

EDITORIAL

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The Behrend Beacon

The Behrend Beacon

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

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THE BEHREND
Beacon

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If you read this editorial in the next 10 minutes, I'll send you another one at no additional charge!

It's a warm spring night in a bedroom not too far away. At 3 a.m. the lights and TV are still on, and books are sprawled across a bed that hasn't been made in a week. A college student wakes up between the mess of notes and books that he was engaged in; drool on page 325, that's where he left off. Then, the TV speaks words of hope: "These knives will revolutionize the way you cook!"

Okay, perhaps waking up in the middle of the night isn't that dramatic, but that's more or less what happened. The important part of the story is the fact that somewhere, someone's life will improve dramatically if they pick up the phone in the next 10 minutes and it's all thanks to infomercials. If you haven't ever watched late-night TV, you are missing out on solutions to problems that plague the average American.

The sheer genius of infomercials can be first seen within its name. "Info," which is short for information, and "mercial," which is part of the word commercial, means that these segments are informative commercials. Combine the two words, and you have "infomercial." But I'm not going to stop there.

Have you ever wanted to live longer? Grow more hair? Cut through sheet metal with your steak knife? Use a car wax that can repel your laser beam? Add 250,000 miles of life to your car with one treatment? "Naturally" grow your breasts from an A-cup to a D-cup? "Naturally" lengthen your penis by at least 20 percent? Dehydrate anything in your kitchen? Have stronger abs, butt, and legs? Learn Spanish in a week? You see, with infomercials, you can accomplish these life-long goals, feel better about yourself,

and finally be admired by your peers.

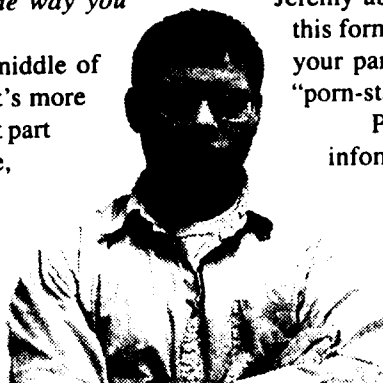
But don't take my word for it. Just ask Daisy Fuentes, who uses Winsor Pilates to shape up her body. Everyone knows back in the 90s when Fuentes was a swimsuit model and a host on MTV she was just unbearable to look at. Thanks to Winsor Pilates, Fuentes is now the epitome of firm and fit. Or ask Ron Jeremy about the new product "Extensis." He'll vouch that this formula makes your penis bigger and more desirable for your partner. Jeremy's name was never synonymous with "porn-star," so we can definitely trust him.

Pay special attention though, because the products on infomercials are not available in stores! Well, not today, anyway. Next week you'll see a display at Wal-Mart the size of your house with the happy red and white sticker that exclaims "as advertised on TV!" slapped all over the bottles of magic solutions to life's problems.

And that's not even the best part! All of these products are so affordable it isn't even funny. For only \$39.95 (a month for the next six months) you can have those firmer abs, or you can use your paring knife to cut a hole in your door and then slice up a tomato for a snack.

when your next-door neighbor is fiddling around with his laser beam and accidentally shoots your car, you can rest assured that your "Super Durawax 5000" has the situation under control.

So, read this editorial in the next 10 minutes, and I'll send you another one absolutely free. No gimmicks, no hassles, and if you don't like it, I'll refund 100 percent of your money, even shipping! Go for it! What have you got to lose?



Chew on this
Rob Wynne

managing editor

Wynne's column
appeared every three weeks.

Affirmative action—blatant racism

On April 1, some Behrend students protested in silence for affirmative action while the U. S. Supreme Court heard arguments over the constitutionality of the University of Michigan admission policy. In *Gatz v. Bollinger*, the arguments centered on the constitutionality of racial preferences for diversity purposes, specifically the University of Michigan point system. The U of M admission system awards 20 extra points, on a scale of 150, to applicants of disadvantaged minorities.

The Supreme Court has some precedence in affirmative action, especially admission policy. In the 1978 case of the University of California Regents v. Bakke, Bakke sued the University of California-Davis Medical School because he was not admitted in order to fill 16 minority spots, which were given to lesser students. His scores were higher than the minority students admitted to fill the racial quota, therefore he was not admitted simply because Bakke was white. The Supreme Court ruled Bakke should have been admitted to the school and declared racial quotas unconstitutional. Yet in the 5 to 4 decision, one justice, noted that race could be used as a factor in admission for diversity purposes. This caused split precedence.

The question is now whether or not the admission policy at the U of M is a

racial quota. I believe, racial quota or not, that the policy is unconstitutional. I'm not alone in my opinion; Clarence Thomas, the only black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court has found race preferences unconstitutional also. How can an institution blatantly discriminate against whites (and Asians since they are not considered a "disadvantaged minority")?

Blacks, Native Americans, and other groups are awarded 20 extra points for nothing other than not being white or Asian. This is discrimination. In essence, this is the same as taking 20 points away from whites and Asians for being white or Asian. This is blatant racism.

I remember studying about "Irish Need Not Apply" signs in our nation's early history. This was racist and outrageous. Now, years later, we should have "Whites and Asians Need Not Apply To the University of Michigan" signs. Am I the only one who thinks that the U of M admission policy is unconstitutional and racist?

Where does this idea of affirmative action come from? The answer is from President Kennedy. JFK coined the term "affirmative action" and described it as an attempt to integrate federally funded jobs. The idea and ultimate goal is to integrate all racial groups into all

social classes. If blacks constitute 12 percent of the US population, then they should make up twelve percent of the



Look, here's how it is
Guy Reschenthaler

editorial columnist

upper class, and so on. The idea is great and no one can argue with its good intent. The dream is as American as baseball. But the methods used to achieve such dreams are unconstitutional, unfair, and anything but American.

America should be a colorblind society, a meritocracy, where nothing matters besides a person's merit. All should be judged not by color, creed, sex, or any other factor other than character, in-

tellect, and ability. Most who support affirmative action supported this notion in the 1960s. Dr. Martin Luther King stated people should be evaluated "not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." These were great words from a great American.

Today, King's dream has been twisted and abused by Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and other demagogues. These leaders and those supporting affirmative action wish to give minorities special treatment in admissions and hiring practices. This is wrong.

These practices only offer short-term gains for minorities. A university can admit as many inner-city blacks as it wants, but if these college students lack the skills and knowledge of others, then they will never succeed in college or life.

The problem of inequality lays not in admission, but in schooling. If all received proper education and were given the knowledge and lessons needed to perform well academically, then there would be no need to offer applicants 20 points for being black.

As obvious as this point is to others and me, the protestors did not understand and engaged in hypocrisy. The students were protesting a policy, hoping it will someday achieve equality, while all the policy does is discriminate against them. If I were a minority, I'd be outraged that

the University of Michigan feels that I am so inferior intellectually that I would need 20 extra points just to keep up with whites and Asians. I'd be very insulted.

The protestors will tell you that they are staunch supporters of equality. But why then do they protest for a policy of inequality? The protesting students are all against racism and prejudice when it is against them, but support racism and prejudice against whites. The hypocrisy is too much to take.

Look, here's how it is: The protestors were protesting for an implied quota system that deems them inferior. Now that is racist, un-American, and unconstitutional. Trying to solve the problem of inequality with affirmative action is like trying to cut down a tree by tearing off the leaves. As a nation and a society we should strike at the root of the issue and try to better fund disadvantaged schools. We should try to have equality in education, not racism in admission practices. Let us all hope that the Supreme Court will declare racial preferences unconstitutional.

Reschenthaler's column
appeared every three weeks.

Everybody loves imperialism

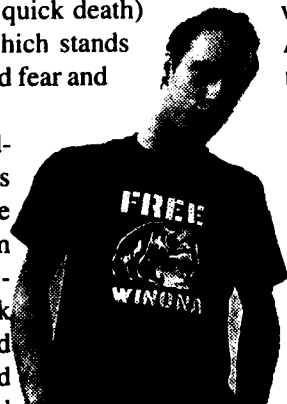
Surprise, surprise. America won. Take that, world.

I for one, feel a heck of a lot safer now. The nation, finally, was bumped down from "orange alert" (which stands for pray for a quick death) to "yellow alert," (which stands for live life in elevated fear and paranoia).

At first, I must admit, I was against this war. But now that we are kicking ass, I am on the war bandwagon. Last week U.S. troops marched into Baghdad and promptly knocked over Saddam's regime, as well as a big statue.

Knocking over the giant statue of Saddam in the middle of Baghdad was a very symbolic act, the United States likes to break stuff. After the statue fell many Iraqis started a wild celebration. And they went wild all right. It was like spring break in the desert without Snoop Dogg.

Anyway, it feels nice to show the world that the United States can do what ever it wants. And all those anti-war protesters won't be complaining when gas is 75 cents a gallon this sum-



Kevin Fallon

editor-in-chief

mer.

Everyone talks about imperialism like it's such a bad thing. But it has its benefits. For one, the United States reminded the United Nations who's the boss of this planet. And I'll give you a clue; it's not the French.

Watching it live on television, I couldn't help but feel warmth in my heart for all the liberated oil. Oops. I meant people, all the liberated people. The Iraqis jumped around the streets thanking troops and rejoicing in their newfound freedom. But the love did not last long. They hate us again.

Now that the United States must focus on rebuilding Iraq, may Iraqis, namely Shiite Muslim groups, are saying "no" to U.S. government and Starbucks involvement in the new government.

I understand the skepticism of many Iraqis. The United States may have ousted Saddam, but now it's up to the Iraqis to govern themselves. Iraq wants to maintain its own culture and customs. The main custom it wants to maintain is hating the United States.

Perhaps Iraq thinks that the United States wants to set up a little America

Jr. Someone should tell Iraq that we already have an America Jr. and its name is Canada. We don't want another. Iraq is a desert; the United States doesn't want anything to do with ruling it. Ruling is hard work; we just want the spoils of war. You know, the good stuff.

But you also have look at it from the United States' point of view. What is the point of getting rid of Saddam only to have him replaced with someone just as bad? I am sure that as long as the new Iraq does exactly what America wants, whenever it wants it, I am sure the U.S. will not mind the Iraqis ruling for themselves.

I mean, Iraq does not need to become just like America. It only needs to adopt a few universal truths of freedom such as: democracy, freedom of religion, free speech, free press, capitalism, consumerism, Christianity, materialism, obesity, Subway diets to battle obesity, McDonalds with freedom fries, Gap stores, Garth Brooks, the Backstreet Boys, pornography, Harry Potter, Pepsi, Ford Trucks, Wal-Mart, Hot Topic, Budweiser, Budweiser commercials that show girls mud wrestling in their underwear, monster truck rallies, Judge Judy, CSI Iraq, instant messenger, Marlboro Man, G.I. Joe, "Girls Gone Wild", and spoiled rich kids who

drag their parents to Ambercrombie and Fitch and make them buy expensive clothes that make the kids look poor, and MTV.

It also should replace all statues of Saddam with statues of Rudy Guiliani, start New York Yankees farm teams, watch Opera to get in touch with its inner-self, go to war with random countries, set up all-you-can-eat steak buffets, start an "American Idol" spin off titled "Iraqi Idol," and give all women blond hair, fake boobs, and low-self esteem. Also, all children must own at least two out of three of the following: X Box, Game Cube, and

Playstation 2. You know the basic human freedoms.

Iraq just needs to keep one thing in mind: If the U.S. could topple a blood-thirsty tyrant who had the country under his iron fist in a matter of weeks, just imagine what it could do to the new government.

On that note: Enjoy your freedom Iraq!

