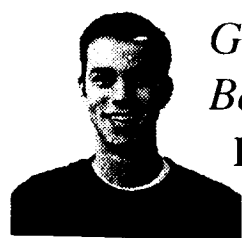


Pass the gas



G. Love and Bojangles
Ryan Anthony

PBBBBBBBBBBBBTTTTT. Oh man, what a sound! In lieu of my recent boring editorials, I'd like to take the time today to address a serious health issue. Nobody can deny that urinating and defecating are normal, natural parts of life. Everyone pees and poops and even burps when they have to because they know holding it in would cause discomfort and eventually sickness. Unfortunately though, too many people are creating unnecessary buildup in their intestines by holding (or sometimes even clenching) in other gasses. When the human body wants to emit something from it, the natural thing to do is let it out. So why is flatulence treated differently?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a fart as "a breaking wind. Often in let (let flee) a fart." Surely farts have been along since the dawn of man, but the first recorded use of the word came in 1386. Geoffrey Chaucer, widely considered Middle English's greatest poet, wrote the following line in his "Miller's Tale." "He was somdel squamous Of fartying." Never before had such eloquent words been written. I'd like to point out to anyone unfamiliar with the "Miller's Tale" that this story was written to be humorous. Like the great literary genius of the middle ages, I also find farts to be extremely funny.

To me, farts are without a doubt some of the funniest things in the world. A timely executed fart can lighten almost any tense or uncomfortable situation. Ever experience that awkward silence on a date or in a car or elevator? Just relieve all the tension (and pressure) by letting one blow. You'll feel better and everyone involved should at least get a giggle out of it. If the other person does not laugh, then at least you will realize that person is too uptight and you don't want to waste your time with someone like that anyway.

I can't say it enough; flatulence is natural. I do it. My dog does it. My roommates do it (very frequently). Babies do it. And yes, even girls do it. Never let a female tell you that girls don't fart, because they do. I've known plenty of females who are at one with their bodily emissions. Not only do they fart freely, but they laugh about it too. There are too many girls out there who fart for me to believe that "girls don't fart" crap.

One thing in particular that I've noticed about girl farts is that nine times out of ten they stink a lot more than guy farts. My only guess as to the reason why is because girls keep all that gas bottled up inside of them because it is the feminine thing to do. Therefore, when they do fart, it is usually a colossal blast of nastiness that has been brewing all day. If most girls would be more like guys and just fart when they have to, we wouldn't have to suffer through that awful smell on the rare occasions that they do it.

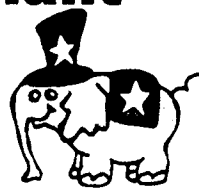
One of the greatest attributes of farts is that they often result in a humorous sound with little odor. Yes, it happens, but the ugly aroma farts are notorious for only accompanies the sound on rare occasions. Think about it. People get away with farting all the time because most of them simply neither stink nor make a sound. The problem is, you never know if the next fart will quietly drift away or thunderously make grown men cry.

What to do when you are sitting in class and the feeling comes about? Perform the "alpha test" as recommended by one of my roommates. I'll admit, class is a somewhat inappropriate time to cause a rude interruption, so as my roommate says, let out a tiny fart as quietly as possible. This little release is the alpha test. If it doesn't reek then release a second beta test. If you get away with the alpha and beta tests and your classmates are still none the wiser, then you are free to let your gas fly for the whole class. The only challenge, as I have learned, is that those hard plastic chairs do little in terms of absorbing sound. Mastering the alpha test will allow you to avoid a great deal of cramping discomfort.

I could write all day on this subject, but I'm out of room. I guess the moral of this story is that farting is natural, farts don't always smell, and yes, girls do fart.

Anthony's column appears every three weeks.

I am..... The Elephant says... The Donkey says...



The idea put forth by popular belief is that Republicans are cold and heartless. Not true. Just because we aren't constantly trumpeting our love for everyone doesn't mean that we don't care. What's important to know about The Republican Party is that it's for less government in the lives of citizens, and the states are to have more say than the federal government. Large-scale government is not to have a great part in individuals' lives and they are to be independent of it. Republicans are also staunch defenders of the Constitution.

Another stereotype often applied to the party is that it is bent on destroying the environment. We Republicans are pro-capitalism, but not anti-environment, and do feel it's a resource to be protected. Republicans are also famously tough on crime. Politically, we are more pragmatic than idealistic, which means that we are realistic instead of chasing pie-in-the-sky dreams (idealism is good, but dangerous in government). Because of this, Republicans know that they can't spend money they don't have.

The Republican Party was formed on July 6, 1854, mostly comprised of anti-slavery members of the Whig party. The Republican Party is appropriately nicknamed the "Grand Old Party," or GOP; also appropriately, it is associated with "right" thinking. Its symbol is the elephant, and it came from a cartoon by Thomas Nast, a significant political cartoonist.

You may remember some important GOP presidents in history. Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt are two of the greatest. Even Richard Nixon had some good qualities, like the excellent foreign policy he and Henry Kissinger practiced and his visit to China. During Ronald Regan's two terms we saw low inflation and the end of the Cold War. Our current president over the past month has finally received respect, and may too go down in history as a great president. The likelihood of that is getting better, making joining the Republican Party an even wiser decision.

I will close with something to think about from Rush Limbaugh: "It's the easiest thing in the world to be a liberal; all you have to do is say 'yes' to everything... In order to be a conservative you have to think..."

-Karen Niemla

The Democratic Party finds its origins in the late 1790s and Thomas Jefferson was elected as our party's first president in 1800. The long and rich history of the Democratic Party gives a solid foundation on which we continue to build today.

Today, the Democratic Party is America's major left-leaning party, and in general American politics are more conservative than in most other liberal democracies. Democrats fight for the rights and prosperity of all Americans. We fight to protect and secure civil liberties in America, and included in that is the belief that there is a constitutionally protected privacy right. This country was founded on the principle of people's freedom to act in any manner that does not threaten the public well-being. In these trying times when there has been much speculation as to whether or not we will have to sacrifice our freedoms in order to be secure, Democrats maintain that civil liberties are of utmost importance.

Democrats believe in equality of opportunity; that is, real equality of opportunity between peoples of different socio-economic backgrounds. Democrats believe that we must both invest more in our public school system and hold schools to a strict accountability. We believe that with the right education and training, American workers can outperform the workers in any other state; because of this, we push for free trade and open markets wherever that is possible. Democrats also fight for consumer protection and the right to hold corporations accountable for their actions. We must all work to achieve a reasonable amount of economic equity.

In the years to come we all must work to protect the environment. Democrats support more stringent legislation to protect our natural resources and push for stiffer punishment for breaking environmentally focused laws.

The United States is the greatest nation in the world. Democrats work to preserve a free nation where people can prosper economically, worship in the ways they choose, and speak the way they want to speak.

-Dave Beichner

The Hot Debate of the Week Should women register for Selective Service?

Fair is fair and in my opinion there is only one way to answer the question, "Should women have to register for the Selective Service?" Yes. In the United States we pride ourselves on being fair and nondiscriminatory. And we do a good job at achieving equal opportunity and equality in general for all.

By law, and by and large, in practice we do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, creed, ethnicity, and so on. Yet we sometimes forget what must come along with those rights and privileges. While on one end of the balance we have equality of opportunity, on the other end of the balance rests the responsibility. If one segment in our society wishes to receive all the rights and freedoms of the others (as it should), then that segment must also accept the same responsibilities as all the other segments.

Many years ago women could not vote; now they can. Many years ago women could only go into socially acceptable fields; now all our open to them. Many years ago women did not get as much pay as men for the same job; now they often do. Many years ago women did not have to register for the Selective Service; and they still do not. This is wrong. Their equality has been secured, now they must accept the responsibilities of that equality.

If a man must register for the Selective Service, then so should a woman. It makes clear and logical sense.

A woman can perform just as well as a man in any aspect of the military. Even those who feel women should not and cannot perform as well as men in combat situations are wrong. They can and have done this in our last few military engagements. Women even served alongside men in combat during WWII in the Soviet military.

Surely, we can also have woman fight along the sides of men in our military if the quintessential Communist State could more than 50 years ago.

On the other hand, some women who disagree that they should not have to serve in the military. These types are either extreme feminists who want more rights and privileges than "male pigs" and none of the responsibility, or women who simply do not want to serve their nation when they are called upon. For the feminist argument: the feminist movement has tried since the 1920s to secure equal status as men. Now they have it. It is about time they start to register the same as men. For the women who just do not want to fight: there is probably one man for each of them who feels the same way. With those men still have to register, so they should also.

No matter how one looks at the issue there is only one logical and fair answer: Yes, women should have to register for the Selective Service. Rights and responsibility go hand in hand. Take on one and you must accept the other. Once again, fair is fair.

-G. Reschenthaler

Do you know That Guy? You know That Guy. He's the one who is a crazy party animal until his girlfriend shows up. He's the kind of guy who goes home every weekend to watch chick flicks with his girlfriend. With the exception of extremely good-looking girls who always wind up with bastards, most females completely dominate the male in the relationship.

Guys usually never even have a chance to "wear the pants." We all know why girls run relationships: they can say no to sex and beer. There are two thing guys CANNOT say no to: free beer and free sex. Well, sex occasionally, but beer never.

Women should not be drafted into the military for the above reasons. If you're wondering what parallel I am trying to form, it's simple: The Armed Forces runs so effectively because it has a direct, strict, hierarchical order. If more women were added into the armed forces, this hierarchy would be destroyed, as all the soldiers would soon be wearing pink bunny suits and crying over "City of Angels." You don't even need to be sleeping with a girl to fall prey to her evil powers. All they need is to shake their money maker and keep the guy thinking he might get a piece.

I guess I should talk about how women are inferior to men, because that's probably what is appropriate for this column. Women shouldn't be allowed to vote. Women shouldn't be allowed to work. The place for women is at home, churning butter and keeping my beer on ice.

In conclusion, I would like to share an old saying: "Women should be allowed to hold three things. A spatula, a baby, and a..."

-B. Kundman

Editor's Note: This is intended to be a satirical representation of certain peoples' opinions that women should not be in the Armed Forces. If you are dense enough to think that this is my real opinion, you need help. If you are dense enough to agree with the opinions expressed in this editorial (particularly the last two paragraphs), all the help in the world won't make a difference.

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 behrroll2@aol.com

Sex, responsibility, and the beauty of it all



Attitude problem
Paige Miles

Sex. It's everywhere. And now, being in college, it seems that having sex like rabbits is part of the whole college experience. But after all the pleasure and fun is over, where does the responsibility fit in? Is sex necessarily a bad thing or should boink-fests be declared as national holidays?

We've all heard about the risks of sex. Maybe some of us are so tired of hearing about the possible hazards that we just block all the information out, or maybe we just feel subconsciously guilty about it all. I don't really need to list the dangers of it all (cough, pregnancy, STDs, all that other fun stuff, cough). Can it be stopped? Yeah. Duh. Let's grow up here. All of the unwanted pregnancies and transferred diseases (with the exception of rape) can be prevented. I honestly don't feel

bad when someone gets pregnant or someone becomes a father because they were being careless.

Can't imagine pushing around a stroller or changing diapers? What about taking daily medication and not being able to have sex for the rest of your life? Well, use your brain. The most obvious solution is not to have sex. Okay, unrealistic. Let's move on.

The second solution is just as apparent, but a little pricier in terms of cash and time, but it can be very much worth it in the end. Is it that hard to put on a condom? Yeah, condoms do break, but a vast majority of the time they are effective.

Ladies, if you are going to have sex, and don't want a child, get on the pill. I am so sick of hearing the "if my parents found out they would kill me" excuse. Would you rather tell them you are pregnant? Don't think so. It's not that expensive, and very accessible, especially when we, as Penn State students, have an excellent health care center that provides all needed services and won't go call mommy and daddy and tell them you didn't save yourself

until marriage.

Sex is a natural and beautiful behavior between two humans, but be smart about it. It really doesn't take a genius to figure out how not to end up with a child. If you want a baby at this point in life, more power to you, but if you had unprotected sex or pull off some other stupid act, you have no right to complain, so please, for the benefit of us all, shut up.

However, sex is not wrong. Recently, a woman wrote a letter to the editor of the Erie Times News whining about all of the magazines on rack in the checkout line at grocery stores. She was upset that the cover of these magazines feature beautiful models showing off too much skin, and suggested everyone rally against stores to get these publications off the shelves. Yeah, that's not going to happen real soon. Honestly, though some of these magazines can be a bit shallow, I read them regularly. "Seventeen," the adolescent version of my favorite mag, "Cosmo," was a huge benefit through my teen years, when I didn't have a mother in the house to teach me about makeup, hair, and clothes. "Cosmo" teaches people to have better sex, and informs about safe sex

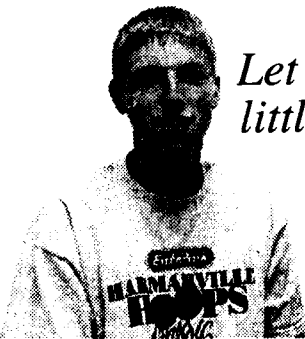
methods, thus benefiting many. Maybe it's a bit of a superficial theory, but it works.

Besides, the human body is beautiful. These models were blessed with good looks, so let them flaunt it. It may be the only skill and talent some of them possess. Seeing a "Cosmo" or "In Style" in the grocery line when I was younger didn't make me want to go out and immediately get it on, so what's the problem? Hey, it could always be worse. The stores could be putting "Playboy" out on the line. Most stores don't even feature "Maxim," a male version of any female vanity magazine.

I guess this would be the ideal spot for the moral of this whole thing. Have sex, have fun, but be smart about it. Sleeping with twenty different people in a matter of months is not cool, no matter what your friends think. I used to have a sticker on my car that read "Stupid people shouldn't breed." Remember it. If you are dumb enough to be unprotected, you don't deserve to have sex. You are too stupid.

Miles' column appears every three weeks.

Why I love Ari Fleischer



Let me tell ya a little somethin'

Jason Snyder
editorial columnist

Common sense would do our media a lot of good.

Last week, I watched White House Press Secretary Ari Fleisher take questions from the media regarding our war on terrorism. The more I watched, the more I began to wonder which side our media is on.

I'm not accusing our media of being terrorists or condoning the attacks that have hit our country. But I am holding our media accountable for having a major lack of common sense. America is at war, whether it be "a different kind of war," or not. And that notion should be taken very seriously.

Common sense would tell us that there are some things regarding this war that should be kept quiet. When I say quiet, I mean that the

vital information regarding the specifics of this war should stay out of irresponsible hands.

Last week, Fleisher was drilled with questions that dealt with those "irresponsible hands." The media, on at least seven separate occasions, asked (in a variety of sentence structures) why President Bush narrowed the circle of people that would receive classified information regarding America's war effort.

Fleisher answered (in his own variety of sentence structures) that it is important to keep information classified that, if leaked, could lead to the loss of American lives.

I understand that the job of the media is to keep Americans informed to prevent any sort of corruption by America's government. However, media members also have a moral obligation as Americans to do their part in this war against terror. Their part, in this case, involves keeping classified information in the hands of people who know what to do with it.

Everything spoken or written by our media is readily accessible to anyone who wants it. That includes Osama bin Laden, the Taliban leaders and the Taliban military. It is the duty of our government, and now it should be an obligation of our media, to keep specific mili-

tary secrets away from anyone who can use that information against the American people, our military, or our government.

What has me even more upset than the media's obsession with being in "President Bush's inner circle of information sharing," is the pure stupidity of our media when it comes to our national security against terrorism.

So far, the media seems to be the number one provider of information to terrorists who are counting down the days to their next attack.

For example, I now know the top two locations in our nation that, if attacked, would hugely complicate the activities and health of millions of Americans, potentially even the loss of many lives. My source for this information does not come from any terrorist network or leader. My source is the American media.

Common sense should tell us that sharing such information serves everyday Americans no purpose. However, it serves the terrorists' every purpose.

If our media is aware of potentially vulnerable locations in the United States or elsewhere, then our media should contact the FBI or CIA, not Bin Laden and his followers.

In a debate column featured in the USA Today entitled "Wartime censorship," the news-

paper argued that, "Americans are being asked to give up their rights to information, with no evidence that it presents any real risk." Here's where my idea of common sense comes in.

The only way our government can prove that there is risk involved is to tell people the information that is classified. In which case, you've already provided potential terrorists with information they can use in the planning of future attacks.

That would be like saying that there is no evidence to suggest that a heavily used street intersection needs a stop sign. The only way to provide us with "evidence that it presents any real risk," is to see what happens without the stop sign. By then, it's too late.

I'm not asking the media to stop criticizing governmental decisions or to slow down their sharing of information that could potentially save American lives. I am, however, calling on the media to think before it shares information that could prove to be devastating.

In simpler terms, use common sense.

Snyder's column appears every three weeks.