

# EDITORIALS

## Pray For Ra

by John Skrzypczak

I usually don't get the summertime blues. I'm an Erie resident and have learned to adapt to the weird and sometimes "gross" weather that Eriecites are subjected to. If it is winter, I just live with it and wait for summer.

However, the last few days have contributed to my memories of summer.

The key reason for my summertime thoughts is the warmth that is brought on by the sun on these momentous days in the history of Erie winters.

Remember the sun god Ra that you studied in ancient history? Well, I'm surprised Erie doesn't have a rejuvenated movement of Ra worshippers.

Even though this would probably be considered as barbaric worship, it is still hard to believe that the worship of Ra hasn't become popular in Erie.

I'm not a pagan but when the sun shines in Erie, the event should receive some sort of commemoration from a local interest group. Maybe, even declare it a religious or national holiday.

What I'm saying is that next to God, or drugs or alcohol, (or whatever turns you on), nothing can give you more help to get you through a dreary Erie Monday morning than the glare of the sun in your eyes.

When I woke up this morning (it's Monday when I'm writing this), my ambition level was at an unusual low. However, once I peered outdoors and saw a terrific light, one even brighter than the street lamp that keeps me awake at night, a new kind of determination found its way into my soul.

I was almost determined to go

to class. I was sure that the rest of the Behrend community would be in the same good mood I was in. I was right. Students from Pittsburgh who constantly complain about Erie weather were even happy.

It is amazing what a little bit of sunshine can do for everyone. It doesn't matter if it's cold as long as that "sun is shining."

Anyway, it was a great day and now I have visions of summertime at the Peninsula.

I have a mental image of myself at the beach, basking in the sun with my pitcher of Pina Colada's, lounge chair, and "porta jam," as the sun god bronzed my body.

Well, everything is just fine now. At least until the first hot summer night when the thermometer reaches 98 degrees F.

## Letters To The Editor

Several issues ago, the Collegian printed an article on the Behrend library regarding poor service. After finally completing my Library Resources Manual for English 20, I feel compelled to disagree.

The experiences I have encountered with the library staff have been very positive as well as informative. The helpful student staff may not always have an answer immediately, but I have discovered that they will not just dismiss any question.

The dedicated staff works very hard to serve the needs of students. I challenge anyone to prove that there is better library service than that of Behrend College.

Thank you,  
Josette Skobieranda

## Letters To The Editor

I am writing in response to an editorial, titled "More Isn't Always Better," which appeared in the last issue of The Collegian. Several of the opinions and statements expressed in the editorial are, I believe, inaccurate and need to be clarified.

John Skrzypczak, who authored the editorial, stated early that "No one can be blamed for the lack of attendance at the activities except the students." I think that this statement is essentially inaccurate.

Generally speaking, activities at Behrend have been well attended this year. I was approached by an English student several weeks ago who needed to know how many activities had been veritable "bombs" this year (she was writing a paper on the subject), and I was hard-pressed to think of one! We opened the year with a fabulous orientation program, followed by hypnotist James Mapes' standing-room-only program in the lecture hall, followed in turn by many dances, all of which had moderate to heavy attendances (Toga party, South Sea Island Beach Party, Halloween Punkin Party, Lambda Sigma Dance Marathon, to name a few).

Our coffee-house program has gained considerable momentum, as has the Weekend Cinema program, which is now operating in the black (a rare accomplishment at a school this size). We have seen bonfires, hayrides, sleigh rides, comedians, ice skating parties, speakers, a Christmas Bazaar, Spirit Week activities and many other social and cultural events, with solid attendance figures.

There are many students who deserve a great deal of credit for the hard work that has been necessary to revitalize our program of cocurricular activities. While attendance may have been

a problem at times in the past, we must be careful not to retain outdated perceptions that are no longer accurate. To do so is an injustice to students responsible for the success of such programs.

This brings me to my second point. Ultimately, a successful activity at Behrend is always an outcome of collective student effort and involvement. It is not my responsibility as Student Union Manager-Activities Coordinator to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate activities. I am essentially a facilitator of these efforts and an advisor to student leaders.

It is very important that Behrend students have as much autonomy as possible in the process of developing an activities program, if it is going to be meaningful to them. If students wish to change certain aspects of the activities program, they will need to assume some responsibility for effecting this change.

While I am a resource person for clubs on campus, it is not my intent to dictate such change. Any student can become as involved in the cocurricular activities program as he/she wishes. Students wishing to program a major concert, for example, might want to join the Student Union Board Special Events Committee, or conduct a survey to assess student interests on campus relative to concert programming, or attend a Student Senate meeting to determine the feasibility of having several organizations co-sponsor such an event.

These are the kinds of processes involved in developing an activities program at Behrend. While suggestions for improvement are always welcome, students need to realize that the program ultimately belongs to them, and that suggestions need to be accompanied by responsible action if they are to ultimately come to fruition.

I might point out, incidentally, that a major concert has been programmed for Spring Week in May. Livingston Taylor and Company will perform at Behrend sometime during the Week of May 3, 1982.

Finally, regarding Mr. Skrzypczak's contention that events are often programmed in conflict with one another, an examination of the Central Calendar this year suggests otherwise.

Mr. Skrzypczak's illustration of the Lambda Sigma Dance Marathon conflicting with The Exorcist is, in fact, inaccurate. The marathon ended at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 9; The Exorcist began one hour later. Both were well attended. The Dating Game took place on January 18, not on January 13, as Mr. Skrzypczak indicated, and was not therefore in conflict with a basketball game.

I do think that Mr. Skrzypczak raises an important point, however: it is imperative that all events be scheduled in my office, where the Central Calendar is recorded, so that conflicts can be avoided—and they have happened occasionally this year.

I think that Mr. Skrzypczak's article reflects a common phenomenon at Behrend and,

perhaps, in society at large. We tend to remember mistakes of the past and to confuse them with current successes.

His concern is genuine, I know, and in one sense refreshing: It is in a sense good to hear that someone thinks there are too many activities at Behrend. Such is the kind of criticism that most of my counterparts in other colleges and universities would relish—for a moment, at least!

Respectfully,  
Chris Reber  
Student Union Manager

Sir,  
This is a response to your last editorial, "Old Glory Has Red Too", dated January 18, 1982. I read Mr. Beckman's article over many times, trying to figure out what he was getting at. The article began by talking about the anti-draft people that were at Behrend. He then moved on to talk about whether the inhabitants of the U.S.S.R. should be called Russians or Soviets. Thomas Jefferson and John Locke were then briefly discussed. Mr. Beckman finally arrived back at the issue at hand; the draft.

I take it by his pacifist views that he is against the draft and the present administration's military programs. He refers to "militaristic pandemia afflicting the current administration." I like his choice of words, too bad he did not elaborate further.

I cannot figure out Mr. Beckman's term, "militaristic pandemia." To me it could be compared to the military system in the Soviet Union, or should I say Russia. If our society has been inflicted by a crazed militaristic administration, God help us if war should break out.

Back to the point of the draft. Mr. Beckman states, "... I wouldn't mind serving a reasonable period of time for my country." This is refreshing to find out that he would give up some of his time to serve the country in which he lives. By this time my tone can surely be heard: pro registration and draft.

In his last paragraph, Mr. Beckman seems to be correlating the draft and the Red Cross, Heart Association and other volunteer organizations. Suggestions that persons would serve in these organizations instead of the draft is absurd.

Also, solving our domestic problems before we branch out is one problem I am afraid, that will never be solved. If the government channeled the entire military budget through domestic channels, it might bring the figures into the black. What he fails to realize is, what happens if the United States is invaded, are we to send the Cancer Society to meet the resistance? Of course not. Only a fool believes the world will live in harmony, without conflict.

The bottom line is, that a draft is necessary to bolster the slacking armed forces. Critics charge that if a draft is started in peace time, war is imminent. With today's buildup of arms and each country having a check on each other, a draft would just be another plus for the United States.

Earlier I said I was for the draft, but I do not actually think there will be one. In America's 205 years of existence, the draft has only been put into effect 38 of those years. I would like to, in conclusion, remind Mr. Beckman of one last thing. Old Glory Has Red, White and Blue.

David S. Cochran  
PI Sc. 6th term

## Add experience to your degree.



Facts indicate that you may work in three to five different careers. It won't be unusual to make changes as you go. And it's entirely possible that your final career does not even exist today.

Often in a first job, you are an assistant to the assistant. Your responsibility is limited to a desk and typewriter.

But when your first job is an Army 2LT, you'll have real management experience. You'll be in charge. On a specific job assignment, you could have 30 to 40 people working for you. And you could be responsible for millions of dollars in equipment.

Responsibility for people and resources is exactly the kind of "take charge" experience civilian employers seek. It's a margin of difference in the increasingly competitive job market.

Prepare to rise to the top in your field. Make your first job 3 or 4 years as an Army Officer.

If you have two years remaining in school, you can begin ROTC this summer. You'll be compensated financially, stimulated physically and mentally. To add experience to your degree contact

MAJOR JOEL PIGOTT (814) 899-7028

## Army ROTC. Learn what it takes to lead.

LINE FRAME	TUITION CREDIT	ROTC PARTICIPATION	NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERSHIP (SAME FOR THE RESERVES)
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR			
COLLEGE FRESHMAN			WHAT? Enlist in the National Guard or Reserves WHO? Private (E1)
SOPHOMORE	\$480	Enroll in Military Science III ANNUAL STIPEND: \$1000 Attend ROTC Advanced Camp (6 weeks) PAY: \$739.62	WHAT? Attend Basic Combat Training WHO? Private (E1) PAY? \$1102.80 (2 months)
JUNIOR	\$480	Enroll in Military Science IV ANNUAL STIPEND: \$1000 NOTE: Upon completion of Military Science IV, participant is commissioned as Second Lieutenant (2LT)	WHAT? Attend weekend training assemblies WHO? Cadet (E5) PAY? \$1170.24 (one weekend per month) WHAT? Attend annual training with unit WHO? Cadet (E5) PAY? \$365.70 (15 days)
SENIOR			WHAT? Attend weekend training assemblies WHO? 2LT PAY? \$528.30 (15 days)
COLLEGE SENIOR	\$480		WHAT? Attend weekend training assemblies WHO? 2LT PAY? \$1690.56 (one weekend per month)
TOTAL	\$1440.00	\$2739.62	\$6027.74
GRAND TOTAL			\$8767.36-RESERVES OR \$10207.36-NATIONAL GUARD

SALARY FOR ACTIVE DUTY AFTER GRADUATION: FIRST YEAR- \$17,941 SECOND YEAR- \$20,557 THIRD YEAR- \$26,108

**College Freshman**  
Why not take a look at the ROTC simultaneous membership programs

- Up to \$10,207 over the next 3 years of college
- Guaranteed employment after graduation with \$17,491 salary
- More info at Behrend ROTC Office (814) 899-7028

The Commuter Council is entering the Winterfest activities with a carnation sale February 12 and 13. The carnations will be 75 cents apiece. They will be on sale by the RUB desk on Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and at the Valentine Ball on Saturday.

In cooperation with Student Affairs, the Council will soon have mounted a map for car pooling and off-campus housing. Information for these programs will be gathered by a questionnaire given out at registration.