

Nationally acclaimed economist speaks at Behrend

by Gregory D. Goldsmith
Collegian Staff Writer

On Sept. 14, economist Dr. Walter Williams visited Behrend to lecture on property rights and the allocation of resources.

Dr. Williams began by stating, "All cultures have conflicts of interest that must be resolved." He continued by scarcely defining conflicts interpreted by economists to be a "set of circumstances whereby the warrants exceed the means to satisfy those warrants—not everybody can have

everything they want."

As a means of dealing with conflict, he asked, "How do we resolve these conflicts?" He answered, "We must put constraints on permissible behavior which fall into the category of property rights. These are the rights we use when in competition." He added that, "Laws govern our property rights. Just as important as the laws governing our property rights so does etiquette, our customs and also ostracism—the act of ignoring

people because they don't fit the norm."

In an attempt to clarify this, Williams explained, "Private property rights are those rights that people have as long as they don't violate others. Public property rights are those which are born with the whole society in mind. The significance of public ownership is that it allows for dispersion." An example of public rights would be the ownership of the Washington Monument. Because this is public property, reduced incentive results due to the dispersion of awards.

In order for people to be aware of the results of public property rights and the rights of people to use public property, they must examine the possible resulting consequences. Williams proceeded by stating, "Part of the considerations that we want to ask is, do we want individuals to bear the consequences of their decisions such as you do under private property or do we want these consequences of individuals decisions born by a large number of people." Williams used as an example, that during the oil crisis, children were getting on T.V. saying don't use

oil; save it for future generations. Williams replied, "I don't care about future generations. What have future generations done for me?" However he added, "My actions bely my sentiments. When one is pursuing his own interest for the betterment of a possession, the results in turn benefit the future generations." For example, if someone has a house and he puts a considerable amount of money into it to keep it in good shape, when that person is gone and that house is still standing, the next person to live there will have received the benefits of a well preserved house at the expense of someone else's money.

In general, Williams said, "The system of private property rights are very important in the allocation of resources." He explained the system is important, "Primarily because private property forces people to internalize their externality. It forces decision makers to take into account the effects of their current decisions of the future value of the resources in question, whereby when their is public ownership of property, people have reduced incentive to take into account the considera-

tion of the effect of the future value of resources in question." An example he used was public housing projects vs. private housing and the amount of care given to each.

Following Dr. Williams' lecture on property rights and the allocation of resources, a question and answer period was conducted with faculty and students present. During this time, students and faculty alike asked questions ranging from who has private and public ownership on housing to large corporations and their role in public rights and ownership.

As the discussion continued, references were made to situations in South Africa concerning self-interest. An off-shoot from this reference led to asking Dr. Williams about his views on divestment in South Africa and are firms placed in a dilemma because of their interest and the interest of their stockholders. He first stated that because you are against disinvestment does not necessarily mean that you are for Apartheid. Disinvestment is impossible. He continued, "There is a huge ignorance about South

continued on page 4



Dr. John M. Lilley and Dr. Walter Williams

Ms. Faust may make the movies

by Rob Roth
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Behrend English instructor Chris Dubbs recently accomplished what many aspiring writers only dream about.

His book *Ms. Faust* is due for release in hardback by Richardson-Steinman in late October. The book was purchased by the publishers while only two-thirds complete in January of 1985.

However, since the spring of 1985, various movie studios expressed interest in the book; these include Embassy Pictures and United Artists. Ultimately, the film rights were purchased by the independent film maker Mace Neufeld which produced the movie *The Omen*.

Dubbs learned that the film rights had been sold September 3rd and he described the situation, "I was in my office when I got a call from my agent with the good news. I wasn't surprised by the news since there'd been interest in the book for many months. But the very fact that the book might be made into a movie still amazes me."

He said that idea for the book, "grew out of several short stories I wrote—one of them *Shakespeare's Physician*. It has Shakespeare's deathbed physician speculating about whether Shakespeare had traded his soul to the devil to achieve his suc-

cess." This short story will appear this fall in *Antioch Review*.

Describing the content of his 256 page novel Dubbs continued, "the book takes its name from the classic Faust legend that has often appeared in literature. Faust was a man who traded his soul to the devil for knowledge and power."

"I thought it was time for a female Faust. *Ms. Faust* is about a modern-day career woman who is vice-president of a large corporation and trades her soul to the devil to advance her career. The appearance of the devil in the world causes many unusual phenomena to occur."

Accordingly the book is not without its share of the bizarre which is also contained in the past versions." There are wierd things happening, like stones falling from the sky, and rivers that cease to flow. Also some of the men who stand in the way of the woman's advancement mysteriously die. The overall tone is somewhat anti-male," said Dubbs.

The writing trade is not something which Chris Dubbs has immersed himself in with instant success. Since obtaining his bachelor's Degree from Penn State in Business Management in 1968, he spent two years as a Marine in Vietnam and then entered the creative writing programs at the University of Oregon where he earned a Master of Fine

Behrend enrollment on the rise - again

Student enrollment at Penn State-Behrend has jumped by more than 11 percent for fall 1985 according to preliminary figures released this week.

More than 2,250 students are enrolled in on-campus credit programs at Behrend College this fall, an increase of more than 11.3 percent over the 1,989 enrollment in the fall of 1984.

The surge is the eighth consecutive increase in enrollments at the college, which has its fall student population grow by about 500 students since 1982.

"I think the increasing popularity of Behrend College as a four-year institution has been a major factor in the growth in enrollment," says Associate Provost and Dean Dr. Jack Burke. "New apartment-style housing, new classrooms and a new computer center on campus also have been factors in increasing the number of returning students."

Penn State-Behrend this fall opened a new apartment complex for 192 upper-class students and two new buildings housing classrooms, a computer center

and laboratories—The Hammermill and Zurn Buildings.

"People recognize Behrend College offers a degree from a major university at a reasonable cost, which is pushing our enrollments to near-capacity levels," Burke said.

In addition to the 2,250 on-campus credit students enrolled, about 3,500 students are expected to enroll in off-campus credit and all non-credit continuing education programs at the college this year.

Election results calculated

Mike Shanshala and Marilyn Lamore have been elected as Freshman Senators. They assumed their positions on the Student Senate at the Sept. 18 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting.

SGA freshman elections were held Sept. 17 and 18 in front of the library. All first or second semester students were eligible to vote for two of the five candidates. Lamore and Shanshala received 80 and 67 votes respectively. The rest of the ballots went to Paul Kitchen with 53 votes, Brad Loase who received 62 votes and Angie Busbee who captured 57 votes.

According to the SGA constitution the duties of the freshman senators are to represent the views of freshmen and to serve on committees of the SGA. Their term of office runs until May 31, 1986.

Shanshala sees his role as, "Seeing that students, particularly freshmen, become more aware of Student Government. When students have problems or complaints they should bring it to the attention of SGA."

The Student Senate is composed of 15 voting members including three Resident Senators, four Commuter Senators and representatives from Commuter Council,

continued on page 3

inside this issue

- MBA Program implemented.....p. 3
- Campus club report.....p. 4
- Student opinion on apartheid.....p. 5
- Students "sack out".....p. 6