

The Behrend Beacon

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

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**THE BEHREND
Beacon**

"A newspaper by the students for the students"

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Senior daze

I remembered that I had a column to write for this week on the day it was due. I scheduled for the spring semester so early that I have been able to change, re-change and then change back to taking so many different classes. Now even I don't know what taking in the spring, much less, registrar.

I have been known in a few instances to make my weekend plans the Monday before that weekend - for the sole reason that I don't believe in waiting til the last minute to do anything! My planner was so full that I had to buy a new one and then color code events according to their importance and/or affiliation to my life.

Well, if you haven't guessed it by now - I am right smack dab in the middle of my senior year. I am at the crossroads of "college kid" and "full-blown adult," understanding perfectly that the decisions I make within the next seven months will have a huge impact and could even dramatically alter the rest of my life.

Talk about being busy! I don't even have time to consider senioritis an excuse for procrastinating, because I don't have time to procrastinate!

My classes are demanding so much more out of me these days. I have opted to consider each of them two classes, rather than one, thus doubling my out-of-class study time and my stress - which I don't want to do right now!

In addition to the 20+ hours a week that I put in at my part-time job, 15 class credits (which some days feel like 30), my responsibilities to the Association for Women in Communication, my position on the Beacon staff and my obligations to my friends and family, I am suppose to try getting into graduate school and/or find a job that I can dive into with my creative abilities and experience? Hopefully, that will happen, considering I almost fainted just thinking about and typing up that to-do list mentioned above.

I do have to admit that everything has given me quite a "rush" and that rush has inspired me to do my best with everything on that to-do list. I don't know what it is, but I honestly think that the busier and more stressed out I am, the better I get at accomplishing tasks.

It's almost as if my success in life feeds off a packed planner that leaves no room for a moment to even breathe. Either that or something somewhere in the recesses of my brain is telling me that it all has to be done and done well and that I may as well just sit down, suck it up and do it.

Never before have I ever been given such an adamant illustration of how stress can be a good thing. I remember learning about "u stress" in grade school and high school health classes, but never before was I part of the example to apply to the concept.

All in all, despite the workload, stress,

pressures and questions for my future, life is just really good now. The stage and feeling of being "in-between" is kind of (for lack of a better word) cool. There is so much to look forward to, but yet so many accomplishments to remember...and well, just so much to-do right now. Which reminds me, I better get back to working on the things on my to-do list - well I better get back to one of my to-do lists - if I can find it!

I would have to say that my quote on my America Online instant messenger profile best sums up my feelings on life right now, so here it is: "My life is great. I'm happy, healthy and strong. I've found God and he is the cornerstone of my existence. I'm on the brink of making some major future-influencing decisions, yet the youth of my childhood still exists. I've got the most wonderful mother and two brothers!"

After attempts to find myself by trying (and sometimes) not succeeding at a plethora of things in high school and college, I've finally found my niche and passion in this world. It encompasses all of the smaller parts of those past attempts to find myself that I enjoyed most and did the best with.

I have the best friends ever. I have not one enemy in this world and I've found that I can't live without any of you and that I will always have a place for each of you in my heart.

I have learned that true and long-term love is in the longing, if that person returns to you, and nothing about your love has changed, it was meant to be!"



Christine Kleck

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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.

Letters to the Editor

The reason I'm writing to the Beacon is in response to the scathing and downright nasty article written in the Humor Page concerning people who wear corduroy pants. I, in fact, love wearing my corduroy pants and I shouldn't feel discriminated against for wearing them. I have already missed too many classes due to my overwhelming feeling of depression. My bottle of Zocor is almost empty and my pillow is continually damp from my continuous weeping into it. I truly fear for myself when I walk to class. I am always on edge for fear that a hate monger from the Humor Page might jump my ass just for wearing corduroy pants. Or that a handful of geeky Humor Page writers will come to my apartment and harass me. My fellow corduroy wearing troupe is thinking of staging a walk out Friday, November 8, at against the oppressive forces that are the Humor Page. I will provide the flares, war paint, and pie. Anyone interested can email me at birthdayboy@psu.edu. Together we can stop the Humor Page from making asinine comments about dead babies, supposed booze hounds, and weight-challenged females. As you can see I take everything in the Humor Page as completely true and totally serious. Anybody who doesn't take the Humor Page as pure fact is an idiot. Peace Out...Stop the Hate (Humor Page).

Jonathan Navoney

I wouldn't read the Beacon if it didn't have the humor page. It figures that the same type of people that would complain about the humor page would be the same people that would eat Pizza with the Provost.

Muskrat
(Kevin D Kearney)

**AIM getting boring?
Type something productive--
write a letter to the editor.**

Behrcoll2@aol.com

American women have achieved quality-- someone should tell the feminists

by Matthew Vadum
KRT Forum

When someone is convinced that imaginary forces are aligned against him or her, that person is sent for professional help. Yet when people sharing the same unfounded beliefs get together and form an association, they often manage to win government grants.

A case in point is the modern feminist movement whose members carry on about women's rights as if this were the year 1802, not 2002. To them the so-called patriarchy, a cousin of Hillary Clinton's vast right-wing conspiracy theory, is perpetually in motion denying women their rights.

To remain convinced that American women today are little better off than in the early days of the Republic is quite a feat, given that women today enjoy legal and political equality, outnumber men on many college campuses, serve in the military, occupy top corporate positions, and sit in Congress and on the Supreme Court.

Nonetheless, feminists trudge on, convinced by their own propaganda. Their movement today is dominated by left-wing "gender feminists" who pump their limitless anger into never-ending political fights.

They are not interested in equal opportunity, but insist on government-mandated equal treatment for women in all areas in society. The feminist movement in the 21st century sees every statistical disparity between men and women as proof of sex-based discrimination and demands government regulations and programs to help end all supposed inequalities.

To make matters worse, tax-exempt groups like the National Organization for Women and the League of Women Voters, which pack a political punch in Congress and state legislatures, puff up their membership figures to enhance their credibility. Such groups "systematically and regularly" overstate their membership, according to Kimberly Schuld, author of the "Guide to Feminist Organizations," which was just published by Capital Research Center, a Washington-based watchdog group.

Schuld's book looks at three dozen top feminist organizations, ranging from the National Organization for Women to the Ms. Foundation for Women to the League of Women Voters. The guide identifies how much feminist groups receive in government grants as well as in foundation and corporate grants.

Schuld has examined the network of non-profit organizations and pressure groups that comprise today's feminist movement. She says that knowing how the movement works helps explain its influence over public opinion.

For instance, the recent spate of news stories over the men-only membership policy of the private Augusta National Golf Club, the sponsor of the annual Masters golf tournament, was propelled by press statements from the National Council of Women's Organizations, a group claiming to unite 100 organizations representing more than six million women. Yet the controversy, says Schuld, was generated almost single-handedly by Martha Burk, a well-connected Washington feminist. Her "group" consists of little more than her Rolodex and a fax machine.

Chutzpah is obviously not in short supply among groups such as NOW whose actual grass-roots membership is dwindling. Groups including NOW take taxpayer funding and then campaign for bigger and more expensive government programs. Their lack of support among American women makes their battle cries only louder.

The feminists' current party line is that "George Bush and Republicans will turn back the clock" with their Supreme Court nominees," says Schuld. "Feminist groups have got every white male member of Congress scared to death. And they successfully threaten the corporations that give them money," she says.

Putting an end to feminists' delusional, taxpayer-funded crusades may be an uphill battle, but with watchdogs like Schuld around, there is at least a chance of reining in a movement that was long ago hijacked by the extreme left.

'Jackass' is almost as cool as Karl

by Karl Benacci
Features Editor

There aren't a lot of happy things on television anymore. With the click of a remote control one is often attacked with a barrage of visual horror, such as the evening news or shady cop shows like "NYPD Blue" or "CSI Miami."

Why watch angry people on depressing shows? Instead, one should watch a show with happy characters, such as MTV's "Jackass." This show appeared on MTV two years ago and consists of a group of guys who perform daring stunts such as jousting on BMX bikes and getting shot with paintball guns.

The show is hilarious, and there isn't any negativity in it. In fact, many individuals could learn from the show, because the "Jackass" cast is a tight brotherhood which knows how to have fun as opposed to a majority of America, which is angry and obese, like Dennis Franz. Thanks to these negative people (the censors), MTV can only get away with showing certain things on television. So MTV gave the "Jackass" cast a chance to make a film.

I've seen the movie and yes, there are some really gross things in it, which are secret I won't tell you, the reader.

Okay, okay! I will give one example for those of you who are cool enough to read my piece. In one scene, a nice young chap named Ryan Dunn sticks a toy car up his butt and has a doctor take an x-ray of his backside. Pretty silly, eh?

Now, that I have begun talking about the movie, I feel as if I cannot stop. So, in another scene, Johnny Knoxville, the star of the show, gets the pulp beaten out of him by the professional heavyweight boxer, Butterbean.

Does this sound stupid? Is "Jackass" a bad movie that shouldn't be shown?

Are Johnny Knoxville and his friends a bunch of stupid idiots?

If you say yes to this, you're the idiot. I looked around that dark movie theatre and saw smiles on everyone's faces. Yes, for an hour and a half, my movie-going peers and I threw our troubles aside and were happily entertained by a group of close friends who only want to make the world smile.

If laughing and having a good time watching some guys perform stunts that hurt no one (other than themselves) is wrong, then what's right? Let people have their fun!

Some things the cast of 'Jackass' can do on the Behrend campus

by Karl Benacci
feature page editor

-Steve-O can get a tattoo of Bruno on his butt.

-Party Boy Chris Pontius can dance in the window of Reed 114 while there's a concert in the Reed Wintergarden.

-Wee Man can steal a maintenance truck and have a demolition derby with Provost Burke's ride.

-Two words: the Gorge.

-Johnny can dress up as Bruno and run around campus with his portrait. When Johnny sees one of his cast, he can smash the painting over his cast member's head.

