

Editorial Opinion

Input Requires Coordination

Take a problem; any problem. Add a group of committees and organizations, throw in a bunch of well meaning people, and you have a bureaucratic system.

Bureaucracies over the years have become an institutionalized part of American society. They permeate the very core of our existence from our government down to our social organizations. Needless to say, the college community has not been able to escape the blight.

Although it goes without doubt that bureaucracies are necessary to a point, they are always selfdefeating in that they arrive at a crux where a lack of coordination chokes and kills them. Such could almost be said to be the case of the Behrend Campus.

Behrend has within its organization a variety of groups, all working very conscientiously for the improvement of the campus. Some of these include the Student Government Association, the Faculty Senate and its multitude of committees, the Joint Resident Council, and even the Behrend Collegian.

This is fine, but affairs have reached a peak where the need for coordination of activities is crucial. Everyone is working on the same problem, the betterment of Behrend, but each in its own separate way. Instead of working together for the common goal, evidently the majority are taking off on tangents of their own. The end result is very little accomplished at the expense of immense amounts of time and effort.

What obviously is needed is either a person or group to direct activities in an attempt to reduce the duplication of work that is presently going on. At the very least, there should be a clearing house for rumors and ideas so that anyone can find out what the others are doing.

Presently work is being done on campus directory which will give extensive details on the various campus organizations, the work they do, members, and where they can be reached. This is the first real effort that has been made to coordinate activities. Also in the works is a daily bulletin which will list daily campus events. This will be a tremendous boon to many of the students who at the moment do not take an active part in many of things that the campus has to offer. Let us hope that in the near future a system is devised so that the work being done by so many of the campus organizations is also organized.

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.

Winter Survival at Behrend; A Handbook for the Student

by Doug Lechliter Managing Editor

Behrend freshmen received last week their first taste of another form of what is affectionately known as 'Erie weather.' This other form came in the shape of crystalline precipitation commonly known as snow. It is to become a major factor in the life patterns of everyone at Behrend until the middle of next April-May-June? As can be expected there are certain techniques that must be followed if one is to survive the year.

There are a variety of new expressions that those from the sunnier climes of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh must learn to add to their vocabulary. These are usually learned from the weather reports on WCCK when they say, "...the chill factor is 40 degrees and the ice on the lake is 2 to 3 feet." To the uninitiated, 40 degrees of chill factor doesn't sound too frightening until you find out that the chill factor is subtracted from the present temperature, and when the present temperature is 20 below, that makes for mighty damn cold weather.

It doesn't really pay to hide in your room, either, because your room comes equipped with a heater. Behrend heaters come in two varieties—they work sometimes, or they don't work at all. The latter is more prevalent than the former. In such a situation, there are several options open to the student; you can complain to the resident assistant who will report it and that is as far as it goes; you can kick it—but this usually doesn't help much; you can tear it apart and hope that you remember how to put it together again, or you can burn a can of Bud. Another possibility is to take your roommate's extra blanket and hang it at the window in an attempt to keep that inch of ice that forms there from encroaching any more on the already low temperatures in your room. Food and Housing takes a dim view of these proceedings, but it is worth about an extra three degrees.

Some people are even more lucky—their heater works. As a matter of fact, it works so well you have to open the window, upon which the heater doesn't work any more. Theoretically,

there is a way to disconnect a magnet in the window so that you can open it and still have heat. Extreme caution, complete sobriety, and a strong friendship with everyone on the floor is required, because if the screwdriver slips, the heating for the entire floor and sometimes the whole dorm is shorted out. Maintenance takes a dim view of these proceedings.

It would be wise for everyone to take a long look at various landmarks about the campus that are soon to disappear

from view until Spring. Things like grass, the sidewalks, the RUB, your car.

Sidewalks and steps, which are considered friendly and helpful things, become about the most dangerous objects on campus. It is not unusual for a sidewalk to become buried under 8 inches of ice. This is great for a toboggan run, but it makes for poor walking. Steps, instead of being steps, become 45 degree slopes that are extremely slippery. Conditions become so bad that many seriously wonder if the shovel factories are out on strike.

Antifreeze is also a required accessory. Not just antifreeze for your car, but antifreeze for you. Depending on the weather conditions, something along the line of 86 to 100 proof is necessary. A judicious portion taken in the morning gives you that little kick necessary to turn your brain over and help you make it to your first period class in the Nick Building. Southern Comfort is an all time traditional favorite, but any reputable bourbon or scotch will do. For further information, contact Ed Burger in 219 Perry Hall.

A few helpful hints are necessary to help the Behrend student choose his wardrobe along the lines of survival. A rule of thumb for coats is, "If you can walk in it, it isn't warm enough." A good pair of waterproof clodhoppers are necessary to negotiate the 5 inches of slush that results from the liberal spreading of salt on campus roads and sidewalks. Snowshoes have been known to come in handy, especially for those who like to trudge in the Gorge. Rumor has it that the Bookstore will be stocking pitons, nylon rope, and ice axes to aid Perry and Niagara Hall residents in climbing up to Dobbins Hall. A sleeping bag is a handy thing to have when the campus is snowed in and all the commuters are looking for a place to crash.

Although the outlook for Erie weather is gloomy, all students should take heart in the fact that winter doesn't last forever. There are only 131 days until Spring. This is only a rough estimate for Behrend.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I believe a great failure of public education today, of which Penn State is a part, is the almost total absence of the teaching of values.

Superior intelligence and education are not enough as evidenced by a goddess but brilliant Hitler who led the most highly educated people in the world at that time into a period of terror and madness. Where was the character and courage of the German people?

Another area which I am gravely concerned about is the method of teaching the origin of life. I certainly do not want to see scientists stop investigating any aspect of creation or life in general, although I find it difficult to swallow many of the suppositions that are coupled with factual discoveries to formulate the evolutionary theory.

Many textbooks present the story of evolution in almost factual manner until the reader is unsure just what is fact and what is theory.

Since much of evolution is based on interpretation of evidence, rather than on fact itself, why is the process of creation by Almighty God not taught alongside evolution for the student to judge? The Monkey Trial showed that evolutionists have a right to be heard but that does not mean we have a right to shut God out.

We hear of the Neanderthal Man, projected to be dull and brutish according to the original reconstruction of the first complete specimen. A few years ago, that specimen was examined and found to be stooped over as a result of advanced arthritis and had a brain larger than today's European!

In ancient history we read of the Australopithecus africanus who was supposedly hairless and stood erect. This supposed link in the evolution of man was to have existed and phased out around a million years ago. Yet the Chinese philosopher Hsun-Tzu, who lived in 400 B.C. wrote that, "An ape the size of a man and covered with hair lived in the Yellow River Valley in his day, and also that it stood erect."

A Tibetan woodcut shows among a group of monkeys, a tail-less, bipedal primate standing on a rock with an arm outstretched upward.

If we have long since evolved from this, why was he around only a short time ago?

Promoters of the concept of uniformitarianism in geology, whose main contribution of evolution are fossil remains, state that gradual uniform change is the key to understanding earth processes. But this does not explain the universal dying of the dinosaurs which remains unsolved. Climate or food changes as explanations

do not fit in with evolution as they should have been able to adjust. Disease is usually limited to a species.

The law of biogenesis, kind producing kind, (except for mutations within the species) and the seemingly infinite and intricate laws which rule universal processes all testify the world is not the result of a series of accidents.

The best support of a God-originated world is the Bible which may best be proved by the changes in people's lives and fulfilled prophecy.

Why, in a democratic society, is this version of life not being taught?

Veronica J. King
7th Term,
Division of Counseling,
Wesleyville

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter concerning some of the ego trippers who find it humorous to leave their cafeteria trays on the table. This creates a real hassle when the workers have to rid off the table before they can clean it. I think it's disgusting that some people are so damn lazy they can't even carry their tray back. Next time you feel like leaving your tray on the table, think of the girls who have to clean it up.

A cafeteria worker
Name withheld

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Cartoon strip with four panels. Panel 1: 'THIS WEEK'S CUT-UP! GROUPS! GARANTEED TO RANKLE YER BUT!' Panel 2: '1. JOCKS' with a jock and a girl. Panel 3: '2. JEZUS FREAKS.' with two people. Panel 4: '4. CARTOONIST!' with a cartoonist and a girl.