

"Fiasco" In Iran

To the Editor,

No words, however eloquently stated, could possibly have countered the two pro-military letters to the editor (which appeared on the April 17 issue of the Collegian) any better than did the latest military fiasco in Iran. President Carter, pressured by the increasing charges that he was not "doing anything" about the hostage crisis, he ordered the military to flex its muscles, and now eight Americans have died in the middle of an Iranian desert.

What rationale could have been used for attempting a rescue as dangerous to the lives of the servicemen and to the hostages as this was? One explanation given is that the commando raid was inevitable and this was the last chance before next Fall that climatic conditions would permit such an operation to take place. Judging by the sandstorm which immobilized three of the copters, one wonders whether the climate could have been much worse. One may say that the military and the President are not responsible for the deaths of the servicemen.

However, repeated statements from the West German Commando Specialists have said that there is a substantial difference between rescuing captives from inside an airplane (highly vulnerable) and the Embassy in Iran (nearly impenetrable). Considering the prior knowledge, involvement, by the President, and the military is sufficient for implication.

Meanwhile, the deaths of the servicemen are recorded by many Americans as is a baseball score, and the news media wonders what effect the failure of the mission and the resignation of Cyrus Vance will have on the results of the Texas Primary. What should be considered is the further widening of the issues canyon that has occurred between the United States and Iran, which has increased to a point that the safe return of our people has been undoubtedly prolonged. It seems as if the militants have been given a forest with which to fuel a formerly dwindling Anti-American fire, which has become analogous to the detaining of our

people. It also seems that the release of the captives won't be realized until both governments make substantial concessions on certain issues, a possibility which at this point seems quite remote.

Which leads me to the point of my letter. Janine Callen, in a pro-military letter to the Collegian (April 17) rhetorically asked, "How effective has military intervention been in rescuing the hostages?" The employment of the military has helped to further polarize the two governments so that a quick release of the captives now seems impossible. Military intervention has caused a wide fraction in both national and world opinion. The State Department has "lost face", some say (I don't happen to agree), but the military has lost both face and lives. I believe our military has had enough opportunities to show its might and continually overestimates its own abilities. We should not be a nation that continues to fight fire with fire. Rather than "stoop to new lows of moral depravity", as the Iranians have done with the public display of the charred bodies of Americans, we should attempt to show the world that we do not rabbit-punch. As Joe

Englert's visions of helicopters (April 3) have become eerily prophetic, Janine Callen's have become all the more ironic. It seems now as if the eventual release of our people from Iran will be contingent on conciliatory

negotiation, and will occur in spite of, rather than because of our military's attempts.

Chuck Beckman
3rd term
Pre-Law Political Science

Rock 'n' Roll Saves!

by Joe Englert

In the fifties, the 1950's that is, rock prophets wrote the psalms. The prophets Elvis and Buddy Holly gave us the scriptures. They told us if we lead a good life, we would go to Rock n Roll Heaven. They claimed that they weren't here to save us, but a man would follow who could.

Well, the R.C.A. (Record Company Almighty) fathered a god for us, a four headed beautiful god called, George, Paul, John and Ringo. They came into the world in swaddling suits and ties and were born in a manager called Brian Epstein. They were the saviors born under the Liverpool star, who would show us the way to Rock n Roll Heaven.

The saviors who called themselves the Beatles, had many disciples like the Doors and the Rolling Stones who sang onto others as others had sang unto them. The whole world was happy until one day the saviors broke up and shook the temples. They told us that someday they would return and judge each one of us on content and originality as well as if you could dance or not.

Then, one day as the Bible (Billboard magazine) had predicted, the Anti-Christ showed its ugly head. That bass beaten, shallow worded evil malaise called "Disco".

Disco destroyed everything in its path. It attacked Soul and R and B and even the holy Rock n Roll halls.

Continued on page 4

PCB: The Unknown Pollutant

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted for publication as part of a project to inform the public on various environmental issues. More articles dealing with the environment are expected for the next issue.)

PCB: The Unknown Pollutant

Protection of our natural environment should be a concern of all citizens since it affects all of us everyday whether we realize it or not. I have recently done some research for my Biological Science project into a very little known pollutant of our waterways: the chemical known as PCB.

PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) were first developed by chemists in 1929 for use as electric insulators in capacitors and transformers. Through the years they were also used as pesticide extenders, softeners in plastics and paints, and as additives in ink and duplication paper. They are insoluble in water and pollute a majority of this country's rivers, lakes and streams, since they are resistant to biological and chemical degradation.

Since PCB's accumulate in wing organisms and never leave, they present a severe health hazard for humans. At the first stages of the food chain PCB's have been shown to reduce rates of cell growth and division in phytoplankton. Aquatic invertebrates and fish have their reproductive potential lowered when exposed to extremely small levels of PCB, and these animals are eventually consumed by humans.

Human Beings exposed to high concentrations of PCBs are characterized by long-lasting skin lesions, gastrointestinal lesions, liver disorders, and various neurological symptoms. PCB's also pose carcinogenic hazards to humans.

Several incidents have occurred in recent years which have brought these harmful effects into public light. In 1968 several Japanese families contracted skin disorders from eating PCB-contaminated rice oil. Several species of Baltic seals were threatened with extinction when PCBs reduced their reproductive capacities in 1978, and 400,000 hens and 18 million eggs had to be destroyed in 1979

when 1.9 million pounds of feed were contaminated in the Midwest.

The contamination caused by PCB's is especially important to area fisherman. The worst spot is in the Hudson river. PCB levels in these fish are 30 to 50 times greater than the federal maximum allowable limit for human consumption, and are therefore very unsafe to eat.

Edible fish samples in Pennsylvania indicate that PCB's are widespread throughout the Commonwealth but are in relatively low concentrations. There are several problem areas, however, and these include the Schuylkill River, Delaware River, Charties Creek, Ohio River and Lake Erie. PCB levels in these waterways approach or slightly exceed the federal limit.

PCB's present a major health hazard to all citizens, and pressure must be put on industries to abide by federal regulations. I encourage all students to write their congressmen to show that there is public concern on this issue.

Steven Petrovich

Theatre Review: Players Give Haunting Performances In "Spoon River"

By Sandra DeLellis

A "haunting" occurred recently at Behrend's Studio Theatre, a haunting full of the many ghosts from the musical adaptation of Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology." The anthology is a series of monologues and musical numbers, a collection of voices and inner-connections between the lives of its characters that makes this play a vital, poetic experience.

Directed by Paul Iddings, the production excels as a collage of simply props and costumes, and essentially four main characters. It was the challenge of Sue Klein, Randy Murzynski, Diana Stark and Mike Deely, to transform themselves into over one-hundred different characters, whose complexities in life and death come as ghosts to stir the audience.

It is never a surprise to see Ms. Klein's talent abound on stage at the Studio Theatre. She is a fine, fine actress. She was exceptional in "Spoon River Anthology," becoming electrified with new life in each of her portrayals. My particular favorites were, Dora Williams, Russian Sonia and Lucinda Matlock, whose rich character and philosophy leave an endearing impression with the words, "What is this I hear of sorrow and weariness, anger, discontent and drooping hopes? Degenerate sons and daughters, life is too strong for you—it takes life to love life."

Randy Murzynski is completely in his element in a play like "Spoon River Anthology." It gave this excellent actor a fine vehicle to demonstrate his versatility, his many faces, that brought humor and drama to his audience. And when Mr. Murzynski performed the audience was his. My favorites were, Archibald Highbie (whose effeminate disgust had everyone hilarious), Fletcher McGee and Barney Hainsfeather.

I was delighted to see both Diana Stark and Mike Deely perform their many characters with great budding talent. Mr. Deely was last seen in "Everything in the Garden," but his small part only hinted at the

fine accomplishments he attained in "Spoon River Anthology." My favorites of his were, George Gray, Hod Putt and Shack Dye. (Both lighting effects and Mr. Deely's talent made me wonder where the actor had been hiding.) Ms. Diana Stark also impressed me, she has an uncanny ability to twist her face into some both humorous and believable characterizations. I applaud her Mrs. Pantier, Pauline Barrett and Nellie Clark.

"Spoon River Anthology" demands that a director call upon all possible insights and creative sensitivity to push his actors into the rigorous study of so many characters. Mr. Idding's direction is remarkable, considering the small size of the Studio Theatre, and student actors with little, if any, acting experience. Both Paul Iddings and choreographer, Bonnie Slawson, overcame the limiting boundaries of the stage, to present a folksy panorama of characters and American life.

Adding to the folk life of the play were the musicians that remained on stage through the whole performance. Nina De Fabbo, Jay Nelson, Joe Hohman, Joanne Pukanic and Nathan Spears sang for and entertained the audience both before and during the play. Their warm-up songs at the beginning delighted the audience, helping us all to relax before the intense production's first Act. The musicians were inexpensive in creating the full color and life of "Spoon River Anthology." Nina De Fabbo's voice was stunning and impressive, one more talent to add to Ms. De Fabbo's already proven acting ability, (Mrs. Toothe, in "Everything in the Garden). The others were never a disappointment. Where did Behrend ever find Nathan Spear, whose appearance and musical talents on the banjo and the guitar somehow helped set the whole mood for the production?

"Spoon River Anthology" had its last performance April 27. For those of you who missed this great theatre experience, all the pity for you.

Parking Complaints

Dear Editor:

I am writing to inform the students that if they have any complaints to voice about the parking lots at Behrend, please direct them to the Collegian office by Wednesday, May 7.

Dana Sammons
Parking Advisory
Committee

Spring '80

Continued from page 1

Following the Run for Fun, the SUB board is sponsoring a Band Jam to be held in Erie Mall at 3 p.m. Names of the bands participating were not available, at this writing.

Everything winds to a close Sunday with the big "Anything Goes" competition in the afternoon. Whether participating or not this event may prove to be the most watched.

APPLICATION FOR COLLEGIAN STAFF POSITION

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What Are Your Reasons For Applying? _____

Return this application to the R.U.B. desk marked Attention:

Collegian. Thank you for applying.