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the Collegian

commentary

Some politicians use national debt as an issue. They warn against the pending doom associated with the debt. They spoke out emotionally over "all the money" that's going abroad. Most people see the debt with

lack of dimension: only from the borrower's side. We feel some things should be noted to bring the debt into perspective.

Is the national debt hurting the U.S. as a whole? A simple analogy reveals the answer. If you have two bank accounts, take 100 dollars out of one and put it in the other one, you, as a whole, are no better or worse off than before. If we did borrow from foreign lenders then we would have lost something of value overseas. But domestic lenders account for 95 per cent of the money borrowed by the federal government which caused the deficit and need to borrow is offset by a decrease in spending by business and individuals who lend the government money. The decreases in money to buy goods and services puts pressures on prices.

Is the debt leading us into bankruptcy? Bankruptcy by definition occurs when a lender can't repay the borrower on demand. The maturity dates on the United States? debt are spaced so only a small part comes due at any one time. And even then most lenders would rather hold on to the securities than get their money back. The

taxing power of the government makes the securities safe investments, something banks. trusts, and insurance companies want and require. The federal government with the Federal Reserve has the power to create money. This makes the idea of bankruptcy, by definition, impossible.

At first it appears that the debt is getting worse. But a deeper look shows that it's actually getting better. In 1946 interest payments on the debt were 2.3 per cent of the G.N.P. As of now they

are 1.7 per cent. National debt has grown 23 per cent since World War II while private debt has increased by 430 per cent.

Not to say that the debt is a totally harmless thing. Treated recklessly it can be dangerous. But the debt is not a playing, uncontrollable monster about to swallow us. Government purposely runs deficits in order to boost the economy in times of recession. Beware of politicians who make the debt an issue. They are simply pondering on public fears for their own gain.

Rumors squelched

that Behrend College will serve as Hiroshima in Hollywood's latest disaster film on World War

There is no truth to the rumor that dissident members of the Joint Resident Council, in protest against lack of an Easter break, will storm the Administration Building and hold Director Kochel and Dean Lane hostage in return for one-half bag of jelly beans and five chocolate rabbits.

There is no truth to the rumor saying that Dobbin Hall's tater tots put hair on one's chest for shrimpos make one more virile.

There is no truth to the rumor that a travelling stunt man in

There is no truth to the rumor actuality peforms all of President Ford's numerous falls and tumbles.

There is no truth to the rumor that next year's prospective Behrend freshmen while on tour of the campus will be required to wear blinders and rose-colored glasses.

There is no truth to the rumor that Behrend's ROTC cadre plans overthrow the Student to Government Asociation and establish a military coup since they will not be recognized at the upcoming Awards Banquet.

There is no truth to the rumor that the Behrend Cub's have changed their names to the Behrend Bongs.



In case you couldn't obtain a copy of last week's special issue, we hope you had an easier time finding this one today. I was amazed at how fast all of last week's copies were picked up. They couldn't have been on the stands five minutes before they were all snatched up. I guess there was something REALLY outrageous in it.

Actually, even though the Pennsylvania State University doesn't recognize Easter as a holiday (i.e. give us a day or two off), we, the humble Behrend Collegian are smart enough to realize the importance of Easter. So we didn't publish.

Congratulations to our newlyelected SGA Executive Board. Most of us Behrendites made it over to the polls, and the election results were very close. That, I think. is the way it should be, regardless of who won or lost. Now it is up to T. Clyde, Pond, Flo Busby, and Tom Collings (there's a nice variety of names, anyway) to prove themselves. I am confident, however, that they can do a good job.

Congratulations are also due for the people involved with WBCR now that they are on the air. Mr. Finley even took a turn "moling" under Perry and Niagara with head mole Lenny Young in order to get the line laid. Now if only they could start broadcasting off campus. And in stereo FM. This, of course, is in their future plans. Still, I bet we have just about the only progressive AM station around.

Ken Valentine, fellow member and s

Behrend Bongs, ended up in serious condition at St. Vincent Health Center after he took a bellysmacker dive. No, it wasn't done on the softball field. He did it on a concrete parking lot curb after last Thursday's victory celebration. It freaks me out because we were there (in body, anyway), but had no idea how seriously injured he was until later on. Get well quick, Ken, we all miss you.

I received some mighty intersting mail down here, besides the sometimes flattering mail I get from fellow students. Something came in from the People's Bicentennial Com-mission and something also from the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade. The P.B.C. is offering \$25,000 to 12,999 other journalists besides myself if we can provide them with "concrete information that leads directly to the arrest, prosecution, conviction and imprisonment of a chief executive officer of one of America's Fortune 500 corporations for criminal activity relating to corporate operations. Anyone know any corporate crooks? I'd be willing to split the bucks fifty-fifty. The C.C.A.C. wants me to

register for their three-day **Bicentennial Anti-Subversive** Seminar in Washington D.C.! The agenda includes all kinds of goodies like "The Truth About Communism", "Urban Guerilla Warfare," "Constitutional Issues Involved in Antisubversive Legislation" and of course "Bias In the News Media." Sounds like

iters varying viewpoints

An open letter. . .

To the student body:

Thank you all for the votes and the help. I am proud to be the future president of your student government. Next year will prove to be very interesting as we combine the thoughts of my vice president and myself, and apply them to the ideas of the student body. As I have said many times before, your own ideas will play the most important role during my office. I live in 307 Lawrence and I'm open for suggestions. I can't change Behrend alone, you help.

Behrend needs to be "shaped up" in many ways. Through close contact with my vice president, who is extremely radical in thought. I hope to make Behrend life differ from the past and become very exciting next year. There will be no room for pessimists, optimism is the only way to get what you want. I have ideas for the betterment of the school in mind right now but they are best not stated at this time. There is one idea I can state at this time and that is visitation. Many of you will be delighted to hear that one of my first goals is to change the visitation hours now in effect in the dorms. With enough popular demand behind me this should not be hard to accomplish. But you can't just sit back and bitch! No way. We've got to change what we don't like and keep changing it until we do like it. When someone asks "How do you like Behrend?"

a very common reply is "it sucks." Do something about it! You can help make Behrend a really nice place. We have the potential, now lets let loose some energy. Get your ass in gear next year and do something. This problem concerning lack of interest must and will stop if we want to make Behrend a better place. Help me out.

Sincerely and withno bullshit, T. Clyde.

Shape up !

To the Editor: As a veteran familiar with the standards and expectations relative to the military, I must express my disappointment in the appearance of many of the ROTC candidates at Behrend College. Coupled with my own personal observations, several veterans have approached me with numerous examples of ROTC cadets improper wearing of their uniforms both during duty and non-duty hours, as well as during non-related ROTC activities. Many veterans here feel that the improper action of these individuals discredits and negates their own honorable military service. Whether this is due to relaxed, post-Vietnam training standards, or through isolation from the mores of the larger system is not the point. There is certain personal responsibility and conduct that accompanies one's commitment to the military. The

proper wearing of the uniform is an excellent way to express pride in one's military ideals.

In view of their recent fine showing in state-wide rifle competition, our ROTC cadets are not rendering a true representation of their high standards. Al Lotz

Veteran's Coordinator Office of Veteran's Affairs.

Elections & nudity

Dear Dan, The "Executive Board" elections for SGA are completed and the results were close. Only 19 votes separated the winners of the Pres. and V.P. positions from the second place finishers

d star centerfielder for the fun. See you in D.C.
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not sure what that means, but I find it very interesting. Therefore, I'd like to Therefore, like to congratulate both the winners and losers; after all, you couldn't have one without the other.

I was really bored by all the adverse mail in reply to a photograph of our Behrend Streakers. Α responsible newspaper is obliged to portrav the news...not censor it or even place some type of worth on it. Let the readers make their own judgements! If some people believe nudity is pornographic, that's OK. I don't happen to believe that nudity is por-nographic; and I should know because I was born in the nude.

George Spiegel College of Social and Behavioral Science Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of the Behrend Collegian are not necessarily those of the University Administration, faculty, or the student body.

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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

or delete portions of all letters for publication purposes.

All ietters 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 staff reserves the right to correct policy of the Behrend Collegian.









