

## 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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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.

## The rise and fall of our nation's greatest leader

ERIE, Pa. (Oct. 28, 2003) – Ryan Russell, 21, of Sugar Grove, PA, announced yesterday to 15 people sitting on the Reed Union Building couches that he is running for President of the United States.

The announcement quickly sent shockwaves throughout the establishment in Washington, D.C. "This could be the biggest Presidential upset since Marsha Brady beat me out for student council president in high school," said former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, an early 2004 presidential front-runner. "If only he was eligible to run before the 2020 election."

Even former President Bill Clinton weighed in on Russell's announcement. "Good luck to the kid, I hope he wins. Better not have inhaled, though. Where did I put my Oreos?"

Since he can't officially run, Russell will be campaigning on the independent write-in ticket. He held a press conference in the bookstore earlier this week, about 45 minutes after he announced his candidacy. At the press conference, Russell laid the foundation for his campaign issues, and took questions from stunned students and Bruno's management as well.

Russell's main plans are to connect with today's disengaged youth, piggybacking their support into the biggest keg party/inaugural ball the White House has ever seen. "Today's youth don't care about politics, and neither do I," said the surprisingly charismatic Russell. "All we care about is what Jessica Simpson is going to say next, or when Ashton Kutcher is going to show Demi the cameras. Seriously, is she that dumb?"

ERIE, Pa (Nov. 1, 2003) – 2004 presidential nominee Ryan Russell announced more of his political agenda today amid allegations of his checkered past.

"Ok, we were up all night drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon, and we decided on a rally song for the campaign. Ready for this? It's 'Any Way You Want It,' by Journey," said the man who also announced his cat, Peaches, as the ambassador to Police and Safety. "We wanted a song with a good beat to it, one that today's youth can enjoy without any of the sexual overtones so prevalent in rap music."

Russell then fielded questions from reporters, who didn't hesitate to ask how he felt about various hot-button issues that will undoubtedly shape the 2004 election. When asked how he thinks the war on drugs is going, Russell was quick to answer. "You know, it's funny, I've done some drugs in my day, and I don't know how they keep this program going."

"Basically, the government is engaged

in a war against drug dealers and drug users. It has been since Reagan was President," said Russell. "So what that means is, the government of the United States, the most powerful nation in the world, hasn't been able to win a war against a bunch of people who get high and then order a pizza or four. Something is wrong there, and I'm just the man to clean it up."

The discussion turned ugly when a reporter brought up the rumor that Russell had recently watched "Old School" and told

a close confidant that he found it "stupid." Russell steadfastly disagreed with the rumor. "Old School" is the best Snoop Dog movie about a naked man running down the road I have ever seen. I can't believe it didn't win a People's Choice Award."

ERIE, Pa. (Nov. 7, 2003) – 2004 presidential candidate Ryan Russell tearfully dropped out of the election race today.

He cited the rumors of his dislike of the movie "Old School," a growing addiction to the country bar Papa George's and a heavy dependency on Pabst Blue Ribbon beer as the main reasons for ending his campaign run, which was well into its 11th day.

Russell made his announcement to a group of stunned faculty members in the Kocheil Building MISC lounge, breaking down into tears on the podium, spilling his PBR all over a discarded "Intro To Thermofom Design" textbook that had somehow ended up on the humanities side of campus.

"It's just become too hard in these last few days to focus on the real issues," sobbed a despondent Russell. "How was I supposed to know that being president would have been a full-time job? All I ever hear about G.W. is that he's on vacation in Texas, or had to quit his job as a football commentator because he was hooked on OxyContin. I thought the job would give me a cool place to drink PBR and watch Judge Joe Brown."

With Russell dropping out, the race for the 2004 Presidency seems wide open, and the remaining candidates know it. "Thank God he got hooked on the PBR," said some Canadian guy who might run for President. "It's the most highly addictive substance in Canada outside of bacon. I hope he makes a full recovery."

"It's too bad," bemoaned Russell's campaign manager, Jim of "Camp Jim" fame. "He could have done some serious damage to the leftist political elite high on Capitol Hill in Washington. We would have gotten to see Ryan being real. Cameras on or cameras off, it would have been Ryan being real."

## Our view: It's about time

Earlier this week President George W. Bush signed a bill into law that made partial-birth abortions illegal. It is important to remember that this is only the end of one form of abortion and is no way an overturning of Roe v. Wade.

All views expressed hereafter are strictly about the brutal procedure that was just outlawed. If there was one type of abortion that needed to be stopped, it was this type. This was a long-overdue ban on a horrible and now criminal procedure.

For those of you unfamiliar with the procedure of late-term abortion, it is the abortion of an almost fully developed baby. (Any reader with a very weak stomach should skip over the next few lines.) What used to happen during the procedure was that the baby was almost fully delivered through the birth canal and near the end of the "delivery," the doctor would puncture the child's skull and suck out their brain.

Remember, this is not just an egg and sperm that just hooked up, or some little thing that looks more like an alien

this is a child, who was almost fully developed, until this brutal procedure killed them.

The banning of this abomination came with bipartisan support from both houses of Congress. It's good to see that Washington can actually accomplish good things when they can put aside their partisan politics. This was a clear cut case of right and wrong, and the right decision was made.

Unfortunately for most people in this country, who do not want to see this violent procedure take place, there is still a chance that the bill may be overturned. Shortly after President Bush finished comments about the signing of the bill into law, a federal judge in Nebraska challenged its Constitutionality.

We hope, the challenge will not make it as far as the Supreme Court, but right now the bill's future is unclear. Unfortunately, it has become easier and easier to play games with the Constitution in recent years and apply it to situations like this.

It is highly unlikely that when the

Founding Fathers wrote the framework for this great nation, that they wanted it to give people license to kill babies. Every time the Constitution is twisted for obscene purposes, it weakens the foundation of the United States. If this bill is somehow declared unconstitutional, it will be a sad day to be an American.

Fortunately, for now, it is illegal to commit the atrocity known as partial-birth abortion. This is a move that was long overdue, but nevertheless crucial. It is sad to think of the babies that this ban came too late for, as well as the women who had the procedure done to them.

The moratorium on partial-birth abortions will benefit those of today as well as future generations. The Beacon staff applauds Congress and the president for taking this step to protect the nation and her children.

Beacon's editorial opinion is determined by majority view of the editorial staff.



## Letter to the editor:

I just wanted the Beacon staff to know that I LOVED the Halloween page in the Oct. 31 edition of the Beacon. It was nice to see something festive and also something different. It was really informative and interesting. Really, who knew that we consume that much candy in a three day period? I just want to thank the editor and editor in chief for running that page, and I hope to see more festive pages, with more fun tidbits of information.

Charity Marsh,  
Management 05

## Free in the flesh and nearly enslaved in the spirit Tour

by Hans Zeiger  
The Seattle Times

Fresh from his failed California gubernatorial campaign, pornographer Larry Flynt recently lectured at college campuses around the country as part of an effort by the American Civil Liberties Union to recruit students to join their lethal cause. In the past few weeks, Flynt has made celebrity appearances at Harvard University, the University of Miami and the University of California at Berkeley.

"Freedom of speech is not for the thought you love but for the thought you hate the most," Flynt declared to one audience. Hate speech is the appropriate label for the "musical" talents who joined Flynt on the ACLU's 2003 "College Freedom Tour."

Singers included the rapper Mystic, pop underground artists Phantom Planet, and black supremacist rappers Dead Prez whose top-40 lyrics include such un-edifying lines as "Turn this m\_f\_ing sh-up," "F\_ the Bible," and "The only good cop is a dead cop... Every police is a punk a\_b\_." No wonder in the midst of the ACLU tour, members of Dead Prez were arrested for disorderly conduct and refusing to comply with New York police officers.

College Freedom Tour organizer and ACLU executive director Anthony Romero explained to the Christian Science Monitor, "this is an investment in future generations." Besides Harvard, Berkeley and Miami, campus tour stops included the University of Maryland, City University of New York, New School University, University of Massachusetts, University of Wisconsin and University of Washington.

At each campus, the ACLU displayed an MTV-style documentary glorifying the history of the ACLU and giving prideful attention to the ACLU's infamous 1978 defense of Nazi parade organizers in Skokie, Illinois.

According to Romero, ACLU membership has grown by one third to 400,000 since 2001. Due to the ACLU's renewed focus on reaching out to Generation Y, an increasing number of members are young people whose zeal for leftist causes is cultivated by their professors and the anti-traditional culture.

In addition to the cultural influences that are working in a thousand directions to dissuade young people from the preservation of American order, the ACLU is doing everything it can to nurture the roots of a budding generation of radicals. "Freedom is why we're here," declares the College Freedom Tour Website. Of course, for the ACLU, freedom is defined as the ability to do whatever one chooses. And as Larry Flynt would define freedom, it is the ability to do whatever one chooses that traditional civil society will "hate the most."

If freedom is in jeopardy, it is not the freedom to express the "thought you hate the most," that finds itself at risk. Instead, we are losing the freedom of the lovely and beautiful things whose greatest expression is not of the flesh, but of the spirit.

Both left and right warn of a general slackening of freedom. But I am not so concerned about a declension of freedom as I am worried about the death of moral duty that plagues the souls of a generation of Americans. I am not so despondent about the hyperbolized warnings about civil liberties and the

right to choose and the right to a job and the right to education and the right to health care and so on; I am decidedly outraged by the culture of irresponsibility whose highest expressions are found in the vile raps of Dead Prez, the filthy smut of Larry Flynt, the noisome new doctrines of higher education and the quietly communistic agenda of the ACLU.

Only a people that is free in a perverted way can give such glory to the things of the flesh while neglecting the spiritual responsibility upon which true freedom depends. If it were true freedom for which we strived in our music, our education, our press and our courts, we would speak more freely of the things of the spirit.

We find ourselves free in the flesh and nearly enslaved in the spirit because we have failed to recognize both the source of our freedom and the imperative of our obligations. We have arrogantly assumed that we can forget God while receiving an infinite selection of blessings from some unknown source.

America's college campuses are already awash in the false faith of ethical neutrality. The ACLU is exploiting the fields ripe for its harvest. Sadly, those of us who've been called to labor in the spiritual harvest are neglecting our duty, and a generation of Americans is growing up without a conscience, without the courage to fight the rampage of the left.

Where are the preachers and teachers of honor and character on our college and university campuses to stand against the purveyors of hate who rule the culture? Clearly, it is time for a counter-revolution to revive our culture, to renew freedom in the spirit where it really matters.

show your parents and  
your future  
employer you did  
something in college...

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