

## Spring break blues

by Colleen Fromknecht  
Collegian Staff

After a week of rest and relaxation, I have returned to school realizing that I am not in the mood to continue my studies. I think I am a victim of Spring Break Blues. I headed south this year and for the first time since I have been in college I took a real honest to goodness vacation. My mistake was going south-- the sun, the sea, and the palm trees swaying in the breeze all conspired to make me resent the idea of returning to the frozen north of Erie, Pennsylvania.

While break was wonderful, I was not prepared for the letdown of returning home during a snow storm in March. I did not seem to mind the winter weather so much while I had to deal with it, but now that I have felt the warmth of the sun again, I hate to have to deal with Erie's unpredictable weather.

To make matters worse, I am having a hard time getting back into the swing of things with my classes. Normally I actually enjoy attending classes. (I know that seems crazy, but I pay big bucks to attend school and I darn well better get some enjoyment from the time I spend here!) I have been lucky because most of my classes have been really interesting. Even the dreaded Gen Ed classes occasionally surprise me. But after spending a week away from campus I have no desire or energy to sit through class anymore. I think I am seriously depressed.

Spring semester always seems unusually long to me, probably because it begins in the middle of winter. By the time break rolls around I have had it with the weather, the classes, the teachers, the students, and the ones I love. I really need a Spring Break to calm down and gain my perspective. I know it's hard to believe, but Spring will actually arrive sooner or later. I just have to hang in there a few weeks longer.

What is really amazing to me is that almost everyone I've talked with since I have come back from break seems to feel the same way that I do. To me, it is a small miracle that we have not all gone nutty and have run screaming from the cold and the snow toward warmer climates. Hopefully, we will all settle down into our normal routine and once again be on the correct path to academic achievement. Until that happens, if you see a person wandering aimlessly down the hall with a glazed look in his or her eye who is carrying on an unintelligible conversation with someone who is not there, don't be too worried. It is probably one of the students who have been hit by the Spring Break Blues. Although there is no known cure, time will eventually allow the poor soul to return to his or her everyday life at Behrend. Just don't mention the word snow, it could be dangerous to your health!

Pro and Con

## Up in smoke!

By Mike DeSantis  
Collegian Staff

Ding, ding, ding in the right corner, wearing the black trunks, is The Smoker. In the opposite corner, wearing the white trunks, is The Non-Smoker. This battle has been going on for what seems like forever. Who has won? Well right now the college has been victorious, because starting next year smokers will no longer be able to smoke in their rooms. Is this the right thing? Well, according to articles that were published in the Collegian a few weeks back that may not be the way we want it in the future. Let's take a look shall we...

The two articles that were written were by John Amorose, called "Please Let Us Smoke", and then a reply to his article from Loretta Brandon in a letter to the editor saying how disgusted she was by John's article. Well, let's see who would have won this argument if they argued in front of me (please keep in mind I am a non-smoker).

OK, here we go, round one, beginning with a hit from Ms. Brandon saying that, "people who smoke can be the cleanest people in the world, but for a non-smoker they will always seem unclean because they smell of cigarette smoke." This can be very true, especially in cases where smokers live with other smokers. On the other hand you can't always smell the smoke, unless you get really close. One point for Loretta (1).

Loretta also brings up the point about the reason that Behrend doesn't want students to smoke is because it may help them get a job. Well Loretta you should get a point for that, but I unfortunately I can't give you one. The reason that I say this is because I had an internship last summer and I would have to say that I think about half the company smoked. So no point, sorry.

Another good point that Loretta's article brings up is the part about the smoking breaks. She says that smokers "must find some time in the course of their day to get another 'hit', which takes 5-7 minutes." I do agree with this so you get a point(2). Because I do remember that even if the people I worked with were able to go for a while without smoking, sooner or later they needed to "go and get a cigarette."

Unfortunately Loretta's points were different from John's so I can't compare them directly. John did however did make some good points, which I will now discuss, in his article.

Ding, time for round two. John comes out with a hook and makes a great point (1). He stated that "our beautiful, and often publicized campus will be littered with cigarette butts and empty cigarette packs." Unfortunately, whether or not smokers smoke in their rooms or not that is going to happen anyway. I see smokers

outside the residence halls right by the door. This gets you a point (1) because I really don't like entering my hall through the smoke and would rather have people smoke in their rooms.

Another good point that Mr. Amorose made is that if something happens in the rooms because of the cigarettes they have to pay for any damage they cause to the room. So why shouldn't they be allowed to smoke in their rooms? One more point for John (2).

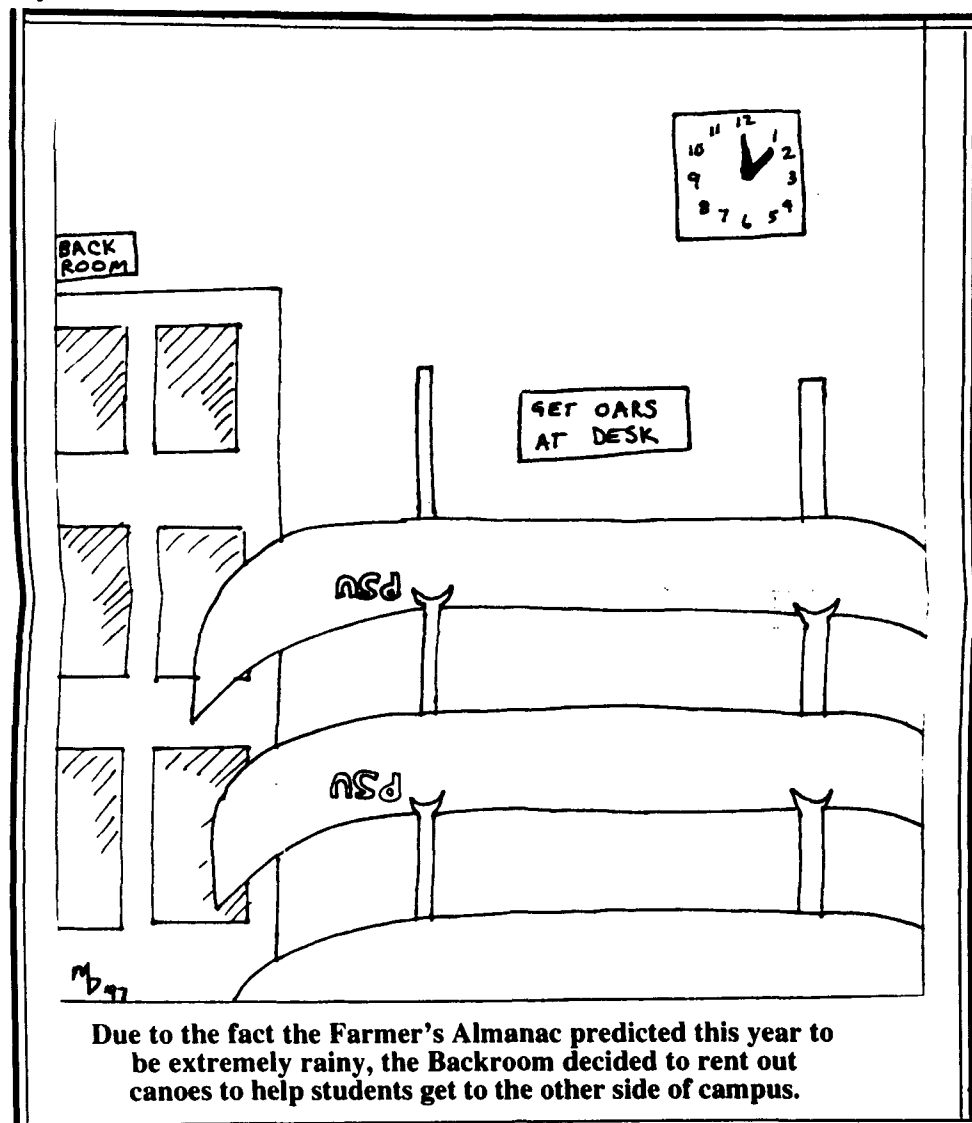
So far these two are tied...who will win? On to round three. Well here we go...this whole fight is over whether or not to smoke, yes? Well I would like you all to think about this. Now I know this doesn't directly correspond to the subject, but how many of you are Pro-Lifers and how many of you are Pro-Choicers? Well isn't this the same type of argument? Those of you who are Pro-Life...if someone who was Pro-Choice came up to you and tried to get you to become Pro-Choice would you change? Maybe, but probably not and that is why John gets one more point (3). The people who smoke know that it is bad for them. They have been preached at forever. You know what though? You can yell and scream your head off and make rules not to smoke

anywhere, but people won't quit smoking. Why? Because it is their choice to do it and they want and choose to smoke. So let them go as long as it isn't in your face. If it is, then tell them not to. I'm sure they will respect your wish.

Smoking in the residence halls is a huge fight still to be fought, and I would reconsider having smokefree dorm rooms. Why, because if students smoke outside or in their rooms the smoke still goes into the rooms via open windows, under the door, and various other ways. If they do smoke in their rooms though, and worse comes to worse a fire starts because of a cigarette that didn't get put out properly, according to the housing contract, since it causes damage to the room, students will have to pay for it. So nonsmokers don't have to worry about paying for the damages.

As for letting people smoke...John wins 3-2, because people have the right to do whatever they want to themselves. So leave them alone if they want to smoke. Smoking in the residence halls is a different story and I wish those luck involved the fight.

Any comments or topics and ideas that you think should have a pro and con discussion send to MacGyver90@aol.com.



## What a party! Purim

by Jason Simmons  
Collegian Staff

The holiday of Purim is approaching. What is Purim you ask? It is a holiday of costumes, drinking, food, dancing, and more drinking. Even children are allowed to drink on this holiday, for age does not matter. I am allowed to drink on this holiday too. So can you...

Purim is a Jewish holiday that means more than a party, it tells the story of the evil Haman (delicious cookies are named after him), Mordecai, and queen Esther. Haman wished for the destruction of the Jewish nation which was under Persian rule at the time. Unbeknownst to the king of Persia and Haman, queen Esther is Jewish. Through manipulation of Mordecai, Esther, and herself as the beautiful queen, they convince (skip the plot) the king of Persia to kill Haman in shame. If Haman were to destroy the Jews, Esther, the king's wife would also be killed.

In the temples, especially those which are orthodox, adults and children dress in costume while the Magillah is read. During each mentioning of Haman, an uproar of horns are blasted, bells are rung, and screams and whistles hurt the ears

Afterwards there are always celebrations to attend where there is live music ranging from modern to Jewish folk, where people drink and dance, drink and puke, and dance some more (the orthodox know how to party).

The conservative rabbi joins in and drinks and dances with his friends, family, and most of all to Hashem (god). Children play merrily, but the women are unfortunately separated from the men as usual. That is all right, for I can drink in front of adults without worry.

The day before Purim, there is the fast of Esther which honors, um let's see... Um... Esther! If you guessed wrong, then you are a dummy. So after an empty stomach, sundown passes and the food and drinks are served. This would be a great theme for a fraternity party. You can suffer in remembrance to history you do not know and party. You can charge for conversions. I will start a Jewish fraternity called Aleph Gimel Daliid or Lamid Lamid Lamid (get it?). Kegs of wine would be served while people dance to Hava Nagilah. And since I do not get any girls, I would not have to separate them. You get the point.

on the way to class and they drop butts and packs anyway. Recently I have been bothered by the fact that people smoke

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It's that time of year again where people finish up their thesis, caps & gowns are purchased, the credit card bill gets paid... and *The Collegian* elects new editors. If you're interested in getting involved in your student newspaper, do it! If you want to run your student newspaper, apply!

### THE COLLEGIAN NEEDS AN EDITOR IN CHIEF FOR THE 1997-98 SCHOOL YEAR.

Applicants must submit the following to the Office of Student Affairs (Attn.: Dr. Chris Reber):

1. Statement of journalistic qualifications
2. Editorial philosophy
3. Assessment of *The Collegian's* strengths and weaknesses
4. Plans for organization of staff members

Deadline: March 21

ALL MAJORS (liberal arts or science) are encouraged to apply!!

Questions? Call Jennifer or Danielle at 898-6488

### ALL BUSINESS MAJORS

Want to get some real experience to put on your resume? *The Collegian* needs a business manager to manage all business affairs of a student newspaper. Interested full-time students should send a resume and a letter of interest to *The Collegian*, attn.: Jennifer Colvin.

*The Express*, the new culinary cart from Housing and Food Services is now open in the lobby of Hammermill/Zurn serving fresh coffee, juices, cookies, pastries, and fruit from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hours and menu items to be expanded soon, suggestions are welcome.

*The Express* is great for a quick breakfast and between class munchies. Stop down today!

PA resident?  
Qualifies for state or federal financial aid?  
Looking for a summer job or internship?  
PIH-AA sponsors a work study program for eligible PA students involved in career related jobs and internships. Applications and a list of participating employers are available in the Career Development Center office on Reed.

ATTENTION SPRING GRADUATES: SPRING COMMENCEMENT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1997 AT 12:00 P.M. ON THE REED LAWN, WEATHER PERMITTING.

CAP AND GOWN ORDERS ARE DUE AT THE PENN STATE BOOKSTORE BY MARCH 21, 1997.

SGA ELECTIONS ARE GOING ON, PICK UP A PETITION FOR PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND SENATORS. NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY FOR ANY POSITIONS.

SPC MOVIE OF THE WEEK: *The Preacher's Wife* Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall