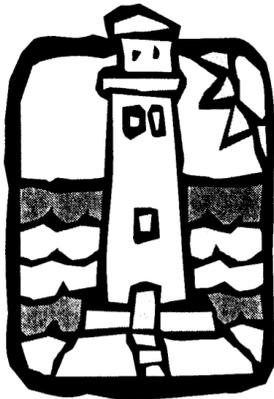


A View From The Lighthouse

Behrend, we're totally dope!

Did you know that Behrend is a 'hot' and 'trendy' place to go to school? Hey, stop laughing, it really is...at least according to the Kaplan/Newsweek College Catalog 2001. Ah, are you lost yet? Ok, here's the short version. High school guidance counselors were asked questions about local colleges. 1,100 colleges were profiled for things like academics, tuition dollar value, and best career services and, much to the shock of the *Beacon*, Behrend was on the top 25 list several times. There were a dozen or so different categories that Behrend placed in.



Let's think of some things that could spice up Behrend, (refer to the Question of the Week). On campus bar, adult dinner theater, food court? Hum, none of those things seem especially realistic. Fun, yes; in the near future, no way. And nobody in the *Beacon* office wants to be the one to walk into Dean Lilley's office to propose all those things.

Enough snickering everybody, we are on that list, we swear it. Out of 40 'hot' and 'trendy' schools, Behrend was in the top ten. We rule. We should be proud of our academic institution.

Think of all the things that combined together to make our college 'hot' and 'trendy'. It wasn't just one thing that propelled us onto that list. It was everything on this campus. The things that the official list says makes us, well you know, are "selectivity, reputation and social life" (cough, cough), yeah, the social life part got us too. But if you think about it, it's true, well, partially true anyway. Behrend does seem to have an active social life...at times. You know the times we speak of...the week classes start when everyone is buying books, the week that everyone is selling back books and the noon lunch hour at Bruno's. Those things are 'hot' and 'trendy,' right? Sure they are.

Now the only problem is that Behrend has to live up to that 'hot' and 'trendy' reputation. And considering the things that we figured to be 'hot' and 'trendy,' that shouldn't be too hard...in theory.

The thing to really be proud of though is the fact that the 'hot' and 'trendy' list did not include Penn State, main campus. Now that shouldn't mean that we should be chanting, "haha, we're better than Happy Valley," because we are all one big happy family.

Honestly then, what put us on that list? Was it our Greek system, our clubs and organizations or our active student government? Yeah, probably. Does anyone believe it yet though? Probably not. That's fine too, the point is that we made it. And hopefully we'll make it again in future years. Let's just hope that the administrators and 'higher-ups' that we never actually see on our campus don't put the kibosh on our hip and rockin' school. Let's keep it the way is supposedly is, one more time everyone, 'hot' and 'trendy'!

STAR TRIBUNE
SACK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quit talking in codes *Beacon*

To the "editor":

I believe that I speak for a large but voiceless group of students at Behrend when I say: SPARE US! Please, if there is nothing to write about, or if no *Beacon* columnists have anything original or worthwhile to say, don't publish the paper. I thought I was going to lose my lunch while reading the *Beacon* last year, as I read article after article of poorly thought out and poorly written right-wing garbage, week after week. Please, save Food & Housing the expensive, and my dormmates the

stench, by never publishing another issue. I'd rather see the money go towards any number of programs, including (but not limited to) Free Taco Night.

Katie Galley's cryptic rant about who-knows-what in the September 1st *Beacon* honestly makes me want to cry. Please, oh please, spare every member of the Behrend community further embarrassment and shame by either killing or fixing the paper. I am surprised that the University has not cut funding due to the simple fact that, with great consistency,

the *Beacon* is just unreadable. I can hardly stand it any longer. If I read one more rant about the downfalls of General Education from a MIS major, or another editorial declaring that people living on food stamps are "living a life of luxury off the government", I am offing myself.

Jason Leto

Dean Lilley corrects the *Beacon*

Kristin, a clarification:

The Lion design of which you wrote is the official design for the Nittany Lions, University Park's athletics program. That program is Division I NCAA and a member of the Big Ten.

The Lion design for the Behrend Lions athletics program makes use of the approved university-wide design, and that is the logo that belongs on all of our campus publications and signs.

The Behrend Lions have their own membership in the NCAA, Division III, and are founding members of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). I am sure the University Park athletics program would not object to our use of

their logo, but why would we use their logo when we have our own logo?

I hope our students will pull for the Behrend Lions and the Nittany Lions, but particularly the Behrend Lions. The Behrend Lions (including athletes, cheerleaders, pep band, dance team, the Behrend Lion, and coaches) received a lot of student support last year, and I hope they'll get even more this year.

Concerning the branch campus designation, Behrend hasn't been one since 1973 when it became a college. Before that time, our faculty were a part of the UP colleges, and, hence, our campus was a

branch of those colleges. When Behrend College was created over 25 years ago, we ceased to be a branch campus.

I like that cheer, "We are... Penn State," and I also like its local tag line, "Behrend... Yes." It speaks to our unity as a university and our pride in Behrend. Thanks for making the Behrend *Beacon* an increasingly interesting student newspaper.

Provost and Dean Lilley

This letter is in reference to Kristin Rodgers' column in the September 1 issue of the Beacon.

Crying wolf...

O wretched fool, That livest to make thine honesty a vice!

O monstrous world! Take note, take note, O world,

To be direct and honest is not safe.

I thank you for this [lesson], and from hence I'll love no friend, [since] love breeds such offense...

I should be wise, for honesty's a fool, And loses that it works for.

Okay, so now that I've lost 99 percent of readers by opening my editorial with a quote from *Othello*, let me tell you what said quote means to me: we now live in a society in which being honest is often a crime; in which people have to pick every word with such precision that spontaneity is lost; in which we prefer people to lie nicely rather than speak honestly. (If you want a better interpretation of this quote, see an English professor.)

Basically, I'm talking about freedom of speech and why it's really not that free. Or, why speaking freely can get your butt sued quicker than just about any crime I can name off the top of my head. Communications majors, I apologize now, but I'm about to launch into the 400th debate on freedom of speech that you will encounter here at Behrend.

I recently was watching a special on *60 Minutes* about sexual harassment in the work force, and I must say that it made me sad. Now, I'm all for making life as difficult as possible for guys, but I think we've gone too far. The show mentioned some rules that had been added to college policies regarding harassment. One rule mentioned something about not eating, chewing, or licking provocatively in front of others, and the commentator said that he hoped students at that school were never hungry or had dry lips.

I understand the basic concept here, and as a girl I can appreciate the need for harassment regulations, but how can you possibly enforce those regulations? I find one phrase or action offensive when no one else that I've ever met does. Does

Beyond the Cheap Colored Lights Liz Hayes

news editor

that make it harassment? What if everyone else finds a comment directed at me to be harassing, but I don't. Do I still press charges for harassment? Who determines what crosses the line?

Pretty soon we will have to have separate offices and classrooms to divide the sexes because every time a guy looks funny at a girl he's going to get sued. You had to adjust your contact? Tough - I found that look to be highly derogatory. You said you liked my outfit? Well, I think I heard sarcastic undertones in there and I'm reporting you for commenting on my clothing in an insulting fashion.

Why do I care? Pretty soon (if we aren't there already) there will be so many lawsuits floating around, none will be taken seriously. So many girls have cried "Wolf" that we no longer listen. And then, when I really see the wolf and get fired for not doing a Lewinsky for my boss, who's going to listen to me? My complaint will be thrown into a pile of complaints that could fill the courtyard of the Pentagon and I will be down on my knees in order to get a job. Ooops, did you find that offensive? I was only trying to be honest.

The same thing goes with profanity and obscenity - who gets to draw the white line between what's acceptable and what's not? I don't care if some girl wants to gyrate her hips on a stage in Kandy's - I don't plan on watching her do it. So I say let her go for it. I find Eminem's lyrics highly offensive, but I don't shell out the 18 bucks for his cd, and I turn the



dial when he's on the radio. I know he's out there, but I don't have to hear his message if I don't want to, and I don't. I don't believe in the KKK, but when they come to speak in Erie I'm not going to protest. I just won't go. If no one shows up, they will have defeated themselves. If all 300 residents of Erie show up to protest, then they will get free advertising on the local stations.

Last year I recall an argument we had in the *Beacon* office about Joe Rucker from the Braves and his little tirade on the residents of NYC. Some of us thought that he should never have been allowed to say the things he did; others thought they were glad he did say it because he screwed himself. I didn't have an opinion then, but I've thought about it, and I agree with the second argument. I'm glad he said what he did because now we all know what a bigot he is. What if the KKK never went public with their views? What if they instead had secret meetings in the gorge and no one on this campus knew they existed? I think that idea is scarier than knowing their fubar ideas.

So how do we fix it? Hell if I know! We need harassment regulations, but how do we stop people from abusing them? Some girl gets dumped by her boyfriend and next thing you know she's doing the revenge bit and filing suit because he made unwanted sexual advances (yeah right). We need to make sure our children aren't hearing profanity on *Barney*, but we also need to have the freedom to say what we really think. If we make too many rules limiting obscenity in speech, we will be left with a vocabulary of about three words, and people will be sending letters to the editor because I used the word poop in my editorial. My suggestion is to chill, puffy cheeks.

This letter is in reference to Kristin Rodgers' column in the September 1 issue of the Beacon.

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