

Friday, September 26, 2003

The Behrend Beacon

## The Behrend Beacon

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

Editor-in-Chief  
Lauren Packer

Managing Editor  
Robert Wynne

Ass't. Managing Editor  
Scott Soltis

News Editor  
Courtney Straub

Assistant News Editor  
Justin Curry

Sports Editors  
Kevin Fiorenzo  
Amy Frizzell

Editorial Page Editor  
Eileen Falkenberg

Features Editor  
Erika Jarvis

Staff Photographers  
Jeff Hankey  
Heather Myers



"A newspaper by the  
students for the students"

Advertising Manager  
Ryan Russell

Calendar Page Editor  
Amy Wilczynski

A&E Editor  
Daniel J. Stasiewski

Healthy Living Editor  
Leacy Sauer

Advisor  
Cathy Roan

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. Contact The Beacon at:

Telephone: (814) 898-6488  
Fax: (814) 898-6019  
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](mailto:behrcoll2@aol.com). Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for length, content, libel, spelling, and grammar.

## Perseverance

With all that has happened in the two years I have been a student at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, you would think that a normal 18-22 year old would want to give up.

The series of events that devastated our campus as well as those nationwide began when cowardly terrorist killed those innocent civilians in New York City. Every student that has been here over the past two years can tell you where they were the exact moment that the planes hit the towers.

Instead of seeing our campus community divide, they pulled together. Forums were held that all students of all backgrounds came to show unity. The phrase 'We Are Penn State' came to mind as we rallied together to support one another though those trying times.

Next we as students had to experience war. We struck back against those who attacked us in Afghanistan. Friends, family members, and current and former students went and served their country to try and keep it safe. They succeeded. This was a trying time for our student body, never knowing what was going to happen to their loved ones. Again we pulled together.

I remember seeing a picture of a Behrend alumni holding a copy of our Behrend Beacon student newspaper, with a backdrop of endless sand, and with a gun by his side. This picture instilled a part of Penn State Pride, never seen before.

After this our nation decided that it would be in our best interests to launch a war against Iraq. Again the will of the College was tested. Again, our college could have split in two in this controversial issue. Instead I saw us focus on what was important.

Several students were pulled out of classes to go serve our nation. It no longer became an argument about whether the decision to go after Iraq was right or wrong it was about the soldiers, our soldiers. Whether students wanted the U.S. to pull out of Iraq or those of us who wanted to see a swift victory, we all wanted to see our Penn State Family re-united safely.

With all of these distractions and worries on the minds of all of us, there was another, less evident threat. The lackluster economy has made it difficult for many graduates to obtain jobs.

When economies are hurting, it's easy to see the men and women with families that are being laid-off. It's much harder to see the plight of the graduating students that have to wait to even begin families and are buried under college debt.

Again, our students turned an adversity into an opportunity.

More and more of our graduates are going on to Graduate school, or coming back to Behrend to add a major to their degree. We realize that these tough times will pass

and we will be ready to seize the opportunities that arise.

Adding to the woes of our student body is a lack of support from our state legislature come budget time. The Commonwealth continues to see college students as an easy place to make cuts. As a result of this, a junior or senior from Pennsylvania is paying over \$10,000 in tuition alone for a 'state-related school'. This is leading to an exurbanite amount of debt upon graduation and transition into the "real world".

This is slowly starting to motivate our students to mobilize in the political process. I realize that typically our age group is generally the worst when it comes to voter turnout. However, I am optimistic that since students are beginning to understand just how much the government affects our everyday lives, the student vote will make an impact in the next round of elections.

We, as students, have faced many challenges in a short amount of time. We have shown time and time again that we only become strong when faced with adversity. We persevere through challenges and are tougher for making it through them. Our mood is one that we can face anything, and make it through better for it.

The future here at Penn State Behrend is a bright one. Issues are being brought up, talked about, and addressed. Students are facing issues and overcoming them. We are graduating, and shaping the face of this Commonwealth as well as our great nation. We are Penn State and together we will make it through anything that can be thrown at us, and will continue to be a nationwide example of what a college should be.

## Deep Thoughts (This Space For Sale)

Being the ad manager for *The Behrend Beacon* is a fantastic job. Nice resume-builder, plus I get to work with some awesome communication majors. For those of you who don't know, we communication majors are the ones who are always at the bars, usually screaming about how cold it is in

Library 12. I love doing this, and hope to continue in this type of field after I graduate. Either that, or join in Crazy Newspaper Face's campaign to make the Boiler Hall a better place for everyone to live. Hey, everyone has to have goals.

And as *Beacon* advertising manager, I do. Unfortunately, there are weeks where I am unable to bring in the amount of advertising revenue that is asked of me. For my first editorial, I had planned a scathing expose on what the construction crew was really building, (Think of the possibilities if Jimmy of Jimmy Z's fame had gotten that permit...) but due to lack of advertising in this week's issue, I have decided to sell interview time here in the confines of my editorial to the highest bidders. I will be interviewing some of the best and brightest stars we have forgotten, and I hope you enjoy the ride. Remember, they paid for this so we can continue running the *Beacon*.

First up, we have a Hall of Fame inductee, Chicago Cubs broadcaster, and

all-around good guy, Harry Caray.

**Ryan:** Harry, it's great to have you on the phone. You've been my idol for a long time now, and have officially replaced Scott Soltis, SGA President, as the most famous person who has ever paid cash for me to interview them over the phone. What have you been up to?

**Harry:** Hey Mr. Burke, how ya' doin? Sorry about that whole incident with the Durango and my PLET book at last year's faculty party. That's why my friends call me Peaches.

**Ryan:** What are you talking about?

**Harry:** It's a simple question, Norm! If a Durango was made out of peaches, and you could eat it with a PLET book, would you? Or do you want to live with an RA in Lawrence Hall?

**Ryan:** I suppose I would eat the Durango made of peaches.

**Harry:** Good call, Ryan. If you had chosen Lawrence Hall, I would have taken out my case of Milwaukee's Best Special Reserve Light and made you drink a few.

**Ryan:** That's great, Harry. \$8.99 a 30-pack and you have some with you. It's 9 a.m.

**Harry:** I know Biff, nothing like partying like you go to Edinboro.

At this point, I heard some incoherent rambling, and then snoring, so I assumed the interview was over and hung up, \$75 dollars richer for the *Beacon*.

Finally, the other interview I was paid to do was from another old favorite, MacGyver.

**Ryan:** Mac, what's been happening since 1988?

**Mac:** Ryan, I need a *Beacon*, two rolls of toilet paper, a MET book, two chicken cosmos from Dobbins, three locks of hair from your business manager, and the pants from your advertising manager.

**Ryan:** Why?

**Mac:** I need to stop Murdoch's plan to destroy Behrend via his phony front of a construction crew. They already have control of your elevator/staircase! The Reed Union building is next!

**Ryan:** Do you realize that I am the advertising manager?

**Mac:** Do you realize that the fate of Behrend rests on your pants?

**Ryan:** Ok then, I can get everything but the MET book. Can you use a COMMU book?

**Mac:** No, I need something of substance and value. If I needed a COMMU book, I could just grab some TPS reports from the Phoenix Foundation.

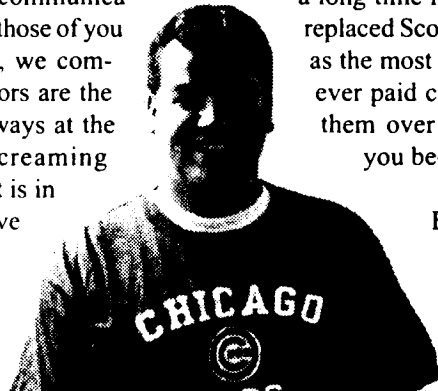
**Ryan:** That hurts, MacGyver. Right here. So how is your mullet these days?

**Mac:** Touché. Its fine, a nice Kentucky Waterfall these days.

**Ryan:** And why didn't you ever get any from all the hotties that were on your show?

**Mac:** Interview over.

And then he hung up the phone. At least I got his \$50, albeit in rolls of quarters. I hope he stops Murdoch's evil plans. And I need to find more advertisements for the paper.



**Ryan Russell**

## File swapping under fire: is Kazaa kaput?

article courtesy of  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

What would it take to dissuade nearly 60 million Americans from swapping songs over the Internet? Probably a lot more than filing lawsuits against preteen honors students.

But a spate of music industry lawsuits against file swappers seems to have been an effective start — even if it won't prompt a majority of them to kick their Kazaa habit.

The nation's largest record labels targeted 261 Internet users with music-piracy claims this month, including a 12-year-old middle-school student from New York.

Hundreds more lawsuits are likely, with the penalties for using Internet software to pirate copyrighted music ranging from \$750 to \$150,000 a song.

The eye-popping fines are a legal shot heard round the nation's family rooms, home offices, and college dorms. Whether or not school-age downloaders are chastened — indeed, many shrug off

the suits — it's a safe bet that plenty of parents have ordered file-sharing software removed from the family PC.

In that respect, the antipiracy campaign of the Recording Industry Association of America has succeeded: It has the public's attention. It has renewed the nation's conversation on the ethical and legal issues posed by online file sharing.

That discussion is needed, as it becomes more apparent that Internet song swapping isn't as innocent as it seemed in the infancy of file-sharing technology (all of four years ago). Trolling the Internet for your favorite tune — be it by Britney, the Beatles, or Bach — was just like taping a song from the radio, only more convenient. Besides, weren't CD sales still robust?

Today, though, the musical landscape is more bleak. Recording industry annual revenues have plunged by one-third since 1999. Was the decline, in part, due to music industry greed that until only lately kept CD prices absurdly high? You bet. But the other factor in the sales dive

must be Napster-type software.

Copyright laws don't just protect megabucks corporations and singers who preen on MTV Cribs. They also protect struggling composers and artists. It's no longer possible to view file sharing just as a free-spirited byproduct of the Internet.

That doesn't mean the eventual solution is an avalanche of lawsuits against 13-year-olds. The music industry's legal strategy has pitfalls, chiefly, the likely public backlash.

Threatening youngsters with excessive fines — penalties granted the industry by an overly compliant Congress — smacks of bullying.

What music makers need is a carrot to go with the stick. That is, they should be rolling out a full line of commercial services that permit Internet users to sample and then purchase downloaded music legally, for reasonable prices.

Going after music swappers in court was, lamentably, perhaps a necessary first step. But going after their online business is the only long-term answer.

## Air Force Academy assault scandals

article courtesy of the  
*Detroit Free Press*

One of the nation's elite institutions turned opportunity into nightmare for dozens of women who went there to serve their country. The entire American military is disgraced by what happened at the Air Force Academy, and the school should be ashamed for fostering a climate that allowed it.

The treatment of female cadets was barbaric, the damage to the military incalculable.

Two recent reports attest to the trouble. In a Department of Defense survey of 579 women cadets, one in five said they had been a victim of some form of assault, typically by another cadet. But only 19 per-

cent were willing to report such incidents; the rest didn't trust academy authorities to protect them.

In a report released Monday, a civilian commission set up by Congress accused academy leaders of creating a culture that did not protect female recruits.

The findings validated the claims of current and former female cadets who said they were penalized after reporting incidents of assault.

Women account for only 2,921 of the 36,010 Air Force Academy graduates since 1980. Given what they evidently endured, these women are a remarkable lot. The modern military could use more like them — and that makes the academy scandal even worse.



# Get extra credit for your classes.

Send a letter to  
the editor!

**Behrcoll2  
@aol.com**

Include your  
name, major, and  
semester standing.