



by Bill Warner
Collegian Science Writer

Eye On Science

Collegian Science Column

Illustration by Mark Weber, Contributing Artist

in your food. The bugs I just mentioned are the ones living in your bed and yes, they do love to munch on dead skin flakes.

Please, don't drop this paper and run off to wash your sheets. First of all, it wouldn't do you any good, and secondly, these are not the dreaded bed bugs that you have heard so much about. These are dust mites. They are descendants of the spider family and are only about 40 microns (4/1,000 cm) big. They are small enough to live in a bed bug's car, but as I said, that is not where they live. Dust mites are found in every advanced country of the world

and no amount of laundering will eliminate their presence.

In his book, *The Secret House*, David Bodanis gives us all of the gruesome details about dust mites and other household oddities and enigmas. According to Bodanis, the average double bed contains approximately two million dust mites. They also reside in the carpet. Here and in the bed, they casually browse, waiting for the gentle rain of skin flakes to fall like a blessing from the Gods. Skin flakes normally appear in small quantities on the shoulders of actors in Selsun Blue commercials. They

are actually falling from our bodies at a continuous rate. They rub off when we slip between the sheets, and fall off like a skin blizzard whenever we walk.

If the thought of tiny insects chowing down on big piles of dead skin turns your stomach, then you may not care to hear about their excretions. Bodanis goes on to explain that each mite produces about twenty faecal pellets per day. It seems that these pellets are so small ("A vast heap containing nearly as many pellets as there are stones in the Great Pyramid would fit easily on the period at the end of this sentence.") that they float. The mite feces rise in the air even as the skin flakes fall. Could this be the mites' idea of a fair trade?

The dust mites have some relatives that are even more "attached" to people. Facial mites also descended from the spider

family and entered into symbiotic relations with human beings. These cute little critters are slightly larger than their cousins the dust mites. They live at the base of your eyelashes where they hang on to the hairs with their eight stubby legs. You ladies may think that eyeliner and mascara would kill these tiny freeloaders off. Sorry! Make-up turns out to be mighty nutritious on a microscopic level, and facial mites grow fat and happy every time you apply a fresh layer.

Speaking of growing fat and happy, how about some food trivia? Is anyone out there fond of peanut butter? If so, you will be thrilled to hear that government relations permit, and accept as likely, the presence of an average of two "insect parts" per serving. These parts are usually the legs of grasshoppers and spiders which have been torn off in the harvesting

process. Mr. Bodanis also mentions in passing, "the great writhing colonies" of living fungus that grow in and on cheeses, as well as the weevils that live inside grains of rice. Also of interest are the fatty acids, produced by butter as it goes rancid, which are identical to the "...highly odorous sex chemicals a female dog produces when she is in heat."

Space does not permit me to enlighten you about margarine, cake, or ice cream. It will suffice to say that if you would like to stop craving these foods, read *The Secret House*. It may curb your appetite. Bodanis also elaborates on lightning, lipstick, photons, perfume, vacuum cleaners, toothpaste and much more. It is an entertaining book about the many fascinating phenomena that occur every day in your own *Secret House*.

'Weather' or not to study

by Vail Weller
Feature Editor

No matter what you did for spring break - stayed at home, slept, went to bars, studied, went to Florida or Mexico - it is still depressing to return to Behrend: back to early classes, endless reading, and tests. One thing that makes it a little nicer is coming back to better weather. It may be nicer but does it make it easier to get work done? Not really.

Recently in one of the on campus apartments, an indepth study was conducted. The problem it addressed: how can we as college students concerned with our futures, concentrate on our work when the sun is shining in Eric? Here are some of the suggestions offered by the study.

1. Take a brisk walk outside to clear your head and to refocus on your goals. No, forget this one. A walk outside on a beautiful day will cause the intense desire to remain outside and never to go back to your desk.

2. Open the window and

take a breath of fresh spring air. Scratch this. When you open your window, you will feel the tantalizing breeze of irresponsibility blowing in, luring you, once again, outside.

3. Allow yourself to take a break by blaring your favorite tape. No. This will lead to another, much louder tape and another and another and the next thing you know you'll be hosting a huge blowout drink fest, not an atmosphere conducive to studying.

4. Take your work outside. Absolutely not. You know as well as I do that you'll stumble upon a game of hackysack or frisbee and you'll drop your books on the ground and run for the fun.

5. Take your study break by visiting your friends in their rooms or apartments. Don't do it. Someone is having a party, and knowing you, you won't rest until you find them.

After reading as much of this study as I can, I'm looking out the window and noticing what a nice day it is. Let's go have a cookout at Presque Isle!



photo by: Rick Brooks

Tempus Advisor Chris Dubbs and Editor Kurt Steiner

TEMPUS.....cont'd
unusual; hinting upon themes of death, while others are humorous and lite."

This year's issue is dedicated to former Behrend student, and poet, Ken Sonnenberg. He succumbed to cancer in 1986. According to advisor Chris Dubbs, Ken was the first among the "new wave" of English majors now on campus. "This year's issue represents the increase this campus has seen in English majors. Many students have gone through upper level English courses. The work that was submitted definitely reflects the growth of English (as a major) on this campus," stated Mr. Dubbs. "The Tempus staff felt that Ken represented what Tempus is all about, growth and maturity."

Keep a look out for Tempus, and share in the experience. Copies will be sold in the Reed Union Building.

"A high-voltage thriller. Packs an undeniable wallop."
--Janet Maslin,
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LETHAL WEAPON

Academic Assistance

by Darren Boyce
Collegian Staff Writer

Are you worried about that midterm? Afraid you don't understand the material in class completely? Wondering what you can do to get that extra edge on that class? Why not get some help from the Academic Services Center?

The Academic Services Center is located in room 205 of Turnbull Hall. The room is usually open at 9 a.m. during the days of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and stays open until about 4 p.m. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the room opens at approximately 11 a.m.

The Center is a good place to get extra help if your struggling in class. Students can get tutoring in almost any subject they need it in. Opposite the door to the Center is a sign-up sheet. The sheet lists all available tutors and subjects and the times they are available. To set up an appointment, you merely have to sign up for a time that's best for you.

For those of you doing fine in class, becoming a tutor might be worth your while. Academic Services Center tutors get paid minimum wage for each hour they tutor. To become a tutor, talk with John Coleman, Head of the Academic Services Center, at ext.

6450. It's good to have an 'A' in the subject you plan to tutor.

The Center finds that they mainly tutor the strugglers or those people who are conscientious about the material being covered. Things can get hectic at the Center though, as they say it's easy to tell when midterms start coming around. Sometimes tutors work with four people at one time.

If you need help or you're interested in becoming a tutor, call the Academic Services Center at ext. 6418 or visit the room in Turnbull. I'm sure it will be worth the visit.

They Think, Therefore You Are

By Kevin Trenney
Collegian Writer

I have the power! Yes, I am he-man, the infamous hero from the wonderful world of cartoons. No, wait a minute, I am a faith healer. Actually, I am Al Haig and I am in charge. Sorry, I lied. I am none of these. I am just your basic Behrend student. Though I am not endowed with any unique or mystical powers, as are the aforementioned individuals, I do have some power. Yes, you do too.

What is power? Influence or control? This is one possible way to view it. Where does power come from? What is its source? One could say that it is all a matter of perception - A person will only have power if he/she is perceived to

possess it. One could say these things about power. Someone did. Dr. Robert Tauber, associate professor of education, recently spoke on the subject of power and the leader. This presentation, which I found to be both interesting and informative, was part of the Emerging Leaders Series Lectures.

The French and Raven Model of the social bases of power seemed, to me, to be the focus of the discussion. Dr. Tauber used the analogy of the carrot and the stick (ways to get a donkey to move) to make the first two power bases clear. The carrot represents reward power (the ability to reward or withhold reward). The stick represents coercive power (the power to punish or withhold punishment). These bases, said Dr.

Tauber, are often abused and overused.

Legitimate power, referent power, and expert power are the remaining three bases of the model. Legitimate power is the power of position. Referent power is the power of effective communication (the leader acts as a facilitator). Expert power is the power of expertise. It seems quite clear to me that a leader would be willing to touch all of the bases, he/she could score more runs.

You want power - most of us do though we will not admit to it. You have the power. Power to change things, improve things, to crush injustice. It is up to you to realize that you can make things happen.

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