

EDITORIAL

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The Behrend Beacon

The Behrend Beacon

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Beacon

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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.



Did we tick you off this week? Tell us!
Send all Letters to the Editor to
Behrcoll2@aol.com
Include your name, major, and semester standing

A simple reply

I would like to reply to a letter written to the editor and published in the *Beacon* two weeks ago. The letter, written by Katie Sweeny, was an attempt to somehow controvert the merit behind an editorial I had written a week before on the confused gerbil that is our president, George Bush.

Her first point defends Bush's speech blunders, and asks the question, "Is that any way to judge a man?" You're damn right it is. Being able to speak properly is an extremely important skill in the world today. Do you think that a business would hire a man to run its company if he lacked the ability to speak properly? Proper speech reflects the ability to convey information accurately to those who need to know. If a man cannot do that, he should not be the President of the United States.

Of anyone in the country, our president should be able to speak to his public in a clear manner. Everyone makes mistakes, that's true. But I could list over 300 misuses of the English language that he has made, most of which are mistakes you might expect to see coming from an elementary school student. Just to push the point, I'll quote Bush from an interview with WMUR in Manchester, N.H. "For those that are uninsured, many of the uninsured are able-bodied, capable people capable of buying insurance choose not to do so."

Now I'm no expert, but that's not just a little blunder, or a Freudian slip- it's just blatantly stupid. People in power should not speak to the public if they can not do so intelligently.

Sweeny's also suggests the possibility that Bush may not have a choice in his war efforts, that he is doing what's best for the citizens of this country- certainly not entering us into a war just for the hell of it. Yet, anyone who watches the news would know that just the other day, more than three million people across the globe came together to denounce Bush's war plans. Does it not strike you as odd that despite his

pleading with the United Nations and to allied countries, just about the only thing he has accomplished is to unify the largest protest the globe has ever seen- all to oppose this war on Iraq.

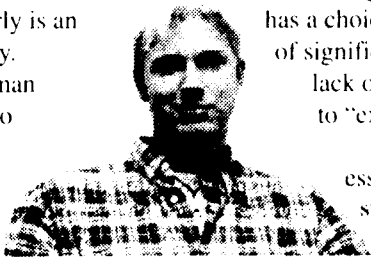
It does not seem to me that Bush has been forced into this situation and now has to deal with it- seeing as how with the exception of Great Britain, the United States has not managed to find a single substantial ally in this fight. Bush certainly has a choice, and he's made it without regard to the lack of significant evidence, or allied support. Maybe this lack of evidence can be explained by Bush's inability to "express himself clearly."

And now my favorite part of Ms. Sweeny's essay. I quote, "Bledsoe's story at one point stated, '...the government decides they are going to suspend the popular vote...' Does that make any sense?" I suppose if I took half of someone's sentence and asked it if made sense on its own, it might not. The entire

sentence, in reference to the electoral process, reads, "...and even then, when the American people do make their desires known, the government decides they are going to suspend the popular vote and go 'by the book.'" Anyone who knows even the least bit about the electoral process knows that this is exactly what happened last election. Bush lost the popular vote, however according to the Supreme Court, he deserved the office of President based on Electoral College votes that were subject to compromise. Popular vote was suspended. The entire paragraph in which this sentence is focused goes on to say just that.

Anyway, all that being said, I thank Sweeny for her interest and concern, and I do hope that in the future there will be no other misunderstandings. I also apologize to the readers only to hope that I can write about something a little more relevant in my next editorial.

Bledsoe's column appears every three weeks.



Derek Bledsoe

My brain, like the nation, is divided on Iraq

I watch reality TV in order to escape from reality.

You see, I used to take mind-altering drugs to escape from reality, but then I learned my drug money was supporting terrorists. I quit cold turkey.

Anyhow, this week Joe Millionaire gave me a reason to believe in the beauty of the human race. It turns out that a good-looking guy with a rock-hard body and the personality of an ape will triumph over a good-looking guy with a rock-hard body with \$50 million any day. Who says romance is dead?

After the show I was so overwhelmed with love. I decided to go out and look for a woman of my own. I figure I have way less money than Joe Millionaire and I am about half as stupid, so I thought I had a good chance at making my own love connection.

Unfortunately, on the way to the adult video arcade (by the way, there are no video games there) my SUV ran out of gas.

I was appalled when I saw the price of gas. I thought to myself, "Who the hell do you have to bomb around here to get a decent price on gasoline?"

Oh yeah, I forgot.

See, I used to be against a war on Iraq. But Colin Powell's power point presentation convinced me. It is obvious that Saddam Hussien is up to no good. Sure, he hasn't attacked us, yet. But why take a chance?

But we can't go to war because the French don't support us? Well, let me tell you something. The French are a bunch of Mary Andrews. Why do we need to listen to what the French say, anyhow? What are they going to do?

Snob us to death?

We are the United States of America, dagnabit. What is the point of being the most powerful country in the world if you have to listen to the French? Just remember how the French messed up pizza. That's right, French bread pizza. What the heck is that?

Doesn't anyone realize we are on Orange Alert? Orange, for goodness sakes. Homeland security director Tom Ridge advises to stock up on duct tape (to seal a room in case of biological attack) and bottled water (because it just tastes better than tap).

I don't know about you. But I have been duct taped inside my bedroom for the last week and I really have to go to the bathroom from all that bottled water. I am sick of living in fear.

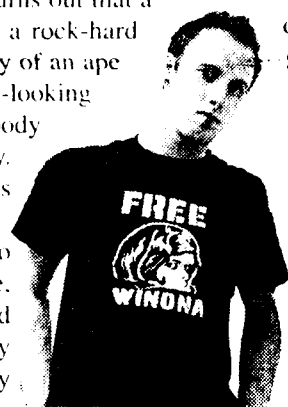
If there was another option besides war, I would be for it. I don't think there is a choice. Hussein has to be removed from power. It is unlikely he will step down. It is unlikely he will suddenly become a nice, trustworthy guy like Joe Millionaire.

Much of the international community is against this war. I haven't heard any options besides giving the inspectors more time. True, inspections must take place in Iraq. But then what? Something has to be done some time.

Honestly, I hope this conflict can somehow be resolved without war. Since they say duct tape can fix anything, why not just duct tape Iraq? Problem solved.

Maybe it could work on the economy, too.

Fallon's column appears every three weeks.



Kevin Fallon

You're at dollar shot night. So, where are your children?

All of us who grew up in the 80s have known that Michael Jackson has been about five Bud Lights short of a six pack for at least the past 10 years. Recently he revealed that he enjoys sleeping next to little boys in bed. The documents that have been released (smokinggun.com) regarding his child molestation suit are bound to make anyone's stomach churn. And yet, he is still allowed to raise three children. I don't care who he is or how much money he has; how dare he be permitted to subject these kids to his ways.

Obviously, not everyone should be a parent, yet unfortunately there is no screening test available to decide who should be allowed to reproduce and who shouldn't. Yesterday, I was watching Maury; the topic revolved around 8-year-old kids who were abusive and disrespectful to their parents. One little girl, who looked like a complete angel, admitted to smoking cigarettes.

Maybe I'm a little sheltered, but I could never imagine my 8-year-old sister lighting up a Marlboro. Aren't 8-year-olds supposed to play with Barbies? Don't they watch *SpongeBob*, instead? But the mothers sat on stage weeping, claiming that they couldn't control their children. Well,

why the hell not? Can't a grown woman control a 70 pound, four-foot child?

Ok, maybe I don't have kids of my own so I can't fully appreciate the difficulty of being a mother, but I have watched my

Paige Miles

own mother raise four kids. None of us smoke, steal, or beat her up. She obviously did something right, and I'd really like to know what her secret is just in case I have children some day.

It seems that parents aren't willing to accept the responsibility of their offspring. I hate it when I'm in Wal Mart at 3 a.m. and I see a parent with their children in tow. These kids should be in bed. I would love to give the parent the benefit of the doubt, but this happens more often than not. When I was 8, I was in bed by 9 p.m. every night (unless "Doogie Howser" was on...that was my treat night).

I recently turned 21. I've seen people my age who I know have children out at the bar on any given day of the week. Of course, these parents are allowed to have

fun once in a while and get away from their children. But it becomes wrong when the parents are out every night of the week, blowing their money while the child sits home with a babysitter. Some of these children don't even recognize who their real parents are.

And couldn't the money spent on massive amounts of alcohol be much better spent on feeding and clothing the child—especially when the parent collects government assistance? Honestly, if I had a child at this age, and decided not to give it up for adoption, I wouldn't be spending my money on frivolous crap. I would realize that the child comes first in all things I do.

So maybe bad parenting is one of the biggest problems in this world. If a parent can't handle a child, that child should be given up for adoption. There are so many stable, loving couples who would love to parent an American newborn. When those of you who don't already have children plan on it, take care of them. Love them. Pay attention to them. They haven't messed up their lives yet; don't let them.

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