

# Behrend Collegian

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Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of the Behrend Collegian are not necessarily those of the University Administration, faculty, or the student body.

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# Letters to the Editor

Members of the Joint Residence Council:

I, George Frola, Jr., do hereby resign my position as chairman of the Joint Residence Council. I feel that I cannot be chairman of an organization which is composed of a majority of people who make decisions for the entire resident student body based upon their own personal beliefs and prejudices.

This method of decision making has been illustrated in two major decisions in the past term (Winter 1972). The first instance was the decision concerning the visitation proposal which I, with the help of two other JRC members, submitted relatively early in the term. A moment of rational thought on the issue would have made each person realize that a majority of the resident students on Behrend Campus were in favor of an increase in visitation hours. Instead, people seemed to forget the issue at hand and let their own personal feelings enter into their decision, rather than the feelings of the student body which they represent.

The second incident was that of sponsoring a dance which was to be held for the benefit of paying for damages in both Perry and Dobbins Halls. Again the majority of the members of this "representative" organization failed to see their more than apparent responsibility to sponsor the fund raising dance. People's emotions again entered into their decision and another

project which was for the benefit of the resident student body, either as a whole or in specific cases, was voted down.

I cannot, in clear conscience, continue to call myself chairman of this organization. I accepted the position, and acted according to the supposition that what the JRC did was for the benefit of and a direct reflection of the student desires. It has been made quite apparent to me that this is not the way the JRC works and I therefore resign as chairman of the Joint Residence Council.

Sincerely,  
George Frola, Jr.

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my views on RIGHTS FOR THE NON-SMOKER. I am a non-smoker and I get very annoyed and pissed-off when somebody lights a butt in a classroom. Being a non-smoker, the obnoxious smoke is very sickening! It always seems that the smoker is blowing his smoke right in the face of a non-smoker. If the classroom has a NO SMOKING sign then it should be enforced.

According to the local fire law smoking in an education institution (which I think this is) is forbidden. Not mentioning the mess that is left on the floor, plus the smell that is left on my clothes.

One thing which is humorous about this discussion on the non-smokers rights is the entertainment I get from watching the sophisticated smoker. You can always tell when someone is about to catch a smoke, about twenty minutes after class starts, the smoker becomes very nervous and restless. The smoker must light up or else he'll never get through the class.

In closing I would like these laws enforced in the classroom, because the non-smoker also has his rights.

Thank you,  
Tom Staszewski  
6th, El.Ed., Erie

Dear Editor:

I would like to make one suggestion about the speed limit on campus. I would like a resolution to LOWER the speed limit from 15 M.P.H. to 5 M.P.H. for one simple reason:—if anyone went 15 M.P.H. on Behrend's roads they would leave their complete exhaust system and gas tank behind them.

If I wanted to visit the Grand Canyon I'd fly there; so let's do something about those roads.

Signed,  
Mark Hedges  
5th, Business, Erie

Dear Editor:

With the current voter registration period due to end on Monday, March 6, I exhort every Behrend student to spend the 25 cents required for a trip to the Courthouse or to one of the special registration sites.

Most "adult" politicians have been hostile or afraid of the issues of concern to many students: the War in Indochina, amnesty, use of marijuana, expanded loans and scholarships, freedom of speech, accommodation between races,

et.al.  
Only if students register to vote in massive numbers, for candidates who are young and vocal on such issues, will they be solved. For the first time there are such young candidates locally, not beholden to any older power base.

Patrick Mertens (draft counselor) running for State Legislature from Erie's west side; and Bob Lohse (student at Gannon), Ann Marie Silva (teacher), Jim Young (professor at Edinboro), and myself are candidates for Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Lohse, Silva and Young are pledged to McGovern. All of us are young and attuned to the issues above.

If Behrend students still want change in American society, register to vote in the party primaries before March 6, then work and vote for these candidates. Registering Independent robs you of the right to vote in the primaries, where the real choice lies. Not trucking on down to the Courthouse robs you of the right to vote at all. Take a friend, support your peers who are speaking out. Your vote will count.

Peace,  
Richard Obermanns  
University of Chicago  
P.S. The requirements and times for registration: Pennsylvania residents 3 months and age 18 by the election. Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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## English 112 Offered

English 112, (Techniques of Fiction), will be offered at Behrend during the spring term. The course will involve creating writing (short stories, essays, articles) and critical reading. Pre-requisites are English 1 and 3. The course should mainly interest two categories of students: those who are English majors interested in the Writing Option, and liberal arts majors who wish to fulfill three of six credits of the Arts requirement. For further clarification contact Mrs. Debbie Horne, 102D Turnbull Hall.

## Events Of The Week

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10**  
Fencing Club meeting-Seminar-Room-3 p.m. Earth Night-movies-ERIE Hall-9 p.m.-3 a.m.  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**  
Jammy, "Sergio"-Erie Hall-9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 12**  
Movie "Shenandoah"-RUB-7 and 9 p.m.

## Editorial Opinion

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.

# Major Point of Interest; The Harrisburg Seven

by James Lyons  
Guest Writer

WHO ARE THE HARRISBURG SEVEN?

Three of them are Roman Catholic priests; one is a nun who teaches art history. Still another is a gentle, lucid Pakistani scholar, an authority of Third World nationalism. Finally, a couple: a former priest, son of a Congressman; a former nun, a Fulbright scholar in French.

Their names are Eqbal Ahmad, Father Philip Berrigan, Sister Elizabeth McAlister, Father Neil McLaughlin, Anthony and Mary Scoblick, and Father Joseph Wenderoth.

Seven people who hate war. WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The Department of Justice has invested thousands of agent man-hours in this case. It has coerced dozens of witnesses, made free and brazen use of wiretapping, manipulated a docile grand jury for a period of five full months. All of this labor produced an enormously complex, subtly fashioned indictment—most of which is

malicious nonsense.

The Harrisburg Seven are not, as the Government charges, conspirators or bombers or kidnapers. They are, indeed, resisters; some of them have gone past deploring the war to the point of direct action against its tools. But it is not because they interfered with the draft that our government is staging this massive, costly show trial against them. It is because these seven men and women appeal powerfully to the roots of American Conscience.

The issue then is CONSCIENCE vs. POWER. WHO IS WINNING?

Nobody knows who will win in court—but the real verdict won't come from the jury anyway. The Government's goal is to use the fear of jail as a club against the Peace Movement. The Government

loses if the actual result of the trial is a widening of the community of conscience, a deepening of the spirit of resistance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

It is not just the Harrisburg Seven that are on trial but each and everyone of us. We can no longer remain in the silent darkness of an environment which is suppressing our own humanity. The time has come for each of us to step out of the darkness and into the brightness of life.

Therefore, we not only urge you to reflect upon what has been presented here but to join together as a community to state our support of the Harrisburg Seven. You may do this by signing the statement below and returning it to Sister Helen Ann Zysk, 6101 East Lake road, Erie, Pennsylvania, 16511.

I (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
of (address) \_\_\_\_\_  
wish to join with the Harrisburg Seven in their struggle to regain life, freedom, and justice within our society.

