

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SGA leaders' posture sets poor example

Dearest editor,

While perusing a recent edition of our Behrend College Collegian, I was shocked to discover a glaring inadequacy in the leadership of our Student Government. This shortcoming is not political in nature, nor does it involve a mismanagement of funds, rather, it falls clearly within the domain of etiquette. To further preface my remarks, I should like to state that I am fully aware of the fact that we attend school in a depressingly bucolic and decidedly middle class environment. But one can only concede so much to one's surroundings. We cannot allow our social consciousness to plummet to the low level of those native inhabitants that live and work around us. If we were to visit a Brazilian tribal culture would we parade about in loincloths?

I feel that I am justified in expressing, without a hint of trepidation, my utter mortification regarding the appalling manner in which our SGA president and vice president chose to position their arms and hands in the picture on page one of the February twelfth issue. They are shown talking with the campus Director of Student Operations, and have blatantly brushed aside the most basic rule of civil, courteous conversation! It is not my intention to belittle our leaders; I am merely offering, with as much grace as the situation allows, advice and counseling in relation to the proper positioning and placement of hands and arms during social interaction. It is the duty of every student to adhere to socially acceptable methods

of communication, and this is doubly true of our elected officials—those that represent us on campus and abroad.

I hardly believe that I am the only student distressed to find out SGA leader on the front page of the newspaper, locked in discussion with director Ream, with one hand thrust severely into his presidential pocket! And what of our vice president? Thumbs shoved into both pockets as if he were striding toward a mechanical bull in a rodeo bar! Perhaps the most disturbing effect of this posturing is that their slovenliness seems to have infected the Director of Operations as well! In fact I shall begin my summary of Do Nots with his faux pas.

Do not-

lock hands in front of your body while speaking to someone. This frontal position should only be used while defending against a direct kick in a soccer match, and may be disregarded if you have equipped yourself with a protective athletic supporter.

Do not-

clasp hands behind your back. This position is commonly referred to as the "museum browser" and should always be avoided, as it tends to make your partner in discussion feel as if he is on display at the Guggenheim.

Do not-

place your hands in pockets. You must always be free to gesticulate (though over-animation is also inadvisable) and this can be difficult if hands have been pocketed, especially when tight pants are concerned. And

of course, the temptation to fiddle about with loose change or money clips poses the constant hazard of further distracting your partner.

Do not-

cross your arms over your chest. No conversation can survive overt defensiveness. Recall the undiplomatic results of Sitting Bull's conferences.

Do not-

insert thumbs in belt loops or pockets or waistlines, even in Texas. If you do, you might just as well spit tobacco and elbow jokingly at your partner's abdomen. He will be equally offended.

There is no mystery to the proper

placement of hands during conversation. Your arms should simply hang loosely and casually at you sides, balanced with erect back and shoulder posture, so as not to appear apish. The best way to master this stance is to practice it in front of a mirror until it looks and feels natural.

I hope that these observations will prove beneficial in the public lives of our elected leaders, as well as in the day to day conversations of every Behrend student.

In defense of civilization,
Addison Osgood
02 Art History

More Community Blood Blank coverage needed

Dear Editor,

I am writing to complain about the changes that I have noticed in this year's Collision. I have noticed that instead of covering the really pressing issues, such as the semiannual visit of the Community Blood Blank, the Collision tends to write about trivial matters like the Student Activity Fee and Student Government. I feel that it is extremely important to learn about the heart of our community, the blood blank. By ignoring this, the Collision is ignoring the true spirit of Behrend and blood blank pride.

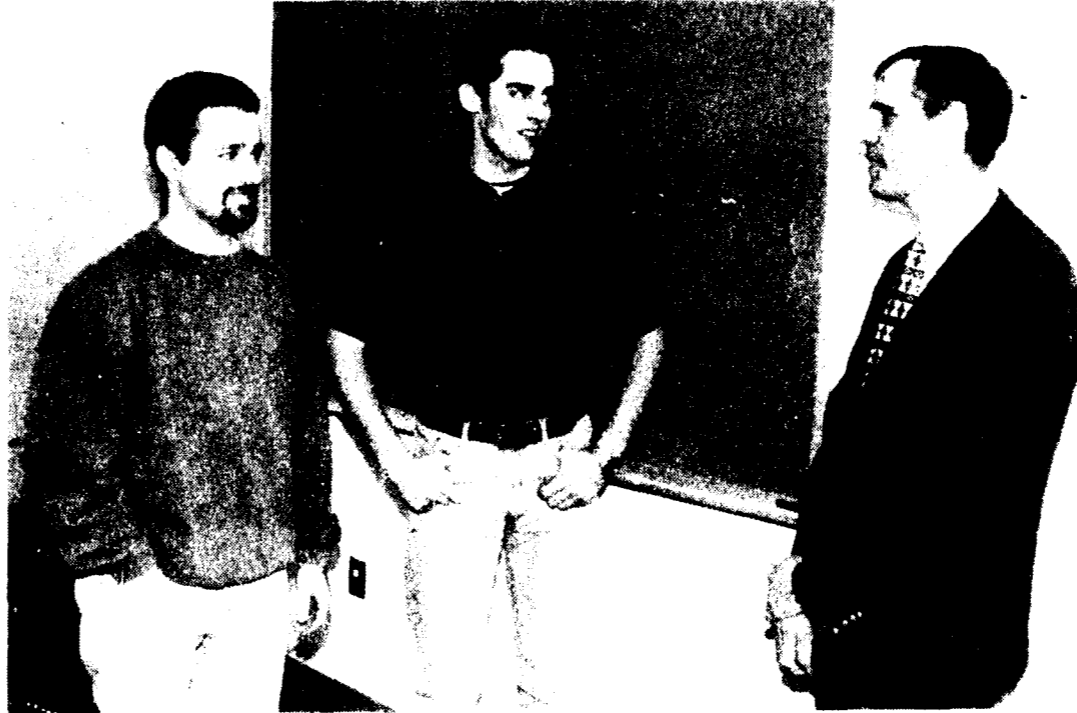
Also, I would like to comment

about layout. Last year, when the staff had space to fill, they were creative and found delightful pictures of dinosaurs and checkerboards. Now, all I see are ads, like it was a real newspaper or something.

However, I really feel that the heart and soul of the paper has been destroyed with the changes in the editorial page. Where are the student editorials on hot issues like spit sucks? Why would I care how the school spends my tuition money? The real problem on this campus is that a student can't walk down the sidewalk with our being confronted by a hocker. We students have to confront these issues! Apparently our newspaper feels that spit isn't worthy of the editorial page.

I, personally, would like to see the paper go back to the way it was last year. I feel that I am missing what really goes on at this campus with the lack of blood blank coverage. I used to be secure in the knowledge that there would be a blood blank story in almost every issue, and usually on the front page. Now all I can find is a tiny article buried on page two once a semester. I hold the Collision personally responsible for the shortage of blood in Erie County. Who knows what the blood blank could have accomplished with the support of the Collision? I encourage all students stand up for their right to more blood blank coverage. By the way, the blood blank is sponsored by Tau Kappa Epsilon and Theta Phi Alpha.

Sincerely,
Mick B. Santa
04 Home Economics



From left to right: SGA President Michael Zampetti, SGA Vice President Timothy Smith and Director of Operations John Ream

Let's do the Twist

Gum chewing sucks!

What I have to say is important and should reach everyone possible. There is a sickening maniacal handcap plaguing the students of our noble college. I am of course referring to those students who insist on chewing their gum like absolute slob!!! You know who you are! This is no joke. Every day, in every class honorable, moral, hard working students are forced to sit beside these cows and listen to their nauseating gum smacking feverishly between their thoughtless slimy lips. It's enough to make

any decent person cringe with disgust. I mean who on earth do these people think they are anyway! Smack, smack, smack, and don't forget the occasional bubble popping right while the professor is making a key point in his or her lecture.

Penn State should make regulations against this sort of thing. Don't they want their students to learn??? What sort of a credible institution doesn't want their students to learn anything at the cost of offending a few simpletons who seem to think the world is

more preoccupied with them than anything else?

You see students of Behrend, we don't need to be subject to such putrescence, this is not the way the world works! Do you honestly assume that these people will be given jobs if they show up to interviews sporting a giant wad of goo in their mouth! No, because any decent employer would know that they didn't belong in any sort of job setting. Just as they don't belong at Penn State University. I mean, aren't there community colleges for these inconsiderate people (if you can even call them people!!)

Let's do the Twist appears every three weeks in The Collision.

KENNETH TWISTER



Winter returns to the gorge: Forecasters are predicting upwards of three feet of snow for this weekend. Bundle up!

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animal trainers, and bad lounge singers*

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