

They're Streaking At Hood, Mall

The "streaker" craze has come to Frederick.

About 50 or 60 female students and two males at Hood College staged a 90-minute "streak" Wednesday night between the dormitories in the central campus mall area.

One student informed the News-Post Thursday the streaker demonstration began around 10 p.m. when about five co-eds dashed between residence halls unclothed. The rest of the approximately 500 girls living on campus cheered on the daring streakers and soon small groups of girls were dashing from their dorms to the Pergola (a vine enclosed area with benches) and back.

Two of the streakers told a reporter it took a little prompting on other girls' parts before they shed their inhibitions and clothes — others took no prompting at all and one student reportedly said, "This is too good an opportunity to miss" before giving her clothes to a fellow co-ed and dashing out of the dorm.

Only two male students were reported streaking, including one

clad only in a cast on his broken arm.

One of the dormitory housemothers reportedly tried to get the streaking students to put their clothes back on — with no success.

No disciplinary action has been taken — One streaker said the campus police patrolled the roads surrounding the dorms but did not attempt to stop the nude students. She said the police cars did slow down enough to watch the action.

Hood College President Dr. Ross Pritchard took a humorous view of the incident in a statement released to the press Thursday.

He said in part "I will, of course, take great care to see that no personal or bodily harm result and that no destruction of college facilities develops from streaking.

"Without taking a conclusive position on Wednesday night's developments, I must say that my initial reaction to his new spring-time ritual is that it is less threatening to the health than the ingestion of live goldfish

and not nearly as sullocating as overcrowded telephone booths.

"A college must always be concerned about its exposure," Dr. Pritchard concluded, "and as a first step in maintaining as much decorum as we can under the circumstances, I have asked my wife, the deans, senior administrative staff and pending clarification from the American Association of University Professors regarding academic freedom, senior faculty to refrain from streaking."

Dr. Pritchard's daughter was reportedly among the several hundred students who observed the streaking students from her residence hall on campus.

Meanwhile, Frederick Towne Mall general manager William Parkins has confirmed reports that "two young men ran nude at the west end of the mall at 9:20 p.m. Parkins said the mall has made no attempt to catch the runners.

Commenting on the streakers, Parkins said, "It's better than burning down buildings, but its still against the law."

The Hood College streaking incident was the second on a Maryland campus in 24 hours. Tuesday night six males and two females streaked across the University of Maryland campus in College Park.

The University of Maryland has a long tradition of streakers going back to an annual run in the late '60s by a nude runner clad only in a ski mask the first snow of every semester. In 1969, such a run, followed the next night by the first reported female streaker in college history precipitated three nights of massive streakings, panty-raids and a protest demonstration on the steps of the college president and on U.S. 1 in College Park.

The University of Maryland is attempting to identify its Tuesday night streakers and halt the nude frolics before they gather momentum.

Streakers may be brought before an university disciplinary committee or could be taken to court if there are criminal charges involved, according to Jerry Witsel, director of security for the campus.

What Makes Streakers Run?

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What is there about today's students that leads them to undress and romp in the nude across campuses, stages, basketball courts and other public places?

Those practitioners of "streaking" who've slowed down enough to be quoted say it's the fun and excitement. Cheap thrills.

"Those I've talked to say it's a thrill all right, but I wouldn't call it cheap," says Dr. Shelly Duval, a member of the University of Southern California psychology department.

"It would seem that streakers are violating a fairly strong set of norms for sure, and that can always be exciting if you get away with it. As far as I can see it's harmless," he said.

Dr. Zev Wanderer, a 41-year-old psychologist who directs the Center for Behavior Therapy in Beverly Hills, Calif., says part of the reason for the success of streaking is that it is self-assertive activity.

"In a generation where the way to be impactful is to be either a music star or very talented or a thief, an alternative for the student is to run around naked," he said. "It's a relatively easy way to gain fame and notoriety."

But Wanderer says educators should not just laugh it off.

"I think it's significant that this is taking place in colleges because by the time our kids reach that level they've had it with very regimented, con-

formist school systems," Wanderer said.

"It's a message to the schools that these kids ought to be in alternative open schools where kids can be themselves without having to run around naked."

Robert Ardrey, an evolutionary behaviorist from Rome, explains the fad as a fulfillment of one of man's basic needs.

"In today's affluent society and welfare state, the need for security has largely been satisfied, so boredom sets in," he told an audience at a junior college in Fort Worth, Tex. "Its opposite is stimulation."

William Boldeson, a philosophy professor at the University of Missouri, said streaking is just a form of the rites of spring and is as old as the Greeks.

"It's just innocent exuberance," Boldeson said. "One good blizzard and the whole thing will come to an end."

Whatever the reasons of the younger generation for their wild running in the buff, motives were simpler 56 years ago when retired California appeal court Justice Fred R. Pierce took a barebottomed dash near sorority row.

Pierce, now 74, said he was kicked out of Stanford University for his run in the nude.

And why did he do it? To win a \$5 bet with a fraternity brother.