

Editorial

Censorship stops here

There seems to be an interesting misconception on this campus. Although it is completely unfounded and untrue, one might understand how that could come about.

We have read a lot about censorship lately. It has been rearing its ugly head everywhere. Music vendors have been jailed for selling 2 Live Crew albums. The director of an art gallery in Cincinnati went to trial for displaying the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe because some people found them offensive.

Here in Erie there have been battles over the contents of area high school reading lists. There was even an attempt to keep the under-17 crowd from seeing the KISS concert Tuesday night.

Censorship is running rampant across the nation, so it should not be surprising that a student walked into *The Collegian* office last week and asked how much we are censored by the administration. The student did not ask if we are censored, but how much we are censored.

If it is commonly believed on campus that *The Collegian* is censored, then it is time that the air be cleared.

The Collegian is a student-produced newspaper. Student reporters and photographers write the articles and take the photographs. Student editors edit the articles, determine the editorial stance, and make the final decision on what appears in the paper each week.

The first time anyone in the administration or the faculty, including our advisor, sees *The Collegian* is the same time the rest of our readers do when it hits the stands Thursday morning.

There have been attempts at censorship by some administrators when they felt that a story was a touchy subject. But *The Collegian* will not let anyone other than our student editors edit the news.

As soon as a newspaper is edited by the people making the news, it has lost all value and credibility; it becomes nothing more than a tool for the news makers.

The Collegian has a responsibility to our constituency and to ourselves to never let that happen here.

And we take that seriously.

Opinion / Editorial

THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN



Letters to the Editor

Lesson #2

Last year, children, lesson #1 in polemics came from one of Professor George's many beautifully crafted Essays-to-*The Collegian*: how to cut off dissenting opinion, even while calling, ostensibly, for more debate.

This year's lesson, #2, appeared just last week as "Thinking Alike": how to become a shining champion for both sides of an issue...simultaneously. Here's how.

Issue #1: Although, sadly, written by a white male now--happily--dead, *Huck Finn* is part of the "canon" (whatever that is), a great book, and should be read by everyone. Thus, the anti-censorship champion.

Issue #2: On the other hand, *Huck Finn* is a bad book politically and should be shelved in favor of right-thinking works--like any old laundry list scribbled by anyone not a dead white male. The rainbow-colored horseperson says that all books are equal, but that some are less equal than others. Thus, the pro-censorship champion.

This is a very good lesson. At least, it should teach us to observe carefully those who chase fire engines. Experts tell us that it is not uncommon to find the arsonist leading the bucket brigade.

Chester Wolford
Associate Professor of
Business

Parking problem

This is not a letter of revenge...I haven't had a parking ticket since last spring, and it was only my second. But never

the less, I've noticed an increasing number of Police and Safety tags on cars scattered around campus. I believe that under normal circumstances, the vast majority of these cars deserved to be fined.

Just read your parking rulebook, and you'll see that, yes Virginia, it is illegal to park where you did. And under normal circumstances I'd rather not see cars lining the roadways and occupying the accessible mud holes.

Obviously, any genius can see that Behrend is temporarily short on parking spaces and long on heartless enforcement. While new lots are being constructed, the construction vehicles are barricading two old lots. Granted, these Amazon Tonkas have to park some place. Unfortunately, we Behrend commuters have to park some place too.

Given the choice, I'd much rather park on real pavement in a designated space. But without a choice, my Honda will risk the mud bogs and scratches associated with free style parking. I'll get out of the car and walk through the mud, because I paid \$55 to.

And if I have spare time to kill, I'll show up on campus early and join the other cars trolling for a legitimate place to park. I don't even really mind this aggravation, because as I said, any genius can see that Behrend is only temporarily short on parking.

However, the aggravation of sloppy and inconsistent enforcement of the parking regulations is mindless. Cars can park untagged for days in some areas.

Then one day Mr. Rulebook comes along and writes up every car in the same areas where car were safe before. So what will Police and Safety tolerate? Obviously, cars blocking fire hydrants and those double-parked

as to interfere with emergency vehicles should be ticketed.

But rather than having the officers walk aimlessly from lot to lot, or mudhole to mudhole, as the case may be, in search of students who showed up too late to park "legally", why not just position the car on Station Road and write every car that arrives after five till the hour.

After all, where are they going to park anyhow?

So, in closing, I'd like to thank Police and Safety for making Behrend a more aggravating place to park.

Greg Farrell
3rd semester
Economics

NSBE stumped

Penn State Behrend Community, my name is Christopher Lewis and I am the Vice President of the National Society of Black Engineers organization here on campus. When we began NSBE its purpose was to be a support group here on campus for engineering students to meet and help each other scholastically and socially.

The organization however has run into some serious dead ends which alarm me and hopefully you as well. Within its first two weeks here at Behrend NSBE sought to plan activities such as:

1. A one day super Dodge Ball tournament
2. A one day Balloon (prize) Bust contest
3. A Behrend Movie night to show films which never came to this area. Such as *Mo' Better Blues* or *Glory* in which Denzell Washington won the Oscar.

These ideas however were short lived when Student Services informed the organization that:

1. A Dodge Ball tournament was too dangerous. Yet this season alone a student dislocated

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The Collegian

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