

## Editorial

# Censorship stops here

Ed. note: Todd J. Irwin's brain was on vacation this week. We are running one of our favorite editorials from the past. The following editorial originally ran in *The Collegian* on Oct. 18, 1990.

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.

## The Collegian

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

Editor  
Todd J. Irwin

Advertising Manager  
Keiren Logue

Business Manager  
Adrienne Shrawder

Advisor  
Dr. Mike Simmons

*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.

**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 standing 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.

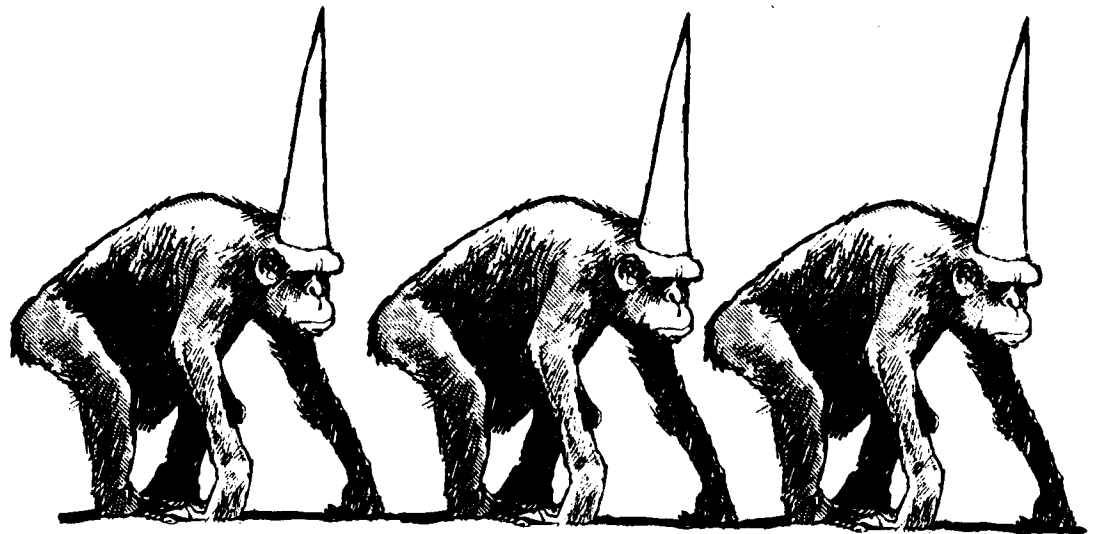
Features Editor  
Robb Frederick

News Editor  
Mark Owens

Entertainment Editor  
Christi Luden

Sports Editor  
Greg Geibel

Photo Coordinator  
Craig Breter



## Evolution of U.S. Education

### Letters to the Editor

#### Hosed off

This is in response to the editorial in the Oct. 10 edition of *The Collegian* regarding the new parking spaces in F Lot for Brookside firefighters.

The parking spaces are located in a resident parking lot. There are currently more than enough parking spaces for resident students. Any night of the week at least thirty empty spaces can be found in the parking lot beside the maintenance building. Granted, this parking lot is located more than a desirable walking distance from some resident's rooms, but is within a couple minutes walk from most student residences.

This couple minutes walk is the problem in an emergency situation. In three to four minutes, I can walk from my apartment to my car. In three to four minutes a brain cell, deprived of oxygen, dies. In sixty seconds a structure fire triples in size. Within sixty minutes of injury a serious trauma patient should be in an operating room.

Seconds are very critical in an emergency situation. One of the purposes of the fire and emergency medical services is to minimize the damage created in an emergency. The best way to accomplish this is to bring well trained and qualified personnel to the scene of an emergency in the shortest time possible.

On Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 3:24 a.m., the fire alarm in Dobbins Hall was activated. Approximately fifty firefighters from Brookside, Kuhl Hose, Belle Valley, and Lawrence Park responded. Among those fifty people were four Behrend students. Even though the alarm

was caused by someone activating the pull box at the base of the main staircase in Dobbins Hall, there was potential for a real fire.

That fire could have quickly spread to surrounding structures, Lawrence and Porcupine Halls. The best way to prevent this is to bring well trained and qualified personnel to the scene of an emergency in the shortest time possible.

If a student is dying from a diabetic emergency, as has happened this semester at Behrend, they have a right to prompt care from a well trained person. The best way to accomplish this is to bring well trained and qualified personnel to the scene of an emergency in the shortest time possible.

Many Behrend students have volunteered with a variety of organizations in the surrounding area, but few, if any, have the time constraints of a fire company. Some people never require the services of an ambulance or fire company, but if you do, you have the right to well trained and qualified personnel to come to your aid quickly. The purpose of the parking spaces is to minimize the response time of the firefighters living on campus.

Brian Creager  
Ninth semester  
Electrical Engineering

#### ... twice

In reading the editorial in the Oct. 10 issue of *The Collegian*, I noticed that you may not have an understanding of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. I

would like to take this opportunity to share with you a few facts:

- Time is a crucial factor in the Fire and Emergency Medical Services. A cardiac arrest victim can die in four to six minutes, and fire spreads six-fold in one minute. Time delays can be disastrous.

- Fire personnel undergo numerous hours of fire and emergency medical training with no financial reward in order to respond at all hours of the day or night to help people in need. This includes Behrend and all of its students.

I also take offense at the mention of an off-campus organization "infiltrating" Behrend. The Brookside Fire Co., which requested these spaces, supplies Behrend and its students with Fire and Emergency Medical Services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which I feel makes us an important part of your college life. Behrend is responsible for 10 percent of our calls, even though the campus is only a small part of our response area. You, or any other student, may require our services and time is of the most importance.

I respect the volunteer services that others are doing and encourage them to continue their efforts, but I wonder how many of them volunteer in situations where minutes can be a matter of life or death? In the end, these parking spaces benefit all students at Behrend.

Robert Martin  
Chief

Brookside Fire Company