

# opinion

## Strange Daze; The Best and The Worst of Life

by Ed Miseta  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Academy of Awards. The Tony Awards. The Grammy Awards. The MTV Music Video Awards. It seems every time I turn around there's a new type of award being handed out for something. I feel it's getting to be ridiculous. Do we really need to give out some dozen awards to a handful of movies that come out every year? Do we really need to give out just as many to a few videos that the MTV executives happen to like, and tell us we must vote for? And what about all those great things in life that seem to go unnoticed, and never get any awards?

I believe we should make a change in our award presentations. From now on there should be just one awards ceremony each year. It would be called the Peoples Choice Awards, but would not be for just actors and musicians. Americans would vote for the ten 'best things' of the year. This could include anything from songs to movies to athletes to politicians. They would also vote for the ten things that we could most do without. The voting could be done the same time we vote

in elections. That way more Americans would get out to the polls. Also, by having just one awards show, we could do away with all the others. Then the networks would air something more interesting and informative in their place. Perhaps reruns of Gilligan's Island.

To get things rolling, I've made up a list of the ten best and worst things from these first twenty-five years of my life. The envelope please...

**The Strange Daze Top Ten: Ed's Choice of the Best Things in Life.**

1. **Budweiser**  
It didn't get to be number one by advertising alone. Budweiser is a crisp, consistent, high-quality beer that is excellent for both sipping and guzzling. Whether you're celebrating, drowning your sorrows, or trying to make member of the opposite sex appear better looking, Bud is the best beer for the job.

2. **Sex**  
Although its image has been tarnished a bit by recent developments (Herpes, Aids, etc...), sex is still the most fun you can have without laughing. It has been

around since the beginning of time and scientists expect its popularity to continue into the future. It is especially good on Saturday nights, after several cans of Budweiser.

3. **Sleeping In**  
An enjoyable, recreational activity that is most popular on college campuses across the nation. One of my favorite past times is setting my alarm for seven o'clock on Sunday morning, then getting up, shutting it off, and crawling back under the covers. That is, unless I wake up next to a not-too-desirable woman, who I had sex with the night before, after drinking several cans of Budweiser.

4. **Crime Story**  
Mike Torello and Ray Luca are heating up the tube on Tuesday nights. The music and cinematography are excellent and the violence is the best on television. Accounting majors watch L.A. Law. Real men watch Crime Story.

5. **Lisa Minetti**  
The sexiest, most beautiful girl on campus. I would love to sip Budweisers with her anytime.

6. **Scarface**  
The greatest movie ever made. Al Pacino is excellent as Tony

Montana, a Cuban immigrant who becomes fabulously rich only to snort his life away. Although extremely violent, the film is thrilling, sad, and even funny at times. It also contains some of the greatest lines of all time. For example: Tony, to a man he just shot in the head: "You think you're smart? Look at you now. You look stupid."

7. **The Wall by Pink Floyd**  
It's not just an album, but a way of life.

8. **The Chicago Cubs**  
They're more fun to watch than any other team in baseball. Harry Carey and Steve Stone are a joy to listen to, especially in the late innings when Harry is drunk from drinking all game. Ryne Sandberg, Jody Davis, and Andre Dawson will bring the pennant back to Wrigley in 1988.

9. **Money**  
What would life be without it? Especially these days when it can buy anything. Money is awesome, and the more the better. Just ask Noriega.

10. **Robert DeNiro Movies**  
Robert is the finest actor in the business today. From 'Taxi Driver'

to 'The Untouchables', all of his movies are worth seeing over and over again.

**The Strange Daze Bottom Ten: Ed's Choice of the Most Worthless Things in Life**

1. **Virgins**  
Virginity went out with the second world war. They're good for marriage, but otherwise not much fun. To all you virgins: Thanks for Nothing.

2. **Instructors Who Do Not Give Exams Back the Next Class Period**  
Especially those who give them back two weeks later, after you've forgotten you ever took it. And skip the excuse about having all that research to do. We've heard it before.

3. **Joan Rivers**  
She's boring, obnoxious, and very funny. I'd prefer to listen to Howard Cosell tell his life story.

4. **Yugo's**  
They're cheap, ugly, and dangerous. I'd sooner drive a used Vega. I'm sure the K.G.B. is somehow behind their exportation to this country.

5. **Philosophy 001**  
Could it possibly be good for anything?

6. **Kate and Allie**  
By far the dumbest show on television. Watched only by pre-pubescent teens and students who get C's in Phys Ed.

7. **The National Debt**  
It's large. It's scary. It's expensive. Getting rid of it has got to be our number one priority.

8. **The Pittsburgh Pirates**  
Probably the worst team in football. Even Todd Blackledge won't be able to help this sorry, sappy, spectacle of a sports team.

9. **Jimmy Carter**  
He took office and screwed up the country for four years. President Reagan is still trying to undo the damage he did. Billy or Amy could probably have done a better job.

10. **U2**  
They're shallow, untalented, and overrated. Popular among English majors and people who wear weird clothes and talk funny.

So there they are. The best and worst of the last twenty-five years. By the way, if you disagree with some of my picks, that's too bad. I don't want to hear about it.

The opinions expressed by Ed Miseta are not necessarily those of the Collegian.

## Shattering the Outer Shell

by David Friend  
Contributing Writer

Walking down the paths of Behrend one day was a lonesome task. The Eric weather was at its typical worst--- foggy with a light drizzle. But I was enjoying it. Perfect weather for me and my trench coat. I'm in my typical daylight mood--- asleep, observant, quiet and daydreaming. I notice things, like cars trying to run students over. Calls of "Come on, hit me, please, I need the money!" ring from the crowd. I wave at a passerby I know. The simplest form of acknowledgement, but the most difficult to initiate. But this occurrence is rare--- most students walking to and from classes are cold, self-absorbed. I go into Reed and, like every student, check my

mailbox. I might engage in this activity several times each day, in desperation for word from the outside world. I'm even starting to savor the letters I get from my parents! Then I go to a club meeting, which is a bunch of potential friends that have similar interests. But invariably, the conversations degenerate into "club business." After all, who is in the club for any other reason than the way it looks on their transcript? By chance I meet someone and am invited to a party. It's Friday and I feel good, I've just done quite well on a quiz and two tests this week. Reasons to celebrate, I think. I start to talk to the people there, but conversations dissolve into incoherent drunken stupors. I have no desire to get drunk myself, but I imbibe some alcohol. (I like

staying sober, watching drunks return to the dorm can be the highlight of my evening.) The girls I meet there are all either dating, or trying to pry some guys from their dates. A single, unattached guy has no real chance at this particular party. So Saturday rolls around. For us poor sods who have no cars, this is the day to take the good old Blue Bus. The mall is smallish, but at least I can catch a movie and get away from Dobbins' food. Unfortunately, I do not feel attractive being checked out by junior high pre-pubescent females. And the older females are certainly not interested in a trench coat wearing, liberal looking, not that muscular college male. I buy some music, my one real pleasure these days. This time I get an old Genesis cassette, Foxtrot, an

excellent album with a twenty minute track, "Supper's Ready." I haven't put it down yet. When I finally get to talk to someone the next Monday, it's irritating to hear some lovesick puppy drool over "the most adorable thing I have ever seen in my entire life," and yet do nothing about it. But overall, I enjoy the conversation. I have at last spoken to an intelligent, and sober, human being. I also have had many good laughs. And where did I find all of this fun? Talking to a seemingly dull person in the S.G.A. office. It took me a semester and a half to find a few good friends... how long do I wait for more? Will I ever crack the frigid, self-absorbed exterior of an average Behrend student? I hope I will. So if you see a half-asleep, trench coat wearing, quiet student, with old Genesis blaring in the headphones of his walkman, please say a simple "Hi," it just might make the Eric weather a little more bearable.

## Murphy Was An Optimist

by Kevin Trenney  
Collegian Staff Writer

Yes, I do believe that Thomas Hobbes was right. Perhaps man is not such a noble creature... "the war of all against all." Machiavelli may have been correct in saying that man will "pursue lust after lust until death." Voltaire may have been hasty in criticizing Rousseau's *Social Contract*. Could it be that man is little more than an animal?

Why do I take such a dismal view of my own species? The answer to this question is quite simple. By observing my fellow homo-sapiens, I have seen so much that makes me wonder if we are any better than dogs.

If humanity is so wonderful; Why are there people who treat their fellow human beings like dirt, simply because they are of a different race, religion, or socio-economic status?

Why is there starvation and homelessness in the U.S. and the rest of the world, when there are people who have millions and billions of dollars in assets. Why does man sell substances to children and other humans, which will kill them? Why are men, women, and children sold as sex slaves?

It seems as though our society is caught up in this disgusting "rat-race" for the trophy of material possessions. All of these self-centered "yuppie wanna be's" are so caught up in pursuit of "B.Mers" the "2.3 children" and the other little perks in life, that they don't see the suffering, the pain, the hurt that so many are experiencing.

My generation seems to be blinded by the images which are created in Hollywood and its sterile studios (self included).

If someone doesn't look just right, act just right, then "I can't associate with her or go out with her." Isn't this the attitude that many of us take? It truly bothers me that I too often take this internal view.

Thanks to movies and T.V., we get to see all of these (physically) beautiful people falling in love (just). Yes we must go after the "gorgeous babes". Girls go after the "hunks". Why can't we put the physical aside.

Boozing is glamorized in Hollywood; the movies, the t.v. commercials. What don't you see? The homes which alcohol ruins and the deaths caused by drunk driving.

Yes it does seem that we are animalistic in our drives. We can never get enough money or material possessions. We want more and more.

Love has once again faded away---being replaced by lust. People pursuing conquest after conquest.

People don't seem to love compassion. Pimps and drug pushers don't care about the people that they deal with. They care only about profit! Such is life in America today.

Where is our society headed? I believe that destruction is its destination. What can I do. I can take my bleeding heart conservative philosophy to the people. I don't feel that it is the government's responsibility to solve all of society's problems. It's yours and mine!!

## Is There Hope For The Poor?

by Rebecca Salibrici  
Contributing Writer

Is there hope for America's poor? Can society afford to pay the price? If the trend continues the situation can only get worse, and the number of poor people will increase. Is there a better way?

The welfare system began as a temporary life support system for those who suffer a severe financial loss. In America, the land of opportunities, this is a good idea. BUT, the fact is that folks receiving assistance need help to help themselves. And, people who

cannot help themselves should not be given more money to have more kids! This is the major flaw in our public welfare system.

People on welfare receive barely enough to survive. It is true that many people on welfare don't properly care for their children. (They weren't properly cared for themselves, as children). Many of these children are abused. It is true that some welfare recipients sell drugs, or have under-the-table jobs enabling them to have "fancy cars"---but this is NOT the rule. There are few people on welfare who have any valuable material possessions.

Most jobs involving social work pay low wages. Many of the most qualified medical experts would not work for the low wages of a funded organization for the poor. Additionally, the medical card pays as little as 1/6 the billed costs. Understandably, most of the medical profession who are privately employed, don't want to service people with a medical card. As a result, the medical care among the poor is becoming worse.

Let's face it---the poor people in America are treated second-rate. This is not acceptable. Society is their financial provider, therefore it

should offer guidelines people to become autonomous. People on welfare should not be given more money to have more kids. Without the responsibility of additional babies, a parent on welfare would have few excuses not to get a job, or a G.E.D. first...or whatever it takes.

We are the financial supporters of children who are born into poverty. It is our responsibility to be involved. Make your opinions known. But first, come to understand the problem, with compassion. We owe it to the children.

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sansom



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

When will the President wake up to reality? He continues to purchase another unneeded nuclear weapon system of mass destruction, the B-1 bomber, at a final cost of more than \$280 million per plane. Meanwhile across the nation and the world, people are dying in a ravaging AIDS epidemic. Surely by cancelling the B-1, S.D.I. and other nuclear weapon systems enough money would be freed to find cures for AIDS, most cancer and probably feed and shelter the homeless, and still go a long way toward balancing the budget.

The F.D.A. must wake up to reality also. While people die of AIDS here in America, other AIDS sufferers elsewhere are being saved with AIDS drugs which the F.D.A. stubbornly delays testing and approval of, not to mention making it legal to manufacture, prescribe and possess them. The F.D.A.

must wake up and cease its anti-human AIDS policy immediately. The Supreme Court must wake up to reality also and recognize that the true marriage bond is the strong love and mutual sharing relationship bond and not a piece of paper. It must recognize this and the need to grant nothing less than full, human, civil and economic rights and privileges, regardless of sexual preferences in such relationships.

I urge everyone to wake up the President, Supreme Court, F.D.A. and Congress by sending them copies of this letter as part of a chain letter to everyone's friends and relatives, so that they may do the same. Let's all do our part also and make a donation to an AIDS charity also.

Leonard DeFazio Jr.  
31 Elmwood Ave.  
Batavia, N.Y. 14020



**"Buckle Up, Behrend!"**  
Now it's a law.

A public service message from the Collegian

**TROUBLED? NEED TO TALK? WE CAN HELP... WE CARE ABOUT YOU!**

**PENN STATE-BEHREND CAMPUS MINISTRY**  
Student Services Reed Building  
898-6248

**OFF-CAMPUS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
BUS TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FOR 11:00 a.m. SERVICES  
BUS LEAVES REED 10:15 a.m. SUNDAYS

**ON-CAMPUS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS with The Rev. Ron Lorenz (Fr. Ron)  
SATURDAYS, 5:30 p.m. in THE REED LECTURE HALL  
PENN STATE-BEHREND CAMPUS MINISTRY

### Editorial Policy

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. The Corry Journal, the publisher of the Behrend Collegian, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

**Letter Policy:** The Behrend Collegian encourages 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. 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.

**Postal Information:** The Behrend Collegian (898-6221) is published fourteen times annually (seven times during each academic semester at The Behrend College) by the students of The Behrend College; the Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, Pa 16563