

Scav: A Counter-Rant

During this week's meeting, the Snell representative informed us that their secretary "hates Scav and went on a rant about it in the minutes one week, so if you're interested in reading about Scav you can come to the bathrooms in Snell." With that in mind, and with Scav just under three weeks away, it seemed appropriate to include a response to such Scav-bashing.

I admit that I have little reason to visit Snell, least of all just to read their minutes. I therefore cannot respond specifically to any of the points that might have been made. Instead, my response will consist of random positive points about Scav.

1. The Veenstra-VanderWeeles made announcements encouraging us all to look toward the future: information will be coming soon about the new RHs, who have already been selected. The housing lottery is in two weeks, so if you haven't already been planning for the past month, you might want to consider your living arrangements for the next year. With such turmoil and upheaval around us, it is nice to have a period of time in the spring when we can forget about everything else. I mean forget entirely. During Scav last year, none of my thoughts went beyond 'What song from this list would lend itself best to a MIDI transcription?' Scav replaces all our other stress with completely unrelated and, in the larger scheme of things, consequence-free stress. Also: the VVWs want to take us to "Love, Lies, Bleeding," which is a play of some kind.

2. The Masters' Aide informed us that Monday will feature the continuation of the Scav Auction. It has been widely remarked that we have not yet auctioned off one-half of the listed items, yet already we have made more money than we did from last year's Auction. Here is a good thing about Scav: it is a unifying factor throughout the entire year. From o-week onwards, we are inundated with information and tales and giddy anticipation of Scav. It is a constant. If it were not such a positive force in so many lives, how could it receive such a good reputation year after year?

3. Max Working, a Social Chair, announced that they will be leading a trip to go see a performance of Gustav Holst's "The Planets." It will be on Monday, May 15, which is the Monday just after the conclusion of Scav. This is especially good timing, for I would suggest that no sleep or relaxation or recreation is more fulfilling than that enjoyed directly after Scav. The rest of the year seems like a rat-race, and then you hit Scav, and [in my personal experience] work harder than you have before. Everything that comes after Judgment seems easier by comparison.

4. The sections exist. First, we note that Section I is alive, which stands in contrast to last week. Section II is blind, reports its sock-puppet proxy. Section III is gender-ambiguous, and Section IV has many varieties of cheese, which it graciously shared with all of us. Section V is home a master assassin. The rest of the year is all too often fraught with inter- (and sometimes intra-) section conflict. It is easy to generalize, saying "Section III is a bunch of hermits; I've never seen anyone from there, ever," or "Section V is full of long-haired hippie math-major gamers." But Scav is a time when everyone can come together. It is a time when you know everyone's name (and their cell number, since it's taped to the wall). When there's no time for rudeness or meanness because we're all trying to get something done. Scav promotes house unity.

5. The At-Large representatives gave a presentation of a historical account of Hitchcock, then realized that it was too long, ending flippantly with "This is like twenty pages long. We'll just put it on the internet." One can only speculate how many people thought of the myriad other things that have been put on the internet in the name of Scav; 'theassbook.net' comes readily to mind. Here we have another virtue: everything reminds someone about some Scav memory or another. Scav is connected to all things, and the readiness with which these countless memories are shared is testament to its influence.

6. We are told everyone should go see "City of Angels," a musical. It is at eight o'clock on various days throughout this week and the next. If anyone is technically- or creatively-minded, they would do well to talk to Chris Lee if they have free time over the summer. He desires help in building his video game from scratch. On Saturday at eight there is the Latin American students' cultural show. On Sunday there will be an Aramark study-break, featuring many things made out of chocolate. At ten o'clock the same day, "Sisters of Death," a bad movie featuring murder and sorority sisters, will be shown. Also: Scav in three weeks! Fuckin' yeah!

We see that ScavHunt has any number of good points, too. There may be some people who do not like it, but I do not think they can seriously argue that it is a complete bad. The greatest good for the greatest number, anyone? I am fond of saying that last year's Scav was, without qualification, the best time I've had in my entire life. I do not think I would lie about something like that.