

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

The Behrend Beacon

Published Weekly by the students of Penn State Erie



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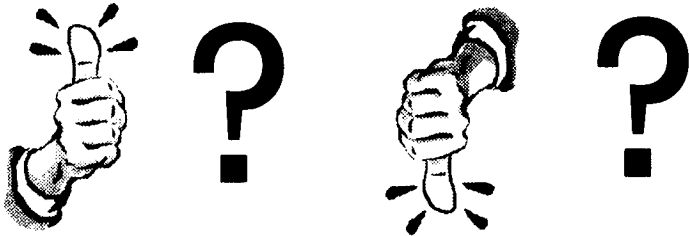
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Have a "Thumbs Up" or "Thumbs Down"?

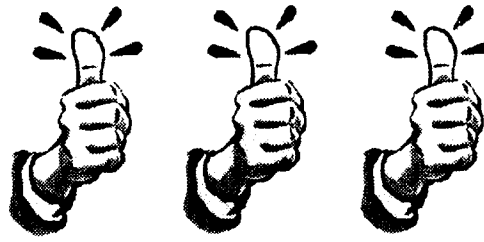


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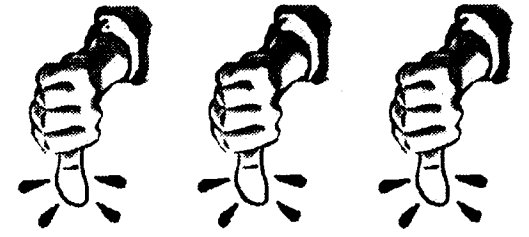
The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page. Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to dgm147@psu.edu, or directly to the Beacon office, located in the Reed Building. Letters should be limited to 350 words and commentaries should be limited to 700 words. The more concise 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 All submissions are considered, but because of space limitations, some may not be published. The Behrend Beacon reserves the right to edit any submissions prior to publication.

Beacon Thumbs Up



- Any size coffee at Sheetz is \$.89
- No Friday finals
- Golf team winning tournament
- SGA's newsletter "The Spotlight"

Beacon Thumbs Down



- Rainy weather
- Final exams at 8 a.m. or 8 p.m.
- Terrell Owens drama
- Ohio State beating Penn State

On-campus living leaves more to be desired

By Ben Raymond
 humor page editor

Deciding to live on campus for three years was one of the best decisions I ever made for myself. This is, however, my fourth year here at Behrend.

I can remember back, many moons ago, when I moved into my first room on the ground floor of Niagara Hall. Coming in as a freshman I didn't know anyone on campus, not even my roommate. When I left my high school, I was in a graduating class of 68 people. We all knew each other there, and it was a comforting feeling. We had all grown up together and shared the same experiences. All of that was gone.

As it turns out lots of people were having those same feelings. Within the first week our entire floor would go to eat dinner at Dobbin's together. The friendships I made there have stuck with me all these years.

Going into sophomore year was great. I got to move into Porcupine Hall with a bunch of the guys from the previous year. From there it was on to the apartments. The group was split down into four people.

Having on-campus apartments was a great idea on the part of housing. They are a step above traditional housing, and a good training model for living off campus after graduation. The way it is set up is where I think there needs to be a change.

After the first two years of living on campus I had gotten to know the people I lived with very well. My roommate graduated in the fall of 2005. For the spring semester there was a stranger moving into my apartment. It was awkward for both of us. If the apartments are supposed to be a model for living

after graduation there needs to be a change.

I feel that the apartments should be removed from the regular housing contract system. They should still be part of the University, the living arrangements should just be different. I suggest having a lease system. The students would have to pay rent and be more responsible for their apartments. If they have to do that, it may cause them to be more mindful about damages to the property and make them more responsible.

I also feel that the apartments should have mixed living arrangements. This is to say, that men and women could live in the same apartment. Not necessarily in the same room, but just share an apartment. I feel that this would encourage more students to stay on campus.

The reason I am not on campus this year is because of exactly that. Many of my friends moved off campus this year. If men and women were allowed to live in the same apartments, it would allow for more options for people to stay on campus. When you have limited space to share with three other people, you want to make sure you can trust them.

If a couple got engaged or was married and wanted to live on campus they would not have an option to live together. They could not even share an apartment. This would create awkward situations with roommates and potentially cause conflict.

I just feel that when people ask me why I was not living on campus this year, I say that I was pretty much forced off campus. I have plenty of friends, and a good number of them are female. The place I am staying at now is great, but I still feel like less of a part of the Behrend community and that I am slightly disconnected from the campus. After four years here that's just not where I hoped to be.

Turn signals are so last year

By Janet Niedenberger
 copy editor

An epidemic is spreading across America. There is a rapidly-growing number of people who can't seem to properly operate a motor vehicle. In fact, it's almost as if everyone simply forgot about the other millions of people who use the same roads they do. Where is the courtesy?

Let's start with one of my greatest pet peeves: turn signals. I know that they are incredibly difficult to use and all, but as far as I know, every car has them as standard equipment. Sure, if you're in the middle of nowhere, and it's four in the morning, they're not that necessary. However, if you are turning left and there are any cars behind you, it's pretty much a no-brainer that you should put your turn signal on. It drives me insane when a car in front of me randomly begins braking. I look around to see if maybe there's a cop or perhaps an animal about to cross the road. Then the car begins turning. Thanks, buddy. It's also really great when someone is turning, and they put their signal on while they are turning. Yeah, I figured out what you were doing, no need to warn me now.

Yet another type of driver that I'm quite fond of is the old person. Now, I know we're supposed to respect our elders, but sometimes it's hard. I honestly believe that anyone 60 and older should be forced to retest for their driver's licenses. Many older folks get upset when they hear this, but come on. If you're a capable driver, then what's the problem with retesting every couple of years? I have been driving for over five years now, and I've been rear-ended twice. In both instances, the driver was an older person. One of the incidents was on my high school's property. When I got out of the car to check for damage, a cop approached the old man, and asked him if he was ok. Not me, the one who was hit. The man didn't even ask if my car or I was ok. Nice.

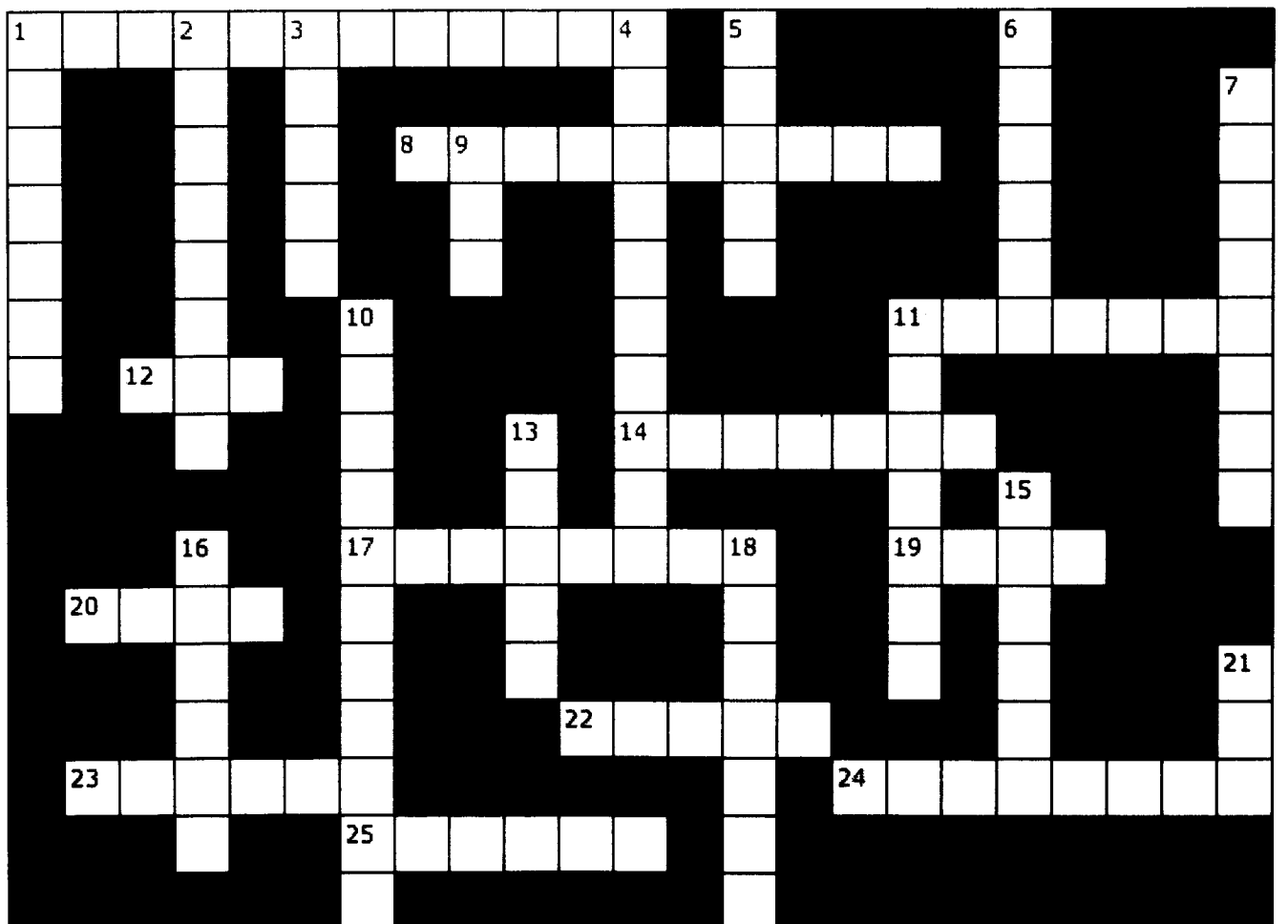
Another type of driver that I love to be on the road with is the "follows-so-close-behind-you-that-you-can't-see-their-headlights" driver. I will admit that I'm guilty of this as well, but it drives me crazy. The driver seems to think that if they ride my bumper, I'll magically speed up. However, when this occurs, it just makes me slow down.

"Sight-seers" are also fun to follow. These are usually tourists, or someone who is trying to find where they're going. These fine drivers can be found by following the large line of traffic they build up behind them. They are the ones who are not looking at the road; they are far too busy looking around in wonder. And those who are trying to find a specific address? They have this crazy new website: MapQuest.com. Look up directions before you start searching, it'll save everyone who follows you much aggravation.

Answers for last week's crossword puzzle were in the clues.

Good luck on this week's edition of the Niedenberger and Kelecseny.

The Niedenberger and Kelecseny: Literature Edition



DOWN

1. A formal speech delivered in a formal manner
2. An analogy; identifying one object with another
3. The central idea of a literary work
4. The study of beauty in nature or in art
5. A saying made familiar by common and long use
6. A figure of speech comparing two unlike things that are often introduced with like and as
7. Poet _____; currently is Donald Hall
9. A lyrical poem expressing emotion
10. The "Father of English"
11. An illustrative story teaching a lesson
13. Form of Japanese poetry consisting of three lines with five, seven, and five syllables, respectively
15. George _____; author of 1984
16. The point of highest interest that evokes the greatest emotional response
18. Where the action of a story takes place
21. J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the _____*

ACROSS

1. A word that suggests its meaning by the sound of the word; e.g. buzz
8. To present material in a way that prepares the reader for actions that will occur later in the plot
11. A statement at the beginning of a book or article
12. _____ de plume; pen name
14. Figurative language usually associated with pictures
17. A group of three periods signifying an omission in a piece of literature
19. Another word for poet
20. A relatively simple narrative
22. A section or division of a long poem
23. The divisions of a poem; a recurring grouping of lines in a poem
24. The conversation of two or more people
25. A puzzling question