

Where am I going from here?

Chit chat for change
Christine Kleck



You have your four-page list of extra curricular activities, taken every job preparation course available to you, and managed to uphold a relatively high GPA over the course of your academic life. With this in mind, every employer is just going to come running after your talent, agility and perseverance, right? Not quite.

As I'm sure all of you know, thanks to teachers, friends, and family that are a part of the working world, if you want it, you have to go after it. No one is going to hand you anything on a silver platter after having done only minimal work. You have to earn what you get, what you already have and eventually what you will hopefully accumulate. To do that you have to earn the grades and the experiences to get the job that you want. I'm sure that you've heard all this before.

It just so happens that while you are off typing up that impressive resume full of good grades, outstanding internships and incredible experiences, so is everyone else. Competition is high, but don't let that scare you.

The mystery behind the hiring process is something that I don't think anyone will ever truly understand. Every possible employee has something that will stand out from the next person, so in a sense, we are all at one point, at the same level. It's how you get above and beyond that similar level that will determine if you or applicant No. 3,785 will get the job.

A simple thing, like the way your resume is laid out, to a scuff-free pair of shoes on interview day can make or break you and determine whether or not your name appears on the list of future possible employees.

So you are in college and you have taken one of the first steps to that dream job. What do you do once you get there? For starters simplicity is the key, when it comes to out-of-school needs, worries and commitments.

The more time you spend racking up credit card bills, taking road trips and partying, the less time there will be for clubs, organizations, internships, and, oh yeah, homework. I'm not saying that you shouldn't have fun. It's just a good idea to know your limits, budget your time (and money) and realize that everything you do today has an impact on the possibilities of tomorrow.

You have to figure, too, that life after college is the goal that you work for while you are in college. I'm not saying that you have to go out and start picking out paint and china patterns yet, but think of how much better experiences can be when you save them for a time in your life when you have the time and money to truly enjoy them. Dream now, strive now, give yourself goals now, and then someday when you have completed your schooling, gotten that dream job, and saved up a little money, enjoy the things that you have worked so hard for.

I'm no expert, just an observer. I just take in everything around me and turn it into hopefully useful information not only for me, but also for anyone who reads my column. Life itself can get pretty crazy, but we are all in this together. You can go far, if you choose to do so. The opportunities are out there. Now just grab a hold of them and steer them along on that wild, winding road to success.

Kleck's column appears every three weeks.



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Next semester, the Beacon will feature a humor page. We need men and women who excel at writing funny, irrelevant, and mildly offensive stuff.

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Goodbye to Behrend, for real this time!

The last time one of my editorials ran in the Beacon, I was still an official editorialist. As you read this, I no longer am. That's not to say that the mindset I have developed over the past three years will change now that I am graduating. Once an editorialist, always an editorialist, and at least in my opinion, I am a good one at that; I have the award to prove it. Yes, I had to get that in one final time.

Three years came and went so fast, and I have the memories to prove it, and most importantly, to remember them by. In three years I made friends, lost friends, found out that the word friend does not apply to everyone whom I thought it did. In three years I had love, lost love and found it again; actually, I discovered that I found it for the very first time. Age does make you wiser.

In three years, I have dealt with a lot of change in my life. Some of the biggest change occurred this semester. I think that all of our lives changed forever on Sept. 11, I know that is something that has permanently affected me. I hope that no one ever forgets the way that they felt when they turned on the television that day for the first time, or forgets where they were when they found out.

Change is not something that I deal with very well. And in about two weeks all I will have is change, a change in lifestyle, and a change in the way that I go about my day-to-day life. For the past 16 years all I have thought about is how important school is and

now it will all be gone. It is so cliché to say it, but you never know what you have until it is gone.

In this, my final editorial for the Beacon, I just want to share some things that I have learned during my time here at Behrend. Heed these words if you want to, or simply dismiss them, that is entirely up to you, but they must be shared before I wave "buh-bye" to this, my home of the past three years.

Learn from the past, but know when to put the past behind you. It is so easy

Press '1' to graduate

Katie Galley

to remember things that happened in the past and hold them against people, but it is harder to learn from it.

Things that are happening right now in your life may not be happening in a moment's notice, live in the now. As quoted from "Rent" the musical, "live this moment as your last." Simple words, but they have rung true time after time in my life.

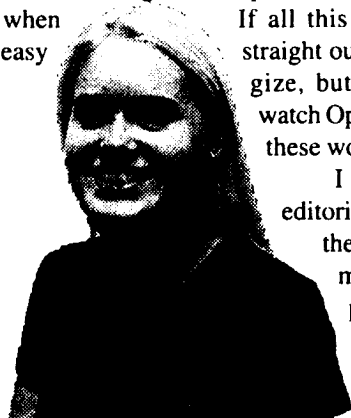
Yet, words are irrelevant; it's all in the actions. You can tell your professor everyday that you plan to try your hardest, but until he/

she actually sees you doing it, it means nothing. Someone can tell you to your face that they are your friend, or that they love you, but in the end, actions speak louder than words. And by the way, the words friendship and love are in my opinion used way too much. Guard your heart, because unfortunately, in the end it is up to you who you let harm you and whom you let in to help you grow as a person.

If all this sounds like something straight out of Oprah, then I apologize, but just to clarify, I don't watch Oprah, I can only assure you these words come from my heart.

I thought about using my editorial to bash and rip on all the things that have tormented me off at Behrend over the past three years, but I would probably need a whole page for that, and I really don't want my parting words to this campus to be words of hatred. There is enough of that in this world. So while others have utilized this channel of expression to plant seeds of hate, I will try to sow love.

These will be my final good-byes to the campus of Behrend and I hope I won't leave anyone out, but even if I do, just know that if you have affected me in my life for the better, then that will come back to you in the future.



And in these good-byes, I feel I only need to mention names, and hope that each person recognizes the good that they have shared with me. Also, these are in no particular order...

There is this television show that I absolutely love; it's called "The Real World."

This show has provided me with years of entertainment. Unfortunately, unlike the title claims, it is nothing like the real world. It made me think that after college I will be living in a loft in some big city and will be arguing with six other roommates about who is going to clean the bathroom. OK, well, I do argue with my roommates about who is going to clean the bathroom, but other than that I am completely unprepared to go into the real world after school.

Let me just tell you that I have had a taste of this real world that everyone keeps talking about and it's not a bit of fun. Looking for a job, paying for the most bites, paying for a car bites, to even paying for school loans, groceries and utilities. Guess what? There are no meal plans in the real world!

Guess what else? College did not provide me with the skills that I would need to survive in the real world! I took a lot of classes during my time at Behrend and never once did anyone mention rejection from jobs, credit card debt and leaving behind the cushy dorm room that came complete with a maid who came in and cleaned the bathroom every Wednesday!

My advice to the people who think they have it so hard during school and that the real world will be a welcome change of no classes and tests? Cherish college while you can! The real world is one gigantic test that never ends, and you can't drop it and worry about it taking it again next semester!

-Sarah Orr

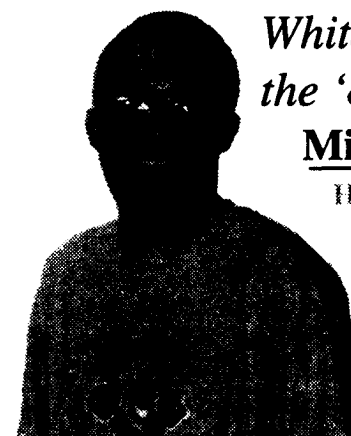
-K. Galley

Every week, two editors from the staff will debate a topic that is hot. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to email suggestions for the hot topic. Send ideas to behrcoll2@aol.com

PDA's link to S&M

'Sweet' Lou
Whitaker and
the '87 Tigers
Mike Butala

Humorist



Some people believe that public display of affection is the cornerstone of any well-rounded and functional relationship. Well, I'm not buying it. You've seen these jerks wandering the campus with their significant others holding hands, kissing, passing notes to each other and I've found out that people, like myself, find these actions to be inappropriate behavior and all around unnecessary.

First of all, you have these people who feel the need to walk their "better half" to class.

This notorious act usually involves the age-old tradition of "hand holding." This, I believe, is a huge display of insecurity, not only by one's self, but on the part of the relationship. Most of the people in college are 18 years old or older. To say the least they A) Know how to walk and B) Know how to get around a campus the size of a grocery store. Let the broad walk to class herself. If she really misses you all that much, have her carry a picture of you naked in her purse. I criticize the girls in this case because as we all know, most guys only walk their girlfriends to class to get some that night. I know what's up guys, but it's still not negotiable. If you want to get some off your girlfriend and the only way she'll let you is by walking her to class, just get her drunk and you'll have no problems. Case closed.

And for God's sake, don't hold her hand. She's not going to run off anywhere, she's not a dog, unless you account for the 93% of the female population in Erie.

Now on to kissing, a trademark of relationships everywhere. There is a time and a place to kiss your girlfriend and this is when

you're not near me. Now, if you're a lesbian and you kiss your girlfriend in front of me, that is totally acceptable, but don't make out when you're walking your significant other to class. You have nothing to prove to anyone. Kissing after 9 p.m. on weekends openly is acceptable due to the "getting some" issue. Once again, I know what's up but just don't push it.

Passing notes in class wasn't the cool thing to do in junior high and that holds true still today. If you can't go 50 minutes without communicating with your girlfriend, you have more serious issues than the communication problem. Psychiatric therapy has been known to help this. I remember in my youth, an old friend of mine in high school got caught passing notes to his girlfriend. Not only was he made an example of by this decree of affection; he was also ostracized by his peers and is now pumping gas at a BP. Or maybe he's doing coke. I can't say I hung out with him much after that.

People might say that I am a jerk, don't know what I'm talking and I've even been labeled not only a terrible boyfriend, but a

terrible person in general, but at least I am not walking broads to class or passing notes. I still have my dignity and you should, too. Next time you catch yourself walking a girl to class, stop and say "I got stuff to do. I'll catch you later." It's her time to grow up.

And NEVER forget, no matter how cool you think you are walking your girl to class; you are a mockery to the human race and a disgrace to mankind. Shame on you and your stupid beliefs. If you want to be the lovable boyfriend, write her notes, walk her to class, kiss her openly and write her poetry. But get the hell away from me when you do it or schedule yourself to a meeting to my apartment so I can give you two black eyes and break your ribs. And never forget, it's not about how SHE feels about you, it's always about how cool your friends think you are.

Butala's column appears every three weeks.