

OPINION PAGE

Letters

varying viewpoints

To the "Editor":
 The Behrend Collegian, defying probability, has extended functional illiteracy, irresponsible investigation, and abominable taste to an extent surprising even to those who welcome the lengthening intervals between its issues. Whether this results from malice or incompetence on the part of its editors is for them to decide.

According to its "Editorial Policy," the Collegian will print all letters to the editor except "those that are repetitious or in poor taste." After reading two of the letters in the issue dated 20 January 1976 (sic), one libeling Dr. Pfeiffer and another attacking Mr. Onorato, one wonders what the Collegian staff considers poor taste.

Both letters attacked their respective targets anonymously, perhaps because the writers are as uncertain about the spelling of their own names as about the difference between "Pheiffer" and "Pfeiffer", although cowardice is more likely a motive. An anonymous attacker does not have to face the consequences of libel (ranging from legal action to physical reprimand), support irresponsible statements with evidence, or worry about any mud sticking to his own hands. Since the Collegian only prints simultaneous replies to letters attacking members of its own staff, an attacker also is free from refutation until the next issue appears.

Fortunately, the two letters, which are no more original than they are accurate, are too poorly written to demand direct response. The presence of these letters within inches of the "poor taste" clause of the "editorial policy," however, reflects a conspicuous lack of supervision, maturity, and consistency in the paper itself.

In the same misdated issue, Colleen Gallagher attempts to rake muck over "recent" (i.e., eight months old) faculty "firings." The "Collegian Commentary" asks loudly, and ungrammatically, for tenure criteria which were printed in The Penn State Forum two months ago.

Elsewhere one professor is "senile" and the bookstore

makes a "profit" of \$20,400 per term without having to worry about overhead or salaries. Kurt Cavano accuses administrators and faculty of favorites towards their "offspring" and "jocks," but carefully explains that he does not "have anything against jocks" and even echoes the thought and diction of those who once claimed that "some of my best friends are niggers". Tom Armstrong asks Dr. Cottle sarcastically whether Cottle could write Armstrong's column any better than Armstrong (of course he could—even Armstrong could if he were willing to submit his column for five minutes to the editing of a literate's pen).

I suppose I should be used to the Collegian's functional illiterates by now, including those who misspell names (except for those of Collegian staff members), but deliberate distortion is more serious. A headline "No Spring Arts Festival" introducing an article which "reports" that this year's festival will not be "of the same magnitude as last year's festival" clearly aims at rousing the rabble instead of reporting fact.

The only criminal at whom the Collegian has not pointed its accusing or middle finger is the person who edits the paper, ostensibly searching for lapses in consistency, accuracy, literacy, and taste. Perhaps this proofreader is as obscure as any evidence of his editing.

Fred D. Crawford
 Department of English

Dr. Crawford,
 It would be anything but appropriate to engage in verbal battle with you. We have not spent the amount of time that you have, mastering the art of rhetoric.

Instead, we wish to inform you that we will not apologize for, nor retract the eight months old faculty statements made about "firings." The "Collegian Commentary" asks loudly, and ungrammatically, for tenure criteria which were printed in The Penn State Forum two months ago. They represent the views of students who simply used the Collegian as a forum to voice their valid gripes. Where else can they turn?

Most importantly, however, we learned from your letter that you are "concerned", or at least aware of the problems a student publication encounters. In this light, we, the Collegian staff, ask that you extend your "concern" in a more constructive manner, and act as our literary advisor. As student journalists, with little or virtually no background in this area, we are in need of an advisor having your capacity.

We hope that your "concern" is genuine and that you'll be willing to share with us your knowledge and expertise.

JLM

Dear Editor:

One expects irreverence, impertinence, and iconoclasm from a student newspaper. In fact, these are often its redeeming features, especially when used to jolt complacent faculty and administration into awareness. However, these constructive qualities should in no way be confused with the distortion, untruth, and slander exhibited by some of the articles in the last issue of the Collegian.

Without judging the merits of individual cases, it should be pointed out that applying the inflammatory word "fired" to all the faculty who will not return next year is a gross and outrageous distortion. A few minutes' conversation with any faculty member or administrator would reveal enough to prevent such a mistake.

Similarly, a simple phone call to the Records Officer would reveal that there is no "6-12" rule by this or any other name. Permission to change assignment is granted according to criteria established by Penn State, not by Behrend College. Each case is judged by these criteria and on its individual merits. Terms of admission, by the way, are set forth in the letter of acceptance each student receives.

Worst of all, no competent journalist would even consider publishing letters containing

Candid — Comments

by Kristen Martzell

The Collegian staff is concerned with the recent questions as to the importance and-or validity of our articles. We decided, therefore, to ask YOU what you wanted to see in your college newspaper.

The following questions were asked of students in the RUB cafeteria and on the walkways between classroom buildings:

1. "Do you read the Behrend Collegian?"

2. "What, in your opinion, should be the main objectives of a college newspaper?"

Here are some of the answers: Steve MacIsaac: "No. We shouldn't have a paper, because there's nothing ever exciting at Behrend."

Joe Antoun: "No. First of all, it should have interesting feature articles, and second of all, it should inform."

Meg Laughlin: "Yes. I think it should be informative, entertaining, and a way for students to express themselves."

Kathy Bretz: "I read it sometimes. Just let everyone know what's happening on campus, voice students' opinions, and maybe have a little poetry."

Rick Stranahan: "If I have it available, I'll read it. It should keep students informed of surrounding activities and other changes made in the college curriculum. I realize it's impossible for the staff members to be Jack Andersons, but an investigation into some matters such as tuition hikes and other monetary issues would be very interesting, to me, anyway."

Dave Jenkins: "I'd like to see information on University policies, any changes made, and also information about loans and any possible job opportunities which would be very helpful. Also, perhaps some career information on what markets are wide open, and what fields are practically closed would be interesting. I guess that's it—just keep students interested."

personal attacks on faculty or anyone else. There is always room for well-meant criticism, but to print such scurrilous, libelous, and cowardly attacks as these is unforgivable.

The editor of the Collegian, whose job it is to oversee the content of his paper, owes these

faculty members, and all others wronged by distortion and inaccuracy, an apology and retraction. Perhaps in this way he can begin to restore standards of accuracy and decency to a newspaper badly in need of both.

Dean Baldwin
 Assistant Professor of English

Behrend Collegian

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Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of the Behrend Collegian are not necessarily those of the University Administration, faculty, or the student body.

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Editorial Policy

The editorials appearing in this newspaper will be opinionated and therefore subject to criticism. All letters that are typewritten of 200 words or less and submitted to the newspaper staff will be printed with the exception of those that are repetitious or in poor taste. The staff reserves the right to correct

or delete portions of all letters for publication purposes.

All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Term standing, major, and hometown must be included.

Signed columns represent the view of the author only and do not necessarily reflect the Editorial policy of the Behrend Collegian.



As I See It

by Kurt Cavano
Executive Editor

Last year in the lobbies of the residence halls, there was a neat little gadget called the magic phone. This electronic miracle allowed the students of one dorm to communicate with students of another dorm, and with members of the opposite sex, during hours of non-visitation.

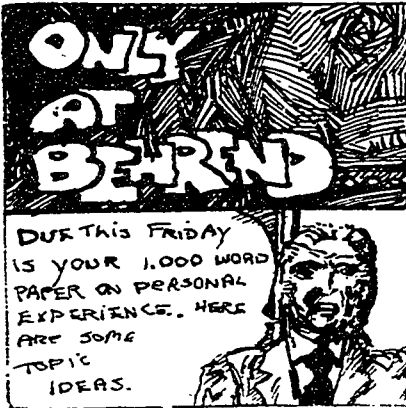
Over the summer, these phones were removed by the business office, as a hedge against inflation, but were not replaced by any sort of reasonable facsimile. After a great deal of haggling, the business office agreed to replace

this system with a cheaper system which would be installed the first of the year. But as of yet, no system has been installed. A member of the Student Affairs staff stated that for the last three weeks, he has been told that the phones "will be in next week."

At State College, the present phone system provides every four rooms with a phone to share between them. These phones allow the students to make toll-free (no dime) calls to local state college numbers. At Behrend, there is one pay phone on each floor, while the R.A.'s have

university extensions in their rooms. This is a far sight short of the phone service that is offered at U.P., and the gap between Behrend and U.P. is getting bigger and bigger.

The January 17th issue of the Daily Collegian stated that a new system, "Centrex", will provide each dorm student with their own phone. If State College can afford to provide each dorm room with a phone for two dollars, I'm sure Behrend can at least cough up enough bucks to provide one phone in each lobby. Come on, let's get with it!



- POSSIBLE TOPICS:
1. WHAT I DID OVER CHRISTMAS.
 2. WHAT I REMEMBER I DID ON MY 2 DAYS OFF
 3. LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS
 4. THE SMOKER I DRANK. THE PLAYER I GOT
 5. OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH: THE CANADIANS

