

# OPINION

## The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### The Behrend Beacon

Published Weekly by the students of Penn State Erie



THE BEHREND BEACON

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Opinion Editor  
 Chris Hvizdak

Copy Editors  
 Kate Kelecseny  
 Michelle Vera Suroviec

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

### Letters to the Editor

The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page.

Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to [chrishvizdak@gmail.com](mailto:chrishvizdak@gmail.com) or directly to the Beacon office, located in the Reed Building.

Letters should be limited to 350 words and commentaries should be limited to 700 words. The more concise the submission, the less we will be forced to edit it for space con-

cerns and the more likely we are to run the submission.

All submissions must include the writer's year in school, major and name as The Beacon does not publish anonymous letters.

Deadline for any submission is 5 PM Wednesday afternoon for inclusion in the Friday issue. All submissions are considered, but because of space limitations, some may not be published.

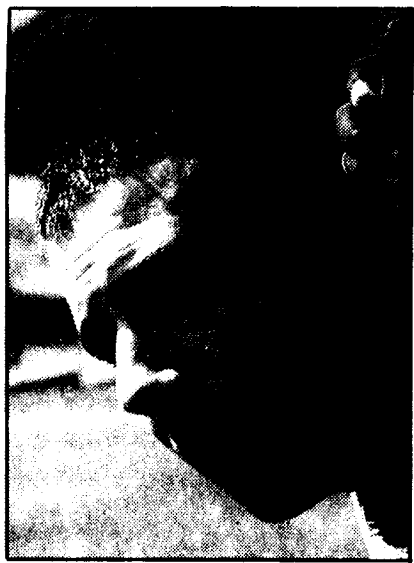
### Humor; your dear, dear friend

In the Spring semester of 2002, The Beacon established a weekly humor page. With wide spread student support and a few detractors, this page would continue weekly for over a year. This original humor page was canceled in the Spring of 2003. For some, the memory of the old humor page is not a pleasant one. The editors of the time received numerous written and verbal complaints about the content of the page, both from individuals and student organizations.

In the Spring of 2005, a new humor page appeared in the Beacon, very different from the first humor page of years gone by. The layout, tone, and content of the page were changed, due to the new staff of writers, and their ignorance of the existence of the previous page.

This new humor page would thrive, and draw in new writing talent. It's currently been around for only one semester, but has seen great success. Minimal complaints, encouraging fans, and a zest for laughter have given the staff of the page an optimistic attitude for the future.

Founder of the recent incarnation of the page, Dan Snedden, has moved on to greener pastures at Main Campus; though continues to assist and inspire those he left behind. Photo-shopper, Chris "Viz" Hvizdak, is having success with the post-production of his first feature film; he will likely be too busy to be as involved with the page as he was last semester, but as always he will be where he is needed, and will be there when we need him.



Jerry Pohl

#### Humor Page Editor

As for your author, I'm the new Editor of the Humor Page. I plan to maintain both quality and quantity, with well-written satire, parodies, and jokes. I'm looking for a few good writers; so if you think you're up to the task, email me at [jbp153@psu.edu](mailto:jbp153@psu.edu).

There will always be humor in newspapers; be it April Fools edition, humor page, or comics, comedy comes with the trade. A sense of humor is second nature to a journalist; it comes with the territory. From Ben Franklin, to Hunter S. Thompson, a good journalist sees the irony of a story, and the allegory that leads to parody. It is due to this that humor in newspapers will inevitably arise.

In my opinion, laughter is the greatest thing we can share, and one of the things that makes us human. With all the differences that all too often divide us, it may be prudent to notice that laughter is universal. Other than an orgasm, nothing feels quite as good as laughing. So turn the page and enjoy the

### Proposal to stop extinction is absurd

Scientists have recently proposed relocating African species to the North American great plains to combat their declining populations. This proposal is an absurd fantasy.

While many Americans may agree that preventing the extinction of any species is an important and worthwhile endeavor, there are entirely too many obstacles.

First, the climates of the American plains are significantly different than those found in Africa. Even where the ecosystem is the same, comparing desert to desert or grasslands to grasslands, the temperature ranges are much lower than their African counterparts. Snow commonly occurs in the New Mexican desert well into May, and the windchill factor makes temperatures below -50 °F common in plains states such as North Dakota. Stemming from the difference in latitude between the two continents, this fact cannot be altered.

Additionally, there has been only limited success in reintroducing animals that are already native to this continent.

This has already been attempted with



Jasmine Lee

#### Editorial Columnist

timber wolves, moose, and some types of bears. It seems impractical to attempt to save species from distant parts of the world when we cannot save those already living in our country.

With American ranchers already fighting against reintroducing timber wolves in parts of the country, the suggestion of including larger predators, such as lions and cheetahs, would be met with a public outcry. One of the reasons that the cheetah's population is so low is that they are treated as vermin and exterminated in their native African countries. The rationale behind this is obvious; they eat small children. This would be an even larger problem with the larger population of the United States.

In Colorado, the attempt to reintroduce moose into the environment failed because they were shot by overzealous hunters within a year, despite prohibitive fines. This would be even more likely to occur given the chance at much more exotic and attractive prey such as zebras or giraffes.

Lastly, the costs of such an endeavor remain prohibitive. Relocating and caring for animals from another continent will cost millions of dollars. While supporters of the plan suggest that it will create ecotourism opportunities, these will only last as long as these exotic animals can be kept alive and healthy, which will prove to be an uphill struggle.

#### Beacon Thumbs Up

- Thumbs up to all the the new plots of grass; greenery is good.
- Thumbs up to the new sidewalks; ramps are far easier on the old joints than stairs.
- Thumbs up to the Buffalo Road Sheetz; finally a nearby 24 hour store that is not "Co-Fair!"



#### Beacon Thumbs Down



- Thumbs down to the outside left turning lane on the East Side Access highway with no pressure sensor - being late is bad!
- Thumbs down to snakes on campus near Glenhill; not a pleasant surprise
- Thumbs down to the residence hall elevators being turned off after move in day.

### Spoons are the source of evil

If you could be any kind of silverware, what would you be? Unless you've had a weird blind date, you've probably never been asked that question. But now there's nobody around to judge you, so answer honestly. People who answer knives are practical and efficient. Those who say spoons care about the guilty pleasures in life. Fork enthusiasts are probably annoying, since the main function of a fork is to poke around and desecrate each food particle. Some may argue that knives are no better, but at least these utensils of destruction are clear and meditated, with clean lines and boundaries.

I bet you told that poor girl whose heart you broke during the first date that you would have chosen a spork. A spork is a combination of a spoon and a fork, or as some people would say, the best of both worlds. Not many people would be able to handle the responsibilities of both. A person who would want to be a spork thinks that they are clever and unique, just like everyone else. This rare breed of so-called intellectuals, or gluttons for punishment, realize the superiority of the spork, and have an attainable goal to strive for, a life purpose. These people can balance justice and mercy with ease, and are



Michelle Vera Suroviec

#### Copy Editor

up to the task of being our world leaders. Or else they're just posers. Posers are not worthy of being associated with silverware. Instead, they are the dirty napkin after a hot wings buffet at the local dive where you took that poor, innocent girl for a first date. Simple-minded spoon lovers will feel the peer pressure, so they'll praise the spork in public along with their colleagues. This equals a vast majority of the population supporting the spork, or at least going along with the principals of all the spork stands for. If five diverse teenagers can get together with cheap imported jewelry from China to create Captain Planet, imagine the power that is wielded when spoon and fork join forces.

Spoons are becoming obsolete. It is time for the people of the world to embrace the new technology. It is time to let go of our nostalgia for eating cereals with a spoon when a spork can do a better job. It can scoop and stab at the marshmallows, which is what you're really after, anyway. Imagine the cost savings for restaurants who need to buy two pieces of silverware instead of three. Those cost savings are passed on to the consumer, you, who enjoys a delicious meal at a lower price while embracing the future.