

A View From The Lighthouse

All about the Benjamins

The fact that Student Government Association can't properly handle its funding almost cost the students the ability to read the Calendar page of this newspaper. And while that may not be so bad for the residents because they get their very own calendars at the beginning of the year, for the commuters the *Beacon* Calendar page is sometimes the only way that they receive information about events on campus.

For the past two years, the *Beacon* has been allocated money from the SGA to produce a weekly calendar page. They have given the paper a set amount of money to basically run a full-page ad for the campus every week. Or at least we thought they were giving us the money for our services.

It turns out that for the past year, the SGA treasury has been stiffing the *Beacon* about half of the money that they agreed to allocate. And there is no real reason why this should be. The paper work involved should be a fairly simple process. However, for this entire year, the people in charge have not been able to figure it out and now the *Beacon* is basically providing the Calendar page out of our own pockets.

Since there seemed to be a problem in billing, rather than consult us about the problem, they basically took what money was left over and made a profit of almost \$700.

Another problem with the system is that any money we ask for has to be approved by University Park. Why is it that our campus even needs to report back to University Park? We were under the impression that we go to Penn State Erie, not UP. And why the run around to get money, allocated or nonallocated, for groups on campus that need it?

The current process to get money that is supposed to belong to any said group is going to the RUB desk, asking for a treasury request form, having certain people from the organization sign it and then turning it into the proper person in charge and then waiting, and waiting and waiting some more for the money to arrive.

All this waiting can take up to three weeks. And unless an organization can prepare for everything they are going to do



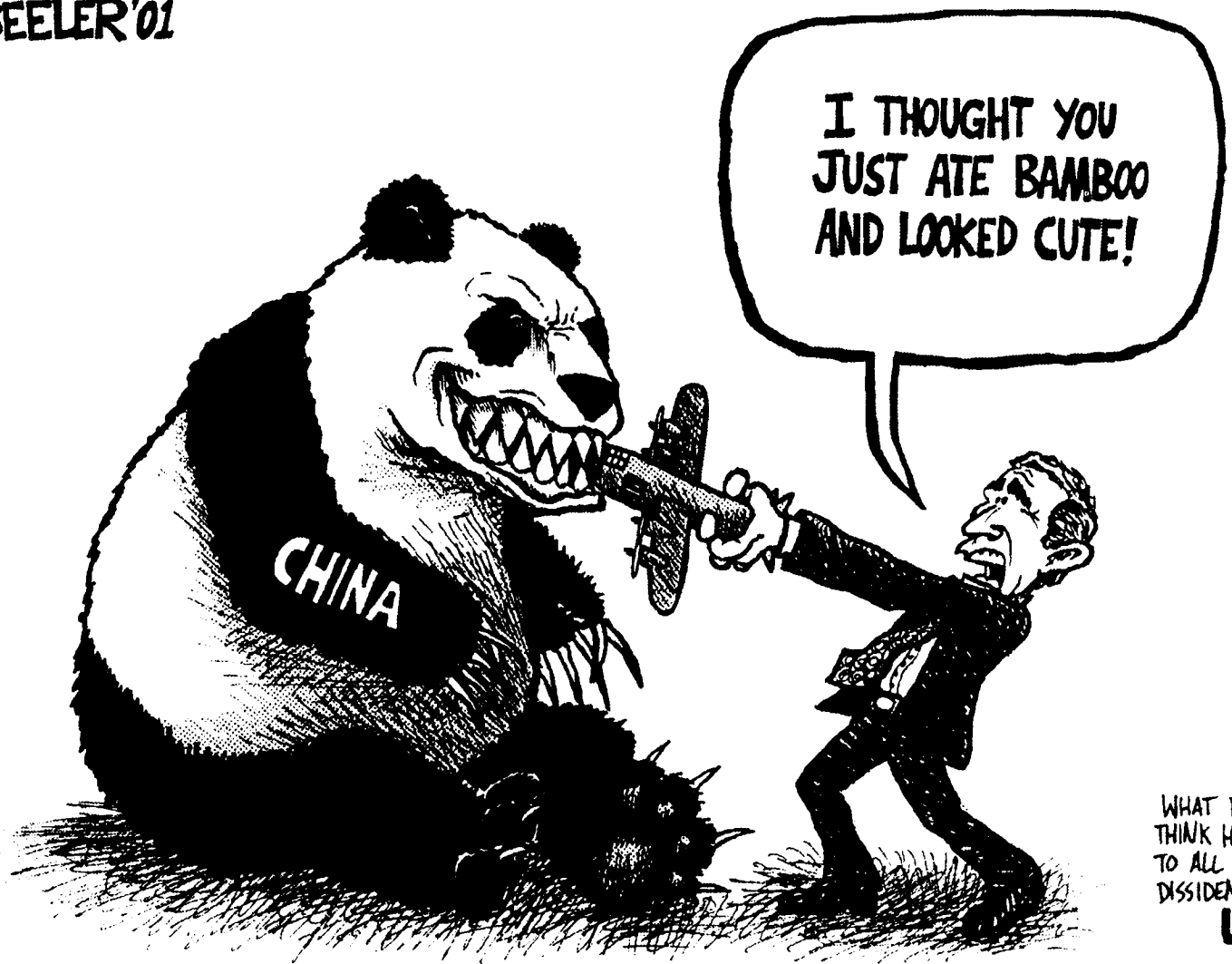
and everything that they are going to need with three weeks advance, there is no way for them to get their money in case of an emergency or an unexpected event. As an example, last semester the *Beacon* decided to help to get people registered to vote. We provided free pizza to students. However, we did not know we were going to do this until a week before the event, not enough to fill out the forms to get the money that we needed. We were left with two options.

The first was to ask the person in charge at the RUB desk if we could use their credit card to order the food. The other option was for someone on the *Beacon* to use his or her own credit card to order it and be reimbursed about six to eight weeks later. We opted, after a long goose chase, to go with the first option.

If it is our money, shouldn't we be able to have access to it whenever we need it? Not just when we plan a month ahead for every little thing that we might need in the office? This goes for all of our funds, whether they come from SGA or the Student Activity Fee, because it is equally as hard to get money from them. Each organization here on campus is established and full of responsible adults. Is a credit card for the organization use too much to ask? It would make life so much easier for a lot of people.

The final point is why should we suffer going through UP and having it take weeks on end for things to get approved? We do not go to UP; they have very little idea about how things are here at Behrend. Why should they control our money? They already get half of our Student Activity Fee payment, why should they be in control of what little we have left?

BEELER'01



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Simplistic ignorance

Dear Editor,

People's actions often amaze me. In the case of Jared Matola's unpublished second article entitled "Body Shots," this once again proved true. I stare and wonder at his ramblings that lack intelligence and reek of close-mindedness.

I cannot comprehend how he wakes up in the morning and feels justified to be so critical of others. Indeed, it is true that everyone is entitled to their opinions, yet when these opinions lack factual evidence and whisper tales of nothingness, they become inappropriate. Jared ends his latest article by saying, "It's the same reason I am not saying what is right and wrong here, I am giving you the FACTS on the subject to let you ponder this issue."

This column expresses a noticeably different tone compared to his unpublished article. I did read that unprinted article and have a few questions about the supposed FACTS. Once again, you dedicate a paragraph to insulting the baseball team. You previously stated that it seems

as though all it takes to start is a "spare tire," etc. Is that FACT? Have you ever inquired as to how many hours we all dedicate to baseball throughout the season? We choose to become involved in an activity that adds to our total college experience. We do not receive fame and fortune playing Division III baseball and ask for no special exemptions, we are merely trying to grow as athletes and people.

While we practice, you sit in front of your computer pondering whom you can insult next. What is the point of this and why does it even need to be written? Should we, as a college, be proud of the fact that our student newspaper has such insults to read at our leisure? What is the difference between his insults about the baseball team to another person's insults about a particular ethnic background or religion?

The point is that there is no difference; they are both the spilling of opinion onto paper without investigation on what is being stated. The fact of the matter is that certain standards are inevitably

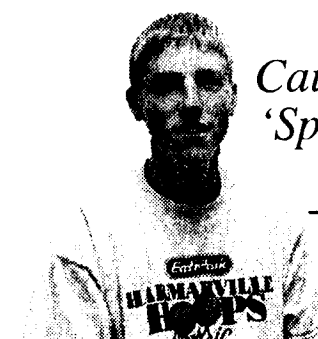
followed to prevent such foolishness from happening. By viewing Jared's insults, are we as a college saying this is acceptable?

His unprinted article goes on to rip on Dean Lilley, Bruno's entertainment, the snow removal staff, and construction crews on campus. Where in your PLET education, Jared, did you become an expert on these issues? Keep me posted; as I will surely buy a copy of "A Snow Removal Synopsis" should you ever publish it.

To summarize, I am merely asking Jared and anyone for that matter to not pass judgment on others until they have an understanding of what they are saying. I realize that debatable issues stimulate campus-wide involvement, but in this case the comments were inappropriate and untrue. I could care less about what he thinks, but when misleading stories are printed, that is when we should all take notice.

Jake Boyle
Baseball Player

'Rape is wrong; it's not a joke'



Caught in the 'Spyder' Web

Jason Snyder
Editor-in-Chief

Two weeks ago, I was conned into taking photos of someone who would be speaking on campus. I've never been a big fan of some of the speakers who talk here at Behrend, so I figured I would run up to the Reed Lecture Hall, take a couple photos and head back to the *Beacon* office.

I did that. Only I stayed an hour and a half longer than I anticipated. The speaker that night, Katie Koestner, had my attention from the time she began speaking, until she ended her speech to a silenced and shocked audience.

When I entered the lecture hall, I didn't even know what the speech was going to be about. I turned around and asked my news editor what the topic was for the night.

"Something about rape" was her answer. So I was anticipating a speech filled with statistics and a message that I have heard more than a handful of times in my relatively young life.

That is not what I got. I got a lesson in life that I won't ever forget.

Koestner shared a story that made people sad. It made people confused. And it made people mad. We watched a woman relive the most painful night of her life in front of our eyes. She spoke quietly, but her message was loud and clear.

"Rape is wrong; it's not a joke." She said this a couple times when her story was complete. The words really sank in. It's not a statement that was anything new to me. I knew that rape

wasn't anything to joke about. And so did the people who were in attendance that night.

The problem was that the people who don't understand the seriousness of rape, weren't there. They could care less if there was a woman talking about how painful and horrific the act is. Koestner was speaking to an audience who already understood her message before she shared it. But she knew what she was doing.

She told those in attendance that her story can only do so much and that her words weren't loud enough to reach the people that need to hear it. She asked us, particularly the men in the audience, to spread the message that "Rape is wrong; it's not a joke."

If I went to the lecture hall that night and heard a bunch of statistics about rape, my concerns probably would have ended there. Because nowhere in numbers is there the message that I can make a difference.

But one story by Koestner hit me hard. I don't remember the absolute specifics, but I remember the message. There was a man at a party one night who overheard a group of guys planning on raping a woman who was passed out drunk in the bedroom. This man sat with the woman until the night was through, protecting her from the group of "men" that had planned on raping her. When the woman was out of harm's way, this man left and never told the woman what he had done.

"No glory," are the words Koestner used to describe this man's act. It sounds like such a simple act. Simply sitting with a woman who was in harm's way. Such a small act made a huge difference in that woman's life.

This editorial is my way to spread Koestner's message that she only got to share with 50 concerned students two weeks ago.

I'm not a big partier. So chances are, I won't be the man sitting next to a passed out woman at the next college party that goes on here at Behrend. I'm calling for the true men on this

campus to keep their eyes open and their ears listening.

The statistics are enough to tell us that rape isn't beyond Behrend. Any moment of any day, a group of guys can be plotting how to help their buddy have forceful sex with a woman who can't defend herself. And if you are in that group and do nothing you are just as guilty, you are just as much of a coward and you are just as much of a rapist. Law might not get you, but your conscience will.

For too long, we have tried to fluff up the idea of rape. We've taken it lightly. We've called victims "liars." We've believed that rape is rare and overexaggerated. We've seen leaders of cities, schools and police departments take rape accusations as a joke. Again, "rape is wrong; it's not a joke."

Mostly in the past, I have seen women, and women alone, tackle issues of rape. For the most part, it's not the women who need to hear this message. So I ask the men who are reading this to continue the message. It's not difficult to remember and it's fairly easy to act on. Take a seat next to a woman in harm's way and take a stand against anyone who dares to cross the line.

If you are a true man at this college, then it's time to team up against the men who aren't.

This campus can start by joining Behrend's Women Today in marching at "Take Back the Night" on April 25 at Erie's Perry Square.

Koestner said in her speech that she dreams of a "night with no rape." She asks that across the world, people will unite to put an end to these acts.

It is wrong. It is not a joke. And now, it is your responsibility to keep this message going.

For more information on "Take Back the Night," call x7450 or x7162.

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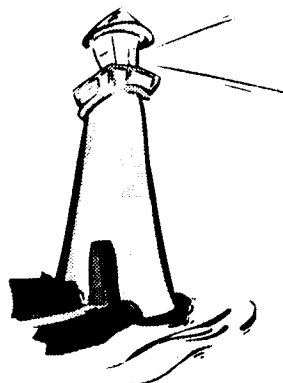
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Do you have an opinion about something going on around campus? Or do you have an opinion about everything? Think you have what it takes to write editorials? The *Beacon* is currently looking for new editorial columnists for this fall. Send an original sample editorial of at least 500 words to behrcoll2@aol.com. Deadline is April 17 at 5:00 p.m.