

Editorial Opinion

# New Precedent For Behrend; Students Act, Change Occurs

For all too long the Behrend students have maintained an "I don't give a damn" attitude toward the major social and academic problems on our campus. When asked to get involved the average Behrend student respond with: "Why should I get involved? I'm only here for two years!" "You can't fight the administrative bureaucracy and red tape so why try?" "Nothing can be done to change the system!" And so the problems continue at Behrend while students stand around complaining, but doing nothing. At least this has been the case until now.

This past week, the student personnel of the Instructional Services Department submitted a list of grievances to the Office of Resident Instruction. Although the problems of wages and hours for student employees were discussed, the essential concern exhibited by the letter of grievance was the quality of education at Behrend. The students, actually running the department at the present time, were convinced that the lack of administrative direction and decision were severely restricting the activities and capabilities of the department. Educational chaos seemed to be developing as a result of this indecision. The department was on the verge of a complete shutdown. This would have terminated several courses on campus and would have eliminated the audio-visual materials used in many other courses. The student employees felt compelled to act to end this confusion and to rectify the grievances they had.

And act they did, putting their own jobs on the line. In a respectful yet firm letter, they presented the difficulties they had in fulfilling their assigned functions because of equipment

malfunctions, administrative indecision and "economy" measures. But they did not merely complain. They made specific, reasonable proposals to the Assistant Director for Resident Instruction. Within three days they had their answer. Improvements would be made. They are being made right now. As a result of the organized manner in which the Instructional Services Department presented its problems, the majority of its difficulties have been resolved, while those issues still outstanding are being negotiated.

This action is dramatic proof that an organized group of students can effectively create change at Behrend. The administrative officers of this campus can be persuaded to act. They will hear and respond to forceful, logical and responsible demands of the students. But they will do this only if the students, and even the faculty, take firm and reasonable stands. Although compromise and negotiation will be required, unity and determination of purpose can work change.

Last year there were cries from all segments of the campus community that the administration at Behrend turned deaf ears to any plea from the students or the faculty no matter how reasonable, meaningful or necessary the suggested improvements were. So far this year there have been two examples that change can be wrought by concerned action. Perhaps "the times they are a-changing." We certainly hope they are. Perhaps this is the start of a new era for Behrend, an era when students and faculty alike not only urge, but actually propose and inaugurate changes which can only result in the improvement of the academic life at Behrend.

# T.V. Courses Poor Substitute; Professors Needed To Fill Gap

Any Behrend student who has taken Meteorology 300, Anthropology, Psychology 14, Art History, or Health is familiar with the awesome machine known as the Video Tape Recorder. These same students are also familiar with the poor quality of these TV courses.

In the past Behrend has relied on TV courses to fill an otherwise lacking curriculum. Television is a poor substitute for live instruction. Video instruction seems so ridiculous since an instructor must be present to supplement what is presented on tape. The instructor should be the main source of information. TV should merely supplement instruction like any other visual aid.

The quality of the videotapes is far below that needed for quality education. The audio is often garbled and the video is equally as bad. Dropout, shedding tape, and clogged video heads are just a few of the technical problems with the present tapes.

As far as tape production is concerned, television's visual medium is used poorly. The present approach to TV courses is to tape lectures. Taking an instructor out of a classroom, putting him in front of a camera and taping his lectures does not make a TV course. Present lecture practices are not usable on television. A good television course requires an instructor familiar with television production practices and familiar with the advantages and limitations of the medium.

There are ways in which television can be utilized effectively to benefit both student and teacher. Using the TV close-up in science experiments, video taping commercial television programs to be used during class time, student self evaluation in theater and speech courses, and teacher self evaluation of teaching practices are a few ways in which television can be used as a course tool instead of a course substitute.

# No Funds Hinder Behrend Growth

by Doug Lechlitter  
Managing Editor

Times are rough. Times are rough all over. But times seem to be especially rough at Penn State, more specifically the Behrend Campus.

For a state that has taxes as high as they are, the average person would imagine that there would be a little bit of money around to give to Penn State, with the hope that a modicum of it might actually filter down to the Behrend Campus.

Theoretically Behrend is supposed to be a four year institution of higher learning. Theoretically of course. In reality, Behrend is still stumbling along on the funds that would barely meet the requirements of any of the other commonwealth campuses. While Behrend is supposed to be progressive, it is barely managing to maintain what it has at the moment.

One of these days the powers that be in this fair state of Pennsylvania are going to wake up and realize what a dynamic place Behrend really is, and perhaps give us the money necessary to accomplish what Behrend is required to do. In the meantime, the Behrend Campus is struggling along with one hand tied behind its back. There is no room for any of the campus organizations to utilize in order to realize the potentials that many of them contain. The buildings that the campus so desperately needs are at the moment held up in some Appropriations Committee. There is no money to hire the faculty to meet the academic requirements of the campus, and as a result the students are being short changed from an educational viewpoint. Behrend is dying while legislators and University administrators fiddle.

# "The Who" Make It; Same Old "Blues"

by Charles Eschweiler  
Staff writer

Who's Next...The Who

The Who have always had a hard time maintaining a level of consistency over the space of an L.P. This is obvious from Magic Bus up to Live at Leeds. Magic Bus was only half of what it could have been, Tommy would have made one good album but loses its effect stretched over two separate records and just as Live at Leeds approaches greatness Townshend decides to show how well he can imitate Jimmy Page and blows everything. Who's Next is the first really solid album the boys have come up with; it starts out with a tightly

structured rocker, Baba O'Reilly and maintains an energetic tension all the way into the explosive eight minutes of Won't Be Fooled Again. I suspect that this album will sound as good a year from now as it does today. How many albums can you honestly say that of?

Every Good Boy  
Deserves Favor...  
The Moody Blues

Yes, this is another Moody Blues album just like the last five Moody Blues albums. Next year there will be another Moody Blues album; it will probably be just like the six previous Moody Blues albums. Isn't that nice?

# Speak Easy

by Garry Cochran  
Staff Writer

Q-What is the problem-some of our showers don't work; you have to wait in line on Friday and Saturday night. Flustered A-Food and Housing director Bob Finley checked with the Plumbing Contractor about this problem. It seems that some of the supplies were stolen. Plumber had to first order replacements; they have been installed or will be finished this week. If yours are missed contact Mr. Finley and give him the location of the shortage.

Q-This campus lacks something don't you think? A Q.

A-Definitely. The administration lacks bureaucracy, the faculty doesn't have that unapproachable attitude with students, and the buildings lack those colorfully painted slogans on their walls. The students lack unrest, unfriendliness and apathy.

These are some of the lackings of Behrend, and as long as they persist this campus will lack some of the flavor of bigger schools.

"SPEAK EASY" will reply to questions of general interest to students and faculty at Behrend Campus. Any questions you have can be addressed to this column.

# Editorial Policy

The editorials appearing in this newspaper will be opinionated and therefore subject to criticism. All letters that are typewritten of 200 words or less, and submitted to the newspaper staff will be printed with the exception of those that are repetitions or in poor taste. The staff reserves the right to correct or delete portions of all letters for publication purposes.

All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Term standing, major, and hometown must be included.

Signed columns represent the view of the author only and do not reflect the Editorial policy of the Behrend Collegian.

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