

THE BEHREND BEACON

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

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Professionalism with a Personality

Postal Information

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

The Beacon can be reached by calling (814) 898-6488 or (814) 898-6019 (FAX).

Letter Policy

The Beacon encourages letters to the editor. Letters should include the address, phone number, semester standing, and major of the writer.

The View From the Lighthouse

Everyone's working for the weekend

Professors love to give projects that measure your ability to implement knowledge from lectures, homework assignments, tests and quizzes. We admire professors for pushing students and teaching that they don't have limits...

It is recommended that each student spend a minimum of three hours outside the classroom for each hour they spend inside it. Many students take 18 credits at a time. Therefore, they spend 21 hours with the professor...

We can deal with being tired, missing friends, not going home on the weekends, and being frazzled. However, we hate doing all this work and making sacrifices to get things done on time to earn a C grade.

Students are pressured to get things done on time, and therefore lose sight of a project's or test's purpose. Instead of earning an A grade for really having an opportunity to show off how much you know, you have to try to get it done...

We want to earn an A like most students. But all we know about a project sometimes is when we have to turn it in, and like most students, are stressed about completing it on time. Students say, "we can't wait to get this done" instead of "this was a great opportunity to learn..."

Why do professors make test and projects due within the same week and/or class is beyond me. Will they ever change? No. Will the campus make a policy against it? No.

Instead, we'll get it done without proving our knowledge. We all have the ability, just not the time. Since this won't be changing anytime soon, at least C is for Commencement.

Response to Burn Bra, Burn...

I am writing in response to Paige Miles' editorial "Attitude Problem," titled "Burn Bra, Burn." Looking at this title, I was intrigued. I am an avid fan of Miles' column and look forward to reading her once every three weeks.

This week, however, I was sorely disappointed. In fact, I was devastated. Miles started out magnificently with a fleeting history of the struggle of women throughout history, but her editorial plummeted from there.

- 1. She has nothing to fight for in the way of rights as a 20-year-old female. 2. She hopes we never relapse into a situation where women are not allowed to advance again. 3. She wonders why the feminist movement still exists. 4. She then states the following: a.) The glass ceiling still exists. b.) Women still receive less pay than

men for the same work. c.) We have yet to see a female president. d.) Problems such as rape, unplanned pregnancy, and abuse still exist. e.) She respects modern day feminists for trying to solve these problems. 5. For this last one, I will quote directly: "It seems to me that we, as females, have reached that equality fairly well. And if so, then why do some 'feminists' still push?... My solution?... Stop your crying, and get over it."

Another Response to Burn Bra, Burn...

On Friday, Nov. 16, I read an editorial entitled "Burn bra, burn," in which Paige Miles expounds her views on feminism, or as she so eloquently calls us, "bra-burners."

I understand that this is an editorial, and therefore one person's opinion, but a successful and strong argument should be backed by statistics and facts. This article is backed up by a few unresearched points that are easily refuted.

In the beginning she asks an important question: "What do I have to fight for as a 20-year old female?" She concludes that there are no battles left to be fought, no great problems to solve. I don't know what world Paige Miles lives in, but she is completely ignoring enormous, global problems that millions of women face in their lives.

To Mac or not to Mac, that is the question...

As was said, Macs are not preferred at Penn State. I suspect this happened for a reason. I've heard that they were abandoned in the mid-nineties. That being said, one can certainly understand why PSU gave up on Apple; why not, when it's obviously given up on its customers (and shareholders?)

That was a time when Apple was dying thanks to inadequate products and mismanagement by a succession of CEOs John Sculley, Michael Spindler, and Gil Amelio. No exaggeration; it was big crisis panic explosion time!

I just wanted to say thank you! Thank you for the article "To Mac or Not to Mac" written by Liz Hayes. I've been a Mac user since my family first bought a Perifoma 6200CD almost eight years ago (which still works great by the way, although a little slow on the Internet).

Granted, I wish I had a disc drive, not that it would help since there are no computers on campus that could read them. But I can do work on any computer on campus, email myself the work, and still be able to work on it on my computer.

Thus is the versatility of Macs. Many people say that the reason Macs are not good computers is because of the lack of compatibility. This probably has been solved by Virtual PC, although my Mac is good enough without it. I read in a computer magazine article over the summer that Macs can do several items quickly, while a PC can only do one item quickly. This is evident when comparing my computer to my brother's PC.

Many people leave they're computers at school over breaks, mine goes home with me. And the space I save without having a tower is amazing!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

men in the workplace, in hiring as well as payment practices? What about fighting for the equality of women in politics? It is an exhausting and thankless job. We are fighting for YOU. Why then, do you, as a college-educated woman of our times, perpetuate the cycle?

When you and the rest of our racist, sexist society, turn their eyes from the injustices that women and other underrepresented groups battle every day, you willingly perpetuate the cycle of hate that permeates our society. I, for one, say NO MORE HATE. I, for one, will stand up and fight for the rights of myself and others in this society.

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, IN HIRING AS WELL AS PAYMENT PRACTICES? What about fighting for the equality of women in politics? It is an exhausting and thankless job. We are fighting for YOU. Why then, do you, as a college-educated woman of our times, perpetuate the cycle?

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Jaimi Bonczar President, Women Today

The article seems to be putting down those women that make the decision to have and raise a family. Having children, despite Miles' low opinion of it, can be a rewarding experience, as many women will attest to, and it is part of the expanding choices that feminism has championed for women in the last 40 years.

Miles says she does not believe in the advancement of women over men. I wholeheartedly agree, and many feminists would support this as well. The definition of feminism (if one bothers to look it up) is "belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes," and "the movement that follows this belief" (dictionary.com.)

to make women a "dominant race" (race? Are the genders separate races?)

Miles says we do not need a coalition to help women progress. Who, then, will continue to work towards the equality that she claims already exists? Yet she also claims she doesn't care if men are still the "dominant race (sic)." How can there be equality when one gender is, as she admits, dominant over the other?

She is correct when she says we have just as much right to submit a resume as the next man does. Feminism is still necessary to ensure that the submission of that resume is given the same consideration as a resume submitted by a male counterpart.

To conclude, I'd like to cite a quote from Gloria Steinem which really sums up the reasons for the ignorance expounded in "Bra Burn, Bra."

"Young women haven't yet experienced the injustices of inequality in the paid labor force, the unequal burden of child rearing and work in the home, and double standard of aging. To put it another way, if young women have a problem, it's only that they think there's no problem."

- Jen Town

stored the lost innovation and profits, resurrecting a company thought dead in a way seen as both miraculous and curious by the press. Even though things are much, much better now, there is still aversion to the Macintosh that is more than partly caused by the problems in the 1990s, a scary time when one could say "Macs are crap!" and actually be correct. It's not true now, but it's become a mindset, and the

down on him constantly while we are talking online. When this happens, I like to laugh, because my iMac has not crashed once. In fact, in eight years, our Performa back at home has only had one problem, and that was with the screen turning blue. I'll take a blue screen over a crashing computer, any day.

One day, while talking to my father about the benefits of Macs over PCs, he pointed out to me that Windows is coming closer and closer to a Mac setup. If you can recall the evolution of Windows, you can see how the desktop has come to be almost identical to what Mac has had since almost the start, with the exception of the start menu. This is because of the ease of use of the Mac and Mac desktop. And I can give you testimony after testimony of people who formally owned PCs, but grew sick and tired of having them crash repeatedly and bought Macs. One woman told me,

company is still smarting from the stupid mistakes of three men who were the wrong men. Nobody's forgiven Sculley, and Amelio got what he deserved from thinking that he could buy Steve Jobs and use him as a prop: a coup. Spindler, because of his health problems, can be pitied, but not them.

-Karen Niemla

"I will NEVER go back to a PC. I love my Mac!"

Granted, there are many benefits to PCs, the main one being the fact that everything is written for them. But with all of the troubles my friends are having with PCs, I'm happy with my beautiful iMac, which came with more memory than I'll ever need, the ability to make and edit movies, a printer, and the ability to unhook the keyboard and the wonderful optical mouse without having to restart or reconfigure the computer. To any of the computer illiterate folks out there, to you I recommend getting a Mac. And for you PC owners out there, I offer up this challenge. Go out, find a Mac, and try and teach yourself how to use it. I guarantee that you will at least learn to appreciate the Mac, if not fall in love with it.

Amanda Tuscan 03 Meteorology

Seven things Behrend can do to suck less



Viva Las Vegas! Ben Kundman Editorial Page Editor

as a sanctioning body recognizes it as a pathway. For the sake of simplicity, I will refer to the pathway that runs from the million-dollar staircase to the back of the science building as "the cut."

Homeless pirates throughout "the cut" would make walking to campus more interesting, as well as much more urban. It will also teach college students about the importance of snubbing the needy at an early age. The single best thing about having homeless pirates on campus is their willingness to supply minors with alcohol. Once you get past their smell, the homeless provide a fairly reliable method of obtaining

alcohol. If you buy them a bottle of Mad Dog or maybe some Thunderbird, they will happily provide you, the needy minor, with some booze so you can get your drink on.

2. Book bi-weekly appearances by Happatai.

Happatai is a Japanese boy band, and man oh man, do they rock. They make all of the crappy American boy bands look like the reitched vomit that they are. Happatai's hit song is called "Yatta," and in their video they dance around wearing only fig leaves and fly through the air. It's really cool.

3. Appoint the Baldwins as the Dean of our school.

In case you are not "in the know," the

Baldwins are four brothers who have minor roles in major movies and major roles in movies that go straight to HBO. Basically, they are mediocre celebrities, but they're still better than you or me. Rather than letting them sit poolside sipping martinis with their supermodel wives, we should force them to take over as dean here. We couldn't just appoint one Baldwin: alone they are weak and feeble, but together they form an unstoppable force. Kind of like the A-Team or the Power Rangers. You can't mess with the Baldwins.

4. Host Foxy boxing Fridays at Bruno's and Foxy Jell-O wrestling Saturdays.

5. Give me "Washed-up Celebrity Death Match."

Instead of getting mediocre bands to play here, we could have "Washed-up Celebrity Death Match." I suggest Webster vs. Gary Coleman for the opening match, the Coreys versus Milli Vanilli, and have Steven Seagal vs. Jean Claude Van Damme as the heavyweight match. We wouldn't even have to pay them much, they'd probably all be happy to take a vacation from pumping gas so long as we gave them a hot meal and a floor to sleep on.

6. A T3 that works like a T3.

Our network connection on campus is slower than a sloth stuck in molasses. We have a 56K modem at home and it blows away our residence connections every weekday. It's not even worthwhile for me

to do research for my, uh, anatomy classes online.

7. Get a free ATM machine. As most smart shoppers can attest, \$2 = a bottle of Heineken on import night at the Plymouth, six cans of Beast Ice out of a case, a forty of Old German, or eight drafts at Jimmy Z's on quarter draft nights. The preceding items represent reasonable expenditures in comparison to paying \$2 to use a MAC machine. Getting money out Reed's ATM is more like getting robbed by gypsies than making a bank withdrawal. Seriously, the Pennzoil on E. 38th street has a free ATM. Why can't we?

Kundman's column appears every three weeks.