

Arts & Entertainment

'Roof Night' tradition still shines

By Laura L. Casey
Staff Reporter

while beginning astronomy classes are in session.

Imagine walking beneath the stars and observing the constellations. Experts help you identify the stars and best of all, it's free.

Roof Night is a weekly event scheduled once a week by the UNL astronomy department. All students are invited to climb to the top of Ferguson Hall and gaze at the stars during these times. Two teaching assistants are on duty to help star gazers find constellations in the evening sky and operate the telescopes.

Don Taylor began Roof Night 12 years ago as a supplement to his beginning astronomy classes. The tradition has carried on through this semester, and no end is in sight. Edward Schmidt, an astronomy professor, said Roof Night is scheduled during the school year

Schmidt said mostly beginning astronomy students attend Roof Night, but a few other onlookers also show up. Schmidt said he encourages anyone who is interested in attending Roof Night to do so. Crowds average about 30 people, but the number varies with weather conditions, he said. Students are free to come and go as they please. Schmidt said students stay for an average of 20 to 30 minutes.

Dates for Roof Night are set at the beginning of each semester, and are available from the astronomy department's office in Ferguson Hall. As a convenience to students, the event is scheduled for a different night each week. Regardless of the day of the week, the time is 7 to 10 p.m.

The Spring schedule for Roof Night is Feb. 14, 20 and 26, March 4, 14, 20 and April 2, 8, 18, 24 and 30.



Mike Lawlor/Daily Nebraskan

Planned Paymenthood 'works'

Magical 'old codger' makes taxes disappear

Ed Whart woke up Saturday morning with an awful cold but flopped out of his middle-class bed to go play golf anyway.

Marlene stayed in bed, snoring and saying "stainless steel oven handles" over and over in her sleep.

Ed stumbled downstairs and into the living room where the rest of his average family and the mailman were assembled. Nadine was practicing yoga in the corner and Chipper and Point Four watched the Road Runner on TV. Ed joined them, feeling much like Wile E. Coyote.

"Beep, beep," Point Four, who was 3 years old, said.

"Beep, beep," Point Four's father said, handing Ed the mail and closing the door behind him as he left.

"Nice fellow," Ed thought, as he opened the mail.

"Marlene," Ed yelled up the stairs, "We've got another note from the president."

In a matter of seconds Marlene came tearing down the stairs, putting on her robe with one hand and holding onto the State Farm home owners' policy with the other. She was out the door screaming something about Nadine's curling iron before Ed could stop her.

"Marlene," he said, "what's all this about a note from the president?"

"Oh," she said lambsily, "I thought you said there was smoke in the residence."

"What's the letter say, dad," Nadine asked, trying to get the conversation away from her curling iron.

"Reagan wants every adult to send \$1,000 to the Lower the Deficit Campaign. He said this will make it disappear."

"It'll also make our savings disappear," Marlene said, knocking the snow off her shoes.

"But gee, Ed," Chipper said, "I thought Ron wasn't going to raise taxes."

"It says here that this isn't a tax. It's strictly

voluntary, you know like Nancy's China Syndrome donation."

"But not everybody's going to send him \$1,000," Chipper said.

"I think he knows that," Ed said. "But at least this way he can say he came up with a plan, and it would work. This way he puts all the blame on the American people."

"That cute old codger," Marlene said. "I knew he would come up with something. I just love him. I wish I could vote again."

"So do several farmers," Ed quipped.

"Hey look," Chipper said. "On TV for every lite beer we buy, this company will send a donation to the Lower the Deficit Campaign."

"And look, another one," he said. "for every Hustler magazine we buy they will send a donation. Wow, everyone is helping."

"Yeah, even Jerry Falwell," Ed quipped.

"But I thought the deficit would just disappear, as if by magic," Nadine said.

"Didn't we all," Ed quipped.

"Wait, there's a newsflash," Chipper said,

hunching close to the TV as Dan Rather popped on the screen.

"Whereforat Rood Rummer," Point Four said, getting one of those cute little kid expressions on his chubby face.

"Can you believe that," Chipper said later, while the family was lurching on Hamburger Helper and green beans.

"The Lower the Deficit Campaign won't work because the paper they sent the letters on cost \$550 a sheet."

"And the envelopes cost \$450 each," Nadine said.

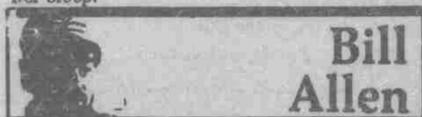
"So even if we all did send in \$1,000 we're still just breaking even," Ed said, deciding to skip golf and drink beer.

"And since now nobody will send money, the deficit will double," Chipper said.

"What's the reason to live?" Ed said, turning philosophical.

"Well, we've got a strong defense," Marlene said.

"Fuh," Point Four said.



Bill Allen

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Cards & Letters

Woman prescribes exercise 'disease'

I'm writing in response to Jane Raglin's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 6.) calling exercise a disease. I would like to contradict her claims about exercise.

Raglin stated that because of exercise, "cheeks sink in...ribs stick out...veins in arms and hands stick out really far..." I wonder if you've noticed that these descriptions fit the millions of people in Ethiopia who are dying of malnutrition (not exercise) and they have no strength to exercise!

Exercise benefits all parts of the body — the heart, lungs, muscles and other organs. It decreases the amount of fat in the blood and body, as well as the chances of contracting heart and/or arterial disease. If exercise is a disease, I'm glad I've caught it! There are so many forms of exercise (as well as levels of intensity) that everyone can enjoy and benefit from.

To explain the current exercise craze, have you ever considered, Raglin, that people have become more concerned and conscious about their health? By exercising people show that they care about their bodies and want to keep

them in the best shape possible. And sure, maybe they want to shed a few pounds. But how many people do you know who, after losing those extra pounds, just stop exercising all together? Exercise increases muscle mass and decreases fatty tissue mass. After losing the extra pounds, the body becomes stronger as exercise continues. Eventually a specific weight is maintained and may fluctuate slightly (because of changes in diet, climate, etc.). If people consistently lost weight with continuous exercise, they would shrink and disappear into nothing!

Another thing, exercise is not necessarily torture, (unless taken too far). It can be fun. To explain the strange apparel that celebrities wear on TV, have you ever thought that these outfits help to motivate people to exercise? When I exercise, I put on a pair of red tights, a leopardskin swimsuit, leg warmers, athletic socks and my running shoes. Sure, I look like a freak, but who's looking? Only me, and if people did look, I would ask them to join me! When I wear this I feel like exercising all day. Granted, not everyone feels that way, but when I say this, I know I speak for many.

If you ignore everything else in this letter, please read this: Don't knock it 'til you try it!

Tracy Borgman
freshman
medical technology

Shorts

An evening of bold brass awaits those who go to "The Majesty of Brass" concert Monday night.

The Plymouth Brass, a resident group now in its eighth season, will perform a wide range of music. Their selections will include Elizabethan dances and baroque, romantic and modern music.

Jack Levick, musical director and conductor for some of the pieces, said the concert will consist of more than brass quartets. Other

selections will be played by quintets, sextets and septets. Some works will feature brass and percussion and brass with organ.

The concert will be at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 29 and D streets, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. Admission is by series pass or \$4.50 for adults and \$3.25 for students and senior citizens.

Levick said a limited number of seats are left, so those without series passes should come early.



Television

● National Lampoon's Animal House comes to television tonight at 8 p.m. on channel 2. The movie parodies fraternity life on a small college campus in the '60s.

● American Playhouse features The Star-Crossed Romance of Josephine Casanova, a comedy about growing up in the Midwest in the 1950s. It focuses on a love-ster's infatuation with a Polish girl from East Chicago. It airs at 8 p.m. on Channel 12.

● Obsessed With A Married Woman is a love triangle with a new twist: a

handsome young writer who is hopelessly in love with his married wife and is trying to win her back by the ruse of a new woman. It airs at 8 p.m. on Channel 7.

● KRM, 62.5 FM, offers The Joe Show starting at 11 p.m. and going all night, playing such progressive acts as Backman, Robo and the Bannymen, Simple Minds, Ice Cube, the dBs, and the brand new album from the English band, the Smiths.

It's part of the li... updated state's... Blizard Beach Party New... raising awareness.