

opinion

Just A Few Words...

by Lisa Hahn
Collegian Editor

I keep telling myself I have writer's block. HA! Who am I fooling. If I can't think of anything to write for this issue, what makes the next issue, or the next issue, or the next issue any different.

Cliches, such as 'writer's block' and 'dry spell' are nothing more than labels for what in reality is the dread disease of 'EMPTY BRAIN'.

If you haven't figured it out by now, I'm trying to fake my way through filling up a space in The Collegian. I feel a certain responsibility to at the

very least make an attempt to write something, and if I'm lucky something intelligently spectacular.

Thoughts of past complaints saying "write something controversial" and "it's the editor's duty to start a topic" echo through empty voids in my mind.

You know the commercials, "the pressure's on gettin' higher, the difference is you stay drier" and "never let them see you sweat." Funny, such prophetic words could come from deodorant.... excuse me, antiperspirant ads. I don't know about you, but in my book they're words to live by.

So what do Behrend students live by? Bye, bye Miss American Pie? By hook or by crook? By the wayside? (possibly). I guess the world will never know. For that matter, do we? If you do, enlighten us.

Did you ever write something with absolutely no coherence whatsoever? This could be one of those times. In an effort to occupy your attention for five minutes I've successfully managed to expel the notion of organized writing.

Oh well. You write some you don't. I suspect this article exemplifies the latter.

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Did'ya ever wonder...

by Steve Aller

...why you're always one bottle short of a case every time you go to return it?

...why the only time somebody wants to play with your toys is when you are?

...why the only socket missing from the toolbox is the one you are looking for?

...how high the average GPA of all college students would rise if the Prohibition amendment were reinstated?

...why 7:00 am always seems too early to get up, regardless of what time you went to bed?

...what you would do if you knew you only had a week to live? A day? Half an hour?

...just how popular jeans would be today if Levi Strauss had chosen the color orange instead of blue?

...how many students would never make it out of bed in the morning if caffeine was found to be a cancer causing compound and banned from the consumer market?

...just how much 'free will' God gave to man?

...about the definition of the computer term 'user friendly'? I haven't figured out yet whether I'm the user or the usee.

...why the only track on an album that is scratched is the one you want to listen to?

...why GE hasn't yet manufactured a refrigerator with a time lock for serious dieters?

...why Lipton calls it's 'Cup of Soup' what they do...it only makes a little over six fluid ounces if you follow the directions on the packet. A 'cup' is eight ounces.

...just who came up with the idea of putting ridges on Ruffles Potato Chips?

...who was the last person to drink out of the returnable bottles of sodas that you buy at the grocery store?

...if mice have any brains? After all, just how long ago was the basic mousetrap invented?

...why anybody would take even the smallest risk of having an explosion go off three inches in front of their face (according to the warning stickers) by using a Bic lighter?

...why people who claim to have forgotten everything that happened while drinking the night before never fail to remember what a great time they had? How would they know?

Love Rob

by Rob Prindle
Collegian Staff Writer

Spring Break is over. That's the bad news. The good news is that now you get to hear about what I did. I bet that a lot of you went to Florida or to big cities to do exciting things. Well, bobbing for bikinis might have its merits, but it probably doesn't compare to a nuclear reactor.

Yeah, while some of you were sunning your buns or visiting mama, the rest of us here in Erie were living, practically, in the shadow of a nuclear reactor. I'm talking about nuclear energy boys and girls, but keep reading anyway.

Perry, Ohio is a quaint little hamlet only 60 miles from Penn State Behrend's front door. It's a small town whose main industries are growing shrubs and splitting atoms...but to say that it is an energetic little town would be an understatement. The night life isn't anything to talk about, though; just a few stores and one bar called Joe's Nuclear Lounge.

But let me start at the beginning. One day during break, I decided to drive to Cleveland to see if anything was going on. The sky was clear as far as I could see except for one strange looking cloud. It was about 300 feet high and 50 feet wide. It didn't move, it didn't change shape. It just sort of hovered.

As I drove closer it became hard to ignore, so I decided to take the next exit and get a closer look. Eventually I got close enough to see the source of the cloud: a Three Mile Island look-alike cooling tower. Wow. I had heard about the Perry Nuclear Power Plant being built, but I didn't know that it was all ready fired up.

I sensed a photo opportunity. I drove dangerously close, practically risking my life to fulfill my type A personality's desire for danger. I parked just outside of the gate and read the sign. It basically said that if the radiation didn't kill me, a guard would if I tried to sneak in. Luckily, I had a zoom lens and I ain't afraid to use it.

So there I was, busy taking pictures when Jasper drove up. Jasper wasn't his real name but it should have been. He had a red neck, a big truck and a gun, and oh yeah, he also had a badge. Apparently, Jasper was a guard. He said that I better get moving because I wasn't allowed to take no pictures. I would have corrected him on the double negative he used, but I would have hated to see that neck turn any redder.

I'm not happy knowing that a nuclear plant is so close but I do feel a little safer knowing that Jasper is there to protect it from 35mm cameras. I also have to wonder why there aren't guards circling the Penelec plant here in Erie. Isn't our coal-burning plant important enough to 'save from photography'? Or is it because coal doesn't melt down and blow a hole in the world if something goes wrong. I bet that when my friend Jasper got off work and headed to Joe's Nuclear Lounge for a cold one, the regulars got a good laugh when he told them about the crazy, college-boy-type trouble maker that tried to shoot the place full of pictures.

I like Perry. It's clean, cozy, you can buy a house real cheap and the cooling towers provide plenty of shade. Maybe I'll move to Perry in a few years...maybe we'll all even be here in a few years.

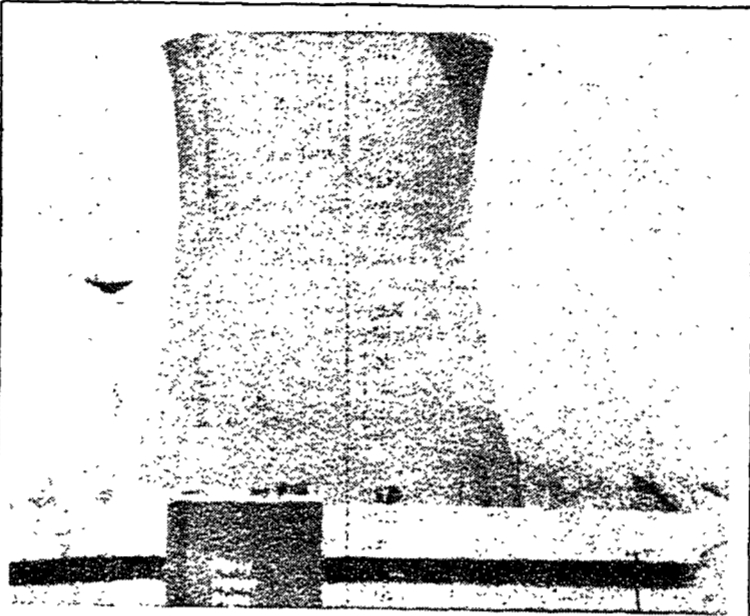


photo by: Rob Prindle

Collegian Spy Photo: Nukes In the Neighborhood

Movie advertisement for 'LETHAL WEAPON' featuring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. The ad includes the title, cast names, a quote from a critic, and the release date: MARCH 16, 18, 19, 20.

The only PREGNANCY TEST you can take with a pencil.

A pregnancy test advertisement featuring a pencil. It includes a list of 8 questions about pregnancy, such as 'You can't get pregnant when you're bleeding' and 'You need your parents' permission to get safe, effective birth control'. It also features a 'How do you SCORE?' section with a 'Planned Parenthood' logo.

Advertisement for Penn State-Behrend Campus Ministry. It lists services like 'TROUBLED? NEED TO TALK?', 'OFF-CAMPUS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES', and 'BUS TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FOR 11 (M) a.m. SERVICES'. It also mentions 'SATURDAYS, 5:30 p.m. in THE REED LECTURE HALL'.

Editorial Policy advertisement. It states: '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.' It also includes 'Letter Policy' and 'Postal Information'.

Advertisement for 'AIM HIGH THE THRILL OF FLYING'. It promotes becoming an Air Force Pilot, listing benefits like '30 days of vacation with pay each year and complete medical care'. It includes contact information for Sgt. Greg Agen at 716-633-7094.