The Behrend Beacon

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THE BEHREND BEACON

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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, but instead have the ability to expand their minds to do great things. We want to prove to professors that we have the knowledge, the desire, and the aptitude to meet all of their expectations. Every student wishes to earn an A grade for their diligent work, but for some it is unrealistic.

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, and at least 63 hours on their own to meet with groups, study, complete projects, prepare homework, and all other assignments. Now, students are supposed to get eight hours of sleep per night to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This totals 140 hours out of 168 hours in a week. This leaves students with four hours a day to eat, work, socialize, participate in on campus organizations/activities, and relax. Obviously, it is impossible to have such a schedule. For most students sleep is the first thing to go.

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, and hope it satisfies. It is typical to have four tests and a project due in one week. It appears that some professors get a real kick out of having both deadlines in the same week.

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, and I want to put this in my portfolio."

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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. She states the following things, in this order:

- 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."

WAIT. I'm confused. This sounds like a personal conflict to me. Can somebody say contradiction? Or double standard? As a woman and a feminist in this society, I take the unfairness in the facts stated above very seriously and personally! In fact, I consider it cowardly of any of us NOT to take this personally, because we are all affected - men included. Doesn't everyone love a woman in their lives? I know I have a mother, a sister, grandmothers, aunts,

cousins and friends. Don't you?

You're right Paige - it is the new millennium. Wake up and smell the injustice. Because if you can't see it at Behrend, you're not gonna see it anywhere.

Feminism is NOT about "making females the dominant race," as you not so eloquently stated it. Nor is it about the "advancement of women over men." What makes you think that the focus of the feminist movement has changed since the 1960s? Or the 1920s, for that matter? We are still very much about equality. If you want to pick on affirmative action, make your editorial about that instead of a bash on feminism. We are bashed enough! Women are already overworked and underpaid. Women for women are even more so. Do you think that I or the other feminists at this college get any thanks or recognition for fighting against the rape and abuse of women? What about fighting for the equality of

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 collegeeducated 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

Jaimi Bonczar President, Women Today

Another Response to Burn Bra, Burn...

entitled "Burn bra, burn," in which ignoring the plight of women in Paige Miles expounds her views on Afghanistan who, until literally feminists, or as she so eloquently calls yesterday, could not obtain an us, "bra-burners."

and therefore one person's opinion, but (Feminist Majority Foundation Online). a successful and strong argument In rural China, despite the Chinese should be backed by statistics and facts. government's laws forbidding it, female 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 the world face inequality, violence, to fight for as a 20-year old female?" She concludes that there are no battles Their children, both male and female, left to be fought, no great problems to are subjected to the same injustices. solve. I don't know what world Paige Miles lives in, but she is completely ignoring enormous, global problems talks about are more prevalent than the that millions of women face in their article makes them out to be. On lives. For example, FGM (female average, women still make 83.8 percent genital mutilation) is a barbaric of what men make in one hour. On a practice in which a young girl's clitoris and labia are removed in an unsterile, 76.5%. The annual earnings of a woman "marriageable" Information Resource Center).

On Friday, Nov. 16, I read an editorial a seemingly Western, white viewpoint, education, hold a job, or even walk I understand that this is an editorial, down the street with their faces exposed infanticide still sometimes occurs. Women of color face discrimination not only based on skin tone, but gender. Women across the nation and around aggression, poverty, and starvation.

No problems to fight? In the U.S., the "Neanderthal companies" that Miles weekly basis, the number drops to primitive surgery in order to make the are, on average, 72.2% that of her male and counterpart (Women's Bureau of the submissive. It is a practice existing U.S Department of Labor.) Female solely for the pleasure and benefit of managers and administrators make men. All women gain from it is a 66.3% of what their male counterparts lifetime of pain and infection (National are making. These statistics are from Organization of Circumcision 2000. Of the occupations listed in the U.S. DOL web site, the least This is one example of a global discrepancy is found in nursing, where problem that is overlooked in favor of women make 94.4% of what men make.

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. A woman can have children and have a career. I see motherhood as an admirable and respectable choice. Here, too, many of the inequalities that Miles' denied can be found. These inequalities begin in the health care system, in a medical world that isn't always sympathetic to the needs of pregnant women (Ms. Magazine October-November 2001), to the lack of child care facilities and limited time off for pregnancy granted to women in a generally maledominated corporate world. Where is the already-achieved equality cited in Miles' article?

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.) It does not advocate dominance of women over men. It is not an attempt

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

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

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 mismangagment by a succession of Give me my Mac, or give me death...

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 Perfoma 6200CD almost eight years ago (which still works great by the way, although a little slow on the Internet). Back in January, I was computer shopping for myself, and I bought an iMac DV/SE+ and I LOVE it. I am not a computer literate person, so when it arrived, I was afraid of hooking it up. The instruction manual. It is a picture book

How easy is that? And this year, I witnessed everyone around me trying to hook up their new Gateways, or Dells, or whichever PC they have so praised. An hour later, they were still trying to hook it up.

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!

CEOs John Sculley, Michael Spindler, and Gil Amelio. No exaggeration; it was big crisis panic explosion time! And a time for mourning, for even non-Mac users had a place in their hearts for Apple. The company once had a shine of youth and was fun and challenged IBM to a duel eons ago.

Finally, ousted founder Steve Jobs returned to the company after it bought his sinking company, NeXT, and re-

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. His PC cannot compare to mine in speed of tasks performed, and I get annoyed when using his because I am used to a faster computer. Every day I talk to some PC user whose computer has just crashed, yet again. This happens to my best friend's computer, which likes to shut

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

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 testimonial after testimonial 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 forgiver 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.

"I will NEVER go back to a PC. I love

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



simplicity, I will refer to the Ben Kundman pathway that runs from the million-dollar staircase to the Editorial Page Editor back of the science building as

Homeless pirates throughout "the cut"

would make walking to campus more 1. Scatter homeless pirates throughout interesting, as well as much more urban. It "the cut." will also teach college students about the "the cut" is the pathway that runs importance of snubbing the needy at an from the million-dollar staircase to the early age. The single best thing about back of the science building. It's not having homeless pirates on campus is their actually known as "the cut" anymore, willingness to supply minors with alcohol. because the university put a bridge in. Once you get past their smell, the homeless

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 is a Japanese boy band, and

man oh man, do they rock. They make all of the crappy American boy bands look like the retched 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

3. Appoint the Baldwins as the Dean of

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

as a sanctioning body recognizes it as a alcohol. If you buy them a bottle of Mad 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 then 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

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

5. Give me "Washed-up Celebrity Death

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

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 withdrawl. Seriously, the Pennzoil on E. 38th street has a free ATM. Why can't we? Kundman's column appears every three weeks.

Any cut ceases to be "the cut" as soon

provide a fairly reliable method of obtaining