

Editorial

Changes needed

Once again a few Behrend students have managed to make the entire campus look bad.

Last week a poster board was hung on the wall across from the library on the first floor of the Reed Building. Across the top of the sign was printed, "Some changes if I ran this school..." Below this heading fell 30 blank spaces awaiting suggestions from students.

The intent of this poster was a good idea. Trying to elicit honest, helpful and intelligent responses from the student body, however, was obviously wishful thinking.

There were some serious and positive suggestions written on the sign: "add a football team," "create more parking spaces," "add more majors," and "have a cultural fiesta for the arts" were mentioned.

Unfortunately, the positive ideas were overshadowed by a slew of inappropriate racial comments.

"Bring back white bashing at Behrend, I have something to say;" "more minorities;" "we need less cry baby minorities;" "minority power;" "less discrimination against whites;" and "stop trying to hold blacks down (because it won't work or be healthy!)" all appeared on the poster.

Also last week, a National Society of Black Engineers flier announcing meeting times for the group was defaced. (See letter *NSBE attack* on this page.)

This is not the behavior expected of college students. Or maybe it is. It's hard to believe that individuals can get this far in life holding such deep racist attitudes.

The individuals who participated in this act are an embarrassment to the rest of the students on this campus. They are ignorant, immature and irresponsible. It is the few that ruin things for the masses and project a negative image of Behrend. All and all, it's just a plain shame.

In the middle of all the trash written on the poster were printed the words: "Less racism - Peace." Wouldn't it be nice if someday the meaning behind those words didn't seem so unachievable.



"You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights! You'll join the high fliers who soar to great heights!"
(From, Oh, The Places You'll Go! Suess, 1990)

Letters to the Editor

Date rape

Once again I am writing in reference to the ongoing dispute over campus rape and the film relating to this subject.

Two weeks ago, Danette Parrett wrote a letter answering to my previous letter. In her letter Danette makes several good points, which I do agree with. However unfortunately, I have some major qualms with some of the ideas found in her letter.

She writes, "Unfortunately, when educational video tapes on the subject are resented, the purpose of the tapes is defeated." I ask Danette what her response would have been if the issue was concerning women negatively? Would you have sat there and blocked out the offending comments for the sake of educational value? I think not.

What Danette is suggesting is that we should blindly believe and agree to anything that is given to us in the form of something educational. At any rate this viewpoint is wrong. We should have the right to question anything that is presented to us. Never should you agree to the beliefs of another just for the sake of not wanting to disagree with something that someone deemed educational.

As for the "no means no" expression, I think we have a problem seeing that for what it is. Rape is not committed by people that cannot grasp the meaning of the word no. Rape is committed by people that refuse to agree with another person's decision to have sex.

Instead of beating literate intelligent males over the head with "no means no," our schools

and parents should teach our children to honor the feelings of others.

Lastly, Danette writes that she hopes future generations will regard rape films more open-mindedly. Well, I will view rape films open-mindedly when they are presented as such. People are unable to see the educational value of something that is communicated to them offensively.

It is the communicator's job to find the best possible means to get their idea across without creating resentment. In this particular film, they failed. In conclusion I would like to clarify that it is not the actual tape that is despised, but rather the message contained therein.

Tom Strunk
Third semester
History

NSBE attack

In review of the asinine attack on a defenseless NSBE flier; I, as a member of NSBE and a minority, wish to answer some of your (the person or persons who defaced the flier) feeble minded concerns. In defacing the NSBE flier, you in your wisdom exclaimed:

"Where is the national society of whites?...Engineers?" Although I concede, I do not know where such an organization exists; I do know the location of some other organizations you may consider. The Society of Automotive Engineers, Society of Physics Students, the Engineering Club, and the Mechanical Engineering Club are all functional organizations on campus.

All of these clubs are also predominantly, if not totally, Caucasian. If these organizations are not to your liking, you may even attend the National Society of Black Engineers. Even though the work "Black" appears in the organizations name any Behrend student can attend.

As to your concerns about unemployment: "Blacks and other minorities are given jobs just because of their race in order to meet quotas."

My reply to that is if a minority receives a position over a white male, it is undoubtedly due to the fact that they are more than capable of filling that position. No company, despite any quota nonsense, will hire an IGNORANT employee over a more qualified one.

An advantage if any, that minority may have over that "white male" is the fact that all their lives they have dealt with discrimination, segregation and hebetudinous (that means stupid) preconceived notions such as you write. That hopefully has made them a stronger more culturally informed person, a better person, and a better applicant.

As far as: "Yes Penn State does it with students"

I must admit, I know not what Penn State does. Why not ask the dean about it, he might know. By the way, you can also ask him what happened to the "minority faculty quota," or don't they count.

Hopefully, we have come to an understanding on your concerns. If there are still any concerns about NSBE, before you pick up your crayon, come to one of our meetings so we can put to rest any questions.

Lorenzo Paul
Ninth semester
MET

The Collegian

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