

Stream of Consciousness

Thanks

by Paul Sarkis
Collegian Staff Writer

When you stop and think about what makes Behrend College a college. You probably think of the obvious things like classes, teachers, and unbearably long lines for advance registration. It does, however, take a little more than the basics to make a college a livable place for two or four years. After all, a student does not live on books alone.

"Parties!" you exclaim. Admittedly, parties add to the livability of a college, but after two or thirty beers even second-floor perry looks livable.

The little things are what make Behrend a comfortable college. Little things like being able to find your professors when you need them, and the fact that they remember your name.

Mostly, it's the people on staff at Behrend who make life livable, and some of them deserve a special, added sincere "thanks:"

- Bob the Blue Bus Driver, who will take you to K-Mart or to the mall in the worst weather and always runs on time.
- To "pizza guy" who is actually about forty different people whose job it is to bring you food on Saturday Nights while battling the evil 'noid.'
- To Doris, Mary Jane, and Doc Obenreder who chase away so many cases of the sniffles.
- To all of the secretaries, because they know what's going on and basically hold the campus

together.

- To Jamie Grimm, P.J. Brown, and the coordinators because they are always there to help.
- To the residence hall cleaning staff who must endure our mess. Especially to Barb who must endure second floor perry.
- Finally, to the nice people in the Wintergreen Cafe who somehow know that I pulled an all-night study session as I stumble in at 8:00 am for their fresh coffee, and a little extra cream cheese with each bagel, I say, "Thanks."



Pastor Ray
by Pastor Ray Sines
Collegian Staff Writer

Let's Talk

matter—I seriously doubt if God is in any of these "God said" tactics.

When an individual (lay person or man of the cloth) makes a statement "To be from God" than another person will always be able to verify this statement to be true or false from God's Word. If it cannot be verified (in context) by another example in the Scripture then you can rest assured that it is false and that it was not from God to start with.

Let's talk about exploiting God—a selfish utilization of God.

The television media has recently been flooded with numerous comments and cover-ups in the name of religion. For example, a few of these comments were:

"If I don't receive eight million dollars by March 31, 1987, God is going to take my life."—Oral Roberts

"He (Oral Roberts) was probably under a lot of psychological stress to meet the budget."—Robert Schuller

"... We (Tammy and Jim Bakker) are sorry to have to announce that we were advised by our attorney to resign from P.T.L..."—Jim Bakker

"... I'm ashamed of it (Bakker episode) and I am embarrassed by it."—Jimmy Swaggart

"Money, Sex, and power are the unholy trinity."—Cal Thomas

During the past few weeks, questions have also flooded the minds of millions of individuals across the world regarding these and many other so called electronic prophets' statements. Who are you to believe?

Personally, I have a problem accepting any of their so called "God said" tactics. I have heard comments such as: "God told me if you send in \$—, God will answer your prayer" and "God said, send that check today because your answer is already on the way" and "God told me to tell you this" and even (if you can believe it) "Pray now, and pay later—put your donation on your Visa or on your Master Card." Is it any wonder that men and women hate God so much? God gets all the blame for being so ruthless, irresponsible, unloving, selfish, etc. The truth of the

For example, this same type of problem occurred during Jeremiah's lifetime, shortly before Nebuchadnezzar sieged Jerusalem. God, knowing He had nothing to do with any of the situations, spoke to Jeremiah saying, "A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way"—Jeremiah 5: 30-31, NIV.

There are millions of poor, uneducated people who have mailed their last dollars so that they would not have Oral Roberts' death on their conscience. The question is: Oral has received his eight million dollars, but by whose authority?

I make no claim to have any private interpretation of the scripture, but in reading the Bible through from cover to cover, several times; I find no evidence of God ever using such death-threat tactics to get money. Furthermore, if I interpret the Scripture correctly, it is ALL God's to begin with. Neither does an ALL-KNOWING GOD Have to cover up anything.

I have found, though, that His word states: "money is the answer for everything"—Ecclesiastes 10:19b, NIV. But notice when you deart that no "things" go with you. I have also found that "when pride cometh, then cometh shame"—(Proverbs 11:2).. Need I say more?

Draw your own conclusion, by searching for yourself, but beware—He is poor indeed who's only goal is making money—let alone, exploiting God to do it.

Your comments would be appreciated.

A gracious thanks to Donnie Iris fans

Now that the concert is over I face the lengthy task of thanking all of the many people who were instrumental (if you'll pardon the pun) in making the concert into the great success that it was.

First of all, I would like to thank the students of Behrend College. A few months back when the idea of having a concert at Behrend was still just a personal dream of mine, I had no concept of the amount of time, planning and organizing that was ahead of me. I just wanted to be responsible for bringing Behrend its first concert. Many thanks to the people who bought tickets and attended. You showed me that the three months I spent planning the concert was not wasted time.

Of course, many thanks to the fine people who make up the Student Programming Council and Alpha Phi Omega. Thank you for putting up with my yelling, whining, stomping, and the frequent anxiety attacks I suffered through the day. All of your hard work paid off; you were all very important in making the concert a reality.

I have been the recipient of many compliments on my choices of stage hands. I think more than anyone else, these gentlemen deserve more than I could ever repay them—most of them put in a twenty hour day for the concert. They were responsible for setting up the stage itself as well as helping with the sound and lighting equipment, and when they finished that, they turned into my stage security. Please permit the space to list those fine gentlemen: Dave 'Ralf' Letson, Jeff Letendre, Roger Bess, Pat Espin, Doug Gainor, Vince Canella, John Pugliano, Kevin Golivas. Many thanks, guys. I couldn't have done it without you.

Last but not least, a very special thanks to the following people who helped out in some way during the course of the day: Ed Bailey who took quite a few worries off my hands when he offered his help; Gregg Thompson our account executive from JET FM who gave me the faith to believe that it could really happen; Jamie Grimm for handling many important details; Tom Simpson from Belkin Productions and Elliot Stroul from PTM for giving me the original idea of bringing Donnie Iris to Behrend; Phil and Co. from Raven Sound; and George and Chris from Center

of the World Staging for the great stage.

But, especially, thank you, Behrend, for attending. I welcome comments, suggestions, and criticisms about the concert and other events sponsored by the Student Programming Council. Please take the time to drop a letter to the editor to let us know how you felt

about the concert. It really was a lot of fun putting it together for you, I only hope that it is the beginning of many concerts to follow. We've shown that it can be done. Respectfully Submitted,

Janet O'Hare

Janet O'Hare, SPC President

Excuse me, Janet, but aren't you forgetting somebody? How about thanking the Collegian for sponsoring a Donnie Iris ticket contest. Just because we stated that the concert was on Sunday instead of Saturday our 'thank you's' get tossed in the trash. Details, details, everyone is so worried about details. - ed.



Iris rocks in Erie Hall

photo by Holly Lew

Counseling Corner

by Dr. Brenda Eastman
Collegian Contributing Writer
Have you ever...

- felt under pressure to perform in some way?
- wondered whether you would do better if you lowered your standards a bit (went for the 'double loop' rather than a 'triple loop'—more on this later)?
- had a hard time putting a disappointment or loss behind you?
- made a mistake?
- wondered whether you do what you do for yourself or for some other reason?
- felt as if you deserve more for all the effort you put in?

Pondering the choice of topics for this initial article, I considered numerous possibilities: procrastination, popularity, self-defeating behaviors, relationships, commuting, students who work outside the classroom.

During this process of deliberation, I happened to view the Women's World Figure Skating Championships. (Trust me; I am as surprised as you are to see the topic of World Figure Skating come up here!)

First came the announcement that the competition was being televised "live." The tension was clearly visible in the faces of the

competitors as they skated stiffly in their warm-up circles! There followed the "close up and personal" videotaped encounters with the two chief contenders in the competition. One, the viewer learned, is a Stanford University premed student who divides her time between her championship athletics and her academic career. The other is an East German woman for whom her "studies" are her sport. For those of you who combine working and attending college, and perhaps for others as well, there may be temptation to cry, "Foul! Not fair!"

So, we are told, our American athlete arrives at these competitions half-trained, needing to quickly bring her condition up to par. The result is often injury (tendonitis). This background creates the suspense in which we must now wait to find out whether the struggling American edges out the talented East German woman in a dazzling performance. But wait, there's more.

The real beauty of these competitions, or at least the excitement, is that, unlike academic performance demonstrated over a semester, here winning or defeating is determined within a span of six minutes or so.

We have the option to ponder our strategies, e.g., dropping a course, planning study schedules, choosing lab partners, or roommates for their tutorial, and other, assets! This luxury is not available to our two contenders. Their six-minute programs, filled with difficult moves, are executed at breakneck pace. When a skater falls out of her jump and ends up sitting on the ice, there is no time allotted for shaking off the humiliation, the sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach. She must scramble up and keep the feet moving!

Watching, I thought, how many of us, after landing in an unbecoming position for the second time, would just want to skate on out under the exit sign? When you get to a test and find you don't recognize the questions on it, when you discover late Monday night that your mid-term is at 9:00 the following morning, can keep our spirits up and "finish the routine?" Alternatively, do you finish the test quickly, or in the second scenario, burrow deeper under the covers after the 8:00 am alarm goes off? When interviewed for her analysis of her skating, the contender who placed second replied, "Frankly, I'm just relieved that it's over."

What these performers are especially good at is making decisions, e.g., deciding to change a planned triple jump to a double jump, and being willing to live with the consequences. Sometimes they decide to stick with the upcoming triple maneuver despite their apprehension. Our champion was asked, after her win, to relate her thoughts as she got her most difficult jump underway. "I was scared," she replied. "Then I said to myself, 'Oh, Katarina, you can do it!'"

Now you know the end of the story. Our overworked pre-med athlete finished in second place, and our full-time athlete (or student?) finished first.

How can our divided student athlete handle the disappointment? After all, she, in fact, turned in a performance to a clamorous ovation by the crowd. Maybe it's because she knows that it's seldom clear what winning really is, and it's usually temporary. Fortunately, the same thing can be said for losing. It depends, you see, on by what standards you're judging.

How well have you set your performance standards? Are you your own harshest critic? If you feel inadequate and apprehensive, even

guilty, much of the time, you may be expecting too much of yourself. On the other hand, standards set too low extract a price in self-esteem, too.

How flexible are you? Are you able to change your plans depending upon the situation in which you find yourself? Are you able to see the choices that are there? When you do take risks, do you decide to do so, anticipating the possible consequences?

Finally, when you've been unhappy with your outcomes for a while, do you go on beating yourself? Or are you willing to go into "training" to improve our prospect? "Training" might mean seeking out information, looking at old strategies and trying out new ones, or personal counseling can help.

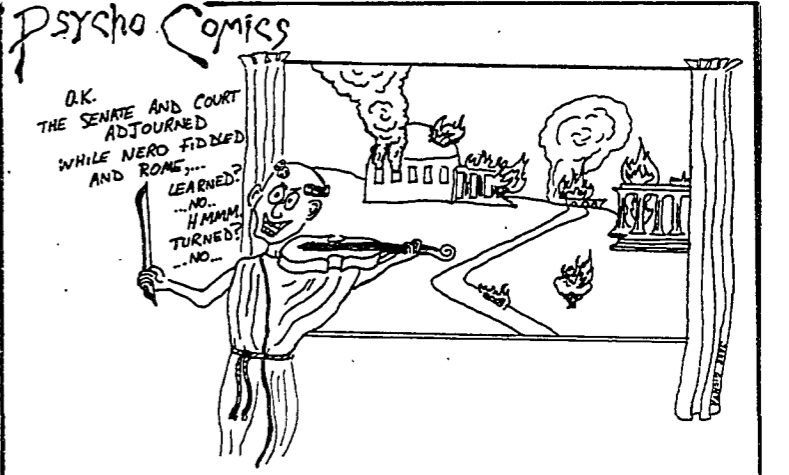
If you're interested, stop by 213 Glennhill Farmhouse (upstairs). Counseling is available to Behrend students on Mondays and on Friday afternoon with Dr. Louanne Barton; Wednesdays and Thursdays with Dr. Brenda Eastman. If the door is closed, stop by the Financial Aid Office and to make an appointment. Or just call ext. 6162. Counseling is free and confidential.

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