

EDITORIAL OPINION

Violent Dilemma

by M.A. Chiricuzio Executive Editor

What is the thing that causes useless violence in a group of educated humans? Why must aggression come to a front when things aren't going right? And why must senseless hurt happen when people fool around?

So many times innocent people are injured, maimed and just beaten because of misunderstandings. In a college atmosphere it would seem to me that aggression should be the least of anyone's worries. College is usually associated with a good time, so why must some people have to establish themselves as the tough guy or girl on campus. Sound extreme? It might but then why do people get busted in the head, or more over, how can an alleged rape be overlooked or concealed.

College students have been witness to military confrontation, campus riots protesting war and draft and protest for student rights. Amid the rhetoric and literature of these outspoken people come these words Peace... Love... etc etc...etc...Where is the spirit

of non-violence? We have not risen above the things which we deny. We (I should clarify the word, we) mean those who still live by violence and aggression. We condemn ourselves by not setting the mood to avert violence among ourselves.

At Behrend, in this beautiful setting, aggression is useless. People must live together... play together and study together. So in this dilemma there must be a frustration release. So now the problem travels to The Office of Student Affairs. It seems to me that Student Affairs had better review its policies pertaining to student activities. Maybe there should be less pressure applied by the Resident Regulations.

Winter term is soon to blast Behrend dormies and if things go the way they have been so far, more than petty punching and destruction in the dorms will result.

Behrend has its pitfalls and there are those who can remedy this situation.

STUDENTS...get to those people who can help. Get them to

change the things that cause harm to us.

STUDENTS...speak out, become powerful, end this bullshit of Administrative hassle.

There is an area where aggression is necessary...aggression of student support...the banding together of all concerned and expressing all that is wrong. Strive for change of the system that causes violence. If you're not content with what you must live under, organize your distaste and speak out for change. If what exists is taxing your system, complain. Those who are in-charge are reasonable, I know they will listen. So it ends up with your genuine expression of grief and how you support your beliefs.

One last note to the women...Don't take too lightly the occurrence of this past weekend. Use all precautions when out at night and be smart 100 per cent of the time. That way, if the alleged attack is real, you'll be safe and if the attack is a hoax, I hope to God the truth is uncovered so the women of Behrend can breathe.

Reserved President Hopeful Government

by Rosa Myers

SGA president Jim Armstrong feels that his job requires a lot of work. He is pleased with his cabinet and does not want any SGA members making adjustments to his personality. He believes conflict is a good thing, and a source of variety. It is his view that similar ideas lead to stagnation. He likes the idea of having old and young SGA members serving at the same time, because "older members are okay, but youth spurs activism" and together the two produce good results.

Jim ran for the position of president because he felt he had the necessary experience, and could accomplish many things right away, instead of waiting until winter or late spring term. When he was a freshman, he felt that some of the campus organizations were "dumb". He believed the elections to be primarily popularity contests. But unlike high school organizations, he finds that college organizations, particularly in the case of the SGA-

work toward a common goal.

By his own admission, he is not an outgoing person. During the course of the interview, he searched for the appropriate word to describe his temperament.

"You're reserved?" he was asked.

Yes, is that a Virgo trait?" He was assured that it was.

"I like people to come to me," he mused. He has seen organization people in action. Bold personalities who find public relations no problem at all. But Jim doesn't like the don't-you-know-who-I-am syndrome. A self-contained, unassuming person, he seeks to fulfill his position as SGA president to the best of his abilities.

On the subject of the amended constitution, his reserved manner became one of enthusiasm. He explained that during the spring term, faculty input expressed a desire for SGA involvement in academic affairs, and JRC petitioned for a vote. An amendment was submitted, but it was primarily academically centered. The petition for the JRC vote was submitted also, and together with Dr. Daniel (last year's advisor to the SGA) Jim set to work in an effort to combine both pieces. He worried about problem areas specifically those centered around commuter and dorm students. He didn't feel that an entirely academically centered amendment would alleviate these problems. This is why the amendment covers such diverse areas and includes various points of interest to the student body.

How will the amendment work? The president has no vote except in the case of a tie. Other members of the executive board will have one vote each. Class representatives will have a vote a piece, as will the academic and commuter-dorm representatives. There will also be three-at-large students who will be voted upon. (A total of sixteen votes and one tie-breaker.) Jim says there is not much by way of freshman representatives on the SGA, and believes that the three votes will give freshmen who want to be involved a chance to do so.

When pressed on the issue of student exposure to the constitution, he thinks it could have been done better. But also mentioned the fact that "people don't look at things in the proper perspective." They don't categorize issues in order of importance. He blames some of the problem on the failure of students to read the Behrend Collegian.

What would Jim like to see happening at Behrend? He wants a friendlier atmosphere to prevail. He has noticed a pattern; people meet each other during fall term, and form cliques by winter term. But this year he has seen the cliques already being formed, and thinks this is bad for the student body in general. But even more importantly, he wants greater student involvement, and more students at SGA meetings, because "they'll enjoy seeing their officers and representatives at work."

Letters to the Editor

Varations on an Old Theme: Apathy!

Dear Editor,

The last straw that broke the camel's back has finally burdened me to the point of breakage! Why? Again, student apathy is at toll. As Managing Editor of the Behrend Collegian, it is my responsibility to obtain campus news and then assign it to the general-reporter's staff. How in God's name can I fulfill my duties when there are only three general-reporters?

I realize that several members of the staff have resigned for appropriate reasons, however, I can't comprehend why the staff, at its fullest capacity, only consisted of five reporters?

By conversing with fellow students, I've discovered that

there are a lot of journalism majors at Behrend. Where are they when they are needed?

An assignment of one or two articles weekly is not going to take up that much of anyone's "precious" time, when one realizes the experience and exposure that goes along with this minimum amount of work. The other members of the Collegian, such as the Business, News, and Layout Staffs provide their ability and energy in the form of their own individual duties, and should not have the added responsibility of reporting.

So, I continue my plea for some interested students who have a desire to write for the Collegian. It is not necessary to be majoring

in journalism, however, I stress the opportunities that are available for these majors on campus. Anyone interested in general reporting can contact me Mondays and Wednesdays, fifth-period in the Collegian office, which is located in the Reed Building. I am also available at 866-9472. I think it's time for some definite, constructive action concerning the Behrend Collegian.

Thank you, Gay Catania Managing Editor

Principles

Dear Editor,

Last week the editorial in your paper centered around the visitation hours. There's nothing wrong with that—fine topic; BUT, I hated reading that the petition concerning change of hours would be of no use. More than that, I hated the fact that your executive editor didn't seem to see anything wrong with this, and, in fact, chose to condemn the petition. Not that he shouldn't have; obviously visitation hours should be left to the JRC. It was the "principle of the matter" that bothered me.

He's been screaming to the students to get involved. "You are politically unaware of Behrend College. You want

change but are unwilling to organize for it...you are dormant."

WHAT does he want? A few students tried to effect change in this place. Because of their inexperience, their efforts were wasted; but they tried. Does a student have to run for office to DO anything around here? (Oh, sure. Join the tennis team—not what I had in mind). Look, I don't really give a damn one way or another. I'm a very happy, very "dormant" type person. I don't like the idea, though, of students trying to be active and receiving only criticism for their trouble. There really ought to be a way for students to make constructive use of their ideas outside of organizations; but that's beside the point. The point is, the more often student efforts are met with this type of reaction, the less often any effort will be seen. Your dear executive editor had every right to point out the limitations of the petition (there weren't many good points to speak of). Considering his position on student involvement, however, I feel he should have recognized the merits of this type of activity. Perhaps he should reconsider his position. Unless we differ in our interpretations of the word "involved", I'd say he seems somewhat confused.

Amy Loeffler

As part of the Homecoming festivities, the Black Student Union will be sponsoring Mr. O.H. Laster on October 25 at 7 p.m. in the Reed Auditorium. Laster is a training officer with the

National Cancer Institute. His topic will be "College and its Debt to Community." Following the talk, there will be a reception in the Quiet Lounge, with light refreshments.

Behrend Collegian

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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 necessarily reflect the Editorial policy of the Behrend Collegian.

