

A View from the Lighthouse

Everybody or Nobody

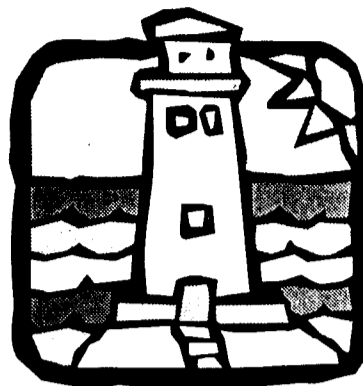
About 2 weeks ago, twelve students from Edinboro University were arrested on drug charges. What made these arrests even more special was the fact that five of the men were varsity athletes. In light of these recent arrests at Edinboro, an issue of whether or not student athletes should be tested for drugs has also been brought to light.

We at the *Beacon* believe that there is a lot of bias out there, that for some strange reason people seem to think that only athletes are taking drugs. You may be saying to yourself "I know a bunch of kids that aren't athletes that do that stuff." That's what we're saying, too. There is a lot more to the words "extra-curricular" than just athletics, and drugs are illegal period. There are student governments, organizations, fraternities, and yes even newspapers out there that are susceptible to drugs as well. Why just test the athletes?

Quick sports analogy - That's like having a football player about to make an 80-yard touchdown but stopping at the 1-yard line to tie his shoes. Our opinion is, solve the whole problem. If athletes are going to be subjected to tests, newspaper staff writers should be subjected, student government officers should be subjected, and hell, even the marching band should be subjected. Test everybody or test nobody.

Edinboro's athletic director, four-time Olympic medalist Bruce Baumgartner, is heavily promoting drug testing for athletes. In a recent article by Jim Camp of the *Erie Daily Times*, Baumgartner was quoted about the arrests. "I was very disappointed we had athletes involved... But you have to remember athletes are like any other students." Essentially, he is saying that he realizes it isn't only athletes that are using drugs, but he's willing to help clean up their acts. It was also noted in the article that Edinboro was considering testing long before the arrests.

However, drug testing has been a hot item of debate long before the Edinboro incident. It is not only of interest at the collegiate level, public high schools are faced with the issue as well. Why the big fuss over a little test? This is where things get sticky. Drug testing does in fact wander into fourth amendment territory - that of unlawful searches and seizures. There was a case in Oregon in 1996, for example, where a Vernonia High School student tried to battle his



school's mandatory athletic drug-testing policy by citing the fourth amendment. Lower federal courts did favor the student, but the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the case. Even the federal court system has divided opinions on this one.

So, what's another argument? Many people feel that athletes are role models, and role models should be drug-free. But, athletics can be a business too. We wouldn't want to punish the big moneymakers...oops, we mean athletes that draw people to events.

The *New York Times* recently reported that 12 of 500 NBA players tested positive for marijuana during a fall training camp. Now, that sounds like a small number, but these players were notified months in advance. The *NY Times* article explained that they even used to have collective bargaining rights that only required them to be tested for heroin and cocaine. Talk about a bargain... and yes, this goes to show that drugs are everywhere.

How does all of this relate to us at Behrend? It brings up the issue of drug testing you! If Behrend did decide to initiate some kind of drug test program, should our athletes be the only ones to take the test? We would expect that any student in any organization would be fair game.

But luckily we don't have to worry about that. We don't test our athletes. As Athletic Director Brian Streeter explains, "If our teams were to participate in any NCAA Championship Tournaments there would be a possibility of testing at a championship site."

We at the *Beacon* are indifferent as to whether it is everyone or no one that is tested, but we can't agree with "selective testing." Better yet, just say no.

A Little bit of Kool-aid and Milk

Could you puhleeze be quiet?

Do you remember the first time you ever went to the library? You innocently asked the adult that you were with where the Berenstain Bear books were. The old librarian that resembled the wicked witch from the Wizard of Oz, extended her long, bony, finger, positioned it at her lips and gave out a hiss (that still echoes in back of your mind). She then pointed to a large sign with the letters Q-U-I-E-T. The courtesy of being quiet as possible has been a part of your behavior (at least for some of us) for a very long time. Then we came to college.

Have some of us forgotten what it means to be quiet? When you go to the library to study, most of us go for the peace and quiet to help us focus on our projects at hand. We go to get away from the distracting television, the telephone, and the loud voices in

Shannon Weber



Weber is the former News Editor of the *Beacon*. Her column appeared every three weeks.

our residence areas. I find it hard to believe that students go to the library to carry on conversations that would be better suited for a place like Bruno's.

I went to the library in hopes that I would be able to find a nice quiet corner so I could concentrate on my homework. I was hunched over my books, intensely studying when a loud voice broke the silence followed by a

roar of laughter and conversation going on by a group on the other side of the room. Just when I thought they were done with their conversation, they were joined but yet another voice which just happened to be louder and more obnoxious than the rest. Just my luck. I could have found more peace in Bruno's at noon.

You would think that the quietest place on a college campus would be the library, right? Now it can all depend on the time of day, the day of the week and which floor you are on. But no matter what, I think students need to realize that speaking in a low whisper is much more preferred. The scenario: you are in the library trying to study for a crucial test that will make or break you, and you can't focus because of the gossip going on by a large group of people. Would you rather have the people continue their

conversation or would you rather they speak in a quiet whisper? You make the call.

Many groups meet at the library to work on group projects. Great place to meet, right? Well, there are rooms available in the library to accommodate you (I believe there at least six! WHOA!). You can talk all you want, either about your project or today's gossip with your group without irritating the student chewing on his eraser out of stress. Everyone wins.

So next time you decide to go to the library, just think about why you chose to study there. If you chose to study in the library because you can talk to your best friend about who Billy Bob was with on Tuesday of last week at 7:45 p.m., then maybe Bruno's would be better suited to your needs. Unless you can keep your voices down, that is.

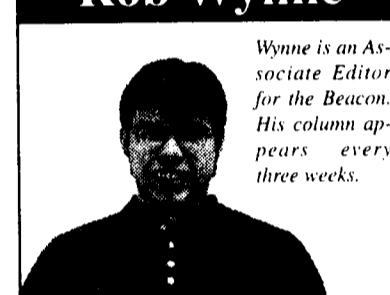
And In This Corner...

Of Ice and Men

Oh yes, these past few weeks can be stereotyped as "Erie weather." You wake up one day and it's bright and sunny outside, the snow is almost melted, and the roads are dry. The next morning, you wake up to cars sliding out of control as they hit ice spots from a rainstorm the night before. I don't know about you, but enough is enough already.

Being as this is my first winter commuting to Behrend, I get to experience firsthand some of the horrors and dilemmas that I used to catch on the news. Sitting on I-90 for 2 hours while traffic is slowly detoured, taking up to 40 minutes to get here in the morning when it usually takes 20, and de-icing the car every morning starts to be a pain. Those are some of the benefits I derive from paying for school. But above all, I can rest assured that classes will probably never be canceled in college. However, public grade schools have what are called "snow days."

Rob Wynne



Wynne is an Associate Editor for the *Beacon*. His column appears every three weeks.

Some people may disagree with me. They might think that any day is a good enough day to send kids to school, even if there is a sheet of ice covering the city. I'm going to have to say it was a bad call on the part of school officials when they didn't cancel school 2 weeks back. I'm not talking about Behrend, either. I'm referring to the public grade schools in the area. Erie experienced its first major ice dilemma of this year, and I think a lot of people were unprepared to handle it. There were numerous road

fatalities, most of which could have been avoided had everyone decided to take it easy that morning. That means letting the kiddies stay home or giving them at least a 2-hour delay.

It seems that "school safety" has born itself a whole new meaning these past few years. Everyone seems to remember the gun shootings and bomb threats when they think of those words. What about the ever-present threat of Mother Nature? I'm sure you've heard of the "zero-tolerance" policy that some schools have. Basically, if you bring fingernail clippers to school you are expelled. That's the biggest crock I've ever heard of. However, on a severely icy day, schools decide to take a risk. For example, my youngest brother came home from school that day and said, "Dude, our bus was like sliding into people's yards and stuff, it was cool!" Yeah, that's all the city needs, an overturned bus or something. Parents

would love that.

But schools will cancel classes if there is a hefty amount of snow outside. I can remember days where there was just a lot of snow and we had 2-hour delays. Here's a physics lesson: A school-bus carrying 40 kids to school has a better chance of making it in 12 inches of snow than on 1 inch of ice.

Wow! It doesn't matter what you drive, an 18-wheeler or a Yugo, everyone is susceptible to the threats of ice. And it's not like we didn't see it coming. It rained heavily the day before, what can you expect when the temperatures fall during the night? Take your best guess.

To sum things up, I guess a lot of crises could have been avoided had everyone decided to take things super slow that early February morning. Maybe we just forgot our thinking caps.

Look At It This Way

Do you spit or swallow?

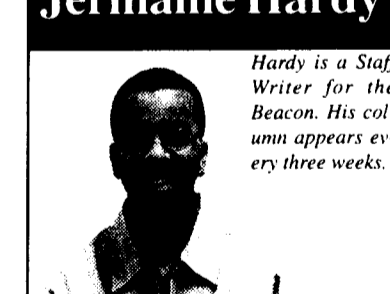
At Behrend's Singled Out dating game last week, something occurred that perturbed me. But before I go on to tell you what it was, I want to let you know that I don't give half a rat's booty about what negative views you have on my reaction. Just thought I'd let you know.

Anyway, the show was going well until a contestant went a little too far with one of his questions. In reference to the pool of lovely women who were competing for a date with him he asked, "do you spit or swallow?" The question shocked me to uneasiness.

The rest of the Bruno's audience began to laugh hysterically. And the hosts went along with the crowd's careless response. I thought about what the question was insinuating but as a 'hip to the game college student,' I didn't have to use much imagination to get the picture. He was inquiring about the girls' preferred oral sex technique.

The question was disgusting enough, not to mention that was posed in a cafeteria. But to hear the girls reply with an answer and see how everyone so casually accepted it made for a rotten scenario. The re-

Jermaine Hardy



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mark was not only offensive to the contesting women, but to the whole audience. If this was in a different situation, like a porno convention, then I might not be so concerned. But at a college event that is open to everyone this is inappropriate. We can't just let this one slide.

Pardon me if I sound like a preacher, but there comes a time when we have to take a step back and note our behavior, and this is definitely one of those times. I know that we are living in a new age and we have freedom to express ourselves, but this is not an excuse to let our sexualities run wild.

I stress this issue because society

on a whole has become more and more sexually irresponsible, and I want to see that we, as an up and coming generation, deter from this pattern. Sex is nothing new, but we are at risk of ruining a good thing as we continue to exploit and abuse sex the way we do. At the top of this millennium television has exploited sex more than it ever has. New programs like MTV's *Undressed* and *LoveLine* dare to be more sexually appealing with provocative topics handling subjects like "spitting and swallowing".

Perhaps this is due to the competition with other sexually open countries like Moscow, where even the news report is a strip show. However, America is supposed to be the example setter, and if we continue to think with our sex organs we are likely to self-destruct. In no way am I suggesting that we get rid of our horniness, because that would be impossible. I am suggesting that we be more careful in how we handle ourselves sexually.

We have seen sex become political as certain people use it to advance themselves up the social ladder. As products like Viagra emerge, advertisements for shampoo incorporate

plots that end in orgasm, and as Mandy Moore continues to sing about how bad she wants some candy, it is clear how prominent sex has become.

Boys and Girls of Penn State Behrend, I am talking to you. We cannot continue to accept sexual obscenity such as contained in the Singled Out competition. However, in no way do I mean to condemn the overall Singled Out event. It was fun, and I want to commend the Hall Councils who collectively put this show together.

I would also like to commend the hosts, Maria Madigan and Dan Schiesser, for conducting a good show. It was just that one part of the show that troubled me. I hope that those who read this take heed to my point and that those who were at the show reevaluate their casual reactions to this occurrence.

If we continue at the careless rate we are going, we will be a population of people with sexually transmitted diseases who are scared to have sex with each other. Wait a minute—we are already there. Let's check ourselves before we wreck ourselves.

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