

Opinion

April Fools Day Confuses Readers

We hope the news of Elvis being spotted in the Erie area didn't send too many people running to comb the beaches.

Hopefully our April Fool's Day stories were recognized and taken in the spirit in which they were intended. For clarification's sake or in case anybody is really confused, Elvis was

not spotted locally; Behrend has no plans of becoming an all-male institution; there is no such thing as NICO-POINTS or Tobacco Road Warriors for that matter. And as far as that goes, Behrend English Professor Greg Morris may not be managing the Boston Red Sox after all.

Letter to the Editor

Did Collegian Ignore Martial Arts Club?

Dear editor,

On March 18, a karate tournament was held here at Behrend in which your paper printed a very small article on the March 30 edition.

This Karate tournament was the first of its kind on this campus or any other Penn State campus. Whether it was known or not, the Behrend Martial Arts Club sponsored, organized and participated with great success in the event.

We might add that the tournament was aired on the 6 o'clock edition of the JET 24

News, in which our instructor was interviewed and your staff never mentioned or inquired about our participation in the Karate tournament.

The tournament was so unique that the martial arts clubs at main campus traveled to Behrend to participate. Although it was newsworthy enough for a local news team to air it on their news, we at the Behrend Martial Arts Club can only guess that it wasn't newsworthy enough to make our own newspaper.

Thank you, Behrend Martial Arts Club

Thanks for your letter. We offer our sincere congratulations on your accomplishment.

But, we hope we can clear one thing up. Lately, it seems that we have heard a lot about our failure to cover group's speakers and events. Certainly, there are times when we make editorial decisions that preclude such coverage. The presence of over 50 active clubs on campus makes for an abundance of events to cover and we have to make these decisions. Sometimes we make unpopular ones.

However, more often than not, the problem lies in communication. Telling us what happened after it's already over, allows for only limited coverage. Not telling us at all makes things very difficult. Like we've said many times before, we do want to cover as many campus events as possible, we just have to know about them. - ed.

Editorial Policy

The Behrend Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by the editor, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed in the Collegian are not necessarily those of the Behrend Collegian or the Pennsylvania State University.

Letter Policy: The Behrend Collegian encourages letters on news coverage, editorial content and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed by no more than two persons. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the writer 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.

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Love Rob School Sucks

by Rob Prindle

I don't know about you, but when I have a lot of school work to do between Friday and Monday, I always have a good weekend. I enjoy just about everything when I'm avoiding homework or a paper. I even enjoy little things that I would think of as boring if I were enjoying a pressureless vacation.

It was in this frame of mind that I spent most of this past Sunday at my sister's house talking to my nephew. His name is Brian and he is a sophomore at my alma mater, Tech Memorial. Normally the only things that we have in common are driveway basketball and a certain hate towards Mr. Trott, a rather constipated teacher who stalks the halls of Tech looking for a life.

This Sunday, maybe because I had a ton of work that I should have been doing, I found that we had almost too much to talk about. Brian is doing pretty lousy in school. I always did well in school, but I also remember that I always felt like a whore. It always seemed that I was playing a stupid game. They wanted me to do problem after inane problem because they had to keep me in class for 55 minutes. Brian seemed to feel that way also.

Before I go any further I must admit that my nephew is lazy, that is a given. He doesn't like to use any bodily energy. None. I once saw him sleep all morning, then get up looking for food. By the time someone got around to making him something, he was too tired to eat. Brian is not an energetic person.

He is also not prone to show intelligence or talent, unless you count Nintendo or possibly small engine repair, which is his shop at Tech, but he isn't dumb either. When I talk to him I can see that he has something that could set him apart from the crowd.

He made some comments on the shape of teaching at Tech, and high school in general, that were really quite insightful.

Teaching in public high schools is perhaps dead, or if not dead it is certainly choking up blood. Like I said, I never did feel really comfortable with high school. When I did well I could never figure out what it was that I had done. I hated to go to sleep every night because I hated to wake up to school.

It was hard for me to tell Brian that he should stop flunking classes. It was almost too easy for me to sympathize. He hates high school. I hated high school. Still, I felt the unclay urge to set him straight, but I'm afraid that I wasn't overly convincing.

I know that my nephew and I are not the only people to have reason to resent grades nine through 12. Even people who come from small hick schools can certainly relate to lazy teaching.

The teachers are dead and they blame their lethargy on the apathy of the students. It isn't tough to realize that teachers and their charges are mutually dependant. It also isn't hard to figure out that that the teachers are the ones with all the training, the teaching theory and psychology. All students know is now. And right now working as a hydro-cleansing specialist at a restaurant making \$80 a week is better than sleeping in school. In Brian's case he said that he fell behind, and once he is a little out of it, there doesn't even seem to be a reason to go.

Brian makes it to work more often than school because he gets paid for washing dishes. He might make it to school a little more often if the teachers were more than re-runs of the last 20 years that they have taught.

I know that teachers are under paid and over worked. I'm sorry. I also know that life isn't all about pay check zeros. I understand that not every



Rob Prindle

child can be reached, but trying for a few more couldn't hurt.

I also know that it is dangerous to generalize. Some teachers do a great job. In fact, one of the classes that Brian is failing is taught by a teacher I respect.

Eva Tucker is a professor here at Behrend and he is also the Erie School Board President. Perhaps he can tell me why it is that so many people find high school so painfully boring (I don't mean to imply that school should be a Monty Python skit, but we all know that good teachers try new things).

Maybe he can also tell me why the only function of a school counselors is help with discipline problems. Or maybe he can tell me why I got detention because my car wouldn't start. Never absent, never late. Detention for a dead battery. Let me tell you that taught me a lesson. I am definitely a better man for having sat for an hour in a classroom with a teacher yelling "Shut up or I'll keep you till [sic] another hour." Thanks for the help.

I suppose that I sound bitter. It is too bad that so many people tend to feel bitter. It is hard enough to show a student reason to get a diploma. It is hard enough to argue against the philosophical sentiment that maybe an uneducated animal is no worse off than an educated one. Hard enough also to explain why someone who wants to work in a shop or factory will need MacBeth or George Washington. It is hard enough to do all of this in a perfect school and even harder when you make people feel bitter by imposing idiotic rules that seem to cater to ease of enforcement rather than improvement.

Brian needs help from his family and from himself. Everything cannot be blamed on the school. It only delivers what the community wants. Still, everyone knows how hard it is to wake up in the morning when you hate what you have to do.


Love
Rob