

The Collegian
commentary
Subject To Testing



By Gay Catania
 Entertainment Editor

By Jim Martin
 Executive Editor

School days, school days, dear old golden rule days...as that song of your childhood runs. Now that school days are once more upon us, it's called College and going to class.

What articles I've been reading concerning college classes in Erie County and nationwide said that for the overwhelming majority the enrollment is up. Military service (ex-) personnel are hurriedly taking advantage of the educational act. As of March 1st many military benefits have been cut from the enticing provisions provided by the government for the vet which were his, due to the war years, such as the government picking up the check on the college education. High school grads are being pressed by their parents to earn a college degree and "make good." It's understandable why these people are filling seats, it deals with tradition. In the United States, tradition is that Mom and Dad provide a better life for their offspring than they attained. The college route can answer that call. Plus there is the self-determination the high school grad carries within, and also the businessman enrolled in Continuing Education. Also, the economic status and the lack of desired jobs for the individual has tossed many people into the role, once again, as the student.

So why are all of us so gung-ho on a college education?
 The understanding behind a

college degree is that it will provide the best or the most profitable avenue for one to accomplish all his desired goals be they wealth, property, health, satisfaction and-or happiness.

Reading recently in the Erie Times (no less), a Carnegie Commission study, a professor found "that college students not only earn more than a high school grad, but have steadier employment (if you are first employed!) throughout their working lives, much lower unemployment rates, much longer vacations, many more fringe benefits such as health and retirement plans and are much more satisfied with the work they are doing." (Ahh, it's too good to believe. So many of one's goals fulfilled, it can't be?)

There stands good reason to earn a liberal arts (philosophy) degree. But one must be sure the quality of one's chosen material meets the requirements for one to attain the desired goals. Is the student getting what he has paid for - he pays not just in money, but invests his life.

So to the student, the freshmen in particular: learn, delve into Behrend College's curriculum. Discover if this branch of University Park is going to lead you to a "better life of mind and spirit, a better citizen of the democracy in which one lives, a better rounded citizen, more capable of understanding the complex issues in which today's governments, federal, state and local, deal."

There is ample evidence that many, probably most, students are more comfortable and learn better in familiar surroundings, among familiar people. The quality of the education is more apt to depend on the quality of the teachers than the text or the name of the educational institution.

The student must familiarize himself with his professor and ask him questions, repeatedly if need be. If you are not satisfied with the answer, read the text and pose that question's meaning in other, better chosen words. But be satisfied with the reply. Size up that instructor. Watch-out for the entertainer, the comedian. Taking light on some issues and class room laughter is needed, though not excessively. The invert may not sit well with you. A teacher's position in the classroom is one similar to an actor, he plays a role to teach. That role in most cases should be outgoing, one that is invigorating and honest.

If you are not pleased-satisfied with the class and the molds are too hard to change, get out. The Lock-step need not be. The importance lies not in what subjects one is enrolled, it lies with a comfortable mental state to learn that subject.

Likewise, if the college doesn't fill a good bit of solitude within your thinking, work at something that does. Then, when self-determination and that comfortable mental set is found, earn that college diploma.

It has been said repeatedly that there is nothing to do, not only at Behrend, but in Erie and the surrounding area. I tend to disagree. If one takes the initiative to discover and participate in activities it results in an atmosphere totally outside the realm of boredom. Both Behrend and the city of Erie offer entertainment that is enjoyable and exciting; all one needs to do is seek it out.

Fundamentally speaking, Behrend is our home base. The SUB offers a wide variety of activities at minimal cost to all students. Many of Behrend's clubs and organizations also supply the student body with a wide array of things to do.

Movies are scheduled weekly, and one must admit that they are not the most contemporary. However, comedy, suspense and action-packed thrillers are ready to reel for the flick enthusiasts pleasure. Also, a special series of science fiction films are in order for this term.

Informative, educational lectures are planned throughout the year. Topics to be discussed in this term's lecture series include Watergate, witchcraft and demonology.

In the past, one of the most enjoyable offerings for the musically minded has been Behrend's coffee house. The coffee house, which is located in the faculty dining hall, offers a repertoire consisting of everything from folk and bluegrass to country rock, and sometimes even the blues. Local talent as well as out of town performers are featured at each bi-weekly gathering.

For those who hold a competitive spirit, the Union Board has planned such events as pool and ping pong tournaments.

The Behrend Players generally hold performances throughout the academic year. Mr. Arno Selco is well known in the community for his unusual interpretations and presentations.

For those students who are fortunate enough to be mobile, Erie offers a reasonably large amount of entertainment. The Erie Art Center, located at 338 West 6th street, is open Tuesday - Thursday from 1 until 9 p.m. and Friday - Sunday, 1-5. Directly next door to the Art Center is the Planetarium and the Erie County Historical Museum, which host daily hours. All are located on a bus line and can be reached by taking the bus that leaves Behrend from Erie Hall.

While the weather is till permissible, why not gather up a few friends and take a bicycle tour of historical Erie? You can actually see all of the things that have been pictured in your history books, such as the Anthony Wayne Blockhouse and the Flagship Niagara. Most of the historical settings are located in the downtown Erie area and definite areas are listed in the community phone book. If

bicycling isn't your pleasure, you can also be centrally located for the tour by means of public transportation.

For nature lovers, there is nothing more stimulating than a hike through the peninsula. More accessible than the peninsula is Wintergreen Gorge, located directly in the campus "backyard."

Other colleges in Erie and the surrounding area host many activities, again at very low cost. Concerts, lectures and other such events can be found listed in the Erie newspapers.

The Erie County Fieldhouse, which is ideally located directly off of I-90 (only one exit west of Behrend) brings in big name entertainment, usually twice a month. The Fieldhouse also features drama and sports presentations.

Erie and Behrend offer a list of activities outside of those already mentioned. In fact, there are so many things that I've left out. Basically, this article refers you to low cost entertainment which is relatively easy for Behrend students to attend. Following is a list of low cost entertainment that might be of interest to you:

Music

Erie Philharmonic opening concert, September 23, 8 p.m. Warner Theatre, 8th and State Street, Harold Bauer conducting, pianist Beveridge Webster guest soloist. All seats reserved; tickets are \$2 to \$6 and are available at the door.

Stage

"The Sound of Music" - Village Dinner Theatre - 1005 Peninsula Drive playing weekly Thursday through Sunday.

Art

Art Center, 338 West 6th street - "Two Views From the Interior", photography by Art Greenberg and Lynn Swigart of Peoria, Ill., through September 21.

Movies

Behrend - "Executive Action" with Burt Lancaster and Robert Ryan, RUB Lecture Hall, 7 and 9 p.m.

Cinema World (454-2881) - "Monty Python and Holy Grail", "Walking Tall Part 2", "Beyond the Door", "Super Vixens."

Millcreek Mall (868-5151) - "Return of the Pink Panther", "Young Frankenstein", "Beyond the Door."

Warner (452-4857) - "Mandingo", "Death Wish".

Strand (452-2621) - "Jaws".

Eastway (899-4115) - "Death Race 2000", "Sands of Iwo Jima".

Plaza (454-0050) - "The Fortune".

Miscellaneous

Erie Metropolitan Library's Main Branch in Perry Square is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Also on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Erie Public Museum - 356 West 6th, call 452-3966 for hours.

Erie Public Planetarium - 356 West 6th, call 455-9347 for hours.

WHO SAID THERE WASN'T ANYTHING TO DO??

The Soul Of Seventy-Six

By Pamela Gilmore
 Collegian Staff Writer

America is about to embark upon an all-time high. Throughout 1976, she will celebrate the anniversary of her 200th year of freedom: her Bicentennial.

A freedom denied to her by her one-time oppressor yet Mother-figure Great Britain. A freedom won and accepted only through

the bitter and harsh atrocities of a war. A freedom which, once won, was historically documented as being "the inalienable right of all mankind." A freedom which was subsequently denied to a race of people who were undeniably instrumental in the formation of America's success. A freedom denied to all men of darker color - all Black men.

Until recently, it was virtually impossible to obtain a clear and accurate portrait of Blacks in American history. Either the images were greatly distorted or entirely excluded. Although Blacks, even as long ago as 1840, exhibited a keen interest in the preservation of their evolution upon American soil, the main thrust towards acceptance came only with the revolts of the 60's, when Black History was considered vogue.

The majority of Black historical accounts today seek to break down the negative self-images which society has imposed upon Blacks while also giving Blacks an acceptable and accurate account of their History, post-America.

A thought to ponder is, why was it, that America, a country which integrated so many millions of diversified nationalities and cultures, was so negative towards the acceptance of Blacks as one of their own?

Next issue: The American Revolution: We Were There Too, America!

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Paul Corbran
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Bob Wetmore Managing Editor **Gay Catania** Entertainment Editor **Jim Martin** Executive Editor

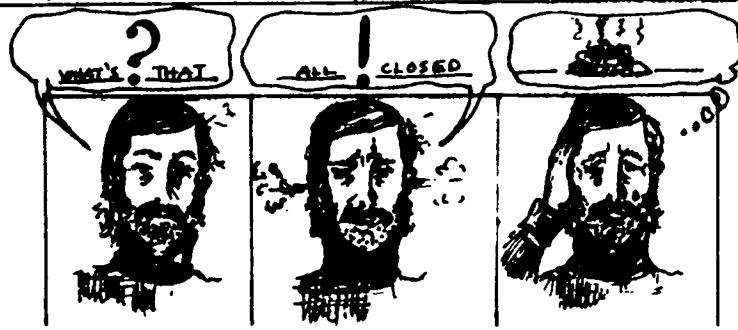
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Mailing Address - Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, Pa. 16510
 Office - Student Offices, Reed Union Building
 Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
 Phone: 899-3181 Ext. 228

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



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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.