

Editorial

Penn State suspends intolerance policy

First Amendment rights and acts of intolerance are in the news once again. Last Wednesday, the *Weekly Collegian* reported that Penn State had suspended, indefinitely, the University's policy on intolerance. According to *The Collegian*, the policy increased the amount of punishment a student would face in the event that he or she violated the University's code of conduct and were motivated to do so by an intolerance of another person's race, gender, color, national origin, sexual orientation, political or religious beliefs. All of this comes after a Supreme Court ruling which states "hate crime" laws are unconstitutional.

It's about time we wake up to the fact that intolerance and hate won't go away by restricting free speech on college campuses. Instead, we must play the role of educator. College affords students the opportunity to truly speak their mind, perhaps for the first time in their lives. Tolerance and freedom of speech are two entirely different issues. We can't mix them together.

Violence brought on by intolerance is already punishable by Pennsylvania and federal law. In fact, a person can be charged with ethnic intimidation, if he or she commits a criminal offense which is motivated by a hatred of another individual or group.

For the past two years, Behrend has had no violations of the code of conduct involving intolerance. This is not to say that racial intimidation, sexual harassment and other forms of intolerance do not exist. It does, however, prove that it's not necessary to suppress our rights to expression.

Congratulations Penn State...for doing the right thing. Restricting freedom won't change intolerance.

The Collegian

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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. Letters should be submitted to *The Collegian* office no later than noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date. Letters submitted to *The Collegian* become property of the newspaper. *The Collegian* is published every Thursday during the academic year on recycled paper.

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Thank You

On behalf of the Community Blood Bank, I would like to thank all of the students who donated or tried to donate during Behrend's Fall Blood Drive. One hundred and twenty seven units were collected during the two day period.

Maintaining a safe, adequate blood supply benefits our entire community. It assures that blood and blood products will be available for the patients who need them. Because our medical technologists separate the blood into its components, up to four lives can be saved with a single pint. Our burn victims receive plasma, our trauma victims receive red cells, our cancer patients receive platelets and a fourth product called cryoprecipitate aids hemophiliacs.

Also, a special thanks to the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon

and the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon for their help.

We look forward to working with the students at Behrend again.

Lisa M. Graff
Donor Group Coordinator

The Collegian Praised

I am happy to see that *The Collegian* has maintained the traditions of journalistic excellence in its aggressive reporting on the up-coming elections. As the editors know, democracy depends on an informed electorate. The press is protected under the Constitution, because the founding fathers recognized its role in informing and advising the country's citizens about their government.

That the current elections for national and state officials will have some impact on higher education is obvious. Behrend

itself is part of a state related and funded institution, Penn State, and Penn State's budget is being cut. One wonders what the position is of people running for state government in the Erie area on funding for higher education in general, and for Penn State and Behrend in particular.

In terms of the national elections, the federal government provides sources of funding that many Behrend students depend on. One wonders what the positions of the candidates' in that Government are on higher education and funding for it? What is their record?

It is heartening to see that *The Collegian* has given careful thought to its role in the democratic process and has worked to inform its readers on these issues of such importance to them, particularly in its pre-election issue.

Pete Zenger
1st semester MET

From the Hip

Let's talk for a little while about stress and anxiety (although technically I'm writing and you're reading, but that's not important). Lately, I've seen a lot of people walking around campus in a terribly bitter mood and acting in a very unfriendly manner all due to the fact that they have some paper due or a HUGE test the next day. All of this tension can't be very good for the environment, so allow me (and my infinite wisdom) to put things into perspective for you.

I remember a long time ago, when I was about six years old, I was on a particular grocery shopping trip with my mom. We had finished getting all the food we needed to live off for the next month and we were waiting in the check-out line. Being a tiny-tot the mere age of six, I quickly grew bored with standing in line and needed something more to keep my attention. Thank gosh the supermarket people have enough sense to fill the check-out line with all the impulse items needed to drive a six year old crazy. I grabbed a package of Silly Putty and begged my mom

to buy it for me. She promptly refused which threw me into a pleading frenzy. I NEEDED that Silly Putty! If I didn't get that Silly Putty, I would DIE! The



Craig Campbell

only thing in the world I cared about was THE SILLY PUTTY! She once again said no to the Silly Putty and crushed me. That Silly Putty was the most important thing in my life at that point in time, and not getting it stressed me out about as much as a six year old can be stressed.

Of course, now I barely feel any remorse about the Silly Putty incident (probably because I'm old enough to buy my own Silly Putty now!) and most of you are wondering exactly why I chose to tell you this little tale. I know it may seem a little pointless and stupid but look at it this way. Who's to say that ten years from now I won't be looking back at how stressed I was over a paper or a test and wonder what the big deal was all about, the same way I view my need for Silly Putty that fateful day. I'm sorry I have to be the one to break this to you, but there will always be stress in your life. If your life was stress-free, it would be boring. All I'm trying to tell you, the readers, is this: relax, calm down a little...and buy your own Silly Putty.