



Editorial...

Do office hours mean anything to advisors here at Behrend? How many times have you needed to talk to your adviser, you trudge to their office in the pelting snow and/or rain, arrive during the hours which are posted on their door specifying when the advisor will be in his/her office, and he/she is not there?

It's very frustrating when you have to schedule classes, obtain signatures on important forms, or just need someone to talk to when your advisor isn't there.

No, professors aren't paid "extra" to advise students, but students rely on advisors to be there to guide us. Where are you?

Some advisors also do not know enough about Behrend classes to recommend good choices that pertain to a student's course of study.

Many students have complained that their advisor has misguided them many times. There are seniors who receive their audits, and find that because of an advisor's mistake or lack of knowledge they are short on credits.

We understand that there are some very good advisors. We also understand that humans are infallible. But, we also feel that there are ways to remedy this problem.

Professors should be required to go to advising seminars every year. There should be newsletters to update the advisors on new courses and changes in policy. The administration should work extra hard to implement the student advising program that is presently being worked on. Who better to advise students than experienced students?

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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Letters to the Editor

"Complete" agreement

With regard to a letter written by Pamela Baccus which appeared in *The Collegian* last week, I am in complete agreement. While Pamela wrote, "Recently, I had...to confront the head of the math department" and Dr. Cupillari has never met Pamela, the point of her letter should not be lost.

The essence of her letter was that professors are expecting too much from students here at Behrend. Professors have told me that they expect students to attend classes, do homework and score well on tests. I can imagine the shock Pamela recently experienced when she was confronted by this mindset.

My own experience is worse. I remember my algebra class, which covered twice the material covered in Pamela's class, and how difficult it was. Since I was in ninth grade, I had to attend every class and my parents forced me to do the homework.

The administration should not expect students to do well in math classes when, apparently, so little math experience is necessary for admission.

I would like to add math students to the ever-growing list of 'victims' here at Behrend. With this designation, there would be no requirements in Pamela's class and no one would fail. I suppose five years from now the administration will require students, in addition to everything else, to be able to read and write.

While Pamela seems to be a bit impulsive, I hope the administration recognizes her very valid point.

Jeremy Sutch
8th semester
Mathematics

Basis of knowledge

The basis of knowledge and education is teaching and learning. As an African-American, my journey for achievement and advancement is long and hard. Through my determination and efforts I will get the prize at the end of my journey.

To be the best and reach the top is challenging for any one of any race. Sam Harris' letter to the editor regarding working harder was one of the best eye-opening articles I have read this year.

In case anyone did not know this is Black History Month. A month in which African-Americans (along with those of all races) honor the achievements, success, and goals set by many great African-Americans. It is now the fourth week of February and I have yet to see an article honoring or depicting the works of any African-American hero. Instead I see articles crying racism and encouraging anger. If ignorance is the basis of racism, how come we African-Americans have not taken the opportunity to enlighten all about the works of Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Mayla Angelou, Nelson Mandela and several other great African-Americans. If you want to educate, be an example and teach our heritage and culture. No more complaining because I am tired of hearing complaints. There is racism against all cultures and races around the world, but it is up to you whether you are black, white, Hispanic or Asian. Not only be proud, but teach others why you are proud.

I have one example of educating. One of my professors noted that he used the

term black as opposed to using the term African-American. After class he asked me which term is correct. I told him that African-American is the more politically and culturally correct title. He then thanked me for educating him and bringing it to his attention. That is where it starts because knowledge is the key.

Rodnell Workman
4th semester
Marketing

Cover-up

Imagine one Monday morning at approximately 12:30 a.m. you are wretched out of bed due to a fire alarm. Could this be another false alarm, or maybe, just maybe, Perry Hall is burning down.

A little later you find out that is was not a false alarm; students were burning a stack of papers in the quiet study lounge. What would possess you to do that? Perhaps you are trying to cover the smell of the DRUGS and cigarettes you were smoking. Night after night the smell of marijuana fills the halls. Can the staff smell this, too, or could they possibly be ignoring the problem? Is this because it would make Penn State-Behrend look bad if its students are being arrested for drug use? If this is the case, the staff should be ashamed. If this is not the case, than I hope this letter opens the staff's eyes to the rampant drug use in Perry Hall. This letter is not to blame anyone in particular, but to open everyone's eyes to a problem that is not only local, but worldwide.

Name withheld upon request

Attention: *The Collegian* is searching for able-bodied and able-minded students who are interested in taking over the news editor and entertainment editor positions. If you are interested stop by *The Collegian* Office or call 898-6488 for more details.