

Editorial Opinion

Registration Proves a Headache to Many

Well, here we go again. A new year, a new term, new classes and some new faces. Perhaps some of us have made a New Year's resolution to study a little harder this term and party a little less after receiving our grade slips. And others may have received a welcome surprise from a good cumulative average. Our first major accomplishment of the new term could possibly be that of surviving registration. Due often to the ineptness of advisors, the ignorance of the students, and schedule changes by academic affairs, registration can be a near traumatic experience.

Gripes are constantly being expressed by students about advisors concerning their ignorance of requirements for the students major, their non-existence for pre-registration and schedule changes, and their lack of knowledge of necessary prerequisites. Another common complaint which is a valid criticism especially for new students is the lack of interest of some advisors. The students may be simply given the necessary cards to fill out on their own, and this can cause much confusion at registration.

Not all advisors are bad—in fact some students really like their advisor. One must take into consideration the fact that advisors are not on the professional level as advisors, but that their profession is generally teaching, and in order to teach effectively, they have preparations to make previous to the beginning of the term which take up time. Some advisors do take the time to find out what the advisee needs, necessary prerequisites, and other information vital to the student's prescribed study. And in some cases, there is a lack of

communication between the advisor and the proper sources of information, such as Academic Affairs, and University Park.

Another cause for confusion is the student's own ignorance of necessary information pertaining to his or her individual career plans. Part of the responsibility that the student should assume upon entering a specific major is knowing what courses are required for completion of the curriculum. The lack of awareness in pre-registering and registering for classes can indicate a lack of interest on the part of the student, not the advisor. The advisors should be capable of lending a helping hand, however the responsibility should not rest solely on their shoulders.

Lastly, a third source of confusion which unfortunately appears to be inevitable is that of the schedule changes authorized by Academic Affairs after pre-registration. True, the changes may be unavoidable in order that more students may benefit by the change, but the last minute changes on the floor simply add to the general chaos for all involved in registration.

College is a challenge, but must we confront the challenge at registration armed only with our college handbooks and the numerous cards to be filled out (pink ones only)? Typical as it may be of bureaucratic institutions, the hassle of paperwork offers the student merely frustration with the freedom of knowledge supposedly such a prevalent backbone of the education system in America today. Perhaps this experience of registration is helpful in preparing students planning to transfer to University Park for registration among 25,000 other students.

Human Potentials Workshops To Be Held Here Winter Term

Somewhere in the first few pages of the current bestseller "I'm Ok—You're Ok", author Thomas A. Harris suggests that most people do not live even half as well as they are capable of living. This sad, yet valid, assumption is particularly distressing when it is applied to college students. Many students leave college with their education only partially completed. While most college students develop the necessary skills for a particular field or vocation, only a small minority ever develop their personal skills and capabilities.

Many college students are ill prepared for developing a lifestyle which will reward them with maximum enjoyment at any given moment. Few students make the most use of their leisure time. Many students are incapable of constructively handling frustration or anxiety. Underdeveloped decision making skills make college students prime targets for fads and peer pressures. In spite of what they think, many students exert little or no control over the direction their lives are taking. Finally, relatively few students operate within a value system which is personally relevant and truly their own.

During the winter term, the office of Student Affairs will present a series of human potentials workshops aimed at filling these needs. Topics for the workshops will be: Leisure Time—Boredom or Enjoyment?; Decision Making—Who Is Really Pulling the Strings?; Life-Planning—The Uncertainty of Drifting or Security of Direction?; Anxiety—Is a Down or an Up Really the Best Answer?; Values—Are Yours Really Yours?; The

workshops will consist of total involvement exercises, games, group activities, and discussions.

The workshops are open to all members of the Behrend Community and all interested people are encouraged to attend any or all of the sessions. The workshops will be held on Tuesday evenings

in the recreation room of Lawrence Hall and will run from one to two hours each. Exact times and dates will be advertised in the Collegian and on campus bulletin boards. Further information is available from Mr. Mead in Lawrence Hall at extension 219.

SGA Meeting Covers Budgeting and Plans for Spring Festival

Once again, the Behrend SGA held a meeting, outlining proposed programs and funding student organizations with the hope that responsible people would fulfill their assignments and get things moving on campus.

Budgets for the Cheerleaders (\$300) and the senior class (\$200) were approved, along with the constitution submitted by the Radio Club. Also the base plan for the proposed campus senate passed SGA and will be presented to Mr. Kochel, Director of Behrend.

It was decided to organize, under student affairs, a study involving resident and commuter students, of parking regulations presently in effect and to make suggestions for improvements or revisions.

Two vacancies on SGA were filled by approval of those present. Al Davis was designated treasurer, finishing the term of office left vacant by Ed Moore who transferred to University Park. Darla Berkey was named chairman of the Student Services Committee filling the spot for Rob Hicks who also transferred.

The Spring Arts Festival, an important event in the Behrend calendar, commanded the final consideration of SGA. An organizational meeting is scheduled for club leaders, Thursday, January 18, at 7:30 p.m. After this original meeting, the festival planning and outcome will depend largely upon available student manpower. Further information on how Behrend students can help make this year's festival a success will appear in subsequent issues of the Collegian.

PEACE

The Erie Peace Action Coalition is helping to build the massive national peaceful demonstration against the war on Inauguration Day. This Saturday, Jan. 20, students and adults will converge on the Capitol and voice their anti-war stands in a PEACEFUL march. Any interested Erie-Behrend people can call the PAX center, 345 East 9th St., at 521-5293 or at 866-3065 after 4:30 p.m. for inexpensive transportation; or you can meet at the Greyhound Bus Terminal, Perry Square, on Friday evening, 10 p.m. NOTE: no rides can be assured unless you attend the meeting on Thursday at 8 p.m. at the PA. Center, where all final arrangements and emergency phone number will be given. The national march is sponsored (in Erie) by the National Peace Action coalition, the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, and the Student Mobilization Committee.

From The Editor's Desk Needed: One College Atmosphere

What constitutes a college atmosphere—students, professors, social and cultural activities, community concerns?

Someone told me the reason Behrend has no college atmosphere is because there is nothing here to remind one of a college. I imagine many other students have the same idea, and they couldn't be more wrong. There is a great deal of potential to be found at Behrend in both the students and the institution itself.

Ideally, each one of us should be concerned with our college community, the improvements that can be accomplished, the new programs of study and the many opportunities open to each of us as individuals.

This type of atmosphere is greatly lacking at Behrend. I expected a cheer to rise from the midst of the college upon the announcement of Behrend's new status. But to my dismay and to the dismay of others, Behrend students absorbed the news in

their normal non-reactionary way. Actually, the only time I have even seen Behrend students enthused was during the McGovern-Nixon battle.

All too many students seem to have the mistaken idea that Behrend constitutes a 13th and 14th grade. Until these people can relinquish this idea, activities and opportunities at Behrend are going to remain at a standstill.

I have heard quite a few complaints about the lack of enthusiasm on campus—but has anyone honestly thought of ways to boost it? People can't sit and wait for things to fall into their lap. Someone has to do the work.

Isn't it worth the extra effort needed to institute a new course offering? Doesn't everyone benefit in the long run? Wouldn't it be worthwhile to voice your opinion as to the courses you would like to see offered, rather than complaining when you see the same old schedule next year?

Why are cultural activities nil? Are there so few of us who enjoy dramas and concerts? I expect there are many who wouldn't agree, but cultural events are a

necessary part of a college campus. We can't all go on enjoying greaser dances and Leon Russell forever,—so why not let your horizons broaden by bringing touring companies to Behrend?

These suggestions are far from being solutions. They are observations, observations that are quite evident if everyone would take the time to look around.

Decide for yourself what constitutes a college atmosphere, and then work for it. Use Behrend to broaden your horizons; use the facilities, professors and organizations—that's why they are here and after all, you are paying for them! Only you can make this college work, only you as concerned individuals can turn Behrend into more than just a teaching machine.

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The Press Association
of Commonwealth Campuses

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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.

Published every Thursday throughout the Fall, Winter, and Springs Terms, with exclusions for holidays and term breaks.

