

# EDITORIAL

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The Behrend Beacon

## The Behrend Beacon

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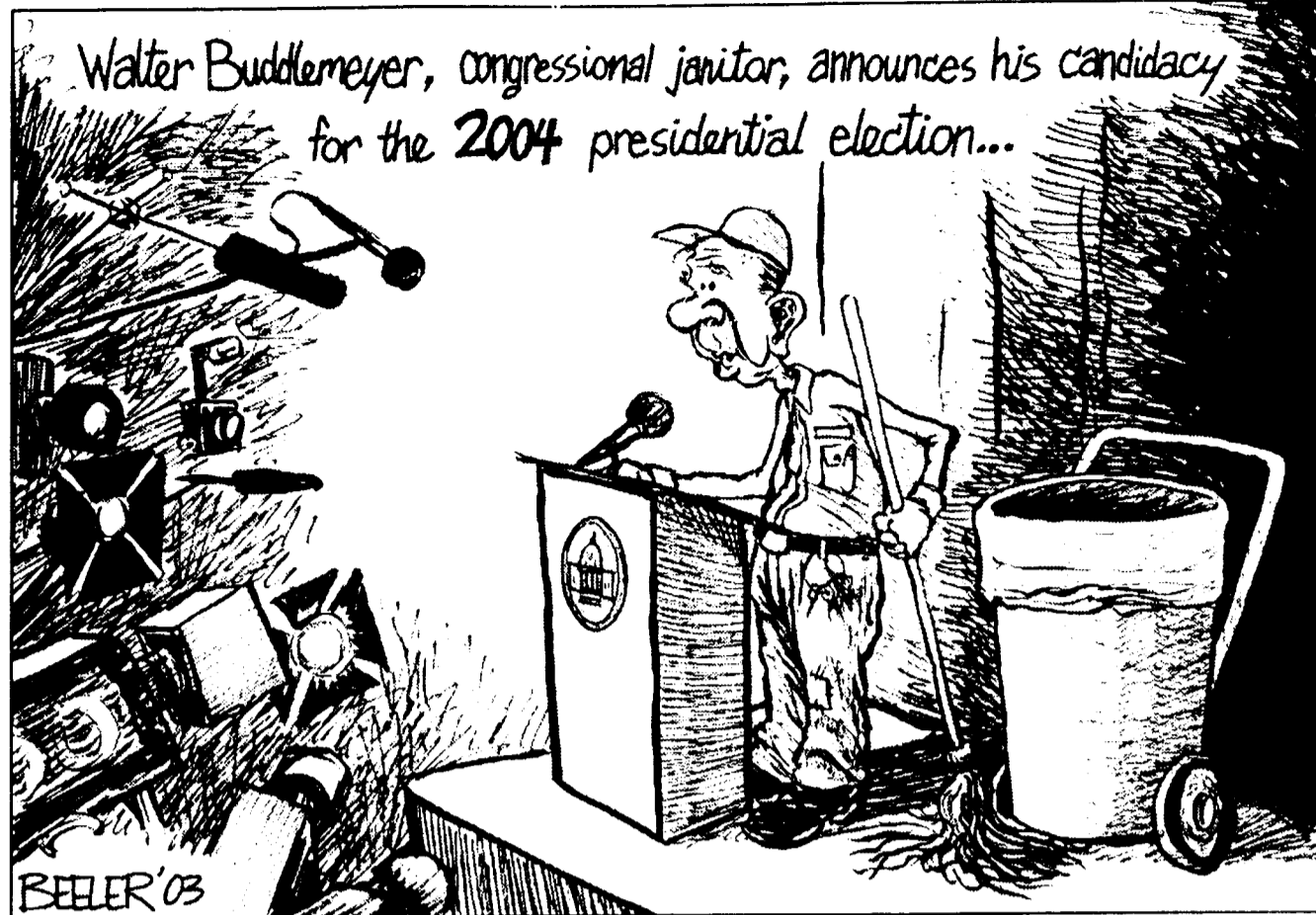
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## I smell sex and candy

There are a lot of great debatable issues in the news. We have the issue of cloning, Eminem, racial discrimination, the war on Iraq, Trent Lott and North Korea. There is a lot going on in the world of 2003. Out of all of these—to be frank—I could not pick a single topic to write an editorial. So, since this is my column, I'll do what I want to do, dammit!

This editorial is going to quickly cover all the topics I wanted to write about. Get set, get ready, this is going to be the short, sweet, and dirty of all these controversies. It is going to be like an editorial buffet. Get up to the line, grab a fork, push the fat person out of the way, here we go...

### Cloning

This cult or sect, or whatever in God's name the group is, has claimed to have cloned two children but will not let anyone see the two Mini-Mes. Clone Aid, in my opinion, is a joke. But the claim has raised some good issues about cloning. Some believe cloning is against God's will and should be illegal. Others fear that clones will be used solely for spare parts. If you need a new liver, make a clone and take his or her liver. This is all nonsense. All of it, just nonsense. If and when we actually clone a human being, fine. No big deal. Treat the clone with the same rights as any human being. The clone is a human and

should be treated as such. Science is on the verge of a breakthrough. In 2003, let's let science be science. Besides, I really want to see my own Mini-Me.

That would be sweet!

### Eminem

This guy is one of my heroes. He says what he thinks and does what he does. So simple, yet so profound. He talks trash on everyone, throws anybody the finger, and constantly disrespects the music industry, and he is rewarded for it. The industry cannot wait to hand him his next award.

Many people want to ban his CDs from record stores. A lot of people talk of him as if he was the embodiment of everything wrong with America. I do not buy into that at all. This editorialist gives Slim Shady respect and the credit he is due.

First, he is a pioneer in rap. He is to rap as Jackie Robinson was to baseball and should be recognized for it. The white rapper has broken the race barrier that existed among rap artists. Second, he is a champion of free speech. We need outspoken individuals like Eminem to remind us from time to time that we can

express ourselves, no matter how offensive the expression may be. Third, he is extremely talented. I do not care if he is rapping about rape, murder, or incest—the way he says it, the manner of delivery, is nothing short of genius. If he had been born in the late 1500s, Mathers would have rivaled Shakespeare. In 2003, I want more Marshall Mathers, I want him to get even more awards than he did last year, and I want to hear about all the controversy that surrounds this rap artist. He is the man.

### Racial Discrimination

The University of Michigan is being sued for racial discrimination. The college favors minorities in its application process—the university makes judgments based on race. If an applicant is of a minority he or she is awarded 20 points. If he or she scored a perfect on the SATs or ACTs then 12 points is awarded. If the applicant is a legacy (his or her parents attended the university) he or she is awarded three points.

This is sickening. In this day and age there should be no racial discrimination, and yet here it is, alive, thriving, and well.

Why should a minority be given more points? Should individuals not be judged on the basis of accomplishment and ability? Why does race have to be brought into any system? In 2003, individuals should be treated equally. Men and women should be judged solely by character, integrity, and ability. No one should get special privilege or treatment because of color of his or her skin.

### War on Iraq

Let's do it. Why? To overthrow a ty-

rant, eliminate a threat to the United States, to build a bastion of liberty in the Middle East, and to secure oil. Just one of those reasons is enough justification for me.

If you are one of those who oppose U.S. action in Iraq, think about these comparisons: Compare how Muslims are treated in the United States to how Christians and Jews are treated in Iraq. Compare Iraq's press with our own. Compare an Iraqi's political rights with an American's. See any difference? The people of Iraq should be set free from the Stalin-wanna-be we call, Hussein. The U.S. needs to protect itself and we need oil. Enough said, let's move on.

### Trent Lott

Trent Lott disappoints me. Here is a man who was trying to make an old guy feel good at his birthday party. For this, Lott was torn to shreds by the press. Then when faced with, what I believe to be unfair criticism, he backed down and apologized. But why? Why apologize and give in to those who irrationally criticize? Lott should have stood up, said he was trying to make Strom Thurmond feel proud on what may be his last birthday and say to hell with everyone. He didn't. Eminem would have.

Lott also should have reminded the media and those who unfairly attacked him that when Thurmond ran for president, on a segregationist platform, he was a Democrat. The former Senate Majority Leader should have pointed out that when Thurmond finally felt enlightened and changed his views, he joined the Republican Party. In the year 2003, it would be nice to see more politicians stand up

for themselves and not cave into unjust and misplaced pressure.

### North Korea

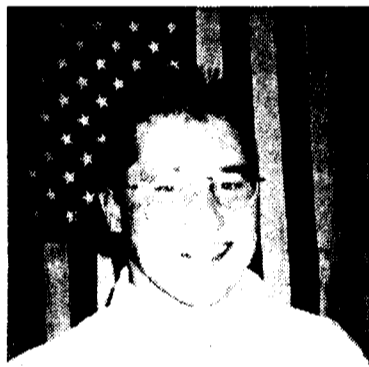
North Korea is evil. The fact is plain and simple to see. The state cannot stop spewing anti-American rhetoric. North Korea has nuclear weapons and wants to build more. The Communist nation is even blackmailing the U.S. trying to squeeze capitalist dollars from us in return that the state does not build more nukes. We also provide this anti-Western nation with food aid. This is absurd. In 2003, I may have to approach the North Korean topic in an entire editorial. Until then, I can only hope that our nation gives them not one more cent and absolutely not one more ounce of food. If North Koreans are going to walk the walk of communism, they will not do it with an American loaf of bread under each arm.

### The Look, Here's How It Is Part

I'd like to go on, but I'm running out of page space. So I'll wrap this bad boy up...

Look, here's how it is: "Sex and Candy" is a great song and it will not be played on the radio in 2003. It is old and was overplayed back in my freshman days of high school. Yet, this year we should remember that Marcy's Playground had it right with "Sex and Candy. Everyone" loves sex and everyone loves candy. There should be more of these two in 2003, especially if the title grabs a reader's attention.

*Rescenthaler's column appears every three weeks.*



Look, here's how it is  
**Guy Rescenthaler**

## Living Dr. King's dream

Spike Lee's timing couldn't be more ironic. Lee, who has addressed racism in American culture with movies such as "Jungle Fever," "Malcolm X," and "Bamboozled," visited Behrend just weeks after majority leader Trent Lott resigned from his position and reminded the nation that it is not too far removed from its pre-civil rights movement days.

America may have moved passed its slavery and segregation days but as Lott pointed out and Lee often shows us in films, raciest attitudes still exist.

Lee, an independent filmmaker, strays away from superficial big-budget blockbusters. But I say, now is as good a time as any to use Hollywood to point out the ills of American society. My idea for the next Spike Lee Joint: "Malcolm XXX."

Vin Diesel stars as a machine-gun toting Malcolm X with an attitude as he fights a racist army of bad guys led by General Trent Lott and a cloned Terminator version of Strom Thurmond sent from the future to run for president on a ballot of segregation and global domination.

Diesel could say cheesy action-hero

lines like, "I am going to segregate your head from your body," as he blast away the bad guys.

Who says Hollywood never makes quality movies?

All joking aside, race relations are still a serious issue in this country. Sometimes it is hard for those of the younger generation born in a time of "equality" to remember that the extreme racism experienced by many in this country was not that long ago.

The equal rights movement took place in the 60s, so it may seem like ancient history for those born in the 70s or 80s. But many of our parents and grandparents lived in times where African Americans drank from separate drinking fountains and were discriminated against because of the color of their skin.

What is even more upsetting is that some of the attitudes of the recent past linger today. In fact, as Lott and Thurmond pointed out, it is not just attitudes that re-

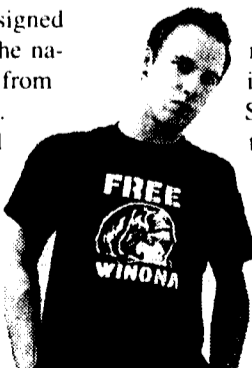
main, but many leaders of the time are still in power.

The 100-year-old Thurmond ran for president in 1948 on the segregationist Dixiecrat ticket. Although Thurmond has said he no longer believes what he did in 1948, it is still unsettling to have someone in power who fought so hard to keep this country segregated.

I guess when writing an editorial, it is easy to take a stand against racism. Of course, everyone is against racism. But sometimes it's just important to point out the problem still exists. Beyond that, as voters we need to be aware of who we elect and what they stand for. In addition, we should set an example in our own lives by embracing diversity and speaking out against hate.

As we approach Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we must remember that we are not only celebrating his accomplishments; we are completing his unfinished dream.

As for my idea for the new Spike Lee Joint, I know King preached about non-violence, but you have to admit it would be cool to watch Vin Diesel blow up KKK mutant vampires...diversity style.



**Kevin Fallon**

