

DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL, OR

SHADES OF RAY CHARLES

Guest Editorial by John Prettyman

The reader has doubtless heard the expression mentioned above. For those of you who have heard the cliché used before but don't understand it, an explanation is in order. I think most of the Behrend students could take a lesson from the explanation because most have not even acquired their 'cool' as yet. Sociologically, we speak of one as 'losing his cool' when he acts irrational and completely against the standards and values of the institutionalized group of which he is a member.

Why have the Behrend students not acquired their cool as yet? The answer is relatively simple, yet many people overlook this factor in their complaints about the lack of a "unifying spirit." The answer is that the Behrend students have not as yet been completely institutionalized.

We hear students speaking about "not waiting till I get down to State." That is because they know that their chances for entering associations are multitudinous. Yet belonging to an associational aggregate and knowing how to act and react in said aggregate brings to bear quite a contrast. This is a point which Behrend students would do well to learn before they descend to the depths of the "happy valley of higher learning," otherwise known as State College, otherwise known as the "armpit of the nation."

On small Commonwealth Campuses such as Behrend, it is necessary to band together into a unified institu-

tional body in order to first acquire one's cool. Then, after one has acquired a sufficient amount of cool, and this student has learned how to act and react within the aggregate--keep it. For your sake--Don't lose your cool!

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