About Campus

BY CHUCK CREMOR

Social activity

At any university most students will agree that the availability of social outlets is as necessary as academic interests. Studies show that each student has a psychological need to escape by participating in activities not related to academics.

These activities also serve to relieve the tensions of a "rigid intellectual schedule," associate with friends, meet new people and to better educate themselves with social trends outside the university community.

Some of the most common of these activities include watching television, attending a movie or concert, indulging in alcoholic beverages, and participating in a variety of social games. All allow students to temporarily withdraw from the complexities of college life into a world of fantasy and reality.

In essence these outlets are necessary to make the student well-rounded members of society.

The editors of The Gamecock have made several changes to better inform the students of the social opportunities that are available to them. The major additions to our page will be a section devoted entirely to television programs and a movie guide of Columbia and campus films.

Since TV and the movies attract more attention than other forms of entertainment, it is only natural that we provide this service to our readers.

The "Focus" column has been retained, but the coverage of Carolina's numerous programs will be continued and expanded. Former monthly coverage will be more extensive reviews. In the past our reviews have received much criticism and caused considerable controversy. This is one trend that will no doubt be continued in the future.

Curing apathy

We implore any organization that wishes to have a program publicized through our pages to send us the necessary information two weeks in advance of the date.

The first few weeks of the semester will find most USC students trying to keep themselves occupied with activities not related to academics. The University Union Contemporary Sounds and Cinematic Arts committees offer the best diversions of that nature for the month of January.

The Contemporary Sounds Committee is responsible for most of the musical bookings on campus. Its programming schedule includes dates in the Golden Spur, the Russell House Patio and Carolina Coliseum.

The committee opens its spring schedule with two bands in the Golden Spur, "Font Waltz's Band," a three-piece acoustic folk act featuring refreshing vocal harmonies and excellent musicianship, will perform in the Spur today and Tuesday with shows beginning at 8 p.m. The Spur also developed a reputation of booking some of the best comedy acts in the country. In the past 18 months, Edmonds and Curley, the "Muledeed and Moondog Medicine Show," Steve Martin, and Barry B. Igus, have entertained Spur audiences with their inane humor.

Keeping with that tradition, the three-man comedy team of "Dandruff and Wee" will appear in the Spur on Sunday and 25th of this month. Their best routines include uncanny imitations of old machines and spoofs on the Catholic preachers for bingo. A cold beer and a good laugh will make any early semester problems seem small.

Weak movie schedule

The spring semester films schedule of the Cinematic Arts Committee is possibly one of the weakest booked here in years. With the exception of a strong "pay film" list that includes Serpice, Passion of Anna, Paper Chase, Day for Night, and Deliverance, the spring schedule should do nothing more than fill up time slots at the Russell House Theatre.

The January calendar, though, offers some of the best movies of the semester.

The semester begins tonight with one of the greatest musicals ever made-Singin' in the Rain. The film is set in the 30's and has Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds dancing, singing and creating in ways that have seldom been seen before.

The original 1959 version of Beau Geste, starring Ray Milland and Gary Cooper, will be shown Wednesday night. Beau Geste is an exciting tale of the French Foreign Legion that undoubtedly has lost some of its punch through age but can still stand up to most modern adventure films.

Film for campus militants

For all the former campus militants of the 60's, Rebel Without a Cause will be shown Friday night. James Dean stars in this yarn about a 19's teenager who is not satisfied with the world.

Different Sentences, scheduled for 25th, is the original film of the semester. It was only a matter of time before this homegrown adventure film appeared at the Russell House Theatre. Everyone knows the story, and who wrote it, but no one can explain why Burt Reynolds was not killed in it.

Also planned this month are such films as Forbidden Games, The Terrence starring Boris Karloff and Jack Nicholson, the original 1909's version of Wuthering Heights and a Japanese film, Rashomon.

Columbia's television highlights

MONDAY

DRAMA: ROOKIES - After a recent TV news special that showed S.C. having the most lenient gun control laws in the country, this segment is a must for our gun toting Carolinians. The story traces the path of destruction wrought by the various owners of one small handgun. WOLO (25) 8 - 9 p.m.

VARIETY: SISTERS BROTHERS - After a four year layoff, the famous Maharajahs. Brothers return with a new variety show on NBC. The humor will be as biting and satirical as it once was, but should prove entertaining. RED FOXX, Alice Cooper, Johnny Carson, George Burns and doubling banjos are featured. WIS (10) 8 - 9 p.m.

MOVIE: THE STERILE CUCKOO - The debut of the ABC Monday Night Movie previews with Lisa Minnelli as Pookie Adams, "a campus gamin ripe for her first love affair." Liza finds it in Jerry Paine (Wendall Burton), a shy, strait laced entomology student. Even though this movie was directed by Alan J. Pakula of Klute fame, this 1969 yarn seems outdated and tripe; the perfect soap opera for USC students. WOLU (25) 9 - 11 p.m.

COMEDY: MAUDE - The Findleys, hoping for an intellectually stimulating evening, wind up with a wife-swapping, swinging couple. WNOX (19) 9 - 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

MYSTERY: SATAN'S TRIANGLE - A 1975 TV movie starring about the only survivor of a fishing boat disaster. A typical "supernatural" theme, but well acted. Who cares? WOLO (25) 8:30 - 10 p.m.

MOVIE: COLUMBO - The debut of the ABC Monday Night Movie previews with Lisa Minnelli as Pookie Adams, "a campus gamin ripe for her first love affair." Liza finds it in Jerry Paine (Wendall Burton), a shy, strait laced entomology student. Even though this movie was directed by Alan J. Pakula of Klute fame, this 1969 yarn seems outdated and tripe; the perfect soap opera for USC students. WOLU (25) 9 - 11 p.m.

SPECIAL: NBA ALL STAR GAME - The 25th annual event where the best of the pro basketball players are showcased. WNOX (19), 10 - 12 a.m.

DRAMA: MARCUS WELBY - For all the females who don't dig basketball, they can watch this drama about a girl patient of Kiley's, who might die, due to a kidney ailment, before she can point the finger at the guy who raped her. WOLU (25) 10 - 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOVIE: THE HATFIELDS AND THE MCCOYS - The 25th annual event where the best of the pro basketball players are showcased. WNOX (19) 10 - 12 a.m.

DRAMA: MARCUS WELBY - For all the females who don't dig basketball, they can watch this drama about a girl patient of Kiley's, who might die, due to a kidney ailment, before she can point the finger at the guy who raped her. WOLU (25) 10 - 11 p.m.

COMEDY: MASH - Hawkeye finally punches Frank out. The show is always funny. WNOX (19), 8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

FRONT PAGE: PRESS COMEDY

BY TERRY DUGUE OF THE GAMECOCK STAFF

Throughout recorded history times of political and economic unrest have been marked by an increase in events providing comedy or spectacle. One of the most entertaining comic films released lately is The Front Page, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, now playing at the Richland Mall Theatre.

Most of the critical comments one hears about the film is true: the dialogue relies on an occasional obscenity for a cheap laugh, the development of the minor characters is often non-existent, the plot is dated, the direction is static and Carol Burnett's acting is painfully bad. Despite all of this the film is amusing throughout, after the "funny" and generally entertaining.

The story takes place on the night before a publically-motivated execution of a young radical who accidentally killed a policeman in a struggle. The action is in the press room of the Chicago police station.

One of the reporters present is Hildy Johnson, played by Lemmon, a man desperately trying to get married and escape from his managing editor, Walter Burns, played by Matthau. Burns, playing cast ranges from a weak bladered young reporter to the conditioned man's streets in girl friend. The setting, Chicago in the 1930's is a direct appeal at nostalgia.

Any fault in the film, however, is masked by the comic ability of Matthau. Matthau has returned to the role of a hardened, unethical man determined to have his way. It is in many ways reminiscent of Whiplash Willy from The Fortune Cookie.

Walter Burns is a man who is a journalist first, a human being second. His primary concern is how to smuggle a camera into an exclusive photo of the execution. His goal in life is to prevent Hildy Johnson, by hook, crook or false arrest, from ever leaving the paper.

The film begins as a satire of the journalism profession. Reporters will stab each other in the front and back to scoop the opposition, and the opposition will say anything to beat sales.

The satire sags noticeably with the presentation of David Wayne as a homosocial reporter and frustrated poet. As always, though, the very presence of Matthau glosses over the many weaknesses. What emerges by the end of the film is a character study of Johnson and Burns cast in the mold of journalism.

Lemmon has been proven in the past to be the perfect foil for Matthau. He comes dangerously close to overacting, though, in this film. It is only the force of Matthau's cynical realism that prevents Lemmon's ravings from stepping into the realm of nonsense.

Overall the film is well paced, with Matthau providing a funny and endearing character. The film is a satire of journalism which has managed to escape from the seriousness of the world.