

MY VOICE

The importance of convenience

These suggestions I am about to make are directed toward the majority of the students here at Penn State Behrend: an underclassman living on campus with no regular transportation to get on and/or off campus.

After all, this is a branch campus, no matter what marketing strategy the good people of Behrend come up with.

Also, the tearing down of the radio station office in the bottom of Reed to put in a common hangout area is an idea long over due.

For the students who cannot travel off campus to find entertainment, mostly because of the lack of substantial entertainment on campus on a regular basis, this is a huge step in the right direction.

A suggestion of mine however, would be to do more than just implement a student lounge with TV's and video games, but to also add some of the more stereotypical game room activities.

So far there are only two table tennis tables available to students who do not live in Niagara (those tables being in the lobby of the now new dining hall).

And for those students fortun-

nate enough to live in Niagara, they are allocated a measly pool table (the only one on campus mind you) and a few other games in the basement. I would love to see some kind of entertainment room in Reed.

This used to be there no longer than a decade ago, and it was very popular. Why change it?

Other very minor, extremely helpful changes would be to put a few treadmills in the bottom of each dorm.

This was tried in Ohio Hall, but they broke down from overuse and immaturity, but that was no reason to extract them! That is just a call out that students need more than the two dozen treadmills and elliptical machines in the Junker Center (A very long, cold walk in the winter).

Living in Lawrence I know for a fact there is bountiful

space available to put exercise equipment in the old psychology labs, so why not fill that dust space with something?

As for the other dorms, I'm sure there can be some space found in them for a few machines, especially in the maze that is Senate Hall.

I may be coming off as a lazy prick of a kid that is demanding every last thing from this campus, but the fact is Penn State Behrend is just too far away from any shopping area.

Just to have some common stores like a barber shop or movie rental place (something as simple as a Red Box in Reed) close to campus would lighten the mood of many students in the monotonous cycle of eat, work and sleep.

Just last week I was forced to resort to the "mop" look because of the inconvenient trans-

portation provided by EMTA to Behrend campus.

These are things such as a convenience store in Reed. It seems very logical to have a place to be necessity items that the average student on campus would need to bum a ride to Wal-Mart to get.

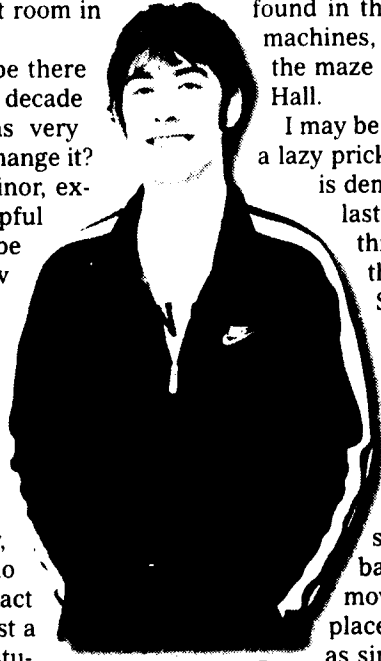
Mercyhurst College of Erie has one of these stores in their main freshmen halls, and a common place for students who run out of things such as toothpaste and other toiletry items.

I would like to see the convenience store sell everything a typical one would sell; yes, including tobacco products. But that is an argument for a different column.

I was at first very skeptical about going to school here, but the voice from alumni were right, I fell in love with the campus. But, let's take this campus to the next level; let us promote Behrend to the top.

These simple changes will make Behrend a better place to live across the board.

Then maybe in five years we can get a 30-foot connecting sidewalk from the back of OBS to the path to Bruno's and we can see some grass grow there.



ALEC ITALIANO
sports editor

MY VOICE
The tools to April Fools

With April Fools' Day occurring on the day this article comes out to print, you might think an article about playing pranks will only be relevant for a day.

However, there is one key rule to April Fools': You have all of April to prank people.

Isn't it obvious? Most people expect others to try and pull one over on them on Apr. 1. They put their guard up, and they are just a bit more un-believing of anything and everything you say.

But on Apr. 2? That guard goes down, and that is when your opportunity to strike opens up.

You want some pranks to pull on people? You got 'em.

Prank #1: Tell your parents that you are pregnant. This one only works for the ladies, and it especially works over the phone. Heck, I'll even volunteer my name as the pretend father. However, if you are actually pregnant, I ask you not to use my name. After all, just like in art class, I don't take credit for something I didn't create.

Prank #2: Tell someone a famous person has died. Yes, it is cruel and heartless, but it certainly qualifies as an April Fools' joke. Walk up to someone and tell them that Jesse James died. Then again, after cheating on Sandra Bullock

with a tattooed freak, you might not find anyone who would care.

Prank #3: Replace your roommate's shampoo with baby oil. While your roommate is away at class, sneak some baby oil into their shampoo bottle. Enjoy watching them come out of the shower, with hair that resembles that of a baby penguin after an oil spill.

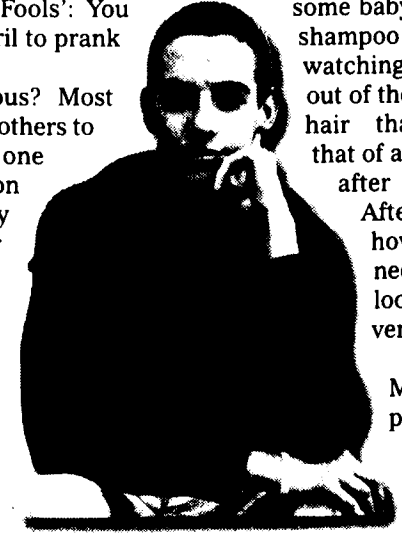
After this one, however, you need to be on the look out for a revenge prank.

Prank #4: Make fake parking tickets and put them on cars. Go up to random cars and

leave them a parking ticket, and charge them a decent amount of money for a college student, like, say, \$15...wait a second, Penn State Behrend Police Services already uses this one. My bad.

Prank #5: Hide a few alarm clocks around the library; set them off in five minute intervals. Librarians are notorious for yelling at people to be quiet.

Imagine their pain when an alarm clock goes off and they can't silence the noise. When they finally find the alarm clock, they can only enjoy the silence for a few short moments, when the next alarm clock goes off and what happens when that next one goes off? They'll be adding an "it" to the end of that "Shh..."



BRANDON BOYD
senior writer



ART BY MIKE FULTZ FOR THE BEHREND BEACON

THE EDITOR'S BLURB

Enough with the negative statuses!



NEIL PETERS
opinion editor

Let me make this perfectly clear to all Facebook users.

If I have to see one more cryptic, depressed, discouraged or unenthusiastic status update, I will personally hunt that person down and perform neurosurgery on them with a screwdriver and a soldering gun.

Everyday I log onto Facebook and am bombarded with 63 new updates from friends who incessantly complain about how crappy their life is.

Whether it's a failed relationship, a bad exam or just some mundane bull\$%^ that I don't care about. The Facebook community never fails to harsh my mellow.

To those who frequently indulge in the passive-aggressive attempt at attention/sympathy that is the "cryptic status," I must ask you a simple question: Is your life really that bad?

Are you homeless? Are you starving? Is a Janjaweed death squad standing outside your door ready to rend, pillage and disembowel you in front of your family?

If you answered "no" to all of those questions, then please shut the hell up. You officially have it better than at least three billion other people on this planet.

Now that I have taken my examples to the extreme, I honestly want to say that I'm not trying to be insensitive.

I understand how stressful college can be and, I too, have had my heart broken. It sucks. I've been there, done that, got the T-shirt and demanded a refund. However, let's please keep in perspective how good we have it as college students.

Every morning I wake up and usually the first thought that pops into my head is, "Damn it. I don't wanna go to class." I then procrastinate getting out of bed and my mind tends to wander. I worry about my classes, my future, my loans and how much I wish I could wake up next to someone who truly loves me.

Then I think about how I'm not malnourished, I'm not nursing a bullet wound (or several), I'm not being sold on the black market as a sex slave, and I'm

not waking up to a bayonet in my stomach.

I realize that I'm going to college, I'm healthy and have the rare freedom to live my life as I see fit. I realize that I have it pretty damn good and should get my butt out of bed and do something constructive.

In everyone else's defense, we all overreact now and then. I've posted my fair share of negative statuses. That being said, it really doesn't do any good. It's the Internet equivalent of standing in front of Bruno's, shouting into a megaphone and telling the entire campus about how your break-up went.

So please, stop making blatantly obvious, attention seeking Facebook statuses.

Maybe your ex might see it and feel a slight twinge of guilt, but mostly, everyone else will see it and just get annoyed with how insecure you are. This might cause your trusty friend of the opposite sex (who secretly wants you) to come running to your side, but even he/she can only take so much.

Have something on your mind?
Want to respond to an article?
Send an email to opinion@psu.edu

Submissions must be less than 350 words in length.

Check every week for our new section:
-Letters to the Editor-

STAFF EDITORIAL

This week's Beacon is all in good fun

This week the Behrend Beacon runs its annual Bare End Bacon April Fools' Day issue. The satire used in the A section of the Bacon is a means to exercise our collective satirical writing skills, as well as to enhance our sense of humor and yours.

Satire is a major practice in the literary arts, in which the composer uses ridicule, irony and sarcasm to get a point, obvious or subtle, across to the reader.

Satirical literature is often used to criticize people or objects that the composer believes does not attain an acceptable standard. It may be practically argued that satire offensively attacks its subjects, which is not the principle the Beacon bases any of its content on.

Well executed satire sends a message that a serious tone cannot.

It can be constructive, which is what the Beacon aims to be.

At the same rate, a significant portion of the Bacon's content does not serve to attack or be constructive to its subjects. It simply provides hilarity in reference to its subject's distinctiveness and ordeals.

The central purpose of the Bacon is to sardonically poke fun at our campus and us, too. Hence the article, "Beacon publishes well-written, well-researched, unbiased journalistically-sound articles."

While you read the Bacon's April Fools' Day section please take into account that you are reading dry humor written by poor-humored collegiate journalists. If you have already read it without a sense of humor please read it again with one. It is an absurd parody not to be taken seriously.

It is our wish that the subjects and topics of the Bacon's content and the readers of the Beacon recognize our attempt and hopefully the execution of tastefully utilizing satire in our Bacon April Fools Day content.

The Bacon April Fools' Day issue is a revived tradition for the Beacon after taking a hiatus from Apr. 1, 2000 to Apr. 1, 2009. April Fools' Day issues are essentially a staple of collegiate newspapers across the country, a staple that the Beacon hopes to employ for years to come.

Shawn Annarelli for the Behrend Beacon Editorial Board

All profile photos taken by Daniel Smith / Behrend Beacon

4701 College Drive, Erie PA 16563
Room 10H

THE BEHREND BEACON

Telephone: (814) 898-6488
Fax: (814) 898-6019

Executive Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Connor Sattely
editor@psu.edu
Managing Editor:
Shawn Annarelli
sma5189@psu.edu
Web Editor:
Jeremy Korwek
jak5009@psu.edu

Business Manager:
Bethany Long
bj5037@psu.edu
Faculty Advisor:
Kim Young
kjy10@psu.edu
Marketing Manager:
Katie Cook
kic5293@psu.edu

News Editors:
Ally Orlando
aco5051@psu.edu
Rachelle Thompson
rt5065@psu.edu
Ast. News Editor:
Eric Peirce
ewp5052@psu.edu

Sports Editors:
Nick Blake
nbp5041@psu.edu
Alec Italiano
aji5037@psu.edu
Opinion Editor:
Neil James
opinion@psu.edu

Culture Editor:
Shannon Ehrin
sbe5017@psu.edu
Copy Editors:
Jeff Kramer
jks5161@psu.edu
Marcus Yeagley
mjy5012@psu.edu
Videographer:
Mike Fultz
mjf5204@psu.edu

Photo Editor:
Daniel J. Smith
photoeditor@psu.edu
Ast. Photo Editor:
Stephen Fyitch
sf5026@psu.edu
Engineering Editor:
Ryan Frankouski
rsf5054@psu.edu

Business Editor:
Akeem McIntosh
aom5143@psu.edu
Humanities Editor:
Adam Spinelli
als5589@psu.edu
Science Editor:
Ryan Gula
rgg5029@psu.edu

Editorial Board

Single copies of the Beacon are free and available at newsstands around campus. Additional copies can be purchased with permission of the editor-in-chief for \$1.50 each.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of all students, faculty or University administration. Opinions expressed in columns, cartoons, and letters are not necessarily those of The Behrend Beacon unless otherwise indicated.

Any letters intended for publication must be addressed to the editor, be no more than 350 words, and include the writer's name and phone number. Letters may be edited for content or length at the editor in chief's discretion.

The Behrend Beacon does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. If students want their letters to be published, they must include their name. The Behrend Beacon intends for its Opinion page to be a forum for discussion, not a screen to hide behind. Occasionally, The Behrend Beacon may request responses to online queries in which responders will be identified by their username.

The Behrend Beacon is editorially independent from the Penn State system. The Behrend Beacon operates partially on Student Activity Fee, and partially on advertising revenue. It is published every Friday during the school year except for before and during scheduled vacations, with exceptions for special issues.

The editor-in-chief has the final authority on editorial decisions, including, but not limited to, all columns, editorials, and letters to the editor. Complaints regarding Beacon coverage of school events should be directed to the editor at editor@psu.edu.