

EDITORIAL OPINION

What's a PIRG

By Paul Corbran
Executive Editor

This past Tuesday I had been sitting in the Collegian office when Jennifer Gregor, from the SGA, walked in and asked if I could go over (to the SGA office) and get some information about PIRG for a news article. I wasn't really enthused about the idea because I was trying to write another article (that was late already) and I knew nothing about any PIRGs except that they were trying to get an extra \$2.00 from me every term. But since I was the only one there to cover it I thought I had better go anyway.

Well, after listening to the representatives and reading parts of a notebook on the subject, I'm glad that I did go. The Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) is an organization of students, founded by Ralph Nader in 1970, who are bringing back student activism in a more organized sense. It is organized by concerned students who approach

others with a petition for support. If they receive 50 per cent of the student body's signatures, then the PIRG is instituted. So far, there are 19 states and the District of Columbia who already have the organization in some of their schools.

In a column by Jack Anderson, printed in the Sept. 22 issue of the Washington Post, this organization was reviewed. In this article there were a number of cases describing what some of these state-wide organizations are doing. Here are a few: "In Oregon, their PIRG sent women out for credit loans. They found, among other things, that a major bank required women to produce a certificate of sterility or an affidavit swearing she was using birth control measures in order to get a loan. Seven student members dispatched 'confused tax payers' to Internal Revenue Service tax centers with identical 'problems' and found that in virtually every case, that the tax payers got different information. The IRS instituted some re-

forms." In another case the members of the Minnesota PIRG, during the 1972 bombings of Haiphong Harbor, were implored by radicals on campus to join demonstrations. PIRG only committed itself to take photographs at the demonstration. Their pictures of police taking off their badges and beating students won a court case that forced police to wear identifying badges.

Students at Penn State are trying to organize a Pennsylvania chapter of PIRG. Petitions will be sent around Behrend in the coming weeks and a PIRG representative will be in the Reed Lecture Hall during Common Hour on Thursday, March 13. This is a chance for you to get involved and improve your community. I'm sure you can spare that extra \$2.00 a term, I know I will. Oh, for those who can't, your money will be refunded, on request, within the first few weeks of the term.

Mr. Kirk's letter (below) stresses his point very, hmmm...I

guess vividly is about the best word I can think of right now. Besides the complaint of publicity being "ripped off" of the bulletin board, he mentioned that the SUB has little, or "no" money. A few weeks ago I had an article in this space saying about the same thing for all student activities. Well, I was reading about a satirical magazine that was just re-instituted at UP recently in "The Liberal Arts Review", a newsletter put out by the College of Liberal Arts of Penn State. In this article, the editor of the magazine stated that the first issue was financed by \$3 million dollars from Associated Student Activities (ASA). He also said that they "blew the entire amount" \$3 MILLION DOLLARS...on a run-off of a "MAD" magazine. Behrend College receives a little over \$10,000 for all of its activities and one (1) magazine gets \$3 million. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON DOWN THERE? Oh well, I don't know why I'm writing this. As people who don't take time to real deceivers.

Clean Fun

If there is to be a fad to replace "streaking" as the national campus pastime for 1975, it just might be communal bathing. Already, group baths are becoming an integral part of after-class life for some students at the University of California at Berkeley.

Following a hard day of classes, student neighbors here now take to big back-yard tubs to sip wine, exchange tales of the day's woes, read poetry, and soak their troubles away.

"I'm sure there's going to be a big hot-baths phenomenon pretty soon," says Clive Scullion, a self-described leader of what's becoming known as the "community tub" movement. But, says Scullion, group bathing is a far healthier form of tension-release than simply running across campus nude.

And everybody made such a big issue out of visitation here at Behrend!

Oops, the editors made a mistake. In the article pertaining to Women in Public Relations, Feb. 6 issue of the Collegian, the name of Villa Maria's head of Public Relations is Ms. Judy Holahan. Our apologies.

Letters to the Editor

Woods — 'Dictator (oops!) I mean Director'

Dear Editor,

I submit this letter as a supplement to last week's treatise by Jeffrey Johnson regarding the genesis of the "Behrend apathy" syndrome. It is not my intention to bore you're readers with redundancy, but to elucidate several points Mr. Johnson proposed which focus more strictly on the administration.

Over the past several months there has been a push by the students under the supervision of JRC to extend visitation hours in accordance with those desired by the majority of resident students. As Jeff's article illustrated, this proved to be a rather futile effort as Director Kochel in his

"benevolence" granted the students only ten additional hours. I reiterate this information in order to make a point, which is this. At the beginning of Fall term (before JRC had been formed) I discussed undertaking the same project as JRC eventually did with a member of the Office of Student Affairs and also proposed that more direct overt action be taken by the resident students. This person (who shall remain anonymous) at this time implored me not to take any action until JRC had had time to form and then to go through the "correct" channels and "proper" procedures. Well, much to my

chagrin, I decided to acquiesce and follow "proper" procedure which supposedly would be more acceptable to our "Great White Director." According to Mr. Johnson, Dictator (oops) I mean Director Kochel stated that he didn't care if 80 per cent of the students and their parents supported greater extension of visitation. The decision was ultimately his... "the students would like to think they make the rules but they don't..." Fellow resident students, this seems to be a bastardization of this great American democratic process we all "know and love", or is it just autocracy Behrend style.

Now lets open our bibles (Behrend College Student Handbooks- 1974-75) to page 34 in the white pages of student rules and regulations on visitation. It is specified that each Resident Hall shall vote on their own visitation policy at the beginning of each year subject to the approval of the office of Student Affairs. It seems as if our Office of Student Affairs is at the mercy and a mere extension of our Director. Dean Lane has told me that he can make no decision on visitation himself, he must have the director's sanction. Funny, the rules don't read that way. Could it be that rules are only adhered to by administrative personnel when it is convenient for their purposes? An interesting thought.

I'm not sure if I have written this in criticism of certain administrators, as a point of information and motivation to the students, or just as a form of catharsis for myself. I've been around college campuses since 1969, and I find it very discouraging to see the manipulation of students by the administration which we worked so hard to alleviate several years ago. It seems as if "the man" in Behrend's White House off Jordan Road is hellbent on deciding how others should live. Maybe he should come up "on the hill" and live with us, or maybe we wouldn't want him here. In any case, I hope more of us on the hill will band together and collectively let the responsible individuals know how we feel. This is our college too. What is Behrend College without its students?

Sincerely,
Michael Woods
107 Lawrence
9th term Psych

'Rip-off'

Dear Editor,

The Student Union Board of Behrend College would just like to know what the f--- happens to all the publicity that goes up on the bulletin boards and other places. A bunch of real a-holes must think they (the pieces of material) look real neat in their rooms. Well, I think they can have them in their rooms if they want to but don't think that I will put any more information up around here. Further, I'm not going to bust my a--- for any one at this school who really don't give two s---s about what goes on because they have stupid Pittsburgh accents and walk around with their mouths open.

You know the COLLEGIAN is so f---ed up I don't think they will print this letter if they do so what, who the f--- reads this paper anyway.

First of all, the Student Union Board doesn't have any money any way and even if some fabulous rock group came nobody would come anyhow because they're all on head trips.

If more stuff is ripped off then nothing is going to happen on this campus and you know we can do it. They used to say let them eat cake but I'll say, "let them eat s---"

Signed,
Alan Kirk

Doubtful

Dear Editor,

I was, at first, very pleased to read in the February 6 Collegian that a Culture Club is in the making at Behrend. I was very soon to be disappointed, however, when I read that the main purpose of the club was to give one a chance to escape "the stifling atmosphere here at Behrend." It would seem that the very people who are supposedly interested in culture either are unaware of (doesn't anyone know how to read?) or else choose to ignore the very fine cultural presentations that have been given and are scheduled at Behrend. A few of these events that have occurred over the past two terms include: The appearance of the Erie Philharmonic in Erie Hall (a free event), Jerry Rockwood's "A Condition of Shadow", Romona Austin's poetry recital, and Peggy Coburn, contralto and

a fine opera singer. (Another free event).

The above mentioned programs offer a wide variety and a high quality of cultural events that are unequated by any area college. Unfortunately, very few students or faculty take advantage of them. Could this be that some of the "cultured" of Behrend feel that simply because these events take place at Behrend College that they are not worth while? If so, this is a disgrace. If no one, including students and faculty, can bother to take the time to come to Behrend's programs, then I doubt very much that any will care to take the time and spend the money necessary to get to cultural events off-campus.

Sincerely,
Nanci A. Dayton
5th term Chem. Major

Thank You

Dear Editor,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your coverage of the Women in Public Relations Program in the Feb. 6 issue of the Collegian.

One slight correction, though. The sentence which read that "the speakers emphasized that pre-job experience is not important" should read that pre-job experience is most important. Thank you.

Cordially,
Maryanne Koschier
Counselor:
Career Development
& Placement Center

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 200 plus Behrend students who participated in the Ambassador Program from University Park. Our visitors from University Park were very impressed with the interest expressed from our student body.

Good show gang,
Dean Bainum



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Mailing Address - Behrend Campus, Station Road, Erie, Pa. 16510
Office - Student Offices, Reed Union Building
Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Phone: 899-3101 Ext. 238.

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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.

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