

White male shutout at stake

by Jennifer Flanagan

I have been hearing some grumbling going on among some white males on this campus and elsewhere. They feel they are being attacked, held responsible for all of society's problems, and cast as "the devil incarnate of the PC crusade," as one young man recently put it.

Overgeneralizing for the moment, for the sake of getting to the point without worrying about PC rhetoric myself - I realize that every group of people, stereotypically, hates another group of people.

So why have white males been targeted by the PC movement? Because, stereotypically speaking, American white males hate everybody. And unfortunately, this is one stereotype that has its foundations in truth. Collectively, white males in America have successfully shut out of power every ethnic persuasion and the opposite gender for 200 years.

Granted, it isn't your fault if you were born a white male. On the other hand, you have to understand that by being born

into the group that has been running the country for the past 200 years, you not only have an automatic foot in the door, you have a seat at the head table. And the rest of us would now like an invitation to dinner.

Of course, no one ever willingly steps down from power, which is why concepts such as diversity and political correctness have to be introduced into polite society. Since the universities and colleges are teaching America's future leaders, it is logical that such places have begun the campaign.

There seems to be this idea going around that PC is akin to "Big Brother" and the thought police are around every corner.

The "huge" PC campaign that everyone is so up in arms about is really not so big. A very small percentage of college campuses have radical PC movements happening; Behrend is certainly not one of them. We aren't even remotely radical.

We have one diversity requirement, a token number of minority clubs, and a freshman orientation program that includes topics like campus

rape. And students feel this is too PC?

The fact that students have problems with diversity at Behrend isn't showing anyone that we are too PC. It's illustrating the fact that we are a chokingly conservative campus.

The idea behind diversity and political correctness is simply to get those who think America means White Male America to realize they are not, nor have ever been, the only ones here.

The accusations randomly being hurled around are not directed at all white males, though it may seem like it. Granted, white males have been the focus for much of the PC movement.

In fact, a few weeks ago I read an article in the *New York Times* entitled "The Crime of White Maleness," written in response to the attacks on white males.

I agree with the author of that piece in that it is, of course, not a crime to be a white male. However, it is a crime to have patriarchal, supremacist attitudes, and in that sense, I'd say there are males out there guilty of the

crime of "white maleness."

Following this logic, it is possible, then, for women to be guilty of white maleness, since such displays of white supremacy and sexism stem from the attitudes found in a white dominated patriarchy such as our own.

The students responsible for defacing the NSBE's poster two weeks ago, the student who yelled racial slurs at Dr. Ichiyama last year, the young man who, in response to the gay bashing forum held last year, said he'd like to bash some gays with a baseball bat, the young man who blames the victim in cases of sexual assault, the young man who said "Send them back to Africa" at last year's forum on racism, the student who declared her G.P.A. is more important than cultural diversity - these students, male and female, are guilty of the crime of white maleness, as defined above.

Students who don't want to learn about racism and sexism because their minds are made up, students who don't need education on sexual assault, students who think the diversity

requirement is a waste of time, these people are exactly who the PC crusade is directed at.

Most American men approve of representational democracy - it's our system of government. Cultural diversity and the PC movement are merely minorities and women wanting exactly what representational democracy is about - appropriate representation in politics, education, curriculum and so on.

Since the white males in power don't seem to be interested in acknowledging that equality, women and minorities decided that a little consciousness-raising was in order. The people who complain the most are the very people who need this kind of education. And it's not going to stop until your consciences - and your consciences - have been raised.

By the looks of things, that may take a while.

Jennifer Flanagan is a sixth semester English major. Her column appears every other week in The Collegian.

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