

The Lobster and the Music to the Dance of Life

MIKE PERKINS

Bomb Iraq and get it over with

As best as I can recall, we won the Gulf War. However, since the end of it seven years ago, Saddam Hussein has been trying to boss around the US, and we have let him.

Every couple weeks he decides to expel the weapons inspectors, presumably so he can relocate his weapon cache. He only allows them back in when we threaten force, but by then it is too late. We threaten over and over again, but never carries through with our threats.

Hussein just recently pulled his antics again, and once again we threatened him, and once again at the 11th hour he relents, and we say "that's fine." This game of cat and mouse cannot go on forever,

and unless we act, it will. The weapon inspectors keep saying that they get close to stopping Hussein's weapon productions, but then have to start all over again after being readmitted to the country.

We have been lenient too long, and although I have been a big fan of Clinton, I think that he is making big mistakes when it comes to Iraq. By allowing Saddam to blatantly act carefree in the face of the American military we are being made to look like fools. Every time we decide not to carry through with our threats, Saddam declares a victory, and in a way he is not just spreading propaganda, he is achieving a victory.

Clinton's recent threats to Iraq

have improved our position slightly. He decided to be tough and not allow Iraq to dominate the negotiations that would resolve the crisis. But every day that Saddam is still in power is a victory for him.

We have had no choice but to embargo Iraq since the end of the war, and by doing so we have caused famine and death to spread across the land. The Iraqi people are for the most part innocent. They cannot oust a man with such a large army. Some people are calling for an end to the embargo in order to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqis, but by doing so we are allowing Hussein to win. We must not let him play us for fools. We cannot have him assassinated

that goes against an executive order, but he must be removed from power.

I say, the next time that Saddam pushes out the inspectors or tries to impede their progress in any way, we don't allow a settlement. We must be resolved to remove Saddam from office, and try him as a war criminal. Only then can the Iraqi people live without embargo, and only then can the thousands of men stationed in the Middle East come home.

Perkins is the layout editor for the Beacon. His column appeared every three weeks.

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A view from the lighthouse Growth at Behrend could cause problems

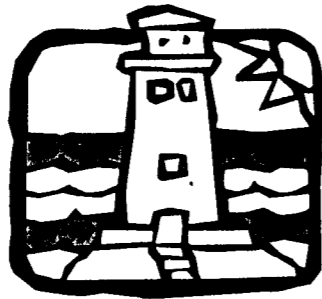
Behrend recently unveiled its Master Plan, which outlines the planned growth of the College in the coming years. Behrend expects to have around 7,000 students in the next ten to fifteen years. Obviously this will necessitate more residence halls and classroom buildings. There is plenty of space for new structures, as Behrend has more acreage than University Park, but the trick will be to retain the natural setting that Behrend now enjoys.

In many ways, development is very welcome. The campus will become a more active entity with the increase in on campus population. Also, with the new sewer and water lines and the construction of the East Side highway, development around campus will add to the quality of life.

The main concern of such growth has to do with the classroom. Students at Behrend appreciate the small classes, which allow them to get to

know professors and other students. Rapid growth may cause an increase in the classroom population. A major reason many students attend Behrend is the small college aspect. If Behrend students want to experience a big college, the will go to University Park.

Behrend currently is a good alternative to Penn State students who do not want to be in a large setting. If this changes, students may look for this atmosphere elsewhere.



The Critic

JON STUBBS

A survival guide to Christmas at the mall

It seems to creep up on us earlier and earlier each year. Thanksgiving isn't even here yet, but merchants and store owners have already begun decking their aisles and store fronts with boughs of holly and spraying snow-in-a-can on their windows like madmen. Welcome or not, the Christmas shopping season has arrived. Therefore, like good Americans, we will soon find ourselves (if we haven't already) flocking to the ultimate mecca of shopping, the mall. By now, we have all become aware of certain aspects of mall shopping that we wish we didn't have to endure. The off-season is bad enough, but these unpleasantities of that which is the mall become ten times more irritating during the Christmas season. So if the reader doesn't mind, I'd like to vent my frustrations about the mall and humanity in general. Come, vent with me. Let the healing process begin.

I'd like to begin by discussing a

unique breed of people. Unfortunately we see these people everywhere and all the time, not just at the mall and not just during Christmas time: couples who dress alike. I was lucky enough to witness a pair of these creatures while shopping just the other night. The two were in their mid-twenties (that's the sad part), dressed in identical Cleveland Indians jackets. The wife was introducing her husband to a friend: "Oh, so-and-so, this is my husband!" So you're not just two morons who happened to be wearing the same clothes? All I can say to these people is that if I ever have a nervous breakdown and go on a shooting spree, you'll be the first I'll be looking for. You've been warned.

Now, more mall-specific, are the people who stand at strategic locations throughout the mall with their clipboards and tell you that they "want to know what you think." Now, I understand that these folks are just try-

ing to earn a little bit of cash, which is admirable. However, they are annoying. But I have a perfect way of dealing with them. When they ask you if you'd like to answer a few questions, just say, "Hey, man, I know it's only 9:30 in the morning, but I'm so drunk I can't even see straight." Nobody wants the opinion of a drunk.

Next on my list of mall-related pet peeves are the people who take their entire family of fifteen to the mall, and walk side by side through the mall like the cast of Reservoir Dogs at two strides per hour, blocking your way. So you find yourself following these people close behind, trying to get around them, and wondering if other people think that you're part of their family. Now I wouldn't present a problem without a solution. The mall needs H.O.F. (high-occupancy family) lanes. The large families can stay to the right while the serious shoppers can pass on the left.

My final qualm with the mall are

the perfume/cologne people that sit poised at the entrances to department stores, ready to pounce on you and spray you with their venom. I never had an issue with these people until one of them handed me a sample of Michael Jordan's cologne. I hardly even touched the sample card for a second and my hands reeked like Jordan's back sweat for hours. I had to use turpentine to get the smell out. To avoid these people I suggest the following: As the predator takes a step towards you, take a step back, point to your medical alert bracelet on your wrist, and shake your head slowly. Say, "I'm allergic to anything brand name." Or you can just enter the store with your partner, the two of you being dressed exactly alike. They won't even want to get near you.

Stubbs is the features editor for the Beacon. His column appeared every three weeks.

Ted Turner for President? Don't Count Him Out

By James P. Pinkerton
Special to Newsday

Ted Turner for president? That's what The New Yorker says. Could Turner founder and owner of networks, studios and sports teams, winner of the America's Cup yacht race, Jane Fonda's husband, the man who gave the United Nations a billion dollars and yet still ranks 15th on the Forbes 400 really be interested in the White House?

On Nov. 6, Turner received the World Citizenship Award from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a Santa Barbara, Calif.-based group that advocates the abolition of nuclear weapons. After his speech, writer Anne Louise Bardach reports, Turner told a huddle of fatecats, "I am very

serious about running for president."

Turner was born an American citizen and he's past 35; he turns 60 Thursday so nothing in the Constitution prohibits him from running. Turner surely recalls that another brash billionaire, Ross Perot, who announced his presidential candidacy on Turner's CNN, was running ahead of the two major-party candidates in the polls for a while in 1992. And just this month, Jesse "The Body" Ventura won the governorship of Minnesota as an independent outsider.

So is it Turner's turn? Reached for comment in Atlanta, publicist Phillip Evans read the following statement: "At this time, Mr. Turner has no plans to run for office." That doesn't exactly slam the door shut. According to James H. Lake, who was Ronald

Reagan's press secretary in his 1976, 1980 and 1984 presidential campaigns: "That sounds like a guy who's running for office."

Lake continued: "'At this time' is a holding statement... It sounds to me like a trial balloon from Turner."

Full disclosure here: I'm a contributing analyst for the Fox News Channel, which is owned by the News Corp., which is controlled by Rupert Murdoch. CNN and Fox are not only rivals in the cable news business, but Turner is open in his scorn for Murdoch; he once compared him to Adolf Hitler and even challenged him to a boxing match.

So, having put my cards down on the table, let me tell you what I really think of Ted Turner: I hope he runs. With the Monica Lewinsky case pe-

tering out, and the prospect of the Democratic and Republican presidential nomination going to Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George Bush; nice fellows, but nary a good scandal between them, at least not yet; there's a serious news hole to fill. Not every potential presidential candidate comes with nicknames such as "The Mouth of the South" and "Captain Outrageous." Indeed, most don't say, as Turner did, that Christianity is "a religion for losers." Or that the "Star Spangled Banner" should be replaced with a less "warlike" anthem. Or who volunteered, in the wake of the Heaven's Gate suicides, "There are already too many people in this world. If a few crazy people want to get rid of themselves, it's a good thing."

Is this a promising start for a White House wannabe? The conventional wisdom might be "no," but the purveyors of conventional wisdom have been looking distinctly unwise lately. So could Turner really be for real? Reached for comment and context after her scoop, The New Yorker's Bardach said simply, "Why not? Clinton has made the presidency scandal-proof."

Today, the legal and perceptual inhibitions that once prevented plutocrats from using their own money to run for office have effectively been eliminated.

So while some tycoons, such as Al Checchi, who spent \$40 million or so to finish third in the California Democratic gubernatorial primary; have spectacularly crashed and burned,

many others, including 1996 presidential hopeful Steve Forbes, have spent themselves into credibility.

Today, the parties are weak, spin is strong and message is strongest of all. If Turner could weave his own life story; bouncing back from his father's suicide, he built a global empire and then developed a social conscience and an environmental consciousness, into a compelling stump speech, he could prove persuasive to a broad group of Americans. And, if he were willing to spend his fortune to trumpet that message, who knows?

But this much I do know: A Turner run would be the best political story since cigars and semen-stained dresses.

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