

1966-04-08

BAKER LETTER APRIL 8 '66

EDITOR

Rick Badzik

TYPISTS

Jack Hirsch
Matt Franckiewicz
Don Uhl

MIMEO

Paul Zilber

MAILING

Jim Lanyk

ARTICLES DUE TUES. 7 P.M.

FRESHMAN COUNSELOR APELICATIONS

Yes, folks! After a super-duper, cheap, extra-quick printing job, the applications for Freshman Counselors for the 1966 season have arrived in Baker House! Said applications will be available starting Saturday, April 9 (not too early, please), from me (room 118); or you can have yours mailed to you personally by signing your name to the list that will appear on the Social Pole in the lobby (I already have mine, Jerry. Is this another miracle of modern medicine---ed.)

The job of Freshman Counselor is one to be taken very seriously as the proper orientation of the Class of 1970 will be mainly up to you, the people most likely to influence the freshman.

Counselors will be expected to arrive at school approximately five days early in the fall and devote a considerable amount of their time during Freshman Weekend (and hopefully long after) to helping their freshmen find out what MIT and Baker House are all about.

If you are interested in being a Freshman Counselor or want to help with some other aspect of the orientation program or just have some suggestions you would like to make, please contact me.

Jerry Grochow (118)

UPPERCLASSMEN NEEDED

The Freshman Course Convocation has already taken place, and Departmental Open Houses are being held. We would like to compile a list of upperclassmen in all courses who would be interested in talking to freshmen about the merits (or disadvantages) of their course selections. The list will be published in the B*L and distributed to the Baker House Freshmen, who will contact you if they want information. We would prefer juniors or seniors but would appreciate sophomores in small departments (3, 12, 24) etc. Please let me know if you are interested or put your name on the list on the Social Pole.

Jerry Grochow (118)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE SPEAKS OUT

First, let us thank all of you who have signed up for Spring Weekend. It looks like the best thing for a long time to come. Remember, there is still a sign-up sheet for the cookout that will stay up till Wednesday, April 27th.

The Roof-Walker article in last week's B*L has shown that there are people in the House who are unfamiliar with the inner, though public, workings of SocCom. All our meetings are open to the public as has been mentioned in both B*L and in meeting notices on the Social Pole. Those Bakerites who regularly attend meetings get meeting notices, and at present there are half a dozen Freshmen who receive them.

With regard to half the House paying for what the other half gets. This, let me remind you, is true for everything that HouseCom sponsors, such as athletics. Our last party broke even (actually a slight profit). We expect to run ten Master Suites and they are budgeted at a slight loss. Spring Weekend activities just about pay for themselves, and we will have a free beer blast at the end of the term which will cost us somewhere upwards of \$75.

Subsidized refreshments, (policy in the dark days of Duke Miller & Co.) forced the non-drinkers to pay for those with greater thirst, and raised ticket prices into the \$5.00 range. Now that SocCom tries so hard to get a large attendance at parties and fixes-up forty to fifty people at each affair, we wonder what would happen if we asked you to spend \$5.00 on your blind date. It's hard enough to sell at the present rates of \$2.00 to \$2.50. The cost is what it is, not to pay for someone else's refreshments, but rather to pay for a \$120 band and for \$100 in decorations. If anyone would like to see SocCom books, they are in room 433 and are open to all. For those interested, a full explanation is available for every expenditure.

Incidentally, the Wishing Well is working considerably better than last term and IF IT REMAINS AS IT IS NOW we will be able to continue it AND refreshments. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

If any of you still have unanswered questions about SocCom, please come to Room 319 (Bill) or 433 (John) for answers.

* * * * *

The preceeding paragraphs were written before vacation and now there is more to add. We're too lazy to write an entirely new article.

There will be Master Suites both Friday and Saturday nights. Both in the Master Suite, both from 9:30 till 12:00. The WISHING WELL WILL BE THERE FOR BOTH. Please keep up the good work and use it.

A sign-up sheet has been put up for the Cocktail Party Friday evening of Spring Weekend. The list for the cookout is still there. Sign up and pay in Room 433. By the time you read this, Baker Women's Dorm applications should be filled out and returned to George Starkschall (631) Deadline Midnight, Friday. See George if you have any questions.

Remember, tickets are now on sale for Pirates of Penzance for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of Parent's Weekend (April 21, 22, 23). Tickets are \$1.50; and the sooner you get to the booth, the better your tickets will be. If the last three terms are any indication, it will be a superb performance. Also on Saturday night of Parent's Weekend is the APO Carnival. Baker House has two booths which you will not want to miss.

JOCK'S CORNER

Baker 2nd lost its first game to Club Mediterranean in the couple elimination volleyball playoffs. The games were close, though; and the team should do very well in the following matches. Baker A badminton b beat Sigma Phi Epsilon, and the Baker 2nd squash team won on a forfeit over the Sigma Chi "B" team.

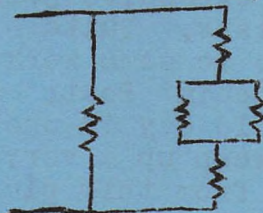
The softball schedules have been posted. The captains of each team are expected to get their players to the games. An easy way to do this besides last minute phone calls is to provide each team member with the date and time of each game.

Jerry Sevick (424)
Art Rosales (506)
Jack Anderson (306)

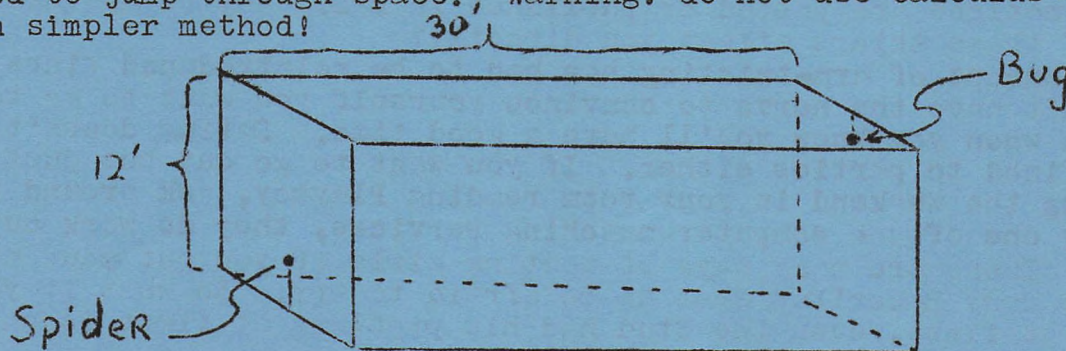
Typists note: I finally figured out why it takes three of them to turn out the column. None of them is willing to take the blame individually for such poor penmanship.---MF

OUT OF THE KLEIN BOTTLE

Before vacation I posed the elementary problem of finding a resistance of $5/7$ ohms. The solution uses only five resistors, as discovered by Hank Howarth, Mark Schwartz, and Ken Dritz.



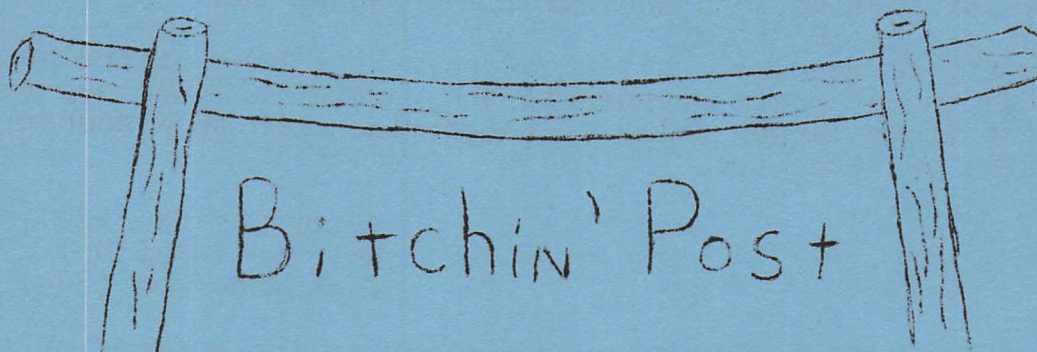
Don Mattes has given me the following puzzle, which yields to a very neat solution technique. Imagine a room 30 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 12 feet high. There is a bug caught in a spider web located on the vertical mid-line on one of the 12' by 12' walls, one foot down from the ceiling; while a spider is located on the midline of the other 12' by 12' wall, one foot up from the floor (see diagram). If the spider chooses to walk the shortest path from its present position to his entangled prey, how far will he travel? Please understand that the spider must walk on the floor, walls and ceiling of the room---he is not allowed to jump through space. Warning: do not use calculus---there is a much simpler method!



The time has come to solicit a new author for this column. For any person wishing to rocket himself into the public eye, here is the ideal opportunity! I even have a backlog of puzzles to get the future editor started. Actually, finding puzzles is always easy---the primary task is to write up the puzzles and answers in a clear and concise fashion.

Think about it for a moment, if you will; and if you are interested, leave me a note or drop by.

Quent Klein (132)



As I walked through the lobby over the weekend I stopped to check the B*L "Nithe Guys" list. Only five names were to be seen and two of these people are already helping B*L in other capacities. Maybe you don't realize it, but we are very close to losing an editor. Rick Badazz has done a good job, I'm sure you'll agree, and for the first time in quite a while people are reading the B*L. It takes man-hours, and many of them, to put out a good newsletter. Take a look at the Burton House Reflector sometime and then check the number of people on the staff. They do a very extensive job, but they have much more help. Basically, we need typists. Quite a few guys are willing to shoot their mouths off, but to do some work seems to be too much. It takes time to write up the Bitchin' Post; and if I have to type the stencil too, I find that a whole day is shot. In order to have something to bitch about, I must keep up a very active social life; and also I would like to graduate from this place before my deferment goes away.

This lack of interest isn't unique to B*L. Contrary to popular opinion SocCom is not an elite group. It is a bunch of guys who show up for meetings because they have a personal interest in Baker social life. Even if you feel you can't afford the hour or so a week this takes, why not show up for decorating before a party?

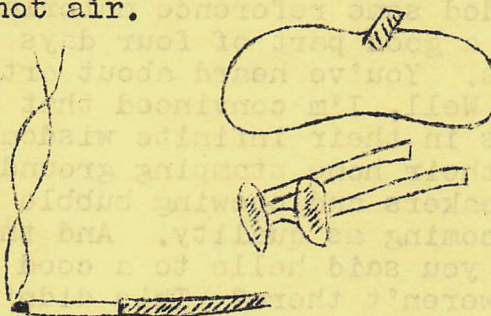
We have always cherished our right, here at Baker, never to be forced into anything. On the other hand, there are those who will be willing to help if specifically asked but never volunteer for anything. Most people can't go around personally checking who will help and who won't, so notices are posted or published in B*L. Why be apathetic when so many of these things affect you directly?

The concept of arm-twisting has had to be reintroduced since many of you don't have the nerve to convince yourself you want to go to a party even when you know you'll have a good time. Dating doesn't have to be confined to parties either. If you want to go out but just end up spending the weekend in your room reading Playboy, ask around for fix-ups or try one of the computer matching services, they do work out occasionally. There are many ways of meeting girls if you put your mind to it, but so many Bakerites seem to be afraid to try. So what if you get shot down at first, even the Stud had his problems at first (such humility! - ed.).

Now that spring is here and you're all refreshed from the vacation, get off your tails and get those things you've been dreaming about all winter accomplished. If you would like to see B*L continue, more and better parties, better athletic teams, or what have you, do something

about it instead of expounding at great length to your roommate who is probably sick and tired of all the hot air.

"The \$tud"



SPRING WEEKEND

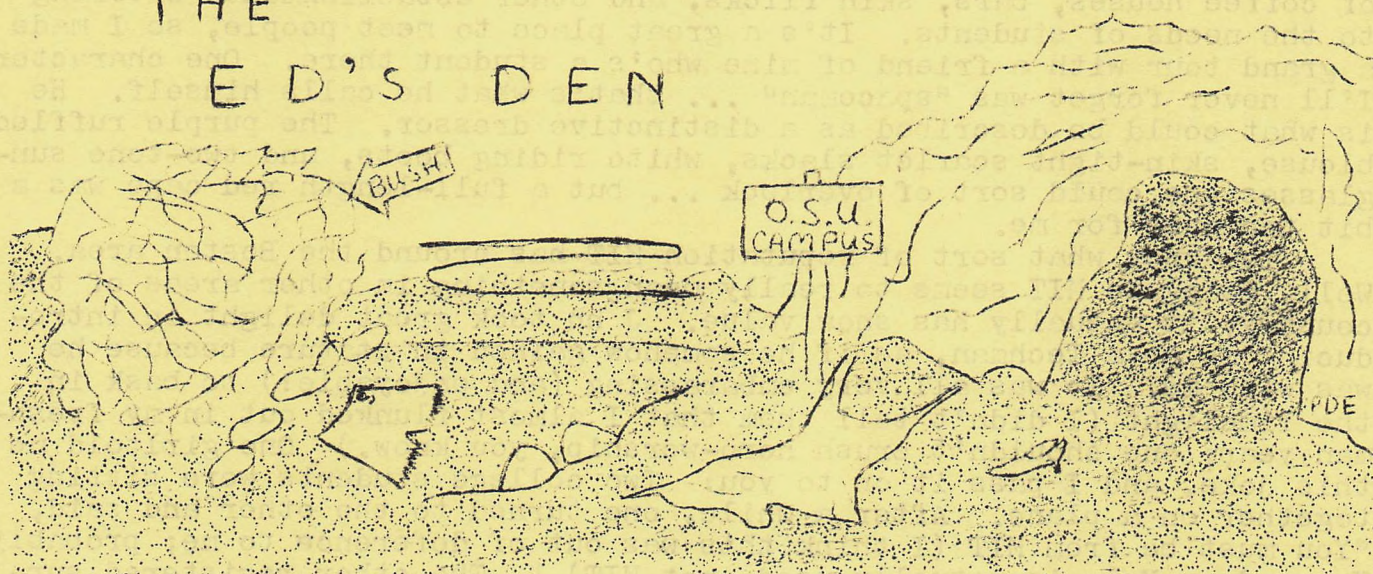
Those of you who bought Spring Weekend tickets will receive a white ticket of admission to the weekend (Room 433).

No liquor may be brought into the student center on Friday night. However, you may do the following: Go to the Spring Weekend Booth in the lobby of building 10. Exchange your white ticket plus \$3 for a new, different colored ticket. This new ticket will entitle you to a bottle of champagne, iced in bucket, with glasses, at the Student Center. It is expected that you neither steal the bucket nor break the glasses.

J & B (433 & 319)

THE

ED'S DEN



If I growl at you when you ask me how my spring vacation was, please forgive me. I spent almost the entire "rest from the pressures of academic life" frantically trying to get my 17.01 term paper finished so ~~that~~ I could spend some time with a certain warm, soft, cuddly female. I was able to spend all of THREE HOURS with her, two of which she used to tell me what she thought of guys who benevolently bestow a few scraps of their precious time upon undeserving, lowly people like herself. Ouch! Needless to say, I am one very horny, very frustrated Techman.

At least I was able to satisfy one desire while I was in Ohio. I finally got to see what life is like at a real college, not just a make-believe one like MIT.

I needed some reference materials desperately for my term paper, so I spent a good part of four days on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. You've heard about artificially stocked hunting preserves, I'm sure. Well, I'm convinced that state universities have been created by the gods in their infinite wisdom as a leching preserve for Techmen away from their home stamping grounds. Of course most of the girls were wearing sneakers and chewing bubble gum, but sometimes sheer quantity can be as overcoming as quality. And they're so friendly too! How many times have you said hello to a coed only to have her stare through you as if you weren't there? This didn't happen to me once at OSU, and I'm not the most desirable-looking character around either. Another nice thing was the friendly "Thank you" whenever I held a door open for a girl. Once the big, massive library door slipped from my grip and slammed into a poor girl. Did she make some caustic statement about spastic redheads? No. She smiled and said, "Don't worry; it's the thought that counts." Here, I'm afraid to reach for a doorknob before a coed for fear of catching a judo chop or being crushed in the rush.

The grounds of OSU are rather nice to stroll through in the cool .. night air, but you'd better be careful where you step. Guys aren't allowed to bring girls to their rooms (and I thought we had it bad!) so of course, one must improvise. If bushes and musty library stacks could only speak, the tales they could tell! Also, if one is found to hae "refreshments" in his room, he is automatically thrown out into the cold, cruel world of draft boards.

OSU seems to be enlightened in one respect, however. The new dorms being constructed right now will have underground parking garages. How about it, is MIT to be outdone by a state university?

Immediately off campus at OSU, one comes upon High Street, a strip of coffee houses, bars, skin flicks, and other establishments catering to the needs of students. It's a great place to meet people, so I made a grand tour with a friend of mine who's a student there. One character I'll never forget was "spaceman" ... that's what he calls himself. He is what could be described as a distinctive dresser. The purple ruffled blouse, skin-tight scarlet slacks, white riding boots, and two-tone sunglasses one could sort of overlook ... but a full-length red cape was a bit too much for me.

You know what sort of reputation MIT has around the Boston area. Well, going to MIT seems to really mean something in other areas of the country; it actually has snow value. J hn took great delight in introducing me as a Techman, as if he somehow gained in stature because he was with me. It was all very embarrassing (and enjoyable!) to bask in the limelight (I didn't tell them that I almost flunked out in my freshman year; one shouldn't crush hero-worship, you know.) One girl told me this joke, and I pass it on to you: Two college students were sitting together on a plane. After a while, one turned to the other and said, "You must be from MIT (I think this was out of deference to me; probably Harvard or Yale is actually used, not MIT)." The other registered surprise and replied, "yes, how did you know?"

"Well, it was just the way you carry yourself; I knew that you had to be from MIT."

"Thank you for the compliment," the other student said, "and you must be from OSU."

"Why yes, how in the world did you know?"

"I saw your class ring while you were picking your nose."

Richard Wolf

Cut out the above and paste in the last B*L. Unfortunately, when I finished typing everything at eight in the morning, I was in no mood to proof-read the issue before I ran it off. (I know how you feel - typist) I'm terribly sorry, Mr. Wolf, that I left out your signature, Perhaps you're happy that I did. Oh, I now know where your quote "lurid, licentious and vile" came from. Al Simon informed me that one of Tom Lehrer's songs entitled "Smut" contains the following lines:

Novels that pander
to my taste for candor
lurid, licentious, and vile
make me smile.

How is Jock's Corner written? One guy holds the pen and the other two move the paper. Come on, you guys! My typists (what few I have (how true - typist)) are threatening to quit if I ask them to type your column. Would one of you take my advice of a month ago and see me about improving Jock's. Corner? Please.

Many thanks to Mike (Pretty boy) Tasker and Jerry (the Fuhrer) Grochow for their help with the typing last time, and thanks also to the D.O.M. crew of Dave Lapin, Dan Dedrick, and Dave Rubin for stuffing B*L and allowing me to get some sleep before the long drive to Ohio.

Rick Badzik

(602)

FROM UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S WIG

Just a couple of announcements this week; and then for a change, I'm a afraid I've got to do a little tooling.

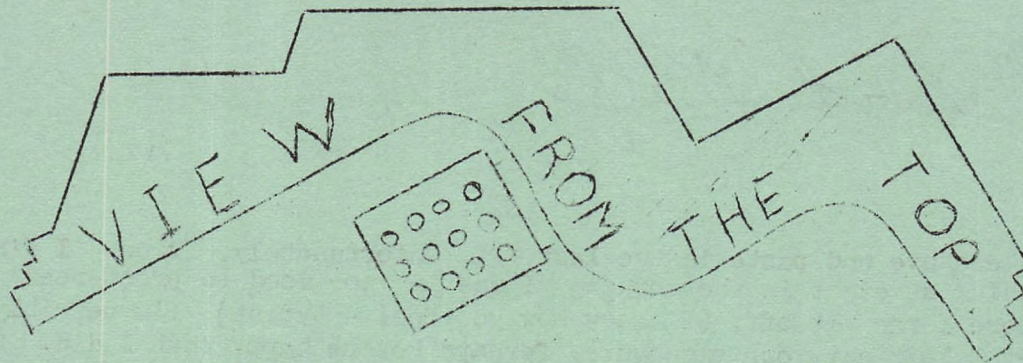
First, I hope you've all become aware of the changes in commons. You can now substitute a salad for a vegetable; and you can now have unlimited beverages. For cafeteria style please limit yourself to two beverages the first time through and bring back your glass or cup for more if you feel you want it. At family style you may ask the coolie to bring you extra beverages (if you want them) after all courses have been served. Hopefully this is only the first step in a series of Commons changes. I shall continue to work with Mr. Lauricella in an effort to make further improvements in the system.

Second, remember the buffet dinner next Wednesday night. The food will be unlimited, so we must ask you not to bring in guests that evening. Eat as much as you want, but please don't carry out food to your room. We have invited several guests from the Administration to join us that evening. Please feel free to discuss any reasonable suggestions about Commons with them.

Finally, President Howard Johnson will be our guest on Monday, April 18. He will be here for family style and will be in the lobby where Prof. and Mrs. Gamble will serve coffee and talk with Bakerites after dinner.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE ALL WORE JACKETS AND TIES TO DINNER THAT EVENING. We will also be hosts to the members of NRSA so that they too may meet President Johnson.

(140)



This week's entertainment will be in the performing arts--sex. Sex attitudes in Baker House are to a large extent merely a reflection of the attitudes of the "outside", I haven't heard any novel synthesis in my roofly wanderings so the assumption will stand with the following qualifications. The Bakerite is a fairly intelligent practical individual, in general amenable to reason and quite able to see several points of view--if this statement doesn't provoke some controversy he is an egotistical ass, too. Bakerites come from a variety of different backgrounds and are of a variety of different beliefs. The thing they have most in common is a willingness to question all beliefs including their own. Remember, this is in general.

So this paragon comes to an atmosphere which challenges his beliefs; as a freshman he is more rigid, less compromising than the average upperclassman in short he's a Freshman, a proto-Bakerite if you will. Our P.B. hasn't dated much and in many cases not at all. He is a social, sexual spastic of the "I've got higher board scores than you do" variety. In common with many others he tends to condemn those who do unconventional things that he hasn't got the guts to do even though he wishes to. We leave to the V.P. the odious funny rewarding, frustratint task of making Bakerites out of P.B.'s. Mr Dillon did not succeed as well in this area as he could have. I am deliberately not saying he failed because socializing Freshmen is rated on a spectrum of success. Mr. Growchow is now in full swing. He is aware of the preceding, or so I understand; he is also aware that a lot of Bakerites don't even know where, much less what, IT is or what to do once they have IT. My best wishes go to the experiment in sex education but this is really an aside to the point of my article this week.

There is a lot of talk about so-and-so, the grossest guy in the dorm or the dirty old man of Baker House award and who gets it after Dedrick leaves and so on. I hear about people being grossed-out and I hear the justifications of the grossers-out. The argument is that there are two sexes on earth, and this fact is a source of continual amusement to both. The favorite comment before a date seems to be (To the guy with a date from his horny friends) "Get some for me", or if there is any kind of a twinge at that, then it's "Share some for me." The point is people here have an ambiguous attitude toward women (notice how I cleverly avoid mentioning a double-standard). This equivocation is seen in the "I wouldn't sleep with a girl I really liked attitude" and is an example of the "sex is a dirty thing and people who play with it get dirty, especially sweet young innocent girls" Fellows that's a crock; being penned up in this zoo tends to prevent us from realizing the fundamental fact of sex: girls are people too. The second fact is that men who put women on pedestals get the hell knocked out of them when the pedestal falls on them. I hope to get some feedback through our editor in this but you can be sure they'll be another article on sex here--its much more fun than writing about asinine student politics.

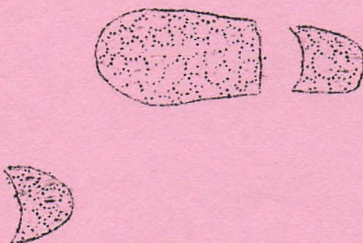
(Some people who have an overwhelming urge to walk on rooves of dormitories have their heads interferring natural body functions by the obstruction of a certain orafice with said heads (note the clever side-step). Frankly, I've noticed a great tendancy on your part to think only of what would best suit you personally. Now I think you've greatly overstepped yourself by trying to sell your personal philosophy of sex to guys who haven't formed their won yet. What you may consider fair play in your relations with girls may turn the stomach of someone more sensitive to others' (in this case girls') feelings and emotions. Sexual freedom is one thing, but free sex is another. If you feel that you are qualified to offer advice on sex, I suggest that you try to express yourself clearly and completely. And I also suggest that you affix your authoritative name at the bottom of your article so that everyone may see the value of your wise remarks. - ed.)

(It seems quite apparent, almost obvious that the author of the Roofwalker was never himself a freshman, possibly sublimed right into an upperclassman? When is this amazing change supposed to take place?? I am sure that when our hallowed upperclassmen were freshmen they did not consider themselves in any different class "sexually" than they are now. Might it have occured' to you that we "Spastic" freshmen might not be so feeble at this wonderful thing called Sex (or IT by our noble friend)! Perhaps if we were to look at the subject in a different light i.e. one which shows it as being good rather than a skill acquired through years of gross practice we might notice that it is not an "Odious task"

Let us freshmen proceed, and in a short time we will be upperclassmen, most probably, without, any huge change in makeup - typist j.m.h.)

Roof

WALKER



MORE ON SPRING WEEKEND

Friday night, April 29, Commons is offering us an extra special special. For an additional 50¢ per person, they will serve you and your date filet mignon. However they must have an accurate count, so sign up and pay me the 50¢ by 1 A.M., Friday, April 22. (Please note: Thursdays I will be at McCormick desk from 6 to 1) You will also have to sign up with Mrs. Hamner and pay her the regular price of a meal. Don't forget--filet mignon, Friday of Spring Weekend. Sign up now--even if you are not going to Spring Weekend.

Dave Lapin (634)