

Letters to the Editor

Writer responds to previous letter about Spanos

Dear Editor,

I am appalled by the lack of thought Mr. Vahey (the second) put into his rebuttal to Ms. Spanos' latest column. Mr. Vahey, you're not even sure if you're the "friend" referred to by Ms. Spanos, so how can you fault Mr. Spanos for her "lack of class," when you show none yourself? First, you mention misinformed, misconstrued individuals. Mr. Vahey (the second), if you're not sure you're the person referred to, then in my opinion, you are the misinformed individual, who has misconstrued the facts.

Next, you mention "lack of class," then you proceed with your own vulgar remarks - in the future, please practice what you preach - McFly.

Third, the Letters to the Editor column is a forum for discussion, not slander. Enlisting in the army should build a sense of dignity and self-control - Mr. Vahey (the second), you have demonstrated a complete lack of both - in my opinion, you should check your own shoe size. Finally, you are an accounting major and not an English professor - again you show your own ignorance at subjects you obviously know nothing about.

Chuck Hoffman
sixth semester
Secondary Ed. English

Campus litter found sickening by student

Dear Editor,

Sunday of this week was Earth Day. The purpose of Earth Day is to remind us how precious the planet Earth is and that we need its irreplaceable resources to survive.

I came home from monthly drill with the National Guard Sunday evening to find litter scattered all over campus. It was not an unusual sight, since my attention has been grasped by this problem numerous times throughout the year, but seeing that some Penn State students could not keep their college clean for Earth Day was the straw that broke the camel's back.

All year long I have noticed pieces of garbage lying on sidewalks, in the grass, around residence halls and other buildings, and outside over-stuffed garbage cans. There appears to be an attitude of environmental apathy among too many students on this college campus. Such thoughts as, "Oh, my cigarette butt won't make the slightest bit of difference if I drop it because it is one of a billion others," or "My candy wrapper is just one piece of paper. Who'll care if I drop it or not? Besides,

somebody else will pick it up if it is that important," seem to rattle through too many people's heads too often. What would the world be like if everyone had this attitude?

As an Eagle Scout, I led dozens of service projects back home to improve the condition of the environment or to conserve natural resources. Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity and Lambda Sigma Society have run and organized campus clean-ups to remove trash from the grounds of the campus and the Wintergreen Gorge. The reason we did these things was to not only clean a mess that was already made, but to promote and to exemplify the importance of a clean and healthy environment, and our role as humans to keep it that way.

In general, seeing litter on this campus makes me sick, and personally, I have no respect for a litter bug. I hope that from now on, we students of the Behrend College remember that we are Penn State and that we should represent ourselves accordingly, that is, if we really do have pride in ourselves, our school, and the community that we all share -- the Earth.

James H. McFetridge, Jr.
second semester
Engineering

Student goes nuts over Dobbins food selection

Dear Editor,

Once again, Dobbins meal hall has shown its incompetence in providing healthy food for the students of Behrend. Everyone entering Dobbins for dinner on April 19th was handed a small packet of honey roasted macadamia nuts.

For those of you had your cholesterol level checked in the Reed Building, look at the list of foods to be avoided which was handed to everyone. Yes, it is right there in black and white, macadamia nuts. This may be a trivial thing, but with it being health week, you would think that Dobbins would at least hand out something healthy. Why don't they just eliminate the middleman and pump cholesterol into our veins intravenously?

John W. Kimmich
second semester
Business Administration

Seniors allowed to stay in apartments until graduation

Dear Editor,

An agreement with Housing and Food Services has been made concerning seniors wishing to remain in the apartments the week before graduation.

In response to a letter I sent

last week, Phil Giewont will grant an extension to those who have not yet submitted a letter explaining reasons for staying. I strongly encourage you to do this prior to the end of finals week so that you will be registered on campus.

Since apartment contracts end on May 6, permission to remain on campus is a service and is not guaranteed to all requesters. If you are here during this extra week, remember that all policies and rules will be in affect. Please be responsible in your conduct and set an example so that seniors who follow will be extended this service as well

Brent K. Vernon
eighth semester
Political Science

University's Quality Control survey questioned

Dear Editor,

After reading the article in your April 11 issue entitled "Behrend Student sues University", I reviewed my encounter with this alleged survey called the Quality Control Pilot Project. The University explained to me last fall that this survey was to "...determine the accuracy of the information used to award student financial aid." The University also indicated, in a threatening manner, that if I did not comply my financial aid for the spring semester would be placed on hold.

The University's great power to withhold my financial aid left me with no choice but to comply. I sent the requested materials and also a letter of protest. The University's reply seemed to be a standard form letter customized to answer my objection. However, I am again questioning the legitimacy of this program and the University's power to withhold government student aid. I am also inquiring to see if rights under the Privacy Act of have been violated.

If there are any students who were also "randomly selected" for this survey, I would greatly appreciate if they or their parents would contact me at 898-6951 or Box 962 Behrend College. Cooperation from others who were forced to participate will help in identifying the University's intentions and authority.

Brent K. Vernon
eighth semester
Political Science

Ed. note: The Letters to the Editor section of the *The Collegian* allows our readers a chance to voice their opinions to our readership.

This format has been very successful this semester thanks to you, our readers. I hope that you will continue to send us letters in the future and let us know what you think.

On the right track

Spanos says: think for a minute

by Christine Spanos

It was a beautiful day and I was out supporting the Behrend baseball team when my friend Kate asked me to go up to the gorge for a quick bite to eat before her class. I got into my car and drove from the first parking lot up to the Reed parking lot. I got out and headed toward the front doors of Reed. It all seems really innocent doesn't it? Guess again.

It was just my luck; Manager of Police and Safety, Randy Hoffman was patrolling the Reed parking lot. Kate looked at me and said, "Great. Now what are you going to do?" I felt the need to stand my ground. I wasn't about to let Randy Hoffman boss me around.

I explained to Mr. Hoffman that I would only be in the gorge for 20 minutes and there was no reason to give me a parking ticket because there were at least a dozen empty spaces left. Who was I hurting?

To make a long story short, Randy Hoffman did boss me around and I had to turn around, unlock my door, and drive back down to the first parking lot. But not before I made my opinion of parking on the Behrend campus an issue not to be forgotten.

This parking thing is something that has always bothered me. I don't understand why people like myself are given secondary parking to the faculty.

Every semester, students pay their tuition and every semester there is less parking than the previous semester. I don't want to sound pompous but it bothers me that I can't park in the same parking lot as the people who receive my tuition.

While my argument basically focused around being considered a second class citizen when it comes to parking, Mr. Hoffman pointed out a few other considerations revolving around the parking issue. He explained that, while I may be complaining about having to walk from the Hammermill parking lot to the Reed building for my class, someone else is cursing under their breath at the fact that they had to walk from the Reed parking lot to Hammermill for their class.

Point well taken, Mr. Hoffman. However, prompted by this exceptional display of campus knowledge, I have devised a very effective plan to eliminate all the trauma that parking brings to each and every one of us.

My plan is really so simple that it almost seems ludicrous to print it in a college newspaper. It goes like this: first come, first served. Pretty simple isn't it? If you think for a minute it makes a good deal of sense.

Here's how. By implementing the first come, first serve method, it is no one's fault but your own if you get screwed out of good parking.

Everyone would be informed, on the first day of classes next semester, of the new parking regulations (basically, there are none).

On top of getting a good space in your desired lot, this extra effort to be one of the "first come" allows you to get to wherever your going on time, if not early. Beyond arriving on time and getting a good parking space, this first come, first served method also lightens up the massive work load that has been imposed upon the Police and Safety officers since I don't know when. Now, how can anyone argue with that?

I found my conversation with Randy Hoffman so enlightening that I felt compelled to bring it out, into the public eye. I can only hope that the minds behind the parking problem see my obvious solution and put it to work.



Christine Spanos