

Opinion

Editorial

Listening for your views: How good is Behrend?

Each year Behrend turns away more and more students. Last year around 10,000 applicants named Behrend as a choice on their Penn State application. These students were trying to become members of a freshmen class with roughly 500 spaces.

At the same time, a well-known book (How to get an Ivy League Education at a State School Price) compares Behrend to Dartmouth.

It seems fair to say that while Behrend continues to improve, the school is not yet in a league with Dartmouth.

Still, standards are getting higher and improvements are taking place. With all this in mind, The Collegian decided to take a look at how members of the Behrend community look at the college.

Beyond our coverage, we'd be interested in hearing from you.

Has Behrend lived up to your expectations? Exceeded them? How would you have responded to The Collegian's poll? We'd like to hear from you and the floor is open.

The Collegian won't attempt to sensationalize this issue, and won't try to make the school look bad through our news coverage. But we do think there is much to be gained by hearing the suggestions of both students and staff.

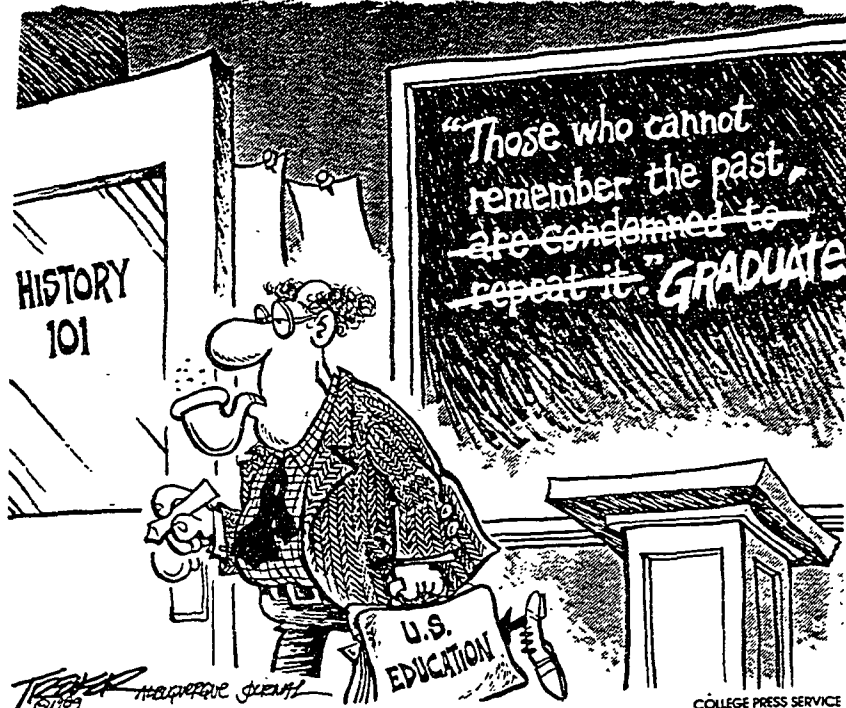
If Behrend is to be mentioned in the same breath with schools like Dartmouth, it seems that an open and frank discussion about our strengths and weaknesses is in order.

Editorial Policy

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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

Definitely a class act

by Rob Prindle

I've been depressed lately. It seems that I'm almost dangerously close to graduating. That means that I have to find something to do with my life. Thoughts like these make me sweat. They are not pretty, not pretty at all.

I'm sure there are just a thousand things that I'm qualified to do. Unfortunately few of these talents are actually marketable outside of the wonderful world of college, so I figure why not teach? What the heck?

Teaching at the college level sounds like a lot of fun. You get summers off, if you want them off. And well, teaching doesn't seem all that different from being a student.

I have compiled a short summary of my teaching philosophies and now wish to share them with you. Perhaps you can give me some advice or maybe talk me out of it. Who knows?

Oh before I start let me just say that I've got nothing against profs who do any of the things that I wouldn't do. These are merely things that I would do a little differently.

First, I don't think that I would keep attendance in the first place, but if I did I would certainly allow anyone who walked in late to sign the sheet. There is no real logic behind this policy, but it certainly would be pious of me to frown on tardiness considering that through my illustrious career as a student I have only made it to class on time on precisely 17 occasions. I keep track.

I know that there is no malice involved in this, I am simply missing the gene that allows me to properly plan on a time of arrival. Really. I set my watch some times as much as 15 minutes ahead, but that doesn't work because I know that it's set ahead. In fact, I typically don't remember how far ahead and usually overestimate.

My second major policy would be that if I, as a professor, arrived later than the last student, then everyone would get the next day off. I don't think that anyone would have a complaint about that. Except maybe the guy who walked in after me, who would probably be pummeled by the rest of the class.

Another important focus of my teaching would be that if I couldn't stay awake while reading the textbook then no one would have to read the damn thing.

On a related note, I would never have my class write term papers on things like "the significance of the dumb show in Hamlet." I would never read anything called "the significance of the dumb show in Hamlet," so why would I want anyone to write about it?

Next, I think that the first day of class would be a memorable experience for everyone, especially freshmen. I would jump up and down, throw things at students and burn an American flag. Next I would tell them that I was a devout communist, although my friends just call me a fascist. Then I would force all of those in attendance to swear their allegiance to Satan, the all powerful.

I think that by the next class meeting I would have a pretty interesting selection of students. If word of what happened got around efficiently I'm sure that the drop/adds would be very telling, indeed. Of course I realize that Penn State will never hire me, but maybe Oberlin.

Another policy, and this is strictly a personal quirk, I would never grade an essay on points out of 100. I'm just not that exact a person. I cannot tell the difference between a 92.5 and an 89.75.



Rob Prindle

My organizational skills will no doubt leave me with the ability to have no more than three different grades on any one class assignment. They would be A, B and D. I want people to feel. Getting a C is like being kissed by your aunt. I want students to have as much mood fluctuation as possible. In fact forget about the B, just A's and D's.

Another policy of mine would be that anytime the Browns were playing a home game,

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there would be no homework. Also, if the Browns make the playoffs everyone in class wearing brown and orange would get an A. And the same would hold true during the spring semester with the Cavs.

And speaking of playing favorites, I'm all for it. Anyone mentioning Pink Floyd or Dire Straits or Lou Reed or Harry Chapin or Bob Marley or Otis Redding or Timbuk 3 in an essay would get a much better grade than anyone who mentioned, say, Tiffany or Martika or New Kids on the Block or anyone like that.

Sorry.