

# A Necessary Proposal

by Tom Strunk

At Penn State-Behrend we have over seventy clubs and organizations. Among these clubs and organizations there are several that are dedicated to multiculturalism and diversity.

Some of these organizations are rather well run and hold a fairly large membership. While these organizations hold a certain necessity for Behrend, they have clear limitations. These limitations show us that we at Penn State-Behrend must have an organization, free from the clutches of diversity and multiculturalism, that will provide the impetus for brotherhood.

Let me first support the claim that the existence of support groups for minorities is necessary. Most of us would agree that college is a big transition. For minorities it is often harder. The anxiety of entering a fully integrated environment can be very great. The pressure of moving into such an environment is what is known as "integration shock."

There is also an added fear of failure. Any failure would seem to affirm the assertions of any racist or sexist stereotypes, and thereby increases the pressure for

success.

Realizing that the success of women and minorities in college is intrinsic to the well-being of this country, it is necessary and proper that upon entering college they are encouraged to succeed.

The multicultural organizations that are in existence on this campus help to meet these needs, and for that reason they are of a certain necessity.

However, these organizations are limited in their ability to create brotherhood across races and respect across sexes. Many people today feel that diversity and multiculturalism are necessary for the ending of racism and sexism. The multiculturalists advocate that respect for minorities can only be gained by presenting examples of minority achievement, and success for minorities can only be brought about by instilling a strong sense of self-esteem.

However, the more we flaunt our differences, the more we grow apart. We now have the opportunity to create brotherhood among the races. But instead of building on our common ground we are eroding it. The embracing of differences leads to separation and an environment lacking in brotherhood.

If this argument should be

doubted, I implore any skeptics to examine the way we live. If someone from the early twentieth century came to Dobbins they would think that segregation had never been outlawed. There are tables where blacks sit, tables where whites sit, and tables



where Hispanics sit. I would venture to say that most students do not have close friends outside their race. Next time you are on campus look around and you will probably see people divided into races.

All this is because there is a failure to bring blacks and whites together on this campus. ABC brings blacks together, CLAS brings Hispanics together, and Women Today brings women together. There is nothing that

brings blacks, whites, and Hispanics together. The more diversity creeps in, the more we lose the unity that will bring about the end of racism and sexism.

Because of this lack of brotherhood we need an organization that will focus its attention on brotherhood. The multicultural groups at Behrend do not exclude anybody from membership; in fact, they accept anyone willing to participate in their organization.

But our multicultural organizations already have an agenda that focuses on a certain race or sex, thereby alienating all those that do not have an intense desire to explore the achievements and the needs of that certain race or sex. To avoid this we need an organization that does not focus on anybody's culture. The goal of the organization would be to bring different races and sexes together to promote the brotherhood and well being of all.

We need to be brought together without the issues of racism and sexism being addressed. We need a chance to interact on a level that is devoid of all racism and sexism as well as accusations of racism and sexism. In sports and music we have seen how the races can interact in an atmosphere of

brotherhood. Now we must create the same atmosphere on the campus.

We have been given what we wanted, now we must be given what we need. Rather than end the arrogance of white males, we have only provided for the arrogance of all. To bring us together, we do not need to see each other's cultural achievements. We must learn to respect individuals, not races or sexes, and this is brought about by individuals not races or sexes.

Today on this campus, and all campuses across the United States, we need organizations, assisted by the administration and driven by the enthusiasm of the students, to provide the means for bringing us together as human beings.

For only after we start to build a common ground will we ever be free from racism and sexism.

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# What Tsongas should have said

by Mike Royko

Paul Tsongas is being praised for making so gracious a withdrawal speech. But he'll get no praise from me. I'm tired of hearing politicians stand up and pretend to be good losers when they must surely be filled with bile. And I wish they would spit it out.

Since he wouldn't do it, I'll dash off a speech for him:

"I am withdrawing. It is clear that I cannot win the nomination, even though it should be obvious to anyone with more than an ounce of brains that I was the best candidate. Unfortunately, those with less than an ounce of brains are in the majority."

"My campaign failed because, frankly, it was too practical, honest, aside too much sense and didn't pander to enough voters."

"You noticed that I didn't promise to cut your taxes. Of course I didn't. That would be stupid. If I cut taxes, we'd go deeper in debt. Then I'd have to raise taxes to help cover the juice we're paying on all that debt. Did you appreciate my candor? No, you'd rather have someone tell you that he is going to make it possible for you to buy three

more Happy Meals at McDonald's and to hell with the future."

"I said I wanted to raise the price of gasoline and use that money to improve the environment and make us less dependent on foreign fossil fuel."

"But you would think I was talking about eating your children. The fact is, gasoline costs less today, in real dollars, than it did 30 or 40 years ago. And when you factor in the better mileage than you used to get in the old gas hogs, you've already got a terrific deal."

"Do you know what they pay for a gallon of gas in Canada, in Europe, in Japan, just about anywhere else in the developed world? But you don't hear them whining."

"They said I was pro-business, and I am. But some people made that sound like I believe in child labor or making workers buy spoiled food at the company store."

"I know that it is difficult for some of the unreconstructed lefties in our party to understand that this is not the 1960s and that all businesses and all business people are not evil."

"It works this way. The first

obligation a business has is to make a profit. That way, the business stays in business. If the business doesn't make money, eventually it goes out of business. Then instead of a



building in which people have jobs that allow them to support their families and pay taxes so they can have schools and cops and firemen and parks, there is an empty building with bums living in it."

"When that happens, the lefties say that society has failed

the bums and we must do something for them, so they raise taxes and create programs to make life better for bums. Then the government hires more bureaucrats who really don't do anything to help the bums, except make studies and issue reports that conclude that we must have more programs, so they can have more studies and issue reports."

"All of which could be avoided if we had done something to keep the business competitive in the first place. But if I mention that I want to help business expand and compete in the global economy, a lot of you think I am a tool of Wall Street. OK, have it your way. And when the bums move into the empty businesses in your neighborhood, call my opponent."

"Another reason I lost is that I'm not a pretty boy and I talk funny. So what? Have any of you looked in the mirror lately? Or have you tried to debate anything besides how much money a baseball player should make? So where does a country full of people who can't utter one sentence without mumbling 'uh, yah know?' or 'OK' every second word get off calling me Elmer

Fudd? But I shouldn't be surprised. You elected a movie actor who couldn't say 'Good morning' without a TelePrompTer."

"So I want to thank all of those people who voted for me and contributed to my campaign. While you have not experienced the thrill of victory, you have the satisfaction of knowing you're not dimwits, either."

"As for those who prefer some glib, position-hopping, pretty-boy back-slapper, you have a good chance of getting what you deserve."

"The trouble is, the rest of us will get it, too."

"Now I am going to return to private life, make as much money as I can, and if someone mentions public service to me, I'll tell them to try the self-serve pump at the gas station."

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