

Editorial Opinion

# Validity of Course Questioned

by Jeff Matson  
Executive Editor

Never play trivia with an Art History 307 student. A conscientious 307 student could hit you with facts as obscure as the number of shingles on a house in Marblehead, Mass. They could also tell you when the shingles were put down and by whom. No fact is too obscure or unimportant in this course.

When I was first told about this stream of trivial facts that is being pumped into these students I couldn't believe it, but after some investigation I found it to be true. So as a favor to all my friends who are stuck with this meaningless course I am writing this editorial.

Whoever set up the Art History 307 course has for some unknown reason upset the usual pyramid of logical learning. In stead of providing students with a broad background of basic concepts and foundations, the course starts out and is still continuing with the rote memorization of trivial facts. Perhaps it would be valuable for a grad student with a

degree in New England architecture to know the number of shingles on a house in Marblehead, Mass., but we are talking about first year students trying to form a base for a liberal arts degree.

Of course the course itself is ridiculous, but the absurdity does not stop there. If this were a normal course there could be some discussion between students and teacher about how to make the course more meaningful. But in this course the professor is a tape recorder. Some students are beginning to believe the actual teacher has passed away but doesn't want anyone to know. So a week of classes in Art History consists of taped lecture with an accompanying slide presentation. Students are afterward expected to identify the slides and put down all the impertinent information they can recall or read off their cheat sheets.

This is no way to run a course. If this is the only way to offer the course here at Behrend maybe serious consideration should be made to drop it. Perhaps it is

unfair to pick on Art History, but it is the most blatant example I have heard of so far.

Students should always have the opportunity to know who their professors are and they should be able to talk to them about the course they teach. I believe that a little communication between the frustrated and confused Art History 307 students and their distant professor could have made the course a worthwhile one. In the meantime I wish all these students luck as they wallow in a sea of trivial facts with no foundation to build them on.

P.S. I would never have found out about this problem if friends hadn't informed me. If you have a gripe about anything you think should be brought to the attention of the entire college population please leave a note in the Collegian mailbox or see me in person and I'll see what I can do. I want this column to reflect and bring out the problem of people on this campus so let me know your gripes.

Letter To The Editor

# Afraid to Love?

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to an editorial published in the Behrend Collegian, Oct. 18, 1973, (It's Your Life). There is a line in the article which reads like this: "... it is much harder (to take a chance on another human being) because it requires caring about someone, and that is always potentially dangerous." The author goes on to explain that in caring one must be prepared to be hurt.

Many commonly believe that in loving one must be prepared to be hurt. In loving another one supposedly becomes vulnerable and

exposed. One becomes defenseless to a degree and this defenselessness is the very quality of love which makes it a tender interlude for some and a spiritual malaise for others.

When one loves another, one leaves oneself open to be hurt and if one did not care, (as the author pointed out), or could not be hurt. But I believe people are afraid to love and care for others because they are afraid to love and accept themselves. Today there is always some gimmick, some trick, which will make one over into someone he was never meant to be.

Yet every human being is supposedly unique. Every human being is supposedly a jewel of inestimable value. Somewhere along the line we learn to discourage our individuality, our uniqueness, our "something" that makes us what we are. For some reason we find it difficult to cope with that part of ourselves which is most beautiful and real.

You may have heard of the old saying: "Before anyone can love you, you must love yourself." It has withstood the test of time. To love and accept yourself, your uniqueness, is to offer to others a refreshing love, that is neither binding nor exhausting in its passion. And who among us when offered such love would dare to refuse? Love that is freely given without knowledge of itself is that love which is best because it asks for nothing in return. A truly loving spirit is forever protected against hurt and disillusionment because it finds strength in loving. It is not dangerous to love or to care.

If one gives what he knows he can give; if one cares to the extent of his ability to care; if one loves as one sees fit, then one cannot be harmed.

Rosa Myers  
Fourth Term HPA  
Erie, Pa.

## Tonite Final Auditions For The Drunkard

Tonite Is Your Last Chance!

All right all you actors and actresses that have been saving all that talent for the last minute, tonite is your last chance to try out for the Behrend Players production of "The Drunkard." There are many good parts available for men and women in this classic melodrama. If you are interested and willing to commit yourself to the production come to the studio tonite at seven o'clock and try out. Also, there are still openings for stage crews for the non-acting people who would like to be involved. So please, come tonite (Thursday) and tryout or sign up. The Behrend Players want you!



# Geothermal Energy New Source For The Future

In this time of decreasing supplies of energy, scientists are searching for new ways to meet the increasing demands for energy. The earth's heat is a potentially valuable, if unconventional source of energy. In the opinion of university scientists and industrial engineers who have been investigating its possibilities, this heat could be used to generate substantial amounts of electricity in the near future. At the Geysers, a steam field in northern California, generating plants that are powered by geothermal steam already produce 180 megawatts of electricity at costs lower than those for comparable plants using fossil or nuclear fuel. The Geysers cost \$100 to \$110 per

kilowatt. By contrast, fossil fuel turbine generators cost \$225 per Kw and nuclear plants \$500 per Kw.

Geothermal heat has been described as a form of fossil nuclear energy, since it is produced primarily by the decay of radioactive materials within the earth's interior. Where ground water comes in contact with hot rock, natural deposits of steam or hot water may be formed. Hot rock can be found anywhere at sufficient depths; in much of the western United States, temperatures of 300 degree centigrade are estimated to occur within 6000 meters of the earth's surface. Proven sources of hot water are located in California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Idaho, although none is yet in commercial use, and potential sites have been identified in all the western states.

The best method for finding underground sources of steam or hot water is to look for erupting steam geysers or hot water leaks on the earth's surface, much as petroleum prospectors hunted for oil seeps 100 years ago. Oil drilling techniques are used to tap cavities.

The ideal geothermal source is dry steam field, from which the steam emerges untainted by corroding minerals and thus can be injected directly into low-pressure turbines. Unfortunately, only two dry steam fields have been found. All the other fields discovered so far are reservoirs of mineral-heavy, briny hot water, and it will require processing before large-scale utilization of the earth's boiler is

possible. The superhot water must be cleaned in centrifuged separators before it is fed into the turbine generators. Otherwise, the mineral-laden steam would quickly corrode the turbines.

Dry steam can be pumped directly into a turbine for use, but the briny water must be pumped through a heat exchanger, transferring heat to isobutane, a noncorrosive hydrocarbon. After the brine is pumped through the heat exchanger it will be reinjected into two wells, 4000 feet deep. The exhaust steam from the turbines is condensed and the resulting water is also reinjected. Besides preventing pollution, reinjection theoretically should prolong the life of a geothermal well, because it constantly replenishes the underground reservoir. Reinjection should also avert the danger of the land subsiding as the underground water is depleted.

Geothermal power is not likely to replace either fossil fuels or nuclear fission as major sources of electricity, at least not in the near future. But conservative estimates are that 100,000 megawatts of generating capacity, a not inconsiderable resource, could with vigorous efforts be developed by the end of this century. The remaining problems require concerted effort as well as substantial sums of money in exploration and technology development. For geothermal energy, however, the prospects appear to be worth the price.

## Aid In Silencing Noise Pollution

Have you heard the news? What news? The news that noise pollution is taking its toll on our hearing systems. How many times have you walked near a construction area and couldn't hear your own footsteps? Or how many times have you driven past the end of an airport runway when a jet was taking off? Some of us do live in the country and probably don't hear such things very often, but there are those who put up with these extra loud noises every day of the year. It is actually for these people that noise pollution or just plain loud sounds have to be silenced. If we don't do anything now you won't even be able to hear about it when we do get the upper hand on noise pollution.

- Here are a few things you could do to combat noise pollution:
- 1) Turn your stereo down below the earthrobbing level or wear earphones but also at a low level.
  - 2) Try not to yell at a distance, walk to the person you want to speak with.
  - 3) Don't slam doors and prop the door so the wind won't slam it for you.
  - 4) Don't squeal your car tires, besides it's a waste of rubber.
  - 5) If things are already noisy, try not to talk above the noise level but instead move closer to the person you wish to speak to and talk below the level. At least you won't be contributing to the noise too much.
- Try these anti-noise pollution combatants when you can, because it's your ears you are saving.

Behrend Collegian  
Staff Meeting  
Tuesday, November 7  
6 p.m. Collegian  
Office

Very Important  
Make it your point  
to attend!

All present staff  
members and any  
interested students.

Have a question?  
Call Lynne at  
899-9994

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### Pros & Cons

...a lady bug plague  
...Lawrence kids engraving graffiti in wet cement  
...sour chocolate milk  
...bicycles blocking the stairwells  
...pay phones constantly eating up the dimes  
...weeds overgrown in front of Dobbins Hall  
...raindrops keep falling on our heads  
...Bi Sci 3 projects  
...1st floor Lawrence girls do it again  
...it was a very good year for the soccer jocks  
...the two great pumpkins  
...mini-flood on sidewalk beside Niagara  
...only two weeks left of fall term

### 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.