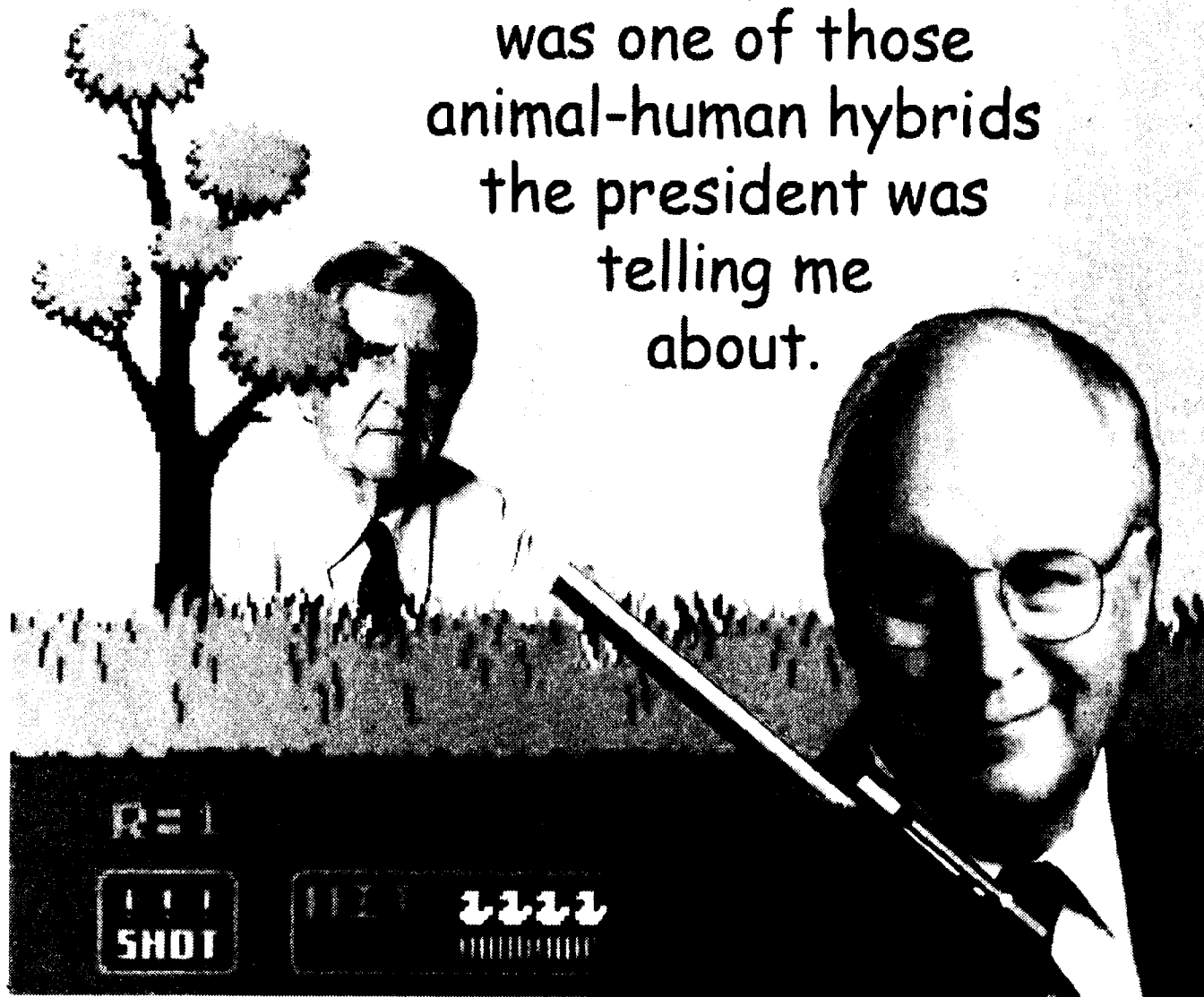


OPINION

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

I thought he was one of those animal-human hybrids the president was telling me about.



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 All submissions are considered, but because of space limitations, some may not be published.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.

Apathy epidemic

By Jennifer Haight
news editor
jah1005@psu.edu

I know you've probably seen about a dozen or so articles claiming there is widespread student apathy. However, I do not foresee an end to these types of editorials until students begin to stop complaining and start doing. To those of you who are active on campus and who do strive to make it a better place despite the complaints and lack of concern, I thank you. I think you're doing a wonderful job.

To those of you who complain, stop: there are plenty of things to do on this campus. Do you not look at the walls as you climb the stairwells and wander the halls in Reed, Kochel and Hammermill each and every day? Do you not have friends in the clubs and organizations which sponsor such events?

The Diversity Committee just had an entire week of events put together specifically for you, the students. There were performers from a chalk painter, which most of you probably would have found to be really interesting had you gone, an African drum band, which a lot of people wouldn't have attended if it were not made mandatory by some instructors. There were other performers including a singer/activist who had some really fascinating things to say and Yellow Rage who also were pretty remarkable.

Excuse my scathing tongue, but I am sick of hearing people say that there is nothing to do here. If you just take the

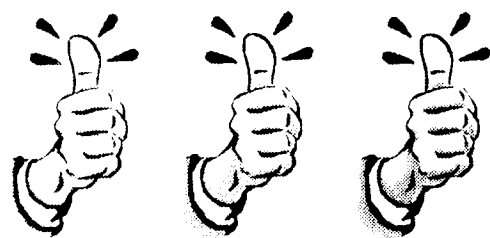
time to look around, you will find that there is plenty. There is either a comedian or magician or something at Bruno's nearly every Saturday night, and there is also a movie showing every weekend in Reed.

If none of these things strike your fancy, then take it up with someone who can do something about it. Complaining about it to your friends at lunch isn't going to bring some fabulous rock star here. Better yet, why don't you try to book an event and publicize it and get people to attend. Put yourselves in the sponsor's shoes. Not only do they have to book the event, which in and of itself is tough as nails, but they also have to get people to attend.

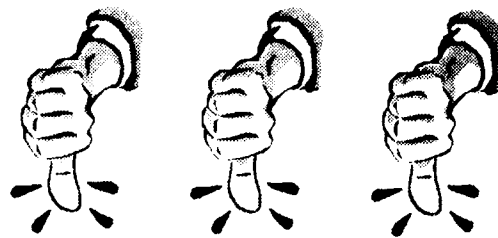
I am thankful to the people who do go to the events and who can appreciate it when the people in clubs and organizations put their hearts and souls into several events, or even just one event. I wish there could be more students like you. The goal of this editorial is not to make you feel bad...on second thought, yes it is. It is about time to start looking around and opening up your eyes to new environments and events; experience something new; challenge yourself.

There is so much more than drinking on the weekends. Beer pong gets boring after a while, as does going to the same apartments weekend after weekend and saying and doing the same drunken things you said and did last weekend. Don't waste all your money on booze; you can watch a movie in Reed for a dollar and go to most, if not all of the other events free of charge.

Beacon Thumbs Up



Beacon Thumbs Down



- Warm weather
- Buy one get one free at "The Pizza Pan"
- 2006 Olympics Games
- Sherbet at Bruno's

- Garbage in the smoke fountains
- Cigarette butts outside of the apartments
- Macintosh computers
- Roommates who don't wash their dishes

Halo: Just for Kids

By Chris Hvizdak
staff writer
ceh186@psu.edu

Video games are perhaps the most hallowed past time of recent generations. There is certainly no shame in enjoying video games as a lighthearted form of entertainment, a therapeutic escape or even a way of life. It's a free country. However, I take issue with people who devote themselves to recent, widely available, simple minded games and thusly pound their chests in total ignorance of what exists outside their realm of awareness. The Chief Offender? Halo.

Halo is, "first person shooter..." on a console system. No, I don't mean to indulge in a "this system is better because" name calling contest; I mean to speak the truth. First person shooters were originated on personal computers. By their very nature, they require the accuracy inherent in the mouse/keyboard control combination. This simply cannot be paralleled with a console controller. This narrowed spectrum of control

inherent to console first person shooters eliminates much of the actual skill required to play the game and makes success unevenly dependent upon luck and memorization.

And that's cool. Halo can be a fine game for parties and other large gatherings. It's light and entertaining. So is Mario Party - another game which requires less skill than button pushing. This is all well and good - if you don't take it seriously. But some people do. There's a lot of chest pounding these days related to Halo. Do a Google search; you'll see.

Candy Land is another game that relies mostly on luck. You don't see a whole lot of people taking that seriously. Of course, you do have your competitive board game players who do take Candy Land seriously, but they do so in a light-hearted spirit, not a deadly serious one - as the Halo folk do. To the Halo folk I say Keep your shame to yourself or find a real game. Unreal Tournament 2007 should ship in a few months.

Then there's World of Warcraft.

Again, if someone wants to burn away their life leveling up at the cost of \$12 a month, that's fine. Just keep it to yourself. Yes, I've played my share of digital and paper Role Playing Games. I appreciate their value. However, I do not appreciate the flood of crappy humor that is flooding the internet related to World of Warcraft. No one cares if you and five of your friends can get your wizards to dance in sync with the Village People. Please do not post it on "You're The Man Now Dog" or any other website.

There are plenty of great current and classic games out there. As a generation that has grown up with these "murder simulators," as elected members of both political parties are quick to call them, we owe it to our detractors to raise up games that require a little skill and a little class as the touchstones of the era. The Grand Theft Auto series is a fine example of balance between skill and violent gratification. Let's champion that one over Halo so we can at least maintain some sense of dignity.

Letter to the editor

Behrend Beacon Staff,

We, Muslim students of Penn State Erie, note with surprise and consternation that you published an extremely offensive drawing associated with an article titled: "Cartoons Cause Controversy" on the front page of your paper's last issue dated Friday, February 10, 2006.

While we recognize your right to free speech, we feel that it shows insensitivity towards the Muslim community that is also a part of America's demographics. In fact many reputable organizations in the U.S. media, including the CNN, have refrained from showing the cartoons.

To live harmoniously in a globalized world, we hope you

will show greater maturity and understanding towards others and refrain from publishing anything that offends people's cultural and religious beliefs and sensitivities.

Muslims of Penn State Erie
Ashraf Khalifa, Engineering freshman, second semester.

This letter has been also signed by:

- Arta Latifi
- Lul Nur
- Naima Abukar
- Anula Alomeranic
- Zeynep Ezgi Muderrisoglu
- Heidi Silbaugh
- Tanya Doggwiler
- Njomza Latifi
- Ahmed Yansaneh

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



Send Suggestions to opinion@psu.edu

The Behrend Beacon

Published Weekly by the students of Penn State Erie



THE BEHREND
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