

Editorial

What now?

Open forum.

The idea behind an open forum is a free exchange of opinions and beliefs. The key word here is exchange. Exchange entails giving and receiving, or in this case, speaking and listening.

There was a fair number of students who turned out to voice their opinions at last Thursday's "Racism at Behrend: An Open Forum on Racial Prejudice" sponsored by the Human Relations Council and the Association of Black Collegians.

A wide range of issues and opposing views were aired from various parties. Unfortunately, there was not a full exchange. Plenty of talking was done, but listening seemed to be lacking. People go to such a forum to express their views, and, popular or not, they have the same right to be heard as everyone else.

There may have been some rather uninformed views presented at the forum, but that's part of the ball game, too. There was a lot of talk about how important education is to alleviating the problem of racism.

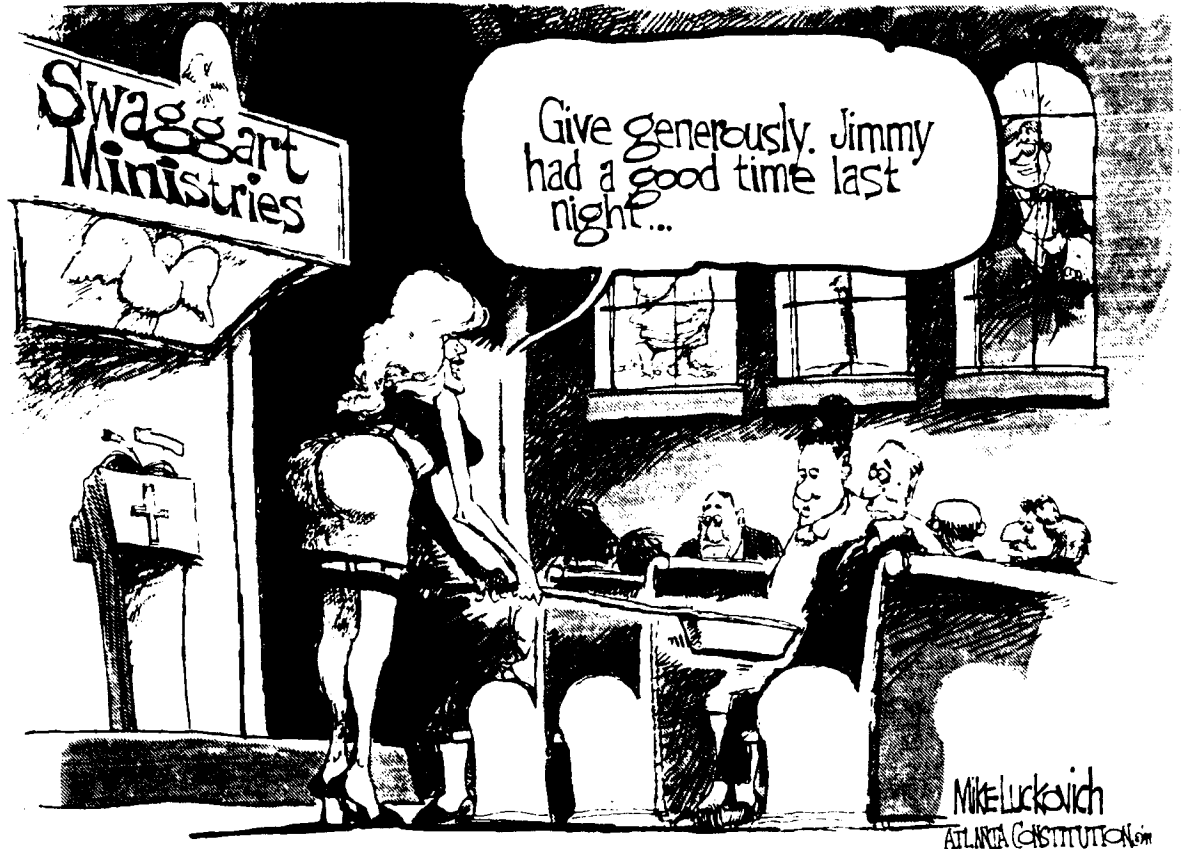
Yet there was just as much moaning and groaning when an unpopular view was expressed. Listening is an important part of learning -- of education. By learning what other people think, the education process can be focused to needed areas.

Which leads to an important question. What now? Year after year, an open forum on racism is held and people come out and express their opinions and at the end of the night everyone realizes that more education is needed and that's that until next year.

A continuing process of education needs to occur. A year long series of diversity and education programs sponsored by student organizations, along with periodic open forums to reassess the scope of racial problems on campus may be a step in the right direction.

Only through education and understanding will racism become a thing of the past instead of a reason to hold an annual open forum.

Opinion



Letter to the Editor

Thank you

The Behrend Math Club would like to thank all those who assisted us in making Dr. Mary Ellen Rudin's visit a resounding success.

It is not often that students of a campus this size have the opportunity to interact in an informal setting with an accomplished research mathematician.

Dr. Rudin's visit provided a unique chance for mathematics majors to gain insight into graduate level study and the research process from a world class mathematical scientist. For other students, her enthusiastic approach to math, as expressed in both of her public talks, made

quite an impact.

In her talks she made it a point to address many of the typical misconceptions people have about mathematics and mathematicians.

She particularly emphasized the fact that mathematics isn't a field of boring material practiced by stuffy old professors. Rather, it is a science which is continually making tremendous break-throughs and which is filled with many varied and colorful characters.

Dr. Rudin presented material which spoke to everyone, regardless of their level of interest in mathematics and its related fields.

It was only through the generosity of several anonymous donors that the Math Club was

able to sponsor Dr. Rudin's visit. Through the help of these few, all of the campus was able to be involved in this very special event. We thank them.

We also would like to thank all the students and faculty who came to the public talks and participated in helping to show Dr. Rudin the Behrend College campus and Eric itself. The campus was well represented. Dr. Rudin left with a very favorable impression of the community and high regard for Behrend's dedication to promoting excellence in mathematics.

Again, thank you all.

Jordan Feidler
Seventh semester
Mathematics

The Collegian

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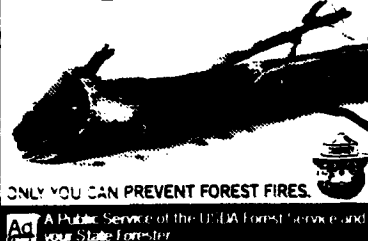
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