

Editorial — No go for snow?

Winter Inactivities. That's just what it means — inactive. We all settle down a bit after running out to catch that first snowflake on our tongues. (Well, I do.) Seriously, unless your major is Eskimo Culture or Arctic Anthropology, I doubt that the thought of snowdrifts or frostbite really turns you on. That's why those who took part in the Winter Weekend are such special people. It was really something to be a part of that frosty madness.

For those of you so fed up with cold that even tray racing looked unappetizing, we're running a few articles that might cheer you up. First of all, feel secure that you're all right in the indoor department — after you compare yourself to our friend in the special feature on this page. Now that guy is boring. You might also take refuge in England or Ireland, at least warmed by the words on the subject. Dale Adams has put together a fine piece based on his own adventures. Good reading. Finally, for those seeking thrills on local turf, we have a story on winter's magic in the gorge, and on the peninsula.

Lots of other goodies grace the pages of this Collegian issue. For those of you who are always saying "Music turns me on," or "Music is my thing," you can prove it by checking out George Fischhoff on January 31. If Mark Porterfield's article can't open your mind, then Mr. Fischhoff's piano playing will. At least open up to the experience by being

Youth hostels offer cheap travel

Spend a few days hiking the Alps while you plan for your stay in Paris. Cruise down the Rhine while you take in medieval German castles and villages. Wake up to the thundering surf on Ireland's rocky shore.

American Youth Hostels, a Virginia-based organization, has been making dreams of traveling come true for 45 years now. For thousands of people 21 years and older, AYH has allowed them to see and do things they thought were impossible. Their secret to low-cost travel: hosteling. Hosteling involves group travel (by bike, foot, or canoe) and sleeping in economical quarters called hostels. Though hosteling is much more popular in Europe, it is catching on fast here in our country.

This year AYH offers a variety of trips to every part of the

there. Of interest to you all is a campus "movement" taking place right now. In particular, I'm talking about some people wanting to see better physical education facilities here at Behrend. I know I was unaware of it, but Dr. Sweeting, the Physical Education Director, pointed out that the Reed Building is here mostly because of local donations — students especially. People got us the Reed building, not the government. A few folks would like to see more indoor space for recreation, and are willing to get a campaign going to raise funds. An extra gym with saunas and whirlpools would be really nice, don't you agree?

Another movement, very optimistic, is a push to get a fraternity house here on campus. Highly publicized, yet drawing little support, are the efforts of two Alpha Phi Delta alumni who want to give Behrend a chance for its own Animal House. Dean Harshbarger, Dr. Sweeting, and a host of other people are backing these guys in their drive to introduce fraternity to Behrend. Now, if we could only . . .

One more thing to mention before I go. Good luck to the cast of Shadow Box. There's a feeling that you did real well in the district championships down at State College. There will still be a bit of nail biting between now and the middle of February, when you get the results. Fortunately Paul Iddings and all the theatre folk have their hands full with Bus Stop. Their winter production, opening February 9, will keep them busy until they learn of the judges' decision concerning Shadow Box.

nation, some lasting as long as 44 days. The cost is sometimes less than a summer term, and in the case of one particular adventure, you can earn three credits while spending eight days aboard a ship tracking the grey whales as she leads for Alaska.

AYH offers a free brochure loaded with information and pictures. If you are considering travel for this year, you can write:

American Youth Hostels
Travel Department
Box T
Delaplane, Virginia 22025



HUMOR Winter Inactivities

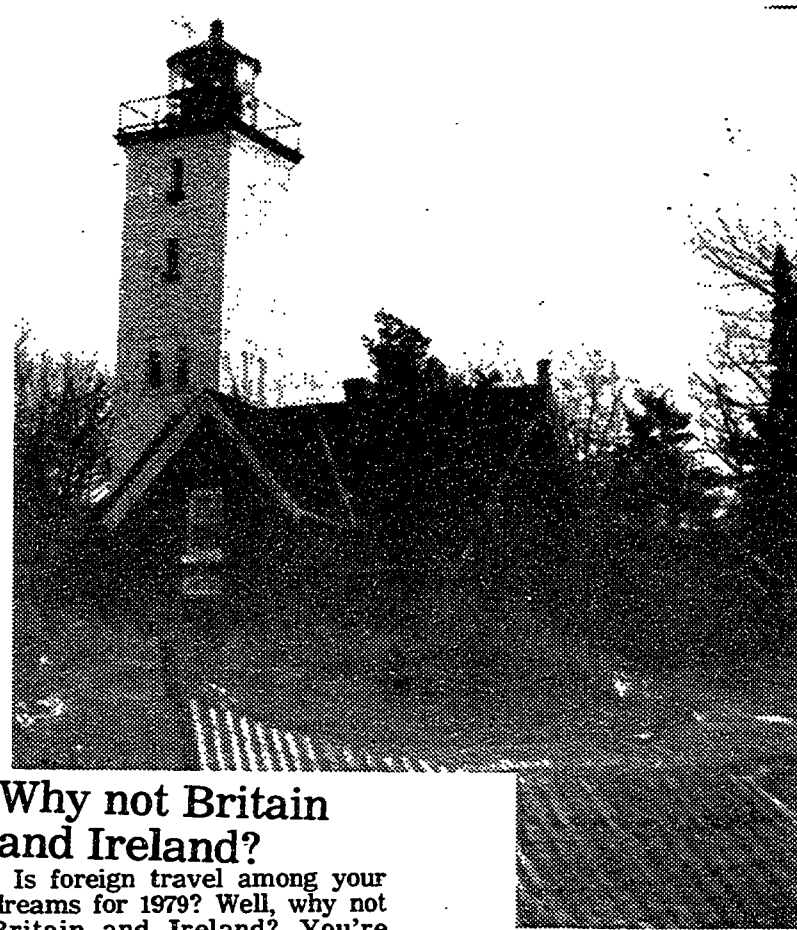
You can all kiss off as far as I'm concerned. Even that blasted paperboy — if I catch him tossing my Sunday News on the porch again, I'm gonna squeeze his paper sack till headlines register on his forehead. Geeze, the nerve of some people. Hell, I'm talking about bothering me on a lazy winter day. And for you uninformed, outdoorsman-type naturelovers — every winter day is a lazy day for me. I'm planting myself right here in my Niagra recliner, and soak up nothing but color TV radiation until the beaches open. Then I can lay on the sand and really catch some rays. Until then, I'm more than satisfied running relays to the fridge. So leave me alone, and stop giving me flak about my "motivation" problems.

If you're looking for excuses from me, you won't get any. I simply hate winter. I hate it, and I'm not going out there unless it's to escape an earthquake in my living room. So now you start accusing me of being lazy, and

doing nothing all winter long. Well, you're wrong again. I'm plenty active — in my own way, of course.

For instance, I have a lot more to do than catch the fifth rerun of Star Trek, where Scottie says "Aye, Captain, but the Klingons are hammerin' on our warp shields . . ." Hell, TV is my last resort, believe me. There's sleep, and lots of it. I'll take a good nap over "I Love Lucy" any time!

There's other things too. Like setting up my toothbrush and flossing equipment. That's an ordeal, especially after pork and kraut. Pork can give you a really hard time between those rear molars, let me tell you. Then there's a special activity I call "looking for the ashtray," which usually introduces another activity, "emptying the ashtray." Sometimes, when I'm really ambitious, I proceed on to the next game, called "checking to see how many cigarettes are left." Whew! I'm usually beat



Why not Britain and Ireland?

Is foreign travel among your dreams for 1979? Well, why not Britain and Ireland? You're obviously ahead in already speaking their language. They speak it a bit differently than we — sometimes to the point of being incomprehensible — but it's English just the same.

Since much of our heritage rests with the British, you won't be totally stunned by cultural shock. Still, Britain and Ireland are different enough to make every moment exciting. Can you imagine a land where you'll frequently encounter the pomposity of royalty?

The best thing about Britain and Ireland is that they're still affordable. With a little care and a reasonable amount of scrimping, you can expect to meet a ten-dollars-a-day budget. You may even make your trip for less than the cost of college for the same amount of time — including your transatlantic flights.

Excluding flight costs, you can expect to pay three-quarters if not one-half the cost of similar travel in the U.S. In Britain and Ireland the workingman gets lower wages compared to the U.S., but longer vacation time. In fact, it's not unusual for a person to receive a four-weeks vacation his first year on the job. So, the British by necessity travel on a budget. As a result, low-cost accommodations are widespread.

Youth hostels, few and far between in the U.S., are within a day's travel there, even if you're on foot. And the price is hard to beat. Depending on location and facilities, they range from \$1.80 to \$3.00 a night. They make travel even more economical since you can cook your meals there. Don't expect to travel inexpensively paying a cook in a restaurant to fix your meals.

(Editor's note: This is the first part of a series of articles on foreign travel by Dale Adams. Our next issue will contain the next part of this feature, dealing with the current scare of the declining dollar.)

after that.

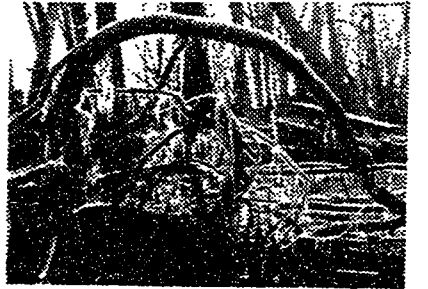
If you really want to look at it this way, my living room is an Olympic stadium, with more sports and contests than the Greeks ever dreamed of. There's men's and women's pillow adjusting, men's and women's slipper kick offs, and individual smoke inhaling. Tell me that ain't a workout! A whole system of competition and judging could be applied to changing channels on the TV. Think of all the categories. Fine tuning with Doritos in hand, volume adjustment with tuna fish in mouth, horizontal manipulation with toes, and so on.

Now that you know I've got plenty to do (besides charting the snowplows once a week or whenever) I don't want you to assume I'm anti-social either. I'm always up for a Tupper Ware party, or any other activity that involves eating or other "minimum effort" sports. In fact, come on by tonight; there's this lightbulb that burned out, and I figure if we get six of us together . . .

keep most people away. Drive along the peninsula, getting out of your car in front of the lighthouse. On the other side of the road is a nature trail. Follow it the entire length while you keep your eyes open for deer. Keep watching for tracks, and don't be afraid to follow them for awhile. Deer are more visible in the winter, and more approachable too, since they are always looking for food.

Pick a sunny day and hike around the beaches. Dress warmly, it's not uncommon for a cold wind to cut across the lake. Here the ice formations can be spectacular. Bring a camera, but again, be careful. Walking out on the lake requires sure-footed movement, plus a constant lookout for thin ice.

Closer to home for many students is the Wintergreen Gorge. Some conditions are the same as the peninsula, but the gorge is generally less windy — meaning snow fluffed up high on all the branches. Hike along the trails after a deep snowfall. Take a camera with you to capture the white fingers of branches as the snow rests gingerly on them. Go down along the creek to watch miniature waterfalls or ice chunks drifting under the frozen skin of calmer water. Hill climbing, and then sliding down, can be done all day. There's no reason why a nice fire can't be built; complete it with anything you like to make a winter weekend into an outdoor party that you'll never forget. The gorge is easy to get to, and large enough to provide miles of entertainment. Just dress for the season, and be ready to find a whole new meaning of "fun."



Here in town Gorge, beaches still fun in winter

You can take a boyfriend, or you can go alone. When you're there, it doesn't matter who you're with. You can spend hours doing what you want, and no one will ever see you doing it.

Two places fit that description, and both are in the Erie area. One of them, in fact, lies right behind Behrend campus — Wintergreen Gorge. The other is Erie's famous summer resort, Presque Isle. In the winter they become private playgrounds, completely accessible to those who want to brave the cold, snow, and ice that

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