

**The Behrend College Collegian**  
 published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

**Editor in Chief**  
 Andrea M. Zaffino

**Managing Editor**  
 Anne M. Rajotte

**Layout Editor**  
 Nathan Mitchell

**Photography Editor**  
 Jason Blake

**Business Manager**  
 Dana Greenhouse

**Features Editor**  
 Jon Stubbs

**News Editor**  
 Ik Chan Kang

**Sports Editor**  
 Dylan Stewart

**Associate Editor**  
 Brian Ashbaugh

**Advertising Manager**  
 RJ Frelin

**Advisor**  
 Robert Speel

**Advisor**  
 Alan Parker

**Postal Information:** The Collegian is published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. The Collegian can be reached by calling (814) 898-6488 or (814) 898-6019 (FAX). ISSN 1071-9288.

**Letter Policy:** The Collegian encourages letters to the editor. Letters should include the address, phone number, semester standing and major of the writer. Writers can mail their letters to behrcoll2@aol.com. Letters must be received no later than 5pm Tuesday for inclusion in that week's issue.

EDITORIAL

## The dreadful conditions of Turnbull Barn

Turnbull Barn seems to be the one place on campus that students try to avoid having class. The complaints range from the temperature to overcrowding to the pillars in the middle of the room.

There are plans to change the Barn from a classroom building into a student service area. As for the complaints about the heating and pillars, only a major overhaul could change the conditions.

Having class in this building is very distracting. Fall classes have to deal with the heat of August. The one air conditioner is too loud to hear a lecture, so it is usually not used. The building is still hot in the wintertime,

and windows are usually opened, which wastes energy and money.

The rooms are filled to capacity with desks and some students are forced to sit behind a pillar. As a result the student can't see the professor and the professor can't see the student.

Obviously, it takes a lot of money to overhaul a building such as Turnbull. Also, there is a shortage of classrooms which makes Turnbull classrooms a necessity. Efforts should be made to have as few classes as possible in this building. The situation currently is distracting and not conducive to an effective learning environment.

## To Prevent Germ Warfare, Treaty of 1972 Needs Teeth

By Debora MacKenzie Special to the Los Angeles Times

The United States and its allies go to the brink of war to get U.N. inspectors into guarded buildings where Iraq may be hiding biological weapons. And a Russian defector to the United States, once a high-ranking official in the Soviet germ warfare program, says Russia continues to develop biological weapons under the guise of defensive research.

One thing has become clear: Whatever the U.N. team finds in Saddam Hussein's palaces, the world will be only marginally safer from the threat of germ warfare as a result of the inspection. That's because there is little to stop another nation or another fanatic or even Iraq once the inspectors go home from going after the perverse power that a bit of anthrax or botulin toxin has given Saddam. There is only one real answer: Watch everyone by finally giving some teeth to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.

The 140 countries that belong to the convention, including the United States, Iraq and Russia, have renounced using germs and their toxins as weapons. But there are no legal means to check whether members are

keeping their promises. Even Iraq could not be inspected for biological weapons without special permission from the U.N. Security Council. Earlier this month in Geneva, treaty members tried again to put verification procedures into the agreement. The talks have been hamstrung by President Clinton's refusal to consider a type of inspection that European Union countries, and most others, think is essential to deter prospective

**The 140 countries that belong to the convention... have renounced using germs and their toxins as weapons. But there are no legal means to check whether members are keeping their promises.**

bio-warriors.

While there are big differences between the United Nations' unfriendly inspections in Iraq and the friendly, just-checking sorts of inspections proposed for the treaty, the Iraqi experience has taught us what works. Technical experts must be free to go anywhere--breweries, biotech companies, fertilizer plants that are perfectly legitimate but easily converted to disease factories--at random, on short

# That Strange House on Station Road

ANNE RAJOTTE

## Proposed fees show Behrend's lack of authority

Next month, a committee at University Park will meet to decide if the student activity fee will be raised. Although the actual amount the fee will be raised will be determined at each campus, the decision to increase the fee is entirely up to administration at University Park.

Michael Zampetti, Student Government Association president at Behrend, stated that he was asked his opinion on the increase and both he and Dr. Chris Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, expressed their disapproval. Despite this, Behrend students may have to pay between \$1-5 more than they are currently charged.

The Student Activity Fee has historically been a point of contention between students and administration. Many students claim not to see the benefit of the fifty dollars they pay each year. An increase in the fee would only heighten this frustration.

However, it is important to realize that Behrend administration seems to be against the increase. This is just another example of how Behrend is often forced to follow decisions that are made for the benefit of students at University Park.

The most blatant example of this is the proposed recreation fee. According to Zampetti, University Park doesn't have adequate facilities for their intramural program. To remedy this, an extra fee has been suggested in order to provide funding for the program. This fee is still in the pre-

liminary stages, and may not necessarily be added to the fees we already pay. Also, since it is still just a proposal at this point, the amount of the fee has not been set.

The recreation fee is a perfect example of a proposal made just to ben-

efit students at University Park. If they want to improve their intramural program, let them pay for it. If this fee were adopted, the money paid by Behrend students would most likely stay at Behrend. Even so, the fact that we might be forced to add another fee to our bill, one that may not even be necessary, is extremely unfair to students not at University Park.

A college cannot make decisions with their students' best interests in mind when they are under the authority of an institution that does not necessarily have these students' interests in mind. This is not to say that Penn State as a whole completely disregards the interests of students at campuses other than University Park. It does seem to, however, think mainly of those students.

Behrend needs to have more authority over itself. Why should Behrend students pay a fee created for

**This is just another example of how Behrend is often forced to follow decisions that are made for the benefit of students at University Park.**

## 'Primary Colors' Seems Weightier Than Real Life

By Barbara T. Roessner=(c) 1998, The Hartford Courant

The local radio guy hosting a sneak preview of "Primary Colors" at the multiplex the other night had a question for the packed house.

"How many of you think Bill Clinton is a womanizer?"

A few whoops, a couple of muted whistles, and the hands shot up.

"And how many of you think that's a stupid question?"

Another eruption of snickers and guffaws before the lights go down, the flick comes up, and the real-life joke gives way to deadly serious fiction.

On the screen, a black man sells out his race. A gravely disillusioned campaign worker kills herself. A candidate's wife, betrayed by her husband's compulsive infidelities, dies inside. Characters cry. They throw up. They bleed. They anguish. They agonize. They suffer consequences that alter their lives, and history.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, The Bill and Gennifer and Paula and Monica and Linda and Kathleen Show feels no more weighty than a daily episode of "Montel."

It's weird: We're all getting a titillating kick out of the flood of sexual tales from the White House, and it takes John Travolta to interrupt the national gossip fest long enough to remind us just how profound are the issues at hand. That little matter of good and evil, for example. Right and wrong. And, ultimately, the real pain of real people who've nowhere to turn but their government for hope of a decent wage for their hard work, decent medical care for their disabilities, a decent education for their kids.

Medicare reform? Managed care? Tobacco regulation? Famine in Africa? Hunger in America? Who cares when we can collectively fixate on Kathleen Willey's descriptions of his hands on her, and hers on him?

I saw an old film clip on The History Channel recently in which a col-

lege professor explained to a reporter, circa 1968, that the definition of morality was fundamentally shifting. Being moral -- being "good" -- no longer hinged on whether you had sex outside marriage; the moral debate now focused on war, civil rights, injustices of class and race and gender.

Well, the message I got from "Primary Colors" is something similar. The film version of Joe Klein's thinly fictionalized account of Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign serves up all the salacious sex scandal stuff now obsessing the White House and the media. The underlying theme, though, is that the real moral dilemma of American politics isn't sex at all. It's the way little people -- citizens, voters, fathers, daughters, the disabled guy who scratches out a living making doughnuts -- get hurt, or at best overlooked, by a process that puts winning above all else.

Is digging up sexual dirt on your opponent an unfortunate requirement of the game? Is it, however repugnant, just one of those things you've got to endure to get to where you can do some good for the masses? Does the end justify the means, or do the means corrupt the end? Do you even know, by the time you get elected, what's good for average folks when you've indulged in so much evil along the way?

Jack Stanton, the Clinton character in "Primary Colors," shrouds his every act of immorality in pathos for the little guy -- so much so that when he has sex with a librarian he meets at a campaign stop, he actually seems to think he's advanced the cause of literacy.

And when the Hillary character whacks him across the face for sleeping with her hairdresser, he just hangs his head and stares into space like a pathetic, chubby baby.

"Primary Colors" is more than entertainment. It's sobering. It's a cold shower on an audience so drunk with sexual rumor and graphic little tidbits about who pawed whom when that we've forgotten -- just as our candidates have what really matters.

Roessner is a Courant columnist.

notice. There are two major objectors to this approach: Russia and the United States.

Russia was one of the major backers of the 1972 treaty. Yet in 1992, it admitted that it had kept its own bio-weapons program running all along. Indeed, it may still exist. Russia also rejects every kind of inspection but the kind forced on Iraq.

Russia wields little moral force in the negotiations. The U.S. position, however, is crucial to an agreement. But President Clinton wants inspections under the treaty only when there is already obvious cause for suspicion, say, an odd disease outbreak. Such

world had an obvious cause for suspicion.

And what about prospective bio-warriors messing with diseases more common than anthrax--severe, food poisoning, for instance; would an escape of those germs raise anyone's suspicions? Even Iraq would not have attracted a suspicion-based inspection in the 1980s, when its bio-weapons program might have been nipped in the bud.

President Clinton argues on behalf of the U.S. pharmaceuticals and biotech industries that random inspections are unacceptable because they will expose trade secrets. But there are straightforward technical means of allowing inspectors to look for incriminating evidence without revealing a confidential gene sequence or production process. Some negotiators in Geneva are privately questioning whether the United States isn't hiding behind the worries of its biotech companies to avoid inspections that might reveal more biological weapons research than Washington would like to admit. A highly speculative, and in any case avoidable threat to industrial profit should not be allowed to undermine the creation of an inspection regime that might actually prevent the next Saddam. As long as governments and would-be terrorists think they can get what they want by waving a bit of anthrax around, we desperately need a treaty with all the teeth it can get.

clumsiness is rare, and when it occurs things have already gone too far.

Russia suffered one such incident back in 1979 with an outbreak of anthrax downwind of its closed military facilities in Sverdlovsk, now called Yekaterinburg. The world learned last month, from Russian defector Kanatjan Alibekov, just how immense Russia's germ warfare program was, and possibly still is, yet the anthrax incident was the only time the outside

MacKenzie is the Brussels correspondent for New Scientist, a weekly international science magazine.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Student recounts week in Spain

Two weeks ago, myself and others from International Studies 497 spent a week in Spain. We started our sojourn in Madrid, capital, a city of approximately four million people.

Dr. Juan Fernández Jiménez, was the leader of our expedition, being a native Spaniard, from the Province of Jaen, he proved as always to be truly remarkable.

My first impression of Madrid was that there was a lot of "scooters" (Vespas) slashing their way throughout the narrow, twisting, turning, meandering streets. Someone in our group almost got "Aced" by one.

The whole experience of the tapas bar was an incredible culinary experience. Choosing and sharing little morsels of ham, cheese, calamari, etc. My biggest observations from Spain are that the family unit is incredibly strong. Everywhere you looked were

mothers and four or five children playing during the midday siesta.

I found my Spanish skills were not exactly the "creme de la creme" of verbosity, but I managed to keep my belly full. I also had a lot of fun playing soccer with some children in a park in Jaen. I showed them my American football, and they had an exciting time.

Another experience I had, while chatting with a few ladies in their forties in an English style pub, was this lady called Sheila, who was smoking the cigarette called "Ducados." After explaining to me she hated everybody from the U.K. and the United States, she blew a "Godzilla-like" plume of smoke into my eyes. It felt like I had just been hit with some CS gas. Immediately my eyes began a salty, boiling sensation, I regained my composure and continued the conversation.

She seemed to like me, but said it wouldn't work out because she was a Communist, I reminded her the Berlin Wall fell about 9 years earlier.

Days later we "tooled" through Spain in a Mercedes Benz 20 passenger van, with ABS, video, VCR, among other things. My favorite areas were: Jaen, Toledo, Escanuela and Málaga. We had a big family fiesta in Dr. Fernández's hometown of Escanuela. With the traditional dish of paella, fresh shrimp and other tapas. There was song, dance and the women of southern Spain, Primo!

Hats off and kudos to Dr. Fernández, who did the work of 100 men. And one of my favorites was the cathedrals and castles. Buenos días amigos.

Michael J. Coursey, 08, Political Science

