

Reader opinion:

Student finds WBCR's comments on Erie dreary

Dear Paula,
 WBCR has had signs posted around campus stating that they are back on the air, and that they are "not just another Dreary Erie" radio station.
 These signs were printed and posted around campus on a bright sunny day. It was not at all dreary.
 Residents of Erie who run the city's radio stations have a professional commitment to their city, especially since they are in a position to influence others. A city is only as proud as the people who live in it. One station in particular has added a touch of class to the city.

If the students of WBCR wish to conduct their club with an air of professionalism, they must be sensitive to public opinion. Those students who are not residents need to be aware that their club's activities may influence the thoughts of others, and so they are responsible for the way they represent the people around them.
 By following the professional example of other radio stations in the area, WBCR will properly represent the city in which it operates.
 Frankly,
 Andrew J. Via
 6th Semester, MIS

WBCR sports new image

Dear Paula,
 Let me begin by saying that the term "Dreary Erie" was not meant as a slight against this community. The term was used as part of a publicity campaign in alerting the students that WBCR is back on the air and that we offer a diversified program format designed to appeal to a variety of musical tastes.
 Since WBCR is a service organization geared to the students, we are open to student input. We are glad to see that students are willing to voice their concerns. Opinions matter a great deal to service organizations. We want to accommodate as many people as possible and welcome your comments and suggestions. WBCR is located in the Reed Student Union Building and our extension is 6318.
 Sincerely,
 Jeffrey A. Catalfamo
 General Manager-WBCR

Frankly,
 Andrew J. Via
 6th Semester, MIS

Editorial Policy

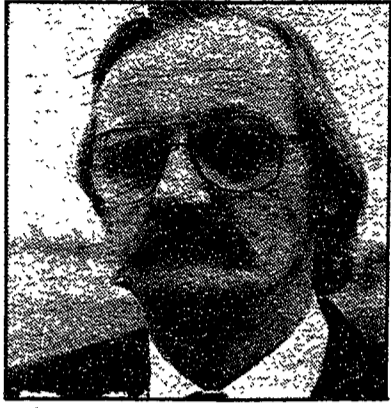
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DONALD KAUL

It's all Mondale's fault



Clanking its chains like a ghost from Christmas Past, Gramm-Rudman, the balanced-budget law, has invaded the dreams of Congress and the President and confronted them with their sins.
 "You have spent and spent and borrowed and borrowed and now you must pay," it says. "Balance the budget."
 "But if we do that, poor people will go hungry, the miseries of farmers will multiply and colleges will be barren of our youth," Congress says.
 "Balance the budget," says Gramm-Rudman.
 "We shall be forced to cut military spending and leave ourselves naked to the hostile whims of godless communism," says our President.
 "That's not my concern," says Gramm-Rudman.
 "Balance the budget."
 "Goodness gracious me," say Congress and the President in unison, "we might even have to do the worst thing of all -- raise taxes. In an election year."
 "If you do not balance the budget," says Gramm-Rudman, "I'll do it for you."

they held hot poker to George Bush's feet. He said it so vigorously and so often that even he came to believe it, always a dangerous position for a politician. Now with the only way out of this budget mess being the raising of taxes -- an oil tax perhaps, or a tick of the income tax -- he's stuck with that promise.
 Nor did Mondale stop there. He also forced the President into promising never to lower Social Security benefits. Or even think about it. Never. Now, the President can't even propose a sensible thing like taxing benefits so that well-to-do old people can pay their share of taxes. He's concerned.
 Mondale isn't totally at fault, of course. Drive-in banking windows had a lot to do with it.
 I remember when drive-in banking windows came to Detroit, back in the late '40s. I never trusted them from the beginning. What if you drove up to a drive-in bank, handed in your money through the window and the person on the other side simply took it and went away? You would have to park your car, go into the bank and try to convince people that you'd thrown some money through their window and would like a receipt.
 I can just see the bank manager. "Are you sure it was our window you threw the money through?" he'd ask. "Do you remember anyone asking you if you wanted pickles and onions?"
 You'd have no recourse. Yet drive-in banking caught on. All over the country you had otherwise sane people driving up to banks and throwing their money through a window in the innocent belief that it would all come out all right.
 Right then, I knew we were in trouble. People were losing their concept of what money is, which is not something you throw through windows. That suspicion deepened when banks and savings and loans started giving toasters and television sets to people who opened savings accounts with them. It got so it was hard to tell whether you were walking into a bank or a bingo parlor. A country whose citizens have to be bribed to save money is a country riding for a fall.
 Well, the fall is here. You've heard of the Lost Generation, the Beat Generation and the Me Generation? We're the Credit Card Generation, living on past glories and future income.
 Or at least we were until Gramm-Rudman came along. Now the bills are coming due and we don't have the money to pay them.
 Darn Mondale.

It's a tough law, that Gramm-Rudman. It doesn't take excuses for an answer. Congress and Mr. Reagan have just started grappling with it, but already it looks as though they're overmatched. After all of that speech-making about how terrible deficits are and how much they're in favor of balancing the federal deficit, our political leaders are finding that they're simply not up to the task.
 The cuts needed to meet the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction target for 1986 are within reach, a mere \$11 billion or so. In the fall, however, they're going to have to find a way to cut some \$60 billion out of a budget that's already been on a crash diet. That's when the automatic machinery of Gramm-Rudman might come into play, crashing and smashing the Great Society and military-industrial complex alike. How did we get into this mess, anyhow?
 I blame Walter Mondale.
 Most presidential candidates are content to promise more jobs, higher wages, bigger profits, more rain on weekdays, less on weekends, and an end to waste, fraud and abuse. Not Walter. He had to go and promise to raise taxes and say that President Reagan was planning to also, but that he was keeping it a secret until after the election.
 Well, of course, President Reagan had to deny that. He said that he not only wasn't planning on raising taxes, he wasn't going to do it, not even if

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