

Letter to the Editor:

Curses cause continued controversy

Dear Editor,

I must express my agreement with Mr. Banker's letter in the April 4 issue. I think such use of profanities has no place in any legitimate newspaper. Even an April Fool's edition is no excuse for such abandonment of good taste.

You argue that you don't want to "talk down" to readers that use such language. I realize that you want to reach a broad audience, but I believe you've gone too far - in your attempt to reach those readers, you have offended those of us who do not care for obscene

language.

You also assert that the use of two such words out of several thousand isn't so bad. Perhaps that is true, but just one fly will ruin a whole bowl of soup. Those vulgarities had a similar effect on my taste for *The Collegian*.

You ended your response by expressing a hope (obviously you're not sure yourself why the words were used) that the words were chosen for an "ironically critical reason." No matter what fancy excuse you have for it, profanity is still profanity.

Finally, your own letter

policy states that *The Collegian* reserves the right to reject letters that do not conform to the standards of good taste. Is this a double standard - applying only to letter writers and not the *Collegian* staff? Or are your standards so low as to consider such language good taste?

I have come to expect more from *The Collegian* and hope that in the future it will depend on good writing, not crude language, for its appeal.

Maria Plaza
Fourth semester
Physical Therapy

Prindle responds to letter writer

Dear Maria,

Thank you for your letter. We appreciate your input. You, being a former *Collegian* news editor, know the pressure involved in making editorial decisions that might cause controversy.

You say that we offended people through our use of crude language. True. At least two people were offended enough to take the time to express their opinions and I am sure that the letters in question will play heavily in our next decision regarding questionable material.

Taste is in the eyes of the beholder, or in this case, the eyes of the editors. People, if offended by our taste, can stop reading *The Collegian*. We do not want this to happen but it is your freedom.

You point out that profanity is still profanity, but is that necessarily true? We have all been beaten over the head with stories of something that was considered obscene now being perfectly all right.

People have been stoned for saying Jehovah, women have been shunned for being pregnant but unmarried. As children, some of us were not allowed to say "crap."

The word profane means showing contempt or irreverence toward God. We have no grudge against any god, much less *God*, so we did not intend profanity.

Rob Prindle
Op/Ed. Page Editor

**IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE
YOUR MAIL AGAIN, LEAVE 30¢ IN
UNMARKED POSTAGE ON EACH
ENVELOPE IN THE BOX**



"IT'S FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE...."

On the right track

Spanos on brotherly love

by Christine Spanos

Last Wednesday, I attended an informal lecture regarding Diversity and Race Relations. The lecture, headed by Andrew Festa, focused on the "labels" that are given to certain people because of their skin color, religion, or whatever. I must give Festa some credit; he made me think twice about my own beliefs. Don't get excited, I still think the way I always have, but he helped to shed light on yet another area of "labeling".

I realized this when I had a rather heated discussion with a "friend" of mine. (I put friend in quotes to indicate a change in the terms of our relationship not to indicate an imaginary person. Trust me, this person is real). We were discussing the fraternity/sorority scene at Behrend. Although the discussion basically focused on the fraternities at Behrend, I'm going to include the sororities as well. I suppose I should mention the fact that I am not involved with any sorority so my view isn't biased in that way.

The argument went something like this. "Those lurches walk around wearing their letters, thinking they're too good to speak to anyone who isn't a member of their fraternity. They come to school with no social lives, join a fraternity (or sorority) and Presto! Instant friends. There are only a handful of guys in fraternities that I can deal with and those are the ones who don't wear the letters on a daily basis. Just once, I'd like to...."

I think my "friend" woke up on the wrong side of the bed that day but through conversations with other people, I've become aware that this view is not so uncommon. Well, I'm going to do my best to defend the fraternities and sororities at Behrend because I don't think they're all that bad.



Christine Spanos

First of all, fraternities and sororities are not for everyone, but for the people who pledge them and eventually become brothers or sisters, the institution itself must become rather important to them. These people go through a lot of work to become a part of the organization they pledged. You can bet that I would wear the letters of a sorority I pledged for a whole semester.

These people aren't being "lurches" by wearing their letters. In my opinion, they're simply showing the pride they must feel for their fraternity or sorority. I guess this explains why all the baseball players, softball players and basketball players wear their jackets around school. They're proud to be part of their organizations.

As for joining a fraternity or sorority just to gain friends, I'm going to have to say that's a little off the mark. One fraternity member that I know quite well said he joined his fraternity not only to expand his group of friends to include the brothers of that fraternity, but to adopt the beliefs and traditions that are the basis of that fraternity. As far as I understand, each fraternity and sorority has a constitution which offers a way of life for the members of each organization. Obviously, the members of fraternities and sororities agree with, and find comfort with, that constitution. Sure they gain more friends, but that's the key phrase - *more* friends.

Getting back to Andrew Festa and the labeling thing, I've witnessed a perfect example of "labeling" by listening to my "friend" speak about fraternities. He has no idea what 95% of fraternity members are like, how they think, what they feel, yet he feels he knows them enough to label them "lurches". Far be it for me to stand in the way of someone's opinion but to be honest, his argument is lame.