



In the midst of all the politicking last Wednesday, Ron Batchelor, President of the Student Government Association, ended his political life at Behrend Campus exactly where it began---at the polling speaking to the Behrend people that are so warm in his heart.

His small speech was reminiscent of General MacArthur's address to the House of Representatives when he brought Congress to its feet by saying solemnly, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away..." Batchelor, in the same manner, struggling to control his emotion of the moment, brought two hundred students to their feet by saying in a restrained voice, "I love you people, all of you..."

It was completely different that Batchelor would deliver his closing speech at election time. It was one year ago that the same man, with the same confident sincerity, talked then in a fiery voice about what he thought could be done for the Behrend Campus. He talked of what he called student apathy, and a responsibility that we all shared. Ultimately, he would gain the office he sought, giving him the opportunity to achieve the business at hand.

The heartbreak of some remarks of his latest speech... these last seven words... kind of sum up the character of Ron Batchelor.

During the two years I have known Ron, I've come to realize the meaning of climbing that mountain. Over coming various barriers, both social and otherwise, was the trial and error period Ron talked about in his speech when he retold his father's anecdote about the first stage in man's encounter with life.

Ron took the advice to heart and Wednesday the realization struck him. Just as his father said he would; he shook his fist and he stared. He realized the ascension of one-third of that mountain. He realized his love for some wayside campus a long way from Philadelphia. He realized the fulfillment of a dream. In the end, he realized, as many of us do, that the closing days at Behrend are actually the beginning. Robert Frost spoke personally to Ron Batchelor when he said:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep."