

EDITORIAL

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The Behrend Beacon

The Behrend Beacon

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with a Personality"

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Let's dance, Saddam!

Do they give patients in psycho wards sharp knives? Guns? Sharp objects? NO!!! Because they are psychotic. So why does the international community think it is just peachy to let Saddam Hussein have weapons of mass destruction? I think it is because both the international community and Saddam are completely nuts.

Let us ponder this: Hussein is a powerful totalitarian dictator with the single objective of destroying the United States. The international community does not want Uncle Sam to overthrow Hussein's regime.

Yes, like I stated before they are both crazy.

The Economist has written, "The danger Mr. Hussein poses cannot be overstated.... Mr. Hussein is the world's most monstrous dictator...."

He has used biological weapons on his own citizens, Arab neighbors, and the U.S. military during the Gulf War.

He rules with an iron fist, never misses an opportunity to slander the Red White

and Blue, and is in the process of developing nuclear weapons. He also aids terrorists. Iraq makes sure that the families of suicide bombers receive \$25,000. In this light, Saddam not only supports terrorism,

he encourages the savagery. Look, here's the point: We need to take on Saddam.

The Iraqi government needs to be destroyed and replaced with a pro-U.S. government restricted from developing weapons of any kind and a sort of military of any kind that glorified sandbox, slap some anti-Americans around, prop up a puppet government, and start pumping oil. Is this a tad harsh? Yes. But was it a tad harsh when Arab terrorists flew planes into the Twin Towers?

What the hell happened to us? After 9-11, Bush made the statement that

if a nation was not with us, it was against us. The nation pulled together to avenge the 9-11 victims and make the U.S. safe from enemies. We toppled Afghanistan but forgot about our original mission: To destroy threats to the United States: Iraq, North Korea, and Iran are all threats. They are not "with us." They are against us. So, let's take them out!

Naysayers claim that war with Iraq would make the region unstable. Bull! Look at the region as it is. It is not stable, nowhere even close. This is not a matter of "if it's not broken don't fix it." It is a matter of it is broke, so let's fix it.

Naysayers claim that Saddam should be contained. When we can develop a huge glass jar and place it over the Iraqi nation let me know. Until then, let's be proactive and defeat Iraq. Hussein and Iraq support terrorism and are developing weapons to attack us.

What else do we need? Another 9-11?

Most European states and the UN are against an invasion. Europeans do not care about terrorism because their lives are not on the line. Israel cares, the U.S. cares, Europe does not (save for Great Britain). If planes had crashed into the Eiffel Tower, the Bundestag, or the Coliseum, Europe

would care. But that did not happen, so they just sent us flowers and condolences and then waited a week or so to call us "warmongers." Typical European cake-eaters.

To make democracy safe we need some cowboys who aren't afraid to use their guns. That is the US.

But some U.S. citizens are against the war. This is mind-boggling. How can some people just sit back and wait for disaster to happen. Let's go out and make ourselves safe.

In my humble opinion, I think we are going to invade Iraq in September or November. The reason we have not so far, in my line of thought, is because we do not want to wage a desert war in the middle of summer. We also could use some time to gather intelligence. But it is only a matter of time until we dance with Saddam. Remember in early August when Saddam came on Iraqi TV and claimed that any war with Iraq would be a "glorious battle?"

Sure, Saddam!

Right on, buddy! I'd be willing to bet that Saddam will see his glorious battle in a few weeks. And the only people it will be glorious for are the American people, because we are going to crush the Desert

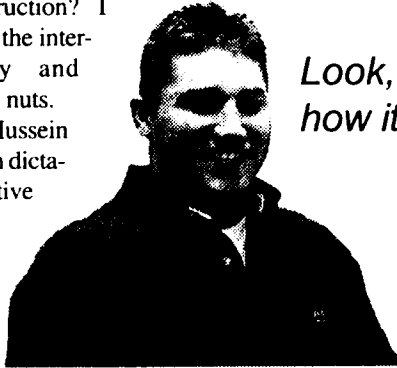
Stalin.

The fight probably will not even be as tough as it was in Afghanistan. Remember our enemies there were fighting for a belief they believed and followed. The Iraqi army fights for Saddam, not an ideology or belief. As soon as the fight begins they will probably surrender like they did in the Desert Storm.

Look, here's how it is: Saddam is psychotic. He is dangerous. He needs to be deposed. Our nation is at risk as long as he is in power. We need to invade Iraq, prop up a pro-U.S. government, and start pumping oil. If we do not do this we are as good as sitting ducks.

We look as weak and as timid as Europeans (once again, save for the Brits). And terrorists respect is power. Let's flex our guns and let all those opposed to the United States know that we will not back down—that we will be proactive in our defense.

Resenthaler's column appears every three weeks.



Guy Resenthaler

editorial columnist

Look, here's how it is

Not an Abercrombie girl

Unoriginality is so uninspiring. Some of the things that irk me the most are a) People who seemingly try to follow age-old stereotypes; b) People who let others define who they are; and c) People who buy into everything that is mainstream American. One of the greatest gifts humans possess is imagination; why then, I ask, don't more people use it?

My initial viewing of the movie "Animal House" occurred a few weeks before I began college. I must say, this movie definitely deserves a privileged place in fine American cinema. However, I feel that some have taken the movie entirely too literally. It seems to be understood by many that college is a time to "get it all out of your system" and all too often I encounter "students" who seem to be making great efforts to model their lives on the binge drinking, sub 2.0 G.P.A. frat brothers of Faber College. Don't get me wrong; I am always up for a good party. I just do not

think that the peak of one's college experience should be keg stands and countless nights falling asleep in a drunken stupor.

Another aspect of life that seriously annoys me is whenever the current pop princesses and boy-band members refer to themselves as artists. Not even Madonna had the audacity to refer to herself as an artist in her early years; rather, she preferred the term entertainer. Besides the fact that these pop icons do not write, produce, or play any instruments, their images are pretty much determined by some mogul in the music business. One of the greatest things about being a musician is being able to project your unique self-image and style to millions of people. Today it

seems that the goal is to appeal to almost everyone; for instance, be the Virgin Mary in interviews and wear next to nothing on a magazine cover. While it is important to have a large fan base, when did it become necessary to sacrifice identity in order to please everyone?

I was one of the few people who weren't happy when Abercrombie and Fitch opened. I am glad Abercrombie wearing-Erieites no longer have to PAY to receive an Abercrombie catalogue, but to me this company seems to propagate an idea of what an American youth should be. One only has to look at Abercrombie's entirely Caucasian crew of models, most with blonde hair and excessively thin bodies, to understand my point.

I am especially amused when Abercrombie makes shirts with sayings like "Rock Star" on them or when they feature an indie artist in their catalogue. As if the people at Abercrombie listen to anything other than synthesized pop.

I do believe however that Abercrombie makes well designed pants for those of us on the short side and I do buy an occasional pair of khakis from them. I will never buy a shirt with their logo splashed across the front because I don't appreciate the odd conformist image they project.

Being an individual does not mean you must dye your hair an unnatural color or sporting piercings in unusual body parts. Just don't be so quick to adopt what society and others deem as "normal." As a great musical artist once said, simply "express yourself."



Amanda Prischak

guest columnist

Canada's Prime Minister needs to relax

Originally appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, August 26, 2002.

Traditionally, summer is a good time for politicians to take voters' pulse at the grass roots, play golf and sell favorite programs to relaxed constituents away from the capital's constant sparring and media spotlight.

President Bush is at home in Texas and Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien is home too, in Quebec. While Bush heard Republican rumblings over his proposed "regime change" in Iraq, Chretien faced a bubbling revolt that could force his resignation from the ruling Liberal Party's leadership and the prime minister's office. However, a crabby Chretien peremptorily announced he would retire in 2004.

Chretien fussed all summer over maneuverings by former Finance Minister Paul Martin to succeed him. Chretien also made some little-noticed remarks about the United States that could raise American eyebrows. As part of their identity, many Canadians maintain a mental list of differences with Americans, much like family photos in a wallet.

Even so, it seems strangely gratuitous for the embattled leader of America's top trade partner and a key anti-terror ally to have provided a local party gathering in Chicoutimi last week with an unsolicited, distinctly uncomplimentary list of political differences with the United States. Imagine the furor if Bush grumbled publicly in Ohio about Canadian corruption and lack of term limits.

Chretien talked about his own agenda for a bit, then launched into this: "Our parliamentary system is different from that of the United States, where there is no party discipline. Where members of Congress do not run on national platforms. Where special interests pour money into individual congressional races. Where the administration cannot deliver an agreement (with Canada) on softwood lumber because it has to give in to the wishes of some senator who owes his election to American lumber producers and who threatens to use his power as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to block other legislation of importance to the president." (The senator: clearly Montana's Max Baucus, not a Canada fan.)

"We don't have a system where important judicial positions remain vacant for years because of the political games and ideological tests of Congress," the prime minister continued. "We don't have a system where the administration tells the world it doesn't like the farm bill. But (it) has to give in to congressmen, who are subject not to party discipline, but to the discipline of lobbyists and the money of special-interest groups. Now that is a real democratic deficit. And we don't need it in Canada."

Now, we're unaware that anyone has asked Ottawa to adopt the political system of its raucous neighbor. But we might suggest that Chretien has a relaxation deficit and needs a wee break at some lake before Quebec's summer is gone. Also, maybe switch to decaf.

