

A VOICE FROM THE FACULTY

The positive effects of single-stream

ANN QUINN
lecturer in biology

There is not one person on the green planet who wants to spend excessive time with recyclables. Single-stream recycling is making it easier than ever to do your part to help the environment.

The Greener Behrend Club at Behrend collected data over the month of Feb. 2010 to see if signage coupled with encouragement given from RAs increased recycling rates on campus. The club made signs, bulletin boards and updated stickers for recyclable containers.

Behrend has recycling collected by Waste Management (WM). WM began a single-stream collection process which currently comprises 30 percent of their recycling facilities across the United States.

WM Recycle America is focused on making it easier for people to recycle - whether at home or at work. In 2001, WM became the first major solid waste company to focus on residential single-stream recycling, which allows customers

to mix recyclable paper, plastic 1 through 6 and glass in one bin. Residential single-stream programs have greatly increased the recycling rates, recovering as much as three times the amount of recyclable materials.

Single-stream recycling is made possible through the use of various mechanized screens and optical sorting technologies. The issue at Behrend was that, although the program was in place, the recycle bins still told students, faculty and staff

to separate materials. One of the goals of The Greener Behrend Club was to inform everyone on campus that it has been easier than ever to do the right thing. If you haven't noticed the Captain Planet Campaign urging you to recycle, just look for the posters. Also there will be new signs placed on the recycle bins reminding everyone that we have single-stream recycling.

Your empty soda can go in the same bin with your newspaper and your old notes. Even

the staples and paperclips can go in.

The results of the study at two similar college dorms went very well. The comparison took place between Niagara Hall and Lawrence Hall.

During the week of Feb. 8-12 Greener Behrend Students led by Emily Glacken collected and weighed trash versus recycled materials.

The week of Feb. 15-19, the signs and bulletin boards went up. In addition the RAs told to the students about single-stream recycling.

Lastly, during the week of Feb. 22 - 26, trash versus recyclables were again weighed and measured.

The results (see table) were remarkable.

Single-stream is working well at Behrend. It makes it easier for everyone to recycle and make our campus even greener.

If you have any suggestions to improve these efforts, please visit the Greener Behrend website at <http://www.greencampus.psu.edu> and contact us.

Before Single-Stream

Lawrence Hall:
124.2 lbs of Trash
68.2 lbs of Recycling

Niagra Hall:
70.4 lbs of Trash
71.2 lbs of Recycling

After Single-Stream

Lawrence Hall:
63.6 lbs of Trash
135.6 lbs of Recycling

Niagra Hall:
78.6 lbs of Trash
103.8 lbs of Recycling

MY VOICE

The side effects of social networking

Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and Formspring. All of these things have one thing in common. They are all social networking sites. As if you didn't already know!

Parents wonder, "What's all the hype?" Professors ask "Why are grades plummeting?" But us, the social networking generation, love it.

Sitting in class discussing statuses, tweets,

photo tags and comments, anonymous questions being asked about our lives, so and so's relationship status change, and the argument going on about who loves Chris Brown more over Twitter.

"When will it stop?" you may ask. "Never!" would be our response, if we had anything to do with it.

Social networking sites have become an everyday thing for us, and they are definitely a hard habit to beat.

Tweeting, following, poking, and all of that stuff that is just so easy to love, who could just call it quits?

Games, notes, up all night letting the outside world in with questions like "What's on your mind?" Who wouldn't love this?

These sites allow us to express our individuality while still following the crowd, ironic to some, hypocritical to others.

To us it's the way of life, the norm, the thing to do when all other responsibilities are not as fun.

Social networking sites have become the everyday, all night, should be doing but instead I'm messaging, poking, tweeting, tagging, and requesting, way of life for our generation.

Personally, I see no problem with that.



KAMILLE WATSON
staff writer

To be featured in next weeks - Letters to the Editor - Send a 350 word email to opinion@psu.edu

MY VOICE

Need money fast? Follow my guide!

As college students, we need a way to earn some cash. After tuition, food, and other expenses, we're left to be so poor that we're begging homeless people for some spare change.

What if I told you there was a way to change that? What if, by some chance, we could actually walk out of Penn State Behrend with more than a \$100,000 bill to our names? As Barack Obama would say, "yes we can!"

Step 1: Play the lottery. Everyone knows that the odds for winning the lottery are excellent, right? Okay, not so much. That being said, somebody has to win the thing. Why not you? Go to your local store and invest what you have in lottery tickets. That \$200 million jackpot would look awfully nice in your bank account, wouldn't it?

Step 2: Participate in clinical studies. Why not become a human guinea pig? Scientists need a tester for a new shampoo? Volunteer! Someone needs to test a new vaccine? Volunteer! Psychologists want to see the impact of a person living with a tribe of cannibalistic savages? Volunteer! Sure, you might miss out on a few limbs, but you'll have the money, and that's all that matters!

Step 3: Sell your body parts. You only need one kidney to survive, right? Those sell for a couple thousand dollars on the black market. And as a plus for

the ladies, you're sure to lose a few pounds from getting rid of that kidney!

I know for sure that you don't need your appendix. Sure, no one else technically needs one either, but I'm certain someone will shell out a few dollars for it.

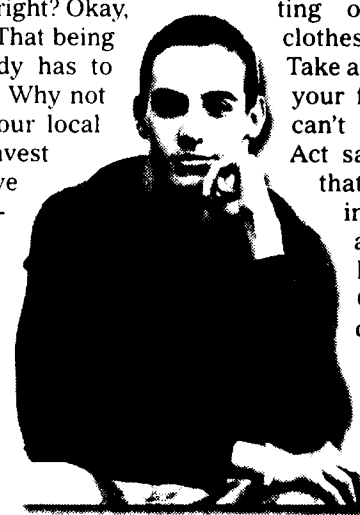
If you're willing to sacrifice an eye, arm, or leg for the glorious green paper, have at it! I'm sure there's a market for those, too.

Step 4: Beg on the streets. I've heard stories of people making bookoo bucks by putting on the crappiest clothes they could find. Take a little dirt, rub it on your face, and say you can't afford to shower. Act sad. Make a sign that will draw people in. Tears are a plus, as are funny signs like "I'm like Obama - I want change."

Step 5: Always help Nigerian Princesses. Now this, my friends, is the holy grail of making money. This gives you the opportunity to be like Mario and save the princess.

It's simple: help a wealthy foreigner move millions of dollars from their homeland, and you get a cut of it. If they ask for your credit card number and Social Security number, don't hesitate to give them it. After all, some of them are doctors. Who would doubt a doctor?

If you don't want to follow through with these steps, there's only one option: get a job. Just kidding. We all know that isn't an option.



BRANDON BOYD
senior writer

Why not become a human guinea pig? Scientists need a tester for a new shampoo? Volunteer! Someone needs to test a new vaccine? Volunteer! Psychologists want to see the impact of a person living with a tribe of cannibalistic savages? Volunteer! Sure, you might miss out on a few limbs, but you'll have the money, and that's all that matters!

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Q

A

WHAT'S FUELING THE MEXICAN DOPE WARS?



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From News Tribune
Cartoonists.com

MISETA SAYS

Krugman slams Krugman?

ED MISETA
lecturer in economics

Everyone has their opinions and the right to voice them. That is probably one of the greatest things America has going for it.

The president can say he favors government-run healthcare. I can say the president is acting like a socialist, and someone else can tell me to shut up. We are free to speak our minds, something that millions of people around the globe cannot.

I enjoy reading all viewpoints, including the ones with which I vehemently disagree.

The funny thing is that the person whose views I find myself constantly at odds with is a fellow economist.

I am speaking about New York Times columnist Paul Krugman. Economists have always had disagreements on policy issues.

All economists will agree that an increase in demand will cause prices to rise, and that countries specializing in what they do best will make us better off.

I may believe consumers should determine demand and that we should trade more,

while Economist B might believe the government should step in to change demand and that we should not trade with countries that have a lower standard of living than us, even if it makes us better off.

Despite these differences, I sometimes will read articles by Krugman and wonder on what economic planet he was born.

Krugman apparently does not like what is currently going on in Washington, D.C. He states in a recent New York Times column that there is an "incredible gap that has opened up between the parties."

He feels Democrats and Republicans now live in different universes. He states, however, that "what Democrats believe is what textbook economics says."

I suppose that means Republican economic beliefs go against textbook economics.

To put this in context, he was discussing Republican Jim Bunning's blocking of a bill to extend unemployment benefits to unemployed Americans.

But is this true? Many would beg to differ. As reported by Opinionjournal.com, when defending Bunning's position, Fellow Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) said unemployment relief "doesn't create new jobs."

"In fact, if anything, continuing to pay people unemployment compensation is a disincentive for them to seek new work."

"To me, that's a bizarre point of view," wrote Krugman, "but then, I don't live in Mr. Kyl's universe." Apparently he also doesn't live in the real world.

In my former job at Corry Publishing, I once interviewed an executive who was lamenting unemployment benefits. This was right after the 2001 recession. His company was growing and needed to hire more employees.

Unfortunately, the government kept extending unemployment benefits, giving Americans an incentive to continue to stay home and collect rather than return to work.

"I have spoken with individuals who are enjoying their time off and are simply not ready to go back to work," he said. "The government is making it harder for us to hire the employees we need."

Perhaps Krugman's problem is that he has spent his entire career behind a lectern and not in a corporate board room. But more to the point, what exactly does textbook economics have to say about this question?

Opinionjournal found the following passage in a textbook titled Macroeconomics: "Public policy designed to help workers who lose their jobs can lead to structural unemployment as an unintended side effect."

"In other countries, particularly in Europe, benefits are more generous and last longer. The draw back to this generosity is that it reduces a worker's incentive to quickly find a new job."

Hmmm... is it just me, or does that sound an awful lot like the bizarre, other-worldly Republican point of view? This seems to completely contradict the Krugman point of view.

Now I know what you're thinking: This might be an example of economists disagreeing on a policy issue. Except, as it turns out, it is Krugman disagreeing with Krugman on a policy issue.

The authors of the book cited by Opinionjournal are Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (aka Mrs. Paul Krugman). This then makes you wonder if Krugman is an economist trying to educate his readers, or a political hack just trying to score points for his big government point-of-view.

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