

editorial opinion

Speak out

Let's talk.

Instead of moaning about student apathy, this week I'll try and take a more constructive approach.

In my activities with the **Collegian** I'm finding that it is tiresome trying to keep my finger on Behrend's pulse.

The opinion page is a place where students have the opportunity to publicly voice their complaints or compliments, opinions and oppositions. I'm distressed to say that only two students on campus have felt strongly enough to voice their views on the opinion page.

I understand that we have traversed the rioting 60's, but what ever happened to student activism?

This lack of activism is becoming so prevalent that it's frightening. It makes me think that if a threatening dilemma faced the University, city or nation, for that matter, students would lay back and let it overcome.

So, I'm appealing to you, the student body, in efforts to promote student activism. I want your input.

Suppose there is something you would like to see more of on campus--write! Or if something makes you mad--write! Letters of constructive



nature are welcome as well as letters of critical nature. Use the opinion page to your advantage. It can act as a communication link between you and Behrend College.

If you have trouble coming up with an appropriate idea to support or criticize, I'll try to make it easier for you. Each issue you will see an "Editor's Question of the Week" that will give you something to think about.

It is easy to write to the **Collegian**. Simply send letters to **The Behrend Collegian**, The Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. It is important to include name, semester standing and major. Also include your address and phone number for verification of the letter. And, if you would like your letter signed anonymously, let us know.

reader opinion: Understanding Tomorrow

by Michael Eric Wimmis
Sixth Semester, MIS

It seems to be our manifest destiny to reach the unreachable star. We set goals, we strive to achieve them, and no sooner have we accomplished them then we're off to set even higher goals. If we stop and analyze this trend, we should see a very detrimental pattern building.

To push one's goals, in and of itself, is not a bad thing, at times it can even be beneficial; but to push certain goals to their ultimate points of attainment can only lead to trouble. For example, how hard and diligently are scientists working to perfect the ultimate weapons system, as if the ones that we have now aren't efficient enough to kill. With every situation there is a point of equal give and take; the higher we wish to excel in our endeavors the greater will be the price of our convictions. Our planet was not created in a vacuum, balance is an important component of this world and what effects the parts will eventually effect the whole. The main agent responsible for what I consider to be a problem of tantamount concern is technology. Technology is the brass ring that men seek to measure their evolution in terms of ultimate achievement.

Technology and science have surpassed their creators; more and more is continually being produc-

ed, but understood less. It appears that we have lost the desire to think about the damage we are doing to the world as well as ourselves. Today we are facing pollution of epic proportions, nuclear nightmare, and disease of unknown origin; yet these things are so cosmopolitan that we hardly acknowledge their presence.

Ponder, if you will, the implications of the problems I have noted and other problems related to our changing world. It seems to me that for every advance in technology made, there are ten more advances that cancel the previous one. For example, the invention of the rocket paved the way for the advance of jets thus providing us with travel that is quick and convenient. Rockets also brought the science of weaponry to an all time high, as well as adding to our pollution worries.

This all goes to show that technology is not balanced with

temporance, just because we have the capabilities to achieve some goal does not mean we have to follow through. Refer to the question of nuclear energy, it is supposed to be the way of the future, but it has some very distasteful by-products; nuclear waste to name one.

At times I believe that we are our own worst enemies, because we build and control the machines and technology around us. We are responsible for shaping our own future, the buck stops here. We can not continue to ignore what is going on around us; hoping someone else will speak up, or maybe the problem will just go away. Technology must be tempered with competence or it will continue to get out of our hands and the effects could be irreversible. I think it's time we all get some reality therapy so we can prevent our need to strive for those ultimate goals from exceeding our common sense.

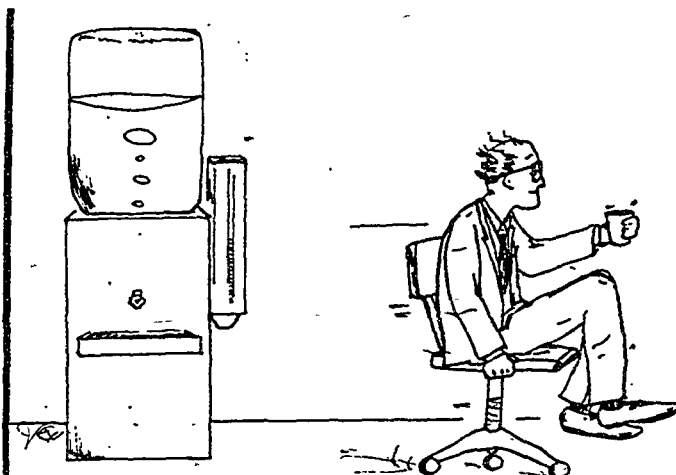
Editorial Policy

The **Behrend Collegian's** editorial opinion is determined by the Editor, with the Editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of **The Behrend Collegian**, **The Behrend College**, or **The Pennsylvania State University**. **Brown-Thompson Newspapers**, the publishers of **The Behrend Collegian**, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

Letters Policy: The **Behrend Collegian** encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, signed by no more than two people, and not longer than 400 words. Students' letters should include the semester and major of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. The **Collegian** reserves the right to edit letters for length, and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

Postal Information: The **Behrend Collegian** (898-6221) is published fourteen times annually (seven times during each academic semester at The Behrend College) by the students of The Behrend College; The Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

Sniglet. . .



EXECUGLIDE
(eks ek' yew glyd)

v. To propel oneself about an office without getting up from the chair.

Editor's Question:

Do you think the Nick lot will solve all of Behrend's parking problems?

the Penn State-Behrend Collegian

Member of The Press Association

Editor..... Paula Maus

Feature Editor Jack Horner
Sports Editor..... Jim Parachini
Ad Managers..... Dan King

Business Manager..... Joe Kuvshnikov
Photo Coordinator..... Napoleon Birch
Advisor..... Robert DiNicola

Jim Cooper
Barb Cavano
Barbara Golden
Greg Goldsmith
Paul Kitchen

Roni Sue Kowal
Suzanne Nathans
Janet O'Hare
Barrett Parker
Karen R. Pastorik
Greg Rathbun

Sue Rattenbury
Robert Roth
Lisa Scherer
Patrick Schlipf
Tracy Simmons

Tammie Starcher
Dave Stolnacker
Matthew J. Sullivan
Michael Wimmis
Mark Wuerthele

Mailing Address - **Behrend Collegian**, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563
Office located in Reed Union Building
Office Hours - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Monday through Friday
Phone: 898-6221

REPRESENTED FOR NATIONAL ADVERTISING BY
CASS Student Advertising, Incorporated
1633 West Central St.
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of the **Penn State-Behrend Collegian** are not necessarily those of the University Administration, faculty, or the student body.

"More Sniglets," by Rich Hall and Friends, copyright, © 1985 by Not the Network Company, Inc. with permission from MacMillan Publishing Co., 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Illustration by Jack Horner.