

# PERSPECTIVES

*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.*

## "Change always comes bearing gifts."



**By Rachel Reeves**  
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My time at Behrend is running out. I flipped the calendar from March to April today, and it dawned

on me that I only have one full month left at Behrend. Next week I schedule for classes at University Park, and will attend a meeting that will select the new editor in chief for the Beacon next year.

After that it's all about the transition. I have a few short weeks to train someone in the job I have spent months learning how to do. And I have to let go and let the paper take on the shape it will settle into next

year.

I have mixed feelings about the whole thing. On one level, it kills me to walk away from something that has been such a big part of my life. I'm not sure how to go back to plain old living after this experience this year.

But there's always the other hand to consider. Learning how to edit a newspaper has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. The list of things I have learned is more than long enough to line I-80 all the way to State College.

I've learned how to shake a professional's hand and look them directly in the eye. I've learned how to balance a budget of thousands of dollars. I know how to shop for computers, office furniture, and the snack food that will get you through a long work night.

I know what to do when I have no idea what I'm doing. I can fix a printer with not much more than sheer willpower, and I can write an article in twenty minutes flat. I have built up epic levels of endurance when it comes to proofreading, and can stay sharp for hours at a time.

But I've learned more than certain skills - I've learned life stuff, too.

I know now that some things are worth taking calls for at 3 a.m. or on the weekends. I know what it's like to work with a team of people so closely that you begin to seep into each other with food and music and clothing. I know how to make good mistakes, and how to use the bad ones.

I've learned that if you love something enough, no task is too tedious, menial, or painful. I've learned that teaching other people and protecting

opportunity for them is one of the most valuable things you can ever do.

I know what it's like to have a job that I love. I understand the feeling of getting out of bed in the morning with energy and motivation. And each day at Behrend I had a place where I belonged.

Between the things I've learned and the people I've met since taking this job, the world is permanently a different place for me.

It's exciting to think about the future, even if I won't be a part of it. The Beacon and Behrend are always changing, and there will always be new opportunities and challenges.

And there will always be people coming through these doors and finding something that they love. I remember the first time I walked in the newsroom and knew that I had

found something that I wanted in my life. I like to think of all of the people who will get to feel the same thing.

I'm glad that the Beacon has been part of my life for two years. But more than that, I am grateful that I have been a part of the Beacon's life for two years. Of all things, of all of the crazy emotions that come with transitions and changes, what I always come back to is thankfulness.

This may be premature, but it's never the wrong time to say these things. For those who I have worked with, who have helped us and even those who have challenged us, thank you.

And to next year's crew, good luck. Own it, make some waves, and raise some hell. Try stuff. Don't be afraid of anything. And don't miss a second of it. It's all too good.

## Letter to the editor: NOVA OVER DUKE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns about the validity of articles in last week's Beacon, particularly the graphic which was included on page seven. There was an erroneous assumption made which not only did I find insulting, but also demonstrated the elitism of a certain group of individuals that are strewn around college campuses and offices everywhere.

I am of course talking about the most arrogant, annoying and elitist group of sports fans that walk this earth, those who subscribe to the wrong set of Blue and White, those who think the "Cameron Crazies" are a choir of angels and that God himself is Mike Krzyzewski. Duke basketball fans are the most bigheaded sports fans in the stands even though their team has not advanced to the Final Four in five years and haven't been a National Champion since the 2000 - 2001 season. Duke was (thankfully) shut down again; this year by Villanova with an embarrassing final score of 77-54.

However, in the Beacon's Bracket, I noticed that Duke somehow advanced to the Elite Eight over the Wildcats. In the "real world," the Villanova Wildcats are in fact not eliminated but have went on to beat the top seeded Pittsburgh team in the East Bracket and, some (including myself) say, are poised to upset tournament favorite UNC.

I have found that certain members of your staff are in fact some of those very Duke fans that give sports a bad name. Instead of actually checking to see who won the game, these writers, as any Duke fan would, decided not to watch the game and assumed that the mighty Blue Devils would crush

the three seeded Nova. Typical.

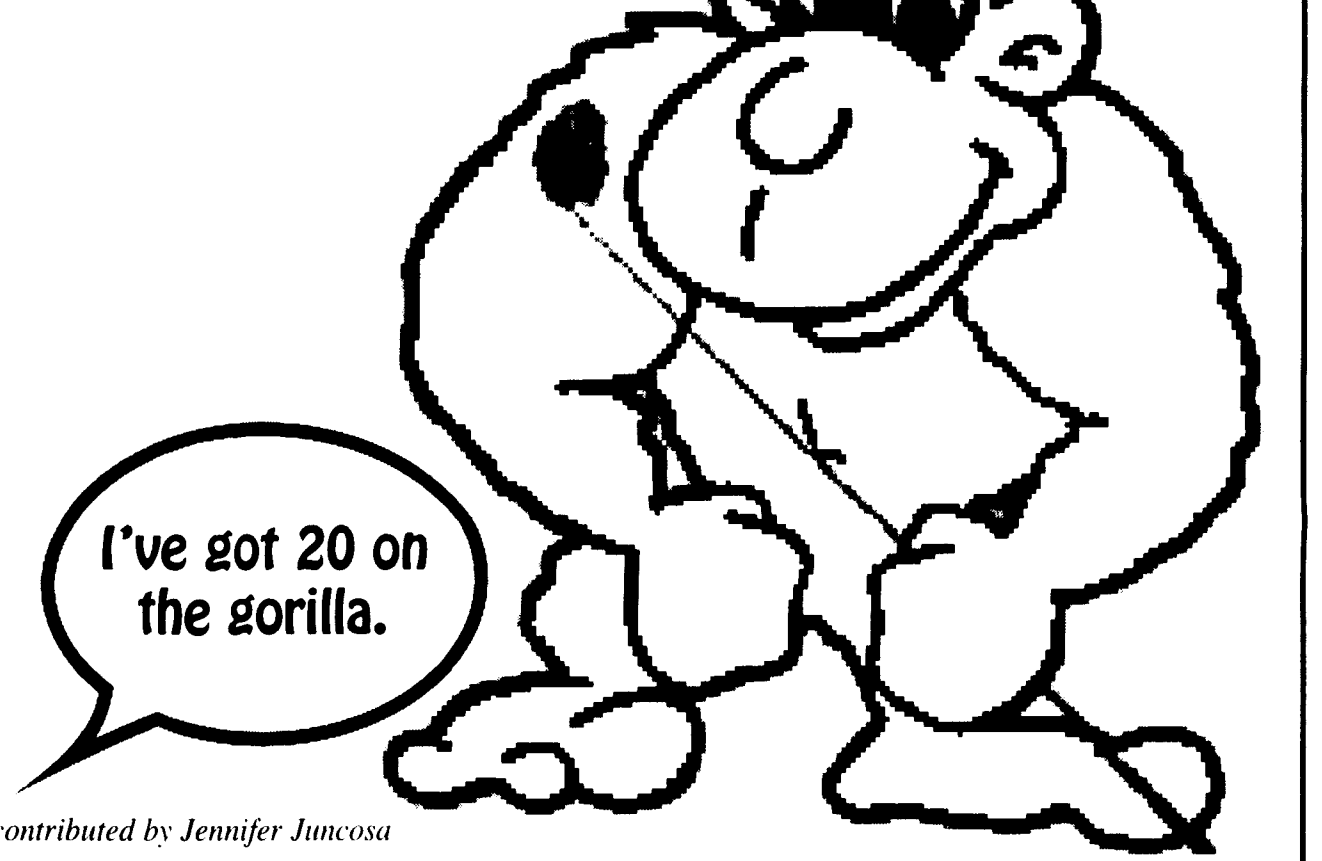
I understand that it may be hard to cope with the college basketball darlings choking a considerable amount of the time in the postseason, but denial ain't just a river in Egypt, my friends. Our campus has a fantastic engineering program, and I urge all of the Duke fans out there to find some of these students to help build a bridge and get over the fact that Duke just doesn't seem to be able to operate in the NCAA Tournament any longer.

Furthermore, the egotism and superiority complex that radiates from that program and its fans is unbelievable and makes portions of college basketball unenjoyable. After President Obama revealed his own predictions for the tournament, the beloved Coach K pitched a 5-year-old-style hissy fit when he found out that his team didn't crack Obama's Final Four. According to an article on ABCnews.com Coach K replied, "Somebody said that we're not in President Obama's Final Four and as much as I respect what he's doing, really, the economy is something that he should focus on, probably more than the brackets."

Classy. Well, maybe Coach K should spend his time worrying about advancing his team in the postseason and getting his team to move a little further than they have in recent years. Personally, I called Villanova over Duke in my bracket. Count it. Unlike all those missed 3 pointers from Duke's postseason run...

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Only at Behrend will you see a gorilla with a golf club fighting a Commador with a plastic bugle.



contributed by Jennifer Juncosa

### Want to make cartoons for the Beacon?

The Beacon staff is currently looking to fill open spots for next year.

If you are interested in making cartoons for next year's paper please contact Jennifer Juncosa (jdj5061) or Rachel Reeves (rcr5057).

## Don't always believe what you hear

**By Mike Wehrer**  
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Recently, ever-present loudmouth pundit Bill O'Reilly has been tooting his own horn about being the number one rated cable show for the 100th month running. This is very revealing about America's tastes and preferences, especially in this age of "infotainment." What kills me though is that it's impossible to tell whether or not people actually believe what the guy is saying.

It's a not-so-well kept secret that many of today's popular talking

heads (Sean Hannity, Anne Coulter) don't actually believe the things that are coming out of their mouths.

Instead, they just look at an issue, pick out something that the far-right wing would take issue with, and run with it. This is especially noticeable with Anne Coulter. This woman, ostentatiously an author, spouts ideas that would make even the most radical elected official blush, but by God, those ideas sell books.

As far as I can tell, there are two levels of awareness in people who watch these pundits. First are the people who, like in professional wrestling, think the whole thing is real. These people believe that

Limbaugh and O'Reilly are the champions of the middle class (despite being multi-millionaires) and tune in every night to hear who their knights in XXXL shining armor are telling them to hate and why.

The other level includes the people who know that their idols don't really believe what they are saying and either don't care because they agree or don't care because they find them entertaining.

I recently saw an interview with MSNBC's Keith Olberman in which he made this same point. This man and the network his show is on are the target of choice for Bill-O and Limbaugh, mostly because nothing

brings people together like having someone to hate. Olberman claims that he is the exception to this culture of phony outrage and cultural divisiveness and points out a conversation he had with FOX News commentator Sean Hannity where Hannity said, "Isn't it funny how everyone thinks we hate each other, but really it's just TV." Olberman was nonplussed, as he claims to be espousing his true beliefs on his show, not a party line or the latest red-hot talking point.

My final point is this; we as Americans no longer want news in our prime time slots on the 24/7 "news networks." Instead we want

the latest on Britney and Paris. Even when the correct people and events are the subject of the stories, such as President Obama and his trip to the G20 summit in London this week, half of the newscast is devoted to reading way to much into the body language of the First Lady and the Queen of England when they exchanged pleasantries. I will grant, that watching the last president awkwardly fondle the shoulders of the German Chancellor, but "news" stories such as these should be the domain of the *Daily Show* and *Colbert Report*, not fodder for the people we trust to keep us informed.

## In my opinion:

Everyone needs a little more comedy in their lives.

Most people thought the April Fool's edition of the Beacon was full of comedy.

If people just laughed a little more, things wouldn't be so tense.

So crack a joke, dress up as a Gorilla, and make someone laugh.

Trust me, it's cheaper than other things to make your troubles go away.