marc Frischer wants it made known that the mullet party (an all day affair in its own right) will still be occurring the day before the party, with its usual amounts of BCC and fish. See him for location and details.

Vitae Opportunity

A volunteer (that means "no paycheck") coordinator for the 1993 coastal cleanup program is needed. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and its Agency on Bay Management are looking for a motivated individual to assist the Council with the 1993 Coastal Cleanup Program. The coordinator will be responsible for organizing cleanup site captains and logistical support for collection locations along the Gulf Beaches in Pinellas County and portions of Tampa Bay. Last year some 6,000 volunteers participated in our area, cleaning 133 miles of shoreline and collecting 75 tons of trash. YOU could play an important role in this segment of the national effort being tackled by the Center for Marine Conservation. The position is part-time, with flexible hours, running from the end of July till the end of September, 1993. The actual cleanup event is scheduled for 9/18/93. Although no cash is involved, I have been told that this is a classic opportunity to meet (and impress the hell out of) environmental big names. Interested parties can ask Dr. Fanning for a flyer (or read the paragraph above which summarizes said flyer), OR may call or send a resume to:

Peter Clark, Principal Environmental Planner
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
9455 Koger Boulevard
St. Pete, FL 33702
(813) 577-5151.

Non-Bacterial Culture

Lisa Thurman, our resident expert on plays, wishes it to be common knowledge that "Come
Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" is currently playing at American Stage (211 3rd St. S., St. Pete) and will be from June 4th to July 5th. She, fresh from having seen the show, described it for me, and it sounded really good. If I had a life (and one less job), I would definitely be there. The story is based around a club, the Disciples of James Dean, a group of friends and classmates from the 50's who return for their 20th reunion. It is not a comedy so much as a look at these people and their lives, and how James Dean could be a god if you really believe. (He looked like Luke Perry, I can see how this worked). Anyway, showtimes are as follows:

Wed. 7:30 pm $14
Thr. 8:00 pm $18
Fri/Sat. 8:00 pm $20
Sun. 2:00 pm $16

There are also Sat. matinees at 2:00 pm on 6/12 and 6/19 for only $12. Better news for students, though—(1) you can get a student discount = $2 off, or (2) Student Rush = any tickets available at showtime, no reservations, for $5 (kind of like flying standby). To call for reservations, the number is 822-8814.

Timing is Everything

[Ed. note: This contribution was written by R. Snipes and deposited in my office for publication. It is a bit different, and, depending on one's viewpoint, may remind you of James Joyce style stream-of-consciousness, or drunken mutterings. Either way, I like it. Read it a few times, it grows on you.]

Sometimes, when searching hardest for yourself, you find that you were never there at all.

The tap began sputtering, a sign that did not bode well. Only seconds before it had dispensed a clean, golden, unimposing draft, as if it had been doing it all afternoon. No problem. Now, reinforcing the point, with a particularly fitful bech, that timing was, indeed, everything.

On Duval Street in the early afternoon, after that ferocious, but short-lived rainstorm, the heat beginning to numb the pavement, shady side-streets still muttering with paddles; angels walk about. I know. I saw one. She was slender, like most, and she wore faded blue jeans and a black silk blouse. She was carrying an eddy of rainwater in her cupped hands. Her wings were pressed tightly against her shoulderblades; laid so flatly against her back, that her dark hair hid any trace of divinity. She passed and circled into Saint Paul's.

Timing.

Or, the way the Southern Cross watches from the horizon as a pod of porpoises dance in the bow wake. As far away from anything as you'll ever get, and they, just along for an evening ride. Jim Harrison described them best,

Porpoises dance for as long as they live.
You can do nothing for them.
They alter the universe.

The timing of things. Like passing on a seawall.

Sunlight on the bay
Graceful movement in the heat
A dusky jewel

And the moment passes. Hisses. Sputters one last time with finality, and you are left with a quarter cup of foam. I quietly pushed the tap shut. Timing is everything. I make a point to remember that.

Trivia

What mystery ingredient is a vital part of the traditional smoked mullet served at Spring Party, comes in two flavors (grape and grapefruit), and may be found in gutters alongside bums?

(02/02 ggD dA)