

Campus Question: Does Conserving Energy Justify Closing the Pool?



Speight Thornton Getts Matos Mason Zimmerman Hawkins Baumgartner Crowder Schulmeyer

By KATHY TRAMMELL

This question was asked during the time that the new Olympic-sized pool in Jesse Helms Center was closed for repair of structural defects.

Even though the pool is now open again, it is felt that campus reaction to the previously announced proposed closing during the coldest period of the winter to conserve energy is of interest.

The question — Does Conserving Energy Justify the Closing of the Pool? — was asked of members of Coach Jerry Hawkins swimming class.

JEFF SPEIGHT — "No. Tuition cost should cover the energy cost."

RICKY THORNTON — "No. Costs should fulfil our recreational needs."

JOHN GETTS — "Yes, because cost is too expensive and oil is in short supply."

JOEY MATOS — "No, because I think Chohan has more than enough money for the cost. Other equipment that is not being used is taking up energy and money."

CHRISTAL MASON — "No. Cost should have been figured out before. Now it is hurting us."

LERROY ZIMMERMAN — "Yes. Energy is going up and students do not pay enough to cover cost."

COACH HAWKINS — (administrative viewpoint). "Yes, because I am involved in overall cost. Some of larger schools have found it necessary to close their pools for financial reason."

RICKY BAUMGARTNER — "It is according on how many people use the pool."

JOE CROWDER — "No, for recreational reasons and we should be able to use the facilities because we pay enough."

LARRY SCHULMEYER — "No. What else is there to do, and besides it is good exercise."

(Photos by Kathy Trammell)

Student Forum

Vacant Seats Hit

Dear Editor,

I would like to invite all the people who have complaints about the lack of activities here on campus to the next S.G.A. meeting. Mainly because most of the members of S.G.A. haven't shown up.

A recent meeting shouldn't have been held because of the lack of representation. We could only bring up and discuss business, but accomplish nothing.

It's hard to understand what the president of S.G.A. is saying or wants. Earlier in the year she suggested that we, the reps., ask people to come who weren't on S.G.A. so we could get some more ideas and opinions since the representation was becoming slack. At this time she made it a point that, you don't have to be a member of S.G.A. to come to these meetings. Then a few meetings later, when representation was quite pathetic, the suggestion was made to let other people know when the meetings were. For example, putting up signs in the mailroom since most if not everybody reads the signs there. But somehow they agreed that, words gets around faster by mouth, and that the idea of these meetings was for the representatives of the student body to discuss and make the decisions.

Even though there isn't much left to this semester, S.G.A. needs new ideas and a lot of new representatives since most of the ones elected can't manage to get to the meetings. Especially having a budget of \$12,000 per semester, one would think they could have done something worth writing home about.

It would be nice to have something for the poor souls who have to stay here on the weekends. Although they have discussed making weekends more liveable, that was the extent of it. In fact they wound up working around the weekend in order to get the most participation as possible.

What S.G.A. really needs is representatives or any others who don't sit there like veggies and as one person put it "pull the wool over our eyes." We need people to speak up a little at least.

But I have to admit S.G.A. had one problem happen to them. There was \$2,500 taken out of the S.G.A. budget for a cultural event. And S.G.A. was told we had no say in the matter even if we tried.

The next meeting will be on the campus calendar and we need help. So all the representatives that disappeared in the wild blue yonder, and all those that might be interested please come to the meetings.

Karen Carlough
S.G.A. Representative

Weather Report

A copy of the following letter, which is addressed to the college's superintendent of buildings and grounds Jack Hassell, was also sent to Smoke Signals.

Dear Mr. Hassell,
Our rooms are cold.
Sincerely,
Several East Hall Residents

Nationwide Draft Still Possibility

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS) — Jack Watson, the White House Chief of Staff, would not rule out the possibility of a nationwide draft if the present turmoil in the Persian Gulf escalated into wider conflict.

"I can't say unequivocally that a draft would be out of the question," Watson said in an interview with College Press Service and several college newspapers.

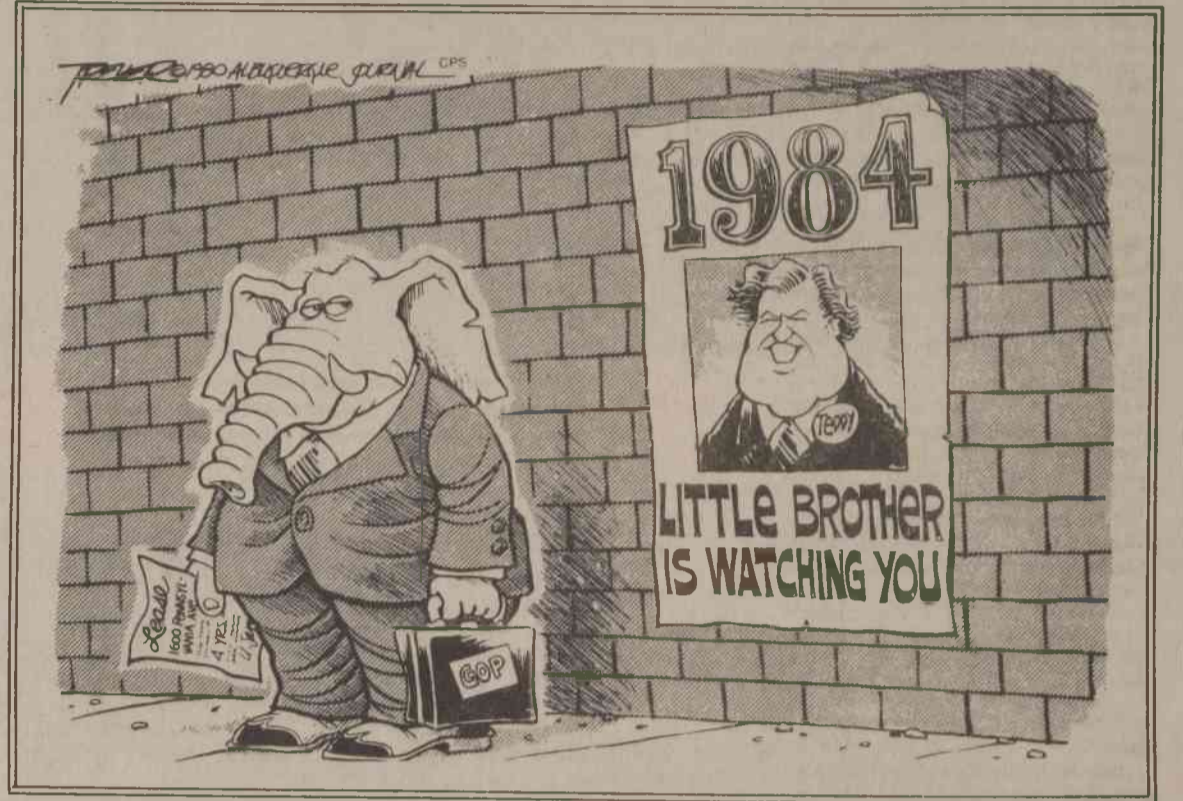
Watson's comments contradict previous White House promises that a draft was not even within the realm of realistic scenarios. Since the president called for registration in January, his aides have continually maintained that registration is just a precautionary move, and that the draft is not even being considered.

If a draft was deemed necessary, it would be a fair one with very few exemptions or special clauses, Watson insisted.

"We would want it to be fair and equally-applied draft," Watson says. "The last time the draft was instituted, the minorities and the low-income youth who did not have the chance to get school exemptions had to bear the brunt of the war effort."

At the same time he hinted of the possibility of a draft, Watson tried to shift the responsibility for starting it away from the administration into Congress.

"Remember, there would have to be an act of Congress to institute a draft, so a majority of them would have to agree to our position," he said.



Soap Opera Addiction Growing On Campuses Across Country

By JANET SINGLETON

(CPS) — Vivian Relta, a graduate student at Cornell, starts with "Ryan's Hope." Then she switches channels between ABC's "All My Children" and CBS's "The Young and the Restless." Afterwards comes "Edge of Night," "One Life To Live," and "General Hospital."

And Relta's viewing habits, once assumed to be exclusively those of idle housewives or aged shut-ins, are becoming more common among college students. Soap operas, in other words, have come to campus.

Estimates of just how many students have taken to the soaps are almost always unscientific. But one scholarly study, by Northern Illinois University Professors Myles Breen and Jon Powell, projected that 40 percent of the female and 10 percent of the male students on campus regularly tuned in.

"I would estimate about 30 percent of the students here watch them," speculates a Yale senior who preferred that her name be withheld. The senior, who says she's suspended most tv viewing in deference to her studies, likes "General Hospital" because "it's so complicated. I started watching and got hooked."

A male senior at Harvard's Currier House "used to watch them, but I don't anymore since school started." He notes that "quite a few people seem to know something about them, so I would say most of them have watched them."

Apparently a number of students haven't been able to give up the soaps for the duration of the school year.

Celia Roddy, a dorm head at Cornell, knows "quite a few" women who daily gather in the tv rooms of sorority houses and dormitories, particularly to watch "General Hospital."

But she claims Cornell women don't watch as much television as women at other colleges. And no one in college, she asserts, cares as much about the soaps as high school students.

Roddy supervised a group of high school seniors in a special summer program at the university. The students, she recalls with some awe, "planned their whole days around the soaps."

Lorraine Zenka Smith, editor of the soap fan magazine "Rona Barrett's Daytimers" says the campus soap opera boom is part of a more general spread of popularity for the shows.

She cites a budding interest in the programs for their production values and for sociological observations. She wouldn't mind cultivating that interest, either. She has been discussing the possibility of teaching classes on soap operas with administrators at UCLA and "other" California schools.

"Soaps are more sophisticated than they ever were," Smith says. "They're shooting on location now in places like Ireland, Greece, France, the Bahamas."

Moreover, "they can treat an issue with more in-depth coverage and

perspective than night-time programming," she adds. "They cover issues like wife beating, cancer, abortion, infidelity."

Smith guesses that the subject matter has helped soaps reach new, male audiences. "We get a lot of letters from men. For every three men who write, you can bet there are seven behind them who don't write."

ABC's line-up of "General Hospital," "All My Children," and "One Life To Live" seems to be most popular among students, she observes.

The reason may be that the competition — soaps like "As the World Turns" and "The Guiding Light" — are older and more conservative in tone.

"The ABC stories integrate their oldest and their youngest story lines," Smith points out. She, like many of the students contacted for this article by College Press Service, thought "General Hospital" is the most successful integrator.

Student interest tends to center on the tale of Luke and Laura, just two of the tormented crew at "General Hospital." Luke is a down-and-out-kid from the wrong side of town who got mixed up with mafioso. Laura's past is a bit checkered, too — notably the business about killing her lover. But then she married Scotty, and became respectable.

Luke rapes Laura, paradoxically because he thinks the mafia is going to kill him for not carrying out a hit. Scotty finds out about it, tracks Luke to a boat, and attacks him. They struggle. Luke pitches overboard. Scotty has killed Luke, as well as the viewing habits of millions of college students.

But wait. Luke not only survived, he left town with Laura. When last seen, they were both on the run from a transvestite hit man.

Figuring out why such material appeals to the educated elite of American youth can be a problem. "The programs have obvious appeals," says sociologist Rodney Jacobs of the University of Delaware. "They offer romance and escape and relatively-harmless titillation. But as to why college students watch them instead of higher-quality programs that offer the same things, I don't know."

In the Northern Illinois study conducted last fall, 40 percent of the soap watchers said they viewed soaps because they were interested in the involved plots, 30 percent said they watched because the characters were "so dumb," and almost 14 percent noted the beneficial effect of watching televised programs that made their own troubles seem trivial.

Jacobs figures "it's the same reason people of all ages watch 'Three's Company.' All of us who have studied television viewing know why people watch mindless shows. But no one honestly understands it."

Editor Lorraine Zenka Smith, however, is willing to make a guess. Women viewers, for example, weren't offended by Luke's rape of Laura because Laura "really didn't mind. She had a crush on him all along."

And why would someone have a crush on her rapist? "Still a lot of men write for the soaps," Smith explains.

Scoop

BUT OFFICER, I ONLY WANTED A PAIR OF PANTIES.... Scoop had a real good time at a recent attempt at a Panty Raid and was fascinated by all that went on. Scoop knows that thousands of brain doctors have written books on the justification of Panty Raids at colleges and why they're sooooo much fun, but now Scoop thinks Shrinks should devote their time to the psychology of the Scurveysboro Police Department. Scoop guesses that Panty Raids are the only times the men in blue get to use their fancy equipment that is designed to stop riots around here, and also figures that driving their new cop cars at 70mph on Pine Walk gives them a big thrill. Scoop isn't bothered about the police here, unlike a lot of people, because he's watched enough reruns of Barney Fife in Mayberry, N.C. on T.V.

HECK, WE PAID FOR THE COURT AND WE CAN DO AS WE PLEASE.... Scoop was at a basketball game one night and looked out onto the new shiny floor to see four pairs of hard street shoes walking and standing around for a presentation ceremony. Scoop admits it would have been undignified for school officials to wear their socks in the jump circle, but kept wincing when all the black heels dug into the floor. Scoop wonders why anyone could be so picky about students' movements on a gym floor until he saw a student spit some chew on the sacred surface. Class will always tell, Scoop opines.

REALLY GUYS, THE FOOD IS BETTER THIS YEAR.... Scoop has been telling freshmen that the food in the cafeteria is better this year and has been doing his best to defend it. Then one night Scoop realized he had eaten mashed potatoes four nights in a row and knew he was being brainwashed into liking cafeteria food. Then when potatoes were served on the fifth night, Scoop was ready to throw a handful of the mushy muck at anyone in sight. Scoop also began to realize he's having trouble eating some normal, non-watered down french dressing on his salad when he goes home for the holidays. Scoop is patiently waiting for a good food fight, which should be soon.

YOU THINK THIS IS BAD, YOU SHOULD SEE MY ROOM AT HOME.... Scoop knows that RAs have a tough job during room check, but cannot have sympathy with the RAs who are writing call-downs for such major violations as "untidy shelves," "dirty closet floors," and a host of others. The folks in Parker say life is too rough this year, with drug-busts, drug dogs, and RAs hounding them constantly; especially compared to life across campus. Scoop thinks things are a bit rough in Parker, and imagines he'll be told to love it or leave it. Scoop will have to dust the T.V. in preparation for next week's room check. Dust seems to cling to the tube.

C'MON COACH, CUT ME A LITTLE SLACK.... Scoop heard some gory details the other day concerning a disagreement between a certain varsity athletic coach and his assistant. Scoop even heard there was a threat involved; but when he went looking for witnesses, there were none to be found. So, being one never to report a mere rumor, Scoop dismissed the whole idea. The Scoop noticed the pair acting coolly towards each other on several occasions and began to wonder again. Scoop knows why the old coach left town in such a hurry without much notice, but can't figure out how a new coach was hired so fast and why a local middle school position was filled so fast. Also, Scoop can't figure out why those who live in the basement didn't get into trouble last year.

