

RECEIVED
JAN 26 1995

The Behrend College

Collegian

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Erie, PA 16563

Vol XLIII, No. 14

Washington secrets uncovered

by Brad Park
Collegian Staff

Dale Van Atta delivered his speech "Scandals, Scoundrels, and Saints: The News Behind the Headlines" on Tuesday in the Reed Lecture Hall at 7:30.

Amidst a power outage one hour into his speech, the seven time Pulitzer Prize nominee described the political scene as part of Behrend's Speaker Series, "The American Agenda."

Van Atta began his speech with a couple anecdotes. The first described an expedition he took to Antarctica. Van Atta joked about the fact that a particular station he was at was sinking in its own sewage. Secondly, he spoke about the CIA going to great lengths to obtain a stool sample from Mikail Gorbachev.

Throughout his speech, Van Atta spoke about government waste.

According to Van Atta, millions of dollars are being wasted on programs to study egg frying, crossing the street, the personalities of vegetarians, and cat and dog censuses. A \$100,000 was spent in Idaho to study gay sheep.

In continuing his focus on waste, he informed the audience that there is an unaccounted listing in the federal budget for \$246 billion of tax payers money.

Van Atta then turned his attention to the President, Vice-President and Congress.

"Vice-President Al Gore, 'the man who wanted to reinvent America,' now has more staff members than the former Vice-President Dan Quayle and he spent \$3.5 million to redecorate the Vice-Presidential mansion," said Van Atta.

He discussed the similarities between President Clinton and

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

He said that they both had "voracious appetites for learning" when they were younger, periods of marital infidelity in their lives, and that both own 1967 Ford Mustangs.

Van Atta then analyzed the high and low points of the Republican's Contract with America.

According to Van Atta, the Balanced Budget Amendment is "a necessary measure for this country to go through."

Van Atta also commented on the line item veto and believed that it was necessary.

He described the Family Reinforcement Act and stated that some of the programs within this Act "may not be cost effective," and was "most skeptical about" the National Securities Act.

Using a few items in the defense budget to prove his point,



Photo by Jennifer Bernier.
Dale Van Atta spoke to students after dinner in the Memorial Room. he again related to the fact that the government is wasting thousands of dollars.

Excessive regulations and standards on products causes their prices to rise ridiculously. A toilet seat, for example, would cost \$640, because it must be able to withstand 2,000 degrees of heat according military specifications.

Van Atta changed the subject to a very serious issue that "has not been considered by most Republicans." Van Atta expressed that it is inevitable that a nuclear explosion will occur in the United States within the next 10 years.

He continued by saying that it is probable that this will happen within the next five years.

The source of this explosion, according to Van Atta, will be terrorism, and the material used for the bomb will probably come from Uranium found in the former Soviet Union.

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Director of Student Activities

New Director assumes office



Photo by Jennifer Bernier

Chris Rizzo: Director of Student Activities.

by Jennifer V. Colvin
Collegian Co-editor

After group meetings lasting a period of two days and interviewing with 58 faculty, staff and students, he finally knows. Chris Rizzo, who applied for the job last semester, is the new Director of Student Activities.

With a Master of Arts in Student Personnel and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Rizzo has worked on college campuses since 1984 when he was a Resident Assistant at Thiel College in Greenville, PA.

After working two years at Behrend in resident life, Rizzo had told the administration that within a year he would need to move on. He also said that if the opportunity arose for him to expand at Behrend, he would like to do it.

In September 1994, when David Shields, Director of Student Activities, left Behrend to be acting Director of Student Activities at the Altoona campus, Rizzo was approached to look at the position of acting Director of Student Activities here at Behrend.

According to Rizzo, he felt that

in the future the position may be offered to him.

"I was approached to look at the acting position, knowing a decision would be made by a committee to keep me here," he said.

When it was certain that Shields would not be returning to the position, Rizzo decided to apply for Director.

"I was asked to do it (Director) on an interim basis. I decided I would put my name into the pool for consideration," said Rizzo.

Rizzo's new job is a combination of many things.

According to Behrend's outline

of the positions, The Director of Student Activities is responsible to the Dean of Student Affairs, Chris Reber, for all aspects of the Student Activities Program.

Not only that, but the Director interacts with student leaders and student organizations, the annual Speaker Series, advisement of the Greek System, and other programs which support an out-of-class environment that is educational and supports the College's and students' goals.

Rizzo put his job into simpler terms.

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