

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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Have an opinion? Want to see something changed on campus? Share it with the rest of the student body. The Behrend Beacon is always accepting articles for submission. E-mail Chris LaFuria at csl5005@psu.edu if you are interested in writing.

Didn't this happen already?

By **Chris Brown**
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Fall 2007 is beginning to look eerily similar to the Fall of 2002 when the Bush Administration began to make its case to invade Iraq, only this time Iran is in the crosshairs. Over the past few months the United States and our European Allies have placed a number of economic sanctions on Iran to convince them to give up nuclear research. Iran insists it is only for peaceful nuclear energy research. Surprisingly, Bush has been content with these sanctions but judging from his rhetoric and White House press 'leaks,' things could be changing rather quickly.

Take a recent speech Bush gave at the American Legion in which he said, "Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere and that is why the United States is rallying friends and allies around the world everywhere to isolate the regime to impose economic sanctions. We will confront this danger before it is too late." Compare that to another speech, this one from October 2002: "If, however, the Iraqi regime persists in its defiance, the use of force may become unavoidable. Delay, indecision, and inaction are not options for America, because they could lead to massive and sudden horror. Should force be required to bring Saddam to account, the United States will work with other nations...American security, the safety of our friends, and the values of our country lead us to confront this gathering threat."

However, Bush is not the only one with the fiery rhetoric. Iranian President, Mahmoud Amadinejad plays the perfect Saddam. He and Bush continuously try and one-up each other and this past week has been no exception. Amadinejad began it by speaking to the student body of Columbia in New York City and then at the opening session of this year's United Nations General Assembly. In his

speech at the UN he said, "The decisions by the United States and France are not important."

Congress is doing its part to back the United States into an invasion or at the least an attack. Few news agencies picked up on the story, but the Senate approved an amendment to a routine budget authorization bill. The amendment expresses the Senate's support for "the prudent and calibrated use of all instruments of United States national power in Iraq, including diplomatic, economic, intelligence, and military instruments." Senator Jimm Webb from Virginia gave an impassioned speech on the Senate floor during debate, but it ended up passing anyways 76-22. Both

Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere and that is why the United States is rallying friends and allies around the world everywhere to isolate the regime

- **George W. Bush**

Senator Bob Casey and Arlen Specter from Pennsylvania voted for the bill. Despite all the rhetoric and fronting, Bush has been content with taking the diplomatic route and focusing on getting more strict economic sanctions, but this opportunity may be coming to a close. Germany and other European nations are resisting any new sanctions and without their support the likelihood of any new sanctions being passed is low.

There are a few key differences between now and 2002 that probably mean an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities probably won't happen. One of the biggest is Bush's closest advisors.

Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld are now replaced with Condoleeza Rice and Robert Gates. Vice President Dick Cheney, a chief proponent and architect of the failure in Iraq, has lost his clout to shape foreign policy after the conviction of his chief of staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby for obstruction of justice and the decidedly pragmatic Rice has now replaced him. Gates has supplanted neoconservative ideology within the Pentagon and with the US bogged down in Iraq, there is little chance he would let Bush start another military conflict. No one knows what will happen, but for right now it looks like Bush will hold off on an attack and stick to the hollow war rhetoric.

Point-Counterpoint: Battle of the Beers

The Case for Dark Beer

By **Ryan Gallagher**
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Dark beer: Gatorade. Light beer: water. What a comparison. Water quenches the thirst, but in such a plain, boring fashion, while Gatorade quenches with an explosion of flavor. This is why I love a dark, rich ale. It doesn't taste like watered-down piss. I can sip on a dark beer for an hour and it will still be delicious to the very last drop, something only achieved with a dark rich ale or lager. The majority of time I come across someone choking down a Natural Light just to get drunk, I wonder why people can't do this with a Guinness, or a Yuengling. I mean, honestly, when someone tells me the best way to enjoy the beer is through a bong, I know that flavor isn't the number one priority of this brewery.

However, the majority of college students still tend to prefer light beers to dark. Whether this is because all students care about is getting hammered, or they simply haven't received enough culture, I don't know. But I find it strange. When I turned 21, I was eager to explore all the variations of beer and see what kinds I liked. It didn't take long to realize that dark was the way to go. It's like choosing Coke over Diet Coke...it just tastes better.

Another beer that often goes overlooked to college kids all over is Guinness. Now Guinness doesn't taste like your typical beer. In fact, no ale tastes like your typical beer. They all have their own distinctive, signature taste that makes them unforgettable. Guinness just has a taste even more obscure than most. When tasting a Guinness for the first time, try not to anticipate its taste based on other beers you've tried, because it will be nothing like it. It has a rich, creamy Irish taste to it, and is very easy to drink due to the lack of carbonation. It doesn't even have to be cold for you to enjoy a dark, creamy

Guinness draught either, but it doesn't help to add a refreshing shot of Jameson.

Two other beers at the top of my recommendation list is the Pennsylvania native Yuengling Lager (oldest brewery in America) and New Castle Brown Ale. Yuengling Lager is always a fine choice. Its dark, amber color illustrates the flavor and forces you to push the cold, bubbly liquid to your lips and enjoy every aspect of it sliding down your throat. New Castle has a thicker, flatter texture and is more of an acquired, but still delicious taste.

Whether you are trying to relax, or just enjoy a tasty buzz, give a dark lager a try if you normally drink light beer. You may find it intriguing and making you want to drink more.

The Behrend Beacon does not condone underage or unsafe drinking. Please enjoy your alcohol responsibly - Do not drink and drive.

The Case for Light Beer

By **Andy McLachlin**
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When it comes down to it, you have to choose light beer. Let's face it, we are in college and when we go to the distributor or have someone take us to the distributor, we are going for a pil-

sner. It is not because we like the taste. Hell, it could be that you like the taste, but I guess you like licking walls as well. We buy pilsners because it is cheap and they are there for us when we had a rough week and a cigarette would just not cut it.

Not to mention, it is college for crying out loud. We need to let loose and most of the time, we will not have more than 10 to 15 bucks in our wallet. To get a solid, dark lager, you are going to have to spend at least \$20. With a pilsner, you can get two cases for about the same price and get the results you are looking for. Being 21-years-old, I like to go to an occasional pub when I get some free time. While there, I will order a dark lager because of the taste. I also like to have one while eating dinner, but other than that, it is all pilsners for me.

Also, let's get on to drinking games a bit. Can you imagine playing beer pong, watching the opposing team make a shot, looking down at the cup, and seeing Guinness in the cup? Now, I love a good Guinness like anyone else, but not while I'm playing a game of beer pong. When you are playing in a drinking game, you want a light pilsner to let it go down quicker. Been there, tried it, and puked up the Dobbins that I had for dinner.

It is not fair to say that pilsners taste better than lagers because it is just untrue, but you will look back ten years from now and remember the crazy times that you and your buddies had with that case of Natti Light or with the keg of Keystone Light. Pilsners are what start the party, keep the party going, and make the memories that will last forever. By the way, if you can find a lager that is as popular as Natti Light on this campus, let me know.



Submission Guidelines

The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page. Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to cmb5313@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



- Warm weather in September
- Sarah Silverman
- Protesters in Myanmar
- Pickles

Beacon Thumbs Down



- Smelly rooms in OBS
- Lack of painted cross-walks
- Broken A/C in classrooms
- Some members of Congress