

OPINION PAGE



As I See It

by Kurt Cavano
Executive Editor

Many students I have spoken with do not seem to understand the extent to which cheating hurts the non-cheating students more than it does anyone else. Out of some unspoken and unexamined notion that exposing a cheater is ratting on a fellow student, these people let cheaters take advantage of their silence, hoping somehow that the common enemy, the professor, will take sufficient precautions to prevent cheating.

Yet even the most cautious of professors, using such techniques as different rows of students, alternating seating arrangements, eagle-eyed proctoring, and so on, cannot completely prevent the determined student from finding some way to compensate for lack of studying and ignorance of subject matter. A recent incident reported in the University Park Collegian dramatizes this difficulty.

Last term at University Park a student cheated brazenly and got

away with it. His fellow students and the professor watched in amazement as the student leafed through his notes and his textbook during the exam. He even had the audacity to look at the tests of the people around him, while the whole class watched him. The professor was shocked, of course, as the student made no effort to cover his illegal behavior.

The professor finally asked the student what he thought he was doing, but the student responded by saying loudly, "Do you know who I am?" The professor shook his head "No", and the student then turned to the class and asked them the same question. When no one said anything, the unknown student ran to the front of the room and shoved his test in the middle of the pile of already collected exams and ran out of the classroom. The professor could do nothing about it, and the students either did not know the cheater or perhaps more likely, those who did were unwilling to identify him.

Most students hearing about such an incident are likely to react first with a kind of admiration for the cheater's audacity and apparent success. He put one over on the good old prof. Not so. Such a student puts himself into an unfair competitive position with respect to his fellow students. He is not competing with the professor for a good grade in the course (especially a problem if the grades are curved), or for a high cumulative grade point average. He is not competing with the prof for entrance into graduate school or for jobs after graduation. While he certainly hurts the professor by demonstrating disrespect for him, and while it could be said that he hurts himself, those most obviously hurt are other students. I think it is time for students to take it partly on themselves to make sure that such individuals as this cheater are not glorified as some kind of romantic academic bandits, but rather are exposed for the cheats they are.

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.

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Mailing Address: Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, Pa. 16410
Office-Student Offices, Reed Union Building
Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Monday through Friday
Phone: 898-1511 Ext. 238

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Letters

varying viewpoints

I would like everyone at Behrend to be aware that duplicate bridge can be learned, painlessly and inexpensively, at the Erie Bridge Center, 1221 Grant Avenue, on Tuesday and/or Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The class (7:30-8:00) is free of charge and the beginners' game following, 8:00-10:30, costs \$1.50, (\$1.00 for students). All work and no play doth make Jack a dull boy and nobody wants to be dull. Other forms of playing may be more appealing, but if you try

duplicate bridge, you may find yourself enthralled by its challenge—don't let it happen to the exclusion of academic studies.

Those who have been at Behrend for some years will know of my previous attempts to form a Behrend College Duplicate Bridge Club. This letter may therefore be classified as 'repetitious' but I do hope that it will not qualify for the label 'in poor taste.'

Bernard Scott

Don't Pay Tickets

by Kurt Cavano
Very few students know that they can appeal the parking tickets they have accumulated over the past terms in front of a jury made up of their peers. If you think the ticket you received was unfair, or if you think inadequate parking conditions were the cause of your ticket, don't pay it; appeal it. All you have to do is to ask for

the appeal form at security and fill it out. You then appear in front of a jury of your peers, the Student Standards Board. You are asked to tell your side of the story, and then perhaps the fine will either be reduced, or you will not have to pay the fine at all.

Who knows the parking conditions better than your fellow students! Stand up for your rights; appeal those tickets!



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Easter

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