

Editorial Opinion

Selective Avoidance

by Jeff Matson
Executive Editor

At some time during every college student's stretch there comes a time when he or she feels that they should "skip" or "blow off" a particular class. In other words, they just don't go. However, due to the often elaborate reasoning that goes into this practice, I think the term "selective avoidance" is much more appropriate. Rarely does one merely "miss" a class; usually the reasons for selective avoidance are extremely complicated and always justified, at least for the one doing the avoiding.

No one wants to feel that he is just missing a class and for that reason a variety of excuses and alternatives have been thought up and used by students. Often the nature of the excuse will grow out of the class itself. A common and perhaps too often used line is "it's boring". This I can understand because with some courses I have had, it is a favorite and appropriate line. Boredom with a class can originate in the teacher, the material the course covers, or, in the usual case, a combination of both.

Although boredom is an im-

portant qualification, it is often not enough to warrant repeated absences. For this reason, a number of specialized secondary excuses can be formed. A student may feel that a course does not contribute significantly to his academic advancement; or he may not understand it; or he may have had the same thing in high school. Perhaps the most significant secondary reason is the time of day the class is held. A boring class that meets first period, seventh period, or around lunchtime has little hopes for survival. This factor takes on new importance when the weather factor is taken into consideration; first period on a cold rainy day or seventh period on a beautiful spring day are somewhat less than tempting.

There are also a number of reasons and excuses that have nothing at all to do with the course at all. Some students have physical problems that would keep them from class; this is most often manifested in lack of sleep, a disease common to most college students and a leading cause of unplanned avoidance which is sometimes called oversleeping. Often, students just have "something better to do." This

can range from a pinocle game to a history paper, from a climb down the gorge to calculus to just sleeping.

Now of course these excuses often overlap and in the course of a simple week of classes the complications can be staggering. For example: you may plan to stay up late on Friday to do a paper due Monday but this will mean sleeping through your first period class Monday which means you will have to "avoid" your third on Tuesday so you will be ready for the first on Wednesday but in doing so you get involved going into town and "avoiding" both your 3rd and your 5th which means you will have to stay up again Tuesday night copying notes from the fifth period class so you'll be ready for the test that "teach" has announced for Thursday and so on.

It is hard to say whether the practice is a good or a bad one. That depends on the individual student; for some it can save sanity, for others it destroys any that might remain. For some it creates more study time and more sleep time as well as more free time. Whatever the decision, one thing is sure, it will go on.

"The New Radio"

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A long-term energy program emphasizing nuclear power must be initiated if the nation is to solve its energy woes, a top energy executive said here today.

"We must get cracking now to develop energy resources which will power the future. Otherwise we will continue to suffer the indignity of being held in ransom by a handful of oil producing countries," said Stanley G. Schaffer, president of the Pennsylvania Electric Association (PEA).

Speaking before The Joint Management Symposium at Duquesne University, Schaffer said that in the next 30 years the United States will consume more energy than it has since the arrival of the Mayflower.

"The number one priority in a research program should be the development of the fast breeder for production of electricity by nuclear power," Schaffer emphasized.

"Electricity now accounts for about 25 per cent of the nation's total output in energy. Yet it is estimated," Schaffer said, "that electricity will represent 60 per cent of the country's energy output by the year 2000."

"The only conceivable way utilities can reach that 60 per cent figure is with the breeder

reactor," he said.

"Countries such as the Soviet Union, England, West Germany, and Japan have breeder reactor programs far more ahead than those in the U.S."

"The failure of the country to exploit its early lead in nuclear technology is a flagrant example of the complacency that has characterized our response to the heavy drain in energy resources that was clearly visible 20 years ago," Schaffer pointed out.

Pros & Cons

Moon landscape in the Nick parking lot...
Open House...
History colloquium...
The Big Walk...
Pre-registration...
Lights on the tennis courts...
Golf team at .500...
Amending the SGA constitution...
Spring elections...
Voting in the elections...
Not voting in the elections...
Collecting money for the American Cancer Society...
Only 4 weeks left of the term...

Research Vital

College and university students can win up to a thousand dollars in cash plus an expense paid, round trip to Hollywood, California.

Both graduate and undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 25 are invited to enter the national DRUG ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAM College and University Script Writing Competition for "The New Radio."

The competition consists on writing a half-hour, educational, entertaining, dramatic, radio script on the drug problem.

The DRUG ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAM will use 13 winning scripts to produce a new national radio series for public service broadcast.

Thirteen cash prizes will be awarded: ranging from First Prize of the one thousand dollar cash prize and all expense paid round trip to California to the

Thirteenth Prize of two hundred dollars.

All winners will receive a tape of their show as produced for broadcast in addition to their cash prizes.

There is no entry fee but the deadline for the competition is May 31, 1974.

Students interested in writing for the competition should write to FICU, DRUG ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAM, 1147 South Robertson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90035.

**Preregistration
will be held
May 6-17.**

**All students
returning should plan
to preregister at this time.**

The Keystone Society announces that the annual Honors and Awards Banquet will be held on Monday, May 13, 1974, at 7 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to Mrs. Elaine Johnson, who is a new addition to the Library Staff. Mrs. Johnson is the wife of Mr. Gene Johnson, Chief of Security.

The Bookstore will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. Anyone wishing to make purchases at that time may do so.

When Mr. Herb Lauffer was asked to be Chairman of the American Cancer Society fund for Lawrence Park Township, he quickly accepted and when seeking to find help in aiding him in this campaign, he was quickly given assistance by two of Behrend's student organizations, the Keystone Honor Society and CWENS. And so it came about that on Saturday, April 20, with

TIDBITS

the help of John and Marsha Grode, fifteen students from Behrend College collected over \$510. The following students participated in the drive: Lynne Phillips, Eileen Miller, Barbara Baily, Nancy Hrinia, Cindy Derr, Leslie Gall, Anne Stent, Sarah Patton, Janice Kilburn, Kevin Jandreau, Linda Johnson, Laurel Grape, Rick Metcalf, Barry Yacabucci, and Mike Blessel. Congratulations for a job well done.

In observance of its 25th anniversary, Behrend College has issued an invitation to the public to an open house Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Commencement exercises for students graduating from Behrend College will be held on Sunday, May 26, 1974, at 2 p.m. in Erie Hall. The Commencement speaker for graduation ceremonies will be Robert D. Chapman. Dr. Chapman is a

former student of Behrend College, and a graduate of Harvard University. He currently holds a position with the U.S. Government on the NASA program at Goddard Space Flight Center.

The University Council will meet at Behrend College on Thursday, May 2. We will entertain the Council at lunch attended by some students and faculty. This will be followed by a campus tour. At 2:30 in room 117 of the Reed Building, there will be an open meeting of the Council to which all faculty and students are cordially invited.

On Monday, April 29, at 6:15 p.m. Arno Selco will appear on Community Report on WQLN-TV, Channel 54. Mr. Selco will be interviewed concerning The Behrend Players' spring production "The House of Blue Leaves."

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.

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

Compose a Song and Win

What is it? The beginning of a new era in music—the first annual international songwriting competition for both amateurs and professionals.

The Festival will be crowned with a series of concerts to be held at the prestigious Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where winning songs will be performed by today's most popular entertainers. TV coverage of the Festival finale is planned. An album of the Festival's Best Songs will be released internationally.

What kind of songs? There are six categories for both amateur and professional: Rhythm and Blues-Soul-Jazz; Rock; Country & Western; Popular; Folk and Gospel-Religious. A song may be entered in more than one category. Amateurs compete against amateurs. Professionals against professionals. (Song writers currently members of performing rights organizations: ASCAP, BMI, SESAC or their foreign counterparts will be considered professional.)

Cash Prizes

How are winners picked? Each song entered will be listened to by experts from the music industry. Thirty-six semi-finalists' songs

will be chosen (three from each professional and amateur category). These then will be judged by an international jury comprised of eminent composers, publishers, artists and other representatives of the recording and broadcast industries.

Total cash prizes of \$128,000 will be awarded. Each of the 36 semi-finalists will receive \$500 cash and be the guest of the Festival for the August 30 through September 2, 1974 finals.

Twelve finalists (a winner from each category, each division) will receive an additional \$5,000.

The composers of the Best Amateur and Best Professional song will each win an additional \$25,000. The Laurel Award for best song of the Festival will be a concert grand piano in addition to cash prizes of \$30,500.

Entering

How to enter: Start now. Enter as many songs as you wish for an entry fee of \$10.85 per song. (\$13.85 outside the USA and Canada). Send the application below with \$10.85 for each song to the American Song Festival. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 15, 1974.

You will receive the Official Festival Entry Kit, ASF Cassette by Capitol, entry form, and

Songwriters Handbook. This valuable book includes important information every songwriter should know; copyright laws, publishing, selling your songs, etc.

Record your song on the blank cassette and return.

Instrumental and lyrical songs are accepted. You don't have to be able to write music-recording; the cassette is enough. Elaborate production is not necessary. The song is what counts.

Important facts: you do not relinquish ownership of a song by entering the Festival. All rights remain with the entrant.

The Festival is a competition, not a music publishing organization. Prizes are not tied to publishing contracts. Songs previously recorded and released commercially are not eligible for entry.

Closing dates: Application for entry must be postmarked no later than May 15, 1974. The recorded cassette and entry form must be returned postmarked no later than June 3, 1974.

Enter now. Fill out and mail the coupon today.

**"The House of Blue Leaves
Tickets Now on Sale!**

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.