

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 only Bolton worse than Michael Bolton

By Stephen Oyler
contributing writer

To start, I heartily give my applause to Chris Brown for not even mentioning Human Rights Day, which was December 10 (applicable to the December 8 issue of *The Behrend Beacon*). When glorifying John Bolton, the United States' Interim representative to the United Nations (UN), in his article, "Bolton the bully?" he praises Bolton's tireless work ethic, bullying manner and sadly typical, controlling American personality. Bolton's bullying efforts have fortified the domineering American presence in international affairs. The U.S. has an air about it as the biggest, the best, and the most powerful, a style that Bolton exemplifies, regrettably. Brown further omits how the U.S. is the world's dictating leader in economic, political, and military operations-strong clues of a unilateral mentality.

The UN is not unilateral; hence, bullying is unfair and only extends the circle of being unwelcome as an American into other parts of the world. The UN is designed to be a multilateral governmental body whereby each country is deemed as equal. According to Brown, "He [Bolton] looked out for America's interests in an organization that time and again turns its head away from its largest benefactor, the United States." In 1994, Bolton is quoted as saying "There is no such thing as the United Nations. There is only the international community, which can only be led by the only remaining superpower, which is the United States." Unfortunately, Brown's article only further proves Bolton to emphasize being a unilateralist who is not what is desired or required by the UN.

Another significant drawback to Bolton's short term appointment has been his severe lack of cooperation. The most important was disapproving the approval of visas to the Iranian parliament's speaker and group of officials in part of a mandatory world conference for UN members. Visa approvals are not questioned, regardless of war, relations, etc. But, because of Iran's "non-democratic" government, approval was not given as needed and no visas were sent on time. This was not the first time that a denial of mandatory visas has happened; the last time was with Yassar Arafat. Reports have also documented

that Bolton has illegally (by contract and oath) withheld information from both Colin Powell and Dr. Condoleezza Rice, more than once.

In an article by Kathy Gill, a professor at the University of Washington and former governmental worker both at that state level (in Pennsylvania) and at the federal level, she quotes Bolton as having "tunnel vision, a lack of diplomacy and borderline xenophobia." Later she goes on to state that Bolton will "dangerously fray the United States' already eroding relations with the rest of the world." Other comments about Bolton, by a spokesperson from North Korea, include him as being "human scum" and a "bloodsucker [who] is not entitled to take part in the talks [about peace]."

Bolton had little support and was hardly a legitimate ambassador to the United Nations. He lacked, and currently lacks, support from the Senate,

American citizens, and other global leaders and was inadequately recommended by President Bush, who, in my circumstances, represents the U.S. just as defectively. In researching information for this rebuttal, I came across a non-partisan webpage showing sections on criticism and praise. To show the pros and cons in comparison, the site has a mere six lines of praise, and twenty-seven lines of criticism.

If the U.S. is the largest benefactor of the UN, then one would think that the U.S. would pay their bills to the UN. Listed in the chart above proves the U.S. in their capitalistic mentality whereby they pay less, and get more (from the UN). Bolton's aggressive attitude certainly fell short in paying the bills, yet somehow the U.S. still has the loudest voice (unfair).

A few brief examples of UN inequalities in favor of the U.S. First, "The UN Peacekeeping budget is lower than the budget for the New York City police department, and the UN regular budget is less than the smallest US state budgets-Wyoming and South Dakota." Secondly, the current annual Peacekeeping budget has been approved at \$5.03 billion (representing 0.5 percent of global military spending). The fiscal year budget for the United States (2004-2005) military expenditures was \$370.7 billion (more than 73 times the UN Peacekeeping budget). It is simply an oxymoron to pay mere pennies for peacekeeping and hundreds of billions of dollars into military operations which fight wars that are the opposite of peace.

U.S. debt to the United Nations, from 2001 to 2005

Year	Regular Budget	Peacekeeping	Total
Dec. 31 2001	\$165 million	\$691 million	\$871 million
Dec. 31 2002	\$190 million	\$536 million	\$738 million
Dec. 31 2003	\$268 million	\$482 million	\$762 million
Dec. 31 2004	\$241 million	\$722 million	\$975 million
Dec. 31 2005	\$607 million	\$607 million	\$1.246 billion

STEPHEN OYLER

Bolton, as a representative of the United States, may in fact have been "one of the best representatives the U.S. has had in years." He epitomizes the bullheaded American viewpoint; a lack of financial responsibility, a social conscience, or a heart, as Brown evidently writes. His countless problems and bullying personality disappointingly represent a helpful, effective; international collaborator in which today's more pressing issues can be safely solved. I do not think that many people want to be represented by him and this bully's resignation is a welcome site to anyone who has a heart and the realization that others need the UN's help more than the U.S.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is in regard to not only the articles concerning Jon Demerecz, but also the letters to the editor. It is apparent that the arrest of Jon Demerecz has the entire campus up in arms, but what a lot of students don't realize is that he deserves the same rights as any other American. As citizens of this country, we have a judicial system that keeps us in check, and that judicial system says that every American is innocent until proven guilty. I am not defending Jon Demerecz. I am defending his right as an American, because I know I appreciate the rights given me by this country and its constitution. I cannot know for sure whether or not Jon is guilty. I will leave that decision to the elected officials given that responsibility. Until then, Jon Demerecz is innocent.

David Exler
Mechanical Engineering Technology '09

Dear Editor,

I understand your need to keep the Behrend populace up on the legal issues of Mr. Jonathan Demerecz, as the case is big news in Erie, but I for one would appreciate if you would tone down the sensationalist angle. When he was first arrested, you printed an immensely unflattering photograph of him and his address on the front page. Now you have put wildly inflammatory information on the front page, claiming that "multiple images of minors engaged in oral and anal intercourse" were found on his computer and printing an article suggesting a strong correlation between viewing child porn and an inclination towards sexual violence. Additionally, a letter to the editor was printed stating that "[Demerecz] is a sexual offender" and "this guy's a freak."

Essentially, it seems to me that the Beacon has already tried and convicted Mr. Demerecz, despite the fact that a jury of his peers has yet to do so. Why? An article ran beneath his this past week reporting that a Behrend student was caught in the act of stealing painkillers, with the intent (admitted by the criminal) of getting high on some and selling the rest, yet no photos of the perpetrator accompanied it.

Mr. Timothy Blackhurst held up a local family-run business at gunpoint to steal drugs. Mr. Demerecz already suffered the ignominy of the front page once; what is so special about him that he needs to be shamed again at the expense of warning the Behrend community about a man who is addicted to drugs and armed?

I'd also be interested to know how many Behrend students have been pulled over for drunk driving or have multiple moving violations, with accompanying shots of the drivers and their license-plate numbers; students need to be aware when they cross Jordan Road of classmates who operate motor vehicles with utterly careless abandon.


I have numerous friends who are attractive women, two of whom are rape victims; I understand fully the need for Behrend to be aware of predators. I would merely ask that your coverage of the potentially dangerous be fair rather than sensationalistic.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Kyle Zaffino, MIS '08

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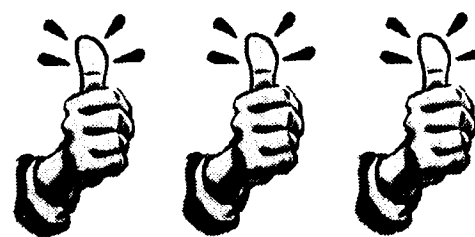
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Beacon Thumbs Up




- Specials at Jimmy Z's
- Ski season
- Caffeine
- End of the semester!
- Graduating!


Beacon Thumbs Down



- Rude shoppers
- Backpacks on wheels
- Newspapers not consistently restocked
- Inconsiderate cell phone users
- Saying goodbye to friends for break



Have a Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?



(check a box)

Submit it to the "Thumbs up-Thumbs Down" box at the RUB desk.

Submission Guidelines

The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page. Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to klk3005@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.