

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

We're the man now, dog !

By **Chris Hvizdak**
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Belief is a scarce commodity these days. There are plenty of reasons why it's tough to hold stock in one's fellow man, community, faith or government. Scandal, corruption, ignorance: take your pick. I suppose it's easy to blindly support such things if you don't ask questions or look too deep, but when it comes down to it most things in this world are rotten or geared toward the betterment of the few and definitely not you.

So it came as a shock this weekend when I quite unexpectedly experienced full fledged belief in a community. You see, I was downtown when a man approached me and asked if I had accepted Jesus Christ as my per... no - that wasn't how it happened. In actuality, I returned home late Saturday from a night on the town with my special lady and noticed an instant message from a friend. That fateful IM read "THE WAR HAS BEGUN." Assuming that some dire geopolitical circumstance had erupted in an international military conflict of which I was then unaware, I launched FireFox to check the news. Of course, even war isn't as important as the humor website "You're the man now dog.com" (hereafter referred to as YTMND) so I went there first and discovered that the war of which my friend had messaged wasn't between

its authors, and reaping millions a year in advertising revenue (See ebaumsworldsucks.com.)

It is important to note that the originator of the YTMND community staunchly opposed these Internet attacks and criticized them as a "vulgar display of power," which they most certainly were. I, myself, did not participate in the offensive and find the likely repercussions of such behavior to far outweigh the potential gains. What's done is done, however. Despite the inherent vulgarity of the attacks, they were effective. The action that touched off this war was the unauthorized posting of a Lindsay Lohan graphic that originated at YTMND on the eBaum website. The Internet attacks resulted in the eBaum website being sporadically inaccessible and eventually eBaum removed the Lindsay Lohan graphic that had so enraged the greater internet humor

"It was on this day that truth conquered profiteering that my heart grew three sizes."

The situation that unfolded before my eyes was truly story-book in nature. A coalition of honorable and willing web communities (good guys), finally outraged with the extensive transgressions of a reviled rogue web-community (bad guy), had banded together for a full scale assault on the evil doer. "What's this?" you might ask. Here's the deal:

Members of YTMND, along with members of a half dozen other web communities that provide forums for members to share their original humor, retaliated via internet attacks against eBaumsworld, a website which is notorious for posting humor content without the permission of

community, and everyone rejoiced in victory. Yes, this is all petty, foolish, childish lunacy. There could be significant legal reprisals against the members of YTMND and the other communities who participated in the attacks. It's a very, very long shot, but these sites could even be shut down.

However, if you have accepted YTMND into your heart, as I have, then these events inspire a sense of justice that is sorely absent from contemporary America. How so?

YTMND allows users to create individual websites, each composed of a picture, a sound file and if they so choose, large type text super-

imposed upon the aforementioned picture. With these simple tools, members have managed to craft sites that brutally cut to the heart of political, economic, social and yes, pop culture issues. You might call it an evolution of the political cartoon. To be fair, more often than not, YTMND sites are simply funny. Or vulgar. Or disgusting. Any which way they turn out, I find YTMNDs to be the future of communication (interpret that however you like), and at any rate, it's a fantastic medium for cutting straight to the truth, another sorely lacking commodity these days.

In so many words, it's a simple formula with immense results, pure and simple. There's very little purity or simplicity in our warped world

these days, and for me, YTMND, along with a handful of television programs and other websites, provide a ray of hope that blazes brightly in the face of insurmountable corruption. So it was on this day that truth conquered profiteering, despite the childishness and vulgarity of this "internet skirmish," that my heart grew three sizes. It's fair to say that far too many of the religions, communities and persons that make up America have so hopelessly lost the ability or reconcile their ideals with their actions that America itself has become a disgusting joke. What makes YTMND so special is that it is often a disgusting joke - but YTMND wholeheartedly accepts that.



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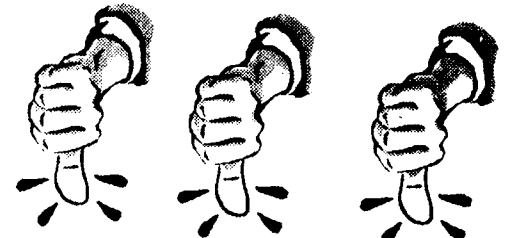
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Beacon Thumbs Up



- Observing MLK day.
- Beautiful weather.
- Outdoor tennis in January.
- Free newspapers at various locations on campus.

Beacon Thumbs Down



- Professors who only provide a syllabus "on ANGEL."
- Poor quality textbooks purchased via the Internet.
- Lack of dollies for dorm move-in.

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.

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



Send Suggestions to opinion@psu.edu

Put Down the Twinkie!

By **Michelle Vera Suroviev**
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There seems to be a lack of human flesh to go around these days. Back in biblical times, when people lived for a couple hundred years or more, there must have been a bunch of skin in use. Sure, one might fall for the blasphemy of believing that the body is capable of regenerating skin cells, and these cells indeed do not come from a mystical storage device located in the stratosphere, but that would be heresy. Heresy, I say! And we all know, the last time we as a planet experienced such silliness is when someone thought the earth was round, and look what happened to them. They sailed right off the edge of the world.

Now back to our body parts problem where the problem caused by the zombie flesh eaters destroying any possible skin surplus will not be addressed at all, due to complicated nature regenerated corpses bring to the picture. Where are all these parts going? Based on scientific facts with no speculation at all, it has been concluded that excess body mass is transferred between individuals. Over one said holiday break, one said very attractive Beaconian found himself with an influx of a few pounds whilst another equally special

Beaconian found himself with a loss of the same amount.

We as a society can now conclude that whenever a person loses a pound, whether it is from diet, exercise, or a Lindsay Lohan style of bulimia, it directly goes to someone else. This incredible breakthrough that will shock the academic community verifies the patterns of weight gain and loss that are happening across the globe. As the people of the country

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of America continue to expand in the waist area, we are forced to get our excess pounds from poorer countries. Because of our gluttonous nature, other countries are starving. This body fat exchange just may be what the creators of NAFTA, a very important free trade agreement, had in mind the whole time. Forget about the economic benefits because politicians always have hidden agendas, and we

may have discovered the biggest scandal of all time, body fat transfers.