

The Nittany CUB

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An Editorial Opinion Views On S.G.A.

At the present it appears that there are two popular conceptions of the Student Government Association on the Behrend Campus. One, that it is a great organization and has accomplished many valuable improvements for the campus, or two, it is an elected group of glorified do-nothings that meet once a week and do nothing.

It might also be said that there is a somewhat more prevalent opinion, that being, that the S.G.A. is something to be tolerated, and if something worthwhile comes from it, so much the better. However, if nothing is forthcoming in the lines of campus improvement, the vehement ire of the student body is raised. Otherwise, no one pays very much attention to S.G.A.

What is necessary is for the people of Behrend to realize just what S.G.A. is. And that is the only thing that the students possess to cope with the administration and the miles of red tape and the complicated channels that a university seems to thrive on. It is the only organized mouthpiece that the student body has for presenting its problems to the administration from its point of view. Not to say that there is no room for individual effort on this campus, it just appears that there are not enough organized and concerned individuals around to get anything accomplished.

Contrary to some popular opinion, S.G.A. has done quite a few things for this campus during the past year. Primarily, there is the visitation issue. No doubt there are some who entertain the opinion that S.G.A. really didn't do all that much, but it did take the students' ideas and views before the administration in an organized manner that no single individual acting on his own could have equalled. It certainly isn't the fault of S.G.A. that the students did not get more visitation than they did.

And so, the biggest problem facing S.G.A. at the moment is not the administration, but the lack of student support.

In order for S.G.A. to run effectively, it must have the support of the majority of the students before it can accomplish anything. At the moment it is doubtful if it even has the support of a countable minority.

There does exist however, the possibility that the present S.G.A. is not really what this campus needs for a student government. Several S.G.A. members have expressed their dissatisfaction with the present organization and claim that it needs a drastic reorganization and perhaps a redefined purpose.

Whatever the case, the S.G.A. is all Behrend has in the line of an organized student government, and all those involved with this campus will have to make the best of it. Change can only be accomplished by active participation. The direction that Behrend's Student Government will take in the future is entirely up to the students of Behrend Campus.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorials appearing in this newspaper will be opinedated 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.

Notice

NITTANY CUB STAFF
MEETING 4th PERIOD,
COMMON HOUR, APRIL 13.

ALL JOURNALISM MAJORS
ARE ASKED TO ATTEND.

Letters To The Editor

The Ecology Of Business

Dear Union Carbide Corporation, I attended a meeting at the Erie County Health Department yesterday; its purpose was to discuss various actions that local people can take to aid in the fight against pollution and other environmental problems. In the course of this meeting I was handed a "kit" compiled by the National Association of Manufacturers, the kit contained a sample speech that an individual could present to a group, some brochures by the Soap and Detergent Association, Humble Oil and other business groups. There were also two folders in the kit put out by you, and it is to these I will direct my criticism.

You, along with other large corporations, have been recently devoting a lot of advertising dollars to convince the American public that you really are trying to do something about the environmental problems that you have been creating for us for so many years. I believe that there is more to solving these problems than slick advertising, and I further believe that more people than you realize are becoming aware of the connections between their actions (or yours) and the ultimate effects of those actions.

You carefully labelled your folders in the NAM kit as "Provided in the public interest by UNION CARBIDE The Discovery Company." If what you put in these folders is evidence of how you see the "public interest" I would suggest respectively that you check with the public to see if you and us ought to come to terms so we understand what each of us is talking about.

Your first folder called "Here's how to stash the trash," encouraged citizens to dispose of leaves, garbage and other organic wastes via "Glad" Trash Disposer Bags, never mentioning that these plastic bags do not decompose thus preventing the return of the organic compost (which would ordinarily result) to the soil whence it came. This valuable fertilizer is prevented from following its natural course in the food chain.

Your "public interest" provision in fact is nothing more than a blatant advertisement for your products. The other folders in the kit are similarly-oriented (such as the "Facts about Today's Detergents" which asserts that, for example that there is at this time no alternative to phosphates in detergents, a very misleading

Bill's Toes Revisited

and terms by Shylock

Is it true Tom Brunner has been promoted to Lieutenant? If Skidmore is a Captain, what does that make Halberg?

The J.R.C. took another daring step forward - now there's visitation Sunday evening.

Perry Hall had their monthly fire drill Saturday night.

Dean Lane, four "inferior executive officers," and R.A. Terry Loftus are in Atlantic City for a conference. Dean Howald and Dean Tuttle are holding down the fort.

The water in the pool has finally melted. Does that mean Spring is here?

The library appears to be undergoing some re-structuring. Does that mean Mr. Woerner is pessimistic about the new library complex being built in this decade?

Lots of freaks!

Bleep!

statement, to say the least), but yours was the most blatant, so I am picking on you and sending copies to the press.

You focus on approval of neighbors and appearance rather than on the real problems: for instance, "Remember, the more compactly and securely you package the garbage, the less chance of there being droppings left on the ground to create messy spots on your property and in your neighborhood." Just who do you think you're kidding? Not only does this kind of line have nothing to do with what is on people's minds these days, but your suggestions are glaringly vacant of the less expensive and more ecologically sound methods of disposal such as composting or feeding organic wastes and leftovers to a colony of earthworms.

The second folder is called "Bag It!" and is even more of an insult to the reader; if I had read it as satire in Mad magazine it would have been more believable. Every one of your suggestions is a sales pitch for plastic bags, the last one being the sole exception: "Leave your campsite or picnic area in better condition than you found it." Your gall overwhelms me when you state that you "Join hands with the Bureau of Land Management in reminding you that This Land is Your Land, Keep it clean!"

I quote the Environment Action Bulletin, reporting on a recent ad for plastic bags: Your "idea of fighting pollution is putting everything into a neat, clean, plastic bag that is dumped--adding to the solid waste crisis--or burned--adding carbon dioxide and particulate matter."

Perhaps a corporation such as yourself finds it absolutely impossible to disseminate true public service messages because true public services is not in pushing plastic.

In conclusion I can only wonder, as one reared in this day and age, where the explorers and pioneers of yesteryear obtained their plastic bags to make their journeys and camping easier and more enjoyable.

Sincerely,
Patrick Mertens

Behrend, Love It Or Leave It

Dear Editor,

I am shocked at the arrant nonsense printed under the heading "Manifest to End" in your issue of March 11. More so that such rubbish should be printed over an anonymous

signature.

Granted that no institution, no administration, no teacher is perfect. Has your correspondent the unparalleled conceit to claim this perfection for his brilliant analysis of the imperfections he finds here? Presumably, despite the deficiencies of the establishment, he is 4:00 in all respects and is therefore in a position to complain vociferously on behalf of his less fortunate colleagues.

Thank heavens that the vast majority of students are happy to have the opportunity for a first class education and devote themselves to making the most of it.

We all are subject to various disciplines. If anyone finds the conditions so very irksome, let him pick up his toys and go home.

Sincerely,
Bernard Scott
(Assistant Professor
of Physics)

Concern Is On The Air

Dear Editor:

For several terms now I have been trying to get an FM radio station on this campus. After all, Behrend is now a four-year campus and have you looked at the plans for the future?? This campus needs something to pull it together, to get its ideas on the air and to inform everyone of Behrend's activities (which I hope will be better attended).

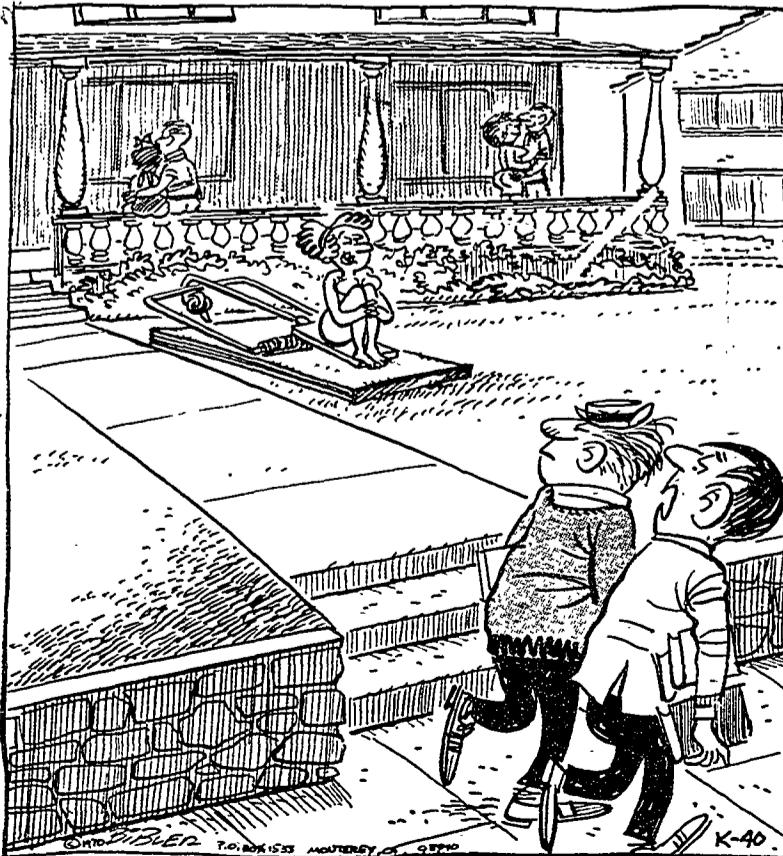
I hope that everyone would just sit back for 5 minutes and think of the benefits a station would provide for this campus. Better yet, go to a college that has a good radio station and see first hand how great a thing it is. Williams College, which has about 1,500 students, has the finest station in the Ivy Radio Network and is number one among that group of colleges. If they can do it, we certainly should be able to. I am totally sick of such poor excuses as "I don't even have an FM radio." How about you students thinking of someone else for a change???

I've put a lot of time, effort and money into this thing and I hope it continues on when I leave since it would help Behrend greatly in all areas. So, how about some of you people who don't give a damn about anything, getting off your fat asses and helping Behrend become known.

Will apathy win after all??? I certainly hope not!

Extremely concerned,
Keith Bauer

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"TH CLOSER WE GET TO GRADUATION TH EASIER IT IS TO SPOT TH SENIOR GIRL WHO HASN'T YET CAUGHT HER MAN."