

The Behrend Beacon

Published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

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**THE BEHREND
Beacon**

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The Beacon encourages letters to the editor. Letters should include the address, phone number, semester standing, and major of the writer. Writers can mail letters to behrcoll2@aol.com. Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue.



I want my 'Price is Right'

War seems to be on everybody's minds; almost every article I read lately is about the "War in Iraq" or the "Attack on Iraq." I suppose the aspect I find interesting about all this is how this prospect of war has been commercialized by the media. I find this disturbing. Granted, almost every American has an interest in foreign conflict, and I do not deny its relevance to the mass public. I believe the people of America should be updated as to what progress there is.

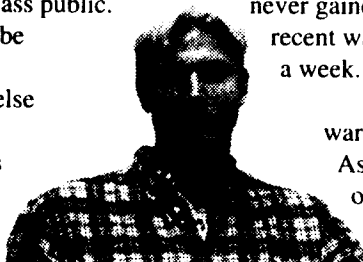
However, has anyone seen anything else on CNN, CNBC, or any other news channel? I couldn't watch "The Price Is Right" this morning because there was new coverage on the war on just CBS, a regular satellite channel. Now, I'm angry.

I find myself wondering if we turned everything around, and Iraq had declared a war upon America, and they were invading us. I wonder how we would react if Iraq had news reporters in our hotels watching as New York, or DC was bombed, capitalizing on people's curiosity as our citizens were massacred. I don't think we would be too happy about that.

Yet, in our world today, it seems almost natural to us that we can film cities being blown up. We even have camera-men and news reporters who are right smack dab on the

front line of fire will U.S. troops who are literally firing at Iraq forces as their being interviewed.

What the heck kind of war is that? Doesn't anyone else find that somewhat disturbing? Does anyone forget that all these reporters and newscasters and news stations make massive amounts of money as a result of their coverage. The media has never gained more interest, or capitalized more than on the recent war coverage. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.



Derek Bledsoe

editorial columnist

I don't mean to ramble, but I don't think any war has ever been fought this way, and rightfully so. As we continue to watch this coverage, the prospect of war begins to lose its horror and people's opinion on war becomes dulled. This is not a new idea. It has already happened among Americans with the violence in urban America. There was a day when there was mass outrage at a drive-by shooting, or a violent robbery. But now, every turn on the news, we see violent acts on television every day and we tolerate it as if it were part of normal life. Do I think this is going to happen with war? Probably not. That would be a massive shift in American ideals. Yet, I do see media's projection of war to be on such a wide scale that in years to come, if this war continues, it just may very well happen.

Bledsoe's column
appears every three weeks.

What I've learned...

We're almost done! We're on our way out - if you can believe it. I know I can't. Thinking back on the past four years has been so fun. I think that the members of the Penn State Behrend graduating class of 2003 have come so far and have learned so much about life and the world and the people around them, but most importantly about themselves.

After thinking long and hard about all of the above, I just couldn't help but write down (hello - I'm a journalist) a summary of what I have learned during the past four years. Needless to say, the list was pretty long and 90 percent of it didn't happen in any classroom or even a



Christine Kleck
Just a little side note

assistant living manager

classroom-type setting. I thought long and hard about that list and later realized that that long list can pretty much be separated into five major categories of "the things I learned in my four years at Behrend." While, of course, these are the five major things that I learned while I was here, I am sure that many of you can relate to them. Without further ado - here goes nothing!

5) **People are only human - or should I say we are all only very human.** While humanity isn't the only thing that everyone shares, it is certainly one of the most blatantly obvious connecting elements that unites us all. Humanity accounts for so much we do or don't do and the accepting or rejecting of all the things that other people do or don't do. With that in mind, I am taken back to many situations in which being human contributed to a negative outcome, but out of recognition and respect for humanness, a conflict and further problems were avoided. Thus, humanity raised us up and united us once again.

4) **Don't sweat the small stuff** - We all do it. Something goes wrong or doesn't go our way and despite its actual size - we flip out. It's natural, especially when things are smooth sailing and then you hit a huge tidal wave in your life. I was always told as a child "think before you act and/or speak." Not to sound like your parents, but that theory couldn't be truer in this case. There are far greater problems in the world than the ones that we experience randomly in our day-to-day lives. I often stop and think about those less fortunate than myself when I encounter a problem in my own life. Often times that's all it takes - a moment to put myself in someone else's shoes and to realize that my problems are usually pretty minor and that I should save my emotions for life's moments that really need them.

3) **Everything, and I do repeat, everything is a learning experience** - For the longest time I had a tendency to retrace the paths and steps of my life with disgust, regret, remorse and embarrass-

ment. When I really thought things through, I realized that I shouldn't feel that way because I learned something and learning is a good thing. That's why we are all here, isn't it? If nothing else, I learned not to do those things again, but for the most part I learned some precious lesson that I'll never forget and always cherish. All that you do (or don't do) is your blueprint - it's who you are. If you are ashamed or regretful or embarrassed by everything that you have ever done to the point that you have no fond memories of the past - your identifying blueprint is going to be very incomplete. Remember, everything happens for a reason.

2) **Just keep talking, because someone is always listening.** - Everything that you do is a chance to leave your mark and make your own unique imprint on the world. Even if you think that no one is paying attention now you will be surprised how much people really pick up and how much people remember. Little trigger words and actions can leave a mark so great on those around you, that they identify you by those little things in the future. Continuous, well thought out communication is the key, and the best relationships are the ones that utilize both to their fullest extent. Just remember, someone is always listening, which is why you should choose your words carefully, and keep talking!

1) **Every problem and question has an answer and solution** - Maya Angelou once said, "When Life surrounds me with problems, I remember that no question can be asked if the answer is not already in the universe." The list of questions in this world cannot be measured except to know and believe that its number matches the number of answers there are in this world to go with those questions. Again, that is why we are all in this college setting - to continuously ask questions, knowing that it is not possible to never find its matching answer. Because there is an answer for every question, no question is ever considered stupid or should be left unasked. An inquisitive nature is a good thing, and the answers to your questions are the greatest reward to seek out and find.

While this is only a small cumulative list of what I have learned over the course of my college career, I would like to think that these are some of the greatest things that I now know, that I possibly didn't before. College is an amazing time in a person's life - full of emotion, learning, planning and partying. They say, "Life begins when you graduate from college." I would have to disagree - only one segment of my life began the day I walked through Behrend for the first time as a student - and now its on to the next segment, but this time I'm a little older, a little more mature and a little wiser, thanks to my days here at Behrend.

Kleck's column
appears every three weeks.

Letters to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the numerous protestors who have been seen on campus. What is your malfunction? Aren't you American citizens? If your response to that is yes, then I'm embarrassed of you. I thought Americans were a proud people, people who stood up for others. Well, the United Nations was being played by Saddam Hussein. It was repeatedly given the "run around." Now we're standing up for the U.N. whether or not the other nations will back us.

When I was in grade school, I was plagued by bullies. Every day was a battle for me. Every day, that is, until I stood up for myself and got in a fistfight. That day, I learned an important lesson: The bullies are the weak ones. Hussein

is a bully and we will give him the sucker punch that will stop his antics. It's called a Tomahawk cruise missile.

What business, you might ask, do we have being over there in the first place? To quote a rather popular song by Darryl Worley, "Have you forgotten?" Remember the smoke pouring out of the two mammoth buildings on 9/11? Can you guess who might have funded this attack? Well, I can. I think it's about time to put this man out of our misery for good. This may make the U.S. look like a bully. A bully wouldn't have any concern for P.O.W.s or civilians.

Remember a guy named Adolf Hitler? The similarities between him

and Hussein don't end at the moustache. They both kill their own people. They both have/had a hunger for power. We stopped Hitler and we will stop Hussein. As for you un-American protestors out there, think about what you're doing right now and think what kind of message it sends to our troops overseas. And when this war is over, hold them in high esteem. They fought with their lives for freedom while you stood outside holding signs saying what they were doing was wrong.

I hope reading this has opened at least one person's eyes. Otherwise, I've just wasted time I could have used to talk to a friend of mine that may get shipped out.

Erik Woods
mechanical engineering, 06

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently gave a talk for the annual PCM and CCM Soup for the Soul program. I was pleased to see an article covering the event in the Beacon. I enjoy reading the Beacon from time to time and find the majority of the articles interesting. However, as I read through the article about my talk I became rather disappointed. I understand that writers for the Beacon are not top-notch journalists, but I feel that there should be some standard that writers try to attain.

For the most part, the article covered the gist of the talk I gave. I noticed a few points in the article that the writer misinterpreted what I had said. Quotes were accurate, but explanations between the quotes were not always correct. The writer must have been at the talk to take notes on what I had said, however, they did not make any attempt to talk to me. I would have been more than happy to

clarify points or offer other information the writer may have needed. I also noticed some typos in the article that would have been easily caught with proofreading.

I am writing to offer constructive criticism. I realize that students write the articles and are subject to the same stresses and deadlines I am. I also understand that space in the paper limits highly detailed articles and creates a necessity to be concise. I was pleased to see the article published about my talk, yet I feel that the writer could have written a better article by contacting me and using basic writing skills such as proofreading.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to reading many more Beacon articles!

Sincerely,
Jennifer M. Kuntz

**Be productive.
Write a Letter to the Editor.**

Behrcoll2@aol.com

Include your name, major, and semester standing.