



Editorial...

Death over a Starter jacket? In the streets of L.A., kids kill each other for their shoes. Here in Erie, a youth was held at gunpoint and was told to give up his jacket. What motivation drives a person to commit theft?

The ability to get something for nothing is the ability to steal. While this may seem practically correct, in that it is more efficient this way, ethically it is incorrect.

If everyone thought the way that the thief does, then there would not be anyone to steal from. No one would honestly earn their possessions, and there would be anarchy. The breakdown of society would ensue after the loss of these standards.

Think about who theft really hurts. The cost to a store to replace one stolen item requires selling several of the same item. Most of the time, however, the stores choose rather to raise the prices on the customers, therefore causing inflation of prices. Everybody loses, including the thief.

The thief represents chaos. The honest worker portrays social order. Although everyone has stolen something, and the thrill of stealing can be tempting, theft is wrong and should not be considered an option to gaining a possession. Besides, it's illegal.

Letters to the Editor

We would like to state for the record that Delta Chi is not the only Greek organization to receive front page recognition in *The Collegian* (could this have nothing to do with the fact that one of the co-editors is a Delta Chi?). For instance, in the October 15, issue of *The Collegian*, the blood drive was on the front page and that is sponsored in part by the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. *The Collegian* is put together by a staff of people, not Mr. Cissne alone. Just as Matt cannot take all of the credit for *The Collegian's* work, he cannot take all of the blame. Although we agree that the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and the Mr. Penn State-Behrend pageant should have been covered, it is hardly fair to lay all of the blame on Matt Cissne. After all, last semester he was the sports editor and had no control over the layout of *The Collegian*, and this semester he is co-editor and not solely in charge of the paper's layout. To say that *The Collegian* is biased

to the Delta Chi fraternity is to accuse the entire staff of being biased, not just Mr. Cissne.  
Robin Clement &  
Jennifer Davis  
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In last Thursday's issue of *The Collegian*, Miss Leah Daw of Alpha Sigma Alpha expressed her displeasure at *The Collegian* for not covering the Mr. Penn State - Behrend Contest. She also accused a co-editor of biased journalism, listing extensive front page coverage of the philanthropic events of the other members of the Greek system, especially Delta Chi. This is perhaps the most flawed letter to the editor I have read in my four years of college.

First, a pageant in which dressed-up guys walk across the stage and spew forth fabricated answers to inane and loaded questions is not a philanthropic event worthy of front page coverage.

Second, I defy Miss Daw to

show one single issue of *The Collegian* in which any member of the Greek system receives front page coverage for their philanthropy. I have been a Greek for four years now and the whole system has had to battle *Collegian* editors for coverage of worthwhile community events.

While the pageant is a worthwhile event deserving of publicity, it is not philanthropic. The Tau Kappa Epsilon Barrel Role, Zeta Beta Tau Walk to Pittsburgh, Delta Phi Epsilon Blood Drive (with Tau Kappa Epsilon), Sigma Tau Gamma's Adopt-A-Highway, and Delta Chi's Bowl-A-Thon are all philanthropic. They require time and hard work by the members in order to be successful, and none have gotten the coverage they deserve.

Miss Daw, in closing I have a bit of advice: If you wish to get coverage for a worthy philanthropic event, you are first obligated to do a worthy philanthropic event.

Don Alpern  
President Delta Chi

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From the Hip

Alright here it goes. I'm throwing every piece of professionalism and every journalistic ethic I was ever taught right out the window. But I guess extreme circumstances call for extreme measures.

This week there is yet another opinion column printed on racism at Behrend. For the record I would like to state that the *Collegian's* editorial staff is NOT racist and finds offense in anyone who states so.

So what do we do when presented with an article that's theme seems to imply that every white person on this campus is a power hungry racist Nazi? Well, you're reading it. Words are our only defense.

When I was presented with the article "Wake up!", I immediately ran to the phone. If all these allegations were true, someone certainly had a few questions to answer. The further I investigated, I found certain things just didn't measure up.

O.K. There might have been an instance that the word 'nigger' might have been scrawled on a RA's marker board. Considering the RA was Hispanic, it certainly showed the ignorance of the guilty party, doesn't it?

The word 'nigger' being slipped out during MLK celebration: Is it too unreasonable to assume that in a room full of black students and advisors that more than one person (other than the author of the article) would have heard such a crucial slip?

The word 'colored' being used. Considering Gerald Spates referred to this slip last week in an article in the *Collegian*, and didn't find it derogatory-- can't we all take it as chance to educate those who don't know what is politically correct?

When the authors were presented with the question of where they got their information about Ms. Wiley not being allowed to write about blacks in the entertainment industry, their editor was told that they had 'overheard' a conversation. 'Overheard'--somehow that doesn't constitute quotable material to me. Didn't it ever occur to them that this is a college newspaper and the articles are to be focused just there--the campus? In addition, the entertainment editor was stressing that he didn't want racially biased material in the his section, not issues ABOUT race.

The bookstore--well, this is an issue in itself. When I first came across these allegations I was appalled. I immediately picked up the phone and called Larry Silvis from Police and Safety. I mean, if this happened, something seriously needed to be done about it. Well, after an hour and a half of phone calls with Mr. Silvis--he had called all his officers in to discuss it with him--I found that the person implicated in the allegations had never worked in the bookstore. To top it off, our news editor stated that he too had been asked to remove his sweatshirt jacket as well. Why weren't these loose ends investigated?

I admire the efforts of the black students that went to North East. Ms. Proctor and Ms. Usman are right that education is the only key. But, keep in mind, education goes both ways. Education goes a lot further than who did what, when, where, and how. Education encompasses open-mindedness, reasoning, and knowledge.

Behrend is a small college. If racism is here, it is a lot less than in the 'real world.' In the 'real world', people are being beaten and murdered over racial issues. So, go ahead, EDUCATE DON'T IMPLICATE!!!! Maybe if we start now, we will have our students entering the 'real world' with a new attitude about race relations. We are willing to listen and be educated about your culture, if you are willing to throw away your false accusations and start with a clean slate. We are willing--are you?

--Danette Parrott  
Features Editor