

# To the Editor:

Dear Collegian Editor:

I am currently a senior English major here at Behrend. Being that my major is focused in Creative Writing, I was required to attend the Carolyn Forche poetry reading held in the Reed Lecture Hall on October 24th. As an English major, it is fair to say that I have attended more than your average share of poetry readings (both on and off Behrend campus), and felt that Forche's performance was by far the best I have ever seen. And I was curious to find out what others thought.

To my dismay, I opened that week's *Collegian* to find that absolutely nothing had been printed about this event. Even more curious than before, I inquired at the Collegian office as to why the event had not been covered. The response I received came as somewhat of a shock to me. Basically, I was told that the Collegian did not run an article on this event because it took place before the deadline for articles.

At the time I inquired, I was in a hurry and did not have an opportunity to actually think about this excuse until I sat down to do my homework later that night. It was at this point that I did a double take and thought what is wrong with this picture? So, once again, I examined Thursday's addition of the *Collegian* and discovered that there were five stories covering sporting events that had also occurred before the deadline for articles.

Now that I had completely discredited the excuse offered to me as to why an article was not run, I tried to compose other possible reasons for its exclusion. The only thing I could think of was perhaps that the *Collegian* staff felt a poetry reading was not a newsworthy event. So, the true English major that I am, I headed straight for the dictionary and looked up the word *news*. According to the third edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary*, the word *news* is defined as "information about recent events." Then I looked up the word *newsworthy* and found it to be defined as anything "interesting or important enough to warrant news coverage."

Carolyn Forche won the *Yale Younger* poetry award for her first collection of poetry, *Gathering the Tribe*. Her second poetry collection received the *Lamont* poetry selection for 1981. And her newest book of poetry, *The Angel of History*, is being compared by critics to T.S. Elliot's *The Waste Land*. (For those of you who do not know, *The Waste Land* is considered to be one of the most important works of poetry produced in the 20th Century.)

I suppose it is possible, being that I am both an English major and a poet, that I am slightly biased towards this subject matter. However, it seems to me, that the arrival of a poet of this magnitude on Behrend campus is just as newsworthy, if not more so, than whether or not the girls volleyball team won their match.

Personally, I suspect that the reason an article was not run is because of apathy on the part of the *Collegian* staff. And, in fact, I can empathize with this. I know that I, personally, would not want to cover a seminar in which the speaker would be covering the genealogical history of Henry VIII's third wife. However, if this is the case, I know at least a dozen English majors who would be more than willing to write something up for your paper and save your staff the monotonous boredom of sitting through something they would not enjoy. All you have to do is ask.

So, please, in the future, try to include articles covering events of this nature. It is not fair to exclude even the smallest portion of your audience simply because you may not appreciate the subject material being discussed.

Sincerely,  
Amy Jo Huffman

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**Photographers:** Dave Boulos, Coleen Gritzen, Bob Misulich, Chris Nelson, Dan Nowicki.

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