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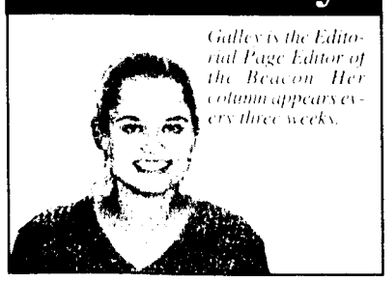
Detours and Small Potatoes

From the top rope...our President

Katie Galley



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

America is a country where freedoms are liberal and vast. Religion, Press (bringing you this editorial) and Speech just to name a few. But when does freedom become dangerous? The answer is simple; when you can elect an pro wrestler for a government position. Gives me a chill just thinking about it.

Now, understand that at this time it is just an unsubstantiated rumor that "Hollywood Hogan," "Hulk Hogan," whatever the hell his name is, will run for President of the United States. But it gives me a nauseous feeling in the pit of my stomach to even imagine it.

Just because we have the freedom to elect an pro wrestler, do we really want to? Has our country become so lackadaisical in our political consciousness that we want to elect a man who starred in the movie "Mr. Nanny."

I was in class last week and there was a heated discussion over whether people would vote for Hogan (should he decide to run) or an actual political candidate. I cannot believe that this conversation took place! It just boggles my mind that seemingly intelligent people would vote for a man that used to be called "Hulk." Freedom, shreedom why would you want to have a man who took weekly hits to the head in the most powerful position in the United States? My faith in humanity is plunging rapidly.

Since all this is still rumor, let's talk hypothetically. What does "Hulk" have to offer this country? Nothing of substance, I am sure. What would his campaign promises be? "Booth voting will become obsolete when replaced by ring matches, winner taking all."? Please.

His only confirmed take on American policies is that he doesn't think that the United States should be involved in any other countries' business. He wants us to be neutral, like Switzerland. Hum...I remember reading somewhere that Switzerland was secretly hoarding the money of the assassinated Jewish people. Doesn't seem too neutral to me. Good call "Hulk."

Please don't respond to this article telling me that it is unconfirmed that Hogan will run and that it is all just to get him publicity, blah, blah, blah. That is not what I am concerned with. What I am worried about is the state of America, when in a class of 35 people, 23 of them said that they would not vote at all unless "Hulk" ran. And since I seem to be in the minority here, you are invited to write to tell me that I am wrong, or that I am right, whatever. Just don't write to tell me that I made you want to vote for the "Hulk" because I don't think that your WCW warped mind should be voting anyway.

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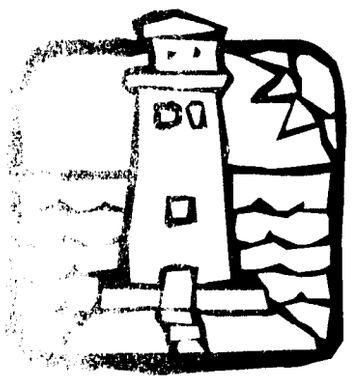

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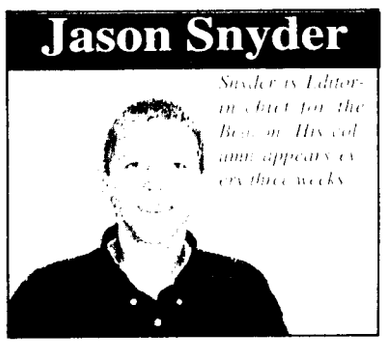
Join me in Reality

Tell it like it is

Jason Snyder



Snyder is Editor-in-Chief for the Beacon. His column appears every three weeks.

Is there anyone else on this planet, besides myself, that is absolutely sick and tired of the phrase "politically correct?" Why is it that every word that comes out of our mouths these days must pass approval from all ages, races, genders, and religious groups? This constant questioning if something is politically correct or not has to stop. If you have something to say, say it.

The idea of political correctness certainly affects everyone, but the focus of it recently has been surrounding politicians. After all, these are the men and women that represent us as Americans. And heaven forbid, one of them say what they are actually thinking about a controversial matter. Because you can bet that if America is split on an issue, our representatives will be the last to tell you what they are thinking.

Recently, Jesse "the Mouth," I mean "the Mind" Ventura has taken the idea of being politically correct and thrown it out the window. And for that, I applaud him. I don't applaud him for the thoughts that have come out of his "mind," but I do praise him for actually speaking that "mind."

I can honestly say that I don't agree with his views on some issues, but at least I am given an opportunity to base my opinions about Ventura on what is really going on in that head of his. That beats having to listen to other politicians, hungry for votes in their upcoming election, attempting to fill our heads with what they think is in our heads anyway.

A politician never has a problem saying, "we must cut taxes for all Americans." But those same politicians will scurry to avoid questions concerning controversial issues on religion or race.

Why do you think Bill Clinton is considered to be such a great speaker? You can bet that his popularity doesn't come from him actually speaking his mind. If he did, we might hear more comments like, "I wonder if there are any new interns in here," rather than a speech actually having an effect on America. Maybe if our president would have spoken his mind from the start, in 1992, we wouldn't have had to deal with these last seven years of the presidency being destroyed.

And if you think that politicians are fulfilling their duty by preaching on what Americans want, you are sadly mistaken. We vote for people that we feel have the same beliefs that we do, because if a politician feels as strongly about an issue as we do, there will be something done about it. But the politicians that feel the need to call Indians, Native Americans, for the sole reason that Indians, I mean, Native Americans want to be called that, are the same politicians that will say something will get done, but it never will.

In fact, political correctness has gotten so out of hand in this country, that when I type in the word "Indian," in Microsoft Word, it automatically capitalizes it. So, is the only way to make it through this life without controversy, to change all fats to overweight, old people to elderly, blacks to African Americans or the other way around, whites to Caucasians and Indians to Native Americans? I hope not.

What next? A universal way to say the word pop? Or is it soda? Give me a break.

[illegible]tters to the Editor:

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[illegible]pense to mine [illegible]. While I tried to [illegible] a mature, [illegible] Mitchell felt [illegible] personal attack [illegible] she disagreed [illegible] By the time we get [illegible] able to make [illegible] resorting to [illegible] of name [illegible] ticked me off; [illegible] have, but hey, [illegible] just an "idiot." [illegible]ants to get together [illegible] transcripts or [illegible] conversation and [illegible] her out of the [illegible] time, but until [illegible] name calling, [illegible] should be able [illegible] about being [illegible] argument, not the

[illegible] the rest of [illegible] rambling, and [illegible] real letter. For [illegible], no Mitchell, I'm not [illegible] doesn't [illegible]ginze [illegible] zebra. A guy who wants to dress as a woman and change his sex has issues. No degree needed.

Who am I to judge? Who are YOU to judge? You so tactfully decided that I'm an "idiot" and "ignorant." No judging there, huh? I won't stoop to your level and call you a hypocrite though. Name calling is beneath me. If I'm on a high horse, it's simply because I didn't want to walk through all the crap you felt the need to soil the pages of the newspaper with.

In conclusion, just because I refuse to compromise my beliefs to suit some ultra-fanatics on campus doesn't make me a bigot. It doesn't merit name calling or personal attacks. This is college, people. If Jenna Mitchell wants to call me names, maybe next she'll hunt me down so she can pull my hair or bite me. Come on, Jenna, there's no teachers looking. Grow up. Any future attacks can be sent to me: my e-mail is: rpm152@psu.edu. Don't waste the paper's time to further a childish vendetta or promote fanaticism.

Ray Morelli
05, HIS

In response to "Shooting Straight in the Foot"

In regards to the Oct. 8 edition editorial from Bill Thompson of Knight-Ridder Newspapers on voting for candidates with no political experience. I don't think that he truly realizes how important experience is in an elected official, especially the president. He believes that most politicians are crooked. This is a ridiculous idea; most elected officials are honest hardworking individuals that really want to make a difference. Mr. Thompson presents no evidence of politicians being crooks. He just plays on the stereotype of politicians being liars and crooks.

This a baseless irresponsible charge. Without any real examples of misconduct, this is little better than a character assassination. He is enamored with Jesse Ventura, apparently because he likes to make reckless, demeaning comments. I do not want to be perceived as being concerned about political correctness, because I'm not. I do realize that there is a difference between pandering to certain groups and simply respecting others' beliefs.

He cites his "breathtaking candor" and his "candid discourse". I don't think he realizes that there are bigger drawbacks to electing presidents that have no experience than the fact that their comments may not be considered politically correct.

The President of the United States is the leader of this country. He is a reflection of it. What role would we be able to assume in Middle East peace talks if our president thought that organized religion was "...a sham and a crutch for the weak minded."? Organized religion is very important to the Israelis and Muslims; in fact it is one of their basic differences. I don't think they would really accept help from a man that thought they was "weak minded". We will soon be able to see the damage done by a candid president, because of President Clinton's recent remarks about the conflict in Northern Ireland and its correlation to two drunks leaving the bar. I doubt that this had a positive effect on relations between the Irish and British. It probably has not helped our integrity with them either.

Mr. Thompson also focuses on the other probable presidential candidates from the Reform party as a refreshing change of pace. I don't know if Warren Beatty's experience in movies makes him an appropriate choice for a position that needs to decide what tax reforms we need or whether we should increase the number of protected forests and national parks. I wonder what Donald Trump's stance is on Taiwan and if he believes we should recognize them as a sovereign nation or only a rogue Chinese province? He may be one of the most qualified candidates to decide fiscal policy, but is he prepared to accept the responsibility of Commander-in-Chief of the United States Military?

I think the editorialist should realize that the vote for the president is more than a vote for "Mr. Candor." Our president should be a man of integrity and honesty, but also one of tact and compromise. We need a strong leader, who will stand strong in his convictions and speak for us, but not just any small minded, derogatory thought that springs from his mind.

David Sandy
01, FIN

Send all letters to the editor to:

behrcoll2@aol.com