

WORD OF THE WEEK

Spoony

What it is: adjective

What it means: silly, foolish; especially unduly sentimental

Where it comes from: In 19th century British slang, "spoon" meant "simpleton" (a meaning that may have been influenced by the "shallowness" of some spoons). That use of spoon brought about the adjective spoony to describe a silly or foolish person. In time, the foolish manner implied by spoony began to take on sentimental and amorous overtones, and it soon became the perfect word for those head over heels in love.

How to use it: "That spoony couple holding hands over spaghetti in the cafeteria is making me nauseous."

SOURCE: M-W.COM

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Using a camera appeases the anxiety, which the work driven feel about not working when they are on vacation and supposed to be having fun. They have something to do that is a friendly imitation of work: They can take pictures."

Susan Sontag (1933-2004)

Sontag is the award-winning author of "The Benefactor," "Death Kit," "The Volcano Lover" and "In America," a collection of short stories.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Theodor Geisel, known to the world as Dr. Seuss, the author and illustrator of the children's books "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham," was born in 1904.

The first televised Academy Awards were broadcast in 1944. Jack Benny served as master of ceremonies for the event, which was held at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Los Angeles.

Philadelphia Warriors center Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points against the New York Knicks in 1962.

SOURCE: HISTORY.COM

DID YOU KNOW?

The most dangerous insect in the world is the common housefly. Because of their habits of visiting animal waste, they transmit more diseases than any other species.

Fleas can jump 130 times higher than their own height. In human terms, this is equal to a 6-foot person jumping 780 feet into the air.

There are no poisonous snakes in Maine.

Armadillos, opossums and sloths spend about 80 percent of their lives sleeping.

SOURCE: HIGHTECHSCIENCE.ORG

LIFESTYLE

NUTRITION

Consumers don't have to wait until spring for fresh, local produce, page 3B.

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Tuesday



Jim Moore, pictured with then-girlfriend Mary Lou Page, stands on the beach in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. in 1972. "Mary Lou and I fell in love finally and forever that spring and are still happily married 33 years later," Moore said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM MOORE

For the past four decades, spring break has offered Michigan college students an escape from the stress of classes, work and the unrelenting winter elements. While the motivation to seek sun, adventure and even a few risks has prevailed, the prices and hot spots of spring break have changed over time. Where will Spartans head this year when spring break kicks off in less than one week? No matter the locale, spring break continues to be a memorable part of the college experience at MSU.

—Abriah Farhad and Cole Bertson, *The State News*

1970s

The 1970s saw more than just the rise of the disco era. They were the birthplace of what we now associate with a modern-day college student's spring break experience.

"Trips were a more on the fly, low-budget venture that students planned for much less than they do now."

"There was virtually no rational thought applied to our itinerary," said Todd Shaffer, who graduated from MSU in December 1978. "Our planning consisted of buying a map and emptying our bank accounts."

Emptying bank accounts or not, most students managed to keep the trips at an affordable cost by cutting out what they considered luxuries and sticking to what they found to be necessities.

"We camped, slept in the car, crashed with people we met and ate at dives," Shaffer said.

Students also tried to pack lightly, keeping everything they needed to a minimum so they really were experiencing a worry-free week.

"Our clothes for a week fit in a pillowcase," said Scott Odette, who made the trip in 1972.

While keeping things on

the mostly inexpensive side, it was still a vacation, and students were still not afraid to occasionally indulge.

"We could buy Michelob for 50 cents a can at a little tiki bar on the water," Odette said. "We were big spenders."

While the prices and modes of transportation may change, it seems that some things such as destination may always stay similar. Like now, Florida was always a front-runner in the spectrum of options.

"We always went to Florida for spring break because it was the closest way we could reach sunshine by car," said Kathy Strand, 1978 MSU graduate. "Fort Lauderdale, Daytona, Tampa and once all the way to Key West were our choices."

There are some changes, however, that were bound to occur with the times. To keep things spontaneous, most students tended to opt out of the now-popular plane ticket, choosing instead to load up a car with food and friends and drive straight through to their destination.

"We would always drive straight through from Michigan to (Florida), each taking



In the beach picture, my friends Kristin and Cheryl are standing on the beach in downtown Cabo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ADVERTISING SENIOR KATIE FOLEY

"We camped, slept in the car, crashed with people we met and ate at dives."

Todd Shaffer, 1978 MSU graduate

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To see more spring break photos, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.