

THE BEHREND BEACON

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•Letter Policy•

The *Beacon* encourages letters to the editor. Letters should include the address, phone number, semester standing and major of the writer. Writers can mail letters to behrcoll2@aol.com. Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. Sunday for inclusion in that week's issue.

A VIEW FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE

Role models — How far is too far?

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines the phrase 'role model' as being "a person whose behavior in a particular role is imitated by others." Strange enough, the role models of America today are far from what people should imitate. Media today is saturated with news on the mistakes of all kinds of stars that thousands of people look up to and emulate.

In this day and age, things only seem to get more drastic. Role models today are causing great uproars about sex and the publication thereof. Britney Spears, who is one such media mogul, has been pushing the limits. From posing on Rolling Stone magazines, scantily clad in tube tops and short-shorts, to dancing around in thongs and rhinestone bras, she has jaded the minds of all pre-teen girls. Britney was recently quoted as saying, "I don't want to be seen as a role model." Sorry, sweetheart: you are one.

Girls all over the nation are trying to look "sexy" and dress in tight, short, slinky clothing, bearing such titles as "Hottie" and "Princess." Not only has Britney done her share onscreen, but on the set of her movie debut, she is rumored to have fought with the director over whether she should have a topless scene or not. She wants one and he doesn't.

It's not just Britney, though. Most women in the entertainment industry have taken to this trend of tight, short, skin-baring clothing. Mariah Carey wears little clothing in all of the music videos she makes. Destiny's Child, despite their claims to wear just enough, still dress provocatively in their music videos.

Also, in Sisqu's video of the "Thong Song", anyone can see women dancing around in thongs and bikini tops, bearing almost all of their bodies. Ten years ago, when modesty was still a virtue, this sort of thing was looked down upon. These days, it's everywhere!

One role model who is not employed by the entertainment industry, yet is known to all, is ex-President Bill Clinton. The President's job is to keep the country safe and make it run more efficiently, but Clinton took advantage of his po-



sition and had sexual encounters with an intern. He made the position of the President look like some sort of joke.

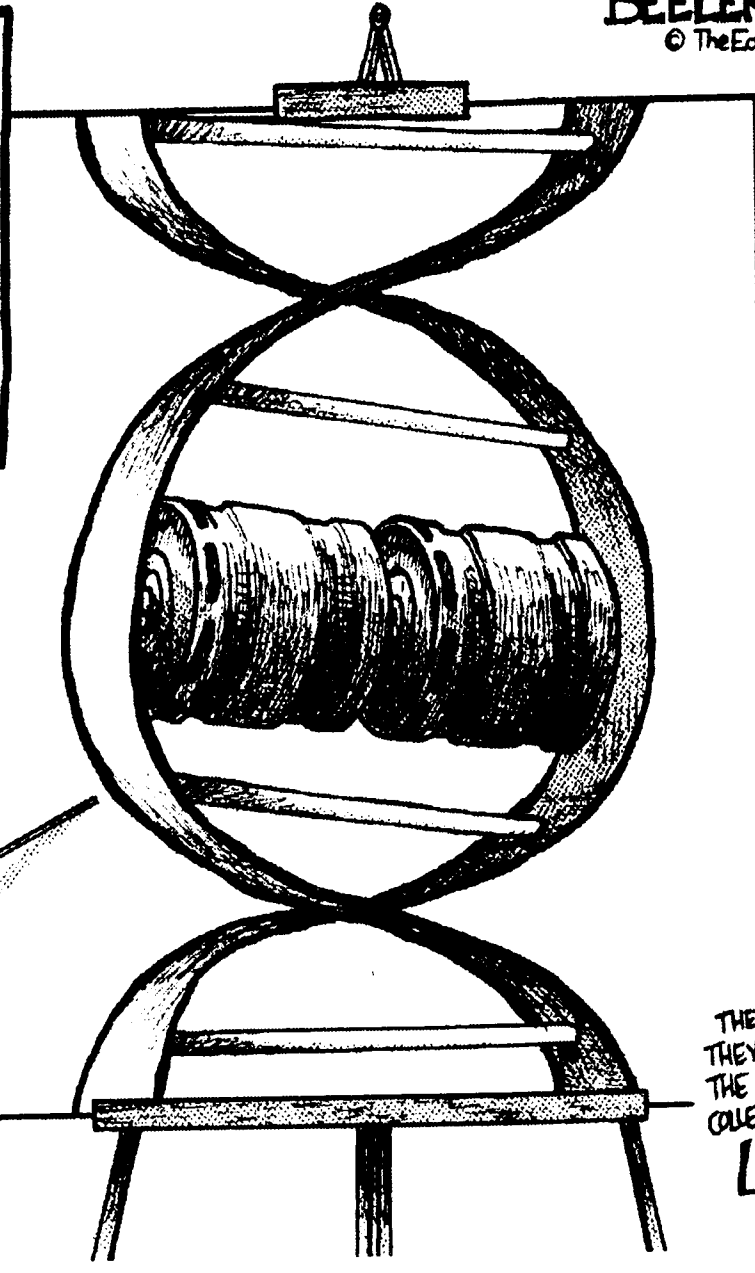
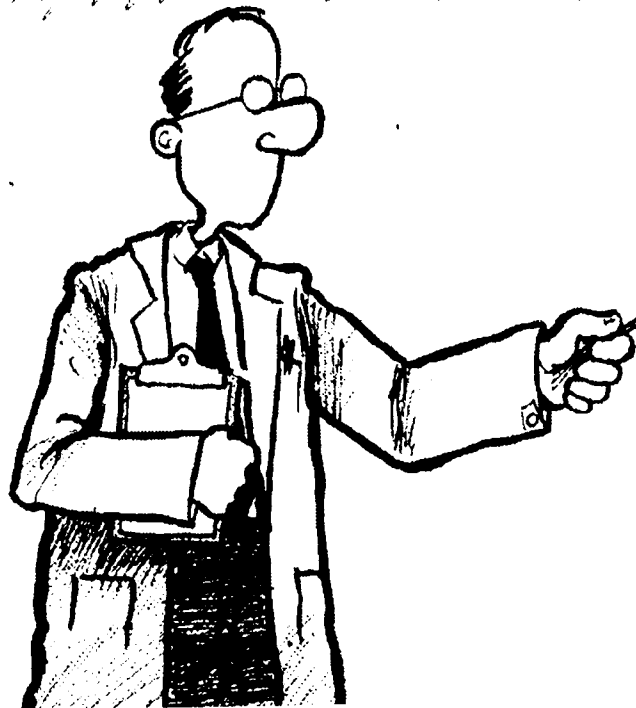
On the other side of the entertainment spectrum, professional sports players had their share of scandals in the news. Recently, several of these sportsmen have been found guilty of accepting sexual favors from strippers in Atlanta's Gold Strip Club. Some of these athletes were Patrick Ewing, a former New York Knick, now part of the Miami Heat; Dikembe Mutumbo, of the Philadelphia 76ers; Terrell Davis, of the Denver Broncos; Andruw Jones, of the Atlanta Braves; and Dennis Rodman, of the Lakers. All these men allegedly had sexual encounters with topless dancers arranged for them at the club.

Ewing, married and father of three, was the first to admit he had accepted sexual favors. Mutumbo is also and has children. Other stars who have been known to go to this strip club are George Clooney, Mick Jagger, and Donald Trump.

The news of these stars taking advantage of their high status in order to get these sexual favors is morally and socially wrong. Not only does it not set good standards for those who look up to these stars, but this also angers and upsets the general public. People of this country look to these athletes and music talents in order to set their own goals of trying to achieve what these stars have. When they find out that they are no better than anyone else, they are affected by it.

The role model society today are, frankly, not role model material. The entertainment industry should work on cleaning up their act. If they don't do something about this problem now, it is only going to worsen to the point that nothing is going to be sacred anymore.

With the MAPPING of the HUMAN GENOME, SCIENTISTS have FINALLY PINPOINTED the "FRAT BOY" GENE....



BEELER '01
© The Eagle

THEY CLAIM THEY'VE TAPPED THE KEY TO COLLEGE LIFE.

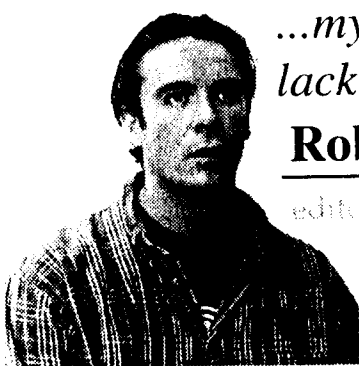
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need to get something off your chest?

Send letters, both positive and negative, to the editor!

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Little League World Series captures the attention of fans, nations, forensic document examiners



...mysteriously lacking a title...
Rob Walsh
editorial columnist

How did most 12-year-old boys spend their last couple of weeks?

Some took to playing away at their Playstation. Others wolfed a bit too much sugarcoated cereal and spent the afternoon shooting hoops with Dad and occasionally coughing up little marshmallow chunks. Still more found themselves leashed into accompanying Mom on one of those prolific "back to school" shopping rituals, drifting through cavernous multi-purpose warehouse labyrinths. A few youngsters hit the sugar-flake trough before mom roped them into the minivan, and, unfortunately, there's a good chance those brave youngsters experienced the whole marshmallow chunk phenomena while walking down some kind of bed-linen aisle.

But not Danny Almonte, star of Rolando Paulino Little League team from the Bronx. No way this guy coughs up any high-fructose-corn syrupy nuggets. If there's one kid who's eating the Breakfast of Champions, it's this guy.

Danny Almonte. This kid already has this catchy, radio jingle-type name - like a Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle or Mike Piazza. That moniker is just waiting for marketing hounds to paste up on sunflower-seed bags and ketchup

bottles, complete with Danny's grinning 12-year-old Dominican features and a quoted and italicized cliché like "He's a can't miss."

It's not just the name, though, that has professional scouts sardine-packed into Little League stadiums, or that has major league players only half-joking about whiffing on his inside sliders, and has skeptics privately doubting the authenticity of his birth records and passport.

No, it's not the flashy name; it's the 70+ mile-an-hour fastball, equivalent to a 25 year old major leaguer throwing somewhere in the neighborhood of 130 mph.

"I don't know if anyone's ever seen a 12-year-old throw the ball like he throws it," said Apopka manager Bob Brewer.

Danny's Bronx team defeated his Florida kids 5-0 behind the 16-strikeout perfect game witchery of Almonte, the first perfect game in the Little League World Series in 44 years. Almonte struck out the first 16 batters he faced before Apopka resorted to marginal cowardice and a couple gassed-out bunts. Bunts! I mean, this 12-year-old kid was throwing heat!

Those other boys couldn't even see the ball; really, it was like Almonte packed the ball into his glove, casually pulled the glove to his chin, winked at the TV cameras, and then teleported the ball into the catcher's mitt. His pitches were...

Oh, wait. With the LLWS officially over and champions declared, Sports Illustrated just unearthed documentation stating

Almonte is really 14-and-a-half - 2 1/2 years too old to be eligible for Little League competition. Damn. Oceanside, Calif. could be slightly po'ed after losing 1-0 to Almonte in the semi-finals. Those kids from Apopka, Fla. might be moderately upset after getting mowed down in the early rounds by a ringer skipping his high school orientation.

Little League president Stephen Keener wasn't too enthusiastic about the affidavit indicating Almonte was born in 1987.

"If this is the same Danny Almonte who played for Rolando Paulino Little League, then we have been deceived and a fraud has been perpetrated on Little League," admonished a visibly disconcerted Keener on the heels of the most successful Little League World Series ever.

And it really was successful, even in light of all the deception and forged identity certificates. By some divine or serendipitous hand and helped by Little League rules prohibiting pitchers from tossing back-to-back games, Apopka, Fla. got to face the Bronx "Baby Bombers" again in the U.S. finals, this time without the near 6-foot, 14 1/2 year old Almonte blocking out the sun.

And those boys from Florida were ready. The Apopka kids tore into the authentically 12-year-old Bronx pitcher, knocking home runs over the walls and showing vengeful enthusiasm into an 8-2 victory and a date with the international champs.

"It's a whole 'nother ballgame without the big kid on the mound," grinned Brewer after the match. Danny and the "Baby Bombers" packed their van and drove off to face the Netherlands Antilles in the

consolation game.

Meanwhile, Apopka prepared to face Tokyo Kitasuna for the Little League World Series championship. As the teams began preliminary warm-ups — stuff like formal introduction to the opposition, routine ground balls, taping ankles - America waited on the edge of her collective sofa. That particular weekend featured the kickoff of the College Football season, NFL pre-season matchups, and an overtime shootout between Jim Furyk and Tiger Woods that went three dozen extra holes.

But it was the LLWS that the country turned to, bringing home a 6.0/11 rating for ABC and out-ranking all other weekend sporting events. And, it wasn't only Almonte responsible for cultivating such remarkable interest in the event. The Russian team barely had a native field to practice on, yet won its way into the tournament despite lack of shoes and bats and with a girl playing catcher as the only female in this year's series.

In the end, Japan beat Florida, which is too bad. But after Japan won, the team asked interpreter Bill Lundy about a statue in the stadium, and he had absolutely no idea who it was. "I simply told them it was the baseball God," Lundy admitted. The entire Tokyo Kitasuna team ran up to the statue, a statue of former Little League Vice President Howard J. Lamade, and began praying and bowing profusely. How funny is that? It's got to be the highlight of the whole series, the real feel-good moment. That, and knowing Danny will no longer be forced to share between innings.

Walsh's column appears every three weeks.