

# EDITORIAL

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The Behrend Beacon

## The Behrend Beacon

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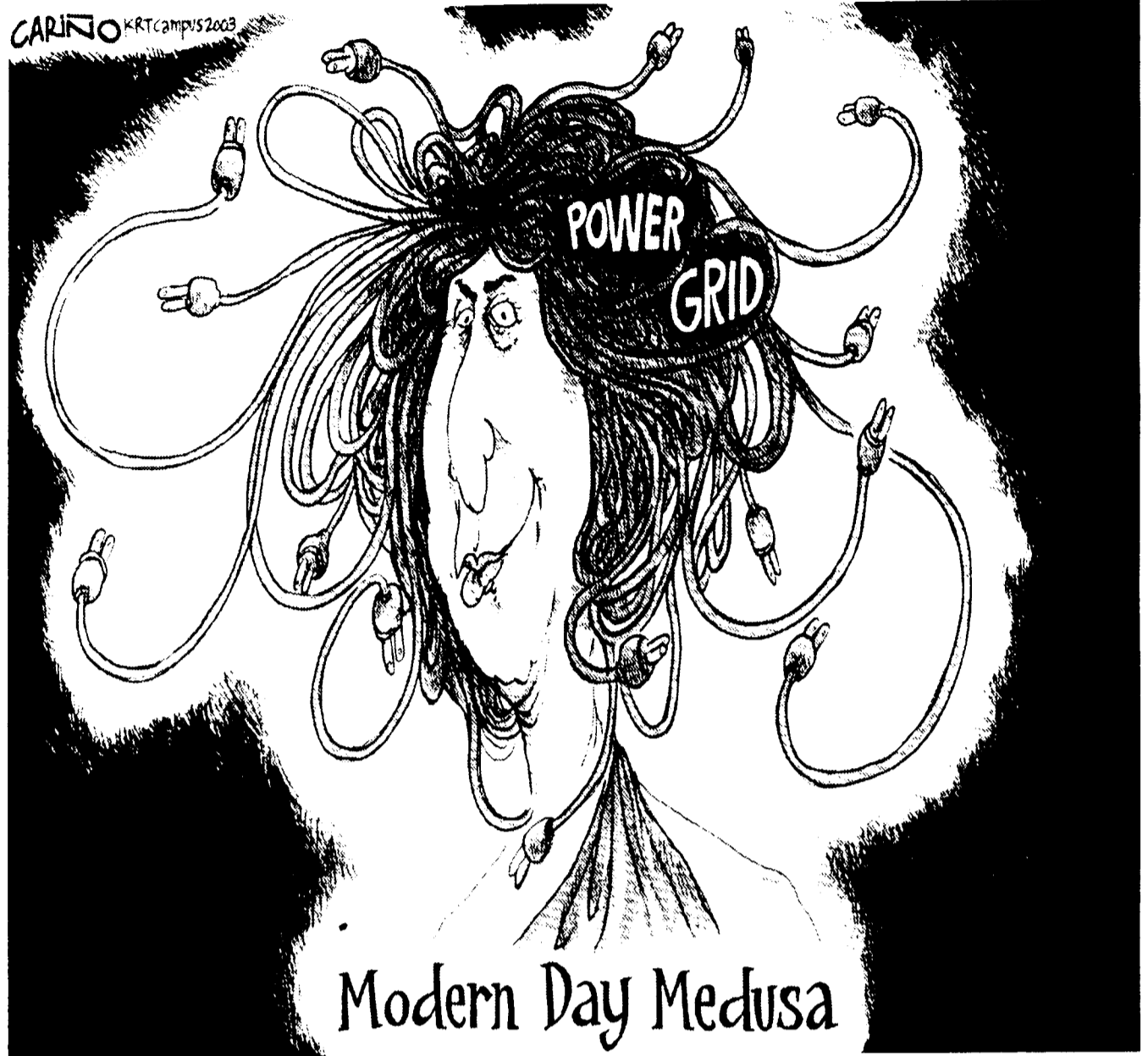
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## Look, here's how it is...

Would you be offended if I said, "For my race everything, for those outside the race nothing"? Complaints would pour into the Beacon office, students and faculty would demand my removal, and I would probably receive some threats. I'm not worried though, I would never say such a racist thing. Yet a gubernatorial candidate in California made such remarks just a few days ago. The man in question is Current Lt. Governor of California, Cruz Bustamante, who just happens to be making a bid for Governor.

Although Bustamante appears strong in the polls, he has some dark secrets; he has ties to a racist Latino organization. While attending Fresno State University in the 1970s, Cruz Bustamante joined the Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan (MECha). The group demands California be returned to Mexico, often uses violence, and rallies around the motto, "For the race, everything. For those outside the race, nothing." Make no mistake about it; MECha is the Ku Klux Klan of the Latino world.

Bustamante, while appearing on Fox News, August 31, was given four opportunities to retract racist statements he made as a MECha activist, but failed. Bustamante would not even admit that MECha is a racist organization. The thing that strikes me is the media's lack of attention to Bustamante's shady and prejudice past. If Arnold Schwarzenegger were to have made such remarks, outrage and criticism would litter the news scene for weeks. Trent Lott lightly alluded to Strom Thurman's stance on segregation and had his chances for upward political mobility abruptly halted.

Why then have the media and public not rightly criticized Bustamante? Why is Bustamante not held to the same standard as white politicians? There are several explanations. One is the media's bias that slants horribly toward the left. CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, and other news outlets always keep racist comments hush-hush when spewing from a liberal. It is no surprise that the Democrat, Bustamante, is treated with kid gloves while Arnold is heat to hell.

I like this reasoning, but I know that the issue is larger. The media reflects its society, so we must dig deeper. We need to look at our values and beliefs as a nation to understand this issue completely. This is why I am going to point to a trend developing in our culture.

The trend, the reason for the lack of attention, is due to the double standard to which minorities are held. When it comes to racial issues, minorities are always portrayed as victims, never perpetrators. Have you noticed how it is somehow hip and cool for minorities to stereotype whites, make racist jokes about whites, and to nonchalantly throw around racial slurs against whites? Every time I turn on BET there is a black comedian making fun of white people. The jokes are not funny and are blatantly wrong. I myself have witnessed this double standard.

While working at a waterpark this summer I heard a guest, a small child, say to his father, "Dad, you know what's wrong with this place? There's too many white people here." After the son made this comment, his father and mother laughed for about five minutes. People around the child even laughed. How racist was that? I was shocked. If a white child said that, people would be aghast. Why do we have this double standard? Why can Bustamante get

away with making racial statements? If anyone makes a racist statement, then they should be torn apart in the news. The news outlets should highlight the issue and expose racists for the little people they are. The media, public, and society at large should not tolerate racism from anyone.

We as Americans are heading down the wrong path. Maybe I should rephrase that, we as Americans are heading down different paths, and that is bad. In today's American society, we are paying too much attention to diversity, ancestry, and heritage. This mind set is like a plague, a plague that if left to spread, will only weaken our great nation.

This sociologic trend, this spreading plague, has even permeated Behrend College. All I hear about here is diversity. We have the Multi Cultural Council (MCC), the "umbrella" organization for every diversity group on campus. Such organizations include the Asian Student Organization (ASO), the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), the Human Relations Programming Council (HRPC), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), the Returning Adult Student Organization (RASO), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Trigon (a gay/lesbian/bisexual support group), and Women Today. These groups set out to celebrate diversity and each group's uniqueness. Trigon, RASO, and HRPC, have good reasoning behind them and do have noble agendas, but not the others. The other groups claim to support unity among different ethnic groups, but how can they achieve such a goal when, by their very nature, they divide the student body? How can we come together while promoting differences? Why must these groups label and segregate on matters of color and ethnicity? Why is there a National Society of Black Engineers? Can there be a National Society of Engineers, or is that too inclusive?

These clubs rally around their mission statements of inclusion and acceptance, yet fail miserably. By creating groups based upon race and heritage, they naturally alienate others and stunt unity. These groups constantly remind students how essential it is to have the ability to work well with students from different backgrounds. I agree totally with this fact. Yet, these clubs stick to themselves and therefore stunt and hinder their own education. They fail to work with students of different ethnicities and therefore deprive themselves of acceptance and cooperation lessons. They, by their very existence, defeat their own purposes.

In the 1960s, Martin Luther King Jr. worked hard and championed integration. In a world where the white majority segregated the minority, King and his followers were brave and proud enough to demand an end to the evil practice. His dream was to form an integrated society where everyone was

equal, where everyone came together as one. King was a great man and helped many people.

Yet in the years since King's progress, we now see an undoing of his noble dream. Every year in May, the media reports of separate proms for blacks and whites and separate college graduation ceremonies for blacks and other minority groups. The minorities are now segregating themselves from the white majority. These acts are just as wrong and evil as the segregation imposed on blacks in the pre-1960s South.

I'm just surprised that I'm the first Beacon editorialist to point to this hypocrisy, on our campus and in our nation. Does anyone out there feel the same way? Is anyone sick and tired hearing about different cultures? I'm tired of it. I'm exhausted with everyone trying to promote their ancestor's homelands. I'm sick and tired of Americans trying to identify themselves with other cultures and other lands.

We all should remember why our ancestors came to the United States—because the places from which they came sucked! My ancestors came from Germany, Austria, Scotland, and England. Why? Because, Germany, Austria, Scotland, and England sucked! Italy sucked even more and it still does. Ireland was no real winner either. You know why all the Irish came over here? Because there wasn't even enough food in Ireland to feed everybody. China sucked pretty badly; India does too. Mexico and Cuba, horrible nations. France, don't even get me started.

What I'm trying to say is that there was a reason for our ancestor's immigration to America. The reason was that America was better than foreign lands. The "old countries" were unstable, miserable, poverty ridden, hellholes with little chance for upward mobility. America was stable, affluent, and offered many opportunities for improvement. This is why we are all here.

The standing exceptions to this axiom are those Americans with African or Native American heritage. But let's all face it, who would want to live in Africa? Every time Africa is on the news people are either shooting each other in some bloody civil war or starving to death in some fly and dung infested village. For Native Americans: all they were doing before the Europeans came were killing each other. Their culture had not even invented the wheel. I know it is a popular belief that there was some sort of Garden of Eden here before the white explorers conquered this continent, but that is all false. If you do not believe me, study the Aztecs; they were a bloody and brutal lot who enslaved thousands; no better than the Europeans who conquered them.

We need to relax on the cultural diversity. Why stress it? We only have one culture and that is the American one. Our culture and nation was influenced by practically every other culture in the world from the European, Asian, African, and so on. That is what makes us so great. We are one people, with one culture, that is composed of people and

customs from every culture. Multiple customs, traditions, values, and beliefs, join us into one.

We take the best the world has to offer and make it our own. Think about it this way...you bite into a McDonald's burger and think to yourself, "Wow, this is a good burger." You then ponder, "Where did this concept of burger patty on a bun originate?" Your mind leads you to the obvious conclusion, Germany. Then as you eat the burger you remind yourself that it was made in America by an American, working for an American company. "Boy, oh boy," you think, "the United States took the hamburger from German immigrants, improved it, and now makes the best burger in the world!" We not only make the best burgers, we sell the most burgers in the world. We sell our favorite fast food meal to nations across the world from China to Egypt to, yes, even Germany. America took something that was not hers and made it better. This is the story of our nation.

I now turn back to California politics. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a great man, an immigrant from Austria who came to the United States for a better life. He found it and is now trying to give back to his nation. He unites, not divides like Lt-Governor Bustamante. Like always, America took the best from a foreign land and made it her own. America accepted immigrant Schwarzenegger and turned him into the American he is today.

Look, here's how it is: We have become so sensitive about cultural diversity in this nation that we have let a double standard evolve that lets racists run and hold public office. We have started to let our differences divide us rather than unite us. Americans need to realize that we are not Mexicans, Germans, Africans, or whatever. We are all Americans. We are one land with one people. The next time you walk past the MCC office, think about their hypocrisy, think about how their presence divides our campus. The next time you hear Busamante or another racist speak ill of other races, remind yourself of their destructive and evil influences.

If we can forget about all our perceived differences, if we can stop highlighting and glorifying other cultures, the faster this melting pot can melt. Besides, we need to remember who has the best culture of all, America. Let's celebrate that.

The opinions of Guy Reschenthaler are his own and in no way reflect those of the Beacon staff or its advertisers.

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

Welcome to another year of the Beacon. Whether you are a loyal reader or the occasional "kill time before class" reader, this year's staff promises to provide a great read. With the addition of myself as the new editor-in-chief, along with seven new section editors and a devoted staff of writers, we plan to take a different approach this year. Our goal as a staff is to bring you, the reader, more coverage of what's going on around the Behrend campus and community. We want to bring you coverage that matters. We want to stay away from boring and irrelevant stories.

We want to deliver more human interest stories, focusing on Behrend's great student body.

News editors Courtney Straub and Justin Curry have new story ideas and are working hard to investigate the deeper issues of Behrend. Arts and Entertainment editor Dan Stasiewski will continue to bring you the buzz in the entertainment arena both at Behrend and in the community. Sports editors Kevin Fiorenza and Amy Frizzell look to deliver great coverage of the sporting events that readers and Behrend athletes have come to expect. Features editor Erika Jarvis and Health Page editor Leacy Sauer have planned new and improved human interest stories.

In addition to our news stories, we want to hear from you, the students. The Beacon encourages letters to the editors on any subject or in response to any published article.

As always, the Beacon is a student run and student published newspaper. All students are welcome to be part of the staff, whether it be news writing, layout and production, or photography.

Whatever your role, either staff or reader, I encourage you to pick up a copy every Friday.

Lauren M. Packer,  
Editor-in-Chief

**Show your parents that you actually did something in college.**

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[Behrcoll2@aol.com](mailto:Behrcoll2@aol.com)

**Include your name, major, and semester standing.**