

SOAR Curricular Material #19

The Month of May at M.C. (May 1919—Excerpt—Original Version)

Last year, owing to war conditions, the majority of American colleges closed a month early. M.C. followed this precedent and as a consequent we missed the most glorious month of the school year. At least the students think of it as such, up to the last week when exams begin. However, it is doubtful if the professors hail the approach of May with as much glee, judging from the remarks they let slip from time to time about that most deadly of all diseases—spring fever. The student has two spheres which are very distinct. One is in the classroom, and the other, out of the classroom. While the professor, as far as college life is concerned, the classroom represents his entire world. So we really cannot condemn him, scientist or philosopher, whichever he may be, for not appreciating the student's preference for the month of May. If there is anything that M.C. man cannot forget, it is the balcony during the month of May. There, the "bunch" gathers of an evening to spend a short half hour in luxurious contentment and ease. Soon the air is filled with the aroma of many well-seasoned college pipes and good old "P.A." Some member of the Glee Club starts a song, and the casual onlooker might well exclaim, "Happy family!" Words really cannot adequately describe this scene—the beautiful campus, the setting sun, true friendship, the best of fellows, the dearest old Alma Mater in the world, 'n everything. Do you wonder that we prefer the month of May?

Content-Context-Connections

- 1) What does this document tell you about life in Moravian College at the time it was written?
- 2) What was it about the month of May that college community loved so much?
- 3) How might this experience of the students back then compare to college life now? How does it compare to your own social experiences with your peers?
- 4) *"Last year, owing to war conditions, the majority of American colleges closed a month early."*
 - a. What insight does this statement give us about the war in 1919 compared to a year earlier?
 - b. What "war conditions" may have caused the colleges to shut down a month earlier? Refer to your textbook, timeline, or online resources for help.