

Editorial

...I'm thinking

It would seem that if the registrar's office expects students to turn their advance registration packets in on time, they could make them available to students a little earlier.

Some students were expected turn in the completed forms yesterday. The packets were only issued on Monday. That's not too much time for students to figure out their schedule, set up an appointment with their advisor and be advised.

By making the packets available just one week earlier, the registrar's office could eliminate some headaches for students and advisors.

• *The Collegian* has been getting a ton of Letters to the Editor, which is good. However, the student population has been grossly underrepresented. More than two-thirds of the letters we've received have been from faculty and staff.

We'd like to know what the students, the majority of our constituency, is thinking. Let us know. By the way, when submitting letters, please adhere to the Letters Policy in the staff box on this page. In the past, some of our more learned contributors (i.e. faculty and staff) have penned works rivaling Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. While there's nothing wrong with covering a subject in depth, the letters section isn't designed for an exhaustive dissertation - just the facts, please.

• Speaking of Letters to the Editor, one of our biggest contributors, Chester Wolford, sent us a correction this week. It seems that the quote that Quinn Solem used in his first column was a little off. The quote is actually, "Every nation has the government it deserves," and it was said by Joseph de Maistre (1753-1821). Thank you for your support, Chet.

The Collegian

Published weekly by the students of Behrend College, Erie, PA

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The Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by the editorial staff, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are not necessarily those of *The Collegian* or the Pennsylvania State University.

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Letter Policy: *The 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. Letters should be submitted to *The Collegian* office no later than noon on Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

Postal Information: *The Collegian* (814 898-6488) is published weekly by the students of the Behrend College; Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, Pa 16563.

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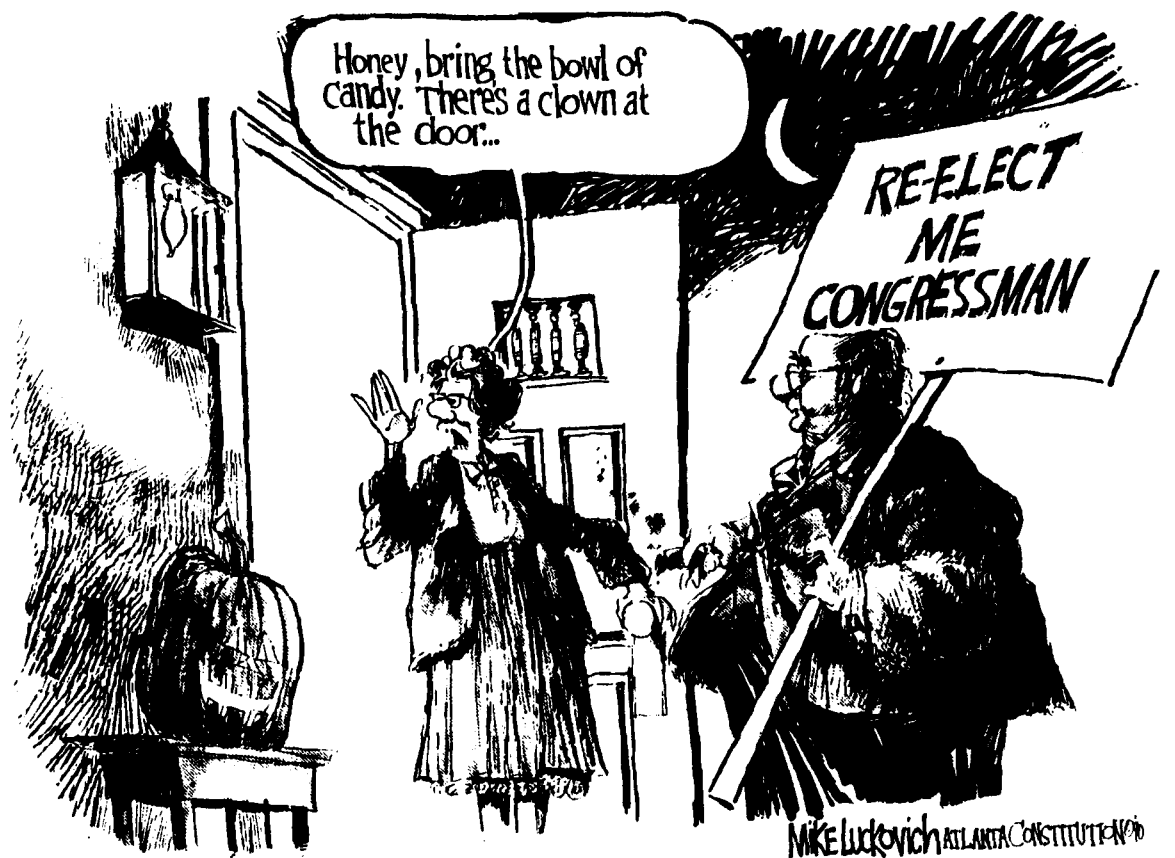
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Letters to the Editor

Special people

The Lion Ambassadors are sponsoring an essay contest titled, "WHAT MAKES BEHREND SPECIAL?" I wrote an essay which I had no intention of entering into the contest; however, I would like to submit it as a Letter to the Editor:

Behrend has many features that make it special -- the location, the beautiful campus, picturesque throughout all seasons, and the opportunity to obtain a quality education. Even more important, however, it is the people who make Behrend special.

Overall, the faculty are excellent, the students are among the best and there is a good administration, but it is the "forgotten people" who really make Behrend special. You always read and hear about the administrators, faculty and students. But who ever has anything to say about the people behind the scenes -- clerical, support staff and tech service employees?

Who greets you when you walk in an office and then gives you directions or tries to answer your questions or schedules an appointment if you need it? Who types the letters, tests, syllabi, research papers, class schedules, and the endless amount of memos that are distributed? Who types the purchase orders and keeps track of the budgets?

Who cooks the food and serves it?

Who mows the lawn, plows and shovels snow?

Who repairs the equipment, cleans the building and scrubs the restrooms?

And most of all, who listens to the students, faculty, staff, and parents when they are upset -- the flak-catchers - our support staff.

It is time for everyone to recognize that these are the people who are always there to accomplish the important everyday tasks and keep everything running smooth.

Let's applaud our clerk typists, secretaries, administrative assistants, technicians, janitors, and all other clerical and tech service employees. These are the people who really make Behrend special

Loretta May
Administrative Assistant

Not RIGHT

Mr. Prindle's article "College scene is really tiresome" is an example of prolonged misuse of the English language for political reasons.

I think "college scene," and life in a democracy are not "really tiresome," they are challenging and tough. Everybody can find many wrong things, especially those who are "liberals."

Since English is not my native tongue, I got my faithful dictionary to check whether this word, which is an ordinary word in Italian, is an offensive word in English. The Random House Dictionary reads: liberal - 1. favoring progress and reform. 2. open-minded or tolerant. The "worst" meaning I could find was: "left-winger, leftist" (The Random House Thesaurus). Since in my country left-wing parties are very popular, I do not find the word offensive (or any more offensive than "conservative").

Well, when you favor reform, you get different choices such as:

a. sit in an ivory tower and tell other people what to do,

b. be fatalistic, keep quiet, and wait for someone to make changes,

c. play crybaby by

complaining and criticizing, too "tired" to even use constructive criticism (and be a hypocrite, because crybabies never changed anything),

d. get involved in the changing process (there is no guarantee of success, but this is one of the side effects of democracy).

I like to get my hands dirty and fight for what I want. My choices might not always be wise, but they are made in good faith.

Since one of my main goals is to be a student and a teacher at the same time for as long as I can (I did not say "a math teacher" in the dimwitted conviction that my subject "is the one that will save you"), I want to comment on the misuse of these words.

A "student" is (see dictionary again) "a person who studies." So, this word is not a condescending label, unless you have a chip on your shoulder. A "teacher" is (see dictionary once again) "a person who instructs" and not a perfect human being. A "teacher" is not a "guru" by definition (dictionary anyone?). These words are not synonyms.

Moreover, the words "teacher" and "student" are not mutually exclusive. Some of my students are my best teachers at the same time. And I can teach something to my students, if they want to listen.

Let me close with an example of someone who does not want to listen but still taught me something. Mr. Prindle was a student of mine for two semesters.

One of his complaints was that since he worked (as a high percentage of Behrend students do), he was having a difficult time seeing his teachers during their office hours. I asked him to pick a time for us to meet. His answer was that he did not have time, reminding me that there will always be someone I cannot

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