

# 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

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## Behrend lacks student art displays

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IT was winter break, and I was walking around my little brother's high school during the halftime of his basketball game. While I was admiring the classrooms and the lockers and the general smallness of everything compared to college, I noticed student art covering the walls. Paintings and drawings and even computer designs from every grade. It reminded me of the student art gallery I had in my own high school, running down the main hallway, and of the day some of my pieces from my photography class made it into the glass case. And then I thought of Behrend, and it occurred to me that I have never seen any student art on display at all.

During the warm weather weeks I know that somewhere on this campus, student art is being created - I just haven't seen any of it.

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I have seen students sitting outside with giant sketchpads, working away. I've glanced through some hallmate's open doors to see their own art tacked up on their walls. I have seen various art courses offered in the registrars. So I

know that somewhere on this campus, student art is being created - I just haven't seen any of it.

Behrend students who work in other mediums have venues in which to display their work. There are choir concerts and plays regularly, and even my own work for the newspaper is published weekly. In Koche I have seen some of Behrend's professors' work on display, including books and thesis's they have completed. But still, there is no example of student artwork to be found.

Public art is important for many reasons: education, culture, expression. But the aspect of art that could serve Behrend best is the community it creates. Behrend is no University Park, but it is still easy to feel lost on a campus this size. I remember my first few weeks here, feeling like I was drifting along instead of actually putting my feet down and belonging someplace. I also remember the first time I wrote for the newspaper. It wasn't about how big the circulation was or how many people read or cared about what I wrote. What mattered was the fact that I could walk to any newsstand on campus and touch with my fingers something I had made, something I had added to my school. After that, how I felt about Behrend changed dramatically.

A lot of people at Behrend feel that it

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is a place where they come to attend classes, complete homework, and maybe have a place to sleep on most nights - a sense of belonging is hard to come by. I think that if student art were on display it would help to anchor the student body a little bit more. It's not about how good the art is, or whether someone is majoring in art or not - It's about declaring who you are and what you have to offer. Maybe if more students could see a tangible example of what they have to give to campus, it could change the "float on by" mentality. And if the rest of us could pass through the halls and see something created by one of our peers, and relate to it, maybe we could relate to each other a little bit better.

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## No boyfriend, no problem

By Aeriala Kramer  
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I'm no relationship expert by any means, nor am I the kind of person who knows all the remedies for broken hearts, or great revenge schemes. I do, however, know a thing or two about contentment, and the kind of outlook on life that provides security in being single, and, for the most part, staying happy while living life solo.

Over the years, I've listened to numerous stories about breaking up, hooking up, and just plain messing up, alongside the occasional "We're so in love and it couldn't get better than this!" outbursts. My shoulders have been soggy with friends' tears more times than I can begin to count, and I've had my fair share of late nights under the stars contemplating relationships and why sometimes they just don't seem to work out right. I've experienced relationships first-hand that weren't what I thought they would be, nor ended up being right for me.

When it comes to being single, I've seen people cringe at the very word. I used to know where those people were coming from. Now, I look at them and wonder if they know what they're missing out on.

Valentine's Day is soon approaching, a day many people either love to celebrate because they have a boy/girlfriend to share it with, or wholeheartedly dread because flowers or cards from parents just don't cut it anymore.

My philosophy is this: being single isn't the end of the world. It's not a guarantee or a promise, and it's certainly not something to dread anymore. I've found that being single allows a person time to think, to step back from life and see

where they are heading. To decide what one wants before rushing into something unhealthy.

Rushing; the act of doing something quickly, often times without thinking too much in advance. I've watched as friends of mine rush into relationships, spontaneously thinking it will be an adventure, or because they are dying to get away from being single, because they cannot stand to spend Friday nights alone.

Singleness is not a disease that people should be afraid of, nor is it something that needs to be run away from. It's something to be proud of because holding out for the right person, instead of trying to find the nearest person, can be so much more satisfying in the end (of the relationship, of course).

Many of my most memorable Friday nights were spent lounging around at friends' houses, watching movies, and sipping hot chocolate...not wondering why I'm not out on a date, or about being alone this coming Valentine's Day.

It's a heart thing, a meager issue of being content without another person's arm draped around your shoulder. It's being okay with spending some weekends alone, or with a friend. It's knowing that this whole world is filled with single people, hoping that their Prince Charming or Cinderella will turn the next corner in the grocery store and sweep them off their feet, yet also realizing that we don't live in a fairy tale romance novel.

In my experience, many of the strongest people don't have bulky biceps, or brains the size of a watermelon, but they are the people that are content. Content with who they are, content with who they are becoming, content to wait for what they want.

*When it comes to being single, I've seen people cringe at the very word.*

### Beacon Thumbs Up



- Syllabus day
- Refreshed Meal Points
- NFL Playoffs
- Two hours of sun on Wednesday

### Beacon Thumbs Down



- Homework. Again.
- "Spring" semester
- Two months until spring break
- Only two hours of sun on Wednesday

## What you may have missed:

### Important events from over winter break

By Rachel Reeves  
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**Bhutto assassinated:**  
 Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party was assassinated on Dec. 27 while leading a rally in the city of Rawalpindi, two weeks before the election. Whether she was killed as result of a close-range shooting, or in the suicide bomb explosion a few seconds later remains unclear. Bhutto's husband is asking for an international investigation by the UN, as many of her supports do not trust any of Pakistan's own internal investigations. Bhutto's 19-year old son, Bilawal Zardari, has been named the new party leader, and is continuing his studies at Oxford under close protection.

**Sarkozy's new someone:**  
 French President Nicolas Sarkozy, just months after ending his 11-year marriage with Cecilia Ciganer-Albaniz, has become seriously involved with former Italian supermodel/pop singer Carla Bruni. Currently the French Prime Minister Francois Fillon is working to dispel rumors that Sarkozy and Bruni have already been married, claiming that Sarkozy's busy schedule could not have permitted a ceremony.

**The Golden Globes:**  
 This year's Golden Globes were conducted as a news conference, not the usual red carpet extravaganza. Many of the actors who were going to be recognized boycotted the event to support the writer's strike, which is still going strong. Highlighting some of the wins: *Atonement* won best drama, Julian Schnabel won best director for *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, Daniel Day-Lewis took best actor in *There Will Be Blood* and Julie Christie took best actress in *Away From Her*.

**The Primaries:**  
 Primary races began in Iowa, New Hampshire and Michigan. Obama and Huckabee took Iowa easily. Then in New Hampshire, even though Obama was polled to win, Hillary Clinton came from behind to win by three points. Whether the cause for her sudden spike in popularity was a good showing in the debate or a rare display of emotion in a coffeehouse the night before the primary remains undecided. McCain won easily, followed by Romney and then Huckabee. The Michigan primary was even stranger. Romney had a solid win, but since Michigan broke the rules by holding an early primary the Democratic National Party is stripping the state of its national convention delegates. Obama's and Edward's names were completely withdrawn from the ballot.

**India's Nano vs US Smart Car:**  
 India's Nano is the world's cheapest car, priced at \$2,500, and one of the smallest. The car's two cylinders are located in the back, and propel the car to speeds of 75 miles per hour at 50 miles to the gallon. In developing countries, the tiny inexpensive four-door is a great option for drivers. This year the European Smart Car is released to the United States. However, this car seats only two people, costs upward of \$11,500, and runs at about 35-40 mpg. It is expected to be most popular in large cities and retirement communities.

**Marion Jones sentenced to six months:**  
 Marion Jones, Olympic track gold medal-winner, has been sentenced to prison for six months on account of lying about steroid abuse and two months for her role in a check-fraud scam, both terms to be served at the same time. She has also been sentenced to 400 hours of community service during the two years immediately following her release.

**Tornadoes and flooding in the Midwest:**  
 A freak warming streak caused severe storms in the US midwest. In Indiana, hundreds of homes were damaged and six people were killed due to flooding. Tornadoes were also reported in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, killing two more people. The vestiges of the storm later moved east, and gusts up to 85 mph took out electricity for nearly 100,000 people in Western New York.

**Post-election violence in Kenya:**  
 A corrupt election held Dec. 27 in Kenya has lead to intense violence across the country. Election observers say that the Kenyan government rigged tallying in order to keep the incumbent president, Mwai Kibaki, in office. The opposition party has been leading protests ever since, and the government is fighting back. Already some 600 people have died, but the opposition party swears to continue until Kibaki steps down.

**Commentator's Comment on Tiger Woods:**  
 Kelly Tilghma, a commentator for the PGA Tour on The Golf Channel was suspended for an offensive remark she made calling the Mercedes-Benz Championship. Remarking about Tiger Woods, she said that his opponents would have to "lynch him in a back alley" in order to win the tournament. She apologized immediately, and Woods, who is publicly known to have a close friendship with Tilghma, had nothing to say on the matter. However, many say that her inability to separate her personal friendship with her public career allowed for a mistake that might have otherwise been avoided.

**Time Person of the Year 2007 - Vladimir Putin:**  
 In a controversial move, Time Magazine proclaimed Russia's Vladimir Putin Person of the Year for 2007. Although Putin will step down as Russia's president, he has proclaimed himself Prime Minister and personally nominated a succeeding president. He is very popular in Russia, but his ideals are anything but democratic, and his relationship with the US is strained to say the least. Time defends the choice, saying, "TIME's Person of the Year is not and never has been an honor. It is not an endorsement. It is not a popularity contest. At its best, it is a clear-eyed recognition of the world as it is and of the most powerful individuals and forces shaping that world—for better or for worse."

## Submission Guidelines

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.

The Beacon does not publish anonymous letters. Please include your major, faculty, or administration position and semester standing. Deadline for any submission is 5 p.m. Tuesday afternoon for inclusion in the Friday issue.

The Behrend Beacon reserves the right to edit any submissions prior to publication.

Please keep complaints as specific as possible. Email submissions to [cmb5313@psu.edu](mailto:cmb5313@psu.edu) or drop them off at the Beacon office.