

Don't Get Me Started

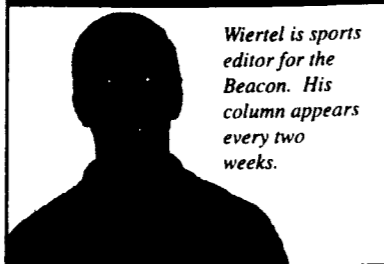
Weighing in on John Rocker

Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker has been through a tumultuous spring training. For those of you who don't remember, Rocker made disparaging comments against various minority and orientation groups in December. Since then Rocker has been criticized by fans, players, and pundits.

With the baseball season swiftly approaching and with some further developments in the story, I felt that this was an appropriate time to weigh in on this topic.

For starters, John Rocker has every right to say whatever he wants, whenever he wants. That's how our founding fathers intended it to be and that is the way it should be. This country was built on the bedrock principles of freedom and liberty. Anyone who thinks that Rocker, or anyone else for that matter, doesn't have the right to

Matt Wiertel



Wiertel is sports editor for the Beacon. His column appears every two weeks.

say what he or she feels should brush up on their American and world history. Unless these people want to be compared to Hitler, these pundits should pipe down.

Now the last time I checked, making a disparaging comment didn't result in a fine or suspension, unless it was at work or directed as a threat towards someone in particular. But in John Rocker's case his comments

cost him \$500, the first 13 days of spring training, and the first 12 games of the regular season. Originally Rocker was suspended for all of spring training, the first 28 days of the regular season and fined \$20,000 by Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, but that sentence was later reduced.

Before I move on, let me ask this question, who made MLB commissioner Bud Selig president of the politically correct police? I realize that Rocker does represent baseball and consequentially the MLB, but why doesn't commissioner Selig reprimand other players who constantly break the LAW instead of suspending individuals who make an inappropriate comment? Apparently Selig feels that breaking the law isn't all that bad (an attitude that is becoming more popu-

lar amongst liberal circles) and having players who abuse drugs, alcohol, or people is beneficial to the MLB's image. Get real Bud!

However the Atlanta Braves have every right to rebuke Rocker, just as any employer could do with one of their employees. Simply because he is a baseball player and not an average Joe worker, doesn't make him exempt from the responsibilities that employees inherently have. If the Braves traded or released Rocker because of what he said, I wouldn't dispute their actions due to the fact that he is an employee of that organization.

What is inexplicable though is why John Rocker received a standing ovation last week during a spring season game. If Rocker is so hated and such a bigot, why does he receive standing ovations? Surely there were some in

the crowd that thought Rocker was a disgusting pig, but they must have been overshadowed by the raucous majority.

Although most people disagree with what Rocker said, I think that there is a faction of society that is pulling for John Rocker. A segment of society that believes in the rights of Americans and who probably have said some regretful things themselves. People who are sick of the media and others feeding them a constant line of B.S., people who want to hear what people really think and not what they ought to think. These were the people cheering for John Rocker.

In a society where individual thought is increasingly harder to come by, we need athletes and political leaders who actually speak what they feel. Granted they shouldn't go out and

bash minority groups like Rocker did, but they shouldn't hide their feelings behind a storm of rhetoric.

I, for one, never liked individuals who never had an opinion on a particular issue or who hid behind their big words and spin. That's probably why I admire John Rocker, not because he bashed minority groups, but because he actually had the guts to say something.

Imagine if all of us would actually tell people how we really felt, instead of trying to conform to the norms set by screwed up members of society. We must not allow people to suppress our thoughts and feelings, no matter if we are a fast food employee or a high level executive.

Like my high school English teacher used to say, Carpe Diem, seize the Day!!

SCOREBOARD

BEHREND SPORTS

MEN'S BASEBALL (9-3)

Penn State Behrend	9-3
Frostburg	5-7
Penn State Altoona	5-10
Pitt-Greensburg	2-4
Pitt-Bradford	2-9
La Roche	1-1-1

Week in Review

March 18	Oberlin	3-2	W
	Oberlin	5-6	L
March 21	John Carroll	3-18	L

Upcoming Games

March 25	Ohio Wesleyan	12:00 p.m.
	@ Ohio Wesleyan	
March 26	Capital @ Capital	12:00 p.m.
	Denison @ Capital	3:00 p.m.
March 29	@ Allegheny	2:00 p.m.
April 1	@ Penn St. Altoona	1:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL (4-4)

La Roche	6-1
Penn State Behrend	4-4
Frostburg	2-4
Penn State Altoona	0-0
Pitt-Bradford	0-0
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0
Lake Erie	0-0

Week in Review

March 18	@ Altoona	Postponed
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Upcoming Games

March 25	Mount Union	1:00 p.m.
March 27	La Roche	3:00 p.m.
March 30	@ Pitt-Bradford	3:00 p.m.
March 31	Buffalo State	3:00 p.m.
April 1	Lake Erie	1:00 p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS (2-1)

Penn State Behrend	1-2
Frostburg	0-0
Penn State Altoona	0-0
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0
Pitt-Bradford	0-0
La Roche	0-0
Lake Erie	0-0

Week in Review

March 21	Thiel	6-3	W
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INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramural Modified Softball

Entries: Deadline is Friday, March 24, at 4:00 p.m.
Entry Fee: \$2.00 will be charged to your student account

Divisions: Men's Women's and Coed

Tournament: Round robin. Top two teams will advance to a single elimination championship bracket.

Time and Place: Matches will be played Monday thru Thursday beginning around 4:30 p.m.

Notes: League play will begin around Tuesday, March 28. There is a MANDATORY captains meeting on Monday, March 27, at 5:30 p.m. in the Erie Hall classroom.

White Water Rafting

The Office of Intramural and Recreational Programs will be sponsoring a white water rafting trip in Ohio, PA.

When: The trip is Saturday, April 29. Transportation will be provided. The trip will leave around 7:00 a.m. and will return sometime in the evening.

Cost: \$25.00 per person, which must be paid at the time of registration. Lunch will be provided. Wetsuits will be available for \$10.00 each and are required.

Registration: Deadline is Friday, March 24, at 4:00 p.m. You must register at the IM office and at the time of registration you MUST have: Student ID, payment in full (non-refundable), driver's license to verify you are 18, and you will be asked to sign a waiver

BEHREND CLASSIFIEDS

Hope you feel better soon so you can bake us more cookies. Love the Beacon staff

Free to good home: one editor-in-chef stuck in PMS overdrive. Strong stomach and weak mind included.
Contact Beacon for more information.

Happy Birthday Dad from Butthead P.S. I didn't forget yours!!

The Beacon is looking for a Website Editor. Experience is needed in HTML code, Front Page and Adobe Pagemaker. Macintosh experience also expected. Payment in a small stipend per week. Call x6488 for more information.

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Can you guess where the Lion is ?



Silkscreen Unlimited will be sponsoring the Find the Lion Contest, in conjunction with the Behrend Beacon. If you know where the Lion is, fill out the form below and drop it off at the Beacon office by Friday the following week. The person who answers the question correctly will receive a prize from Silkscreen Unlimited and their name will be in that week's issue. Two winners will be drawn every Friday at 12:00 noon.

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