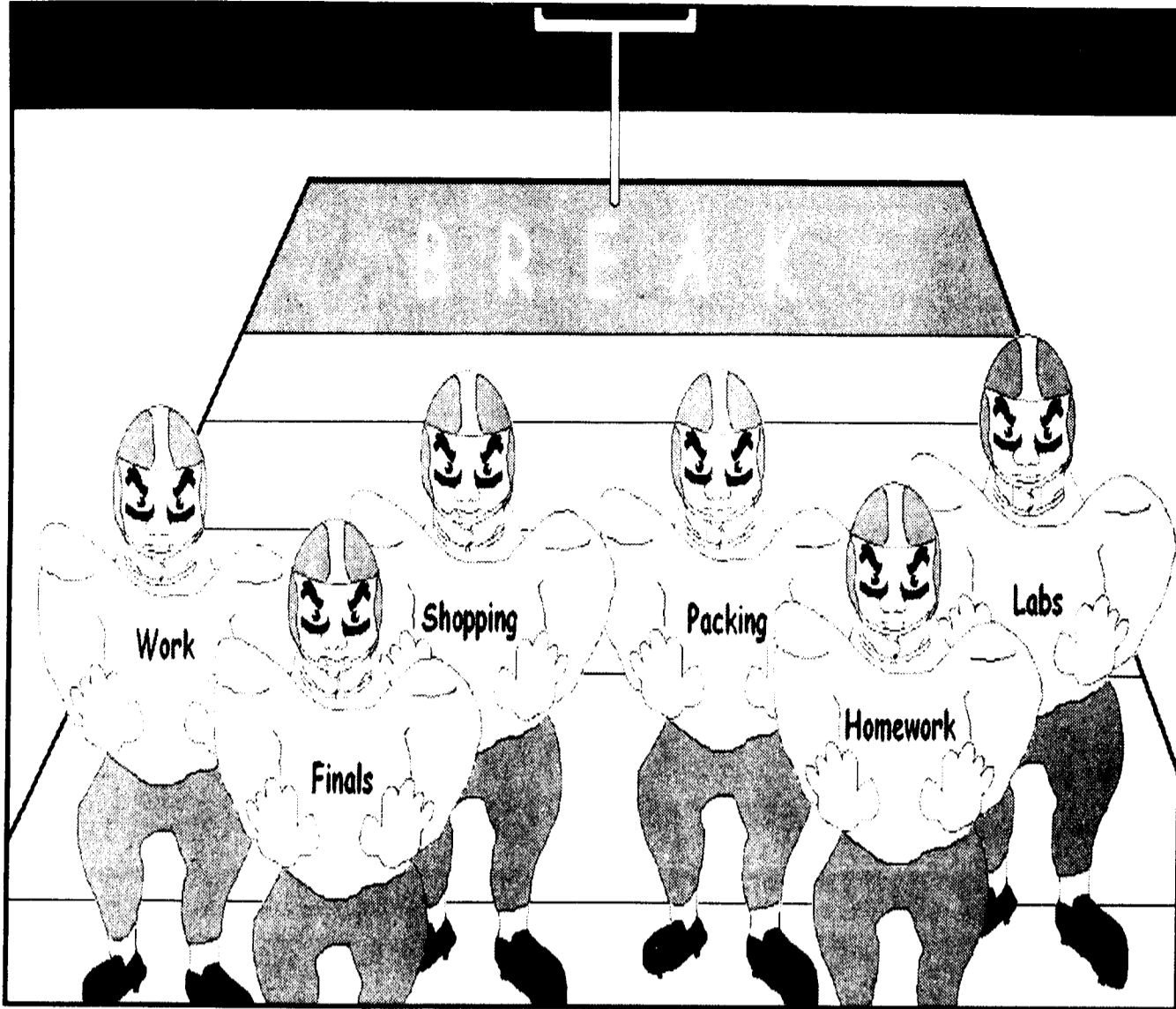


# OPINION

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 First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



ZACK MENTZ

## The Behrend Beacon

Published Weekly by the students of Penn State Erie



THE BEHREND  
Beacon

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## Unsatisfied students can go somewhere else

By Jenn Haight  
news editor  
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"I hate Behrend. There's nothing to do here. It's so boring and Erie sucks." These are words commonly spoken by the Behrend student. To that student I say, "GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!"

There is plenty to do in Erie; you just have to devote the time to look for these things to do. We have a mall, not the size of some of the malls in Buffalo, Cleveland or Pittsburgh, but for the size that Erie is, the mall is a decent one. We have a huge movie theater, and I think the price is justified when you consider how much we spend on beer and alcohol each weekend. There are restaurants and bars for those of us who are over 21. We have the peninsula. Nothing pisses me off more than when people complain about Presque Isle. How many places in the continental U.S. can say they have a peninsula such as ours? Exactly, none.

We also need to stop being so dependent on exterior sources of entertainment. If you really

want to have fun, you can have it anywhere. Whether it is at the movies, bowling or in your friend's basement, fun can be had anywhere.

For those who complain about the Behrend campus, there are so many clubs that anyone can join free of charge. There are fraternities and sororities and entertainment boards and school papers and an alternative energy club. There literally is a club for everyone. It should not be up to the school to cater to each individual personally. The school facilitates hundreds of different groups to suit anyone's needs. And if there is no club that strikes your fancy, you have the ability to start one. Believe it or not, Penn State is not working against you.

The point is, no one is forcing you to be here. If you don't like it, leave. There are thousands of other colleges in America. If the amount of money you're spending to go here is what is getting you down, consider this: a degree from The Pennsylvania State University, no matter what campus you go to, is worth more than many other degrees. People are hired strictly because they are Penn State grads. I would

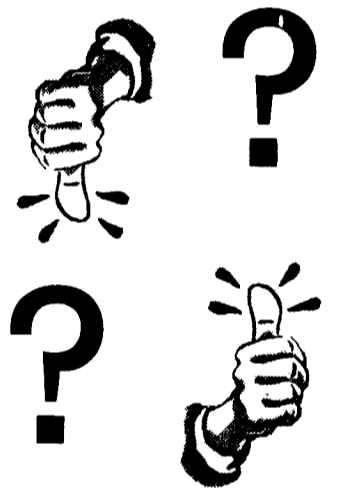
rather pay an astronomical amount of money for a degree that I know will get me a job than go to a cheap college and not be sure of my future.

Behrend is a great campus. The colors of the trees in the fall when they change is so amazing and beautiful, you can't find that everywhere. To be able to wake up to it everyday makes us very lucky.

Consider this: if you go to a campus with 40,000 other students you are constantly competing with those 40,000 other people for the attention of professors. Whereas here at Behrend you can walk past your advisor and he will know who you are. Behrend is nice because you're able to have a personal relationship with faculty.

The next time you go to open your mouth and complain about this or that, think about all of the things you are going to get from Penn State, most importantly an extremely valuable degree that will get you very far in life. Let's also keep in mind that one in about 20 college graduates has graduated from Penn State, so obviously, the school is doing something right.

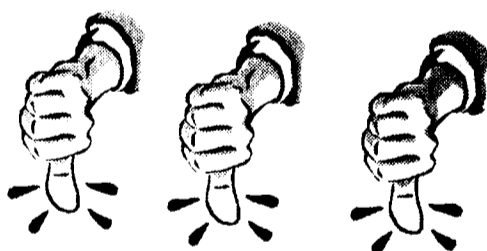
Have a  
"Thumbs Up"  
or "Thumbs  
Down"?



Send Suggestions to  
opinion@psu.edu

### Beacon Thumbs Up

### Beacon Thumbs Down



- Bruno's opening at 2 P.M. on Saturdays.

- Frivolous New Years resolutions.

- Knowing what your gifts are before you receive them.

- "Black Ice" on Behrend walkways.

- Potential Spring 05 Mythbusters visit to Behrend.

- Shortcomings of the PennDOT roadcrew.

## Timley Holiday Quotes

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

~ Calvin Coolidge

"Christmas is an awfulness that compares favorably with the great London plague and fire of 1665-66. No one escapes the feelings of mortal dejection, inadequacy, frustration, loneliness, guilt and pity. No one escapes feeling used by society, by religion, by friends and relatives, by the utterly artificial responsibilities of extending false greetings, sending banal cards, reciprocating unsolicited gifts, going to dull parties, putting up with acquaintances and family one avoids all the rest of the year...in short, of being brutalized by a 'holiday' that has lost virtually all of its original meanings and has become a merchandising ploy for color tv set manufacturers and ravagers of the woodlands."

~ Harlan Ellison

## Does your opinion count?

By Chris Hvizdak  
opinion editor  
opinion@psu.edu

Fall '05 has come, Fall '05 has gone. What does the Opinion page have to show for itself? We've approached a lot of diverse topics, from social and political issues to cheesesteaks and emo. We have given an awful lot of thumbs up and thumbs down. Many great and powerful persons have been quoted in our stylish quote section. I think you'll enjoy the dichotomy of our "Holiday Quotes" this week.

What haven't we done? We haven't received a great deal of feedback. Less than half a dozen letters and submissions have made it to the Opinion page from persons outside the Beacon. This from a college community of 3,700 people, according to Behrend's website. I've harped on this before, to little avail, and the lack of response doesn't bother me.

The lack of response to my frequent solicitations for participation from the Behrend community does; however, affirm many observations I can right make about Behrend, America and the US of A in general. People don't care. That's a fact. Most people are simply absorbed in their day to day life and only get involved in something beyond themselves if it will yield a direct benefit to them, be it monetary, psychological, material, etc.

If you think otherwise, you're likely to be disappointed. Oh, of course some people legitimately care. But they're by far in the minority. If you're lucky, you'll be fortunate enough to encounter enough people who care to be capable of setting and accomplishing goals that require more than the dedication of one person. In my life, I have been this fortunate. I'd say this gives me the credence to evaluate situations that lack people who care.

So what of the Beacon Opinion page and America? They both lack legitimate participation. Fortunately for you, it matters little whether the Beacon Opinion page is participated in. America is a different story. Unless people who legitimately care about engendering a tolerant nation that looks out for the best interest of all its citizens, we'll be perpetually worse off than we are now.

## Submission Guidelines

The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page. Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to opinion@psu.edu 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 concerns 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 p.m. Tuesday afternoon for inclusion in the Friday issue. All submissions are considered, but because of space limitations, some may not be published.

All submissions must include consent to be edited before they can be edited for publication.