

Nemko says Behrend offers Ivy League education

by Rob Prindle

The bottom line is "Penn State - Behrend does not have a designer label," but if a student is willing to work hard he or she can get an education of the same quality offered by big name schools, and save 70 thousand dollars, by attending a college like Behrend.

That was the message Dr. Martin Nemko, author of "How to get an Ivy League Education at a State University," had to offer last Thursday night.

Nemko, who has been called the Ralph Nader of education, kicked off the Penn State-Behrend 1990-91 Speaker Series, "Shaping the Future: Taking Responsibility in the 1990's."

Nemko's book lists Behrend as one of 115 public colleges with the right ingredients for a "quality undergraduate

experience."

Nemko feels the four key ingredients; good students, quality instruction, ample extracurricular activity, and sufficient opportunity for career and graduate school success, all exist at Behrend.

"Some state schools offer opportunities of leadership, undergraduate research, and one-to-one work with faculty that the more prestigious schools can't," he said.

Nemko, who specializes in evaluation of educational programs, cited large class size, too much pressure on students, and lack of socio-economic diversity as some drawbacks to attending a prestigious school. He also mentioned the growing emphasis placed on graduate, rather than undergraduate, education as a minus.

But Nemko was quick to point out public schools also have disadvantages. He feels that, in an attempt to broaden access, some state colleges have lowered admission standards too far. He

feels too many underprepared students can slow down classes and "turn colleges into remedial high-schools."

According to Nemko, an underprepared student has less than a 20 percent chance of graduating. He believes these students suffer "a non-stop assault to their self esteem" as they continually fall behind in their studies. Nemko also feels that not making students aware of the problems they will face is "educational malpractice."

Nemko, who obtained his own undergraduate degree from New York's Queens College, was inspired to write the book when his daughter neared college age.

The 100 thousand dollar price tag on an Ivy League education made him question the value, but he also wondered if choosing a public college would hurt her in any way.

He compiled the data for his guide book by conducting extensive interviews with members of the faculty, staff and



Audience participation: Dr. Martin Nemko allowed the audience to speak up throughout his presentation last Thursday. photo by Michele Beisler

student body of the schools.

So what should a student do to make the right college choice?

According to Nemko, he should take advantage of all the information his high-school guidance counsellor and college

guide books have to offer.

In addition, he stresses that it is important to make campus visits and to go beyond the simple campus tour because "you wouldn't buy a car without test driving it first."

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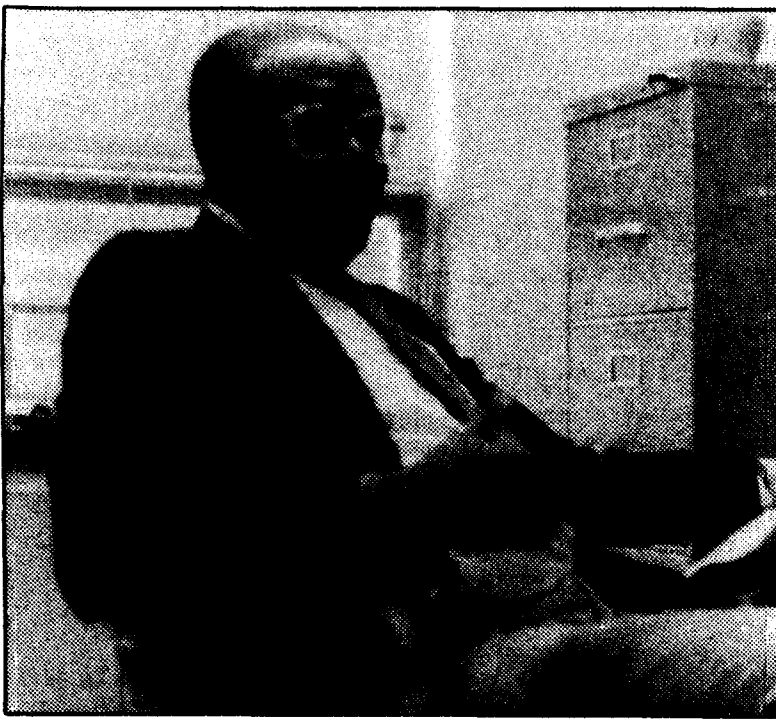
Eva Tucker, professor of geoscience at Behrend and an Erie School Board director, last week suggested Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" should be removed from the supplemental reading list for high school seniors.

Yesterday, however, Tucker restated his position on the issue by saying "Huckleberry Finn" should remain on the reading list, but works by minority writers should also be included to add balance.

He originally based his objection to the novel on the use of demeaning references to blacks, including the use of the word "nigger".

Yesterday, though, Tucker told *The Collegian*, "Maybe my position should have been to add to the list instead of take away. Expand the list to include minority authors."

"Looking at the books on the list, I didn't find any book by a black author. Where's the other view? It hasn't been dealt with adequately," said Tucker.



Defending position: Eva Tucker Jr. shifts his stance on "Huckleberry Finn." photo by Mike Schell

The list in question is a supplemental reading list for advanced placement 12th grade English students. It is up to the teachers to decide which books from this list the students must read.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" are two of the books included in the 12 to 15 which are on the list, according to Tucker.

Tucker said he recognizes that *Huckleberry Finn* is an American classic and has never considered keeping it from the students of

Erie. However, he feels a balance should exist in the reading requirements since minorities comprise 30% of the Erie public school student population.

In a letter published in *The Erie Morning News* yesterday, Tucker said he was concerned as to "whether or not this text was introduced and utilized in its historical context particularly given its derogatory and demeaning treatment of blacks in general and particularly the character of Jim."

"Instead of trying to be more (continued on page 3)

Changes concerning rush week activities

by Mary Zaczek
Collegian Staff Writer

Unlike last year, sororities and fraternities will have to adjust to new changes and regulations concerning rush week activities.

The Interfraternal Council, which governs fraternities, and the Panhellenic Council, which governs sororities, have made some adjustments pertaining to this year's rush week.

One of these adjustments is the "Dry Rush". This means no alcoholic beverages may be consumed at any rush event.

David Shields, Assistant Dean of Student Services, says "if the fraternities and sororities follow these policies, rush week will run smoothly."

Rush week is an opportunity for students to find out information about the fraternities and sororities here on campus. Each organization goes through a sign-up process. Students who are interested in joining a certain fraternity or sorority put their name on a mailing list and are sent information on the fraternity