

Letters to the Editor

Good-bye

As my 5 1/2 year college career at Behrend comes to a close, I can't help reflecting on this important part of my life. I was 35 when I sat nervously in a classroom for the first time in the more than 15 years. Now I feel like the luckiest person in the world for many reasons.

Behrend has given me an education and the proof will take the form of a Bachelor's Degree. I will also take with me something more valuable that could never be declared sufficiently with all the certificates in the world. The friendships I have made are more precious than any in my heart and life forever.

I don't know if I have been particularly blessed with any great wisdom. Two jewels that I have stumbled upon over the years are: anything worthwhile does not come easily; the other, it is easy to make a lot of money...if that is all you want to do. I have never measured anyone's success by the size of a bank account. Please don't hold me to that standard.

I have lived my life to be the master and money the slave. I pray those roles never change.

A man can never have too many friends and I find myself richer beyond my greatest expectations than when I first wandered down Behrend's driveway.

Now I expect new doors to open. I expect my life to take another course. I expect to face more hard work to achieve more successes. I expect to never quit trying. I hope my friends remain.

Without the support and confidence of the most loving wife in the world, I could not have succeeded at anything, let alone returning to college. It has been a difficult journey for me, but perhaps even more so for her making my road as smooth as possible. The diploma with my name belongs to Jan every bit as much as it does to me. She has earned it no less than I.

Regrets? Not a one in that I would do anything differently. My only regret is that my mother will not be in the hall to watch me graduate. She will, however, be next to me on the dais when my diploma is awarded.

To all my friends--students, faculty, at home, at work--I could not have done it without all of you.

Don Knepper
Eleventh semester
Accounting

PC judgement

I desperately need a Political Correctness (PC) judgement call. The older I get, the more Nordic my favorite fantasy lover becomes. Am I guilty of

ethnocentric idealization and sexual objectification? Or, am I a helpless victim after years of supremacist socialization from six white men pent on perpetuating their sexual ascendancy? Is my chokingly conservative attitude showing?

The true goal of a conservative administration or government is to provide everyone with only a fair shot--to succeed or to fail--not to guarantee that one won't be passed over or fall to bad luck. Their only legitimate purpose is to insure that the tools are available if one has the will to master them and to insure that all have a fair chance to sell their skill in a free and open marketplace.

Too many have fallen into the trap of accusing successful members of ethnic minorities of betraying their heritage and accusing successful women of selling out. The obvious implication is that success in our society derives from something deviant or immoral--surely white maleness.

The PC Crusade is going to be bloody, painful, and isn't going to help anyone overcome social, racial, or sexual prejudice. It will merely drive them back underground to fester and grow even more vicious and ugly. Leave them in the open where the sun's light can cleanse and heal them.

The kids wrote on the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) poster (if, indeed, they were engineering students) and the NSBE members need a chance to work side by side on a few design projects where the confidence and trust between professionals will develop without irrelevant concerns about melanin levels.

The loud-mouthed delinquent who shouted slurs at Dr. Ichiyama doesn't need a course in Asian culture, but a solid smack along side of his empty head for disrespecting his betters. The little demon who spoke of baseball-batting a gay needs a little healthy knowledge about sexuality so that he may deal with his own frightening urges.

Suppression breeds only repression and leads to obsession. And there, my friends, is where some nasty, ugly things are conceived between guilt and fear. There are too many serious problems to be dealt with in this country that are going to take a lot of time, money and work. A three credit course in diversity or reading Chukka Zulu isn't nearly enough. It isn't even an honest start.

Alissa Krupar
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Diversity/PC

For the nth time, *The Collegian* has published an article



that insults and abuses the reader with inane accusations, self-righteous pomposity, and faulty logic. The latest installment of male-bashing justification was stridently excessive in all three.

How dare you smugly judge anyone guilty of retaining patriarchal, supremacist attitudes when you so easily justify permitting yourself the helpful little stereotype that American white males hate everyone?

Don't denounce a group's alleged repressive tactics while using them yourself. It's not very ethical. Besides, the last time I read the First Amendment, it still held that attitudes and speech weren't grounds for prosecution. But, I guess liberals are pretty nonchalant about playing fast and loose with the Bill of Rights when it suits their agenda, huh?

The concepts of diversity and political correctness are diametric opposites and therefore cannot co-exist on the same plane. Diverse culture never flourishes in a society that actively, or covertly, suppresses any thought. (Does the term "re-education classes" set off any alarms in the PoliSci and History crowds?)

It is irrelevant whether the ideology being attacked is that of religious minorities, neo-Nazis, or one's own personal clique. It is wrong; it is immoral; it is unconstitutional.

What is most infuriating about the whole Political Correctness (PC) movement, not just Behrend's PC Children, is that they are so self-assured by their absolutes that they feel justified in imposing their doctrine on everyone else. Anyone who criticizes or opposes their little game as insular self-delusion is a racist, sexist, and supremacist in obvious need of "education." How convenient. Don't tell me what education I need; you don't know me. I was working for a living while most

of the PC students across this nation were still arguing a over whether Superman was stronger than Wonderwoman. I carved out a room of my own and defended it long before anyone told me that I couldn't do it because the cards were stacked.

True equality isn't achieved until engineers are hired based on their resume and design portfolios, not how many minorities the company has hired

in the last five years. True equal representation isn't achieved when one is granted a position simply because the skin color is the right shade to meet this week's quota, but permitted the dignity of a color-blind competition among human beings.

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The Collegian

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