

OPINION

Editorial Opinion

Alcohol on Campus: Good or Bad?

Some time last week I had a leisurely conversation with Bill McCartney, the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. McCartney and I talked about the various kinds of disciplinary problems that Behrend College has been experiencing lately. Since he is the dean in charge of all on-campus cases of alleged student misconduct, I received a firsthand account of the various types of problems that he's been presented with these past couple of months.

McCartney told me of violence, vandalism, hospital visits, and arrests. He seemed to be troubled by these incidents. I don't blame him - that's a large lot of misconduct for a campus of this size to experience in the first ten weeks of a school year.

McCartney also said that much of this improper behavior is a direct result of excess alcohol consumption. In fact, 80 percent of all the cases that he's dealt with so far this year have been alcohol-related in one way or another.

Where McCartney went to school, alcohol was treated as a second priority recreation... 'social drinking', so to speak. But, at Behrend, McCartney says that many students feel that it is their right and maybe even their obligation to go out and get "drunk".

McCartney relayed a story about a girl who was so drunk that she passed out before she could reach her dorm room. So, she slept half the night somewhere on the grounds of campus until someone found her. If this same story had occurred in the middle of the cold Erie winter, the girl may not have lived through the night.

Many students are unaware of the rules that govern drinking on campus. Obviously, drinking on campus is not permitted. If a student is caught drinking on campus and it is his or her first violation, the student has two choices. One, accept a disciplinary warning and attend an alcohol awareness meeting (which includes writing a paper on the ills of alcohol) or two, take a ride on disciplinary probation for a semester.

The wise student may choose decision number two. But if that same student is caught drinking on campus while on disciplinary probation, it's curtains. That student will most likely be put on disciplinary suspension.

Suspension entails restriction from attending classes, registration, club activities, etc. for an indefinite period of time. The University could even decide to withdraw you permanently.

If the University decides to let you re-enter the school, then you had better be on best behavior because the next time you caught drinking, its expulsion time... history.

Students should avoid drinking on campus altogether. Consider the few quick seconds it takes to get caught and compare it to the four long years of your college career. It's just not worth the hassle in the long run.

by Rod Luery
Collegian Editor

Reader Opinion

Student Forsees PTI Takeover

Dear Editor:

Being a senior English major here at Behrend, I have had the opportunity to see various administrative patterns emerge with the advent of a new provost-dean. One such pattern is the staffing of faculty. Provost Lilley seems to have taken quite a liking to part-time instructors.

The Humanities Division is apparently becoming a classic example of this particular pattern. The fate of Theater at Behrend has been determined (Behrend will sincerely miss you, Professor Idings). Concerning the Language department, we have witnessed

the dismissal of a truly fine professor: Doctor Faletti. We've no need to worry about tenure now; we've got a part-time instructor. It's the same for History.

While it may be true that these are only a few examples, I cannot help but feel the pattern turning inevitably toward my own immediate world. The number of new faces occupying faculty offices in Turnbull affirms my fears. My reaction, however, is by no means selfish. As Behrend grows toward its aspirations as a technical and business oriented institution (I'll admit that I am writing this letter on my personal

computer), the need for the humanities is essential.

Engineers must know how to write well. Economists must know how to write well. No matter how formalized, computerized or analyzed we become, communication is still an art, essential for the survival of a culture. As much as this college grows, without the humanities, neither it nor its products (the students) will last five years. That is obvious.

Kenneth Sonnenberg
Seventh Semester, English

Commentary

The True Meaning of Thanksgiving

It has often been said that people have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. It is too commercialized and the season itself is rushed. Christmas advertisements start as early as July and before you know it December 25 has come and gone.

Well, I feel the same is true for Thanksgiving. People seem to have forgotten what Thanksgiving is really all about, where it originated and just what we have to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving originated with our forefathers - the Pilgrims. They decided to set one day aside each year to give thanks to God. They wanted to thank God for helping them through their strife of colonizing in America, 'the new world.' They were also thankful to God for gathering them together. The Pilgrims were so grateful that they wanted to share their thanks with the Indians.

So the first Thanksgiving meal was shared by two different races - the Pilgrims and the Indians. They weren't prejudiced toward one another. They enjoyed each other's company and they didn't care about skin color.

The opposite seems to hold true today. People are more particular about who they share their Thanksgiving meal with, and how they budget their time on this day.

Some people cannot tear themselves away from the television set on Thanksgiving. They glue themselves to the tube and watch parade after parade followed by numerous football games.

While they are mesmerized in the world of television they can

smell the luscious aroma of the Thanksgiving bird baking in the oven. Visions of cranberry sauce, mashed and sweet potatoes, stuffing smothered in gravy, and pumpkin pie dance through their heads. Finally, the salivary glands start to water and soon we hear, "When are we going to eat? God, am I hungry!"

When the meal is finally set and ready to go we rush to the table and eat until we can't move anymore. Then comes the fun part, the dishes. God, do they pile up. It seems like there is no end to them.

When that routine is over it's

back to the television for more football, followed by cries of, "I feel sick, I'm so stuffed I can't move!"

Thanksgiving is not a day set aside where you eat until you can't move, instead it is a day where you should be moved. You should remember what Thanksgiving day is all about and set time aside to do just that - be thankful! Thank God for your family and your friends. It is through this gratitude that you will learn the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

Paula Penco
Collegian Staff Writer

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