

Resident Assistants are necessary on campuses

I couldn't have said it better myself!

I am a junior at Behrend, and I have never written an letter to **The Collegian** before, probably because I just couldn't seem to find the time. But I felt strongly compelled to reply to the editorial that appeared in the April 17 edition of **The Collegian**.

Apartment residents don't need RA's supervision. That's right. RAs are not supervisors! RAs are information sources, social event organizers, students, friends to those with problems, and door unlockers too, but not supervisors!

Let us again examine the argument of whether it is economically advantageous to have RAs in the apartments. Starting at the top, we can look at the cost to the University. In the fall semester of

this year, the apartments had six RAs at a total cost of \$6,600.00 to the university, not the \$4,500.00 mentioned in the letter. The students should be aware of this,

which the parents of a PSU student are accusing the University of being negligent in the enforcement of the Pennsylvania Underage Drinking Laws. The

university did not have RAs in all on-campus residential areas.

I absolutely agree that the majority of the apartment residents are responsible, mature adults. RAs are provided by the university to protect the rights of those residents. Those students enjoy themselves, but without throwing things through other residents' windows, without exploding simulated hand grenades in the quads, and without doing damage to other students' cars parked in the parking lots. These things are less likely to occur when responsible drinking is taking place (as opposed to irresponsible drinking.)

The University does not want to 'oppress' students. The University does not hold the opinion that drinking is bad. The University does not hire RAs and extensively train them to 'hunt down' and

'bust' parties. The university *does* encourage responsible drinking. I wonder how many students are referred for leisurely popping a beer open in the privacy of their own room or apartment? Not many.

Many colleges and universities hire RAs only as disciplinarians but not Penn State. Many say that Penn State University has one of the best residential life staff training programs in the country. This University is interested not only in educating students, but also in making them aware of the many other aspects of life and helping them to develop into 'well-rounded', responsible individuals. This is what an RA's job is all about. RAs are not 'the enemy'; they're friends.

Craig Altmire
Sixth semester,
COMBA

"The university does not hire RAs and extensively train them to hunt down and bust parties."

but they should also be aware of other things. For example, students should know that several lawsuits are pending against Penn State University, including the one for twenty-two million dollars in

student had supposedly been drinking on campus when he was hurt. I won't even attempt to figure an increase in each student's tuition after a law suit, which could easily be won if the

Library Assistant responds to noise complaints

In response to the letter in your last issue regarding the library noise problem, I feel there are some additional views which should be presented. I work as a Student Assistant in our library and I realize that library noise is a problem at times. However, instead of complaining about this problem, we should look at what the causes are and what can be done to solve it.

First of all, we are all (including the library staff) looking forward to seeing a new library built. Our present library is located in a

"ballroom" which was not acoustically designed to be a library. Every little noise—moving a chair, or even coughing—is amplified ten times. For now, we must make the best of what we have and be conscious of how much noise we are making.

Which brings me to the crux of the problem—talking. The library, contrary to popular belief, is not a meeting place or social hall. Perhaps it is because there are few other places for students to congregate except the Reed Building and students are drawn to the

library. If this is true, it is still not a valid enough reason. Students can always go to the Gorge or to the TV lounge if they need to talk or meet with other students.

It is up to the students themselves to act in a mature, adult way. Is it really necessary for members of the library staff to "patrol" the library and ask people to be quiet? If people refuse to stop talking should we force them to leave? I think that by the time you are in college you should be responsible enough to act like an adult. But, if you want to be treated like children, keep acting like them. You may soon find

yourself facing rules that are even more strict.

"The library is not a meeting place or social hall."

Now, as for the "Quiet Study" sign. That sign was posted due to

complaints that not enough students knew such a place was available for their use. We posted that sign in the hopes that more students would utilize the study room for their benefit. The quiet study room is also available late nights until 1 a.m. after the library closes.

Our library is small and with so much going on in one central room, there is bound to be some noise. But if we *all* make a conscious effort to be quiet, we can improve the situation immediately. Large libraries may have more rooms and more books, but their size may also give off a cold and impersonal impression. Behrend's library is small enough to offer you a friendly atmosphere and a staff who is always willing to help. Take advantage of the benefits our library offers, but at the same time, don't abuse it.

Heather Van Slyke
Sixth Semester,
MIS

Editorial Policy

The **Behrend Collegian's** editorial opinion is determined by the Editor, with the Editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of **The Behrend Collegian**, **The Behrend College**, or **The Pennsylvania State University**. **Brown-Thompson Newspapers**, the publishers of **The Behrend Collegian**, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

Letters Policy: The **Behrend Collegian** encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, signed by no more than two people, and not longer than 400 words. Students' letters should include the semester and major of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. The **Collegian** reserves the right to edit letters for length, and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

Postal Information: The **Behrend Collegian** (898-6221) is published fourteen times annually (seven times during each academic semester at The Behrend College) by the students of The Behrend College; The Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

My Dad's Pizza

4555 Buffalo Rd.
(one block east of K-Mart)

899-5871

Large 2 item pizza delivered to your door only \$6⁰⁰

Additional items \$1⁰⁰

"You're gonna love My Dad's Pizza!"

