

## The Behrend Beacon

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

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Robert Wynne

**Managing Editor**  
Rebecca Weindorf

**News Editor**  
Erin McCarty

**Asst. News Editor**  
Kevin Fallon

**Sports Editor**  
Mike Bello

**Asst. Sports Editor**  
Kate Levansky Petriks

**Editorial Page Editor**  
Ben Kundman

**Features Editor**  
Karl Benacci

**A&E Editor**  
Jeanine Noce

**Wire Service Editor**  
Guy Reschenthaler

**Staff Photographer**  
Jeff Hankey

**Office Manager**  
Jason Alward

**Business Manager**  
Paige Miles

**Advertising Managers**  
Libbie Johnson  
Melissa Powell  
Angela Rush

**Public Relations Manager**  
Kelly Walsh

**Distribution Manager**  
Eric Kiser

**Calendar Page Editor**  
Erinn Hansen

**Health Page Editor**  
Sarah Orr

**Humor Page Editor**  
Ben Kundman

**Associate Editor**  
Jennie Ellison

**Technical Support**  
Doug Butterworth

**Professional Publication Mgr.**  
Dave Richards

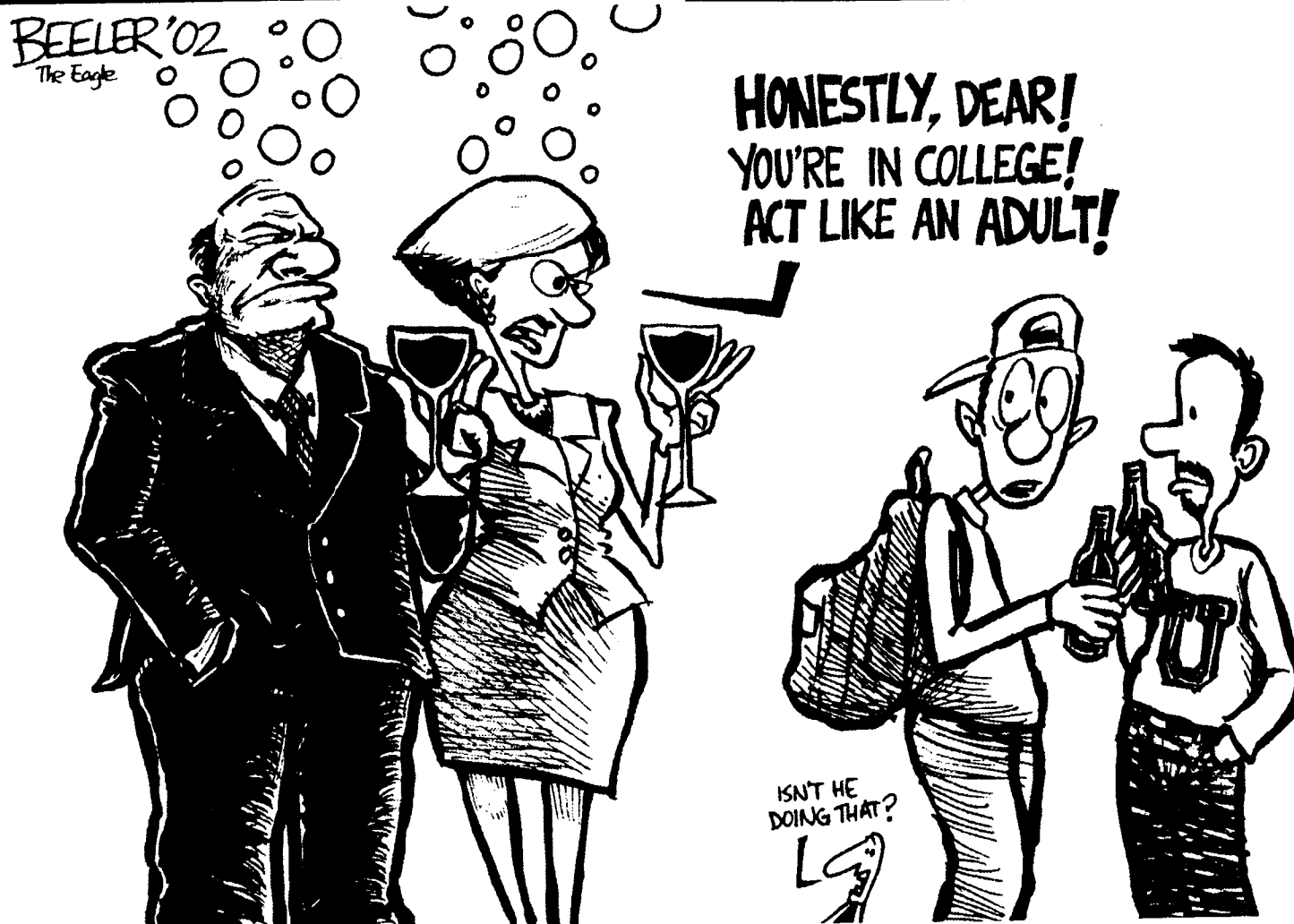
**Advisor**  
Mr. John Kerwin



"Professionalism  
with a Personality"

The Beacon is published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, the Behrend College; First Floor, The J. Eimer 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.



## The View From the Lighthouse

### Meet the Beaconians

After quite a controversial semester with the debut of our newest supplement, the Humor page, the staff thought it appropriate to convey to our fellow students that we're not all Republican, and that our paper is not a "joke."

As a matter of fact, you might be pleasantly surprised with the results of an anonymous survey taken of all the Beacon staff this week. You might also be surprised that we're not all conservative Republicans out to make ourselves look like fools (P.S. - we check our sources, and we at the staff find it disheartening that professors are somewhat unknowingly bashing their fellow colleagues with the information - or facts - that they pass on to us for articles in this paper).

Background information on the Beacon staff: The majors of the Beacon staff range from MET to English. Also included are Political Science, Journalism, Communications, History, and Finance. Gender of the staff is split at seven males and six females, and average age is 22 years (ranging from 19 to 45). Not as mainstreamed as you think.

First: Are we all Republican? Hah. Don't you all wish we were. Of the 14 Beaconians surveyed, the average was an exact split between liberals and conservatives. On a scale of one to five, eight Beaconians are middle of the road; three are hard-up liberal; and three are die-hard conservative.

In fact, of the 13 Beaconians that vote (see that? Beacon members actually care what's going on in the government today), two voted between party lines, six voted libertarian, and five voted conservative. Of these 13 students, the majority "sometimes" vote in the same party as their parents'; two vote opposite their parents' political party and two always vote in the same party as their parent's.

Next: Do we care what is going on in the world today? Do we even know? Read on, fellow readers. We asked Beaconians what the three most important issues are facing the world today. Varied answers of terrorism and the Middle East were the issues of top priority; poverty, disease and hunger followed close behind. Other issues voted on: the drug war, globalization, international relations, U.S. foreign policy, racial issues & ignorance, the environment, the Enron scandal, overpopulation, and the growth of conglomerates in the media.

Third: are Beaconians the detested, lazy low-lives that some members of this campus think we are?

Please. Aspirations of this staff are listed here, all IN EARNEST:

- Engineer
- Law school/attorney
- Magazine/pro sports writer
- Advertising/technical writing
- Writer
- Work at a newspaper/policeman/teacher
- Author/songwriter
- Governor of PA/Mayor of Erie/Politician
- Stockbroker
- Full-time job with benefits

Think we're still lazy? Try this on for size: the Beaconians EACH work up to 30 hours a week on the paper. Thirty, if the digits don't register. That equals 10 fewer hours than a full-time job. On average, the staff spends about 10-15 hours per week to put out this paper. Free. With eight sections and/or supplements, seven of which run every week. Lazy, indeed.

Now for the fun part: What do Beaconians like to do for fun? If you said make ill-timed humor, just skip over the Humor page, for the last time, will you? We don't force you to read anything.

Other than that, we have volunteers at the Mercy Center, party-goers, skateboarders, golfers, writers, readers, runners, piano players, cyclists, singers, sleepers, workers, concert-goers, and baseball players, just to name a few. Snowboarders, mountain bikers, avid movie watchers, motorcycle and car fanatics, and people who hang out with their friends are also on the list. There is life outside the Beacon! We must be sane!

It seems that the "Simpsons" are the most popular out of the TV shows; "E.R." and "Star Trek" also showed up on our list, with "Will and Grace," "Six Feet Under," "Law & Order," "The Tom Green Show," "O'Reilly Factor," and "Friends."

Favorite bands included Simon and Garfunkel, Beastie Boys, Jimmy Buffet, Our Lady Peace, singer/songwriters (who write own music), Pearl Jam, Rage Against the Machine, Dave Matthews Band, MEST, Matchbox 20, Beatles, White Stripes, and Sugar Ray. See any Eminem listeners? No.

So meet the Beaconians. We are not lazy kids who get the facts messed up, or misogynist, hostile students, or people who do not strive for professionalism. Area papers may be done in good taste, but let's face it. We do a damned GOOD JOB on our paper and we are proud of it.

Don't like the attitude? It's professionalism with a personality. Get used to it.

### Another controversial editorial?

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article about the Middle East written by Kevin Fallon and appearing in your April 12 edition. While I generally find the submissions to the Beacon well-written and balanced, I was more than disappointed in Mr. Fallon's article. I found it insulting, inaccurate, at times incoherent, and irresponsible for the following reasons:

1. Mr. Fallon begins his column with a question about whether anyone knows what's going on in the Middle East and then proceeds with some inane analogy to dorm housing. Yes, there are people who know what's going on in the Middle East, and reducing the situation the way he does insults his readers as well as the parties involved in the conflict. The media often condemns today's youth as being uneducated and uninterested, and our students get offended by these accusations. When one of their own reports news to them like they're idiots, they should be equally offended.

### Another instance of student apathy?

At the conclusion of our recent Honors and Awards convocation, I realized with surprise and some sadness that one of the major faculty awards, Excellence in Advising, had not been presented.

Word is that there was not one nomination from a student for

I always assume that my students are intelligent adults, and I am rarely proven wrong. Knowing about world events and being able to discuss them coherently is certainly not above them.

2. If Mr. Fallon is going to report on a situation as important and timely as the Middle East and if he considers himself a journalist, he should at least be accurate with history and facts. For example, he says that Great Britain supported Zionism. Ever hear of the White Papers? England did not hand over the keys to the Haganah gleefully. Great Britain was no friend to the Jews or to Zionism, and, after trying to stop Jewish immigration to the area after WWII by interring Jews in prison camps on Cyprus or sending them back to a devastated Europe, Great Britain left the area under protest and in a volatile situation, resulting in the 1948 war.

Similarly inaccurate is Mr. Fallon's report that Israel was able to expand its territories after two wars. This suggests an expansionist policy by Israel in the early days. In 1967, Israel was

invaded by multiple nations, and, while it is true that Jerusalem was taken by Israel during that war, the land that has become known as the Occupied Territories was a border established by the United Nations, not Israel. In fact, in 1967 Golda Meir suggested the formation of a Palestinian State, but the Palestinians refused. Why? As none of the other Arab nations would monitor the area, the UN mandated Israel to be responsible. It's been a nightmare ever since.

3. At times, Mr. Fallon's article is incoherent. The analogy at the beginning is completely incomprehensible, and then later in the article, he says that the Palestinians want Israel to return refugees and Israel refuses. I'm confused. Is Israel holding a group of Palestinians somewhere in the Negev that we don't know about?

4. Finally, I object to Mr. Fallon's suggestion that just because we give foreign aid to Israel, we have the right to bully them into doing our will. Aid means help, not manipulation. And

what would Mr. Fallon have us bully Israel into doing? Play nice? Ignore suicide bombings? Hand over Jerusalem? What solution is being offered here?

While I applaud the Beacon at trying to cover important and difficult issues such as the Middle East, it is important that they are covered responsibly and respectfully. While it might be easy for us to sit cavalierly by and render armchair opinions, the situation warrants much more attention than that. After all, think about how our lives have changed since 9/11. And that was only one incident. The people over there, on both sides, are living with that kind of violence DAILY. If a solution were simple, surely someone would have thought of it - probably 2,000 years ago. And those of us reading about it, deserve the same kind of respect and assumption of intelligence.

Respectfully,  
Mary Connerty  
Lecturer, English Department

this honor.

Have we become so reliant on eLion and technology that not a single student deemed his or her faculty advisor worthy of this recognition? When was the last time eLion wrote a letter of recommendation that resulted in an internship, education abroad, or graduate school assistantship?

Congratulations to all of the award winners. Your work and dedication create the excellence that characterizes Behrend. This year finds a wonderful new tradition beginning with the Senior Gift. Unfortunately it will also be recorded as the first time in the decades since its inception that no student thought highly

enough of an academic advisor to say "thank you" with a nomination for the Excellence in Advising award.

Michael D. Chiteman  
Division of Undergraduate Studies

## Summertime is here at last



### Chit chat for change Christine Kleck

So the warm weather has finally hit us in the back of the head (not at lightning speed or anything, but that is ok). Springtime sports are in full swing, winter wardrobes are being tucked away and last year's summer apparel is making its way back into our closets, classes are beginning to wrap up, graduation parties are being planned, area businesses are getting solicited by local youth for summer job applications, and by now most of us are beginning to draft our list of things to do and/or accomplish this summer.

I am certainly not a stranger to any of the above. I have been slowly packing up my thick sweaters while trying to find all of my shorts and tank tops from last year. My brother's high school graduation party is a making in the process and my list of things to take care of this summer just seems to keep growing. Now, keep in mind I will be interning

20 hours a week, and working 25 hours a week...so this list SHOULD be shorter, for the simple lack of time, but you know that could never be the case with me.

Planting a summer vegetable/herb garden and flower bed tops off this year's list. I have always wanted to have a garden of my own, so I thought that this would be a good year to accomplish that goal. I just hope I know what I am doing! It has been years since my relatives have had "the family garden," so my green thumb might be covered in a little rust. My goal is to have everything grow so well that I have too much, so I am forced to have dinners and picnics for my friends and family members where the food is all homemade and a product of my garden. How cool would that be?

Task number two for the summer is to read a whole slew of non-school-related books - approximately one per week. Among the titles that I wish to pursue are all of the sports "for dummies" books (Hey - I have always wanted to work

for ESPN!). I also would like to read the entire "Left Behind" series of books, six months of *Cosmopolitan* and *Marie Claire* magazines that have accumulated on my shelf over several busy months of school and, of course, a couple best sellers that are "hot" at the moment. Reading is one thing that I have always loved to do, just as long as I am the one selecting the things I read. This summer is a perfect opportunity to carry that idea out.

Third on the list is to start running again. I am certainly not in the same shape that I was last August, although this semester's strength training class has helped me to get back on "track." I plan on starting at about a half an hour just briskly walking at 7 a.m. every morning before I have to be at my internship at 9 a.m., and then slowly, but surely I want to get up to an hour of pure running by the end of the summer. I can do it, I know I can. The only problem might be my age. I turn 21 in June. That means late nights, which usually doesn't equal early mornings. My solution? Only drink on the weekends! (Ehhh...yeah right).

Finally, I want to go somewhere, that I have never visited before, with two conditions. I have to be able to get there in my car and this location must be at least 3 states away. I don't even care where I end up. I just want to GO! Preferably somewhere really, really warm - near an ocean, would be nice, too - just anywhere away from here, for a few days, anyway. Everyone needs a change of scenery, and in my case, I have always said that half of the fun is in getting there, and experiencing that scenery. Besides, I am forking out a truckload of money for my car and its darn moon roof, so I may as well use them both.

Well, with that I would have to say that my list has pretty much come to an end. I'll let you know if I do accomplish any (or hopefully all) of this list of summer activities in my first column of my senior year that will appear sometime early this fall. Until then, have a productive and successful last few weeks of the semester, good luck during finals week, and have a safe, happy and healthy summer! Thank heaven it is almost here!