

## The Behrend Beacon

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

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"Professionalism  
with a Personality"

The Beacon is published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, the Behrend College; First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. The Beacon can be reached by calling (814) 898-6488 or (814) 898-6019 (FAX). ISSN 1071-9288.

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. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue.

## Poodles in Booties



Oh, you didn't know?  
**Karl Benacci**  
Features editor

What's up? My fraternity had its annual charity walk this past week. We walked through Erie County, where my brothers and I walked in four hour shifts to complete the 100 + mile extravaganza. I walked a total of 60 miles, give or take a few. After the walk was completed I limped back to my apartment and I fell into a hibernation of unmatched fatigue in order to heal my sore body.

Moving on, I not only saw a few cool things on the walk, but I also learned a few neat things:

1) Goals are fun. I had the first shift of the walk; we began at Behrend and

eventually headed west on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. As time went on, the other brothers took breaks, sitting in the car, yet I refused, because I have never taken a break in the three years I have done the walk, and I wanted to make it a four-year streak when I graduate.

Anyway, as I walked I thought it would be really cool to stroll all the way to my pizza shop near my house in Fairview. I didn't think it would happen in a four-hour shift, but it appeared obtainable when I reached the stoplight prior to Walnut Creek Hill on Route 5. The other brothers got in the car and I ran (not continuously—I took two walking breaks) to the pizza shop, where I had a brother take pictures of me in front of the shop, as customers stared at me as if I was on some sort of narcotic. After the pictures, I ran to the nearby fire hall. It was at that moment the

next shift of brothers drove up to relieve us of walking. As stupid as it sounds, I found great personal enjoyment while attempting to reach the pizza place. But hey, I walked from Behrend to a place in Fairview in four hours, which is crazy. Making far-fetched goals is fun. Why not make a few of your own and attempt to complete them?

2) Erie isn't so bad. Aside from the weather, I don't think Erie is that terrible. I further appreciated the town after walking through it on my first and fifth shift. The city is bigger than I originally believed, is rather clean (minus some litter) and most of the people are decent (except for the white trash who flicked us off).

3) Being healthy rules. Hey, I'm not Mr. Universe like some of the guys who work out at the Junker Center, but I am in decent shape. On the walk, I further had an appreciation

for my health when I observed a few of my other brothers hiding in the car to avoid walking because they were tired. Also, I didn't feel half that bad when the walk was over (until the lactic acid ruled my legs). I admit, most people won't walk continuously for hours, but I realized being healthy is important and everyone should maintain and appreciate their health as much as possible.

4) Poodles that are dressed in hats and boots are cool. Especially when they're relieving themselves on a sidewalk in front of the North East Dairy Mart. Sorry, my bad. I keep forgetting this article isn't for the humor page.

In conclusion, I urge all of you to set goals, enjoy Erie, get in shape, and dress all your animals in specially made garments. Thank you.

Benacci's column appears every three weeks.

## Need to get something off of your chest?

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

behrcoll2@aol.com

## The Middle East needs to like totally chill out



Don't believe everything you read

**Kevin Fallon**

Asst. News Editor

Does anyone know what the hell is going on in the Middle East? I see Israel and Palestine in the headlines everyday, so it must be important. But no one seems to really know the story here. All anyone knows is they both need to take a chill pill.

My job as a journalist is to inform the public on what is going on in this wacky world. So I decided to figure this whole mess out and break it down in terms college students can relate to. So for your educational benefit, here is the college student's Middle East crash course:

It's sometime after World War II, and the Arabs are just chillin' in their Middle East dorm, listening to Pink Floyd while watching the Wizard of Oz, when they get a knock on their door. It's the Jews.

See, the Jews just survived the war, many of them were refugees fleeing concentration camps. A movement called Zionism was pushing for a Jewish state for those Jews seeking refuge from persecution.

Anyhow, you know when you fill

out those little information cards to help you find a roommate and Housing always makes the worst matches? One person puts down they like Jay

Z, and someone else says they listen to Garth Brooks. They get put together because Housing figures they both like music.

Well, Great Britain is Housing in this case. It supports the Zionism movement and gives the Jews some colonial holdings in the Middle East and calls it Israel. I guess Britain thought the Jews and the Arabs would get along because they both liked religion.

Now the Jews and the Arabs are living in the same dorm but they don't get along. Many people wonder where this hatred comes from. Obviously, the Arabs liked having the dorm all to themselves and don't like the idea of sharing it. But it starts to really go sour when Israel drinks Palestine's last beer from the mini-fridge.

Palestine is like, "Dude, why did you take my beer?"

And Israel is like, "Oh, I didn't know it was yours."

And then Palestine is like, "I'm the only one who lives here besides you. So who else could it belong to? Come

on man, that's messed up."

So Palestine gets revenge by stealing Israel's clothes when it is in the shower, and Israel has to walk back to the room wrapped up in the shower curtain.

All this leads to two major wars that Israel wins, and is able to expand its territory.

But Palestine does not give up and keeps fighting. The rest of the world becomes fed up with it because they all have 8a.m. classes and can't get any sleep. So they decide to just divide the room into two by drawing a line down the middle. This is mostly done through peace talks set up by the U.S. and Bill Clinton, who is like an upset R.A.

And it almost works. But Palestine wants the return of its refugees and Israel would not allow this, so peace was not achieved.

Where does that leave the Middle East today? It leaves it real messed up, that's what. Basically, Israel and Palestine are in a stalemate and the violence continues.

If you want to know the reason for the strong anti-American sentiment in the Middle East, it's because the U.S. supports Israel. However, Bush needs Arab support if he wants to continue his war on terror against Iraq.

So the question for the U.S. is: how can peace be reached so that the U.S. maintains its interest with Israel and also is supported by the Arab world? Good luck trying to figure that one out. As Mick Jagger once said, "You

can't always get what you want."

The first step for peace needs to be a cease-fire on both sides. Both nations must realize that all this killing is not good for anyone. A cease-fire will not solve the problem but it will at least stop the killing for the time being, and hopefully allow some dialog to occur.

The key to solving the problem in the Middle East lies in compromise. However, this is not something either side is willing to do. The United States needs to take an unbiased role in the peace process and come up with a fair solution.

If the United States really wants this problem fixed, it needs to flex its foreign aid muscle. Israel gets about one-fifth of all U.S. foreign aid, more than any other country. So far Israel has ignored the U.S. Who is the boss in this relationship?

I am not saying that the U.S. needs to ignore its political interest in Israel. However, it needs to recognize it has an equal interest in the Arab world, as well. As long as Palestine and Israel are in conflict, so is the United States. The U.S. needs to help settle this so it can get on with business in the Middle East, namely getting rid of Saddam Hussein.

I'm sorry that I can't come up with any easy answers here, but at least now you know what the heck is going on.

Fallon's column appears every three weeks.

## The View From the Lighthouse

The trail through Wintergreen Gorge is an invaluable resource of both the Behrend College and the Wesleyville area. Many students pick Behrend because of the variety of outdoor recreational activities available on campus, as well as its close proximity to the city of Erie. In years past, scores of people could be seen walking their dogs, jogging, or cycling through the beautiful lower gorge section past its serene babbling brook.

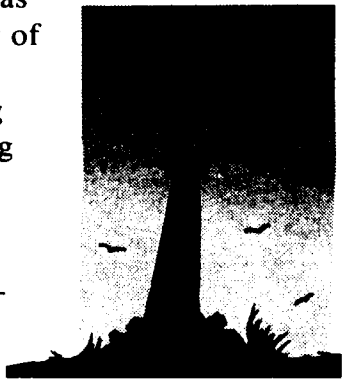
Unfortunately, with the construction of the new Eastside Access highway, comes the destruction of our beautiful Wintergreen Gorge. PennDot chose this as the route because it would destroy 12 houses, the fewest number of all possible paths.

In a recent eco-terror attack on the Wintergreen Gorge construction site, a \$500,000 crane was destroyed and several trees were "spiked." Spiking is a technique used by eco-terrorists to prevent trees from being cut down by driving a metal spike into them. Although this method can be effective at preventing trees from being downed, it is potentially fatal to the logger when pieces of the spike and/or chainsaw chain go shooting through the air like grenade shrapnel. Members of the E.L.F. or Earth Liberation Front, claimed responsibility for these actions although leaders of the E.L.F. deny direct responsibility in the attacks.

Terror is defined as "violence (as bombing) committed by groups in order to intimidate a population or government into granting their demands." The attack at the gorge was not a harmless attempt to increase public awareness of the environmental damage the Access highway will cause. It was an assault on workplace safety, and a physical threat to workers who have little say in their companies' environmental practices.

The recent eco-terror attack at the gorge could not have possibly come at a worse time. Our nation is currently involved in a war on terror, and sentiment for any cause that uses violence to extol a political cause is at an all-time low. The path for the Eastside Access highway was chosen two or more years ago. If political action would have been taken prior to the decision to make a road or before the choosing of a final route, a reasonable compromise could have been reached that would have minimally impacted the environment, as well as the community. Using violent means to raise environmental awareness at this point in time will only slow down the completion of the project, not reverse it.

It is absolutely imperative that we as a nation and as a world do everything possible to conserve natural resources. However, violent means only tarnish the reputation of environmentalists in the eyes of the public.



## That damned Saddam



Look, here's how it is  
**Guy Reschenhaler**  
Newswire editor

Let's face it; peace in the Middle East has about a 1 percent chance of ever happening in our lifetime. You've got the Israelis who marched into that hellhole over there and showed the Palestinians what was up. You've got the Palestinians all upset because they are too backward and so unorganized that they can not fight off the Israelis. Their hatred and contempt for one another dates far back. They have been fighting since they learned how to throw punches and stones.

Futile as it may be, for image and worldwide public opinion, it is important for the U.S. to make some attempts at bringing peace to the two camps. Hopefully, we do not sell out the pro-West Israelis.

Our main concern, however, should be rolling back anti-American rogues.

We cannot have dictators or terrorist cells just chillin' over in the desert waiting to hit Uncle Sam with a "surprise." For our security we must be pro-active and take out these threats.

The first rogue that comes to mind is our Desert Storm punching bag, Saddam Hussein. Hate is a strong word, but I hate this guy. He rules with an iron fist over his people, often testing biological weapons on entire villages. He puts down rebellions with massacres and lives lavishly while his people starve.

Not only is this Stalin wannabe a threat to his homeland, but to ours. He has a growing arsenal of mass destruction and an extreme, fanatical, hatred of the U.S. Now put these two together and the letters B-A-D come to mind for the U-S-A.

Many say that we should have taken this maniac out during the Gulf War. We all have perfect hindsight but we really should not have removed Hussein. During the war we

had to keep our Arab allies happy. They would never have stood for the toppling of an Arab government.

The times have changed, however, and we now realize we cannot cater to the desires of a rogue nation. A nation is either with us or against us.

We can, if we wanted, just go into Iraq and topple the government—we are that powerful. Assistance from Turkey and Saudi Arabia would be preferred because we would need to use our military bases on their soil but if not, no big deal.

Hussein has long offered asylum to anti-American terrorists. At one point, he offered asylum to Osama bin Laden himself. He has lent support to these groups, as well. In 1998, he closed the gates on UN weapons inspectors. It doesn't take an Einstein to think, "Hey, he kicked out the inspectors—perhaps he is making more biological weapons." He may even have the capabilities of making nuclear weapons in a few years. This man needs to be stopped. When one looks at the facts this becomes clear-cut. Saddam Hussein poses a big threat to our nation. The sooner he is gone, the better.

By taking out the cruel dictator we would send a message of power to the rest of the Arab world and the other nations in the Axis of Evil. The next power-hungry anti-Western dictator, the next hostile Muslim fundamentalist would think twice about messing with the red, white, and blue. We could say, "North Korea, Iraq, go ahead and hit us with an attack but your punishment will be the same as Saddam's." A good solid offense is the best defense. Let's start to swing our big stick.

Look here's how it is: Hussein is a threat. We need to take him out. By doing this we would be making the world a safer place and send a message to other anti-American rogues. They'd take a look at Afghanistan and Iraq and say, "Now, do we really want to do this?" And if they do, just take them out. The time has come for the U.S. to stay in the ring and continue to deal out knockout blows.

Reschenhaler's column appears every three weeks.