


# OPINION

## The Behrend Beacon

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



**Daniel J. Stasiewski, Editor in Chief**  
**Amy Frizzell, Managing Editor**  
**Courtney Kaplin, Advertising Manager**  
**Alyssa Peconi, Public Relations Manager**  
**Dr. Cathy Roan, Adviser**

**News Editor**  
 Brad Stewart

**Student Life Editor**  
 Lori DeFabio

**Assistant News Editor**  
 Dan Snedden

**Calendar Page Editor**  
 Rob Frank

**Sports Editors**  
 Sam Cibula  
 Shay Kamber

**Copy Editor**  
 Lacy Buzard  
 Jenn Haight

**Opinion Page Editor**  
 Andy McNeil

**Beacon Assistant**  
 Carolyn M. Tellers

.....

**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.

# Mayhem, chaos consume campus

The Police and Safety weekly report is one of my greatest sources of amusement in the Beacon. If you don't normally take the time to stay up-to-date with Behrend's criminal activities, please, turn to page two now and enlighten yourself.

This week has an especially large list of reported activities. I took it upon myself to flip through past copies of the Beacon and document the campus' history of crime. As the list of delinquency grew, reciprocally did my faith in humanity lessen.

Whether it is stolen blue jeans or an intoxicated student urinating in front of the campus apartments, Behrend appears to be unable and unwilling to create a crime-free atmosphere. As the popular saying goes, rules are meant to be broken, a statement in which I can sometimes agree. But is it really necessary damage your fellow student's vehicle?

The majority of delinquent acts documented on campus were those involving students' mode of transportation. CD's were stolen, cars were keyed, side-view mirrors damaged, spoilers, mufflers and hubcaps removed.

I'll be the first to admit that I find some spoilers and mufflers and hubcaps obnoxious



**Brad Stewart**

*new editor*

and believe that "supping" up one's car is simply accessorizing a giant hunk of metal and plastic (Police and Safety, it wasn't me)—but some people take extreme pleasure in beautifying their cars, so who am I to judge? Who am I to rip off their mufflers while they're ignorantly slumbering in their dorms?

The most disconcerting part in the whole thieving story is that Behrend ranks as an institute of higher learning—a center for academe. We students are the future of America and yet we can't

keep our hands to ourselves. What do these Police and Safety reports say about us as critical thinkers?

Though, keeping an elevated moral code in the twenty-first century becomes increasingly difficult. Corporate scandals, defunct role models, television shows that reward sex and violence make it hard to follow the path of straight and narrow. If Bill Clinton and Reverend Jesse Jackson cheat on their wives why shouldn't I?

I think Martha Stewart's conviction was a sign that our country is headed in a direction that will very much resemble a Freudian takeover of the id. The superego seems to be continually squashed and lost in the presence of sex and war.

I know you're probably thinking, no Brad, our society is headed to a happy place—stealing items that don't belong to me is fine; urinating on lawns is OK; destroying property isn't that big of a deal. And you'd be right; the world will continue to turn. Who comes up with those rules anyway? We should all be able to do what we want.

Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. There are rules for a reason. It's all fun and games until it happens to you.

# Letter to the editor

## Student leader endorses Sonney

Dear editor,

First of all let me preface this letter with two disclaimers. First, this letter represents my own opinion through my personal experiences, and is not representative of the Student Government Association at large. Second, I am in no way affiliated with any campaign for State Representative in Pennsylvania's 4th District.

That being said, it is imperative that our student body not be blinded to local politics in the midst of a major national election. On Nov. 2, students who are registered to vote on campus or in the immediate surrounding area will elect many offices, including State Representative for Pennsylvania's House of Representatives, 4th District. The state General Assembly has a profound impact on students at Penn State. The legislature influences tuition through raising and lowering the state appropriation, allocates funds for the construction of some new buildings at campuses, and oversees other general functions of higher education such as the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

The current State Representative for Behrend is Tom Scrimenti, who is running for re-election this year. Representative Scrimenti has been very willing to meet with concerned students, including myself, to discuss issues such as the state appropriation to Penn State. My concern is that while he has met with us and talked to us, he has not taken action on our concerns. I have met with Representative Scrimenti, and it is clear that that the students of Behrend seem

to have a low priority on his agenda.

Representative Scrimenti is opposed this year by Curt Sonney. Having met with Sonney on campus earlier this week, I have seen a clear concern for the students of our campus. Sonney believes that he would be elected to represent all of the people of his district, including our students. As a former Behrend student, Sonney is closer in touch with what it means to be a student at our campus, than any non-Penn Stater could ever be. Sonney assured me that if elected he will be vocal in fighting for our students in Harrisburg, even if not placed on a committee that has a direct effect on the campus. Sonney also sees higher education as a necessity for a strong economy, and understands the prestige of getting that degree from Penn State.

These could all be empty campaign promises, but campaign promises are usually made to persuade the masses, not in an informal discussion in a small office. Sonney struck me as very genuine, and if I am wrong, there is another election in two years. The students of Penn State Erie, the Behrend College deserve a Representative in Harrisburg who would actively advocate for us. We do not expect someone to focus all of their time on us while in Harrisburg, but we do warrant some attention from our elected official.

Sincerely,  
 Scott Soltis  
 SGA President

# Burnout Bush: Time to kick asphalt

We're down to the line folks – down to the line. This isn't the Democrats vs. the Republicans; it's not that the economy is in the hole or that we're in another war. This is the line between imperialistic fascism and representative Democracy.

If you're voting for Bush, not at all for a third party, you are electing to stand by while a psychopath follows the Hitler playbook in his measures to frighten the population into cooperation and support of his blitzkrieg across the middle east and pursues his ultimate goal of world domination. Don't believe it? Read up on plans current Bush cabinet members were making in the 90s at <http://www.newamericancentury.org/RebuildingAmericasDefenses.pdf>. This is the modern "Mien Kaumpf" as penned by current Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. These boys were just waiting around until something like September 11th gave them a blank check to take over the world as is evidenced in the aforementioned report in the passage "...furthermore, the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor."

If you're voting for Bush, I can probably figure why it is that you are.

Maybe you think Bush is likely to do a better job in Iraq or with the economy. Most likely, your family or a family member does or did favor Bush. You might be against abortion, gay marriage, fair trade or fair health care. You might love guns.



**Chris Hvizdak**

*editorial columnist*

You might love Jesus an awful lot. You know what? That's all well and good – I don't necessarily agree with your opinions but do I respect your right to have them. You know what I don't respect? If you happen to be a greedy ultra-capitalist with the "yeah for me and to hell with everyone else" attitude of which Bush is the poster child, I'm not a big fan of yours.

Bush can only exist as long as he's got susceptible voters to exploit and Capitalism can only exist as long as it has resources to exploit. I've got news for you, Bush doesn't care one iota about what you do, be it guns or be it Jesus. Ultimately, all Bush wants is your vote and the fortune it can bring to him and his buddies. Unless you happen to be CEO of a Fortune 500, that equation probably doesn't include you.

Oh, and that Oil that modern capitalism is built off? "That thar" black gold is running out and will be so expensive by the middle of this century that there will not be any businesses, or an economy for that matter, for you to masterfully administrate. The USA has been quite adept at rigging an artificial paper economy not backed by gold but beneath it all the real currency is oil. And the world has not as yet produced sufficient technology to run its physical infrastructure with the imaginary "undiscovered oil" we'll be left with as the cheap discovered oil continues to thin out.

Put plain and simple, Bush has us barreling head first into a war with China over the last of the Oil and it is plain to see that war with China ends in either a nuclear holocaust or the USA getting its foreign interests dismantled by the vast red armies.

So go vote for Kerry. Do I like Kerry? Do you like Kerry? Who cares? I sure like him a lot more than I like Bush. However I don't care if I like the president of the United States, I don't care if he's "someone who I could have a beer with" or "someone who would sit next to me in church" but I do care if he plans on burning through the mid-east, stirring up terrorists wherever he goes on his hell-bent quest for oil with the ultimate intent of world domination and/or "war with the red Chinese" as his mantra.

*Chris Hvizdak can be reached for comment at [chrishvizdak@gmail.com](mailto:chrishvizdak@gmail.com)*

# Let's play on the see-saw, Senator Kerry

The presidential election is Tuesday. There's a newsflash, right? One thing worried me about that though; most of what I've seen and heard around campus has been pro-Kerry. I'm all about fairness and balance (as well as being a born and bred republican), so I'm breaking out of the mold (and maybe risking my future career on 60 Minutes with Dan Rather) and giving us right-wingers a voice.

George W. Bush may have made some bad decisions, we all have, but at least he's made decisions and stuck to them. Kerry's position on so many issues has changed to please the public ever since the preliminaries. He was pro-Iraq until his opponent for the democratic nomination pulled ahead of him; he had to change to stand out.

How many times during the debates, even within the same debate, has he changed his position? To a devout democrat, all of whom I respect, he seems to have been steady, but I spent the entire time looking for reasons not to like him. (It's just Cialdini's consistency and rationalization idea; everyone has to stick to what they believe and tell themselves they made the right decision.)

John Kerry said that he was for importing drugs from other countries to make prescriptions more affordable for the elderly. But wait; wouldn't that also be outsourcing jobs? He's against that. Of course, Kerry could be like Dr. Steve Por-



**Lacy Buzard**

*copy editor*

ter who flipped out at the very mention of the connection between these two issues.

Are we just going to ship American pharmacists overseas to make these drugs? Somehow I doubt it. Biology and chemistry majors watch out!

The Massachusetts senator doesn't support Iraq; we all know this. Even if we are at war, whether he agrees with it or not, we need to support the troops that are over there. Kerry voted against providing our soldiers the supplies they needed overseas.

What does that mean to you? After all, you don't have a part in the war. Well tell that to one of our engineering students who was fighting, abandoned with a few of his buddies and running out of ammunition. Luckily, he came back this

semester. Tell that to another of our students who is still over there. Tell that to our ROTC students who are better able than us to see the situation.

There is one more issue on which Kerry is pathetically off-base: stem cell research. Kerry said that he would not let his religion (if he really has any) influence the decisions he makes for the nation. That is very noble of him to say in a country that supposedly allows for diversity.

Here's the clincher; this issue has nothing to do with religion. It has to do with the fundamental concepts of "right" and "wrong." Stem cell research and abortion both split the citizens of the United States 50-50. Whoever is elected president will have to alienate half of the population; that's the bottom line. I would rather have a president who would make the half that he represents happy than a president who goes against his half just to improve his image.

That is all John Kerry is, an image. It changes much like advertisements change to fit the current cultural norm, but in Kerry's case, it changes much faster. I don't want a Viagra spokesman for my president; something better will make that person obsolete in a few months. Our president needs to make up his own mind and be able to stick with it for four whole years and obviously, John Kerry is not able to be that president.



STATE THIRUUNE

Sen. KERRY WILL LET TERRORISTS NUKE U.S. CITIES.

KERRY WILL DESTROY SOCIAL SECURITY AND PUT YOUR GRANNY OUT ON THE ICE.

HELL HAND IRAQ TO OSAMA, AND GIVE THE NEW MASS-GRAVE-DIGGING CONTRACTS TO THE FRENCH.

HELL FORCE YOUR KIDS TO MARRY SAME-SEX POLYGAMOUS TRANS-VESTITES, AND PERSONALLY RIP THE STEM CELLS OUT OF YOUR CAT.

OH, AND DID I MENTION THAT HELL SAY ANYTHING TO GET ELECTED?....