

the Collegian commentary



From the desk of the Editor

By Dan McKay
Editor-in-Chief

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

There is no truth to the rumor that Behrend College will serve as Hiroshima in Hollywood's latest disaster film on World War II.

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

actuality performs 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 to overthrow the Student Government Association 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.

Letters

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 with....
...no 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.

All 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. I'm not sure what that means, but I find it very interesting. Therefore, I'd 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. A responsible newspaper is obliged to portray 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 pornographic; and I should know because I was born in the nude.

George Spiegel
College of Social
and Behavioral Science

Behrend Collegian

Member of

The Press Association of Commonwealth Campuses

Janet Mazur Managing Editor	Dan McKay Editor-in-Chief	Ron Wayne Entertainment Editor
Mike Warner Business Manager	Betsy Choder Sports Editor	
Executive Secretary: Carol Mantsch Layout Advisor: Gail Peck Copy Editors: Amy Snyder Business Staff: Judy Reed Writers: Jay Schonhaler, Pamela Gilmore, Mary Jo Santilli, Brad Phillips, Tom Armstrong, T. Clyde Kennedy, Paul Corbran, Al Calfo, Bob Wetmore Photographers: Lynn Boone, Dan Haley Cartoonists: Mike Pond, Phil Aron, Joe Kozek Typists: Michele Crotty, Kathy Weiser		

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: 899-3101 Ext. 238

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.

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.

