

OPINION

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Battle for second amendment rights

The United Nations is actively pursuing the agenda to confiscate all small firearms belonging to U.S. citizens; the National Rifle Association will have none of that.

Last week, Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the NRA, spoke vehemently to U.N. representatives. He claimed that the efforts of the U.N. directly opposed the second amendment of the Constitution which gives citizens "the right to bear arms."

The U.N.'s efforts, however, are supported by the relatively new International Action Network on Small Arms. This organization seeks to stop the misuse and proliferation of small firearms worldwide.

IANSA needs to look into the NRA a little deeper. The NRA is not comprised of drunken hillbillies or gang members that want to own guns solely to cause trouble or kill for sport. The Institute for Legislative Action, the lobbying branch of the NRA, is responsible for making legislatures aware of this.

Taken directly from www.nraia.org, the "ILA is committed to preserving the right of all law-abiding individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms for legitimate purposes as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

Note the words "right," "law-abiding" and "legitimate purposes."

Second amendment rights are the



Lacy Buzard
copy editor

main issue of discussion. "This country was founded to be unlike other countries," LaPierre said. "Our citizens are guaranteed freedoms unlike other citizens in the world."

Some may argue that the second amendment is now out-dated because we no longer need firearms for survival; we can just run down to the grocery store and pay three dollars for a pound of hormone-treated ground beef.

Hopefully, these same people can remember that the next time a deer jumps out in front of their cars. Of course, this excuse may only pacify such people to the right to bear hunting rifles.

Why, then, do we need to own hand-

guns?

Have you ever watched a movie where someone gets locked in a room with a murderer lurking outside and the only protection that person has is a handgun, usually from the dead body of someone beside him/her, that that person doesn't know how to use?

This is an over-dramatization, but the point still stands. If someone wants a gun to kill someone, number one, they aren't going to go to a licensed gun shop and number two, they'll get it with or without a permit and with or without legislation banning the purchase.

It is safer to have laws that specify who can and who can't have a gun and require those who can to take safety courses than to have guns traded illegally to people who have no clue how to use firearms properly.

It is also safer to have everyone, even those who oppose gun ownership, learn how to use a handgun or rifle and in which situations to use them than to force them to guess when no other option is available.

Think of the drinking age in Europe; there isn't one, so drinking is not a novelty and they have fewer problems with alcohol than the U.S. People learn responsibility at a young age and that lesson stays with them. It could be the same with guns here if organizations such as the IANSA would stop whin-

'Front row fans' fair weathered, others just don't seem to care

by Sara Kamber
co-sports editor

For those who are unaware, Behrend athletics have a reputation for producing championship teams. Year in and year out, the men's and women's basketball, soccer, tennis and baseball programs are fierce competitors in AMCC, ECAC and NCAA play. Our athletes and coaches are honored with titles such as "Athlete of the Week," "All-conference" and "Coach of the Year."

The Junker Center, along with the baseball and softball fields, are only about five years old and together cost millions of dollars. We are lucky to go to a school that brings us top competition consistently and we can sit back and enjoy it in one of the nicest Division III arenas in the area. And still, fan attendance at games is pathetic at best.

On Tuesday, the women's basketball team hosted a first-round AMCC tournament game. As part of the staff on hand, we counted 10 students in attendance. And those 10 students didn't show up until after half time. The rest of the crowd consisted of fellow athletes, some of whom were waiting for practice after the game and 90 percent were family.

Where were these "front row fans" when one of the teams needed that enthusiasm? Those fans who heckle the competition at most men's basketball games, get dressed up and like to be loudest people in the Junker Center were missing during the women's game. Granted, a good amount of noise came from the fans that *did* decide to show up, but there were no "warm up the bus," chants, not even an "it's all over."

These particular fans take pride in the role they feel they play at the games and jump at any chance to be quoted in a story, but they seem to have forgotten there are other teams

at this school. You can't be known as "those fans" in the front row and only show up to 15 games a year for one sport. In their defense, there was some honors initiation thing and some intramural sport going on. So what is the excuse for the rest of you?

I've heard the whole "women's games are boring" reason before, mainly because "they don't dunk," but that's not really good enough. In three years of working pretty much every basketball game, I've seen maybe three men dunk, none of which played for Behrend. The women's team is always as competitive as the men's and the research proves it.

Nobody can claim the Athletic Department doesn't try hard enough to get fans to the Junker. There has been everything from free wings, pizza and chips to spirit towels and pom poms this season. Still nothing. I am asked frequently "What else can be done to get students to the games?" Short of giving out free tuition at half time, I'm clueless.

Fellow athletes are pretty much the main support for these teams by coming out to the games, which is great. But when you see bigger crowds at intramural basketball or football, you have to roll your eyes in frustration. The entertainment is there but the fans are usually missing.

Depending on how things go for the basketball teams this weekend, there could be ECAC or NCAA action here next week. Women's water polo and men's tennis have started and baseball and softball are around the corner. The snow won't hurt you if you do decide to come out to game. You'll probably get something free and pretty much always catch a good game.

Unglue yourself from the sofa, turn off the college hoops on ESPN and come catch some in person. Be a little daring and try something new.

George Bush is worse than Hitler

The Project for a New American Century's "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century" (co-authored by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz) is the most vile imperialist doctrine written by man since Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

The Bush Administration is following the recommendations of this 90 page hate rag to the letter. By doing so, it has incriminated itself as possibly being complicit in the terrorist attacks of September 11 and most definitely set itself on a trajectory to conquer the Middle East in the interest of seizing the world's oil supply to maintain economic superiority in the face of a solidified European Union and rapidly industrializing People's Republic of China.

The Project for a New American Century or PNAC (pronounced PEE-NACK) is a Washington, DC think tank which was formed in 1997 with the aim of promoting "American global leadership." Current and former members of the PNAC include Donald Rumsfeld, Jeb Bush, Richard Armitage and Dick Cheney. All this boils down to the PNAC being no more or less than a neoconservative cheerleading squad dedicated to ramping up megalomaniacs like George Bush into a state of

the dots and suspect that an intelligence order issued during the first Bush administration (W199i) was designed to prevent the FBI from investigation potential September 11 terrorists. This allowed the attacks to be carried out so Bush and his cronies could reap the profits from their preplanned conquest of the Middle East.

China is also a big factor for the PNAC boys. This terrifying sentiment is offered as what the American agenda is to be toward the soon to be superpower: "It is time to increase the presence of American forces in Southeast Asia" which will lead to "American and allied power providing the spur to the process of democratization in China." PNAC endorses militarized pressure on China to convert from communism to democracy. It is doubtful that any sane person on earth would be interested in provoking China. Sanity is the key to the PNAC as it is what these raving lunatics lack. They are mad with lust for money and power. They will kill as many human beings as possible to continue their endless, unholy quest for the gratification of these petty wants.

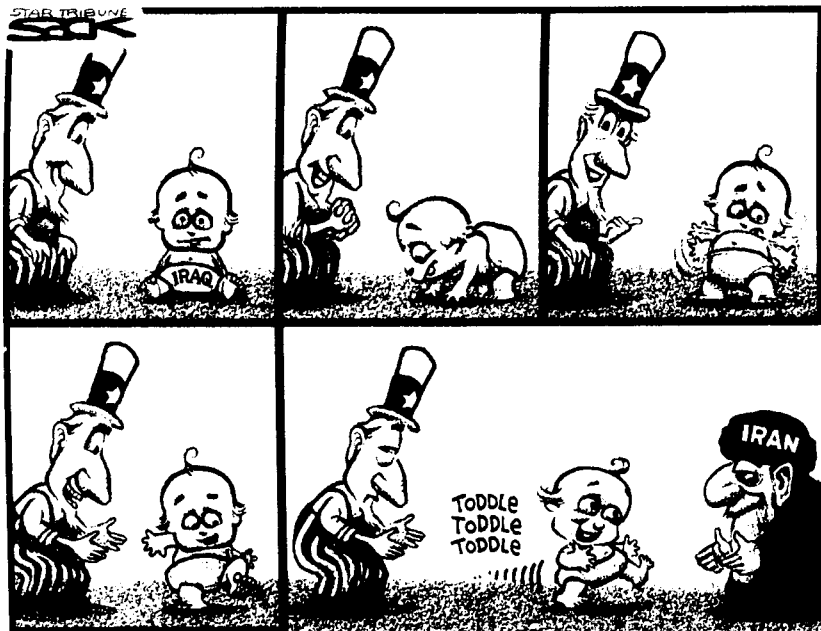
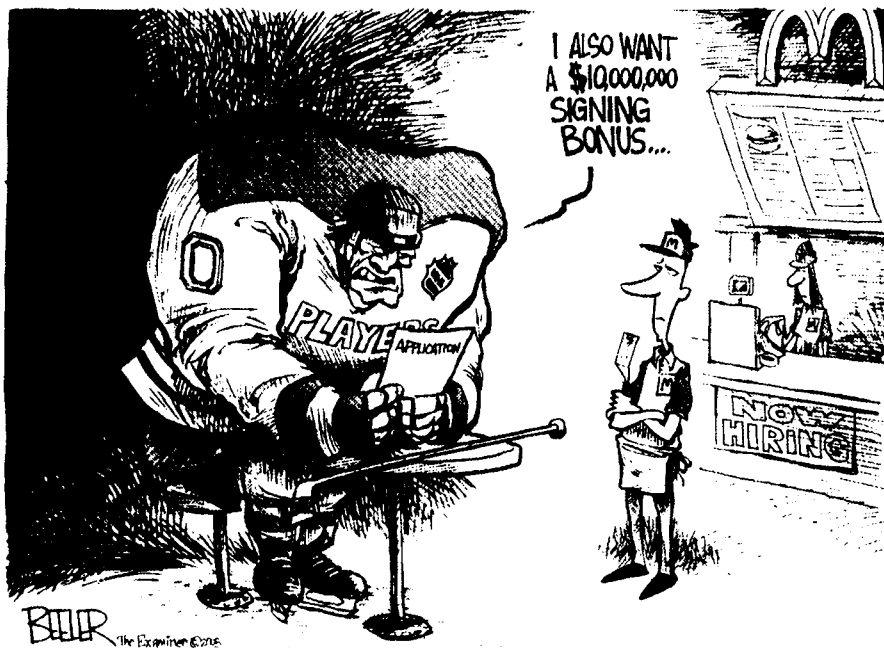
Be wary America. Be wary planet Earth. The time of PNAC has come and none may survive the throws of their unquenchable carnal insanity.



Chris Hvizdak
editorial columnist

power lust intense enough to slaughter millions and conquer any nation they must in order to assert their sick dreams of world domination.

"Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century" is a report issued by the PNAC in September of 2000. This report indicates that the United States must experience a "new Pearl Harbor" attack for the PNAC doctrine of conquest to be put into effect. Considering this statement was issued a full year before the attacks of September 11, it is no stretch of the imagination to connect



"You can turn your back on a person, but never turn your back on a drug, especially when it's waving a razor sharp hunting knife in your eye."
-Hunter S. Thompson
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