

# EDITORIALS

## For Spacious Skies

By John Skrzypczak

I recently traveled to two local tourist hot spots: Cooks Forest, Pa. and Buffalo, N.Y. (i.e. the Niagara Falls area).

These areas are endowed with beauty; even in the winter the scenery of these areas is awesome. Katherine Lee Bates said it best in her lyrics to "America, the Beautiful."

She describes the beauty of this country from the Pacific to the Atlantic. A country full of natural wonders, historical sites and elegant scenery.

I've traveled out of the United States to the Bahamas and Canada. However, these countries have few sights that the United States can't offer.

From mountain ranges, to whitewater rivers; from rolling meadows to sandy beaches all can be found right here at home.

I've been to the West, lived in the South and was born and raised in the Northwest.

The diversity of landscapes, shorelines and terra firma is remarkable. I've heard many people talk of how great it was abroad and how beautiful the mountains are in Switzerland or the beaches in France, but while these people were out spending thousands of dollars for a trip across the ocean, they could have seen similar sights right here for much less money.

Spending a little time traveling across the U.S. is also good for the soul.

Not only is it functional (the tourism industry prospers) it helps you regain a little pride and awareness of just how great this country of ours is.

The United States truly is, "America, the Beautiful."

### Guest Editorial

## Behrend Rising To Status

By Claire DeSantis

Behrend College, once just a tiny branch of that mammoth tree called Penn State University, is well on its way to becoming one of the finest institutions in the area. With the inception of more four-year majors, many more students are opting for the small college atmosphere Behrend offers.

Students can enjoy an affiliation with the main campus, including reduced rates on athletic tickets and friendships with others who have transferred, but can still enjoy the atmosphere of a small classroom and the specialized attention that accompanies it.

Robert Schenker of the Records Office attributes the increase in student registration, that of nearly 300 per cent for the fall term of 1982, to a number of factors. Advertising has played a large part. Word has gotten out that Behrend has a fine faculty who affords students personalized attention.

Again, the affiliation with main campus can also be mentioned. The tuition at Behrend is less than many of the other institutions in the area, and for those students from outside of the immediate Erie area, the availability of dormitories is a definite advantage.

A quality faculty also gives the Behrend College a fine reputation for those who are serious about their academic endeavors.

Most majors at Behrend have enjoyed a consistent rise in enrollment, with the largest major at this time being Accounting. The Engineering major has the largest number of transfers to main campus, and whether that will remain consistent when a four-year Behrend Engineering major is implemented is yet to be seen.

All other majors are enjoying

consistent rises, especially in the field of science.

The night classes offer a wider range of availability to those students who wish to work during the day, and for those who have decided to return to school but wish to maintain their present jobs.

With the increase in the size of the student body, Mr. Schenker felt that an increase in class size will probably be inevitable, but it will be a minimal one. In comparison with the classes at main campus, classes at Behrend will still be considerably smaller.

Schenker also stated, "If a student is unsure of his or her major, they should come in to the Records Office and ask who the person 'in charge' of that particular major is. There is a faculty member for each major that can help to clarify any questions the student might have."

"One of the best advantages a Behrend major has, though, is that the faculty is constantly looking at the majors to help improve them." It is this attention to 'size and quality of the major', that keeps enrollment increasing at Behrend.

For all of the women who are reading this, the men have a two to one edge at the college, so it is, in essence, women's choice. Men hold the lead in nearly all majors, except Liberal Arts, and the women are especially outnumbered in the engineering field. As a matter of fact, men outnumber the women by nearly six to one.

Behrend College is certainly an up and coming institution and with the constant improvement which is ongoing around the campus, it won't be long until we are on the to of the consideration list among many of the high school seniors in the surrounding area.

## Letters To The Editor

To the Students, Faculty and Staff at Behrend:

America is the home of the rugged individual and the land where we are encouraged "to do our own thing." The great paradox of this social philosophy is if our "thing" doesn't meet the approval of our peers, we are cast out of the "in" group.

One visitor to America once said, "America is a place where you have the freedom to be like everyone else." An awesome amount of pressure can be exerted on a person to persuade him or her to conform to the group's values.

To avoid alienation by the group, many people compromise their values and beliefs and experiment with sex, alcohol and drugs. But one of the strongest pressures we face is to conform to America's churchianity. It is fashionable to go to church.

If a person sets out to really dedicate their life to God, they are considered a Jesus freak or a holy roller. I realize that some people become overbearing in their zeal for God, but more often I think our ideas about Christianity are warped.

Many Americans have adopted a religion that calls for a once-a-week visit to church and be-kind-to-your-neighbor lifestyle. This form of religion is a twentieth century perversion of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now there is nothing wrong with going to church or being kind to your neighbor, but what God really wants is not your good deeds and sacrifices — HE WANTS YOU.

Many people accept Jesus Christ as their Savior but few make Him their Lord. Jesus said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me," and "He who loves his life will lose it."

A genuine Christian has lost his life in God. Are your goals to become rich, famous or powerful? Or is your goal to glorify God? IF YOU ARE NOT CONSCIOUSLY AWARE OF CONSISTENTLY LIVING YOUR LIFE FOR GOD, DEVOTING YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS TOWARDS HIS ENDS, THEN YOU'RE GUILTY OF THE GREATEST SIN OF ALL-A SELF-DIRECTED LIFESTYLE.

Confess and repent of your sin and turn to God with ALL your heart. You know that you should.

## Interview With Mary Beth Peterson: Cuts Hurt Students

by Tricia Wood

The Collegian recently interviewed a source in the language of student loans and grants: Mary Beth Peterson, Financial Aid Officer at Behrend College.

This year 230 more students received a GSL (Guaranteed Student Loan) at Behrend than the previous year.

Ms. Peterson feels that a reduction in the number of students rewarded the SEOG, CWSP and NDSL in 81-82 as compared to 80-81 is a contributing factor to the increase of students borrowing the GSL.

This year 76 students received \$68,420 from the SEOG grant as compared to 115 getting \$88,145 the year before. In the work study program-CWSP, 116 students have been allotted \$134,299, whereas last year 151 students participated in CWSP earning \$150,037.

The NDSL loan program is money that the government gives Behrend and then can be lent to students at 5 percent interest. In 80-81, 161 students were granted this loan totaling \$128,350, in 81-82 only 104 students got \$95,450.

Ms. Peterson was asked if some students take out the GSL and invest it in money saving certificates, not using or needing the money for present educational costs.

"That's true. That's possibly why this program is suffering such drastic changes."

Will this put the program out of existence?

"This is the number one targeted program by the Reagan administration," Ms. Peterson said. "When you compare all the programs, people say that (GSL) is the most practical for the government because students are borrowing money and they have to pay it back at 9 percent interest."

"But, what they don't realize is that the bank loans this money to the students; it's not federal

Don't let the pressure to conform to a watered-down Christianity be an eternal stumbling block to you.

Seek praise from God rather than praise from man, because God only takes delight in those whose hearts are sold out to Him.

Sincerely,  
Joe Fornear

money, it's bank money. The bank doesn't lose money, because the federal government is the party that pays the interest for the years that the students use the loan. They pay billions of dollars each year to banks in interest alone."

"So, the first thing that Ronald Reagan proposed to do and also what went into effect October 1 was a financial need analysis: If the family income was over \$30,000 they weren't guaranteed the full amount of the loan."

Concerning the number of students that received the GSL this year, Ms. Peterson said, "Probably a quarter of these loans happened from August 1 to October 1 because people just started running to get this money before this went into effect."

"There is something called an origination fee that is now being added on top of this loan. Right now 5 percent. . . of the money you borrow goes right back to the bank, this is money that the government then doesn't pay in interest. . ."

If you borrow \$2,500 you must immediately pay \$125 to the bank. Ms. Peterson said, "we're not sure if it will be April, July or October 1 . . . the origination fee is being upped to 10 percent. So if someone borrows \$2,500 they will have to give \$250 right back to the bank."

If the adjusted gross income of both the student and the parents is less than \$30,000 they will no longer be guaranteed the full amount of the loan.

"We have a conversion chart . . . based on the family income, said Ms. Peterson, they can only borrow a certain amount, they are not guaranteed the \$2,500. Now that chart is going to be revamped, so, if October 1 of this year it showed that they can borrow \$1,000, maybe next year it will only be \$500." Regardless of income, everyone will have to undergo the needs analysis test.

"There's a new program called the PLUS loan program (Parents Loan for Undergraduate Students)," she added. "This is what the Reagan administration wants to see more of these GSL people into. Parents borrow the money at 14 percent interest and begin repayment within 60 days."

"The problem is a needy student's parents can't afford to start paying it back. That's what the GSL was originated for."

## Behrend Collegian

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### FILMS, SPRING TERM

MARCH	27 and 28	Kentucky Fried Movie
APRIL	3 and 4	The Howling
	17 and 18	The Fury
	24 and 25	Grapes Of Wrath