

The Behrend Beacon

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

Editor-in-Chief
Kevin Fallon

Managing Editors
Rebecca Weindorf
Robert Wynne

News Editor
Erin McCarty

Assistant News Editor
Jen Henderson

Sports Editor
Scott Sollis

Assistant Sports Editor
Lauren Packer

Editorial Page Editor
Paige Miles

Features Editor
Karl Benacci

Staff Photographers
Jeff Hankey
Heather Myers



**THE BEHREND
Beacon**

"A newspaper by the students for the students"

Professional Publication Mgr.
Dave Richards

Advisor
Cathy Roan

Advertising Manager
Christine Kleck

Calendar Page Editor
Erinn Hansen

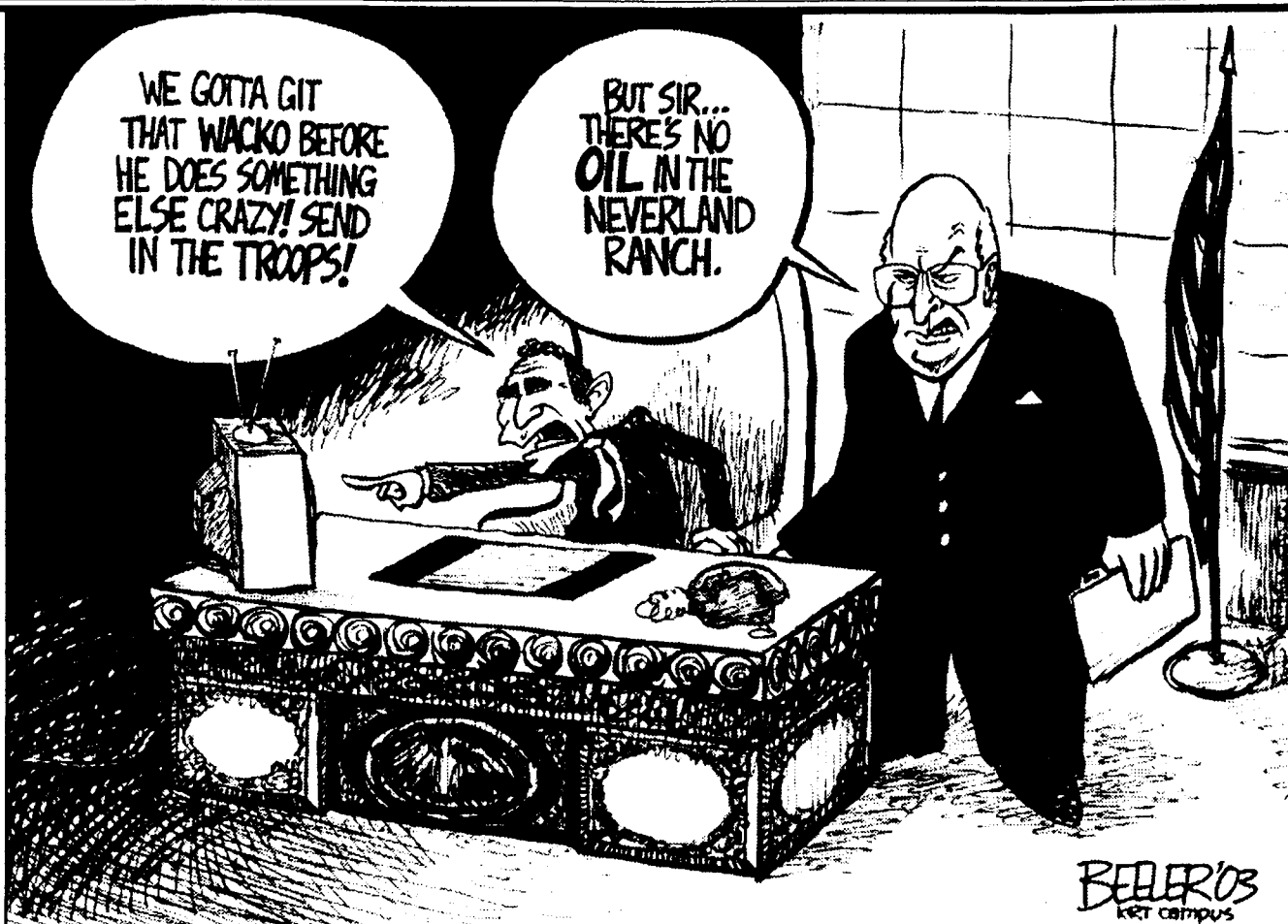
A&E Editor
Daniel J. Stasiewski

Associate Editor
Courtney Straub

Distribution Manager
Scott Sollis

The *Beacon* is published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, the Behrend College; First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. The *Beacon* can be reached by calling (814) 898-6488 or (814) 898-6019 (FAX). ISSN 1071-9288.

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.



**You know you love us.
(Ok, maybe you don't.)**

Let us know!

**Send Letters to the Editor to
Behrcoll2@aol.com**

Include your name, major, and semester standing.

Home sweet Behrend

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why am I where I'm at today?" Or, "How did I get here?" Isn't it amazing to trace the path of your life back in time to figure out how far you've come and why you are who you are today?

So many things and different reasons have contributed to why I am the person who I am, and why I'm in the situation that I am in today. Taking all that I am into consideration, it is obvious that the people who I have encountered in almost 22 years can account for at least 95% of why I am who I am today.

They say everything happens for a reason, and nowhere do I find that more true than in the relationships, friendships, and even just the brief encounters that I have had with so many different people in my lifetime. Whether it was a best friend, boyfriend, significant other, co-worker, peer, teacher, relative, or just someone passing me by on the street - there was a reason for each of them to have a part in my life.

In turn, I'd like to think that every person who has ever encountered me feels that it happened for a reason and that our time in each others' presence helped to chisel and mold the very beings that we each are today.

We learn so much from the people who surround us, but each of us could never be a complete duplicate of those we encounter. With each person comes a different background, different culture and different experiences and encounters that make everyone uniquely different, with something new and exciting to teach to and learn from each new person that we come across in our lives.

Despite the reasons why you may have met the person or the reasons why you might not be acquainted with them anymore - there is something to be learned from every encounter made with every person.

Most of those associated with Behrend do so for some learning-related reason. After all, this is a college community of students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni. It

is from that community that each member learns so much more about himself as a person. Books, classes, lectures and assignments can only teach you so much. Someone has to do the teaching and someone has to do the learning and from those interactions and experiences, reciprocating knowledge, understanding and comprehension is gained. It is from that knowledge that individual identities and personalities are born.

I have met so many people in my time here at Behrend - each person has taught me so much about who I am and who I would like to become when I graduate from here. Everything happens for a reason, everything is a learning experience and in the long run every minute of my days here at Behrend was very well worth it.

As I move on in life, and as so many others like me will graduate, change jobs, advance in careers and continue to form their own unique identities, it is so important to never forget all of the people who have been

part of your life over the years. The relationships that you have had, the friends you have made, the networking that you have done and the teams that you have represented and worked with all make up who you are - and who you will become.

Not to sound like an Academy Award or Oscar speech, but if I haven't done so yet - thank you. Thank you to everyone that I have ever known here at Behrend. You all will never be forgotten and I know that each of you played a very important part in helping me become who I am today. I can't promise you all a Christmas card or a gift on your birthday - but just know that you all have been a gift to me in my life - and I will never forget any of you. My days at the college are coming to an end, but because of all of you, and everything you have done - I know that I will always feel at home at Behrend.

Kleck's column appears every three weeks.



Just a little side note
Christine Kleck

Jack Burke puts the pro in provost

Movies such as "Animal House" created the stereotype of the crusty old dean. They are old crab apples with nothing better to do than make life difficult for good-hearted students.

Jack Burke, Behrend's soon to be new dean, breaks that stereotype. Burke is a cool guy. Burke is more like Mr. Belding from "Saved by the Bell." He has that smooth distinguished gray look, unlike the Ebenezer Scrooge look of most deans. A recent Erie Times News article on Burke referred to him as "cool" and "easygoing." Stay up, playa.

Burke has been the interim dean since John Lilley left Behrend in 2001 to become president of the University of Nevada, Reno (coincidentally, where there is no snow and gambling is legal).

Burke was not among the original 70 applicants for the job. In 2002, Behrend did an extensive search and came up with the best pool of crusty old geriatrics they could find. They were wheeled in one by one and propped up, like on "Weekend at Bernie's."

Unfortunately, none of these candidates were old and crusty enough, so Behrend tried again. I guess Burke got fed up with all the nerds that applied and threw his hat in the ring as the cool candidate.

I, for one, am thrilled that Burke is the new dean. I say congratulations to you, Jack.

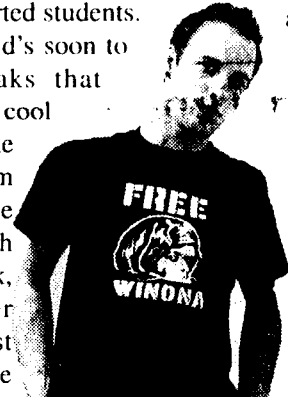
Burke has done a wonderful job so

far as the fill-in dean. Behrend only had one bomb threat during his tenure.

Burke is known as a down to earth, nice guy. He often spends time among us lowly common folk in Bruno's. He is usually accompanied by what I like to call "the Burke Posse." I don't know who these guys are, I'm guessing they have some sort of real job at Behrend. But I call them Sal and Rocko. I'm sure you've seen these guys. They are huge. When Godfather Burke walks into Bruno's with his Posse it looks like something out of "The Sopranos." I don't know who would want to mess with Burke, but they would end up sleeping with the fishes.

It's great that Behrend has such a cool guy as its leader. I am sure Burke will receive many suggestions on how to improve Behrend. I have a few of my own for you, Burke. I think Behrend should be as cool as its new dean. Here's how to do it:

1. Behrend has the same mascot as University Park. How about something original? New school mascot: Sponge Bob Squarepants.
2. Change the name of our campus from the long-winded Penn State Erie, The Behrend College to: Penn State, the Bizzle Colizzle.
3. Pizza With the Provost is a good start. But it needs something extra. Pizza and Crystal With the Provost.
4. Music at Noon: featuring Nelly.
5. Change the school slogan from "We are Penn State" to: "Bling, Bling."
6. Move entire campus to Nevada.



Kevin Fallon

Goodbye, neighbor

A wonderful childhood friend of mine has passed. He was soft-spoken, kind, and always smiled. Fred Rogers died of stomach cancer Thursday at age 74. "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" ran on PBS for more than 30 years, the longest of any public television show (it beats "Sesame Street" by only a few years).

Always decked in a zip-up sweater, he taught my sister and I the values of being a good friend. Mr. Rogers never spoke loudly or shouted; his voice was always soothing.

Everyday he would take us to his kitchen to feed his fish. And of course, there was the random spotlight in his kitchen that really served no purpose that I recall. He took us around his neighborhood to different factories and shops. His website (pbskids.org/rogers) contains the same video clips I remember watching 16 years ago. Some things are just timeless.

I always anticipated the trolley arriving to take us to the World of Make Believe. Some of the puppets scared me;

Lady Elaine Fairchild and her crazy merry-go-round scared me (not to mention the striking resemblance she holds to my grandmother). Henrietta Pussycat was always sweet, but didn't speak a word of English. She, of course, lived in the tree next to X the Owl who never seemed to shut up. Daniel the Tiger was my favorite puppet. Living in a clock, he was a scared little kitten who had the same mentality I did as a 5-year-old. I also thought the two humans who lived in the

World were the coolest people ever (and for the life of me I can't remember their names).

Mr. McFeely (David Newell), the Speedy Delivery Man, made a career out of visiting Mr. Rogers once a day. The name, "McFeely," was actually Mr. Roger's middle name. Newell, still alive, served double duty as a prop guy on the set. The same cast of characters still remain on the show today, with the exception of some of the humans. Why change a good thing? While shows such as "Sesame Street"



Paige Miles

Interested in writing for the Beacon?
Come to our meetings at
41 Kochel
(Academic)
at 5:20 pm on Mondays.