

Welcome back to those who are already used to the college scene and welcome to the freshmen who are now once again the "newer material" to the campus instead the Hot Stuff Seniors at high school (believe me, I know that feeling).

This week, I have encountered two huge stories in the music industry that have supposedly impacted millions of fans across the world. This past Sunday night, Madonna went live on her Drowned World Tour in her hometown of Detroit, MI. HBO viewers were praising the cable gods in order to see this legend of pop music perform on stage in impressive costumes and sing brand-new music. About every 15 minutes, Madonna would make a dramatic exit by a lowering platform on stage or walking offstage with the word "F----" in silver glitter on the back of her black tank top. In other words, you've never seen a concert like Madonna's and live performances will most likely remain one of her specialties.

Another incident that has rocked the music industry is the death of hip-hop singer Aaliyah. The singer-actress and eight other passengers died Saturday night in a plane crash in the Bahamas, and officials are blaming the death on engine failure and overloaded luggage in the Cessna plane. Again, millions of fans are now mourning her death. Another voice of music has been silenced by a tragic accident or incident that, quite possibly, could have been prevented.

These performers have affected lives around the world, most likely yours as well. Fanatics of singers or musicians worship the ground that these stars walk on by imitating their styles, owning and listening to their music, and pinning up photos and pictures of them wherever they can fit in empty wall space. One of Madonna's diehard fans showed off his "Material Boy" tattoo to the entire HBO world Sunday; women glowed in blonde hair and glittery shirts, ripped plaid and glistening lipstick.

This obsession towards musical performers is out of hand. Many of these artists deserve their recognition because they have a talent that most of us aren't blessed with, and they have a love for making something that sounds really, really good. But on the other hand, we center our lives around who has the most CDs, who has the best tunes on Napster, and who can burn and mix CDs with their favorite music to listen to in the car, at home, and in their dorm room.

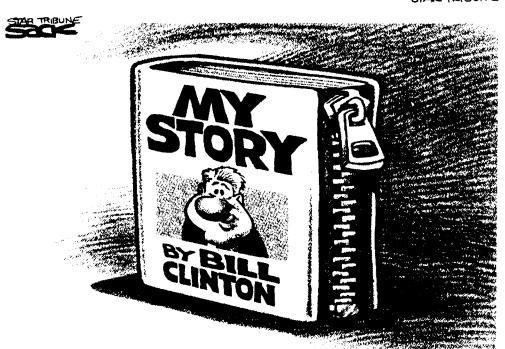
Music dominates everything that we do, and frankly, idolizing someone with a talent is just plain wrong. It's not wrong to have a favorite artist and enjoy their music, yet to dress like they do, act like they do, talk like they do... I thought we were all born with our own identities, not born to imitate someone else's.

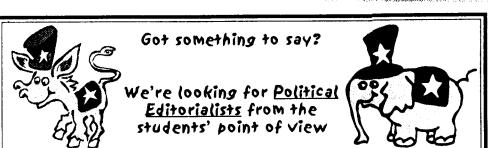
Music is a part of our culture – it's a part of several other cultures in this world. Unfortunately, idolizing the people who create this music is also a part of our culture now; look how the deaths of Tupac, Kurt Cobain, The Notorious B.I.G., Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix (just to name a few) have affected America. These people went down in history because they died of shootings, drug overdoses, and suicide... how about that. I really couldn't care less if someone tried to convince me that these people are legends. They had a talent for music, that's it. But how did they use their talent? For fame, for money, for drugs? Not many people know the real story of these musicians; ignorance is not becoming to the imitator.

In Aaliyah's case, there is still too much to be investigated about the plane crash. Did the overloaded plane cause the engine failure? Would the plane have crashed if it was only carrying the pilot? Who knows? That's something that will be left to an investigation. But as America continues on in the tradition of musical performers, we need to keep our feet on the ground and our starry eyes toward the more realistic things in life.

Weindorf's column appears every three weeks.

To Show I CAN BE SENSITIVE, I'm CLOSING LASKA'S THE BOMBING ARCTIC **WILDLIFE** Refuge! VIEQUES





'The Hot Debate of The Week'

Persecuting the panty raiders?

Are Greeks on this compassiving pargeted by low inforcement. simply because they are Greek?

According to a memo sent to student organization presidents, "hazing is, but not limited to ...any forced physical activity... any activity subjects the individual to extreme mental stress...or any other forced activity.' This defines anything as hazing.

Why is it that we only hear of Greek organizations actung in trouble? Lion Ambassadors are required to wear their organization's shirts on meeting days; this is forced activity by the university's definition of hazing. The RA class must assist with organizing the Junker Center blowout, this too would be hazing. However, if Alpha Sigma Alpha would require a pledge class to organize a community service event, they risk hazing accusations. The best advice is to "strongly encourage" instead of require.

Many organizations have requirements that must be met to earn membership and to keep membership. The Greek organizations seem to be criticized for it all the time. Meanwhile, it is these organizations that tend to do the most outstanding work. Wednesday night at "Take Back the Night," Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, Theta Phi Alpha and the Resident Assistant class were all participants. Sigma Kappa Nu sponsors one of the most popular and successful events on campus, Cider Rock, and several Greeks participate in the Adopt a Highway program.

It is so easy to cry wolf at Greek organizations. The policy on hazing applies to all campus organizations; therefore, why aren't all organizations reviewed as carefully?

A.M. Havey

Being a big name group on campus automatically leaves you open to criticism and pot shots, and it also leaves you open to the public eye. So, if the Greeks think that they are being targeted simply because they are Greek, then they are probably right.

However, there is no reason to think that the police or other wants cement are out to get them. Just like celebrity is noticed by the paparrati, the Greek are going to be noticed by the people in charge.

The Greeks should stop whining and realize that if they are going to carry the title "Greek organization," then they have to face the fact that all eyes are on them. That goes for the good things that they do, along with the questionable.

Being part of the Greek community

shouldn't make people exempt from rules and basic laws. If you beat someone up in your front yard, then expect them to press charges. If you serve underage students alcohol and you get caught, expect some hefty fines. Don't expect people to turn a blind eye because you wear letters.

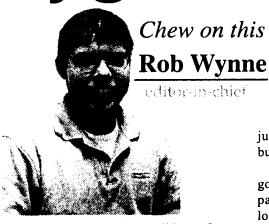
Although it is fair to state that all groups should be treated equally when it comes to hazing policies, it is also realistic to know that low profile groups with no reputation for hazing are going to be overlooked.

In a perfect world, everyone would be treated the same. But just like athletes in college receive special treatment, so do Greeks. So a little heat on them now and then shouldn't get their panties in a bunch!

Every week, two editors from the staff will debate a topic that is hot. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to email suggestions for the hot topic. Send ideas to behrcoll2@aol.com

Fighting over something with your friends? Want to see it debated in the newspaper? Send us your idea and we will debate it in our 'Hot Debate of the Week' discussion! behrcoll2@aol.com

My grievances with corporate business



Ever since 10th grade, until just a few months ago, I worked for a family-owned grocery store. In the search of more cash, however, I had to seek out another job to help with my debts. I always heard servers made pretty good cash, so I applied at Perkins and got a job as a third shift server. I will admit, the money is much better than I was being paid at the food mart. But, as I quickly learned, there are lots of different issues at hand when you work for a corporation. At my place of employment,

it's a franchise as well. While talking with friends who work for

other major retail and restaurant companies (i.e. Staples, Chi Chi's, Sears), I noticed we had a lot of the same grievances. I realize most anyone is going to have some kind of issue with his or her employer, but sometimes younger people get hit just a little bit harder by the fists of big

business.

First, we get screwed over because we go to school. Each of us students have very particular schedules that employers just love dealing with, I'm sure. We need to work endless hours during the summer because — heaven forbid — we take a lighter load of work so that we can study for a few hours here and there during the school year. That routine keeps us locked into the "part-time" status. The company views us basically as temporary help, because they know we will be moving on and that the only reason we work for them is because we have to pay off debts. Availability decreases, and in the end, so does the cash flow, which brings me to my next point.

I thought by going to college I would

open myself up for more job opportunities, perhaps a job with better pay. Wrong! degree; they don't worry about compensating you for your level of learnedness. So now, not only are we forced to work for the same slave wages, we usually end up having to take orders from other people who dropped out of the ninth grade. The difference? Usually, it is because "they have been there longer."

Another thing that irks me about corporate business is the personality of management. It is not so much a problem with anyone I work with, but apparently there is this whole hierarchy of bosses above our restaurant, most of which are still mythical to me because I have never seen any in person. Regional managers, district managers, director of this, director of that, Grand Poombah, the list goes on. Actually, I have seen a few, but I do not think they see me, because they do not say "Hi." Maybe there is a rule that says employees with five figures or more in their yearly salary are not allowed to talk to the

employees with four figures or less.

"Cutbacks" are personally my favorite Companies do not care whether you are a thing about businesses. I just love it when high-school dropout or have a bachelor's managers complain about the size of styrofoam cups that I am using for my break when there are larger problems to deal with. Just as long as they save 10 cents, they do not care that customers are walking out dissatisfied with their service and/or food.

> I read an article in the "Erie Times" about a lady at Texas Instruments who works by flashlight because she is wasting "company electricity" by being the only employee in the building at a certain time. Isn't that just a little overboard? A job should allow you the flexibility you need, which many places do with schedules now. But the little things, such as the fringe benefits, are becoming a thing of the past. No more snacks in the break area, and no more Christmas bonus means more in the pocket of that mythical figure called the CEO. At least, that is my theory, but what do I know? I am just a dumb college kid.

Wynne's column appears every three weeks.

One person's junk is another person's treasure



Hi everyone, I hope that all of you had a great summer. I sure did. I turned 21... enough said. But before I begin my editorial, I just want to welcome all the freshmen and advise them to enjoy the nice weather, for winter will be here soon, and our winters are so cold that we have polar bears trotting around campus.

Anyway, over the summer, I routinely washed my car in my parent's "storage

building," which was filled with cars, my parent's tractor, my brother's old furniture, and a number of other things.

While searching through the building one day, I found two huge boxes that were filled with my old toys. I was born in the 1980s so I had the typical toys —

Transformers, G.I. Joe vehicles and many others. What surprised me about my find was that the toys were still packed in their original boxes, so I decided to bring the two huge boxes to my house to decide what to do with the contents.

I enjoy selling sports cards on Internet auctions, so I decided to sell the old toys on an Internet auction, and see how much money I would make. I took pictures of the toys with my brother's digital camera, wrote up a snazzy little summary about each individual toy, and posted the auctions on eBay. After posting 24 auctions on a Saturday afternoon, I decided to go out for the night with some friends.

I woke up the next afternoon and decided to check my e-mail. I was quite surprised to see the volume of e-mails that I had. Many of them were from eBay bidders, asking me questions about the toys.

For the next week, I watched the auctions carefully. Here is how a few of them ended: • A World Wrestling Federation figure named "Warlord" sold for \$81.

• A set of Transformers that make "The Devastator" sold for \$127.50.

• A G.I. Joe toy named the "Cobra Stun" sold for \$46.

Many of you are most likely as shocked as I was. Who would have ever thought there would be grown-ups willing to pay good money for toys? Surely not I! However, I am glad that they did, for now the world is a better place. I have made more money and have made someone's day, for I am fairly certain that they are playing with their new toys even as we speak.

Auction sites such as eBay, Inc. expose a seller's items to millions of people, so chances are, at least one potential bidder will be interested in what a seller is selling, and if the seller did a proper job of making the item look pleasant, it will most likely generate interest.

Hopefully, this editorial has inspired many readers, and perhaps some will clean out the contents of their attics or closets to see if they can find any wonderful items to sell. Give it a try. What is there to lose? Getting money for unwanted items is a great

Still hesitant? Well, keep that old saying in mind: "One person's junk is another person's treasure.'

Benacci's column appears every three weeks.

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Send letters to the editor to the Behrend Beacon at behrcoll2@aol.com