

"Laws of Academic Humor"

By Larry Bliss, N. C. State Univ.

I was alternately yawning and checking my watch in class last week when I realized why some professors drive droves of their students into comatose states. For the rest of the week I engaged in painstaking research of this problem, although several times I nearly fell asleep.

I arrived at this conclusion: when a professor tries to be funny, he becomes ludicrous and boring. From this observation I derive Bliss' First Law of Academic Humor. If a teacher attempts a joke about the subject he or she specializes in, it is never funny.

The evidence is available to anyone. When was the last time you heard a funny story about vector calculus? How many yocks do you get out of an analysis of the Punic Wars? Does your professor ever get a boffo laugh at an alpha particle? Of course not, no more than Billy Graham would chuckle at a Jesus joke.

The farther out in left field a prof jokes in, the funnier he will be. There are several techniques for hilarity in the classroom.

1. Humor of the Unexpected. This works best in the traditional lecture system of education. Midway through his discourse, just as each student seems to be reading his fingernails, the teacher inserts with a deadpan expression a statement so obviously outrageous as to be funny.

Example: "Now during the reign of Louis XIII, the Thirty Years War broke out; as we all know, this war was started by a horde of Albanian peasants who demanded an end to diced pomegranates.." This handy device also causes the slugs of the class to sit up and pay attention.

2. Punning. A good pun will make the professor's day and help students forget the minor cares of university life, such as final exams. Puns are not especially hard to dream up. In addition, so many people make puns that you can steal all you want and get away with it.

Examples: "So the square root came into use, which was, for its time, quite a radical concept." Or, "as they say in history, we can't have archaic and eat it too."

Warning: Too many puns, and your students won't believe you when you say you were once on the Dean's List.

3. Gimmicks. When all else fails, make your class laugh at you rather than with you. All sorts of gimmicks and gadgets can be employed.

Examples: Before class, break several pieces of chalk and glue them back together. When you come to the central theme of your lecture, strike the board with your chalk. It breaks, of course; this is amusing once but side-splitting when four successive pieces shatter.

Other time-honored stunts are wearing one's glasses upside down, singing dirty limericks or producing an ocarina from a pocket, or any combination of them.

A final word: Properly used, these techniques will make you the Woody Allen of your department; improperly used, you'd better pass out the No-Doz.

(N. C. State Technician)



National Dance Ensemble of Pakistan

Pakistan Dance Ensemble Makes U. S. Debut at Louisburg

On Monday night, November 12, at 8:00 p. m., the Louisburg College Concert Series presented the National Dance Ensemble of Pakistan.

This is a vibrant and explosive company of fifty dancers and musicians who presented genuine Pakistan folklore and music for the first time in North America. They arrived in Montreal, Canada, where they preformed, then the Ensemble premiered in the U. S. at Louisburg.

They presented their full repertory, which was based on Pakistan's rich heritage from the exciting folk and sumptuously costumed semi-classical dances of the country. The

dances from Khyber Pass to Kafiristan are performed to the accompaniment on the tabla, mirdang, siter, and sarangi played by the greatest musical masters in Pakistan today.

The Ensemble has taken part and received wide acclaim in the International Festival at Shiraz, the Pakistan Festival in Geneva, and the Commonwealth Institute in London. They have visited the U. S. S. R., Turkey, Japan, the

Phillipines, Thailand, Holland, Austria, and West Germany.

In addition to the performance of the Dance Ensemble, the Embassy of Pakistan sent its ambassador as a guest on the night of the performance. He is the Honorable Minister S. I. Riza of the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington. He was the guest of Louisburg College on November 12 and held a convocation November 13.



Classical Pianist Gill To Perform Nov. 25

On November 25, at 8:00 p. m. in the Auditorium, the Louisburg College recital series will present Fili Gill, a noted classical pianist. Her program will include three sonatas by Scarlatti, a Beethoven sonata, a Ravel sonatina, three pieces by Brahms, and two by Chopin. The program will last approximately one hour.

Mrs. Gill was selected as pianist for the Young Artist's Series for three consecutive seasons, and toured the Midwest while representing the top talent during her years at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. A student of Robert Goldsand, she received the Bachelor and Master of Music

from the Conservatory in Cincinnati. She also studied at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, and the Ecoles d'Arts Americaines in Fontainebleau, France with the late Robert Casadesus. Mrs. Gill has presented numerous recitals in the Southeast.

The wife of the late Thomas Cline Gill of Franklin County, Mrs. Gill makes her home in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she teaches privately and as a faculty member in the piano department at Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee.

The recital is open and free to the public. Humanities credit will be given.

Development in Film Expressed by 'Genesis V'

"Genesis V", a two hour program of award-winning short films will be shown on November 28 at 8:00 in the Louisburg College Auditorium. This collection of new films made by students and independent film makers from across the country will be presented by Louisburg College as an exclusive film feature in this area. In addition to some wildly experimental techniques used in making several of the films, social documentaries, dramatic screenplays, and comedic styles of expression are represented. The program as a whole is a representative

cross-section of what is happening in motion picture production and in avant-garde film making by college and university students.

With over 80,000 students enrolled in film courses on campuses across the country, new developments and techniques are being made in movies faster than the traditional movie industry can keep up. The Genesis program presents these exciting new developments to the public long before they find their way into commercial productions.

Admission will be by student ID cards.



1973-74 Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders Selected for 1973-74 Season

The Louisburg College cheerleaders for 1973-74 are Beaver Brodie, Liz Fortune, Marla Roberts, Gwen Coppedge, Susie McQueen, Cathy Johnson, Janice Thomas, Karen Allen, Irma Braswell, Cynthia Rodman, and alternates Linda Hicks and Ada Siffle.

The twelve girls were picked by a panel of judges including Mrs. Johnson, Lee Pearce, Susan Grier, Debbie Maloney and Dean Settle. The girls who tried out cheered at two scrimmage games. They were judged on skill, enthusiasm, and the ability of each girl to react to certain situations in the game. They will have uniforms in time for Homecoming on November 17. Their advisor is Coach Enid Drake.