

aloud; next year, however, these notes **must** be given a dusting-off. Realizing that he's read all this sometime before, he doesn't panic again. Instead, he takes a tranquillizer, and decides he has just time for a cup of coffee in the staff room outside his door.

10:02-3 Fights his way through the students (there are at least ten of them now), muttering: "Come back later."

10:04-13 Pours and drinks cup of coffee, while asking a colleague for advice about buying electric mixers. Colleague reaches for his pile of academic texts, selects Veblen's **Theory of the Leisure Class**, and slips off the dustjacket to reveal a copy of **Consumer's Guide**. He says the evidence is inconclusive, but interesting, and they should look at it carefully some time.

10:14-15 Strides purposefully through the halls to lecture room, enters and mounts podium. He's five minutes late for his 10:10 lecture — but he's still ahead of some of the students, who have had a twenty-minute hike through halls, down stairs, across Honda-filled bypaths and fastback-filled highpaths, up stairs and through halls.

10:15-17 Clears his throat, tries to look impressive, clears his throat, tries to look annoyed, clears his throat, looks aghast (from the other side he looks ghastly), clears his throat, begins to mutter under his breath. The eager students in the front row thinking they're missing something (they are), clear their throats, turn around and try to look impressive, clear their throats, try to look annoyed, and finally shout, in well-modulated and cultured voices: "Put a can on it!" "Sharpp you creeps!" And most impressively, "Shhh. He's trying to say something." The shouts bring derisory shouts in reply, but the hubbub finally lessens.

10:18-11:00 Delivers outstanding lecture, persuasive, commanding, authoritative, interrupting the hypnotic flow only twice, once to throw a piece of chalk at a student who has disturbed the mood by snoring, and once to hurl a brilliant piece of invective at two students who are softly giggling over **The Realist**. Finishes briskly with a comment which he hopes will disguise the fact that he has delivered next week's lecture by mistake.

11:01-05 Deals efficiently and kindly with the 12 students who have surrounded him with post-lecture questions. Questions such as: "What use is all this junk?" "Is it too late to transfer to another course?" "What did you say just before you said: 'The concatenation of circumstances forces us to consider at length the price of washing machines . . . ?'" "My tutor is a goof; can't you do sumpin about it?" "What's your name?" "Does the college have a psychiatric clinic?"

11:06-07 Moves back to his office, stopping in a doorway when he hears one of his students say: "That's the best lecture I've ever heard!" His triumphant smile fades, and he turns off his portable tape-recorder as the next student says: "I think the old fake knows what he's trying to say, but he sure can't say it."

11:08-10 Reaches office, to find that the crowd has swollen to about 30. Realizes that 15 of them are members of his graduate class, gathering for a seminar. Decides he can just spare time to talk to one of the other students, whom he ushers into the office, saying, "Now let's just have a relaxed chat about your problem — what was it now?" The problem is that the student has athlete's foot, her mother's boy-friend's typewriter has broken, the food in the residence is awful, and as a result her essay is six weeks late. He suggests that she visit the college's psychiatric clinic, pushes her out, and makes a note to write the registrar to find out if the college has a psychiatric clinic.

11:11-12:14 Graduate seminar takes place. For the first hour a student reads a paper on a subject in which nobody else in the room is interested, and about which only three people know anything. (What they know is that they aren't interested; the others are just confused.) The professor, who once knew quite a bit, alternates between looking absorbed, lighting his pipe and cleaning it (he can never remember to clean it before lighting it), and fidgeting with the further pile of mail that has arrived during the morning. He also makes notes from time to time. Most of these cannot here be reproduced, as they consist of doodles of knives, ropes, and guns. One says quite clearly: "When did all this happen?" One slightly smudged says: "Please open the door!!!" (Inadvertently he has

opened some of his mail.) The last one says: "Don't forget to buy an electric hairbrush." (There was one phone call while the paper was being read.) (In fact, there were six phone calls while the paper was being read. Two were wrong numbers, one was from the Chairman of the Committee on Realignment, moving the meeting from 2 pm, when the Committee on Committees is meeting, to 4 pm which hour has been made available because the Committee on Extra-Committee Activities has vacated its usual time of meeting to meet at 11 am. This means that our professor has to phone — as he does — the Chairman of the Committee on Extra-Committee Activities to apologize for missing the meeting, which is currently in progress. He of course can't reach the Chairman, who is at the meeting, but leaves a message with his secretary.) One of the calls was from the Chairman of the Committee on Extra-Committee Activities, returning the call which didn't get through; and saying that because there was such a small turn-out at the meeting, there would have to be another one tomorrow at the same hour (or failing that, some other hour or other). The final one was from one of his colleagues, saying that the heat was off in his office, and asking if it was on elsewhere.

12:15-25 Ten-minute break, while the professor assembles his notes on the paper so that he can talk about it. He is interrupted by a scratching at his leg, which he finds is caused by a student kneeling beside him, reaching out in supplication. This student doesn't belong to the graduate seminar, but sneaked in with the rest and sat quietly for an hour, hoping for a few words in answer to his question, which is: "Did Shelley drown accidentally, or was he pushed from the boat, or did he jump?" The professor kicks him intentionally, and with help of two graduate students carries him out into the hall. He then phones his colleague to say that the heat does seem to be off, and asks him to phone the Superintendent of Buildings. He then leaves the phone off the hook.

12:26-1:00 For the first ten minutes, the professor talks in a persuasive, commanding, authoritative way, and concludes by asking for other comments. There aren't any. He delivers a five-minute homily on the benefits, indeed the all-importance, of an independent, strenuous relentless search after truth. He again asks for comments. A student asks: "What did you say just before you said: 'The concatenation of circumstances forces us to consider at length the price of furnaces . . . ?'" This gives the professor the chance he has been waiting for, and he talks for the rest of the hour. The only interruption is by six maintenance men who have come to repair the heating system. They do, and leave as the temperature soars to 97 degrees.

1:01:-06 As he dismisses the class, he asks the last student to shout, as soon as he is out of sight of the office: "Fire!" "Pot!" Student does so, and the mob outside the door flees, allowing professor to get to dining hall before the rubber chicken runs out and is replaced by plastic turkey.

1:07-14 Finally gets to W.C., where he closets and waters.

1:15-45 Takes a leisurely lunch, discussing the while the practicability and feasibility of establishing a Cross-College Interfiliation Committee on Infrastructures. Agrees to write a circular letter advocating such a committee.

1:46-49 Drinks leisurely cup of coffee while criticizing efforts of distinguished Professor Emeritus to cut out paper dolls. Tries it himself and cuts finger, which he already burned while trying to clean lighted pipe.

1:50-2:10 Walks across campus to meeting of Committee on Committees. Being a kindly man, he throws a few peanuts covered with pocket lint to the squirrels, who refuse to eat them. Also smiles warmly at several students who look vaguely familiar; they look at him queerly.

2:11-3:59 Committee meeting occurs. Nothing much else happens, though our professor makes two errors. He advocates uniting the Committee on Committees with the newly-proposed Interfiliation Committee on Infrastructures, of which no one has heard, and is branded an impractical idealist. He speaks forcefully on the question of scheduling meetings on Sundays at 7:30 am and is ostracized for the rest of the meeting as a practical realist.

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