

THE BEHREND BEACON

published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

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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 behrroll2@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 Beacon vs. BUDPOT

Everyone keeps asking us, "What does the Beacon think of the BUDPOT?" What do you think we think! It's pretty damn funny!!

Why wouldn't we think it was funny? We are average college students, just like the rest of you. And the BUDPOT is clearly geared for a college audience. We chuckle over the movie reviews, we guffaw over the dating advice (though we in no way condone using roofies, either on yourself or others), and we like hearing Bill and Mr. OfNazareth go at it.

The BUDPOT hasn't directly insulted the Beacon (yet). And hey, it's freedom of speech. Any student can get out there and say whatever he or she wants. You can distribute your message to the Behrend community at large. You might have to beware of the libel suit, and bashing everybody can get you ostracized pretty quick (just ask former Beacon Managing Editor Mike Frawley about that one!). But it's your right as a student and an American to say what you want.

However, there is a primary distinction between the Beacon and the BUDPOT: we are a real newspaper. Notice the word news. While reading the newspaper can be considered a form of entertainment, it has a fundamental responsibility to provide the community with information. That's why freedom of the press is mentioned in the Bill of Rights - so people can be informed about what's happening in the world around them.

That is one reason why the BUDPOT isn't a threat to the Beacon. The BUDPOT has a different purpose altogether - to amuse and to entertain. We really hope no one is picking up the BUDPOT and assuming it will provide vital campus information.

Also, the Beacon is a university-funded paper. While we are virtually autonomous in what we can print, if we start writing about drugs, sex, and alcohol every week - our funding will get yanked pretty quick. Many probably don't realize it costs tens of thousands of dollars a semester to produce the Beacon. We have a

responsibility to the campus to use that money professionally and for the purpose it was allotted.

That doesn't mean there isn't a place for the BUDPOT. Humor is always a good thing, and the entertainment business is obviously thriving. There are tons of publications out there that have a similar purpose. We at the Beacon fully appreciate what the BUDPOT is doing and urge the mysterious writers to keep it up.

However, let's say the BUDPOT got a facelift and a name change - would it be a threat to the Beacon then? Well, maybe. It would certainly be competition. But that isn't a bad thing either. Our very economic system thrives on competition. That's why Microsoft is such a bad thing. Well, let's just say that's why monopolies are such a bad thing - the verdict is still out on Microsoft.

But another newspaper on campus would only force both papers to do their best and to constantly improve. There are several major national papers, and there is obviously room for all of them. Each one just has to keep striving to be better, or it will lose its edge.

So even if the BUDPOT isn't really competition to the Beacon, we applaud its efforts and welcome the challenge of meeting the BUDPOT's success. And we know how much work it takes the 15 members of the editorial staff and the 20+ staff writers to produce the Beacon every week. It's gotta be hard work pulling together a paper with only a few guys (as it seems the BUDPOT has). And it's probably even harder if they are drunk all the time. Too bad we at the Beacon can't give that a try!



WIN A DATE WITH A BEACONIAN!



Spend a romantic evening in beautiful Erie, Pennsylvania* with the Beacon staff member of your choice**. Dine at any fabulous restaurant***, then go see an evening theatre show****!

Only \$1 per raffle ticket.

(available from Beacon staff members and at the Beacon office next to the Backroom)

All proceeds benefit the Twin Towers Orphan Fund

<http://www.ttof.org/>

*It's not really that beautiful. ** If they decide to take part in this... *** Coney Island or Taco Bell, you choose. **** Whatever you want to see at the cheap movies on 50-cent night.

AND YOUR CHOICES ARE:

Karl Benacci

Kool Karl on Kool Karl:

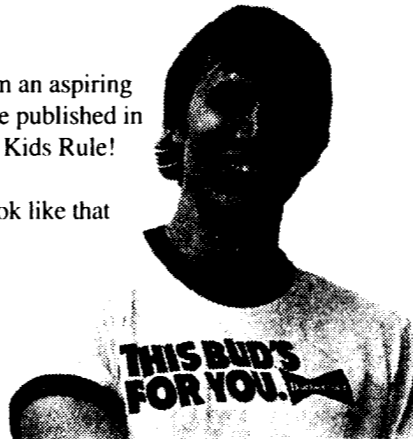
I'm in the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. I am an aspiring writer, and I have a poem which will be published in winter 2002. I think that Garbage Pail Kids Rule!

Karl's talking pet Yeti on Karl:

Pros: New haircut kinda makes him look like that guy who blew up the Deathstar.

Cons: New haircut kinda makes him look like that guy from Matchbox 20, was lost in Space Mountain at Disneyworld for three months when he was 8 years old.

Odds: 2:1



Mike Bello

Mike on Mike:

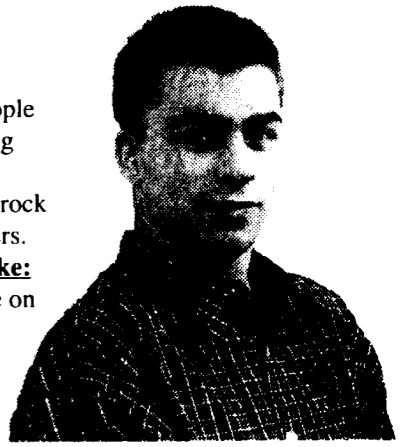
I'm normal, unlike the other people on the staff. I like sports, hanging out, and anything that involves booze. I'm a Scorpio and I like rock music, especially the Foo Fighters.

Mike's bottle of Boones on Mike:

Pros: Confident about his place on the staff.

Cons: Couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag.

Odds: 2.69:1



Mike Butala

Mike on Mike:

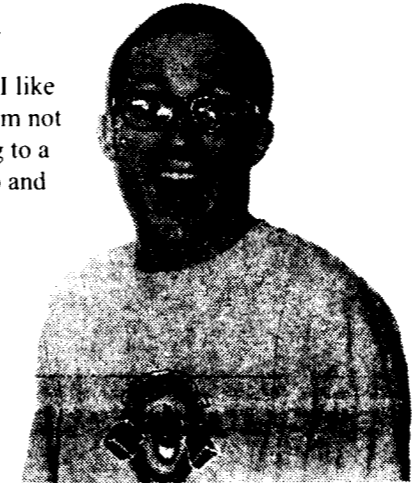
I'm a Cancer but I don't have it yet. I like crocheting and needlepoint. When I'm not doing these things, I enjoy driving to a secluded beach, popping on the radio and slow dancing till the sun comes.

Les Averman on Mike:

Pros: Has a tarantula named "Snuggles," looks like that guy from Weezer.

Cons: Has a strange obsession with the '87 Detroit Tigers and Disney movies.

Odds: 3:1



Ben Kundman

Ben on Ben:

I am a 22-year-old upper middle class white trash skateboarder from Pittsburgh, PA. I like punk rock, snowboarding, mountain biking, and Iron City Beer. I'm a Sagittarius, which pretty much means I'm a jerk.

Ben's 85 1/2 Escort on Ben:

Pros: knows how to party.

Cons: poor personal hygiene, speeds through school zones, talks but never listens, has been compared personality-wise to that idiot Ross from "Friends," looks like a cross between Tom Petty and Iggy Pop, conveniently "forgets" wallet when on dates, laughs at the misfortune of others.

Odds: 5.651:3:1



Paige Miles

Paige on Paige:

I fit nicely into the average shopping buggy. I am raging nuts due to being part of the Beacon staff. I kick butt at Beer Pong. I love fast and expensive cars. I am 394 days away from being 21.

Paige's driving pillow on Paige:

Pros: Likes drinking so much she keeps track of the number of days left until she can drink legally.

Cons: Makes Calista Flockhart look fat, disappears when she turns sideways.

Odds: 1.5:1



Kelly Walsh

Kelly on Kelly:

I hate confrontation and will agree with anything you say to ensure a good time. Can be found pestering Behrend students for a Question of the Week Response.

Kelly's P.O.S. Cavalier on Kelly:

Pros: Likes beer, doesn't mind 10-cent draft night, doesn't like fruity drinks. In other words, boys, cheap date!

Cons: Didn't want to tell people about the time she outdrank an entire frat house.

Odds: 1.5:1



Sarah Orr

Sarah on Sarah:

I'm a senior Communications and Media Studies major. I'm an RA in the apartments. I'm graduating in May, and I'm involved with Reality Check, ODK, and the Association for Women in Communications. I love Italian and Chinese food and I'm 21.

Paul "Pee Wee Herman" Reubens on Sarah:

Pros: Can legally drink. Won the Olympic silver in the 100m butterfly swim.

Cons: As health page editor she probably won't agree with your idea that the five major food groups consist of coffee, pizza, bourbon, beer, and tobacco.

Odds: 1.5:1



Rob Wynne

Rob on Rob:

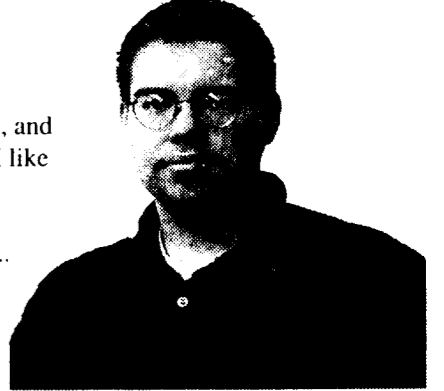
I like motorcycles, watching movies, and going to the gym. I'm an Aries and I like to party.

Rob's blueberry iMac on Rob:

Pros: Editor of a college newspaper.

Cons: Uses a Macintosh by choice, would rather be working on the BUDPOT.

Odds: 3:1



Liz Hayes

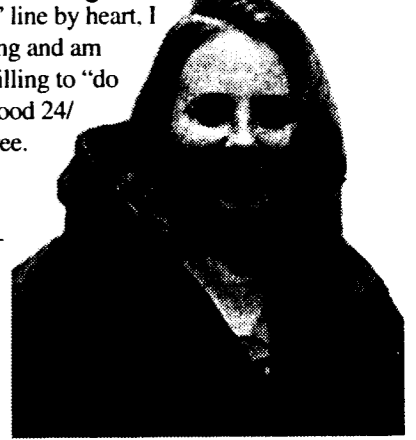
Liz on Liz: I know every "Tommy Boy" line by heart. I was the undefeated champion at beer pong and am looking to make a come-back, always willing to "do the worm," procrastinates by playing Snood 24/7, and will kick a hole in your wall for free.

The dirty Brit Liz made out with in England on Liz:

Pros: Only Liberal on a staff of Republicans, will help you win at beer pong.

Cons: Won't stop quoting "Tommy Boy," graduating by default because she has 170 credits.

Odds: 2:1 by a hippie, 10:1 by anyone else.



Jeanine Noce

Jeanine on Jeanine:

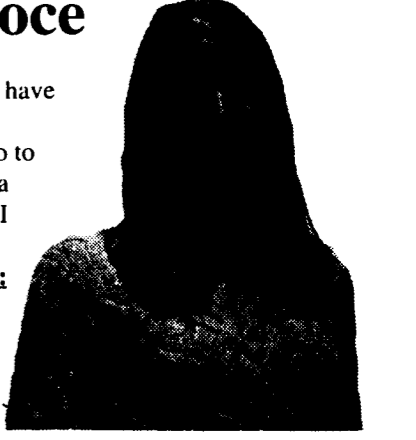
I can't handle my alcohol, but I like to have fun. I'm 5'10" and I like to run. Be a gentleman and treat me right. We'll go to the movies, eat some dinner and have a great night. If you win and we go out I might let you see what I'm all about.

The Brave Little Toaster on Jeanine:

Pros: Cheap Drunk.

Cons: Expects to be treated right.

Odds: 1.1:1



Everybody loves Raymond



Untitled 21 Ben Kundman

Editorial Page Editor

Except me. I hate Raymond. Did Raymond steal my favorite T-shirt then have sex with my sister? No. Did Raymond come home drunk and eat my

leftover pizza? No. Do I even know Raymond? No. But yet, I despise Raymond. Raymond is representative of everything I hate about television today.

While we dine on Manwiches and baked beans from Aldi's, this sitcom losers sit in their \$6000/mo. flat in NYC whining about how their favorite brand of ice cream is no longer at the local Baskin Robbins. Somehow watching a bunch of 20-something jobless, lifeless wiener-

whine about their meaningless problems is supposed to alleviate our third mortgage and the fact that our 22-year-old son just knocked up a high school cheerleader.

Usually at the end of every season, there will be the "serious" episode. This episode is normally a two-parter, to keep you hanging all summer. The "serious" episode is always along the lines of "Bobby has a lower intestinal parasite that is slowly eating his guts away and if it doesn't cure it soon he won't be able to drive his Porsche to the Long Beach Car Show." Please. Av-

erage, everyday people go through more physical and emotional trauma in a year than all of the sitcom schmucks combined. The only appeal sitcoms have is that people who feel the need to live vicariously through skinny, slimy, bad stereotypes of how people should look/act/feel. This is all a load of crap.

The worst day of my life occurred when a friend of mine said, "You remind me of Ross, from 'Friends.'" Although I have never had the displeasure of viewing this horrible monstrosity of the modern TV

wasteland, I was well aware that Ross is the guy with black hair who looks like a rat. I don't think anyone should strive to be like a television character created by a table full of studio execs named "Chet" and "Trina." There is a vibrant world full of real-life people who are funnier, nicer, and have a hell of a lot more to say than all of these sitcom dorks.

Is there an alternative to the scourge of the small screen? Absolutely. Pop some popcorn, grab a cold beer, and plop your butt on the couch at 8 p.m. on Sunday

night. That's right boys and girls, I'm talking about "The Simpsons."

Some people confuse this show with a sitcom, but in all actuality, it is much more a social commentary. The creator of "The Simpsons," my homeboy Matt Groening, purposely made this show to break the normal sitcom conventions. "The Simpsons" is a show that teaches us to laugh at ourselves, not at a bunch of yuppie's dating foibles.

Kundman's column appears every three weeks.