

## Letter from the editor: A little less conversation; a little more action

Dear students of Penn State Behrend,

For the most part, I think, students are in the dark on how to get involved with the paper. Let's get one thing straight. This is your paper. The Beacon is a student paper, written for the students by the students.

The Beacon is always looking for new faces and fresh ideas to help improve the paper. If you want to get involved it is fairly simple; as the commercial says, just do it.

Some may think that you have to go to a formal interview, submit writing samples, and officially "get hired" to write for the Beacon. This is completely false. All you have to do is be a Behrend student.

Obviously, we can't publish an article from all 4,000 students every week. But we are looking to expand our staff. And because this is a *student* paper, you really don't need experience. The Beacon is supposed to be a place where students learn about journalism and place to get the experience they will need later.

Also, some think that we just assign articles and you have to write what we tell you. Again, this is false. In fact,



we really don't like assigning anything at all. What we do like is when people come to us with new and creative ideas.

We want people to write about what they think is interesting. That's what makes for good articles that other students want to read. It is those new ideas that help the paper improve.

News writing does involve some work. But it is good work. You get to experience things on this campus that you would otherwise miss, and you get to talk to people you would otherwise walk right by.

Writing for a school newspaper is the perfect place to get your start. Because when it comes time to actually get a job, employers will want to see what you have done. They want you to prove yourself. What will set you apart from all the other students with good grades?

I hear students tell me that they want to get involved in journalism. I say they should write for the Beacon. They reply that they don't have time.

Well, when they graduate, what do they think will get them hired? No time? Why are you even in school? For the parties? If so, transfer to Edinboro.

Actually, you don't even need a lot of time to devote to the paper. If you are interested in writing, you can write articles every week, once a month, or whenever you come up with a good idea.

What will get you the job is the experience and knowledge you get from actually going out and doing what you will eventually be getting paid to do. You need to prove that you can go out and interview, research, and write for a large audience. Journalism employers don't care what grades you got in your writing class if you don't have any claps of actual work.

The Beacon is not just for communication majors, either. Employers of all fields like it when you can actually show work you have done and can show that you have writing talent.

Writing for the school paper is also fun because you get to see your writing printed for the whole school to see. It's exciting when you do a good job on a story and other students read and enjoy it.

I have heard people criticize the Beacon, and I am not saying that the paper is perfect. There is always room

for improvement. If you want something to get better, then stop complaining and do something positive about it. Let's have a little less conversation and a little more

action. As the new editor of this paper, I want to take it to the next level. But I can't do it alone. I have a great staff here and together, we have done a lot with the Beacon. But to take it to the next level we need creative, energetic, enthusiastic, students who have an interest in writing and a willingness to learn. Stop by the office, which is located on the first floor of Reed, at the end of the hall next to the Back Room, or email [berhcoll@aol.com](mailto:berhcoll@aol.com) if you want to find out how you can be part of the Behrend Beacon.

It's your paper. Get involved.

-Kevin Fallon  
Editor-In-Chief  
Behrend Beacon.

### The View From the Lighthouse

#### Need a Band-Aid, CPR? Please make an appointment...

Do you think health care needs help now? Wait until you hear this story. You'll be running to your Congressman to fix this one.

An editor on the Beacon staff went to Health and Wellness to ask for a Band-Aid just before 8 a.m. and was told that the office was not open, and additionally, an appointment was required. When the editor showed the receptionist her 'oozing' finger and asked only for a bandage to cover it, the receptionist informed her that the nurse would have to look at it and "put the bandage on for her," again asking her what time was convenient to make an appointment, which would 'conveniently' be charged to her student account.

It is truly amazing that such simple health care has to be documented, scheduled, and insured in order to protect both parties from suing one another. It is even more amazing that giving a Band-Aid has now been defined as "medical care," on the same level as emergency pregnancy contraception or strep throat testing.

Most, if not all, services offered by Health and Wellness require an appointment ahead of time. Can you imagine any Penn State student walking into the office and asking, "Can I make an appointment for the morning after pill? I think I'm going to get it on tonight, so I just want to be sure." Yeah, right.

Or how about other services? What if someone was brought in because they happened to be choking and needed CPR? We can imagine the receptionist peering at the blue-faced student and asking for their social security number to make an appointment with the doctor.

Refusing medical care because of a suspicious looking person with no Penn State ID is acceptable and good judgment for Health and Wellness. Refusing a Band-Aid to a student might be in accordance with the law, but completely ridiculous.

Unfortunately, this is not unusual to encounter at other doctor's offices outside any

college's health system.

Depending on who's working the waiting room, some nurses might be in a good enough mood to just hand over the Band-Aid. Most will probably ask you to fill out insurance forms and waivers in order to protect themselves against claims of malpractice.

If it hasn't happened already, it probably will - can you imagine what that claim would say? "The aforementioned party has claimed that 'Dr. Smith's' office has not educated him/her on the proper way to use a Band-Aid, risking infection and putting the claimer's life at stake." These are the frivolous claims that private practitioners are worried about because idiots like these are 'claiming' that they don't know how to use a Band-Aid and know that they can get some fast cash.

The Beacon staff agrees that while it is vital for Health and Wellness to take measures to protect themselves against all medical claims, it is also outrageous that there is no other way to offer simple first aid without clogging up a doctor or nurse practitioner's schedule to heal students that have boo-boos on their fingers. Perhaps a first-aid station to purchase one's own first aid kit is a possibility, but please. There are loopholes everywhere. Find one so that students don't have to make an appointment and pay \$10 or more for a nurse practitioner to put on a Band-Aid.



## Little Caesars®

### CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY!

#### Harborcreek Giant Eagle Plaza

JUST STOP IN!  
FIRST COME - FIRST SERVE

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

## 1 MEDIUM PIZZA

with cheese and pepperoni

## \$2.99

CARRY OUT ONLY PLUS TAX

No substitutions. Limit 5 pizzas. Valid at this Little Caesars location only. No Deliveries. Sorry, no rain checks.

**We want to hear from you. Send a letter to the editor.**

**Behrcoll2@aol.com**

**Ideas, opinions, or just plain bitchin'**