

Let's Talk

by Pastor Ray Sines
 Collegian Staff Writer



Pastor Ray

How many times have you ever wanted to comment on an issue, but you never had the opportunity to do so or when you had the opportunity no one would listen? There are many issues, I am quite sure, that you would like to comment on—so let's talk. Now is your chance to be heard—speak up!

During the past four years, as an ordained minister in Erie, I have counseled individuals and couples (both young and old) on everything from sex, drugs, alcohol, and smoking to marriage depression, guilt, abuse, and a few other things that I do not care to print. There is no question—these are difficult times for many.

However, it is not just the jobless, the alcoholics or the addicts that are experiencing problems. Individuals, as well as very unique problems, vary from one extreme to the other.

For example, teen-age suicide is at an all time high. Why? Just a few months ago a young man stated to me, "Pastor, what is life all about?" "What is my purpose here?" "I feel like giving up—ending it all." I spent a great deal of time trying to show him that life is truly worth living.

Another individual showed up at my door one day seeking cash "to buy food." When I, as understandingly and as wisely as possible, conveyed to him that I was unable to supply his needed cash; he instantly commented, "It's too tough

on the outside—I'm going to get myself back in jail where I had a bed and steady meals." I pointed out the many forms of aid this young man could take advantage of, but he kept insisting that the only sure way was to go back to jail, even though this meant committing another crime.

In the two examples above the individuals were uneducated, yes, but what has happened in our society to cause any individual to desire prison over freedom or giving up rather than coping?

Doesn't U.S. history bare record that a majority of our forefathers would not have dreamed of giving up? What has happened? Have we become a 'weaker' generation?

I realize there are possibly no cut and dry answers, but I would certainly like to hear comments. We have libraries of many good men's and women's ideas and theories, but I am more interested in what my fellow classmates think. Let's talk.

* Send your (typewritten-double spaced) comments to:

Let's Talk, Behrend Collegian, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. Or drop it in the Collegian mailbox in the Student Government Office.



by Paul Sarkis
 Collegian Staff Writer

When male members of the aboriginal "Nulla" tribe celebrate their twentieth season, their bodies are painted by the tribe virgins and everybody chants. My twentieth birthday included neither body paints nor painters, and only minimal chanting. Nevertheless, it proved to be an acceptable birthday only without the 'great revelation' one supposedly realizes when one becomes an un-teenager.

I have always been fascinated by my mother's preoccupation with the idea that certain ages in a person are coupled with certain attitudes. By her standards, turning twenty is a profound step towards adulthood which should not be taken lightly. I, however, was of the opinion that my twentieth birthday was just another day, which I might have contentedly slept through had not my mother called me at 8:00 am to remind me.

She asked me if I felt any older as I entered my second decade. I stopped and thought about what it meant to be two decades old. One quarter of my life is gone and I have not accomplished much. I look in the mirror and a man with lines starting in the corners of his bloodshot eyes stares back. My parents find my receding hairline amusing, and my girlfriend thinks it's cute.

Suddenly, I'm gripped with terror. "Yes, I do feel older!" I scream. "My life is steadily winding down and I haven't even been to Europe!" I

How much mileage can I get out of this?

After last semester's "Little Things in Life" I was hesitant to write another article made up of petty annoyances and isolated ideas. But, since I'm so *chuck-full*

of petty annoyances and isolated ideas, I've decided to throw caution to the wind. I do hope the wind doesn't blow it back in my face. I've heard caution doesn't wash off easily.

they're about to run out because I have to pick up the pieces from my Mennan Speed Stick one more time I'm going to commit a murder.

Zitko doesn't get a date soon, she's going to dye her hair a frightening shade of red. Someone ask this girl out quickly!

Why is it that the campus police are never around when your stereo is being ripped off, but park your car on the grass and they're there in an instant.

People who vomit in the residence hall bathrooms and don't clean it up should not be surprised if the "alcohol fairy" puts it under their pillow the following evening.

Perry Hall is still the root of all evil, and the second floor of the guy's side is surely the cause of the recent political turmoil in Reagan's administration.

No. No. No. Notorious. . . bleh.

Jake Guintra, the cartoonist who pens "Psycho Comics" for each issue of the Collegian has spent too much time in prison with Gary Larson.

Melissa Yöukers, the reporter responsible for the "Student Voice" column that appears in this paper, had to change the topic from a political opinion article to a campus-related problem simply because she couldn't find anyone who knew what was going on in the world today. . . including me. Pathetic isn't it?

Have you read the advertisement on this page for Valentine's Day personal ads? I can remember when it was only a penny for your thoughts. Now it's a dollar. And I tell you what I'm thinking for FREE! If that's not proof that there's no justice in this world, then I don't know what is.

A few thoughts about the band Friction: their hair is too long, their clothes are too small, and their music is too loud. It scares me that these reasons probably explain their popularity as well.

Stick deodorants should make some type of 'beep' noise when

Why can't I ever get all the toothpaste out of the tube? I follow the directions. I squeeze from the bottom up. What's the deal?

Bud Dwyer jokes are almost as tasteless and crass as the Challenger jokes were. At least the Challenger jokes were funny.

An article from the Washington Associated Press tells us that seventy-five percent of all college students take more than four years to earn their college degree. It also states that women were more likely than men to finish college in the traditional four years. This is probably why my mother wants to pummel me with my estimated bill every time she gets my grades.

I'd rather be in my room counting the ceiling tile than in the Wintergreen Cafe during the lunch rush.

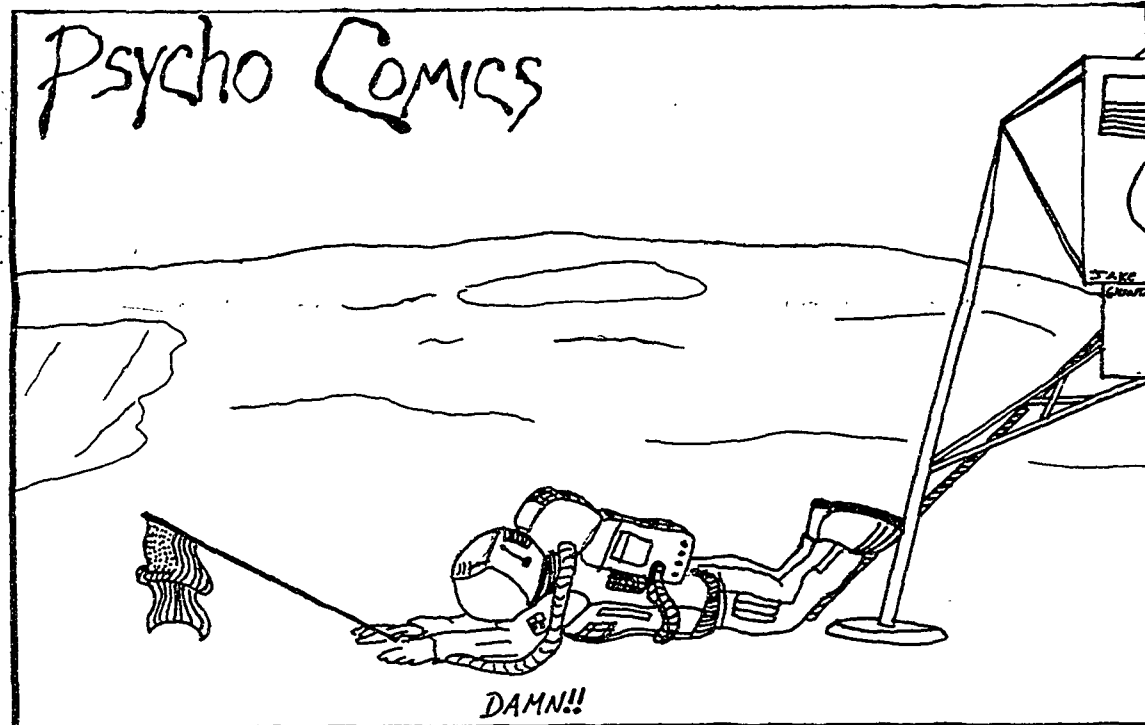
Nothing gives me the glowing feeling of rebirth quite like seeing a five-digit number light up when the Cafeteria workers run my A La Board Card through the cash register. It's a new semester. It's a new age. It's a new grading period! And the fact that I have purchasing power in the Wintergreen Cafe again makes me feel like I can get through this semester with a little dignity and a little respect. . . as little as possible that is.

I'm the only person I've ever known who can cut himself with an electric razor.

by Jack Horner
 Collegian Editor

There have been a couple times when I've almost been killed by the backswing of the doors to the Nick Building.

I've heard a rumor that if Residence Life Coordinator Kim



Anyone trying to walk down the steps that lead from Perry Hall to the Reed Building may find that it's much like trying to walk down a sliding board with banana peels tied to the bottoms of your feet. You may begin rather carefully at the top, make one wrong move and find yourself sprawled outside the lobby of the Wintergreen Cafe. . . and you know what that means.

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Your message here: _____

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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.

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