

### Letter to the editor

#### Moderation of Behrend Policies

I feel a need to get this off of my chest in an open forum, such as the *Collegian*, because I believe it is the feelings of not just myself, but many students on Behrend. I'm withholding my name because of the political structure of this campus. It is this fear that many students do not speak.

In my sophomore year of high school, two of my best friends were in a car, both at the age of 15, one was killed by a drunk driver. The drunk driver was the older of the two. He had just gotten his driver's permit and figured he'd test his newly learned motor skills while intoxicated. So, basically, best friend kills best friend, pays \$3500, goes on probation for three years, can't drive until he's 21, and the words "alcohol related" are never heard by anyone.

I never blamed him for the accident, not because he was an underage driver, but it could have been easily the other way around. I still don't blame him, but when I see him drink and drive, it really pisses me off. Actually, everyone of my friends that were close with them drinks and drives, some more than others, including me-or, at least, I used to. I don't have a license anymore. The judge thought it was a very nice picture of me, so he asked to borrow it for a year, this time.

Here, on Behrend Campus, I am against the way alcohol related issues are handled. Like everything else in the Behrend utopia, alcohol doesn't exist. It is hidden, just like the dumpsters encased with thousands of dollars of camouflage, the hundred pounds of pot, and the full parking lots. Personally, I'm scared to walk out of any building on campus with a pop can in my hand because I don't feel like going through the hassle with the rent-a-cops about whether it's pop or alcohol.

PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS DRINK IN COLLEGE-it's a known fact-whether Behrend wants to believe it or not. A lot of people on this campus are scared to drink because they don't want to lose their license or receive ridiculous fines. So for some, it makes them not drink-yeah, Behrend, your policies work-for others, it makes them drink carefully-shh, keep the door closed-for most, it makes caravans of cars drive off campus to bars, fraternities, private parties, and the other local colleges.

Instead of dealing with it realistically, Behrend deals with it politically. But of course, it's much easier to sit and wait for drunk people to come home, pat them on the back and say, "Congratulations, you made it home drunk without crashing, here's a citation and fine" or follow people when they're coming back from a party, hoping they don't crash so some judge in the whopping town Wesleyville can buy a new pair of shoes.

Even better, let's have one of my best friends get raped at another college because she stayed in an apartment with people she didn't know because she was scared to ride back to Behrend and to get an underage drinking citation for trying to walk to her apartment safely.

Open your parking ticket giving eyes Behrend-we have garbage, we have pot-we don't have parking-we have a pool with radioactive waste growing in it, but most of all we have a problem with alcohol. I think it's time to use a little less money on how to teach Police and Safety proper gestapo tactics and a little more money on endorsing Sue Daley's Moderation Management. Our campus could use it.

Name withheld by request

## Hot Topic: Sharon Faulkner *Discrimination in the nineties*

Segregation is again making an ugly appearance in America, thirty-one years after the Supreme Court found racial segregation to be unconstitutional. But the version for the nineties is based on gender, not race.

The Citadel, the all-male, state-funded military college in South Carolina, is once again attempting to derail efforts to make the college co-ed. The Citadel is planning to institute a military program for women at Converse College, an all-female, private school in Spartansburg, SC. This program will cost South Carolina taxpayers and The Citadel \$10 million, but would allow The Citadel to legally divert female applicants away from The Citadel. But the program would lack both the discipline and prestige of The Citadel. The alternative program will in no way duplicate The Citadel and lacks many course options offered at The Citadel.

### *The Justices were referring to racial discrimination, but this can also be applied to sexual discrimination.*

The courts have already decided that after a two and half year court battle, The Citadel must allow women to enroll. Shannon Faulkner had been accepted based solely on her application, until school administrators realized she was a woman. Unfortunately, Faulkner dropped out of The Citadel during "hell week." (Twenty-nine male cadets also dropped out but were not under the scrutiny of the media). Now The Citadel is attempting to have the case thrown out to revert to the all-male way of education.

Now, if based on her application, a woman can be accepted into a school, why should her gender keep her from attending? Essentially a state-funded school, The Citadel is not a private institution. With the instituting of an alternative program, The Citadel is creating a gender version of the racially segregated schools and facilities found in America before "Brown v. The Board of Education." The Supreme Court ruling in that case said that separate facilities are "inherently unequal." The Justices were referring to racial discrimination, but this can also be applied to sexual discrimination.

Before the "Brown" decision, public schools were racially segregated. The schools were supposedly "equal but separate." This way African Americans would be forced to attend "black" schools while the whites attended the "white" schools. Isn't this what The Citadel has created, on the basis of gender?

With the Supreme Court ruling that separate facilities are "inherently unequal," the program at Converse College is unconstitutional. The Citadel can not be duplicated and there is no reason for women not to be allowed to attend. Afterall, Faulkner's application was good enough before they found out she was a woman.

--Danielle Murphy  
News Editor

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