

Opinion

Pete Says Goodbye To Behrend

by Pete Weichlein
Collegian Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This will be The Collegian's last Pete's Perspective. Pete will transfer next semester to University Park. We wish him all the best.

Two years at Penn State-Behrend have come to an end, and if anybody was to ask me for a parting remark it would be: "Hey everyone, start living, get involved, do something other than drinking and studying!"

Granted this is the eighties and in our day and age society punishes those who take life easy and not completely seriously. But we're in college and life is supposed to be wild and crazy and we're supposed to find ourselves and make all these weird discoveries about our personalities and all I see is people running around like little machines in pursuit of the big 4.0.

were purposeless letters filled with threats and profanities. He dared to accuse but was perceived to have offended. Our over-conservative Behrend society reacted in true eighties style. And nobody sees anything wrong with that?

Then finally a ray of hope. *The Satanic Verses* was published and Behrend woke up. Granted, if there hadn't been a threat on the author's life, Behrend, like the rest of the world, would probably have ignored the book. But there was a death threat and we, as a gathering of young, open-minded Americans, decided to take a stand. Well, WE is a little exaggerated. Eighty of us. Eighty out of over 2,000. That's a pretty lousy percentage as all you business majors can probably figure out.

It's probably too late to mention that I don't want to leave Behrend (and all my true friends-you know who you are) on a sour note. The lack of passion and involvement is a product and a

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These are your years. Here's your chance. Four years of complete freedom to find out who you really are and what you really want out of life. Freedom to live, not just party. Freedom to grow up. Freedom to drop the high school attitudes and mature into real human beings. Freedom to discover and explore. And left and right I see people ignoring what I consider the most important part of college. Left and right my peers sacrifice their shot at living so they have more time for competing with each other, for beating each other to the top five percent, for getting the job that pays more.

Remember Justin and Tom. For the better part of a week Penn State-Behrend was passionate and then it was back to business as usual. Or the big fight against the smoking policy. Megaphones and smoke-ins, outrages students and apologetic administrators. A couple of days of Kent State and that was it. We didn't want to fall back too far in our studies.

Or here's a beauty. My much loved colleague Rob. What great opportunities we all had at meaningful discussion. How great a debate there could have been between Rob and any of his adversaries. But instead all the Collegian and Love Rob received

plague of our times, and unfortunately not a disease to be found only at Behrend. But this is college. This is where new things can start to happen. This is where we could all just take a little breather from a hectic world. Where we could slow things down and relax. Where we could decide not to worry only about what kind of job we might get, and how much it would pay, and if we're going to be able to afford all the niceties of being "well-off". This is a place where you should learn about life, and about yourself, and have fun, and make friends for life. This is not just the place where you have to put in four years before you get your high paying job.

I'm a history major. Every time I admit to being a history major people get a dumb smirk on their face and ask me what the heck I'm going to do with a degree in history. Who's going to hire a history major. How far can a history major go in life. I don't know. But history is something I enjoy. History is something I want to learn and study. And that's what college is all about. To learn the things you want to learn and do the things you want to do. Farewell Behrend.

Love, Pete

LOVE ROB

Farrakhan And Tehran

by Rob Prindle

"Look at Jerry Falwell and Louis Farrakhan. They both talk religion and the brotherhood of man. They both sound like they belong in Tehran." - Lou Reed.

Yeah, that fun loving Nation of Islam leader is at it again. The Black activist has really said some funny things lately. Before I go any further I would like to remind everyone that Mr. Farrakhan was a calypso singer before he turned into a black leader. I'm not sure what that says about the man, but it is rather amusing.

Also, before anyone calls me a racist for picking on this public figure, please refer to the President Bush column published two weeks ago.

So, bow-tie clad with his hands clapping at his own words, Farrakhan certainly left a strange impression on the country as he spoke at the African American Summit '89. I will hit the highlights of his speech.

*Abraham Lincoln, according to the outspoken Farrakhan, was a white supremacist. This may be true, but I do tend to question the timeliness of this remark.

*Blacks have a greater right to Africa than Jews have to Palestine. This man has never been above picking fights with Jews. A few years ago he called Adolf Hitler "wickedly great" and Judaism a "gutter" religion. Kind'a sounds like if Farrakhan wasn't black he would make a great Skin-Head supremacist.

I do think that blacks in America need a better representative than Farrakhan. I believe that the man is more interested in talking than in saying anything. He knows that as long as his views are radical enough and as long as he continues to receive death threats from whites he can receive prime press coverage.

* Black prisoners, according to Farrakhan, should be freed and allowed to "do their time...in Africa."

Excuse me. Is Farrakhan implying that Africa would take American prisoners. I don't think so. Why in the world would they want our criminals?

* The money that would be used to keep the prisoners in the USA (\$35000 a year) should go to black leaders to promote general good.

I'm not sure exactly what Farrakhan would do with all the money, but I should think that the African Continent would want a great deal of it as reparation for having been sent all the criminals.

* "With our increased birthrate, black men and women can breed ourselves into power.... It is not something to laugh at. It can be a reality."

Well, Mr. Farrakhan may not think that it is something to laugh at, but I bet that there are a lot of Black South Africans who would laugh at Farrakhan. The Black majority in South Africa has had little success in dealing with the ruling white minority. I think that America is a little more liberal than P. W. Botha's machine, but

that situation does show that racism does not end with a majority.

* Farrakhan also stated that the White House and National Security Council has a secret plan to keep blacks disenfranchised, and of allowing weapons and drugs to be distributed to blacks. This, according to Farrakhan is intended to facilitate "black-on-black" crime.



Rob Prindle

I semi-agree with this statement. I think that there is a general feeling in America that inner-city crime is no real problem because "they are only hurting each other."

A few weeks ago I wrote a column titled "It's a White World After All" in which I pointed out the almost exclusively white backgrounds of the Behrend student body. An overwhelming percentage of Behrend Students, according to a school freshman survey, came from all white neighborhoods. A good friend of mine commented that there was nothing surprising about that because of the very small number of black people in the United States.

I'm not sure about the exact number, but I do know that some projections have said that by the year 2000, minorities will be a majority. My friend was wrong about the very few blacks in America because, for the most part, the inner city hides them.

So, probably black America needs more speakers. If most of the people attending colleges in America feel the same way my friend did then it is very easy to see that there will be a problem with true racial equality. If the only exposure that 88 percent of Behrend students have with minorities is the six o'clock news, then our country is truly in trouble.

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Farrakhan could probably get more accomplished if he talked more about life and less about the "wickedly great" Adolf Hitler. Louis Farrakhan may talk religion and the brotherhood of man, but like Lou Reed, I believe that he would be better suited for the politics of Tehran.

Love Rob