

Mar. 1, 2000

Collegian Opinion

Appreciation becoming a lost virtue

Amy



Vaerewyck

At the recent town hall meeting on campus, one student urged the Butler administration to "accentuate the positive" rather than "pinpointing the negatives" of Butler's Greek system.

Although sound, the advice should also have been delivered to many members of the student body.

Throughout the two-hour meeting, students fired gripes on topics ranging from exorbitant Aramark prices to inadequate parking to cold showers in Ross at the eight administrators on stage. While each complaint was valid and relevant, the Butler officials were not given a deserved dose of praise and gratitude.

While one student touched briefly on this point, not enough attention has been paid to the ubiquitous presence and concern of our university president, Gwen Fountain. In contrast to previous university leaders, Fountain has made herself recognizable and approachable to students through attendance at basketball games, the Rejoice con-

cert, the Dick Lugar Run, town hall meetings and even the "Flip the Script" pancake breakfast, humbly donning a paper hat and serving up potato cakes.

On the subject of potato cakes, hats should also go off to the members of the Aramark staff, who took a bit of a verbal beating at the meeting. Sketchy management or not, the cooks, servers and dining hall attendants serve and accommodate students for

“

While constructive complaint and criticism doubtlessly effects change and improvement, a little appreciation and encouragement goes a long way.

three meals a day with a pleasant attitude and, often, a smile. Many of the card swipers greet students happily and wish them a good day. The attendants are always there to refill the milk dispenser, get more macaroni n' cheese or answer a question about the chicken. The cooks, whether students here realize it or not, consistently provide meals of higher quality than most institutional food.

Also of higher quality than most institutions is Butler's array of student events and activities. There's the Ethnic Festival, Spring Sing, Geneva Stunts, Out and About in Indy, Block Party,

most recently, Spring Sports Spectacular and many others, all of which create Butler's close familial atmosphere. While students play key roles in the success of many of these events, they would hardly be possible without the advice, support and funding of the university.

In other positive news, the construction of the sidewalk along Sunset Avenue was a prudent addition to campus yet has seemed hardly noticed by students. Before it was built, there were frequent complaints about the narrow, inadequate path to Hinkle but now that it's there, who's shown their gratitude for it?

A huge, top-notch telecommunications facility is taking shape behind Jordan but how many students have congratulated the administration on this endeavor? Aerobics classes, computer and Internet access, athletic events, exercise facilities, cultural events, printer paper and, often, pizza are all available to students for free at our grand university. And, contrary to popular belief, these services are not completely funded by student tuition.

While constructive complaint and criticism doubtlessly effect change and improvement, a little appreciation and encouragement goes a long way too. So, keep up the good work, Butler administration!

Amy Vaerewyck, junior, journalism major and Collegian columnist.