

# LETTERS LETTERS

## Rob Screws Up

Dear editor,

This morning I had the misfortune to see an article that was published in The Collegian. The title of the piece was "School Sucks" and was written by Rob Prindle. In the article Rob made some very uncalled for statements that may not be the most inaccurate things ever written, but they come close.

I am not disputing Rob's right to his opinions, I am disputing his right to attack a person who doesn't even come close to the way Rob characterizes him, and who doesn't even know that his reputation has been smeared.

Rob's bitterness is well known to me. I had to put up with it during his time here. I could even find some justification with his frustration, in spite of the fact that it was basically of his own making. Rob had a tendency to talk a good fight. He was a fair runner, but had himself convinced that he was outstanding and could not accept the lesser performance and would not discipline himself enough to reach the higher level of achievement. As a result he tended to find a multitude of reasons, all external, for his lack of success. Rob has no room to

criticize either Mr. Trott or even the "system" until he is willing to examine and admit to his own shortcomings.

I am disturbed that The Collegian would permit this type of character attack on an individual. This is a "blind siding" of the worst order. If it occurred in a publication of general circulation in the community where Mr. Trott lived, he could at least defend himself, if he chose. I doubt seriously if Rob will come back to Tech to see us now and I'm not sure we would like to see him. Possibly he might like to say to Mr. Trott those things he said in print. I would suggest that he read the entire piece to the entire faculty and allow us to rebut his points.

I attended Behrend, wrote for the campus paper and was genuinely proud of my association with the campus. Rob destroyed a good portion of my respect for Penn State and Behrend. I would like to say that he finally accomplished something of magnitude with his life.

Sincerely,  
Frederick W. Loell

## Not My God

Dear editor,

I was saddened upon reading Pete's Perspective in the March 12 edition of The Collegian. I was upset to see him so disappointed in the God I love. I realize that the death of the author's friend, Brian, had to effect a great number of people. A story such as his would be expected to draw the same questions the author has.

When I am told of a story such as this I try to find a positive aspect because I strongly believe God does not let these things happen to intentionally make anyone suffer. After thinking about Brian's death I realized that there possibly are some positives.

The author described Brian as

someone who wouldn't let Muscular Dystrophy overcome him. I feel thankful that God has put people such as Brian on this earth to set examples for others that suffer the same affliction to follow. Another positive I see emerging from Brian's death is the fact that God can use a situation such as this to cause Brian's loved ones to look to him (God) for guidance in overcoming such a tragedy.

I hope and pray the author will come to realize that we have a loving God who does not orchestrate these happenings to intentionally cause grief, but to use them to show us the love he has for mankind.

David L. Ewing

## Bill Says Goodbye

Dear Editor,

This is my last semester here on Behrend campus. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a few of the people that have helped make my time spent here very worthwhile.

First, hats off to the best run, most knowledgeable, friendliest department on campus...Financial Aid. They always came through with flying colors for me. I almost look forward to having an excuse to go there.

Secondly, thanks to the faculty. Say what you want, but Behrend is truly blessed with a plethora of quality instructors, professors, etc.

Next, believe it or not, thanks to the Penn State system. It allowed me a chance to prove, that a 29 yr. old high school drop-out can not only catch up and keep up, but fit in as well.

I must mention the people in Student Services as well. P.J. Brown, Ed Mc Closkey (We miss ya Ed!), Kim Zitko, and Ken Miller have put their faith in me and I am grateful.

I could and should mention many others, but this ain't the academy awards, so Thanks Everyone, you know who you are!

Sincerely, Bill Warner

# Hate Rob?

by Rob Prindle

"Rob- you screwed up bad!"

That was the personal note attached to the end of my personal copy of a letter to the editor sent in this week. The letter, an angry response to a Love Rob column, is printed in this newspaper.

Written by a teacher from Tech Memorial High School here in Erie, the letter was in response to an unfortunate remark that I made two issues ago. It was also probably a reaction to the criticisms that I levied against the educational system in general referring specifically to Tech. The letter was written by Mr. Frederick Loell, a friend of Mr. Trott (the teacher I insulted).

I called the very well known and well liked Tech Memorial teacher a name which may have left the impression that he was anything less than an outstanding faculty member. The article in general discussed the problems of education, It was never my intention to suggest that the teacher in question was one of those problems. I simply had a personal problem with that teacher. It was 100 percent wrong to resort to name calling and I'm afraid that what I say here as an apology may not make up for the mistake.

The reason that this will probably not do much good lies in the basic problem all

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columnists face. It is incredibly hard to get a point across without sounding preachy. A columnist can anger people, this is quite easy, but it is very difficult to say anything which will sway opinions or make differences.

Jim Martin is the editor of this newspaper. He has a friend who knows me only through my weekly column. This guy asked Jim an interesting question. He asked "How does [Love] Rob handle everyone hating him?" Jim says that his friend doesn't agree with me much, but still enjoys the column. The question he asked was definitely an interesting one.

The answer is: I don't handle it very well. I hide behind Love Rob and Butch and I developed a sort of industrial deafness towards the word "asshole." In fact it is quite possible that the insensitivity that I show is a mirror of people's reactions. I say something that angers a reader, they do their best to anger me, and it all continues. Because of what I do, I am completely and rightly open to any and all criticism. Open to it, but somewhat distanced from it.

A conservative estimate based on a sampling earlier this semester would say that about 1500 people read Love Rob every week. While I am sure that not all of these readers hate me, I sincerely hope that these people do not read the

column for the same reasons that so many people watch Geraldo and other exploitive talk/new shows.

I am allowed to write anything I want and anyone is allowed to read it. That is actually what takes some of the excitement out of what newspapers have to say. I personally know that I would have never seen and therefore never felt the power of "The Last Temptation of Christ," had people not said not to view the movie. Since people are not banned from reading opinion, the only reasons left to read are entertainment, controversy and information. I hope that my column is a good mix.

Some people have expressed their encouragement. Unfortunately they are the people who write the letters to "Rob" and not "To The Editor" and they are the people who stop me to talk in the hall and not the people who call important people here at school.

So, I screwed up and the teachers at Tech let every important person at Behrend know that. In addition to the letter to the editor, I was called a jerk and a fool by a teacher who telephoned her complaints to most of the school faculty. Even teachers who I thought held some liking for me turned.

Mr. Loell, the teacher who wrote the letter in defense of his colleague to which I have referred was one of the most respected people in my high school education even though he was never officially my teacher or my coach. It hurts like hell to be censured by someone you respect and like. I barely knew the teacher that I insulted, I got my bad impression of him through a few scattered run ins. Mr. Trott barely knew me and I sincerely doubt that he respected me.

I do wonder what the teachers of Tech want from me. Besides the insults, there was some talk of a lawsuit, and possibly they wanted me to be punished by Behrend or removed from the newspaper, but they never really asked for anything in particular. Dean Reber thought that what I wrote was tasteless and he hoped that I would apologize. What he didn't know was that I decided to write an apology as soon as I found out I had upset people. I have angered many, but I don't think that I have upset many.

So, I will take Mr. Loell up on his offer to go to Tech and explain, although I am confused by his invitations. He says that he is not sure that the teachers of Tech would like to see me. If this is the portent to an invitation, however, I have never turned down any group that has wanted to discuss an issue. I put my name on what I write and my commitment to it does not stop there. If Tech wants me to come, I most certainly will.

As for Mr. Loell's statement that he has lost a good portion of his respect for Behrend, surely I could not be that important.

I am in college to learn and I have certainly learned much in the last week. I "screwed up bad" according to Mr. Loell. I hope that the message of the whole article was not lost because of the one clause, but I am probably naive to hope this. I may never be invited to Tech but I hope that when I see teachers around Erie, they won't be insulted if I offer to buy them a cold drink and talk.

In the mean time, I hear that once you blow up my Love Rob picture, the shaky sunglasses are worth the most points when the picture is hung on a dart board.