

OPINION

THE BEHREND BEACON

FOUNDED IN 1948

Penn State Erie,
The Behrend College
Reed Union Building
4701 College Drive, Erie PA
16563
Room 10H
Telephone: (814) 898-6488
Fax: (814) 898-6019

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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. Thursday 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 rcr5057@psu.edu or drop them off at the Beacon office.

The First Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution:
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.

Beacon Thumbs Up



- Robitussin
- Valentine's Day (attached)
- Nunzi's pizza
- Toasters

Beacon Thumbs Down



- Cold/Flu Season
- Valentine's Day (single)
- Risk of hypothermia
- Junker Road

Student is tired of limited choices

By Connor Sattely
entertainment editor
cis5060@psu.edu

As a first-year student entering the campus for the first time, I was pretty impressed with the food choices on campus. I could go to a pretty good cafeteria up the hill, or I could go to a café named after a dead animal for some variety. It was a novel idea for a student whose high school had one choice, formally known as "lunch-lady surprise."

Then came my first trip to University Park. I had been there on a tour, but never really got to "know" the campus until my friend took me on my first stroll down College Avenue. I felt my allegiance to the Bruno's and Dobbins' staff waning as I surveyed the seemingly endless choices of food which was available to students. Subway, Jimmy John's, even a Hooters down the street. Two Starbucks. Two. I felt like notifying Lewis Black. Aside from the commercial chains set up on campus, there were also many cafeterias to choose from. After having several meals at UP, I returned to Behrend.

The next day, I grudgingly made my way to Dobbins and got my normal

cheesburger/fries combo for lunch, and a stir-fry for dinner. I thought, "I'll change things up tomorrow and get bacon on my cheesburger."

Now, wait a second. I realize that University Park is literally at least ten times as large as Behrend, and proportionally, there should be more food choices there than at Behrend. Let's conservatively assume that there are fifty

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choices for food on the University Park campus, including all cafeterias, restaurants, and fast-food outlets.

According to PSU's "Fact Sheet" online, University Park enrolled over 36,000 undergraduate students in the 2006 fall semester. Behrend has almost exactly 1/10 the amount, rolling in at 3,600 undergraduate students.

Shouldn't Behrend, then, have one

tenth of the food choices? Asking for five choices for food on a campus of over 3,600 undergraduate students does not seem unreasonable. And don't get me wrong, I'm not asking for a Ruth's Chris to pop up on Jordan Avenue. All I'm wondering as a first-year student is why Behrend can't entice (though, something tells me they'd hardly need enticing) Subway to open a shop on campus? McDonalds? Pizza Hut?

I don't want to be misunderstood when I say that I want more food choices on the campus. I think that Dobbins and Bruno's have good choices. I doubt that I'm the only student that would not mind paying a little extra to grab a bucket of the scientific marvel "sauce-less hot wings" from KFC.

I keep hearing people talk about how Behrend is committed to keeping students on campus and not having them transfer to University Park. It seems to me like the average college student should be able to name the top three things he or she loves right away; two of them should probably include "food" and "sleep."

And, as the mysterious, narcoleptic hoodie-donning student who sits in the back of my Psychology class would say, we have the sleeping part covered.

Take pride in Behrend's basketball

By Rachel Reeves
opinion editor
rcr5057@psu.edu

Walking into Junker Center for my first basketball game at Behrend was like walking into another college. The stands were fairly full; enough so that finding a seat for three people was challenging. At one end of the court there was an actual student section, complete with megaphones, painted bodies and a mascot. There was even a pep band leading them on - and they were good.

I was shocked. I have been to other Behrend sporting events, and none of them were like this. Soccer games in the beginning of the year were sparsely populated, swim meets were vacant, and tennis invitationals were completely abandoned. Considering that so much of Behrend's population is involved in a varsity, if not a club sport, I could never understand this tendency to ignore competitions of any kind. When I did decide to go to a basketball game, I expected to find the same level of apathy.

But it was loud. I could hear the cheers the second I opened the doors. When the referee made a bad call, the crowd let him know that they saw it. When someone made an amazing play, the cheerleaders weren't the only ones excited about it. And the barely discernable chants like, "Start the buses!" and "It's all over!" reminded me of countless other sporting events, from high school to university level.

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Everyone was wearing school colors: t-shirts, baseballs hats, even jerseys from other sports. I had never seen so much support for Behrend, not University Park, in one place. Just the fact that the word "Behrend" was in most of the cheers and the songs was unusual. It was like for one night, we didn't need to associate with another campus. For one night, we were pretty good as we were.

I learned some things. One, that our basketball team is good. They are undefeated at home, and have the best scoring defense in Division III Men's basketball. They are sitting on top of the AMCC right now, and have a good shot at taking the regular season title. I also learned that if you attend a basketball game, you have a really good chance at getting a free t-shirt out of the deal. And spending a frigid winter evening in a bright, warm gym with your friends is not a bad way to go.

For once I felt connected to my fellow students. A bunch of us were in the same place, caring about the same thing - supporting the team that was ours and nobody else's. For once students were actually enjoying being a part of the school, and taking pride in it. Or as a friend put it, "It's just one of those moments when you realize that you are at college, and it's a bigger deal than high school ever was."

So we can't have our own football team. But football season is over anyways, and we do have a great basketball team to support. We are having a phenomenal season, and everyone should take advantage of this ridiculous success. So this Saturday or Wednesday night, haul out of your room or your apartment and make the trek up to the gym. It'll be worth the walk.

You have two guards who are guarding two doors.
One guard tells the truth. One guard lies under oath.

Yeah. The FBI can't figure it out, either.



Accountability keeps systems, not necessarily people straight

By Rachel Reeves
opinion writer
rcr5057@psu.edu

We all have our addictions. TV shows that we simply cannot miss, our cell phone within easy reach, that drink at the end of the day, the person who our lives are empty without. My own personal addiction is coffee. I plan my mornings around twenty minutes with my soup bowl-sized mug, and my day cannot start until I take that first sip of piping hot, black coffee. Some of our addictions are socially acceptable; others are not. Some addictions don't interfere with our daily lives too badly; but then others do.

Erie Police Lt. Robert J. Liebel has an all-consuming, life-wrecking brand of addiction. On Sunday, 12 grams of cocaine went missing from the evidence locker, and after an accusation led to an inspection, Lt. Liebel confessed to stealing it for his own use. He is currently in the Crawford County Correctional Facility on \$100,000 bond.

It's not just drug misdemeanor. It's tampering with evidence, and obstruction of justice. Lt. Liebel worked on the Erie police force for 22 years - the con-

cept of justice was obviously important enough to constitute a life's work. Yet he abandoned the ideal for his addiction.

This is why this situation is a much bigger deal than DiVecchio's snowplowing scandal. Although DiVecchio did abuse county time and manpower to have his driveway plowed four or five times in the past two years (and neglect to pay a parking ticket, and boost a private business) it is a minor kind of corruption that can be checked.

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Addiction, however, is bigger than just one person, or even a group of people. The Erie police force is acting accordingly, and making the evidence lockers much more secure. Previously, up to 14 people had access to the locker. Now, only one person has the key. Also being taken under consideration is adopting the practice of weighing controlled sub-

stances before they are secured in the locker.

Humans are human, even if they have been with the police force for 22 years, or were elected County Executive. And even if they try their hardest and fully believe in their work, people make mistakes and bad decisions. Everyone needs accountability. Whether our weaknesses are dangerous or just inconvenient, we need someone who will tell us that we have crossed a line. DiVecchio had a County Controller. Lt. Liebel had a justice system that was bigger than he was.

It's something to keep in mind in the upcoming election. It's not about selecting the perfect candidate; the one who has walked the line their entire life, and doesn't have one black mark on their record. It's about selecting the person whose greatest strengths match up with the country's greatest weaknesses, about picking the general direction we would like to see things head towards. Then all we can do is trust the accountability that has been set up, like checks and balances, free speech and free press.

The important thing is not that human nature is flawed. The important thing is that we accept it, and look out for it, and find ways to correct it.

I think the world needs...

To wait until the clock runs out. Teams walk off the field/court with seconds left. Political candidates drop out of the race after only 13% of the country has voted. Students drop classes before they actually fail them. What would happen if everyone saw everything through to the end? Would life as we know it be in shambles, or can you change everything in the very last second?

Think I'm wrong?
Have better ideas?
Let me know.
e-mail rcr5057@psu.edu