

EDITORIAL

Letters to the Editor:

Your horoscopes suck!

Dear Editor:

My name is Doug Hoderny. I read (or at least try to read) the Beacon every week. I must say I am quite disappointed with the section of your paper that has Horoscopes. I enjoy reading horoscopes (even the ones that aren't mine) just for fun. But I have found that your horoscope column is a waste of ink. Bongo, if all you can do is tell people to get a life, I don't think your readers are going

to read the Beacon anymore. I'm not sure if your goal is to offend everybody but why can't you at least make them interesting. Here is a suggestion, go get some from the Internet or something. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and hope to see some changes in the future.

Doug Hoderny
MIS, 04

Hey!
Send your
complaints here!
I'll listen,
promise!
behrcoll2@aol.com

Why is Behrend in three time zones?

Dear Editor:

Can I just ask why they decided to build Behrend across a time zone? Well, maybe it's not that bad, but the five minute difference from one end of campus to the other makes it really hard to get to class on time. Almost every day I haul it from the Nick building to the Academic building to find that the not even five-minute walk has taken me ten. I have even had an occasion when I was late due to the time gap and class being

held over for one minute. It's not just the students, most of who agree with me, that are rushed by Behrend's discordant clocks either. One of my professors complains almost daily about the time gap and not being able to prepare for class before it starts. I understand that it is nearly impossible to synchronize every clock on the campus and that no one really has the time to do it, but limiting the gap would keep us

from speed-walking everywhere and save us from the "are you going to be this late everyday?" look.

Gretchen Lokey
CHEM 02

Musings... by Kate Galley

Valentine's Day sucks!

Ok, so I'm single this Valentine's Day. No big whoop. Alright, yes I'm lying. It sucks. However, I will not be bitter about it. Just kidding. I will be completely bitter about it. All around me I see couples preparing to have "The Best Valentine's Day Ever." Blech.

Oh wait, I am guilty of this in past years, so I can't detest them entirely. But what's the big deal with Valentine's Day anyway. I can't figure it out. It really is the commercialization of an emotion. Love. Ah, love. Make me puke. Cupids and hearts and arrows and more hearts and sickening sweetness. Wow, I am really bitter. Sorry.

Just in case you don't have a date for Valentine's Day this year either, I think I should offer a few suggestions to make your day a little bit better. For the girls:

Listen to depressing music.

Depending on your mood it can be slow and angsty or hard and angry. For the first suggestion I highly recommend Sarah McLachlan. She is the queen of sadness, gotta love her. For the latter, I am thinking a little Korn is in order. Or maybe my personal favorite, *The BloodHound Gang* "Lift your head up high and blow your brains out."

One word: Chocolate. And not the crappy, ruffly heart-shaped boxes of it that you can buy in K-mart. I am talking some mean chocolate. Make fudge! Then eat it all, or if you feel nice, share some with your roommate.

For the guys:

Since I'm not a guy, the only advice I can offer you is Quake. Take out all of your aggressions of being alone by blowing away virtual enemies. Fun, right? Just leave the anger there.

Of course, you can always rent a

'girlie' movie (no not THAT type of movie) and practice crying and showing your sensitive side. Hopefully all this practice can help you score a girl next year. I recommend *Steel Magnolias*, *Titanic* or *The Empire Strikes Back* (they whenever Han Solo gets dropped into carbonite, it's pretty darn moving).

If all else fails, there is always the good old stand-by, Friends. Hang out with all your other single friends and watch a hysterically funny movie. My ring of single friends plan on watching *Wayne's World* and *Chueless*. Also since Valentine's Day is on Monday, we can always watch WWFRAW. Yeah, that sounds good. A bunch of big sweaty people rolling around in a ring and beating the crap out of each other. Now that's what I call love. Happy V-day!



National Student Commentary

Being Mr. nice guy

by Adam Shiver
Central Florida Future

Have you ever listened to women talk about what kind of guy they are looking for? If so, then you have probably overheard the same things I have.

When they get around to naming qualities they want in a man, they almost always list honesty, kindness, a good sense of humor and chivalry. I laugh at this. I think they're just making all that up.

One woman explained to me recently that I was "too nice." Too nice?! Is there such a thing — and if there is, is that any reason not to give a good guy a chance? I don't think so. In fact, I don't think there is enough niceness in this day and age.

I open doors, pay for dates and strive hard to be caring and sweet, but none of that gets me very far. But the guy who stands in a corner, aloof and playing hard to get? He's golden. He's got no trouble finding a date.

The guy who runs around with his buds, gets drunk and finally thinks to call around 1 a.m., hoping he can spend the night? 'No problem, come right on over, a lot of women say.' They flock to him.

I just don't get it. These girls must love being the caretakers of their boy-

friends. They get caught in cycles of always trying to "keep his attention" or "win him back" — usually employing tactics that involve sex. All of their energy and focus is consumed with trying to hang on to a person, so they fail to notice the nice guys all around them.

Instead of trying to hold on to a loser, they could be getting to know all the nice guys who out there — the real marriage material — the guys like me. I also have another guess as to why a lot of girls seem to settle for whomever (make that "whatever") they come across: They are just as shallow as a lot of men. Oh, looks aren't as important as personality and all those other fine qualities that typically make their Top-10 lists. Yeah, right.

So, where does that leave me — and all the other "too nice" guys? Well, we're going to continue to maintain our honesty, integrity and charm. We're going to keep on opening doors and sharing our feelings. We aren't going to play games. We'll assume responsibility for ourselves and for any hurt feelings we may cause. We will always try to take care of those whom we care for.

And will we have time for women who expect less of us? Probably not.

Bored teens? Here's a creative solution, de-boot the computer.

by Shepherd Smith
Knight Ridder

"I'm bored, Mom." "I'm bored, Dad." There isn't a parent who hasn't heard this whine from his or her children. Usually, we just ignore it and, usually, that's good advice. But when 40 percent of this year's college freshmen report that they were "frequently bored" with school when they were high school seniors, that's a warning that can't be ignored.

That 40 percent figure is a record, according to the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute, which has been asking freshmen this question for 15 years. It's nearly twice as many students who reported being bored with high school back in 1985.

What's the big deal, you almost certainly are wondering. I'm bored a lot of the time at work, you're thinking. And I surely remember being bored back when I was in high school, you recall. But the latest research into young people and the major unhealthy risk behaviors they face — alcohol, drugs, sex, tobacco and violence — suggests that we should be very concerned.

The federal Add Health survey, the largest study of adolescent life ever

conducted, surveying more than 90,000 teen-agers, found that adolescents who don't feel connected to their school, who don't feel as if they're really part of school life, are at risk for unhealthy behaviors. They are more likely to engage in violence, smoke cigarettes, use drugs and alcohol, and engage in early sexual activity. Certainly, being bored at school is a pretty good sign that a young person is feeling at least a bit disconnected from school.

So kids being bored is nothing to ignore. That almost half of America's high school seniors are bored should be alarming. We ought to do something about it. I have a radical idea to offer. But first, let me admit something unheard of for somebody writing a newspaper column: I'm nowhere near 100 percent sure this will make a difference, though obviously I suspect it will. My idea? Turn off the TV and computer. That's right, turn them off for a while.

No, I'm not a techno-Luddite. The computer and television are wonderful things. In fact, I used an online dictionary to make sure Luddite (one who is opposed to technological change) is spelled correctly. I'm sim-

ply making the point that the omnipresence of these technologies, particularly the computer, marks the beginning of a new era in the way children grow up. Children will think differently. They will look at the world differently. They will be intellectually stimulated differently. Their attention span will be impacted.

Nearly anything can be well used ... or abused. When we as parents or educators depend on televisions, and now computers, to both entertain and inform, we better be darn careful. Computers, particularly, have the potential of cheating young people out of many positive life experiences. Great pleasure often comes after hardship or hard work.

When youthful curiosity and educational inquiries are made too easy through "answers.com," the challenge and joy of learning can easily turn to boredom. And when we eliminate debate or conflict by depending too much on machines and not people for our intellectual pursuits, conflict resolution and interpersonal skills suffer.

If that's the case, and findings from our own focus group studies suggest it is, then we need to rethink how we use this powerful technology. Plus, in

our focus groups young people complained that, while they appreciate the tremendous gains technology has provided, they see it as contributing to the accelerated pace of their lives, thus increasing their stress. It's as if they're spinning their wheels, but don't know where they're going.

One thing's for sure. This generation of young people is attracted to the computer, is in love with the computer, even more, it seems, than the television. The downside of all this computer experience and expertise will, undoubtedly, be less time spent in activities demanding social interaction. And less social interaction means more boredom.

So, if we're alarmed by the latest data on bored high school seniors — as I believe we should be — we need to give our children a little more direction, and tell them to de-boot the computer and boot up the world outside their front door a little more often.

Because teaching our children how to explore the world through low-tech experience is just as important as understanding the nuances of Web surfing. And on occasion, a lot less boring or stressful.

