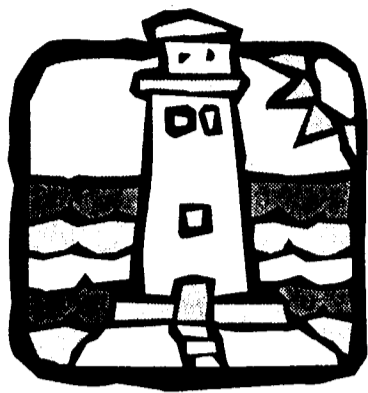


## A View from the Lighthouse

### Support the big things happening at Behrend

It's probably safe to say that everyone made it through Y2K. The Beacon's Macintosh computers proved to be superior once again - they didn't crash during finals week last semester, and they made it through Y2K with no problems. Frankly, the new year was disappointing. Lights didn't even flicker. Until Y3K rolls around, what catastrophe will everyone talk about? Anyway, except for those who sheltered themselves underground, with a lifetime supply of food, it's time to get back on track and see what's happening around campus. Hopefully this new year won't be disappointing around Behrend; not with all kinds of great things going on. And with the nice recent snowfall, all of these events are indoors! Now is the time for some school spirit! Now is the time to support some great events!



game of ball, how about a swim in the pool? Looking good!! For the meantime though, check out coach Roz Fornari and the Lady Lions as they tear up the floor in Erie Hall.

The men's basketball team is also posting a successful season after an 8-0 start. They are 3-0 in conference play and continue to play well. The men need your support as nine of their next 11 games are against conference opponents. Support the Lions as they hope to host the AMCC tournament next month.

#### • Free Stuff •

Let's start with the free stuff. Everyone loves free stuff! The student organizations have set up spirit stations to promote the basketball games that are going on. Even though the basketball teams are on fire, more promotion is always a good thing. A nice station was set up by SGA in Bruno's where they were giving away all kinds of goodies, like t-shirts and bumper stickers. They're usually held in the Reed Wintergarden before every home game, and have included miniature golf, psychic readings, balloons and streamers. They get you pumped up for the basketball games.

#### • Basketball Teams on Fire •

Since there is nothing else to do in the winter, how about checking out the basketball teams? The women are 3-0 in the AMCC (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference), which could mean great things if they keep up the momentum. The women have some pretty impressive records behind them. Starter Carrie Nestor could possibly take the top spot for career assists, beating out Randy Baughmann's 511. Maybe they're just really excited about the new recreation facility that's going to open up in fall of 2000. So instead of 400 people getting to watch a game in Erie Hall, 1,500 will get to join in on the fun! After a good



Sonia Sanchez

#### • Martin Luther King Day Celebrations •

Also, there's lots to do for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day around campus. All of these will be great events as Penn State promotes diversity in its student and faculty population. For an enlightening experience on Sunday, there will be a Candlelight Vigil in the Reed Commons. On Monday, after the Bruno's Family Breakfast, catch the Creative Writer's Speaker's Series featuring Sonia Sanchez, and then head over to the MLK All-College Celebration. And to wrap things up on Tuesday, there will be a MLK Forum. Leave your computer off for a few hours and get yourself to a few events.

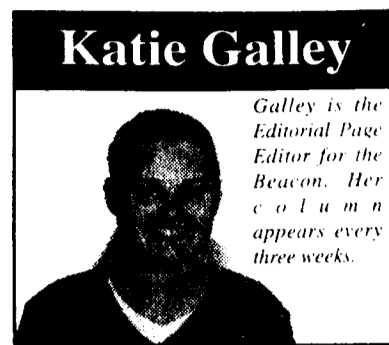
## Detours and Small Potatoes

### When will Monica stop the seduction?

In late 1999, *People* magazine published a special issue called the 25 Most Fascinating People of 1999. In this issue the writers and editors chose Monica Lewinsky as one of the most fascinating people. Unbelievable! Out of all the people that made news in 1999, Monica was one of the most fascinating? You have got to be kidding me!

This is the woman that flashed the President of the United States her thong underpants! And let's face it friends, those were the days before Jenny Craig, when Monica was packing a little chunk in her trunk! And you mean to tell me that there was no one in the world that was more fascinating than she was? Please!

After the whole presidential scandal erupted, people everywhere become interested in Monica, and for good reason. She was an overweight intern who almost cost the President his seat. And what made her even more mysterious was the fact that she never said anything



Katie Galley

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

to the press and she was never vocal about her side of the story. She was simply a voiceless scandal maker...until her Barbara Walters interview!

Now all of a sudden the woman behind the controversy speaks out...and what does she have to say? Absolutely nothing! Don't get me wrong, she told her side of the story and she even 'apologized' about doing the things she did. I don't think that she actually felt bad about doing it though - just getting caught! But after all, what's the big deal with a little fellatio in the Oval Office? Fascinating indeed!

On the air with Barbara that night, Monica successfully showed the world her inanity and simplemindedness. You almost have to feel bad for the girl, there's nothing going on up there. You also have to wonder how she got the internship at all. As far as I know, the internships for the White House are pretty competitive. On *Larry King Live* several weeks ago, Monica was once again spreading her message of idiocy. She talked about how she has to work over the Internet (she designs purses and handbags) because she is too much in the public eye to have a real job, and what a travesty this is. Then, we see that she is the new spokeswoman for Jenny Craig. And that doesn't put you in the public eye? Come on, Monica!

As for Miss Lewinsky, what lies in her future? As she said on *Larry King Live*, "getting married and having babies." It truly frightens me to hear a woman with the brain capacity of a small mammal and the

moral consciousness of the Devil say this. She wants to bring new life into this world when hers is so obviously out of control? There should be a petition started to stop procreation of the Lewinsky. Why bring spawn of the Devil into this world?

The people that I really feel for are the teenage girls growing up seeing all this malarkey on television. Our world is in a really sorry state when the biggest news story to report on is the President's love life. How are the young girls seeing Monica? As a whore or a heroine?

Maybe the real culprit here is *People Magazine* for choosing her to begin with. I can sit here and think of about 50 other people that I would rather read about than Monica Lewinsky. Is the public really that mindless that we want to hear *Monica's Story*? I certainly hope not. I also hope that in the new century we can stop thinking of horny, overweight troublemakers as "fascinating" and focus on the real newsmakers and heroes.

## Join me in Reality

### Why your server deserves a tip

"Hi. I'll be your server today. Can I start you off with something to drink?"

**Table 37:** "Yeah. I'll have a Pepsi. No ice. And start me out with two" (father). "Can I have a water with lemon?" (mother) "Fruit punch" (son). "I want a chocolate milk" (little girl).

"Sure. I'll bring them right out for you."  
("OK. I'll get their drinks, take their order and see if I have any meals up right now.")

On the way to get drinks...

**Table 42:** "Can I get a refill?" "Yeah, I want one too. Get me a root beer instead of the water."

"OK. The root beer will cost \$1.25, because the water was free."

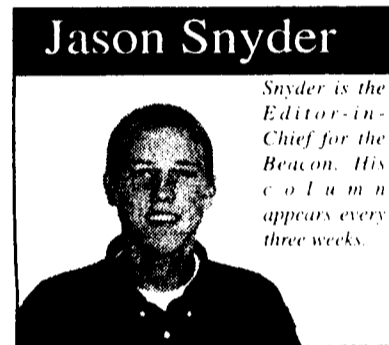
**Table 42:** "What? Fine...here's a five. Get me my change."  
("I'll be right back with that.")

("OK. I'll get all the drinks, grab the lady's change, take Table 37's order, then check to see if any meals are ready.")

**Table 38:** "Where's my meal? I've been waiting 20 minutes!"  
"I'm on my way back to check. Be right back."

Gets drinks, refills and change for lady's root beer.

"Here are your refills and your



Jason Snyder

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

change, ma'am."

**Table 42:** "Thanks. Are our steaks almost done?"

"Let me just drop these drinks off and I'll go back and check."

"Here's your drinks. Are you ready to order?"

**Table 37:** "Yeah. I'll have a 6 oz. Sirloin, medium with baked potato and sour cream." "I want the chicken with a dry potato." "I want the sirloin tips well well." "I want a hot dog."

"Alright. Let me know if you need refills or anything. Your meals will be out shortly."

("OK. I'll take this order back. Grab the steaks...")

**Table 38:** "22 minutes!"  
("...get that guy's meal and get Table 32's check.")

"Hey cook! Is Table 38's meal

ready?"

**Cook:** "Not yet. It has another minute. Table 42's steaks are ready to go."

Gets meal prepared with butter on potato and ranch dressing on the side. "Here are your meals. Is everything OK?"

**Table 42:** "Yeah. Thanks. I could use more root beer."

"OK. Be right out."

**Table 32:** "We're ready for our check."

"I'll bring it right out. I'll take some of these plates for you."

**Table 38:** "25 minutes!"

("OK. I'll get their check and his meal. Get Table 42 some root beer and see if Table 30 wants dessert.")

"Hey cook! Table 38 is asking for his meal."

**Cook:** "It's not ready yet. It is still medium well. He wants it well."

"Hurry up. He is getting angry."

Gets the check and the root beer.

"Here is your root beer."

**Table 42:** "This steak isn't done right. Can I have another thrown on?"

"I'm sorry about that. Yeah, I'll have him throw it on now."

"Here is your check. Have a nice night."

**Table 32:** "We were charged too

much for this drink. Can we see the manager?"

"Yeah. I'll get him for you."

**Table 38:** "28 minutes!"

"Hey cook! I need that meal NOW! Where is the manager at? Has anyone seen the manager!?"

**Cook:** "Here's the meal for Table 38. I don't know where the manager is."

("OK. I'll deliver this guy's meal, look for the manager, check Table 30 for dessert, and...OH YEAH!")

"Cook, throw on another steak for Table 42!"

("OK. If this guy says one more number, I am going to take this meal and...")

Smiling... "Here is your meal sir. I am really sorry it took so long."

**Manager:** "You need to bus some of your tables. And there is food under Table 45."

"Alright. But Table 32 had a problem with their check. They want to see you."

("Man. This really sucks. I've been here for 30 minutes, been stiffed twice, have no money, need to check for dessert at Table 30, get table 42's and 37's meals, bus some tables, sweep the floor, and...")

"Hi. I'll be your server today. Can I start you off with something to drink?"

## THE BEHREND BEACON

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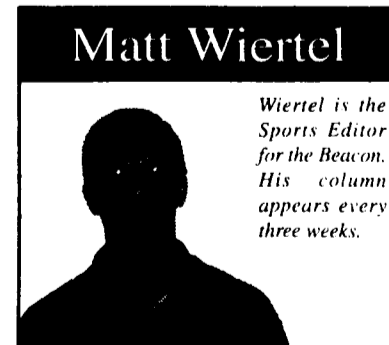
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## The Way it Ought To Be

### Theft, the government and my paycheck

As we get back to school, many of us quickly find that the Christmas cash has run out and we are still short several books for classes. So what can a college student do? Either we can "borrow" books from other students, hope we qualify for *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, or we can hit the streets and get a job. Under these trying circumstances, many college students are forced to juggle a part time job and school in order to pay their tuition and other lifestyle costs. I, like many college students, joined the workforce in order to pay for various commitments and to live a comfortable lifestyle.

Over semester break, I worked full-time for several weeks. Due to the fact that my employer has a two-week pay period, I was looking forward to a substantial check that would help to defer the cost of Christmas presents. The beckoning day finally arrived and finally the fruits of my labor had materialized. But I opened the check only to feel as if I was had. What should have been a substantial check was missing some \$120.35.



Matt Wiertel

Wiertel is the Sports Editor for the Beacon. His column appears every three weeks.

And where did my money go? It was legally stolen by the United States government. I never gave them the green light to take what was rightfully mine. If they wanted something, I probably could have conned them into taking my 8-bit Nintendo or something to that effect, but not my greenbacks.

Now, if you're a numbers person, that \$120.35 was roughly 25% of my total check. I'm sorry, Bill, but I have a tough time giving that much cash to the almighty one, let alone a bunch of crooked politicians. But if you were to add in all other sales, gas and

various taxes, the total percentage the government swindles out of the average American would be in the 40% range, if not more.

So why aren't there riots in the streets and people chaining themselves to lamp posts over these outrageous tax rates? Well, it's quite simple. The economy is good and with that comes apathy in conjunction with a false sense of security on the part of the American people. If times were tough and more people were short of cash, there would be a tax revolt. But times aren't tough and by the looks of the huge government surpluses, we are being overtaxed.

Now, I'm all for paying taxes to support various government programs that are vital for the nation's health, but I wish not to pay for a social security system that won't be around when I retire, or for government agencies that fail the people time after time. What really bothers me, though, is that Americans don't want tax cuts, but they whine when they pay \$1.50 for a coffee at an ATM machine. Give me a break

here, people.

Now, what if the government spends the entire surplus, which some liberal d

Democrats are advocating, and the economy turns south. In order to pay for all the new government programs that they propose, the government will have no choice but to raise taxes. Some pundits are predicting that if taxes are not lowered now and the surpluses are dried up before they materialize, our generation will face extreme hardships in this century. Can you imagine having the government take 60-75% of your income through various taxes? It could become a reality if steps are not taken to lower taxes now.

We do have the power to change this situation in the coming year by electing a president who is committed to giving back to the people what is rightfully theirs. For the health of our nation and our pocketbooks, it's time to band together and urge our elected officials to cut these tyrannous tax rates.