

OPINION PAGE

An Interview With Tom Miller



By Laura Seman

On Thursday, The Collegian had the unique opportunity to interview Tom Miller of the Veterans Office.

He first pointed out what exactly the Veterans Office does. He went on to explain that the office deals with timely receipt of benefits under the G.I. Bill and as a liaison between the veteran community and the Regional Office in Pittsburgh.

He next explained that the staff also function as part time counselors for the veterans for any problem they might have with benefits. This he feels is a tougher job because veterans are usually older than the typical college student and that they are also dealing with their moneys.

Another function of the Office is to try to make the adjustment from a military life to that of a college life as smooth as possible.

One of the biggest problems facing veterans is the administration. The reason this is said is - a single veteran now receives \$311.00 a month for educational benefits. Out of this money, the veteran must pay for tuition, rent, food, upkeep of a car, books, school supplies, and other basic necessities. "Not even the greatest economist could stretch this budget to cover these expenses. For a veteran to survive at all about the only options are to carry a second or third shift job, full time, or marry into money," quoted Tom Miller.

When asked about the enrollment of veterans at Behrend, Tom replied, "I personally feel that the high attrition rate of veterans is due to the very low income which is afforded by the V.A. What hurts a lot of veterans is that being a full time student makes them ineligible for unemployment and many are too proud to go on welfare. I'm more concerned with this problem than most because a Bill was introduced to raise the veterans benefits and as of yet no Congressional action has yet been taken. This is extremely important because the last raise in V.A. benefits was two years ago."

Is Organized Crime For You?

By Joe Englert

So students, you say you always wanted to be involved in organized crime but didn't know how to get the experience? Well, now you can major in Organized Crime-General or Organized Crime Management.

An interview with the Dean of Organized Crime, Dr. Joe "Bugsy" Jones revealed the reasons why the new majors were added.

"Youse guys should see all da lousy hitmen and other em-

When asked what he thought the difference between veteran freshman and regular freshman, he stated that the biggest difference between them is the fact that most freshman (not all) are right out of High School, living with or being supported by their parents. Where as veterans have been on their own for approximately four years, is self supporting (or even supporting a family), and the adjustment back into an academic climate is probably more difficult.

What kind of activities are available for veterans here on campus?

"Right now we're in the process of organizing a Veterans Club. It's primary function will be to bring the veterans together and to find something which is common to all of them. As I know of right now, the President of the club, Chris Baer, has informed me of a few of the goals of the club: 1) A few veteran get together (keggars), 2). To establish tutorial assistance for eligible veterans, and 3). To try to make the adjustment to a college life as easy and free-flowing as possible.

"I hope that the club is a success, it has been attempted in the past and all have been in vain. This year there seems to be a sincere feeling of support of the veterans towards the club," quoted Tom.

One special note about the club. The club is not restricted to veterans, membership is open to all Behrend Students.

Are there any final comments? "Speaking for the college as a whole, not strictly from a veterans viewpoint, is the problem of apathy on campus. I grew up in the late 60's and was somewhat involved in the radicalism of the 60's. And the 60's were a time to speak out and student involvement was high. Then came along the decade of the 70's and a call for individualism, every person for themselves. I strongly feel that there is an urgent need to bring back the group participation of the 60's."

School of O.C. professors, Vito Corleone and "Fingers" Lefkowitz then made some interesting observations. "Just tink of all da advantages" chirped Lefkowitz. "You can practice all da Syndicate techniques right here on campus. For instance, if deres a little guy on your floor you make him pay you and a couple of guys to protect him. You could take bets on the soccer and basketball games. Da possibilities are endless, as you can see. Just imagine da great gang land warfare you could wage. Couldn't ya just see Lawrence, Perry, and Niagara in an all out struggle for campus dominance? Ah, and what about

Credits	Courses Offered	Course No.	Prof.
2	Knuckle Breaking	031	Derringer
3	Ad. Knuckle Breaking	021	Corleone
3	Harrasment	162	Corleone
3	Harrasment and Criminal Lingo	163	Dillon
3	Murder	400	Lefkowitz
4	Ad. Murder	410	Lefkowitz
3	Arson and Prostitution	300	Oillion
2	Drug Trafficking	310	Jones
3	Gambling from A to Z	320	Jones
3	Gang Warfare Tactics	401	Jones
4	The Life and Crimes of	450	Jones
5	Adv. Prostitution	069	Mme. Jacquin

da great inner hall rivalries that would develop to see who would be Godfather? Truly this would bring out da students' best corruptive tendances."

This reporter attended one of professor Vito Corleone's lectures. He was interesting from the time he said "Dis is da way to handle a machine gun, "boys and gals," To, "For homework, go out and practice harassing small businesses for "protection". Also, I advise youse ta brush up on knucle breaking techniques for da exam on Tuesday."

The new program is trying to prove that practice makes punfect. I, uh mean perfect criminals.

you can get dramatic offerings as good as New York's right here, cheap and-or free, is saying a very great deal.

Let me parade a few credits from that first-rate production. Director Jack Wyman had his absolutely sure finger on the pulse of the play, and Becky Zellefrow's mime creation beat out that pulse for a hypnotized audience night after night. All the supporting roles were played expertly and comfortable, which means that I did not feel worried or wary about not believing in any of them, even momentarily: Mina Eisenberg, Bill Robbins, Bev Walz, A. J. Micelli, Heidi Miller, Maryann Ronksley — it was my first time to see any of them on stage, and I want to see them again. (Ah, how convenient. See below.) The horses, played by Bill Ingersoll, Greg Petroff, Mike Nasca, and Dave McNeill, were real horses in my mind when they got through with me.

The two leads, played by Behrend Players director Paul Iddings, and theater major Randy Murzynski, were flawless in the performance I saw; sufficiently flawless that Randy, whom I knew only as a former student, is now a magic person for me. He still is the role he created in Equus, the mad seer and visionary, Alan, who blinded the horse-gods he worshipped. It takes a fine production and superlative acting, to make a perfectly sensible woman like me lapse into awe and fear at the mere sight of a first-term sophomore.

Paul Iddings' interpretation of Dysart felt exactly accurate, and his performance would make it plain, if one did not already know, that Paul stays in Erie, PA because he wants to. He could be part of the east-coast theater world. But he doesn't do that; he stays right here, and he's yours. The actors in the Behrend stable deserve the superb direction they receive from Paul Iddings. They grow into professional-level material under his guidance, and this would not happen so consistently unless they were talented actors.

Regard all of the above as shameless flackery for the coming production of The Glass Menagerie. You're too late to see Equus. Don't blow it again. Mina Eisenberg, Maryann Ronksley and Dave McNeill will reappear from the Equus cast utterly transformed, and Dan Roscher, award-winning Behrend stage veteran, plays Tom. Free student performances on October 15, 16, and 17 at 8:00 in the Studio Theater. The show runs from October 19-21 and 24-28. —Diana George, Department of English

Diana George Praises Players' "Equus"



Paul Iddings and Randy Murzynski in the Behrend Players Summer 1979 production of "Equus".

The Behrend College theater looks unimposing. In fact, it looks more like a men's shower room at a family camping ground than it does like a theater. Quaint and cute, but you simply know, as you pass, that nothing much could happen in those puny confines. So you are likely to need some convincing when I say that the Behrend Players present productions competitive in quality with the best of New York theater — and when I suggest that you break a leg, your mother's heart, or a longstanding date to see their performance of Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie, which opens this year's theater season.

I won't bandy about a phrase like "the best of New York" without backing it up. (Any junior high school, by the way, can compete with the worst of New York.) This summer, the players presented Same Time Next Year, which I didn't see, and Equus. I didn't catch STNY because I was in New York to see the play right now acknowledged to be the best serious dramatic offering on or off Broadway, Pomerance's The Elephant Man. It was very good. But Behrend College gave me a better production of a better play, Equus. The two performances bear comparison for more reasons than the proximity of my viewing times: like Elephant Man, Equus is about how normals (that's us) create and then ostracize our freaks, insisting on either their cures or their spiritual deaths, which are the

same thing.

Equus is a better piece of dramatic literature than is Elephant Man, and certainly that was part of the difference. But it's actually much tougher to do justice to a superb piece of dramatic literature than to do a pretty good one — and tougher to do that in that in Erie, PA than in New York, where the support apparatus is limitless. So, saying

Behrend Collegian

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