

OPINION

Commentary

GTE, SET ME FREE!

When the news spread that on-campus students could make long distance calls from their own phones, a cry of joy resounded throughout the dorms. Then, after the first phone bill arrived, the cries turned to squeals of anger from many people who's largest charge was not a toll call, but the service charge itself - six dollars per person per month.

It's not paying for my long distance calls that bothers me so much as shelling out hard-earned money to keep the phone installed. One reason, I believe, that the charge is 12 dollars a month per room, is because Behrend purchased those sleek, classy push-button phones.

Personally, if I thought having a rotary dial would be cheaper I could live with calloused fingers.

And besides, with a dial phone, you have a longer time to decide if you really need to make that long distance call. And what about those of us with large fingers who press the wrong button and make a long distance call to the wrong number? The touch-tones were definitely unnecessary.

It's funny how the company who installed the phones, Infonet, went out of business. Also, it would behoove the other students to realize that if they make a long distance call and no one answers after letting the phone ring for one minute, that student will be charged for a two minute long distance phone call to that particular number.

I make my calls at ungodly

hours to reap the rewards of low rates, and I still call collect (thanks Mom), but that bill seems to climb higher each month. And the bills must be paid in full, whereas on a regular phone bill, the portion that isn't paid is simply tacked on to the next month's bill. Of course, this inconvenience takes its place next to our wonderfully efficient computer and drop-add procedure.

What had started out to be a blessing in dorm life is proving to be quite costly. And to think last year I complained of not being able to make long distance calls! By the way, if anyone has an extra \$27.07...

Lisa Pavadore
Collegian Feature Editor

Let's Help Ethiopia

Before making that trek to grandma's house for all the turkey and mashed potatoes to fill your heart's desire, take a moment and consider the plight facing Ethiopia today. Over the past two years, a devastating drought has crippled harvests and has resulted in the starvation of the entire Ethiopian population.

The harvest of the grain crop teff, Ethiopia's main food source, has consistently failed, leaving 35 million Ethiopians to rely upon outside help for food. Presently, millions of dollars and tons of foodstuffs have been sent to Ethiopia from all over the globe, but this will only last so long.

This country needs continuous relief if we and the rest of the world ever expect Ethiopia to get back on its feet again. We need to help Ethiopians help themselves -

by supplying them with not only food and money, but with medical aid, educational supplies, tools, seed, and adequate water systems.

Many will argue that we should first take care of domestic problems dealing with poor and starving Americans. However, the magnitude of Ethiopia's problem clearly shows that they deserve immediate attention.

A combined effort by the world to help Ethiopia can only have positive results in achieving world peace and in bringing the nations of the world closer together. Contributions can be made through:

CARE
400 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Michael Ross
Collegian Staff Writer

Commentary

There's No Place Like Home

Before you start to read this, be sure you are sitting down and have a friend close by to hold your hand. I am going to confess something that is both unusual and unpopular: I LIKE ERIE!

Well, you say, but this is her home town. It is also the place I returned to from being away. I have lived in Washington, D.C., Denver and San Diego. They were nice, but they weren't Erie.

I like being on the side hill, with the solid comfort of the hill behind me, and the open vista of Lake Erie in front. This ever-changing panorama of scene and weather is always a delight to see.

I like the challenge of the weather, the delightful respites, the brilliant blue of February shadows, the surprising green of spring grass, the pulsing gold and red of fall foliage, the first snow whenever, and especially the last snow of spring.

I like living in a city where it is easy to get around downtown (minus the always present Penelec-National Fuel gas crews digging and filling), and where, after an evening event, it doesn't take hours to get out of town.

I like being able to see openness, beyond the congestion of the city, both north (Lake Erie) and south (the ridge of hills).

I like the mish-mash of the cultural events that are offered in Erie - the Playhouse, the Philharmonic, the sporting events, the special events in which out-of-towners are brought in to entertain us. And whether or not I choose to go to some or none of these events, the fact that they are offered is like money in the bank for me. Boredom is a vacuum of the mind.

Now let me see, what else do I like about Erie? I like the location, the weather, the city, the cultural events - I guess the only thing left is eating, and that's not so bad either.

I wouldn't want to close with your thinking I believe Erie to be Utopia, I know it isn't. But for me, I would rather live in Erie than in any of the three large cities. I have sampled. Because, come right down to the nitty-gritty of it, I LIKE ERIE!

Pat Via
Seventh semester,
Communications

Penn State Behrend Collegian

Member of
The Press Association

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Office Hours - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Monday through Friday
Phone: 898-6221

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