

OPINION PAGE

LETTERS

varying view points

EARTHLINGS WAKE UP!

By Nick Flagella

To my fellow earthlings I would like to make a statement, WAKE UP! I for one am tired of living with the fear of total destruction of this big, blue stone. But our "advanced civilizations" continually ignore the logic of our (i.e. earthlings) situation. We are all living on the same finite rock, and the only way we can right the many wrongs man has created (every major technological advance in the last hundred years has been an environmental disaster) is to work together in a way that we have never done before.

But I am wandering from my point. I wish to plant a seed into whoever reads these words. It is a seed of peace, peace born of peace, not of war. War only brings a victor and a loser and a hate that lasts until it boils over, and once again war steals that spotlight.

In the article recently published by THE COLLEGIAN entitled "A Professional Soldier's Viewpoint," I was surprised to find out that M. Sgt. King felt that a soldier could somehow also be a Christian. This is as ridiculous as believing a capitalistic society could also be a Christian society. What an outrage, what unbelievable contradiction of terms! Any true Christian would never slander, hit, or kill another human being. He would turn "the other cheek." Like it or not, this is the word of Christ. There are many weekend Catholics and Protestants in this world, but very few total Christians. This is because of the fact that the people that label themselves as Christians. If they were they would cease these continuous attempts to become more materialistic, wealthy, and powerful, which ultimately lead to war.

This war making, which is a game between the wealthy classes of the participating societies, is a lie to the men and women who fight, kill, and die in it. Take our country's last two world wars. They were both fought under the shadow of lies. Going into W.W. I, the U.S., Germany, Japan, England, and France were all competing for the world championship of industrialism, a competition that

continues today. They were fighting for land and resources to feed their respective industries.

So you say okay, so what? Survival of the fittest and all that crap. That great American Teddy Roosevelt tried to justify that competition when he said that war against civilized countries is wrong, but war between a civilized nation and an uncivilized nation (such as some South American countries) is okay. When you consider the amount of resources in underdeveloped or "uncivilized" countries, it is clear to even the most loyal American why Teddy would bother to make a distinction between types of war. After all, war is war. But where are these lies I wrote of earlier?

To find them let's look in on a typical brain washing session in any of the basic training facilities of our armed "Christian" forces.

As the scene opens we find Sgt. X addressing a group of new recruits who are preparing to go to a small Southeast Asian nation to fight for the preservation of liberty, equality, freedom, and of course peace. He tells the men that it is up to them to spread the American way into the Asian way, that somehow they will be defending American equality, which has never existed anyway (not in a class society, baby).

So these soldiers go off to war fighting for freedom and equality, and they really believe this today. This is the greatest tragedy of these lies, because the men are not fighting for these ideals, but to retain the world championship of industrialism. They are forced to fight for lies. Who would fight for money, power, and domination of an economic neo-colonial system? I should qualify that statement and direct it to M. Sgt. King; what "Christian" would fight for these things? Zero! That's how many.

Some may think that I am a "true Christian". But I am not, nor will I ever be one. But at least I will not lie about it. I believe in peace, in coexistence. Some of what Christians preach is the same as what I believe, and if it takes true Christianity or true Hinduism or true anything to help earthlings live together, I support their efforts. Peace brings peace. War brings war.

Opinion Voiced

By Holly Mactaggart

I listen to some sort of criticism about this school every day, be it fact or fiction. Why don't some of these people who complain about everything try running a few things sometimes?

I'm afraid we would see the crybabies running for immediate cover. I could hear it now — "I didn't know that" would ring resoundingly throughout the

entire school.

If you have a justified complaint, write it out! If you can't write it, it can't be said; so therefore don't say it please, at least not to me. I'm sick of the contempt in this school. The school is wrong in some places. Rules have to be changed, so change them! Written complaints are welcome. Get the issues out in the open — now!

The Deferment Effect

by Rick Allen,
6th term Nutrition

A number of articles in the Collegian recently have argued for or against reinstating the draft to insure a competent and representative armed force. The issue is important enough to be debated in the public forum as well as in the minds of every responsible citizen. I feel that one important function and consequence of the draft has hitherto remained unmentioned by either side.

I am referring to a phenomenon sometimes called the "deferment effect." Deferments are granted for a variety of reasons, such as the nature of a person's profession, academic pursuits, or perhaps position in society. The effect is to redistribute the pattern of careers and professions in all sectors of the economy, including the non-military. This is essentially an indirect control over the behavior of the vast majority of people in our country, not just those individuals in the Service.

This is done by assigning value, ostensibly in the national interest, to certain professions or academic pursuits in order to encourage more people to enter these areas, thereby encouraging growth in these areas. For example, in a purely hypothetical case, suppose the army is looking for advancement in the field of chemical warfare and assigns "determent status" to students majoring in Chemical Engineering in order to encourage more students to enter this field.

This presents a college student that has an interest in chemistry (or even one who has no interest) with a choice; major in Chemical Engineering or take a chance on being drafted. The possibility of being drafted is a fairly strong aversive stimulus, and many people presented with this choice will choose to major in Chemical Engineering. This despite the fact that their true interest may lie in the area of biochemistry of chemical entropy systems, or music, all of which could possibly be beneficial to the nation.

The example is not specifically important, what is important is that the individual has had his behavior modified by someone else in a direct, planned, perhaps subtle manner.

This is not a theory I have made up, nor is it the neurotic

Summer Term

by Tom Miller

We are rapidly approaching Summer Term of 1979. I am assuming it will be as bad as the past two summer terms. I have been paying the same tuition in the summer as I did during the regular school year. Why?

We are certainly not afforded the same use of school facilities. The past two summer terms the commuter cafeteria has been closed, library hours were shortened, and there is relatively no selection of courses offered. Why?

We pay the exact same amount for tuition. Another problem is the late date at which the course offerings are disclosed to the students. As of this writing a tentative course schedule is out; which only the faculty has copies of. It seems rather strange that they have copies seeing that it is the students who will be attending the classes.

This article is written with the hope that future prospective summer term students will be aware of the problems that they will face.

ranting of a paranoid behaviorist. Rather this is an admitted function of the selective service system.

An article entitled Channeling, put out by the Selective Service in 1965, admits that this tool has been used consciously in the past. I quote from that article: "The club of induction has been used to drive out of areas considered to be less important to the areas of greater importance in which deferments were given, the individuals who did not or could not participate in activities which were considered essential to the defense of the nation."

The article also mentions the purpose of the deferment process; "The psychology of granting wide choice under pressure to take action is the American or indirect way of achieving what is done be direction in foreign countries where choice is not permitted. Here choice is limited buy not denied..."

Obviously the Selective Service is openly acknowledging their control, as is demonstrated by the opening paragraph of their article; "One of the major products of the Selective Service classification process is the channeling of manpower into many endeavors, occupations, and activities that are in the national interest..."

I leave the debate over who should decide what is in the national interest to others, as I do the controversy over whether or not the voluntary system is adequate to insure protection to the nation. Rather, I wish to simply point out that there are consequences of the draft which are not always perceived, but nevertheless are very real and pervasive. All people should be aware of these consequences in order to make more enlightened decisions regarding the desirability of a return to the draft and also because it is precisely when we are unaware of these effects that they are the most insidious.

JRC Plans 24-Hour Visitation

by Gary C. Hitechew
JRC President

As the end of spring term approaches, I feel it is time to look throughout the past school year to see what we have accomplished to make Behrend a better place.

Although we have achieved many minor goals, we have yet to reach our major goal—24 hour visitation. I use the term "we" liberally, for I'm referring to all dorm students.

As President of the JRC, it is my responsibility to initiate action on matters that concern dorm students. Unfortunately, due to a lack of enthusiasm and a clause in our constitution which states that we are not allowed to work on changing visitation until spring term, nothing at all has been accomplished.

Preliminary plans are now being made so they may be submitted to the administration before the end of the school year.

Even though we may not reach our goal this year, it is imperative we begin work on 24 hour visitation for those students returning next year. JRC is not pushing approval of 24 hour visitation for the sake of wild parties, orgies, and so on, but rather for the sake of safety. There are various methods which can be employed in setting up a plan, but the primary objective will be to eliminate the problem of people wandering aimlessly around the floors (especially girls) at various times.

People wanting to visit will be required to leave some form of identification and to be escorted to the room they are visiting. We realize not everyone will be in favor of 24 hour visitation, and this will be included in our plan to give those people an alternative.

For those who are interested and concerned about 14 hour visitation, you are welcome to attend JRC's meeting on April 3 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss plans and give suggestions. This is your chance to get involved in something that will directly affect you—help it work!

Behrend Collegian

Member of

The Press Association

Laura Seman
Editor-in-Chief

Jody Kamens
Editorial Editor

Tom Britten
Entertainment Editor

Holly MacTaggart
News Editor

Laura Seman
Sports Editor

Photo Editor
Grant Edwards

Staff
Rick Allen
Barb Bogdan
Emily Lott
Joe Hohman
Mark Porterfield
Mike Callaghan
Polly Zadernak
Connie Pukanic
Nina Siegel

Mailing Address-Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, Pa. 16563
Office-Reed Union Building
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m., Mon. Wed. Fri.
Phone: 898-1511 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.