

The Nittany CUB

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EDITORIAL OPINION Let There Be Peace!

by Ray Geiger
CUB Editor

A wave of numbness filled with shock and disbelief has blanketed Behrend Campus following the incidents of this past week. The unexpected and the feared have occurred and appears to have led to wide-spread confusion and erroneous opinions.

It is unfortunate that Behrend Campus has been placed in the public's eye, not because of the academic achievement or maturity and responsibility of its student body. Behrend has come under the close scrutiny of the entire state because of the irrational behavior and actions of a few students. It is inevitable that these occurrences of the past few days will substantially limit the students in their efforts to gain the confidence of the officials of the University. The damage done to our previously and firmly asserted maturity and responsibility seems almost unrepairable.

But it was only a few who were involved. The majority of the students at Behrend appear to feel the same shock and dismay as the CUB. We hope that this is true.

It is the responsibility of these students to repudiate the irresponsibility which has led to these actions. We have spoken, in the past, of a lack of trust and communication on the part of the administration when dealing with the students. It is time that we speak of investing our trust in them as a dividend for previous expressions of concern and confidence which we have received. At this time, rather than asking the university to overlook irresponsibility, we should demand from ourselves and our peers responsible action and mature concern for each and every individual's rights and privileges. We must also recognize the peculiar responsibilities of our administrative personnel.

But even more, each student must now take time to look within himself to find the answer for the questions, "Who am I?" "What am I?" and "What is my relationship to my university and my fellow students?" Each individual must seek to find his own responsible and mature answer. Each of us must seek to discover what we can do to make this university an outstanding institution of learning.

We must defend the freedom to learn and inquire, and to seek the fulfillment of our own potentials. But this can only be accomplished if we respect and defend the rights of all other individuals within the university community, be they student, faculty or administration. We are, whether we recognize it or not, each intimately involved in the lives of all other individuals on the campus. Let each of us live in the spirit of mutual respect and honor. Let us never confuse disrespect with freedom, selfishness with rights, license with learning. Only when ALL the members of our university community are willing to work together for the welfare of all, will we have achieved that which is our greatest desire, the illumination of our intellect, the fulfillment of our freedoms, the preservation of our rights, and the betterment of our university, and most of all, PEACE LET THERE BE PEACE!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorials appearing in this newspaper will be opinionated and therefore subject to criticism. All letters that are typewritten and submitted to the newspaper staff will be printed with the exception of those that are repetitions or in poor taste. The staff reserves the right to

correct or delete portions for the letters or publication purposes.

All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Signed columns represent the view of the author only and do not reflect the Editorial policy of the Nittany CUB.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Three months ago, the resident students at Behrend Campus submitted a proposal to Director Irving Kochel which would allow students to determine their own policy of visitation between male and female students. This was a carefully thought out proposal modeled after that which is in effect at University Park, which would insure that the privacy of all resident students be respected, including those who were not entertaining guests. All of this was done in the spirit of good faith in the democratic legislative process.

After patiently waiting for three months for a decision, the Behrend students were disappointed on January 26 by the ludicrously written statement given to Student Government President David Carr. Instead of getting the right to decide upon visitation hours within a twenty-four, seven-day-week framework as originally proposed, the students were given restricted weekend visitation hours, namely visitation privileges between seven and twelve on Friday and Saturday evenings and from two until five on Sunday afternoons. Obviously the students who were hoping for a chance to study together during the week were disappointed. It is also a fact that all buildings on Behrend Campus are closed by midnight on weekdays and two a.m. weekends. Anyone desiring to converse with a friend of the opposite sex after these hours must do so outside in sub-zero weather.

What right has one man to force his opinion on four hundred dormitory students? During these three months, the students have been in close contact with many campus administrators and several members of the campus advisory board. All of these people have expressed opinions, at least to the students, that indicated that they felt our proposal was definitely worth serious consideration. Why then, has Mr. Kochel sent out letters to the parents of resident students to get a consensus of their opinions concerning visitation, six days before he handed down his statement, before he had time to get any sizeable response. In a similar poll conducted by the Student Government Association it has been found that most parents who have so far responded, favor a modified seven-day-a-week policy. Was Mr. Kochel's deliberation hastened by probable lack of support from parents?

We as students have no feasible way to appeal this decision. If we submit another proposal we must wait another three months with no guarantee that the outcome would be any different. If we should make any move to defy this decision, we have been explicitly told that any students involved will face immediate expulsion from the university.

We have been taught since childhood that the American democratic system is truly a good one, one that is to be respected. But with campus administrators like Mr. Kochel, who continue to make arbitrary decisions against the wishes of the majority, is it any wonder that college students become restless and try to take matters into their own hands?

Is it that unreasonable for mature young men and women who will be out in the world beyond the campus in a few short years to ask for the privilege to entertain guests of their choosing? We are living in 1971. When is Mr. Kochel to realize this?

Respectfully yours,
Sandra J. Roli
Sandra L. Kasko
Concerned Dormitory
Students

Dear Editor,

After much thinking about the announcement on visitation by Mr. Kochel, I have concluded that the decision was based on a feeling of mistrust. Does he not realize that all of our lives and the rest of our lives will be based on trust — both trusting and being trusted?
(name withheld upon request.)

Dear Editor,

Last Wednesday night, when I walked into the Quiet Lounge to watch the weekly S.G.A. meeting, I thought for a second that I was in the wrong room; the Quiet Lounge, which is normally a place where couples can be alone and individuals can sleep, exploded when Dean Lane handed-down Mr. Kochel's decision on 24 hr. Visitation. I regret that I got there a little late and missed Dean Lane's reading of Mr. Kochel's letter but I did get there in time for the students reactions; for Dean Lane's "answering" of questions; and for his very hasty departure. I have never in my entire life seen anyone leave a room as fast as he did; everyone clapped when he finished but I think that was only because they were glad to see him leave. Then things started to happen.

Right off everyone agreed that Mr. Kochel's "compromise" was ridiculous and the hat was passed to buy him a dictionary so he could look up the meaning of the word. The one who was really mad was the student who has a girl (or guy as the case may be) living in the dorms; they were the ones who wanted something done right away. The president of the S.G.A., Dave Carr, did a pretty good job of avoiding any rash actions by the students by refusing to vote on anything until anyone who had something to say got a change to say it.

There were about ten people who were really in control of the crowd and everytime they would talk about a massive violation of the visitation rule everyone would start clapping. The best

point that was brought in favor of visitation was that the government says that students are mature enough to pick a man to be president but the administration doesn't think students are mature enough to take a member of the opposite sex into their dorm rooms. After that everyone was voicing his agreement and demanding action. I felt like I was in the locker room of a football team that was losing the game 42-0 at half-time and still thought they could win the game.

Not long after that another student came up with the proposal to follow the administration's visitation ruling which would show how mature the students are while fighting for 24 hour visitation through the proper channels. He had a good proposal, but rotten timing; for by now everyone wanted action, not more talk. Then the S.G.A. president suggested that, instead of just rushing into the dorms and violating the visitation rule, the dorm residents go back to their own floors and take a vote on whether to violate the visitation

rule of Mr. Kochel's or not; if seventy-five percent of the floor was not in favor of mass violation of visitation they were to follow Mr. Kochel's decision. This could be considered a compromise and maybe someone should tell Mr. Kochel about it so he will know

what one is. Everyone agreed with Mr. Carr's suggestion so he quickly adjourned the meeting and told all the students to go back to their dorms. I'm not a dorm resident so I left, but the

next day I heard what happened; the administration threatened to suspend any student who violated the visitation regulation. Well, the students didn't think visitation was worth getting suspended over so the administration won the second round too, but they still haven't

won the war. Visitation is a big issue to a lot of students and as long as they don't lose their heads and do something foolish they will have a good chance of getting what they want.—Dick Lecker

What Is Truth?

In an age when such cries as "What is truth?" and "Let's be realistic" are heard, it is hard to believe that some people are still pulling the wool over their own eyes.

Behrend students are only fooling themselves if they think that:

- 1) there hasn't been any tension in the Behrend Campus air recently
- 2) college students read more news than any other students
- 3) the Wintergreen Gorge is only used for hiking
- 4) big name groups would come to Behrend without at least 6 months notice, \$15,000, and a guaranteed audience of 1,5000
- 5) more than 100 students ever attend any Behrend event
- 6) the winter storms are almost over
- 7) Behrend Campus is considered as part of Penn State by the Erie residents
- 8) the "Old Fashioned Oatmeal" cookies in the cafeteria are anything other than dry, compressed dog

food

- 9) anything of usefulness can be found in the library
- 10) cities other Erie, Pittsburgh, and Philly have large representation here
- 11) someone exists who has made it from the RUB to the Nick during Winter Term without falling
- 12) it is possible to find a parking space on campus without driving around for one-half hour or getting fined for parking in the wrong space
- 13) a big night in Erie consists of a ride around the dock and a stop at Dunkin' Donuts
- 14) pre-registration gives secure feelings
- 15) Erie Hall doesn't have the pungent smell of Right Guard and NBA sneakers
- 16) freshmen orientation will never be the same
- 17) anyone from Behrend has ever received a PSU scholarship
- 18) it is possible to avoid seventh periods and Saturday classes
- 19) Penn State has less rules than the State Pen.