

OPINION PAGE



Fresh Ideas From Freshmen

by Diana George
I'm going to offer you a series of observations about college freshman. I don't know how to interpret these observations, or what to think of them. My space is limited, so I'm going to generalize unmercifully, and I hope you challenge my generalizations; if you do, I can try to support them in a followup article.

First I'll give you my composite portrait of a typical college freshman in the early 1970's, drawn from my teaching experience at a university within one hundred miles of Erie. Then I'll attempt to characterize you. The composite early 1970's freshman had a predictable set of values and goals. He-she professed a deep concern about world politics, and was likely to be committed to some socio-political "cause". He-she styled him-herself as a "liberal," whatever that meant, in deliberate and aggressive contrast to parents and social institutions which represented the "Establishment." (Dirty word.)

His-her spiritual life was in turmoil. God? He-she declared an interest in doing something about the world, making it better, promoting peace or love or some other nice abstraction. He-she was likely to be a pacifist and a union sympathizer.

Marijuana? Pro-legalization, probably, or at least prodecriminalization. (Marijuana is harmless; booze rots your brain.) Down with the death penalty and the draft. Up with enforced bussing and gun control. Homosexuality was on the okay-list. Whatever turns you on.

Why was he-she in college? Not to get ready to make money. Money was ca-ca. He-she declared a desire to grow intellectually, to find new values rather than ossify old ones. The old ones belonged to parents,

whose ideas were automatically suspect.

The Behrend College freshman? You're not so suspicious of parental values. The generation gap seems to have narrowed from a wide chasm to a crack you could walk over without breaking stride.

The Behrend composite freshman is openly "conservative," whatever that means. There's nothing so bad about the Establishment. He-she plans to join it as soon as possible; that's why he-she is in college. He-she is here to get training in a "field" not to satisfy a passionate appetite for knowledge.

That life-of-the-mind stuff is quaint, but it's not realistic. God didn't die; he-she didn't even know He was sick. He's doing just fine, and He's definitely in His Heaven.

And all's right with the world? Well, no, but my composite has more important things to think about. World politics is not one of those things. Neither is racial equality. This business of preferential treatment for the disadvantaged minorities has gone too far. Affirmative action and enforced bussing don't work, and they are merely a leftover liberal twitch.

Marijuana? He-she is not only anti-legalization; he-she is anti-criminalization. (Booze is okay; marijuana rots your brain. Besides, it leads to heroin addiction.)

He-she has had enough of the soft-touch on criminals. It's high time the death penalty was reinstated. An eye for an eye, a life for a life. Homosexuals are perverts. The idea makes him-her want to puke.

Well? Have I characterized you and your earlier counterpart accurately? If my sense of the shift in attitudes, values and goals is valid, how do you interpret that shift? Is the shift good or bad, or merely inevitable? Boring, maybe? Any comments from sophomores, juniors, seniors?

Freshman: if I have distorted you and your values, if you regard this composite portrait as reductive and inaccurate, I have one question for you. Are you going to let me get away with stereotyping you?

WIZARD REVIEWED

Wizards was an incredibly successful event in the Reed building last week. This Ralph Bakshi film deals with the world in the future, after radiation sickness has become the number one killer of the planet. Two brothers compete for the planet, one using magic and one using technology.

In the end, the good, magical brother wins, but only after using technology (in the form of a Luger) on his evil twin.

Although the reaction of the audience was overwhelmingly positive, I thought the film had a few flaws. Personally, I didn't approve of the ending, in which the evil twin is merely shot with a gun (it would have been much more effective to have the good brother win by using magic), but that could be argued either way. I do feel that the plot was unnecessarily complicated, the battles were too long, and that one of the oldest tricks in the world was used in the script. The lovely Elanor apparently defects to the other side, but we find out at the end that it wasn't really her fault because she was "possessed" by the enemy. Boy is that schtick!

"Hard Core" Hits Bottom

by Phil R. Goodwin

George C. Scott's latest movie "Hard Core," will not go down in the journals of theater history as one of Scott's finest.

The basic plot of the movie deals with Scott's persistent struggle to fight red tape, and the under world of pornography. He also is in search of his daughter who has run away from home due to "lack of attention."

"Hard Core" is enlightening in many ways. It deals with a very sensitive and real issue and it does a half-decent job of portraying the grotesque world of hard core pornography. However, it lacked the essential ingredients of make it a hit.

If your in the mood for a mediocre, but enlightening movie, "Hard Core" is the movie to see. However, I'd say that your best bet would be to save your \$3.50 for George C. Scott's next movie; it's bound to be better than this one!

From The Editor: IT HAPPENED TO ME!

by Laura Seman

Last week I was dropped from the Women's Softball team because of eligibility rules. The rules stated that because of my standing last term I'm ineligible to participate in varsity sports. It's like this, Penn State has certain eligibility rules that each player must meet. If they fail to meet the requirements, they're ineligible to play in varsity sports.

These rules apply to everyone, male or female, and are here for your protection as well as the teams. They coincide with regulations of the AIAW Conference, and the NAIA Conference, which governs over all the colleges that are in the conference.

For example, it protects colleges from other colleges by keeping them from picking up "Student Players," for just one term for that particular sport. It also protects students by making sure their cum is high enough and that they're spending enough time with studies and not too much time on sports.

My big complaint is that after I rearranged my schedule and went through four weeks of practice, plus a number of other things, I found out about the rules. It would have saved me a lot of time and hassle if I would have known about these rules earlier.

If I would have known I was ineligible to play I wouldn't have gone out for the team. I also wouldn't have been as disappointed when I found out about the rules.

It's no one in particular's fault. It was just a lack of knowledge that these rules do exist. Although there was a meeting at the beginning of the term where the rules were explained. I knew nothing about it. I guess the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the dorms, but I am a commuter and don't get to the dorms very often. Let alone stand around and read boards. The coaches here at Behrend are working hard with their teams and sometimes fail to remind every single player about these regulations.

I don't want this happening to anyone else, so if you plan on trying out for a varsity sport,

read these rules over carefully to make sure you're eligible. The rules can be found in the student's handbook of "Policies and Rules for Students" available in the Office of Student Affairs.

After this experience, I tend to believe that Behrend has a lack of communication between faculty and administration and students, especially commuter students. And I think something ought to be done about this!

What Makes Clockwise Tick?

Clockwise is an Erie band that just released its first album, Anthem For His Majesty. Clockwise is a Christian rock band with a growing following, and I have to admit that they've just gained a new fan. From the opening tract, "Happy to be the Moon," Clockwise sets up the listener for a pretty good ride.

First of all, I was unaware that Erie had such great singers. I hadn't been particularly impressed with too many of the vocalists in most of the Erie bands (with the exceptions of Nightfall and ATV), so I was surprised. Paula Grack has got on versatile voice, as she proves in "Wandering Star" and "New Thing in the King." Angelo Natalie (keyboards) has a very pleasant, mellifluous tenor, which he demonstrates in "Time to Dance". Bob Tome (guitars) has a voice that is a little bit stronger than Natalie's, although not quite as expressive (but still!). Gail Campbell has only one vocal solo on the whole album, which is kind of disappointing, because her voice is incredibly sweet and clear.

The songs themselves are all excellent. "Don't be Sad," one of many Angelo Natalie compositions, starts out with a tick-tock rhythm, drifts through a light first verse, and then opens up with a slow, hard chorus. Drummer Tom Stone adds many interesting percussive effects, but the climax of the song features a powerful chorus, with drums and guitar blazing while

the vocals rise.

Another Natalie song, "Time to Dance," has one of the most captivating melodies that I've heard in quite a while. It's almost as if the timing is screwed up, but as you continue to listen to it, you realize that this is the intended effect. Just as you're getting used to this different meter, the song changes into something a little more orthodox. The transition from the refrain to the next verse (with the weird tempo again) is so smooth that it takes you by surprise.

Lyricaly, the album is also excellent. Another song, written by Bob Tome and Paula Grack, is about the indecision involved in accepting Christ. "To lay my life before your throne; Means that I'd have nothing that would be my own; I never felt so torn; But then I hear you calling me; Saying, 'Don't you know my grace is all you need.'"

The whole album is just great. "Happy to be the Moon" and "Make Straight His Paths" are both lively and happy tunes. "Thief (things to come)" is the one song that features Gail Campbell's exquisite voice. And Clockwise has also included "The Skater's Waltz," possibly for humor, possibly for their parents.

If I appear over enthusiastic, then perhaps I am. However, I think that I would be just as excited with a big name album, regardless of whether or not the band is from Erie. And believe me, Clockwise deserves to be a big name.

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