

FEATURE

Book Review

Future Shock "Can't Be Taken With A Grain Of Salt"

by Lisa Pavadore
Collegian Feature Editor

Alvin Toffler, known worldwide for literary works read in over 50 countries, criticizes the social and cultural realm, mostly of the Western World, in the book *Future Shock*.

Some critics say that Toffler's book will change anyone who reads it. I don't necessarily believe that after reading it, one would change. However, *Future Shock* is a thought-provoking piece, and at times creates a whole new world, one much colder and im-

personal from the world we know.

At the start, I thought *Future Shock* would be another 1984, by George Orwell. But, where Orwell discusses our future through a dramatic narrative, Toffler describes in depth what will happen to the people of our society if we do not cope with a future of vast and mind-boggling rate of change. Toffler terms the inability to cope with much change at such a staggering rate, future shock.

The book is divided into six parts, each dealing with a facet of our society changing too fast for

us to keep up with. Not only does Toffler describe-almost warn-us of our inevitable peril, he does not explain how to avoid future shock until the last part of the book.

While it is interesting, Toffler explains many aspects of future shock in a long-winded way, and cites several examples that could have been eliminated. A bit verbose, maybe, but I believe when Toffler first wrote the book (15 years ago) it would have been more difficult to convince his audience, thus he provides many examples.

In our supposed future, which can be read in less than 500 pages, I see that we will abandon the notions of long-term friendship, owning a home, or even raising our own children.

Toffler spends a great deal of time discussing transiency. While Americans do tend to move from home to home a lot more now, and though families are getting smaller, I find it impossible to be human without needing the stability and permanence of having a family and a home. In fact, the section I find most interesting deals with the breakdown of the family.

According to Toffler, parents will not raise their own children, but will pursue careers and allow their children to be raised by professional families. Far-fetched? Yes. Impossible? Maybe.

A very possible and helpful way of dealing with future shock is through grouping people who are

going through the same crises or life changes. We do have group therapy today for those dealing with alcohol and drug abuse, as well as other mental and emotional problems, but Toffler feels that passing through even what we term "normal" life phases such as moving, divorce, and children marrying can be coped with better through group discussion. Individual therapy will also be more widely available in the future.

I have found *Future Shock* to be stimulating, and I encourage people to read it. This book can be a rude awakening for those avoiding the future, and it can't be taken with a grain of salt.

At the least, Toffler will challenge your values and morals, and force you to possibly reconsider any of your deeply rooted beliefs. At most, you may change your ideas, or begin to wonder if we are really as in control of our society and future as we believe.

Avoid The Term Paper Blues

by Patty Altieri
Collegian Contributing Writer

Access to a wide variety of materials can make the difference between a good term paper and one that is mediocre. Complaints are made daily about the limited resources available here in Behrend's library. This is nothing. What few students realize is that our library is a small part of the whole Penn State library network. Inter-Library Loan (ILL) makes these materials accessible at no cost to you, the borrower.

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Good sources of verification are book reviews, bibliographies, and *Books in Print*. Reference books or books in the Rare Book room will not be loaned.

Journal articles can also be obtained through ILL. It's important to know that the journal itself cannot be borrowed. A xerox copy of the specific article requested will be sent. The copy is yours to keep. Perhaps you just want to browse through a particular journal to see if it has what you need. You can request a copy

of the table of contents.

If you work better under pressure and wait until the end of the semester to write your paper, you will not have enough time to order materials through ILL. It takes five to ten days to get the materials requested, even longer late in the semester when requests are the heaviest.

Use LIAS to find the most up-to-date materials in the Penn State system. When you begin your search, make sure that you are in the "LIB ALL" mode. Then you are ready to search by title, author, subject or call number. All of the journal holdings for Pattee (the main library at U.P.) are on LIAS. Once you have located the book you want, check its status. Type in "status" and press return. A screen will appear that tells you whether or not the book is available.

In case LIAS is down or in use, you can use the COM Catalog for holdings at Pattee on microfilm. For journals, you can again use the COM Catalog or the journal holdings books behind the circulation desk.

The next step is very important: filling out the necessary form, which can be obtained at the circulation desk. They must be filled out completely and correctly in order to be processed. If not, it could mean a delay of days. The student assistants or library staff will help you fill them out. Direct any questions to Patti Mrozowski who handles all of Behrend's ILL business.

You can still procrastinate. Order the materials now, and write the paper the night before it is due.

ABC Celebrates Black Achievement

by Gregory Goldsmith
Collegian Staff Writer

The Association of Black Collegians (ABC) kicked off its annual "Black Cultural Festival" with a Red, Black, and Green Day. The color red is a symbol of the blood that was lost by blacks in the struggle for equality, freedom and peace. Black symbolizes the color of the skin and green represents the original native land of black people—Africa.

As a part of the Black Cultural Festival, the Association of Black Collegians viewed a film entitled *A Tale of O*. It was presented to them by Charles Pittman, a former Penn-State All-Star Football Player and Alumnus. The film featured relationships between blacks and whites. A discussion period and 'meet-the-speaker' reception followed.

In order to celebrate the contributions that blacks have made in the arts, Parris Baker, a local play director, poet and choreographer, came to Behrend to present a one-man skit that viewed the hardships and hangups of blacks. Appearing with him, was the Erie Bayfront Ballet.

In conjunction with the Black Cultural Festival, the ABC is sponsoring an essay contest for area high school students. Any student that would like to enter the contest should submit one essay to his or her English teacher on the topic of Black Achievement. The teacher should then send the essay to Gregory Goldsmith, Penn State-Behrend College, Station Rd. Box 505, Erie, PA 16563. Entries must be postmarked no later than Feb. 28.

There will be two winners. One from the 9-10 grade level and another from the 11-12 grade level. Each winner will receive a \$25 savings bond and plaque. For more details call Goldsmith at 898-6570 or 898-6595.

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March 13, 15-17, 9 p.m.

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