

# OPINION

## The Behrend Beacon

Published Weekly by the students of Penn State Erie



THE BEHREND  
Beacon

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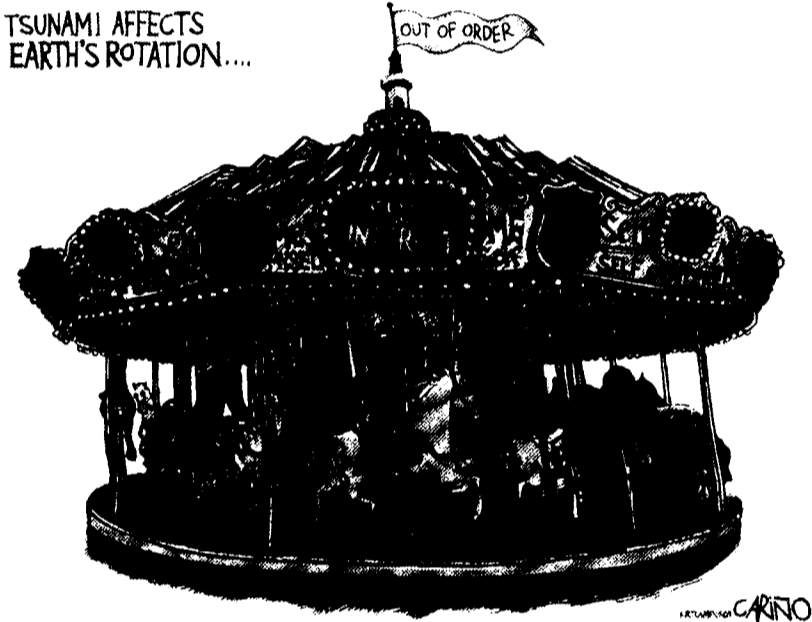
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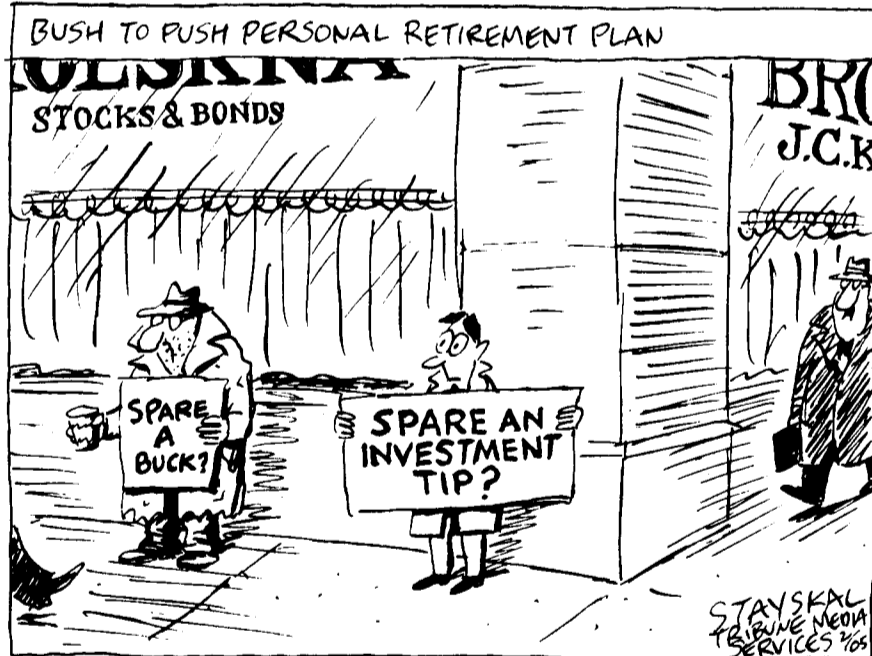
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## Cartoon Roundup

TSUNAMI AFFECTS EARTH'S ROTATION....



BY CARNO



STAY SKAL  
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 SERVICES 2005



BIER  
 The Examiner 2005

What do girl computers like to get on Valentine's Day?  
 E-Males!  
 beaconletters@aol.com

## Cupid's aim not always on

by Aimee Pogson  
 editorial columnist

As Valentine's Day approaches and people celebrate their love for each other via chocolates, flowers and edible body glitter, many single Behrend students find themselves facing a bleak love forecast.

While the rest of the world revels in the warmth and sunshine of love, the single Behrend student possesses knowledge of a cold, dark truth: the Behrend campus is not the best place to find a date. For some reason, be it the imposing brick structure of the Kochel building, the strange "modern" look of the engineering building or the odd patches of "mini-forests" that stretch in between, the Behrend campus is not conducive to romance.

Roses do not grow here. Cupid has flown away. The single Behrend student is forced to walk that path from the Reed building to the parking lot alone, without a significant other to join in the journey.

Yet these single students continue to hope. "I just want a person to spend time with," I hear friends say. "I don't want anything serious, just someone to hang out with, to share some laughs."

Nothing serious. Then why is it so hard to find a date?

The answer is somewhat simple. For some reason, there is a strange divide on the Behrend campus. Many of the guys spend the majority of their time on the science and engineering end of the school, while many of the girls pass their days on the humanities end. While this divide isn't set in stone, there are plenty of girls majoring in engineering and the sciences and plenty of guys majoring in the humanities. In general, the Behrend population tends to separate itself in this way: guys on one side, girls on the other. It's a lot like elementary school.

The divide is further complicated by the fact that, as students progress in their education, the classes they take tend to be more specialized and are required only for people within their major. This means that as students progress in knowledge of their specific

field, they are also stuck with the same twenty or thirty people reappearing in every single class. This situation doesn't make it easy to meet new people, especially for commuters who may not participate in campus activities and see their classes as the only way to scope out potential significant others.

Yet, there is hope for the single Behrend student. Just because there are dividing lines, "no date" lines so to speak, traversing the campus, that doesn't mean that a person should give up the search for true love; rather this person should embrace it as an adventure that will take him or her to new and exciting places.

For example, to a ballroom dancing class. Many people have acknowledged that taking a ballroom dancing class, or any dancing class for that matter, can be a good way to meet members of the opposite sex. The class can provide the perfect opportunity to bond with a special someone while stumbling through the waltz, the swing and the tango. If you are not currently enrolled in a ballroom dancing class, find someone who is and ask him or her to teach you the steps, alone, in candlelight (or maybe not).

Or, go for a walk. Walk to areas of the campus that you don't usually spend time in and see who's there. If you don't take math or science classes, spend a couple afternoons studying in the Hammerrill building. If you don't usually go to the library, make it a point to spend some time in the computer lab, making conversation with the people around you (as long as they don't look too busy of course, harassment is always a bad thing). Even if you don't meet your soul mate, changing your routine a little might take you in the path of some fun and interesting people that you have never crossed paths with before.

And don't be afraid to ask people out on dates. Dates are not life altering events. One date doesn't mean marriage or even the beginning of a long and meaningful relationship. A date is a way to meet someone, to get to know that person, and to see if the two of you can bear to spend more than a half hour

together.

Don't worry about rejection either. Rejections usually aren't personal. Maybe the person has his or her eye on someone else or just doesn't feel that strange flicker of interest. This person doesn't hate you for asking and is probably flattered that you asked in the first place. So don't be afraid. Besides, what if the person says yes? (Yes, I know that this sounds like cheesy advice from a teen magazine, but I am a firm believer in its worth. Sometimes you just have to take chances.)

And if all else fails and you find yourself filled with a need to meet someone special (which I assure you really isn't necessary, you are definitely complete by yourself, special someone's are really just a bonus), turn to your friends. Considering the fact that they care about you and want to make you happy; they will put their creativity to the test. They will hold long, deep conversations about the state of your love life. They will hold question and answer sessions with you in an attempt to probe into the depths of your beliefs about love and relationships. They will send each other secretive e-mails concerning you. Then they will build a website advertising your availability to the world.

Which is why I would like to invite any nice, friendly single guy on campus to fill out a survey at [http://home.earthlink.net/~the\\_exponent/bachelorette](http://home.earthlink.net/~the_exponent/bachelorette). The survey consists of a few basic questions concerning likes, dislikes, etc. and will be used to help a friend of mine meet her special someone. My friends and I sincerely believe that this is a foolproof way of penetrating the dating walls that divide the Behrend campus. If it works for one person, it can work for anyone.

The quest for love won't have to be a tale of tragic loneliness, manifested by the person who sits alone in Bruno's sipping a Seattle's Best latte; it will be a tale of holding hands and sitting in the gazebo in front of the science building. Yes, romance can bloom at Behrend.

## Elephants don't have broken hearts

by Kristen Comstock  
 editorial columnist

It is now the season to start vomiting. That's right; Valentine's Day is in full swing. Everywhere you look there are chocolates, red and pink hearts and flowers. I HATE ROMANCE! All my friends laugh because I am not romantic, nor do I think people should be romantic.

A few friends and I just helped a current Ambassador decorate his room for his and his girlfriend's six-month anniversary. He had us drape his room in red sheets, hang Christmas lights across his ceiling and trail scented rose petals from his hallway to his bed, covering his bed in rose petals as well. This Ambassador (who shall remain nameless) rented his girlfriend's favorite movie, served her chocolate covered strawberries and bought her those stupid kissing bears.

As I was helping create the dreamy ambiance, the other girls were gushing over how romantic this was and how much they would cry if a guy went to all this trouble for them. I was trying to hold down my lunch.

I know I sound like a cynical, single chick, but I have more examples of how our society is cultured to encourage this strange show of affection.

I was reading on the ABC News web-

site about how the Ayutthaya Elephant Club, in Bangkok, Thailand, are planning on marrying their elephants on Valentine's Day. Copulation will happen right after the ceremony in an outdoor screening. Eww!

Humans are now even pushing their culture and their need to express affection on to animals, whose only mentality is to mate, procreate and be done with it.

Maybe animals have it right. Should we as humans just satisfy our sexual appetite and make no commitment to anyone?

In the college environment, it seems that everyone is having "relationship problems." So many of my friends have just recently become single (and no, you cannot have their phone numbers) and they are very upset that they dedicated so much of their time, effort and emotion to their significant others. Should they have to put themselves through so much heartbreak just to conform to our cultural norms?

This is why Valentine's Day is a stupid holiday: not because it reminds all those who are single that they are still single and alone, but because it makes people question how much they truly care for their significant other. Society makes us believe that buying chocolates, flowers, and cards is a way to express how much we care. And the

bigger and better the gift, the more and more we care.

That is why so many people seem to become single right around Valentine's Day, because some people realize they do not want to spend a lot of money on their partner and therefore that means they do not want to be with them. Or because they realize they are not getting enough out of the relationship, compared to what they are putting into it.

It is sad, because you never would hear an elephant complaining about the horrible breakup he or she just had (well maybe there will be a couple elephant divorces in Bangkok now). But as of yet, I do not think I have ever seen an elephant crying over a broken heart.

So why do humans feel the need to conform to the cultural norm that they must be in a relationship? I have plenty of love and happiness in my life and that is because of my wonderful friends and family, not because I have a man.

So this Valentine's Day, if you are in a relationship and it is going well, congratulations. We all hope you enjoy your chocolates. As to all those singles out there: Revel in the fact that there is always love around you and that you make yourself happy. And just remember, the Valentine's Day chocolate goes on sale Feb. 15.

### LIFE ON EARTH The Leading Theories

<p><b>EVOLUTION</b> SAYS LIVING THINGS DEVELOPED FROM EARLIER FORMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCIENCE APPROVED!</p>	<p><b>INTELLIGENT DESIGN</b> SUCH AS THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VERY POPULAR</p>	<p><b>Intelligent design - of - the gods</b> MANKIND SPRANG FROM ZEUS'S MIGHTY SCEPTER AS HE RODE HIS GOLDEN CHARIOT ACROSS THE SUN OF SOME SUCH THING.</p>
<p><b>INTERDIMENSIONAL</b> "JOHNNY HUMANOID-SEED" ALIENS PLANTED LIFE ACROSS THE GALAXY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STAR TREK FANS APPROVED!</p>	<p><b>NO EVOLUTION or DESIGN</b> IN REALITY YOU'RE ONLY A SEA SQUIRT WHO ATE SOME BAD PLANKTON, AND THIS IS ALL JUST A LONG, AWFUL DREAM...</p>	<p><b>YOUR THEORY HERE!</b> GO CRAZY. THEN MAKE A FUSS AND FORCE SCHOOLS TO TEACH IT!</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>