

Mark examines the cold war

by Mark Owens

Sniff.

Oh, excuse me. It seems I've come down with a cold, which isn't surprizing considering the weather. Warm and sunny Thursday, cold and snowy Friday, fire and brimstone Saturday - it's easy for the body to get confused and feel bad.

I think the weather gods have been watching the *Wheel of Fortune* too long and adapted it for their own use. I'm talking about the Wheel of Weather. Here's a typical conversation in the clouds above Erie:

Weather god: Let's see what today's weather is. (Sound of spinning wheel). Ahhh! Breezy, sunny and a high in the 60's.

Cloud: You can't do that.

Weather god: Why not?

Cloud: It's January 24th.

Weather god: So? The wheel says sunny and 60 degrees, so it's going to be sunny and 60 degrees. Besides, there's this neat bedroom set behind curtain number....

Anyway, since I got this cold, I thought I'd pass along some advice (and you thought I was going to say germs).

The first thing to do is decide if you have a cold. After all, it

could be something minor like the mange. If you have a sore throat, runny nose, stuffed-up sinuses, aches and pains, chances are you have a cold, or saw several color pictures of Rosanne Barr's tattoo.

Assuming you have a cold, the next thing to do is figure out what kind you have. Colds come in three types:

- 1) Sniffles
- 2) The sniffing sneezing coughing aching stuffy-head fever so your room mate can't rest, gurgles like a fountain and you wind up beating him to death

We should now discuss treatment. This is summed up in one word: drugs. And lots of them.

- 3) Coughing up major internal organs, having hallucinations that the bed is standing on one leg, thinking you look like a blue-striped

albino newt and spending most of the day feeling like someone has mistaken you for a Mr. Potatohead doll.

We should now discuss treatment. This is summed up in one word: *drugs*. And lots of them.

Studies shown on TV indicate medicines with active ingredients

are good. Medicines with active ingredients and ibuprofen are better. Medicines with completely unpronounceable ingredients, though, are best. Look for medications with pseudoephedrine, hydrochloride, triprolidine, a pleasant cherry flavor and monopolysacrosupercalafragilisticxmealadocious.

Home remedies are another popular way of exorcising a cold. There are the cures found in the *National Enquirer*, which double as chrome cleaners in the off-season, and the Budweiser cure. The theory behind the Bud cure is to drink enough beer so you forget you have a cold, let alone feel it. I don't recommend this cure.

I do, however, recommend the Bachelor's Cure. The idea here is to eat so badly the invading germs will be frightened off. A steady diet of Cheez Whiz, strawberry Quick milk, Jolt cola and M&M's is sure to horrify cold germs. The only drawback is after while you start to resemble what you've eaten. Recently my friends have complimented me on the healthy yellow and pink sheen my skin has taken. I'm very frightened.

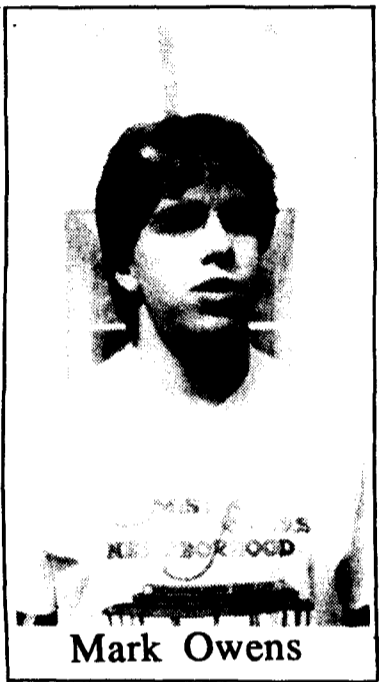
The best way to get over a cold, though, is not to get one at

all so always avoid sick people. This way you not only avoid getting sick, but being thrown underneath a moving train as well.

I say this because sick people, as a general rule, are grouchy. I mean, when was the last time you saw a *cheerful* sick person? Most sick people tend to squat on couches surrounded by Kleenex, sulk, sniffle and make noises usually associated with minor demons. Do yourself a favor and leave them alone. The internal organs you save may be your own.

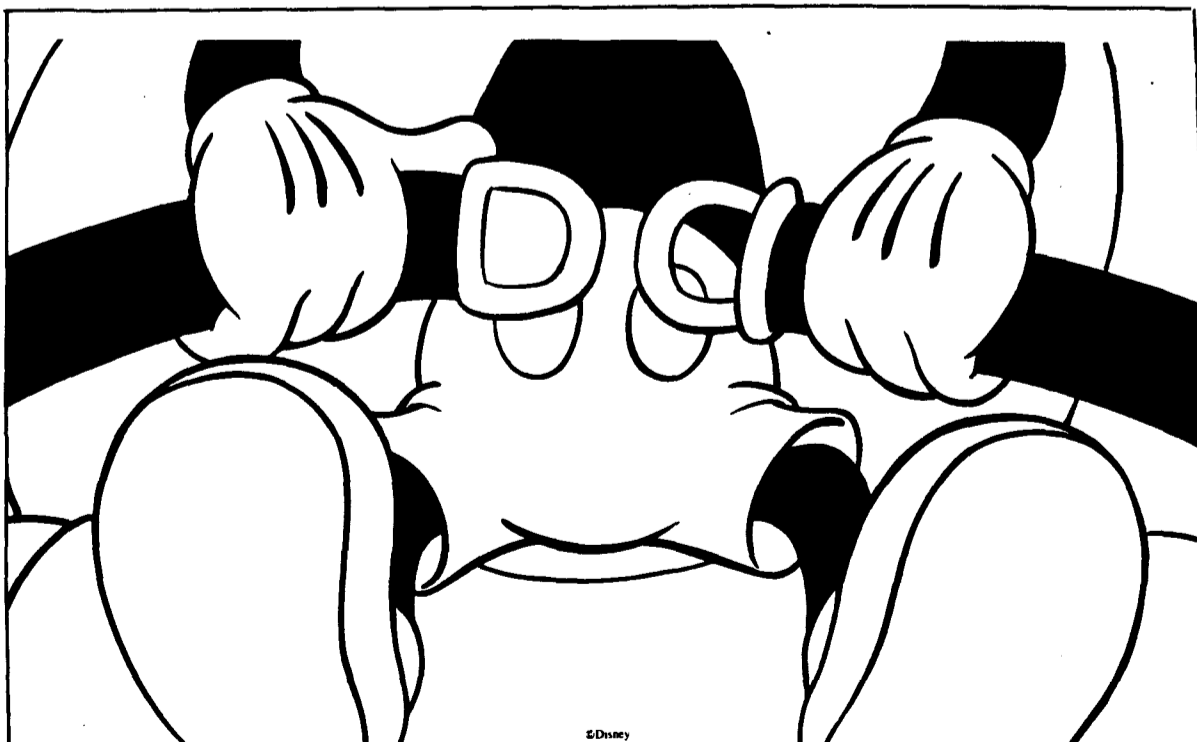
That's the end of my advice for this week. Remember the three key ingredients to recovering from a cold: sleep, isolation and a 21 inch cable-ready color TV with remote control. Have a long and healthy life. *Achoo.*

An Afterthought Department: Ever since last semester when my picture here was called "the Missing Link" I have been on a quest to come up with a decent picture idea and I'd like your help. Outside of getting a new face, send your ideas, suggestions and blond *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue models to *The Collegian* office. No C.O.D.'s please.



Mark Owens

What's going on at Behrend?
If your organization has something planned and you want it mentioned in *Behrend* briefs, write a brief description and bring it to *The Collegian* office.



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