

The second time around: Senior citizens view Halley's Comet--again

by Gregory Rathbun
Collegian Staff Writer

As Halley's comet travels further away from the earth, chances to see it become smaller. However, an optimistic group of senior citizens, aging from 76 to 103, didn't let the chances bother them. They came to Behrend on April 23 confident in seeing the Comet, or rather see it again.

The seven senior citizens had seen the Comet before, back in 1910. To Behrend they brought tales of what the Comet and life was like 76 years ago.

Catherine Young saw the Comet when she was eight years old. Now she is 84. "My father and I went to a local park. A great crowd of people gathered to see the Comet. He (her father) put me up on a park bench. Then, I looked into the sky and saw it," Young said.

Joe Monacella, who spent much time around the waterfront

as a boy, saw it with five or six friends on what was then called the Pittsburgh Docks. He is now 90 and boasts three great-grandchildren.

While Dr.'s Jircitano and Marande diligently searched for the illusive Comet, Monacella entertained onlookers in the Hammermill/Zurn atrium where a reception was held for the senior citizens.

He told stories about the past about simpler times. When he was a boy, around the time of the 1910 comet, he worked on Lake Erie cutting ice. "When a horse fell through the ice we had to put planks underneath it and haul it out." Then in order to prevent the horse from dying, "we took it to a barn, gave it some whiskey and walked it around."

Finally Jircitano's and Marande's determination had paid off. They spotted the Comet

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This hazy view of the main walkway won photographer Paul Duda the Provost's Prize in a photo contest held in April.



Congressman Tom Ridge speaks on May 2

by Pat Schlipf
Collegian Staff Writer

Tom Ridge, Republican Congressman of Pennsylvania, will speak at Behrend on Friday, May 2. The lecture will begin at noon in the Reed Lecture Hall. Congressman Ridge will discuss the Gramm-Rudman issue and how it will affect college students in the fall semester.

"This is a way of keeping students informed of what's going on in Congress," says Dr. Charles Redenius, Acting Head, Division of Business and the Social Sciences. "This way Ridge can talk to students about prominence in today's news."

Some of the topics that were in query were the Libya issue and the Nicaragua issue, but they don't deal directly with the students' lives like the Gramm-Rudman issue. The Gramm-Rudman law is a deficit reduction bill. If the President and Congress cannot

agree on a way to reduce the deficit, the Gramm-Rudman bill cuts certain programs to reduce expenses. This year the Gramm-Rudman law designates that all programs will be cut by seven percent, including student aid.

This will be the first time Ridge has given an address on the effects of the Gramm-Rudman cuts, but not his first time speaking at Behrend. Ridge has been lecturing at Behrend annually since 1984.

Redenius said that when Ridge first spoke at Behrend, "Anybody that came after the speech started had to stand, and the second time there were few seats left after it started."

"Last year, we had a professor bring his class from Edinboro and a professor from Alliance College come to attend Ridge's discussion," Redenius added.

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Report warns more colleges joining the arms race

(CPS)--A recent report charges that "more and more colleges and universities are enlisting in the arms race" by taking Pentagon research funds, but government and college sources involved in the research say it isn't true.

Apparently intended to enlist students in the debate over the U.S. arms buildup, the report--"Uncle Sam Goes to School," by the American Friends Service Committee--contends that colleges "have reversed policies

from the '60s and '70s, and resumed classified military research projects."

"Brown, like most universities, went through a tough time (of student protests) around the Vietnam War," he adds.

Student anger over Brown's participation in secret research ultimately resulted in a policy--still in effect--against taking money for classified research.

Most major research universities around the country adopted

similar policies at the same time.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker group which was also a very active anti-Vietnam War group, implies that more schools are being tempted to drop those policies to cash in on the research riches the Pentagon offers.

The report projects Department of Defense-sponsored research and development will hit a peacetime high of \$39.3 billion

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