

# Letters to the Editor

## "Friend" unhappy about appearance in Spanos' column

Dear Editor,

It's amazing to me what some people will do for attention. I'm referring of course to the Spanos article on fraternities. I'm not sure that I'm the person referred to in her article. Her use of the term "friend" to describe our relationship couldn't be further from the truth.

Before I begin my rebuttal, I'd like to clear up a few terms, one of which is referred to in her article:

Lurch - noun, 1.) a person with no individual traits or motivation. 2.) a sheep.

Swine - noun, 1.) a contemptible person.

(adapted from the Robert S. Beall dictionary)

I think it is important for Spanos to learn these and understand them.

I began my career at Behrend in 1983 when no fraternities or sororities were present. After serving in the U.S. Army for 3 years, I returned and have since seen the incredible growth of greek life at Behrend.

I have nothing against students joining organizations and proudly displaying their organizations around campus. However, there are individuals who take this to an extreme (didn't she write about that once???) and feel compelled to segregate themselves and their organization from others at Behrend, much to my disapproval.

Don't get me wrong. I have many wonderful friends in fraternities and sororities on campus. The key is that these people maintain their individuality while at the same time are members of organizations. They don't become so overwhelmed with their fraternity/sorority that they lose track of their own sense of identity.

Miss Spanos has proven her lack of class by carrying on a private conversation with me, then making that conversation

public without my prior consent, and then taking things I said out of context and adding things I never said. The whole conversation should have been printed, if anything at all.

Miss Spanos has also proven her naivety by believing that people don't join fraternities/sororities for parties, friends, and social status, but rather they join "to adopt the beliefs and traditions that are the basis of that fraternity".....HELLO MCFLY??

Her article proves that if misinformed, misconstrued individuals are permitted to print publicly about issues and subjects that they know nothing about (fraternities, Behrend, friends) they should be prepared to suffer the inevitable consequences (foot in mouth).

One final word of advice for her and others to follow: Be yourselves, don't try to be something you're not.

But then again, "Intraspecific avian units of identical genotypical plumage demonstrate distinct tendencies to congregate."

I certainly hope she received her much needed attention for printing her article in defense of a few of her "good friends."

Suggested schedule for Spanos, Fall '90: Engl 015 - grammar, spelling, rhetoric; Commu 497 - communication with others; Diversity 101 - expanding one's horizons.

William J. Vahey II  
Eighth semester  
Accounting

## Festa explains presentation

Dear Editor,

I guess I'll just do what the administration would like to see, or did I misunderstand the comments immediately prior to the event of Wednesday, April 4th, in the WinterGarden, to the effect that I have no experience or qualifications to carry out a presentation? I would like to thank that nameless person for giving me such wonderful support, I couldn't have done it

without you.

Actually, you did trip me up considerably, but I still gave it my "unqualified" best. I am interested in knowing, however, why students are qualified to put on a presentation in front of their classmates and teachers, but are unqualified to put one on for the student population as a whole?

When we go on to the big "out there" (after graduating) we'll have to cope with situations we'll know absolutely nothing about, and still be quite able to pull them off reasonably well.

If I were to have been presenting to a large corporation, I might be more inclined to agree with your sentiments about my ability, though I would still have reason to argue my point, but I was presenting to students who do not have such rigid requirements about presentations, except that they be well presented and make a solid point.

I had a solid point to bring up, though my presentation was weak, and if I raised the conscience of one person, then it was a successful presentation.

As for the comment that I might say the wrong thing. Since when is it a crime to talk to the people? Why are there so many rules and regulations about how one might reach out to others?

Too many of the rules are labels used as an excuse to discriminate against people, blacks, asians, orientals, hippies,

yuppies, mexicans, anglo-saxons, conformist (insider, high value) vs rebel (outsider, low value) young, old, rich, poor.... Oh, but the heck with all of that, I'm not going to think about it anymore.

I won't be vocal on the injustices I see, especially when it's not fully known what the injustices are or whom they effect. Just because there's a label called Cultural Diversity and an improper use of the value assignment system, and the negative impacts of these corruptive actions on everyone; just because these things exist, heck, that's still no reason to let it interfere with my life.

Andrew Festa  
Sixth semester, English

## Defending Plaza's letter

Dear Editor,

In defense of Plaza's letter, regarding the use of profanity in *The Collegian*, I wish to comment on your arrogant retort to her letter.

You mentioned in your response to Miss Plaza that "at least two people were offended enough to take the time to express their opinions" regarding the use of profanity in *The Collegian*. With these "two" in mind, I wish to examine an

assertion theory.

A few years ago the Editorial Writer of the *Erie Morning News* informed me, after publishing my letter to the Editor, that if he received one letter on a particular issue then probably a thousand others felt the same way, but would not take the time to respond.

If I may be so bold to apply this same theory to Behrend students, the result may hopefully mellow your attitude. For example, Behrend's total enrollment is nearly 2900 students. If the Letter to the Editor theory holds true (1=1000; 2=2000; etc.), then a two-thirds majority is already against the use of profanity in *The Collegian*.

This letter, being number three, makes it somewhat unanimous. "Get what I mean Vern?"

Ray Sines  
Eighth semester, English

I think your numbers are just a little off their mark. They might be fairly accurate if *The Collegian's* circulation were 100 times bigger than it is, but it is not. By the way, I don't think our attitude is the one that needs mellowed.

-Ed.

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