

The Behrend Beacon

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

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A view from the lighthouse

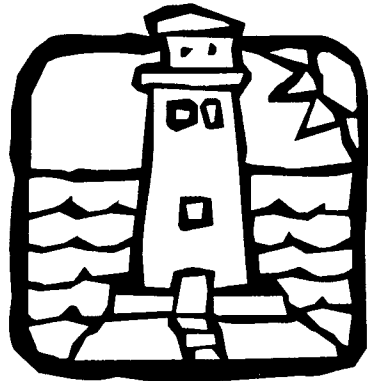
Monopoly's just not a game anymore...

The recent sellout of Penn State to Microsoft, has all of us here a little bit worried. Apparently the courts hold the same opinion as us: that Microsoft is monopoly. Not that we are worried about the Microsoft, Bill Gates aspect of it, our concern is that now all the software here on campus is going to be supplied by Microsoft.

Aren't there all ready enough monopolies here on campus? Look at the Pepsi monopoly. People that like Coke don't have much of a choice. So in Bruno's you can choose from Pepsi or...Pepsi. So, basically, if you are a student that prefers Macintosh, you are out of luck. Not as much free software for you.

Yes, that's right, Microsoft will now provide Penn State students with free software. We will only have to pay for shipping and handling. Unfortunately, as stated above, have a Mac and get less software.

The money that Penn State made



off of these monopolies does not even directly benefit us here at Behrend. It mostly goes to the students at University Park. It's great that they get all that money for the football stadium, but why should we care about that?

It is really great that Penn State now offers us free software, but please, think about everybody. Let's see some of the effects of all that profit made on the "sellout".



Voice your opinion!
Send all letters to the editor to:
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Detours and Small Potatoes

Your own personal Berlin Wall

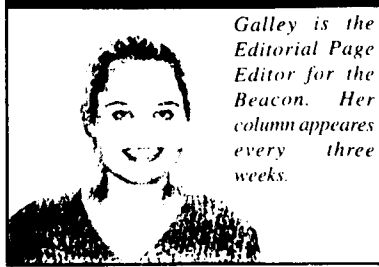
It was roughly ten years ago that the Berlin Wall came down. It was roughly one year ago that my personal Berlin Wall started coming down. Until a year or so ago, I considered myself a pretty tolerant person. Then I came to Behrend.

The anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall made me think about what it meant to me. The Berlin Wall separated one city into two parts. On each side of the wall, there was an entirely different culture. And when the wall came down, the two different cultures mingled and merged and exchanged ideas and thoughts and beliefs. That's what happened when I came to Behrend.

I was coming straight out of White Town, USA. Even the previous college that I attended had a majority of white people. And now that I look back, I realize that I was tolerant because I had never dealt with diversity. And that is sad.

Much like the Berlin Wall kept people from knowing each other, so

Katie Galley



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

did my proximity to the rest of the world. Sure, I had visited numerous cities in the United States, however; I had not spent any real time with people who weren't white or had the same beliefs as me. Behrend helped change that. I now have friends of all colors of the rainbow, and I have friends that have different sexual preferences than me and different beliefs than me. And it's wonderful.

Have you let your personal Berlin Wall down? By letting mine down I opened myself up to virtually a

whole world of people and ideas. Having culturally diverse friends has nothing to do with being politically correct; it is about getting the most out of the world you live in. If you live your entire life with the exact same friends and views as you did when you were 12, how can you expect to grow and change as a person?

I know that Erie is not the cultural hub of the universe, not even close. But college campuses in Erie are a great place to start looking for people different than you. The most obvious place to look here at Behrend would be the Multi Cultural Council office, or the MCC. Their title says it all. Look beyond the safe, comfortable ideas you have that are most likely unique to your circle of friends and take in some ideas that are new to you. You may learn to look at the world in a new way.

Another way that you can broaden your horizons is to travel, even if it is only to another state. There are so many wonderful things and people

in the world; why confine yourself to Erie or your hometown? Just because the government didn't build a wall around our town doesn't mean that we have to stay where we are comfortable. Experience things that you have never experienced before. Some of the best times I had were when I was away from my natural environment.

The world is no longer black and white and we cannot continue to kid ourselves that we are the center of our own little universe. That mentality should have been left behind in high school.

The citizens of east and west Berlin were prohibited from learning anything about the world that was literally just a few feet from their own. Nothing is stopping you; there is no wall in front of you except your own. So knock it down and get out and experience the world and all the people in it. You really have no excuse.

Join me in reality

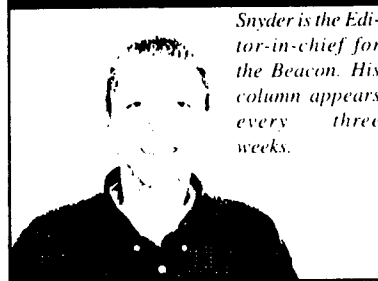
Jesse Jackson should know better

In a time when schools are no longer safe and people around the country try to find answers and solutions to the problem of violence in our schools, the lesson we are being taught by the situation in Decatur, Illinois is one that I would hope our country will ignore. Rev. Jesse Jackson has taken a side on an issue that totally contradicts the ideas most Americans have fought for regarding what should be done to stop the violence.

We have always thought that increased punishments towards the students who are causing problems might be a deterrent towards the crime. So why is it that Jackson is suddenly against punishments that make a bold statement to students around the country. I have always agreed on the idea that "if you can't do the time, don't do the crime." I would think that a leader such as Rev. Jackson would agree with that.

The students from Eisenhower High School were originally given a punishment restricting them from attending a school in that district for two years. Maybe that was a little

Jason Snyder



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harsh. But now the punishment has been decreased to one year, and Jackson is still hesitant on letting these students get away with a slap on the wrist. If the students can't handle the punishments given to them by the Decatur School Board, then they shouldn't be irresponsible enough to go out and start a bleacher brawl at a high school football game. Why does Jesse Jackson feel the need to get involved with this issue. He is so against strict punishments, that he led thousands of protesters to Decatur last Sunday and held another rally this past Tuesday at the Church of the Living God.

Jackson, in front of the 500 pro-

testers at the church, forced the six students that are being punished to repeat the following statement: "We will not do that again. We'll behave, not fight. Study, develop our minds and do the right thing." They then apologized. I bet, that if we were to count how many times our parents forced us to "do the right thing," and compare that to how many times we actually followed their instruction, the balance would be heavily in the favor of us repeating the same act our parents "forced" us not to.

Give me a break. Are we now supposed to walk through prisons and have criminals repeat the same lame statement, then free them, thinking that criminals will actually take those words to heart? I think not. But according to Jackson, these students aren't criminals. He feels that their acts of resisting arrest and endangering students is "something silly like children do." My God! If irresponsible acts such as those can be justified by the Rev. Jesse Jackson himself, then we are in big trouble when today's youth are leading this country. I thought today's leaders were

supposed to be setting a better example than that.

I always thought that intentionally trying to inflict harm upon others was wrong and against the law. Being a Reverend and all, I would think that Jesse Jackson, such a great leader in our nation, would have heard the preschool statement, "Do unto others as you would have done unto you."

Shouldn't we be showing these students and other students in this country that there are some consequences for causing school violence. If we give them the opportunity to just switch schools every time they act dangerously, then what will stop students from that sort of behavior? Why are giving them the privilege of having a big leader in this country defend them. Shouldn't we have a leader that shows the youth of America that they are responsible for their actions? Come on, Jesse. Let's start to do the right thing. Everything isn't "something silly like children do." Why don't you at least back the schools, the law and the country on that one?

NATIONAL COMMENTARY

Cheaters who win will just pass it on

by Susan Ager
Knight Ridder Newspapers

My editor's been on me to write about student cheating. Can I get away with saying I'm against it? Or do I have to work harder than that? Part of me envies students who cheat because they earn points, grades and diplomas that I worked harder for.

Today, 80 percent of America's top high school students admit they've cheated. More than half call it no big deal. Only a handful ever got caught. I never cheated. When classmates hissed to me to tell them an answer, I self-righteously refused, unwilling to share. In college, I knew about term-paper mills, but never used one. Instead I spent hours and hours in libraries, then more at my typewriter.

I didn't cheat for the same reason I didn't shoplift: It seemed wrong, and I'd hate to have been caught. So I'm clean. But was I stupid? Students who cheat have some admirable qualities. For one thing, they

figure out how to work the system. They're enterprising, finding term papers for sale on the Internet, storing answers to math exams on their calculators, concocting codes for their beepers. One 17-year-old girl

seconds. You don't need to spell well, either, because Microsoft Word spells for you.

So you cheat through the ridiculous classes you have to pass for show, and save your brain for those

called. They haul huge bags onto the plane past personnel too weary to stop them. A dozen times a day, we ask ourselves: "What can I get away with?" Do I need to stay at my in-laws longer than a half hour?

Can I get by dashing off a one-page memo? Can I get away with ironing just the front of my shirt?

If we're going to help our kids, we must be honest with ourselves: We're always looking for ways to do less than we know we ought to. So are kids. They want more for less, too, and they'll cheat if they're under pressure to earn a grade they fear they can't by legitimate means.

That's when we must struggle with our children to define integrity, and promote it. It's a tough sell, no more than a vague, good feeling at the end of a long, hard road. But every ounce of integrity adds up. Years later, long after the Federalist Papers are forgotten, integrity spells peace of heart, and no computer can spell that for you.

"What can I get away with?" Do I need to stay at my in-laws longer than a half hour? Can I get by dashing off a one-page memo? Can I get away with ironing just the front of my shirt?"

I read about said she and her friends trade what they know, helping each other cheat, but think of it as "group learning." And, cheaters are practical.

Why remember who built the pyramids, or who wrote the Federalist Papers? What difference will those factoids make in your life? The 21st century is here. Any fact can be found on the Internet in 60

that will shape your career. As I grew into adulthood, I realized nearly everybody cheats, but we call it other names. We call it beating the system. We call it exploiting the loopholes. We call it sparing ourselves headaches.

TV commercials promote using mixes for dinners that can pass as homemade. And plenty of people still don't wait until their row is