

# opinion

# Collegian



## Let's Talk

by Pastor Ray Sine

Answer to puzzle : WHALE  
Let's talk about freedom of the press. Who or what determines the amount of "freedom" the press may exert?

The first Amendment to the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law...abridging (depriving; shortening; curtailing) the freedom of speech or of the press..." The press, as years have gone by, have obviously taken this to mean carte blanche with any and all information, placement of articles, choice and placement of words and titles; and, even an occasional two-inch high "OOPS!" to sell papers or to make a name for oneself.

Webster defines Freedom of the Press as "the right to publish newspapers, magazines, and other printed matter without governmental restriction, and subject only to the laws of libel, obscenity, sedition, etc." When the press deliberately publishes printed words which unjustly injures the good reputation of another by slander it is guilty of libel. Yet, this premeditated crime is often covered up by printing a retraction in the bottom corner section of page ten,

after the publisher has made a bundle from the printing.

Where is the justice? A recent example was the media's crucifixion of judge Douglas L. Casey, a conservative leader, saying, "the news media inflicted the 'death of a thousand cuts' on Ginsburg's nomination to the Supreme Court...but journalists contend the press treated Ginsburg fairly" (Eric Daily Times, Nov. 87).

An example of one of the "one thousand cuts" was the way the media reported Ginsburg's non-Vietnam service. They merely reported his 1-Y (medically unfit) classification without explaining that his knee had been severely injured in a motorcycle accident, which would naturally give anyone a 1-Y classification.

Why can't the media present all of the facts. After all, it is the public who is the real jury. If it is going to be presented in a "Reader's Digest" version then let it be so stated beforehand. Then, let the public judge accordingly. If one has to be deceived into reading, by using falsified titles or ill-suited wording, then the "news" isn't worth reading to start with. Freedom should be further defined for some who call themselves journalists.

Then again, perhaps the "press" may be trying to put "their" man on the Supreme Court bench so that "their freedom" may be expounded upon.

What's this? Letters??  
So there is a student body!!

## About that letter, Eric-

...continued

To the Editor:

Now that we have been in school for about seven weeks, I think that I have read a good sample of this year's Collegian. All I have to say is, "Get to work!" I haven't read anything quite as dull in my life! I see ads asking for letters to the editor, but I have yet to see any letters from the editor. I believe that it is up to the editor to write a letter to introduce himself and start a topic of discussion (hint: start with something other than the Iranians or the Contras). Also, is it a requirement that one live in the Wintergreen Cafe to be asked a question for the opinion poll? You've got to realize that not everyone uses the cafe. Try to send some of the staff OUTSIDE OF THE REED BUILDING! I know that there are some capable writers on the staff, but someone needs to show some interest in writing. I think that a lot more time and care can be used to produce a much more enjoyable paper.

Eric Carlson  
5th Sem. ChemBd

Dear Eric,

As you know, I always appreciate student input on their opinion of the quality of the Behrend Collegian and never hesitate to publish it. I thank you for taking the few minutes it took to speak your mind.

It is certainly unfortunate that you consider the Collegian "dull". What exactly would you like to see published, Eric? Maybe some Mike Royko columns? Some Doonesbury and Far Side cartoons? Full color photos and graphics? California earthquake and Sahara sandstorm coverage, complete with photos taken by on-location Collegian photographers with the most up-to-date photography equipment? Would that help the Collegian become a little less dull? I should think so.

Unfortunately, Eric, our budget of both time and money does not allow us these options. We are a college newspaper with college students, college facilities, college schedules, and college lives no less hectic than your own.

As for your insinuation that one must live in the Wintergreen Cafe in order to be polled for the Student Voice column...you're wrong. Lynn Popovich and Lisa Hahn (the Collegian Feature Editors who do the actual polling) have never polled a student in the cafe. The most common places to find them on every other Thursday before publication is throughout other sections of the Reed building, on the sidewalks in the lower sections of campus, or in the quad in front of the Hammermill building. The Reed building is the hub of most published replies for the simple fact that almost all Behrend students pass through the area at one point or another during the day. Emphasis is placed on the word *all* because the purpose of the Student Voice column is to get replies from as diverse a representation of Behrend's student population as possible to show all of the sides to an issue. Polling students in the apartment quad or in the parking lots would produce replies reflecting the views of only on-campus or commuter residents. By centering their activities around the Reed building Lynn and Lisa ensure that everybody is equally represented. If you have a better method of polling students and would like to share it with us, please let us know.

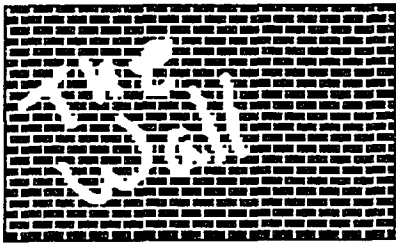
You also mention that "someone needs to show some interest in writing." What *would* you call what the Collegian staff writers have been doing so far...showing lack of interest by writing articles and being an important part of the Collegian?

"More time...can be used to produce a much more enjoyable paper"? Do you know exactly (or even remotely) how much time is voluntarily given to the publication of the Collegian by some writers and all of the editors? Just to give you an idea, all of the editors give up every other entire weekend to work on the layout of Collegian pages...not to mention the time spent during the week ensuring that there will be textual material to place on those pages. (For clarity's sake, Eric, this is not a complaint on my part—I knew the responsibilities of the job when I accepted it.)

Eric, if you would like to help us make the Collegian more interesting, you are more than welcome to become a contributing part of the staff.

Sincerely,  
Steve Aller, Editor

The Collegian would like to take this space to introduce you to our new publishers, The Corry Journal. With this change in publishers we are now able to do all sorts of fun things. You don't mind if I play for awhile, do you??



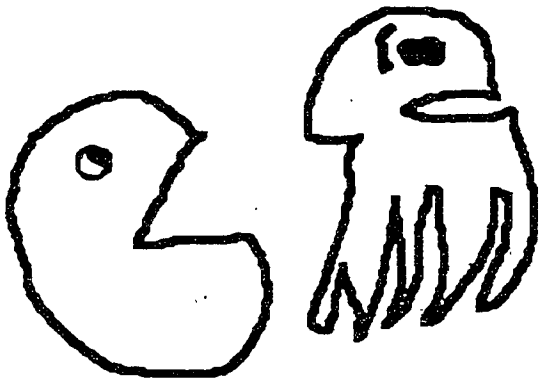
2+2=4

COLLEGIAN



Lisa  
WAS HERE

Little Jack  
Horner



HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Don't eat too much  
Turkey!!

Argh!

Lord, please let this paper come out  
looking great

Amen

## Collegian scrutinized: (When's the 'semenar'?)

To the Editor:

"Is the Collegian up to par?" Well, yes and no. One certainly must take into account the fact that most of the Collegian writers are new at the game and struggling to find their own style. My guess would be that (since Behrend doesn't offer the major) most of the staff writers are not journalism majors either. One need not be a journalism major to be a good writer, but an engineering or biology major is more likely to take the matter less seriously.

It seems the paper's weaknesses fall in two areas. The first of these two being typographical errors. I don't work for the paper so you tell me...Is this problem due to inexperienced typists? Trouble at the printers? Or perhaps poor proofreading? Certainly the Collegian editorial staff is experienced enough to see that the proofreading is done properly. If proofreading is the trouble then reorganization is in order.

The second problem I'd like to address is timeliness. It seems every other event covered in your paper has already occurred or registration dates to get involved have already passed. Don't get me wrong...I'm not implying that it is your job to see that every event gets proper publicity. That is the job of the group sponsoring the event. I only suggest that a little more careful planning could produce better results. Look into the future. In planning to cover some contest make sure the preview is printed before the registration deadline is passed. In planning to cover a show with limited seating be sure to list it in a coming events section. If you're doing a story on some workshop do it before the workshop occurs!

I like reading the Collegian, but there is always room for improvement. As for those who prefer to grumble and moan about the quality of the paper...GET INVOLVED!!! If you think the people on the Collegian staff have any more free time than you do, you are mistaken. Write to the Editor, submit an article, and if you are part of a group sponsoring an event, let the paper know early. We can all help to make the Collegian a paper we can be proud of.

Sincerely,  
David Wood  
3rd Sem. Biology

Dear David,

Thank you for your editorial submission. It was very well worded and extremely factual. The Collegian's problem with typographical errors is in definite need of attention. Reorganization is in order and steps have been taken recently to lessen (if not eliminate) the problem.

A new position has been added to the Collegian with this problem in mind. Beginning with the next issue there will be a Copy Editor whose responsibilities will be that of proofreading all copy to be published in the newspaper.

The second Collegian problem that you highlighted, that of timeliness, is also acknowledged and would hopefully be rectified by the addition of the Copy Editor.

The Editor

Alright Eric, here goes...

The Editor hereby formally opens the floor (page?) on the topic of 'apathy' and what exactly can be done to alleviate its death grip on the students of The Pennsylvania State University-Erie The Behrend College  
Whose fault is it? What causes it?  
HOW DO WE STOP IT??

(How'c. I do?)