



by Adam Levenstein
Collegian Staff

Adam's Answers

How arrogant. Without finding out the facts or seeing for themselves, Americans mindlessly repeat the statements of US government officials and the corporate media. Is Cuba really the modern-day version of Dante's *INFERNO*?

In Cuba. Many types of food are rationed, such as meat and some vegetables. The current depression is such that it is difficult to maintain buildings and build new facilities. I say this first to avoid giving the impression that Cuba is some sort of paradise; it's not. Cuba's economic conditions are the primary reason people are fleeing Cuba.

Cuban poverty is different from American poverty. Everyone in Cuba has a home. Although food is rationed, everyone is guaranteed enough to stay healthy and foods are beginning to be taken off the rationed list. Health care and schooling remain excellent and free at all levels. For some reason, these facts don't make it to the American press.

Is Cuba democratic? At this question most Americans would snicker and say, "Of course not." Yet let us look at the facts for a moment.

The main decision-making body of the Cuban government is the National Assembly of People's Power, Cuba's legislature. This body currently contains over 550 delegates and according to Microsoft Encarta, "is elected by direct universal voting." In addition, Assembly members can be recalled at any time by a vote of the municipality that elected him/her.

There are those who would point out that Cuba has only one legal political party, the Cuban Communist Party (Partido Comunista de Cuba, or PCC). This is undeniable, but the PCC does not function in the same way as American parties. While the American parties nominate delegates, the PCC has no power over the election process; candidates are nominated and elected directly by the people. The purpose of the PCC is not to run the government; its purpose is to be run by the government.

It is currently illegal to organize against Cuba's socialist Revolution. This is

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I have been to Cuba; that's not something many Americans can say. While I was there, I was present at two speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz. That's something even fewer people can say.

Yet Americans, forbidden from travelling to the island country, have very strong opinions about Cuba. Castro the demon, Castro the dictator they say. As if there was only one person in Cuba, rather than the 11 million that make up its population. When asked, "Have you been there? How do you know?" The reply is, "I don't need to see for myself. I already know."

Greeks go to AA

by Nikki Gennuso
Collegian Staff

Last Thursday, there was an alcohol awareness program for Behrend students sponsored by the school. The program was designed to discuss drinking responsibility.

Though this program was not mandatory for students, a certain group of people on campus required to attend--two members from each Greek organization on campus.

Fair? I think not.

Rumor has it that Penn State as a whole has had an enormous problem with drinking over the recent years. Is it right to blame sororities and fraternities for this alcohol abuse? I'm not writing this article to go off about how Greek organizations are great and how they are treated badly at Behrend. I'm writing it to prove the point that the college is not supportive of Greeks and in this case sought them out and made them look like a bunch of partiers with alcohol abuse problems.

How can members of Greek organizations get the respect they deserve from the faculty and staff and get rid of the stereotypes that they have had to deal with over the past several years.

I urge the campus community to take a closer look at the fraternities and sororities on campus. Perhaps they would find that more and more academics are stressed, study groups are being formed,

philanthropic events are sponsored throughout the Erie area. And guess what? All these things are being done sober.

When it was announced that two members from my sorority were required to go to the alcohol awareness program, I did not think twice about it until a couple of days later when someone questioned why others were not required to attend. I did not see any notices that SGA had to send two members, and I didn't see any notices that two members of the accounting club or the martial arts club were required to go either. There is nothing wrong with any of these clubs.

I'm active in a few of them myself. I also know people in every club, in every organization on campus who have alcohol problems, who like to party or who simply drink on occasion whether they are underage or not.

I want someone to tell me why the fraternities and the sororities were required to go. Oh, I forgot all we are about is drinking and having a good time, right? Or at least that's what the requirement said to me.

I think it would have sent out a great message if members of all the clubs on campus were required to go. But I think the message sent out last Thursday was that fraternities and sororities have alcohol problems and need to get educated.

Stop this discrimination before it gets worse. Greek organizations go by all the rules the college has set up for them no matter how confining they may be. There is no reason why they should have to follow a rule based on stereotypes and founded in discrimination.

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