

## The Behrend Beacon

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

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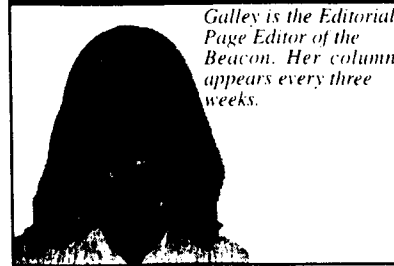
## Detours and Small Potatoes Procrastination, bad habit or life-saving technique?

So another semester at Behrend, eh? Or perhaps your first. I'm pretty sure that everyone is giving you advice, "Don't do this, take this class, NEVER eat there!" Well I have some advice for you too. So why should my advice (i.e. my opinion) mean anything to you? Because it applies to everyone (calm down this isn't the sun-screen song).

Procrastination is a word that I am sure is in most of our vocabularies. Some people do it, but only a little bit. Some people never do it. Then there are some people, like myself that RELISH in it! I may be the queen of procrastination. As a matter of fact, as I am writing this I am two and a half hours past my self-imposed deadline. How's that for waiting until the last minute?

The point is that some people think that procrastination is bad, but it's NOT, here's why. Last semester (my first at Behrend, my first with a roommate) I discovered the importance of moderation, not with what you may be thinking though. If I was on the

### Katie Galley



Galley is the Editorial Page Editor of the Beacon. Her column appears every three weeks.

high end of the procrastination spectrum then my roommate was on the complete other side. She never waited to do anything. Homework was done as soon as your classes were done for the day. Studying for a big test was never put off for the last minute. If she had three weeks to do a project she would do it ASAP, usually with two weeks to spare...you get the picture. There was only one problem, the TV should NOT be on, for any reason while she was studying, period. Understand that this was most of the day, everyday. After I finished picking my heart up off the floor, I agreed. I was eager not

to make waves in the room unnecessarily. So, I tried to adopt her study habits, to allow for peaceful cohabitation. This went on for about a month.

After a while though I started having severe television withdrawal. I was really missing my favorite shows. I missed laying on my bed and watching FRIENDS for an hour and then studying for my Spanish quiz. The TV in the lounge was not always free for my viewing pleasure. And the almost constant library-like atmosphere was killing me slowly. I NEEDED to procrastinate and I needed to do it nightly.

So the very next day, while she was studying some seemingly non-infuriating biology I made my move. I quietly asked it would be okay if I watched The X-Files every night from 8 until 9 o'clock, with the sound turned up so I could hear what they were saying. As you can imagine this was met with quite an incredulous look. But I quickly explained that my head would explode if I had to spend

one more night with silence from dinner 'till bedtime. Surprisingly she agreed and I was in sci-fi land for an hour nightly.

At first she would leave the room, unable to stop studying. But after awhile she would just put her books down and join me in my television reverie. And it was nice. We were talking more and more and we found out that we had more in common than we originally thought. We ended up being really great friends.

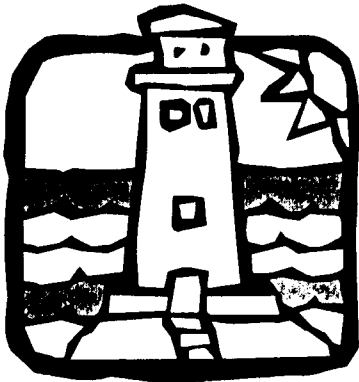
Don't get me wrong, academics is very important, after all that is why we are all at Penn State. But if all you do is study, then you are missing good times with friends and most likely missing out on life. So take it from the queen of procrastination, waiting until the last minute all the time is bad, but so is having your head explode from stress. So my advice to everyone is to put down your books and take some time to savor laziness, or fear the consequence of the type 'A' personality.

## A view from the lighthouse Do we really need to pay?

With student enrollment up to an all time high, does Penn State really need to be charging us extra for things and not making improvements to existing facilities? And no, we are not talking about the improvements to the dorms.

The computer fee went up along with basic tuition costs. We have not seen the effects of the extra money that came into the computer labs. New equipment? Nope, none that we have seen yet. Where did it go? Computer costs go up every year, or so we were told. However, when planning finances for the upcoming year, not all of us take into account for inflation. Sneaking costs up on us is not the way to go. And posting notices in the Bursar's office is not "letting us know".

Tuition up 4 percent, why, besides inflation? With all the extra students that came in, does the school really need that much money from us? We were under the impression that all the dorms they were building were paid



for all ready. And why should we have to pay for them to build a new dorm for incoming students?

To bring it home, all we are saying is that despite what Penn State may think, we really are just college kids, and not an endless source of funds for future projects for the school. For things that probably won't happen until we have graduated and moved on.

Cut us a break, we may be paying to attend classes here, but we are not paying to raise your enrollment.

### Bitchin' by Mike

Mike Frawley

Welcome back everybody! I hope that you all had a grrreat summer (don't you just love the pointless Frosted Flakes references). But now it's time to get settled into a new school year. And we all know what that means, it's time for the bitchin' to begin!

As most of the upperclassmen will remember, there were a few of these columns last semester. Anytime something really pissed me off, I would feel an overwhelming urge to bitch to the world about it, and because I am an editor for the Beacon, I have a perfect outlet for my ravings. What amazes me though, is the fact that this is only the second week of school, and something has already pissed me off enough to write my first "Bitchin' by Mike" column. But, oh well, let the bitchin' begin!

Over this past summer, the school underwent a very expensive renovation to deal with the influx of new students and the growth that the school has been undergoing lately. In this renovation, the Beacon had its offices moved to a new section of office space built in the area next to the back room. And while we did end up in an office that was slightly smaller than our previous accommodations, there was an upside, our new office would have four ethernet jacks! Now we would be able to get more of our computers on the Internet, so we would get the paper done faster, and we could make improvements to bring you a better paper. But the reality has fallen well short of the dream.

As you might have been able to deduce by now, the target of my wrath this week is the Computer Center. All we needed was to have one computer hooked up to the Internet so that we could get the first issue to print with a minimum of problems. But even that seemingly simple task has proven to be too much for our Computer Center. When these new offices were built, didn't the thought ever cross someone's mind to check and see if the new con-

nections even worked before the school year started. Apparently not, because our jacks weren't even hooked up properly.

I understand that the start of a new school year is always a busy time for the Computer Center. The hundreds of new students that want their Internet accounts and ethernet connections must be almost overwhelming for them to try to sort out. But our problem is something that could have, and should have, been taken care of before the year started. The administration knew that this office was going to be used, so they could have set up the ethernet connection in here as soon as the office was finished.

And if I have to hear one more person from the Computer Center sigh at me because we are still using Macintosh computers, I'm going to cram an apple up their...uhh, nevermind, you really don't want to know. We have no choice about the computers that we have to use. My TI-85 is more powerful than most of the computers that we have in this office, but they are all that we have to use (hint, hint, new computers would be a great help).

Now we at the Beacon don't ask for much. All we want to do is put out a newspaper that the entire school can be proud of, but it seems like we are frustrated at every turn. All we are asking for is for one lousy ethernet connection, so we can get the paper to press. I know of plenty of other students who have had their share of problems with the Computer Center, so please don't think this is only about us. The Computer Center must catch up with the needs of the school. Students need to be able to have their Internet access with a minimum of trouble, and the computer fee that we have to pay should be able to supply this.

By the way, are we Y2K ready?

Frawley is managing editor of the Beacon. His column will appear every time he feels the urge to bitch.

## Join Me In Reality It's fake, it's chaotic, it's violent... It's entertainment

Just over one week ago, the World Wrestling Federation embarked on its toughest challenge yet in the business of professional wrestling. The top wrestling company in the business took their popularity to the next level, airing their new hit television show, Smack Down, on network television.

It appears as though WWF owner Vince McMahon, is looking beyond his battle with Ted Turner's World Championship Wrestling, and is starting right in the face of some of network television's top shows.

In its first showing, Smack Down reached over 5 million homes. Although it didn't top shows such as "Frasier", "Friends" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," it did double UPN's ratings for that Thursday night time-slot from previous weeks.

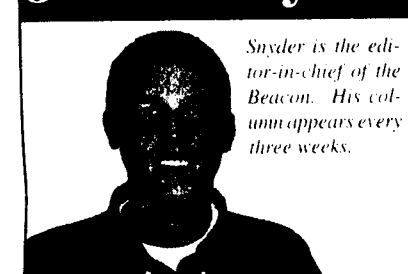
But how? How can a business that is dubbed by its critics as being fake, chaotic and violent rank up with shows that the more "sophisticated" America view every week?

Because it's entertainment. You can deny it all you want. You can criticize and say how detrimental it is to American society. But no matter how you look at it, it is entertainment for millions and millions of Americans.

Let's quit fooling ourselves and face the facts. We no longer live in a society that welcomes happy endings all the time. The "good guy" doesn't always beat the "bad guy" (and neither do we want them to sometimes). Morals don't always prevail. That's life.

So why is it so wrong for people of all classes, races, age and nationality to sit down every Monday and Thurs-

### Jason Snyder



Snyder is the editor-in-chief of the Beacon. His column appears every three weeks.

day night for a little bit of "Raw Entertainment"?

It's not! Especially if you think of other opportunities open to young adults in this day and age. For two hours on two nights every week, everyone has the opportunity to get together with friends, ask for violence, cheer for chaos and enjoy the fury.

Better to experience those things through the television screen in a controlled environment, than to stand dead center in the middle of it. Sure wrestling is no longer "say your prayers, take your vitamins," like it was in the 1980s. And even then, it had its critics. So I guess it doesn't help that the vitamin in the 90's version of wrestling is beer, and the only religious reference is 3:16 which translates to wrestling jargon as, "I just whooped your ass."

The leader of this change in attitude over the past couple years has been the WWF's "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. The trend of using bad language and having a no fear attitude has spread throughout the WWF, which has no regrets of introducing this bad attitude to the business. It is what the fans want and what they now demand every week. There is no turning back

now, and I don't think you could find more than a handful of current fans that would want to turn back.

In the past year, I have had the pleasure to experience two World Wrestling Federation pay-per-view events live and in person. The atmosphere around you is one that matches the volume and excitement of a football game and still maintains the control despite the happenings in ring.

Fans bring in their signs and express their views through ink on poster boards. I would think that expression through material things would beat expressing yourself through anger, fists, and now even guns. Think of how much worse it could get. Wrestling isn't the foundation for violence in today's society. It goes much deeper than that. Wrestling is just an outlet for the government and the more "sophisticated" America to push the problems of today's youth upon.

There is too much money involved and too high of ratings to try to eliminate wrestling from the market. You would be foolish to think that there is some way to ban wrestling. It is their first amendment right to act and say what they please in their controlled environment. It is the parents' role to censor what their children are viewing, and it is to the discretion of young adults, as to whether or not they want to follow the plots from week to week.

The money aspect of professional wrestling has become much more important as evident with all the "Austin 3:16" t-shirts being worn around. The salaries of the wrestlers

have also skyrocketed due to the feud between the WWF and WCW. Both companies scurry to pick up the best athletes. But these days, wrestlers are measured not just by athletic ability, but their ability to come up with catch phrases and gimmicks. The most interesting gimmick usually gets the most fans, therefore the most success in the ring. If they're entertaining, they're successful.

Wrestling is not only big in the wallet and the area of sports entertainment, but it is slowly becoming a platform for some future politicians. Jesse "The Body" Ventura was the pioneer for this, winning election as the governor of Minnesota last year. WCW's Hulk Hogan, the wrestling hero of the 1980s, was rumored to be running for president in the year 2000. Hogan hasn't made any definite plans. Jerry "The King" Lawler, a WWF commentator, will be running for mayor in the near future.

The role that professional wrestling should play in today's society can be disputed. You can hope that fans follow the "ethical" path away from the fury of the ring or you could join me back in reality and realize that wrestling is here, it's still growing and it doesn't plan on stopping soon.

So all you more "sophisticated" people can stop your complaining and follow a simple little phrase that is becoming used more and more, with channels airing 90's television... "If you don't like it, flip the station." Because there is likely to be a little more real 90's entertainment grazing the TV screen.

