

The Behrend College Collegian

published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

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EDITORIAL

\$20 million will benefit all students

The Behrend College is growing at an incredible rate. Probably the biggest push the college has received since the donation of the 400 acres of the Glenhill Farm land fifty years ago is the twenty million dollars anonymously donated to the School of Business last Wednesday. The fact that the money will be used as scholarships to attract the best students possible will say a lot for the credibility of the Behrend College in future years.

The \$3 million that will be going to the library will be a benefit to all Behrend students and is something the College needs immensely. Students who now are undertaking research projects are often better off using resources from outside libraries or ordering books in advance from University Park's library. This can be a terrible inconvenience to a student working under a deadline. It is hoped that the donation money pledged to this

area of the school will take away from these setbacks.

Not only will the money help Behrend with the business program and the library, but recognition of the College has grown as well. The \$20 million is the third largest award ever received by any of the Penn State campuses, including University Park. This raises the level of attention people normally give to the College. It helps Behrend earn recognition as an institution not so much apart from University Park, but helps to lift it to a standard of equality.

Behrend is a college worthy of respect and validation and this \$20 million donation reflects that. The improvements to the business school are hopefully the beginning of expansion throughout the entire College and all its departments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Former student cites violations of Americans with Disabilities Act

Dear Editor,

I am quoting the following legal requirements concerning the Facilities at Penn-State Behrend as strictly required by Titles 18, 28, 29, and 42 U.S. Code:

(a) The entire facilities observed as a whole are required to be safe, readily accessible, and usable for disabled individuals; especially (1) All Sidewalks/ Pathways between the following listed buildings, (2) All Academic Buildings, (3) All Administrative-Business Buildings, and (4) Disabled Student Residence Buildings; and (b) All buildings and areas utilized for Programmatic Access of any kind must be safe, readily accessible, and usable.

2. No later than 25 June 1998, in addition to any U.S. Federal Torts Claims and Discrimination Actions, I will without a doubt file instantaneous felony violations against any individual, entity, or contractor associated or contributing in any way to Penn-State Behrend or Pennsylvania State University, that is specifically violating my Civil Rights on the above listed issues and strictly prohibited by Sections 241, 242, and 245 of Title 18 U.S. Code. Further I will file a motion in U.S. Federal District Court to "BAR ALL U.S. FEDERAL FUNDING" to Pennsylvania State University until 1 January 1999 and for each semester thereafter until they entirely-absolutely-comply with the requirements of ADA/504. I will not mince words any further on Pennsylvania State Universities obligations and compliance under ADA/504

3. Thank you!
Very truly and respectfully yours,
JOHN M. EMERSON
(SEVERELY QUADRIPLÉGIC, SEVERELY DISABLED INDIVIDUAL, AND PROTECTED CLASS CITIZEN/STUDENT)

Student addresses disruptions in class

Dear Editor,

I am an adult student and have been attending Behrend for eight years part time working toward a degree in communications. I own my own business, so I've juggled classes and customers through the years. I have had professors that are superlative and even the adjunct professors brought for special classes are among the best. I cannot speak highly enough about Professor Kathryn Wolfe who made a dream of learning French and knowing Paris a reality! I have enormous respect for the quality of education I have received from Behrend's professors.

This semester I have witnessed a problem that is tasteless, and rude and an insult to the caliber of the Penn State professorship. In Dr. Barbara White's course Music 5 - Introduction to Western Music, and Dr. Antonella Cupillari's course - Math 36, I have been embarrassed by the lack of respect given to these professors. The students, and sadly, it appears to have everything to do with the caliber of

the student, are rude and have no qualms about talking out loud during a lecture. There isn't even the courtesy to whisper. It is appalling that a college professor should have to tolerate for even one second this type of behavior. Not only is it a disregard to the professor, but the other students who are there to get something out of the class!

There should be some policy that a student is aware, from the minute they enter the classroom and the class begins, that there is a consequence to this rudeness. Dr. Cupillari is addressing it by having an apology signed by the student's advisor. I think this is a step in the right direction, but this should be a policy that is prefaced on every syllabus at the beginning of the semester

It is a shame that these students are coming into college with no knowledge of common courtesy.

Respectfully,
Diane Esser Michael
Communications Student

Recently, there has been a huge outbreak of complaints about lack of student involvement here at Behrend. Nowhere has more of this taken place than in recent issues of this paper.

Is it true, what they say? Are students really just indifferent to what goes on around them? Are we like, as SGA president Mike Zampetti said, "mindless sheep?" Without question, student participation on campus is low. What needs to be examined is why this is the case.

There are several unfortunate problems with being actively involved. While it would be great if each organization could have a one hundred percent turnout rate for each of their various functions, this is real life, which means it's not about to happen. The fact of the matter is that widespread participation will never be a reality - not here at Behrend, not in our country as a whole, or anywhere else. This is true at Behrend for a variety of reasons.

One reason is so obvious it's often overlooked: Behrend is not everyone's life. Many students, myself included, live off campus. Some students just go to their classes, then go home. I see nothing wrong with that. They have families, jobs, and activities outside and independent of the University. They can't be expected to attend everything, not when many organizations are geared to or convenient for only resident students. I know I personally am not about to request off a Wednesday night - one of the only nights I can work - to attend a SGA meeting. Does that mean I don't care?

In the last couple of weeks, Zampetti has used The Collegian as a forum to rant about just that - that no one cares here. Many do care, but simply just don't have the time to do anything. College students on the whole are extremely busy, which Zampetti should be aware of. That's why we elect representatives like

The Other Side

RAY MORELLI

Lack of student participation not necessarily apathy

Zampetti in the first place - to represent us. Why do we need representing? Because we're unable to participate ourselves! His very description implies that he works in our absence. Consequently, it's upsetting to hear Zampetti continuously complain about doing his job.

The other notable complaint of supposed student apathy was in the March 19th Collegian, in a front page article, "Lack of student support affecting campus organizations." In short, the article detailed the difficulties various organizations operating under the Multi-Cultural Council have had with student participation. The purpose of the MCC is, essentially, to represent minority groups here at Behrend.

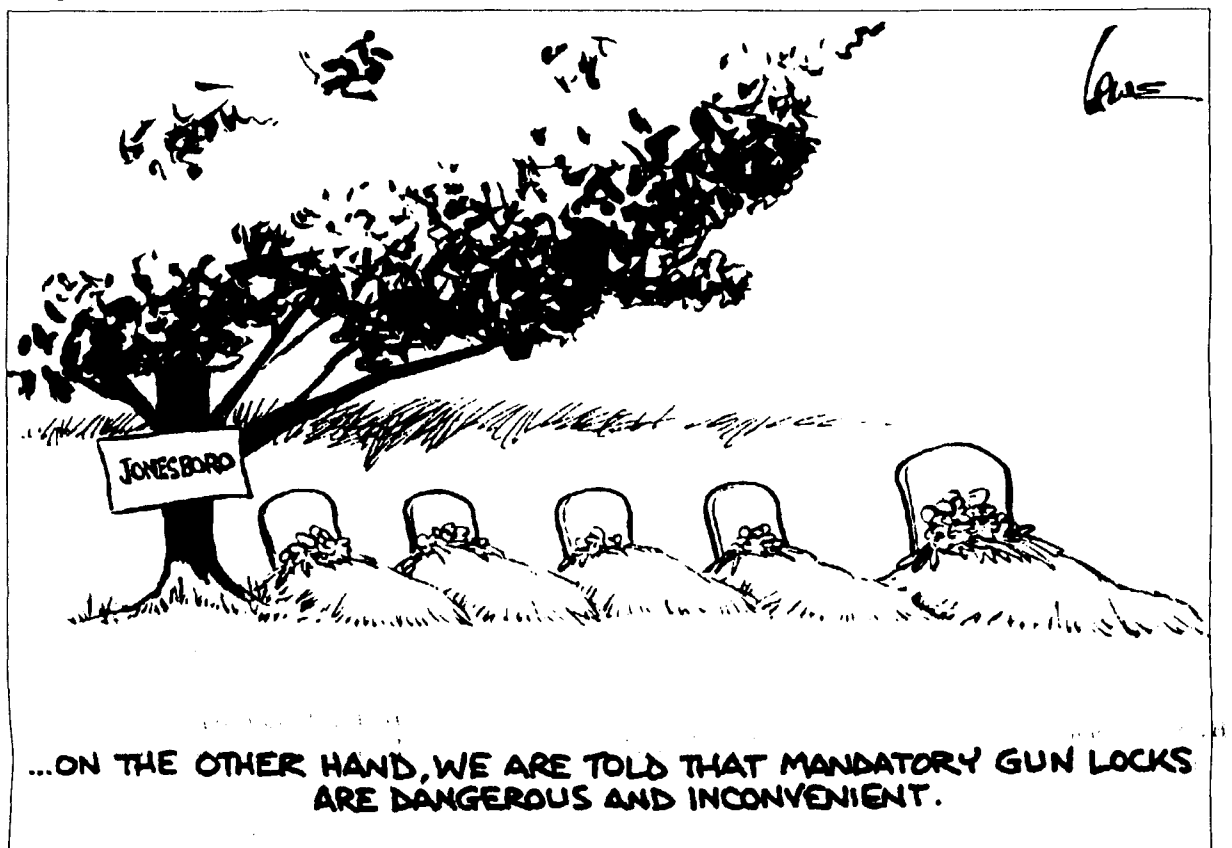
The red flag should have gone up at "minority" in that last sentence. "Minority," as in "a small portion of a larger whole." While the MCC is

without a doubt important to those it serves, it serves a small portion of those enrolled and naturally their turnout will affect that. If you take a look around campus, one thing becomes pretty obvious: for the large part, everyone pretty much looks the same. I read comments from officials from the Organization of Latin American students, and my first reaction was, "We have Latin American students?" It's unfortunate, but true: Behrend is not a very diverse school. Most minorities here would tell you that. In my morning Psy 002 class, I counted 42 students. The only minority was one, yes, one black student. It's our loss that Behrend has such little diversity, but it's true. Our student body is largely white and like most people worry only about what affects them and many of the functions put on by the MCC don't. If there was a Star Trek convention in town next week, I

wouldn't go. Why? Not because I have anything against Trekkies, but simply because Star Trek doesn't appeal to or affect me, so why would I spend my time going? It's an offbeat comparison, but it works.

In closing, before organization leaders vent their frustrations with cries of, "No one cares but me!," they should look at the other side. Nobody likes being told they don't care or being accused of people like Zampetti of "sitting around watching TV all day." Apparently Zampetti is unaware that insults aren't a great way to win people over. Indeed, participation is low. However, more time needs to be spent on action and less on whining. Crying about poor turnouts or lashing out at the student body helps no one.

The Other Side appears every three weeks in The Collegian



Is Image Everything?

by Kevin Michael
guest columnist

Is smoking cool? If so is it cool to smoke around non-smokers? These are similar questions posed to many on campus students participating in a smoking survey. The survey consisted of a random sampling of 200 on-campus students chosen from the Student Telephone Directory.

Even though the ratio of smoker to non-smoker students on-campus are separated by a large number, both groups share a common understanding.

The survey revealed interesting evidence as smokers and non-smokers alike displayed consideration for each other's feelings as the majority of non-smokers sympathized with the smoker's addiction, and most smokers were not intending to offend other students. However, both sides agreed something should be done to address this matter. The question is what.

A total ban on smoking throughout the University's premises was not a

popular decision among students with only an 18% endorsement. In spite of the unpopular move toward banning smoking, students in both categories were open to a proposal for designated smoking areas on campus that accommodated both groups. One proposal was to place smoking gazebos at various spots on campus away from building entrances. This proposal was accepted by virtually all the student participants.

The most common reason why non-smokers were in favor of smoking gazebos was current with the evidence associated with the health risks involved with passive smoking. To help debunk the myth that smoking is necessary for stress reduction Karen Healy a communications major at Behrend suggests: smoking tobacco is more a "psychological" desire rather than an actual "scientific" stress reducer.

The majority of smokers were also in favor of the smoking gazebos for

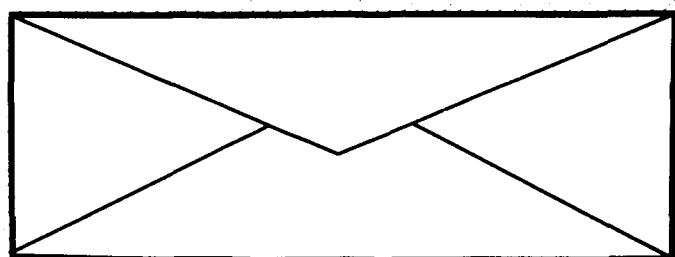
they gave such reasoning as, "a place to go out of the cold", "away from wind", and "would keep us out of the rain".

Another element to this situation is image. What kind of image do we want at Behrend? Imagine our campus being visited by a well established businessman who is looking to make a contribution to a local college in memory of a passed away loved one. As he tours the campus he may be surprised to find at every entrance he is not greeted by a smiling young college student but rather a luminous plume of smoke which is impossible to avoid.

The determining factor here is whether the possible Behrend contributor is a smoker or non-smoker, however, if he was a non-smoker his contribution may find itself employed at a college with a more established smoking policy.

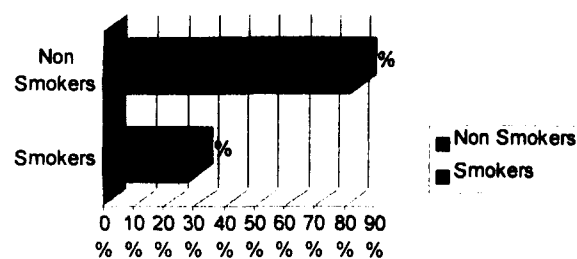
Kevin Michael is a junior majoring in MIS

Got something to say???

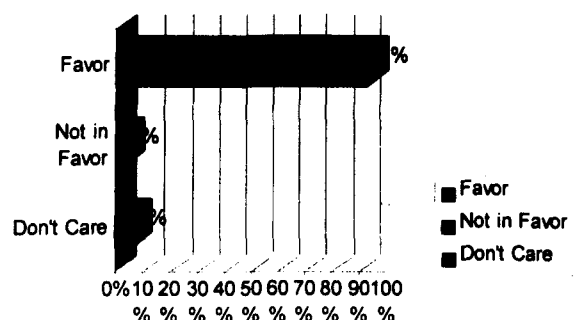


Write a letter to the editor

BEHRCOLL2@AOL.COM



Do you smoke tobacco regularly?



Are you in favor of a Smoking Gazebo?

survey courtesy of Kevin Michael