

# The Neighbors

by Sharain Sasheir  
collegian staff

As we progress towards the end of Spring Semester 1996, as our ulcers and eyes burn nervously, as we turn in our final papers and perform our final presentations, let us not forget our neighbors. They are probably feeling the same crunching stress that you have been feeling. Since everyone's schedules are different, stress time occurs during different hours during different days. Let us all remember that. Each one of us needs to be considerate of our neighbors needs.

As a Resident Assistant, I have noticed that near the end of semesters, and especially at the end of spring, some people on campus get so stressed out that they become more irritable, depressed, destructive, and/or too enthusiastic by throwing big parties. Whether you are graduating, transferring, or just leaving for the summer vacation, the end of a semester is hard time. You find yourself trying desperately to complete our work while saying goodbye to friends. It's great to get done, but it's not easy. I hope that you make it through the last week smoothly. If you are getting to the breaking point, make time to relieve your stress in a healthy way, please. Let's end this one safely.

# Call to Knowledge

To the Editors:

As a member of the Behrend college community, I strongly support SGA Senator Michael Zampetti's call to end Invocation and Benediction remarks by local clergy in our graduation and convocation ceremonies. I have in the past expressed this opinion to our administration, and I repeat it here. Having almost literally grown up in church, I used to be comfortable with the inherent contradictions presented by this anachronistic mix of church and state. I no longer am.

Invocations of or thanks to God the Father by Christian clergy are insulting -- to many women, many nontheists and atheists, Jews, even many Christians. Admonitions to be politically correct in how one speaks of God will not do the trick any more, either -- religious overtones in the rituals of secular educational gatherings are by their nature theistic, and in a Christian culture, they evoke a single and identifiable Power. We know His Face. We know His name. Robing Him in p.c. garb won't help.

It's ironic to teach women's studies, which inevitably critiques the patriarchal aspects of Christianity, and then sit silently while a male priest invokes God the Father, accentuating divinity's paternalistic history for college students at a partially "public" and certainly non-parochial institution of higher education. Nor would I find it acceptable to receive this message from a female minister or representative of that tradition.

I hope our administration reconsiders this outdated, vestigial aspect of our ceremonies. Our students, faculty, staff and administrators can worship in church, in their homes, and here, too, in their reading and writing and speaking on the walkways of this campus -- it's called free speech -- but not as a mandated part of an educational institution's rites of passage. The Invocation should be to learning. We need a Call to Knowledge, not to Worship.

Dr. Diana Hume George  
Professor of English and Women's Studies

# No report card?

Dear Editor and Behrend Community,

This is not a test of the 1-800 number used to obtain your grades - this semester and in the future it will be the ONLY way to obtain your grades if you cannot travel to a Penn State campus after the conclusion of the semester.

The registrar's office at University Park has decided for some reason (probably money) that students do not need grade reports sent home.

How will this affect you?

Don't think too hard. First, having a grade report sent home gives you an official copy of your grades. This might come in handy when you need proof that you are going to school for things such as loans, health care and scholarships. How much time do you have between jobs to go and get a printed copy of your transcript? If that printed copy is not official enough, you will have to order an Official Transcript: Four dollars.

Second, how many advertisement do we have to listen to? Every time you call the 1-800 number, you must listen to 30 seconds of advertisements. This pays for the 1-800 number and saves the school money.

If you're curious how much it costs to send our grade reports, Penn State figures \$.50 per student (that's \$35,000 for 70,000 students). Isn't Penn State's budget in the billions?

Let's also remember back to last semester when many of us tried (for fun) the 1-800 number - it didn't work for me.

There are a few points to bring up: First, from what has been said, this is a University Park decision. UP is trying to cut their budget and not the Finance's budget (The Finance office sends home our semester bills). Second, the Registrar's Office at Behrend did not help in this

decision, so don't go yelling to them.

However, there are things you can do. For starters, fill out the card that was in your mailbox Tuesday, or the copy that is below. Just cut out the card, sign it and drop in the on-campus mail drop at the mail room.

They will be sent to James Wager, the University Registrar.

Second, take time and write a letter to Mr. Wager. His mailing address is 114 Shields Building, University Park, PA 16802 (his email address is jjw1@registrar.psu.edu).

There is also other useful address information that you can find on the computers (Gopher for example) at school; this might be a good time to figure them out.

The third you can do is sign a petition that students have around campus.

Cards, petitions and information are also available at the RUB Desk.

This is paid for by the Lambda Sigma Sophomore Honor Society.

You might be very busy this time of year, and it is probably with last minute papers and test, but take a couple of minutes and fill out a card, sign a petition and write a letter - because if you don't, all of the hard work that you are doing now and throughout the semester will just be a voice over a phone or memory on a computer, and not a piece of paper in your hand.

Don Black  
04 EE

Dear Mr. Wager:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am now \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME  
attending Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. I am a \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER  
semester student majoring in \_\_\_\_\_ I  
MAJOR  
understand that the registrar's office will no longer be sending  
home grade reports. I am very disappointed in Penn State for this  
decision. The grade report is the most important document sent to  
our homes, and I would like to have an official printed copy  
mailed to my house at no extra cost to me.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGN & DATE

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