

Letter to the editor

To all students:

Do you ever wonder if college is a place of education or of textbook learning? What I mean is, education is learning from either a textbook or a new experience; not just textbooks.

I recently became educated in Behrend's practices of education. I attended Behrend for two years before I transferred to U.P. and always enjoyed the diverse programming Behrend allowed each organization. What I am referring to is an incident the first day of orientation. For those who do not know what I am talking about let me explain:

The night before orientation, past and present students who attended Behrend created chalk drawings/messages on the ground. These messages were not crude or vulgar, but displayed the diversity of the Behrend campus.

The next morning when the group hoped the incoming freshmen/transfers would view their messages of diversity, no messages were to be found. It was decided by the administration of the campus to remove the chalk drawing because they wished the campus to be "perfect" for all incoming students.

Also, an organization on campus was immediately blamed for something they didn't do or knew nothing about and the act was reduced to "vandalism."

I personally know the students who tried to convey

their message to those who never saw it. I now know about PSU's rule that chalk drawings without permission are unacceptable.

Unfortunately I have to question the wisdom of the University: If you wanted orientation to be "perfect," why doesn't the University let every organization put chalk drawings on the pavement?

Penn State is not a place to close your mind to diversity or a different culture but to explore them. In doing so, students either accept or reject difference, but at least the knowledge of diversity on Behrend campus exists.

It is truly a shame when students cannot express their pride in the Behrend campus diversity.

The question now is if the group of students asked permission to color the rainbow flag on campus for orientation, would they be given permission?

I really don't think so. Behrend's "perfection" takes precedence over diversity.

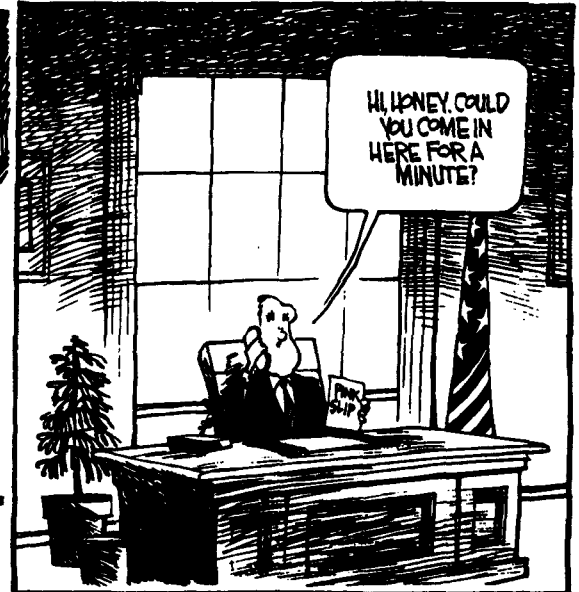
I just hope in the future that anyone who tries to get a message across will talk to the administration about chalk drawing or other means, or you may just be buried by PSU bureaucracy.

Pamela M. Leins
University Park
5th semester
Human Development and Family Services



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The Behrend College Collegian

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Co-Editors
Matthew D. Cisne
Alicia Hartman

Business & Advertising Manager
Iris Spinler

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