

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

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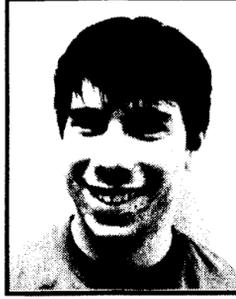


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This week in politics



By **Chris Brown**
copy editor

This Presidential election is shaping up to be one of the longest and most expensive in United States history and could end up being the first billion dollar election. While it is tough to say how the candidates shape up on every issue, something noticeable in every candidate's speech is their inability to separate themselves from the current administration's practices concerning presidential appointments.

The Bush Administration has time and again shown that loyalty is more important than intelligence or precedent; instead of representing the interests of America, they choose to make law for the 30 percent of Americans in their base.

The Bush Administration exhibited one of the worst uses of election cycle cronyism ever in United States history, and this could not have come at a worse time. By appointing loyal subjects that would side with him on every issue, instead of the smartest, brightest, and most talented individuals, the government has failed a large part of the population. Tax cuts and a rising deficit during wartime, the Iraq War and failure of reconstruction, Afghanistan and failure of the Taliban, Osama bin Laden,

a resurgent al Qaeda, illegal immigration, an overstretched armed forces, Hurricane Katrina; and the list goes on. All these things can be attributed in some way to horrible appointments made by Bush or the insistence that loyal Republicans be hired over qualified civil servants. That's not to say some of these mistakes and failures could have been averted with a Democrat in office, but at least I would have known the government gave America its best shot.

America does not need another professional politician that rewards its loyal subjects with posh jobs in the White House. The past seven years have been a disservice to the American people. America needs a president that will serve all of America and not just the people that voted for them; a president that will nominate and appoint people that are the best in their field and not just represent their interests, but the nation's interests; and a president who vows to end the partisanship in Washington D.C.

Over the last week a number of news reports have revealed student loan scan-

loans. Many financial aid directors received kickbacks for serving on lending boards that made recommendations for preferred lender lists and with over 90 percent of students following the suggested lenders schools give them, the amount of money at stake is enormous.

As first time lenders, many students rely on the expertise of the financial aid officials at their school to help navigate the treacherous waters of financing a college education and maybe that is what makes this scandal so sickening. With the number of inquiries increasing and a push for the Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate, I'm sure as time passes the problem will be revealed to be much worse than first thought.

The Senate passed a bill that would expand embryonic stem cell research funding on Wednesday, April 11. The bill would let researchers use stem cells at their own discretion and would remove the restrictions placed on federal funding for stem cell research currently in place. Bush has vowed to veto the bill, but it is not yet clear whether the Senate has enough votes to overcome a veto.

While researchers can use whatever stem cells they want with private funding, the federal funding issue creates difficulties. Because of the restrictions, any university that receives any federal money, which is pretty much all of them, is forced to move its stem cell research labs to a separate off-campus facility.

Bush needs to get off of his moral pedestal and step into reality. No one in the scientific field believes an embryo is a human life. Even in the abortion debate, pro-life pundits have given up on this scientifically bunk argument. The current restriction is inhibiting the United States' ability to compete globally and is denying the potentially life-saving benefits of research to Americans and it is time for a change.

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Times are a-changin'

Theresa Di Buono
staff writer

If the government has the right to barge into your home and appraise it for tax reasons, why then, for life or death reasons, can't they take old bulbs off the market and make them illegal?

Old manufacturers of light bulbs are going to have to take the necessary steps needed to be out with the old and in with the new, and I believe the government should stop blowing up other countries and help fund this change so that Americans can only buy energy efficient light bulbs. If they are made unavailable, the problem is solved.

We spend all this time trying to fix and govern other countries, but we can't save our own. I don't think terrorists are threatening our country; we are our own worst enemy. Maybe George W. Bush should invest some of OUR tax dollars into OUR country. Everyday, our rights as Americans are taken away little by little with new laws that are created or enforced. I can't seem to figure out why I need to wear a seatbelt to stay alive, yet I don't need to protect the air I breathe, or the ground I walk on.

This is yet another great wonder to me. Why bother fighting terrorists now to prevent any future mishaps, when we may not even be here in the future if we keep treating the environment the way we do? People who don't care are just stupid, and it really is that simple. Change your light bulbs!

April showers normally bring May flowers, but in April we have seen some snow, and snow makes the flowers go. This brings us to a larger, more important issue than just the death of some flowers: the issue of Global Warming. With pollution happening everywhere you look, I often wonder why there are not stricter laws on recycling, regulations on cars, and home and factory appliances that produce carbon dioxide (CO2) which destroys the ozone.

Did you know that if every American replaced just one light bulb in their home with an energy-efficient, ENERGY STAR fluorescent light bulb, it would prevent some 13 billion pounds of CO2 from entering the atmosphere? That's the equivalent to taking over one million cars off the road for an entire year.

This is something I think should be made into law. All landlords and homeowners alike should, for the safety and sustainability of the present and the future, change all the old-fashioned light bulbs that emit CO2 and simply replace them with energy-efficient ones. This would save homeowners, business owners and landlords hundreds of dollars in overall energy costs.

THUMBS UP



- Hammocks
- Fantasy Sports
- Rain as opposed to snow

THUMBS DOWN

- Possibility of Law & Order being cancelled!
- Locked doors in REDC
- Poor grammar



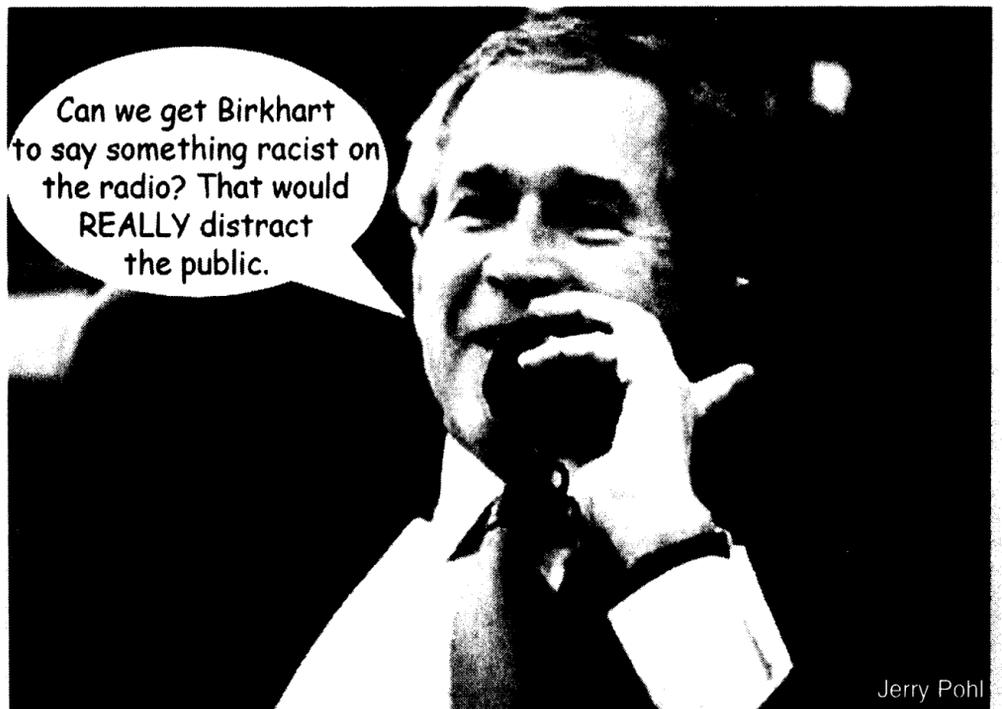
Submission Guidelines

The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page. Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to jan219@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.



Jerry Pohl

Letter to the Editor

I am writing this letter in regards to the childish, sophomoric article written by Ryan Gallagher titled *WWE: Professional Wrestling - World's Worst Entertainment?* First off, the entire article written by Mr. Gallagher loses all credence when the opening sentence of it states that he does "not possess any knowledge on the subject." While his opinion is respected, I think he should have been a little more mature about his comments.

On the subject of professional wrestlers wearing tights, all one needs to do is look at the amateur wrestling organizations in the world to see that that is not common to only wrestling. I hope that the next action movie that features Bruce Willis and his enemy fighting at the end of the movie without their shirts on gets as much criticism from Mr. Gallagher as wrestling matches do.

The WWE grosses hundreds of mil-

ions of dollars every year with top stars such as WWE Champion John Cena earning up to five million dollars a year. Hmm, that sure doesn't sound like a successful business, does it? Cena has also gone on to star in his own action movie titled *The Marine*, which has grossed over \$40 million dollars worldwide. When professional wrestling is bashed because it is "fake" by uneducated, holier-than-thou people such as the writer of the article, I simply retort with this; Movies are fake. TV sitcoms are fake. Soap operas are fake. 24 is fake. *The Sopranos* are fake. They are all scripted forms of entertainment, just like the WWE is. Next time Mr. Gallagher's friends go see the latest action flick at the movie theater, is he going to ridicule them and write an article about how fake the movie is and how dumb and "ignorant" they are for watching it and paying to watch it? Doubtful. When Bruce

Willis kills the bad guy at the end of the movie, is Mr. Gallagher going to claim that no one won in the end? I think not.

And yes, Mr. Gallagher, *Wrestlemania 23* did just air live on pay-per-view. Guess what? It's not the only show that people pay to watch. WWE provides 16 pay-per-view events per year, with an average of around 300,000 buys per show. *Wrestlemania* this year is estimated to have drawn over 1,000,000 buys. That's a lot of "ignorant" people.

Mr. Gallagher, was there any justification for your insulting statement that the "actors" are illiterate and cannot read the signs that their fans make for them? A little ignorant, disrespectful, and outlandish if you ask me.

Thank you,

Robert Staaf