

## A View from the Lighthouse

### A little too much sex ed?

Psst... Hey you, come over here... yeah, it's okay, no one is watching you read this column. We're going to talk about sex...

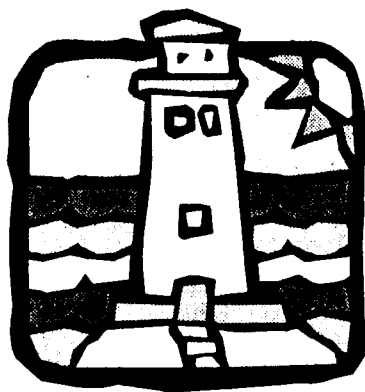
Okay, now that we have your attention, the staff of the *Beacon* would like to give some thumbs up and some thumbs down (heh heh, get it? up and down?) to a few recent campus events. And just to keep your interest, we'll talk a little bit about sex.

First, hats off to Trigon for holding the most attended event of the semester — The Safer Sex Cabaret. Held in the Studio Theatre (yes, we know it's a small building), on Thursday, January 27, the group promoted HIV prevention through a number of silly skits. Topics covered included forbidden passion, body piercing, condom use, homemade lubricants, dirty dancing, and of course, masturbation. What fun! Congratulations, again, Trigon, you guys found the key for successful event turnouts!

Hold on, losing interest already? Here's a little something to keep you reading: A little boy returning home from his first day at school said to his mother, "Mum, what's sex?" His mother, who believed in all the most modern educational theories, gave him a detailed explanation, covering all aspects of the tricky subject. When she had finished, the little lad produced an enrollment form which he had brought home from school and said, "Yes, but how am I going to get all that into this one little square?"

Funny, eh? While sex is a prime topic for jokes with your friends on just about any occasion, the openness on campus has raised controversial issues lately, such as the transgender student on campus. The point to observe here is that there is more to [college] life than sex. You say that's a ridiculous statement? Well, look at it this way, you've probably heard more on campus about the transgender student than you have about some of the other good things, like the men's and women's basketball teams and the increasingly focused Student Government Association.

Last semester, the SGA promoted and held a forum open to any and all students who wished to voice an opinion about campus life and events. Yes, it was free, and yes, SGA was waiting for you. No one showed up. However, many students did show up for the free



food that was given away the week before by SGA. Another point to observe — we all love fun and free stuff, but when it comes to dealing with the issues and doing some work, well... "I had a lot of studying to do."

So, theoretically, if SGA promotes sex in some way when it's time to go to the polls, will we have to call Police and Safety for crowd control?

Another big happening right now on campus is the success of the basketball teams. Yes, it's a very big deal to the athletes, but is it to you? The men and women are both 8-0 in the AMCC (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference). This is REALLY big. Also, the guys recently shut down Lake Erie College with a score of 84-61! There are some very talented athletes here at Behrend, and they are giving our good school a better name. Why not go out and cheer for them? Instead of supporting these guys and girls, we'd rather watch other guys and girls talk about condoms and masturbation.

Lack of support to the athletics program raises another issue. What about the massive recreation facility that's going to be built in the fall? Oh yes, the athletes will love it, but will they have to stare at 1400 empty seats instead of 300 empty seats? If two superb basketball teams can't fill Erie Hall, what can?

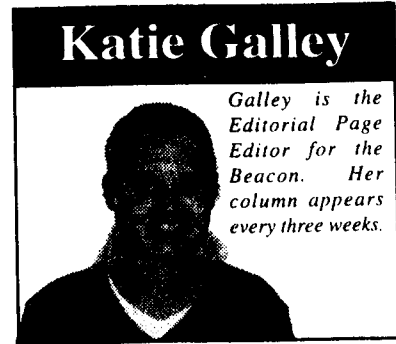
Now, we are in no way criticizing Trigon's promotion of safer sex and HIV prevention. It is the awareness of some student's priorities, however, that worries us. It's time to look at the important issues, people. There is a lot going on at Behrend right now, both academically and athletically. A major point to realize, though, is that involvement in all of Behrend's extracurriculars will only enhance student life on campus, and make it possible to promote more "fun" activities.

## Detours and Small Potatoes

### Take your hate and shove it!

Have you noticed the flyers around campus stating "Satan loves you" and "Embrace your bias, ignorant stupidity"? I have, and can I say that these signs are extremely disturbing to me. They should bother you too! First of all, I cannot see how Satan can love you, when he represents hate and evil. Second, even by connotation, Satan is bad and brings despair and hopelessness, so why say that he loves you?

I have no idea where these flyers came from; they just suddenly appeared down in Reed one day. And about three days later they were all ripped off the walls and thrown in the garbage. It's good to know that people don't really want evil and hate in the halls of our home away from home, but before you start to feel all cheery and happy again, just consider that they had to come from somewhere. They didn't just magically appear; someone put them there for a purpose. The only purpose I believe these signs served,



**Katie Galley**

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

that I could fathom anyway, was to spread intolerance and hate. Please correct me if I am wrong, and I certainly hope that I am. I hope that these signs were a project of some senior psychologist trying to learn the mysteries of our mind. But if they weren't, and they were put there for evil intentions, I only have one thing to say: take your hate somewhere else!

With all the recent activities in schools that have stemmed from hate, i.e., Columbine, the Penn State Shooting, the rioting in Decatur, I really don't want it in-

filtrating onto this campus. I feel that this campus is a relatively safe place, I don't feel threatened or unsafe, but it only takes one incident to start a downward spiral of intolerance.

That's a whole other subject that I am sorry I have to write about. However, like it or not there is intolerance on this campus. I see and hear it everyday. The snide looks from certain tables up in Bruno's to the people that pass by the Multi-Cultural Council office making rude comments, you all know who you are. It's really sad that even in this new, more enlightened century we cannot all 'get along.'

Is that idea so laughable and idealistic? I really don't think it is. Maybe I am being naive, but why is total tolerance so unbelievable? On the other hand, when there are signs like 'Satan loves you' plastered all over the halls, I can understand why there are still bigoted and biased people on campus. Sure, Erie and Behrend aren't the cultural

melting pots we all wish they would be, but we have to take what we can get and work from there, not complain about it and segregate ourselves further.

Do I really have to reiterate all that we learned in Human Anatomy 101? Remember that everyone is the same on the inside. Does it really matter what color our skin is, what letters we wear on our jackets, or what sex we chose to date? No, we are all people and if we can't see past those small differences, and accept people for who they are, then we are no better than the people hanging the 'Satan loves you' signs.

Does all that sound too easy and cheery? It's not meant to, but I still stand by my theory that it's not all that hard to get along with everyone else. All it takes is a little understanding and kindness. But maybe that's too hard for you, and if that's the case, maybe you qualify to be one of the Satan-sign hangers.

## Join Me In Reality

### Is that your final answer?

Which of the following TV shows has become the number one game show in America in just a matter of months?

Is it: a) *Jeopardy*, b) *Wheel of Fortune*, c) *Duck, Duck, Goose* or d) *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*?

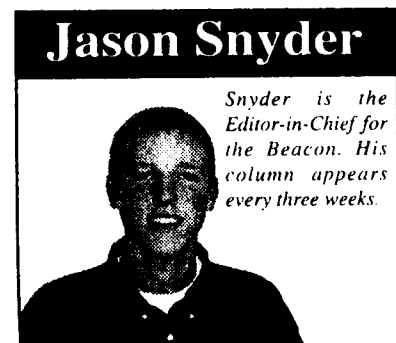
The answer would be d) *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*.

Final answer? Final answer.

It's a good one! OK. Maybe that isn't the toughest question to answer, but it beats not knowing that the game that starts with "Duck, Duck..." always ends with "Goose," a \$100 question that a contestant actually had to "ask the audience" to get the answer.

But what is it that makes *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* so popular? Is it the intense background music? The huge prizes? The host? And no, you don't get any lifelines for this one.

I'll sit there with friends and family and watch the show every time I



**Jason Snyder**

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

see it's on. My friends will complain that the music is annoying. My dad knows that once we start to watch it, we won't turn it off. We'll get grumpy when contestants spend 10 minutes to answer a question, and even get more mad when Regis Philbin won't say whether or not they're right until five minutes later. I'll ask how in the world Regis got to be the host. Now don't get me wrong, I'm happy for the man. He does need some reward for having to deal with Kathie Lee everyday for an hour. But he isn't the most

exciting man; a requirement for a position that announces when someone has suddenly become a millionaire. All these complaints, and we still watch it. And so do millions of other Americans. But why?

It's the idea that an average American, with some intelligence, can step into America's spotlight for 20 minutes and walk away with \$1,000,000. Granted, it's only happened twice on ABC's *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, but many Americans have stepped down from the uncomfortable stool with cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$32,000 to \$250,000. It's the happiness we feel, to see people just like us, who work eight hour days at jobs ranging from garbage men to doctors, leaving a game show with some extra cash to pay off their pile of bills.

But it's also the fact that we can play along with them. Answering questions that we know, as opposed to *Jeopardy* where an average Ameri-

can will be lucky to answer 10 questions the entire half hour. And then being forced to watch some arrogant know-it-all walk away with \$8,000 for all his troubles, or one dollar if the other two contestants are complete morons (you always leave yourself with one dollar, banking on the fact that the other two will risk all their money on a category like U.S. Presidents, where they think the question will be something as easy as "who was the first U.S. President?" when it turns out to be "what was the name of the 21st president's wife's daughter's grandchild's brother-in-law?"). But enough ranting.

The other game shows like *Greed*, *Winning Lines*, and *Twenty-one*, for some reason, lack in the excitement, and drama. To me, they're just cheap imitations. Which one will survive? It's *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*.

And that my final answer.

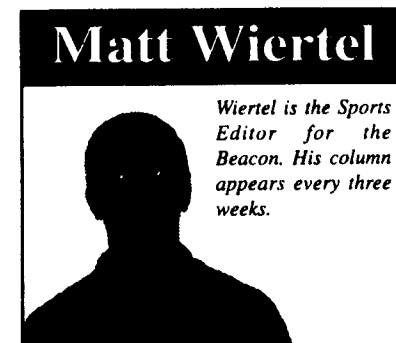
## The Way It Ought To Be

### Why not McCain?

Going into the 2000 Presidential campaign and primary process, most pundits and political elite thought that the circus had already gone home. The vast majority of governors and high ranking congressional officials already gave their support to Texas governor George W. Bush and saw the primary process as a mere formality.

Unfortunately for them, Senator John McCain from Arizona has stolen center stage and has many of the Bush backers quivering. Bush, who at one point in time seemed invincible due to his name and massive war-chest, has stumbled as of late. At Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, McCain beat any expectation by handily defeating Bush 49% to 31%. Not only was this type of win unexpected, but it was unprecedented by a non-incumbent candidate.

So why McCain and why not G.W. Bush or Al Gore? First of all, Al Gore is a pathological liar. Time and time again he has sea-sawed on several issues and he claims he invented the



**Matt Wiertel**

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Internet. In addition, Gore is part of the Clinton administration, which most Americans want to forget rather than remember. Now come on folks, be realistic. By voting for Gore you would clear the way for the re-emergence of bigger government and consequently higher taxes. So plainly, voting Gore equals turning the United States into a huge cesspool.

Then there is George W. Bush. The son of former President George H. Bush and the current Texas governor was expecting to waltz to Philadelphia and capture the Republican nomination without

breaking a sweat. But many people have realized that there is little to Mr. Bush. Besides his cry for compassionate conservatism and his pledge to not raise taxes, we have seen few substantive messages come from Senor Bush. Bush also has a demeanor about him that is Clintonesque; meaning he doesn't know what he is saying and he couldn't care less. Americans don't want a saint in the Oval Office but they are looking for someone they can trust.

Recently this issue of trust and responsibility has become a major selling point for many voters. It's obvious we can't trust the 'inventor of the Internet' and the jury is still out on Mr. Bush, but most Americans know that there is one candidate who can fit this model we are seeking. That candidate would be Senator John McCain.

McCain's war hero past instantly makes him a hit amongst voters. As history tells us Senator McCain was a decorated fighter pilot during the

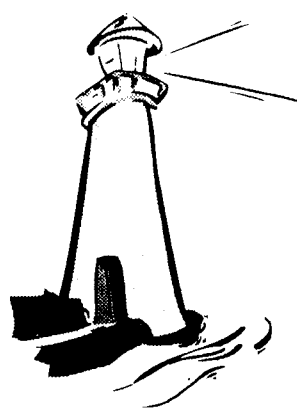
Vietnam War. During one of his bombing runs his jet was shot down over Hanoi, and McCain became a prisoner of war. His five years in confinement were filled with beatings and broken bones, but he made it through. McCain even passed up leaving early because it wasn't fair to the prisoners who were there before him.

Now this is a guy who we want as our commander in chief, not some pants-dropping pervert.

Even though I don't agree with all of his policies, especially campaign finance reform, I think that John McCain is exactly the kind of individual we need to direct this nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But if McCain were to fall short of the Republican nomination, it is imperative that a Republican sits in the White House come January 2001. We must remain focused throughout the whole primary ordeal though. The enemy here isn't Governor Bush; rather it is Al Gore and his liberal flock.

## THE BEHREND BEACON

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