

EDITORIALS

Not from the Dean

Freshmen Message

by Chuck Beckman

College, someone told me once (I think it was a bartender), is supposed to be a mind expanding institution. It is, in reality, the first place of learning where there is no one continually looking over your shoulder to make sure you're doing your work. You make the choice whether you want to internalize that "over the shoulder" motivation or not.

If you do, you'll likely go the complete two or four years in college.

If you don't, you'll likely find yourself out in that cold receptacle that your parents and non-collegiate friends keep telling you is the "real world."

All of which is pretty lofty (I think I just wrote half of this year's valedictorian's speech). Almost everyone who goes to college considers it an investment and a path to future employment. Even we English majors hope that, upon graduating, we won't end up working in a pool hall for the rest of our lives.

However, I think a problem arises when a student looks upon a college education as solely the means to an end. If one looks upon college this way, higher education can become a four year Purgatory, in which one alternately works and drinks oneself into a stupor. Both can kill brain cells, as can working on a campus newspaper, or in Student Government.

Perhaps Main Campus should be renamed to "Mama." Everyone acts as if Behrend is his surrogate mother, and can't wait to get home to Mama. Main Campus does have advantages over Behrend. For one, I'm told they actually fund the Student organizations. Second, the buildings are nicer; some even have ivy growing on them. Then there's Beaver Stadium, that shrine which sits empty except for six or so days per year. Those

six days, incidentally, are ones that will be remembered for the remainder of your life.

But what about the other two-hundred?

And what about the two-hundred days you'll spend at Behrend in the forthcoming year, freshmen? Allow me to suggest ways to make your life more pleasant at Behrend:

1. Paste ivy on all the buildings. The aesthetic value of doing this may just make your stay here tolerable. If you wear glasses or contacts, you can paste ivy on the lenses and the effect will be the same. Columbia. Harvard.

2. Get tickets for every Penn State home game. That way, you'll be at Main Campus for the best days of the entire year. "But there's parties at Main campus every weekend," you say. Can anyone out there really afford to party every weekend? Whew.

3. Become active in the Behrend community. Behrend really isn't that bad. Last summer, I had the occasion to visit other Penn State commonwealth campuses (nameless here). I CAME BACK TO BEHREND AND KISSED THE GROUND.

There are many organizations here that are in need of fresh ideas. Leadership positions are opening up all over, especially in Student Government, Joint Residence Council, Commuter Council, Radio Club, Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, and all the others who are going to be mad at me because I didn't mention them. Last, the Behrend Collegian also needs helmsmen for next year.

The point of this barrage, I suppose is: if you don't put anything in, chances are you won't get anything out. And two (or four) years of your life will be blown, spent in a dorm room or at home, wishing you were someplace else.

Just A Thought (or two) | Letters To The Editor

by John Skrzypczak

I have so many things to get off my chest (Chuck's foot is one of them), that I'm going to give you a whole spiel of thoughts.

I've got something to say about many topics this week. Local, Behrend, and World Affairs will be treated equally so stick around and I'm sure that something will interest you.

First, about the place that both you and I are very familiar with. Yes, Behrend. I can't get registration and Book-Buy-Back out of my mind. It's so confusing and unorganized.

The next guy who cuts in front of me or decides to rearrange his entire schedule two seconds before he registers, I will personally cut his Behrend I.D. in half.

It really bugs me when you're standing in line for an hour and someone comes up and bogarts in front of you. However, what is really annoying is the fact that no matter how unorganized registration is the term before the same procedure is used again.

The two women who work at the jury-rigged registration booth do an excellent job. However, two women can't efficiently register 2,000 students, it's impossible.

So, why do they continue to only have those two women at registration? Why not two tables and four ladies, and two separate lines.

The Records' Office can afford to have some more help around registration, even if they must hire some people to just work at registration. It wouldn't be a real financial burden, (what's \$3.35 an hour?).

Also, the book store has a serious problem. No announced hours when buy-back is, always running out of money, and one man doing all the work. What's wrong? Is Mr. MacDonald the only one who knows how to count money around here? He does a fine job but he's always doing it himself. The book store manager can't single-handedly buy back all the books at Behrend. It's impossible. Again, some temporary help in these two departments is desperately needed during the hectic times that arrive at the end of the term.

How about some compliments for Behrend? I even have a few.

The tuition isn't bad, definitely the best in the area. Also, at Behrend you get your money's worth.

I sure would like to see WBCR get a transmitter and carry their signal across the airwaves. The local radio stations are very bad, it seems only Gannon (WERG) is the only radio station that will play any music that their advertisers wouldn't be pleased with.

Also, Dean Lilley is not only an excellent dean, but he doesn't look bad on t.v. He does a fine job in promoting Behrend. I've seen him a few times on television and he certainly is a bright spot. He is so enthusiastic about Erie and Behrend that he's even convinced me that it's a nice place to live.

I'm glad there are some good local college newspapers to read. (I see the Erie Times has raised their prices). I guess AP and UPI news services are charging them more for their information.

I'm very disturbed by the diplomacy of England and especially Margaret Thatcher. It was very upsetting to see how the British reacted when the U.S. supported placing nuclear weapons in England. They said the U.S. was very aggressive. The British suggested that nuclear weapons were a threat to world peace. Yet, they are squabbling and engaging their entire Navy in a very threatening act against Argentina over some islands. It seems to me that sending an entire military armament to a small South American country over some insignificant islands is much more politically dangerous and is definitely a world threat to peace. A full-scale war could result from these tactics that the English are employing.

I certainly hope that the whole situation is resolved by peaceful methods.

Dear Editors:

With Mr. Fornear's latest letter comes what seems to be a new commandment. I hesitate to call it the eleventh, as he has placed the sin of "living a-self-directed lifestyle" in the number one position.

What I see here is a blanket condemnation of anyone who may be pursuing a better way of life. Look around you, Joe: that's why just about all of us are in college.

This type of "do what I say or burn in Hell" evangelism does nothing but alienate and insult a lot of good people, some of whom are themselves good Christians.

Sincerely,
Joseph DeVoe

Messing With Mother-Nature

by Clair DeSantis

Don't let her fool you. Mother Nature is no sweetie-pie. Oh, sure, she wants everyone to believe that "spring has sprung." She threw in a few rays of warm, golden sunlight, some fresh air, a little green in the scene, if I might say so. But don't let her get your blood pumping to the rhythm of "Springtime in the Rockies" because the lady has got other things up her Mother-Nature sleeves.

No sooner did I pull out my shorts and summer clothes than it began to snow. I went to work last Friday or Saturday in my favorite Barracuda jacket, riding my bike, no less. When I came out of that building nearly seven hours later, I had to wrap paper

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Union Board Scores

by Chuck Beckman

I think I speak for about one-hundred people when I thank the Student Union Board for sponsoring The Leslie Burrs Ensemble on Monday, April 5. This jazz quintet blew the ears off the audience during their two hour performance. The audience returned the gesture in the form of a prolonged standing ovation, complete with shouting and foot stomping.

People I talked with after the session agreed that not only was the group one of the best events ever to come to Behrend (within recent memory), but that it was some of the best live music they'd ever seen.

I know that I speak for Mr. Skrzypczak also (see John's editorial in the Jan. 28 issue)

when I say that I'd like to see more events of the same superb quality as the Burrs Ensemble, and less of the high-priced weird events that pop up in the calendar every so often.

My favorite last week was the "Egg Dying (sic) Extravaganza." Who wants to sit around and watch a bunch of eggs die? (the word is dyeing, not dying). I understand that this extent cost upward of \$70.00 for 15 people.

But this issue has been discussed before. Incidentally, if anyone has feelings toward this, pro or con, the Collegian would like to hear about it.

And finally, I don't mean to discredit the Student Union Board for the extremely successful Burrs concert last week.

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