

The Behrend Beacon

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

Editor-in-Chief
Jason Snyder

Managing Editor
Michael Frawley

News Editor
Shannon Weber

Features Editor
Deanna Symanski

Wire Services Editor
Angela Rush

Advertising Managers
Erin Edinger
Carey Smith

Photo Editor
Jeffrey Miller
Kevin Bruner (assistant)

Office Manager
Brad Wiertel

Advisors
Robert Speel
Jim O'Loughlin

Editorial Page Editor
Katie Gallely

Sports Editors
Matt Wiertel
Craig Hazelwood (assistant)

Calendar Page Editor
Kim Zuck

Business Manager
Kristine Harakal

Associate Editor
Elizabeth Hayes

Distribution Manager
Matt Heidecker

Postal Information: The Beacon is published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College: First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. The Beacon can be reached by calling (814) 898-6488 or (814) 898-6019 (FAX). ISSN 1071-9288.

Letter Policy: 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 5pm Tuesday for inclusion in that week's issue.

The voice of reason

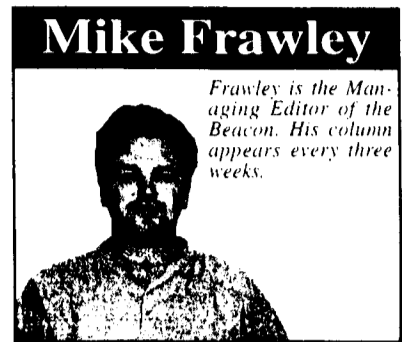
The reasoning behind the insanity

I know that most of you reading this column are expecting to find one of my normal tirades directed at a portion of campus that in some way has caused offense, in my opinion, since I last wrote a column, but unfortunately I am going to have to disappoint you. From the comments that I have received in the past few weeks concerning my recent "Bitchin' by Mike" column (9/3/99), it seems that everyone just thinks that I am a mean, vindictive person, and all that I enjoy doing is attacking other people whenever the mood strikes me. I know that it is a very rare occurrence for me to say something nice about someone or something, but I do have some nice things to say now, at least relatively nice (please, no one faint).

The reason that I never seem to have anything good to say is that the only way to get bad things changed is to let people know that these things will not go unchallenged. If I wrote a happy sugar coated column every week, and never called attention to the problems on campus, would they ever get fixed? In my opinion, no they wouldn't. One of the purposes of a college newspaper is to serve as a mechanism of change for the school. The paper should give the students a voice, which is hard for the administration to ignore, and I feel that we should take advantage of this voice.

The sad thing is, many students just don't seem to care about what goes on at Behrend at all. The level of school spirit on this campus runs amazingly low. Our sports teams get almost no support, except for a few die-hard fans, and the various on campus activities that are put on by campus organizations go largely underattended. Why is this? Is it because we are a satellite campus of "mighty" Penn State, so we focus all

of our support on them, with nothing left over for what is going on right here at home? I certainly hope not.



Mike Frawley
Frawley is the Managing Editor of the Beacon. His column appears every three weeks.

In the words of Dean Lilley to a student who had just return from what he called main campus, "University Park is not main campus, this is main campus." A vast amount of the students who pursue their studies at Behrend are planning to complete their degrees here. We need to support our school, and work to change the campus for the better.

We can just sit back and let the administration shape the campus the way that they feel is best, and don't get me wrong, they have done a lot of positive things for the school. But unless we make ourselves heard, our ideas might not be a part of their plans. They won't know what we want. So whenever I see something wrong on campus, or something that could be changed to make the campus better, I write about it. And thus "Bitchin' by Mike" was born!

Most likely, there will be people on campus who don't agree with my views (and some of you are very vocal about it). Then let yourself be heard and write a letter to the editor. Contrary to popular belief we try to print every letter that we receive, but letters are few and far between. That is what the paper is here for, to ex-

press the views of the students. Hunting me down, and complaining to me that you don't agree with what I wrote will get you nowhere. First of all, if I took the time to write an entire column about a topic, then I am pretty set in my views. I most likely won't change my mind, so save your breath. Second, ranting to me insanely about something I wrote most likely will piss me off, and you could find yourself the subject of a "Bitchin' by Mike" column dealing with the amazing amount of stupidity that can be found at Behrend (and I really don't have the time to write a column that long, hell I'd need half of the paper to do it justice!).

But, don't get me wrong, Behrend is a great school. If I didn't feel this way, then I wouldn't be going here. The faculty and administration are constantly striving to provide us with a quality educational experience, and there are many individuals who are constantly working to make this campus even better. This is my fourth year at Behrend, and the amount of change that has taken place in this short period of time is terrific. The administration is trying to take Behrend into the 21st century, unfortunately, students (with a few exceptions) just do not seem to want to get involved with these changes. But there are a few people who really do not get the credit that they deserve.

Ken Miller, the Acting Dean of Student Affairs, is, in my opinion, one of the hardest working people on this campus. He should become the permanent Dean of Student Affairs for the amount of work that he puts into his job. His energy and drive have helped to make this school what it is today. The Student Affairs office runs many programs that greatly benefit the student body, such as coordinat-

ing the Freshman Interest Group program (which is near and dear to my heart), working as an advisor to the Student Government Association, and just taking time out of his schedule to listen to students' ideas. Thank you Ken for all of your hard work, it does not go unnoticed, and I, for one, appreciate all of the help you have provided me with this year.

There are other people I could mention here, but by now most of you reading this must be wondering how all of my ramblings in this column tie together. If you haven't figured it out yet, I feel that Behrend is a great place to be going to school, but there are always ways that we can make things better. But we does not mean only the administration, it means all of us; students, faculty, and administration together. We need to all get involved to make a difference.

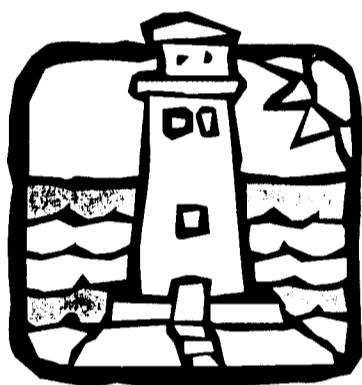
So next time you read something on this page that questions why something on campus is done the way it is (a.k.a. me bitchin' again about something or other), don't view it as an out and out attack by some insane editor with an urge to bitch, it is a suggestion for something that could be changed to make the school a better place (and yes, sometimes it will sound somewhat irate, as I said I like to bitch). I know that I don't have all of the right answers, but I still feel that I should try to help bring about change though my bitchin'. Who knows, maybe some of my ideas might actually be right, and if not, I'm sure all of our loyal readers will let me know.

P.S. - Don't worry, for all of you who enjoy reading my "Bitchin' by Mike" column, it will appear again soon, as there are many things on campus that could be changed, and I almost always feel the urge to bitch.

A view from the lighthouse

Career Development Center a great asset to the college

As potential employees in the next few years, are you taking full advantage of all the resources the Career Development Center has to offer? The CDC has services that vary from resume writing to job placement. The aid that they can give students is unsurpassed. If you are in your junior or senior year, you can have the CDC help you prepare your resume and cover letter. Even if you are a freshman or sophomore, the CDC can help you map out your future plans.



Not taking advantage would be detrimental to you. The staff at the Career Development Center is hardworking and very willing to help you in your endeavor at finding future employment.

Don't let this valuable asset to Behrend pass you by. Stop in to the Career Development Center soon and let them help you prepare for the real world outside of Penn State.

Note To Guys In Bars: Hats Off!

by Molly Wilkins

FSView / Florida State University

There is nothing like seeing a hot guy in a baseball hat. There's a hint of sex appeal and mystery when a guy looks up from beneath the brim. However, there is a big difference if he's out at a club. To most women, it's a fashion faux pas right up there with (gag) wearing tennis shoes out. When it comes to club and bar hopping, the rule is hats off, guys.

"If a guy is dressed up, a hat doesn't make sense," said Janet Grezlovski, a senior at Florida State University. "There's a time and place for everything. In the daytime, hats are fine. But seeing a guy at (a popular local hang-out) with a baseball cap on lets me know that he's not legal to drink yet."

And if they can't buy you a drink, ladies, what is the use of conversation? You see, men, girls have this radar-thing going on when they head out. One signal is for the ex-boyfriend, one signal is for his new girlfriend and the final signal is for older guys to buy them drinks. They steer clear of hat heads.

Hat heads are also a red alert for bad hair. Why else would a guy be wearing a baseball cap with his club outfit? "The frat guys wear them to cover ugly haircuts," FSU senior Dave Riley said.

Bad haircuts can be the downfall of a guy's social life. If this happens, a guy should not cover up the rat's nest with a hat and go out. He should sit at home until his hair grows out or buy some Dep.

"I don't wear hats out. They're stupid. Mama should have taught you better," sophomore Dave Kandel said. Hats are great for the crack of dawn classes or for cheating on a finance

test. Abercrombie hats look great with khakis, and hats with the college logo are great for football games.

For the evening time, guys need to sport their hair. "My friends would not allow wearing hats out. They all spend too much time on their hair," FSU senior Kory Denato said. Senior Joe Lobianco added, "For morning

"There's a time and place for everything. In the daytime, hats are fine. But seeing a guy at (a popular local hang-out) with a baseball cap on lets me know that he's not legal to drink yet."

- Janet Grezlovski, senior at Florida State Univ.

classes, hats are easy because you don't have to worry about your hair, but it's not appropriate to wear them out."

While most radar-eyes have been blurred by booze, the girls can spot a hat boy from a mile away. If a freshman wants to be known as an underage freshman and not approached by the babes, then fine, wear the hat. But what most of the male population is concerned about, second to sex, is picking up a chick at the bar. If this is the case, leave the hat by your bed and put it on in the morning.

"We're too busy looking at the girls to be worrying about the hat," FSU senior Dave Riley said.

Rush to rocky road

Handling a rowdy roommate

A year of college can be frustrating enough without having the hassles of dealing with a roommate. Simple problems can turn into huge disasters when roommates don't get along. But overall it can be a rewarding experience. (Yeah right, is probably what you are thinking.) Of course, there is always the chance that you were blessed with a roommate of your choice. Whether you were friends before or just meet for the first time when you become roommates, living together successfully calls for sincere efforts toward compromise and cooperation. Don't expect that your roommate will be your best friend. It's nice when it happens, but it's not the norm.

From personal experience I can tell you that arranging your lifestyles around someone else can be difficult. Like many people returning or just starting college this year, I came back not knowing who my roommate was. At first, I was dreading coming back, just because I knew I would be starting with someone new. I did not even know who my roommate was until I received a letter from her, informing me that we would be rooming together. I will admit that I am lucky because my roommate and I get along wonderfully. Still I have found that problems arise when you live with another person, but there are ways of



Angela Rush
Rush is the Wire Service Editor for the Beacon. Her column appears every three weeks.

dealing with these issues. In a civil manner, hopefully.

One common problem between roommates can be room cleanliness. Sometimes someone who is really a neat person ends up with someone that is messy, or maybe one of you is a neat freak. Whatever the circumstances are, both need to discuss the subject of cleaning. Discuss who cleans what and when. Divide all the cleaning responsibilities. If someone isn't doing his/her part, do not wait around or leave a note. Talk it over with each other. Do not create hard feelings and increase problems; work at solving them. Students should remember that they are not living alone and that roommates have responsibilities to each other.

Conflicting schedules seem to create another problem among roommates. Roommates definitely need to

discuss sleeping hours and work schedules with the other. Let one another know what type of person you are, morning or night. Remember to keep in mind that showing respect and being courteous to your roommate sets an example of how you want to be treated.

One of the biggest problems I have found is that a student's study time varies. When one of you wants to relax and veg out in front of the TV and the other needs to study, and if that person does not want to leave the room then compromise needs to come into play. If neither of you want to leave then you need to figure out a time schedule in which you both can agree for studying times, TV time, or quiet time. Another alternative would be that you alternate nights in which one of you leaves to study in the library or study lounge. I personally can't study with the TV on and I tell my roommate if I need time to study and she completely respects that. And I would do the same for her if she needed me to.

Have you ever had a roommate that borrowed something and never returned it? As you can imagine, this can create problems. I know I would be upset if someone did not return something that I lent them. Find out your roommate's feelings about lending

his/her belongings to other people including you. These items include clothes, money, hair dryers, stereos, cars, etc. Some roommates don't mind lending to their roommates but do mind lending to other people. Find out.

Let your roommates know your feelings. Don't be afraid to talk to your roommate and let him/her know what you are feeling. Imagine your roommate having a brunch of friends show up out of the blue. You were just settling down to study but now there is so much noise and commotion going on. This would annoy me if I was trying to study. Discussing times in which each of you can have friends visit will ensure that they will not be coming at an inconvenient time for you.

Communication is the key to resolving and avoiding all roommate conflicts. It is better to discuss problems as they arise and not to bottle them up to the point that it creates tension between your roommate and yourself. Remember that by showing common courtesy and compromising, you can create an atmosphere in which the two of you can live comfortably. Remember you have to live with this person for the rest of the year so make the best of it, and I wish you all the best of luck.



Send all letters to the editor to:

behrcoll2@aol.com