

YOUR VOICE

-Letters to the Editor-

Send us a letter at opinion@psu.edu.
Submissions must be smaller than 350 words.
All submissions will be printed as written.

Career Fair Follie

As you may know, this past week Behrend held its bi-annual Career Fair in the Junker Center. Being a tuition paying senior, I am outraged at the under-representation of humanities-related careers. Only 1 out of every 9 representatives at the Fair represented anything dealing with humanities and social sciences (which include, history, political science, english, creative writing, psychology, and communication). As a history and political science major, I question the extent to which the Career Planning and Development Center understands that there is indeed a Humanities and Social Sciences college at Behrend. Of the 99 companies and organizations present, 11 specifically targeted H&SS majors, 21 science majors, 37 business majors, and 52 for engineering students (some overlapped).

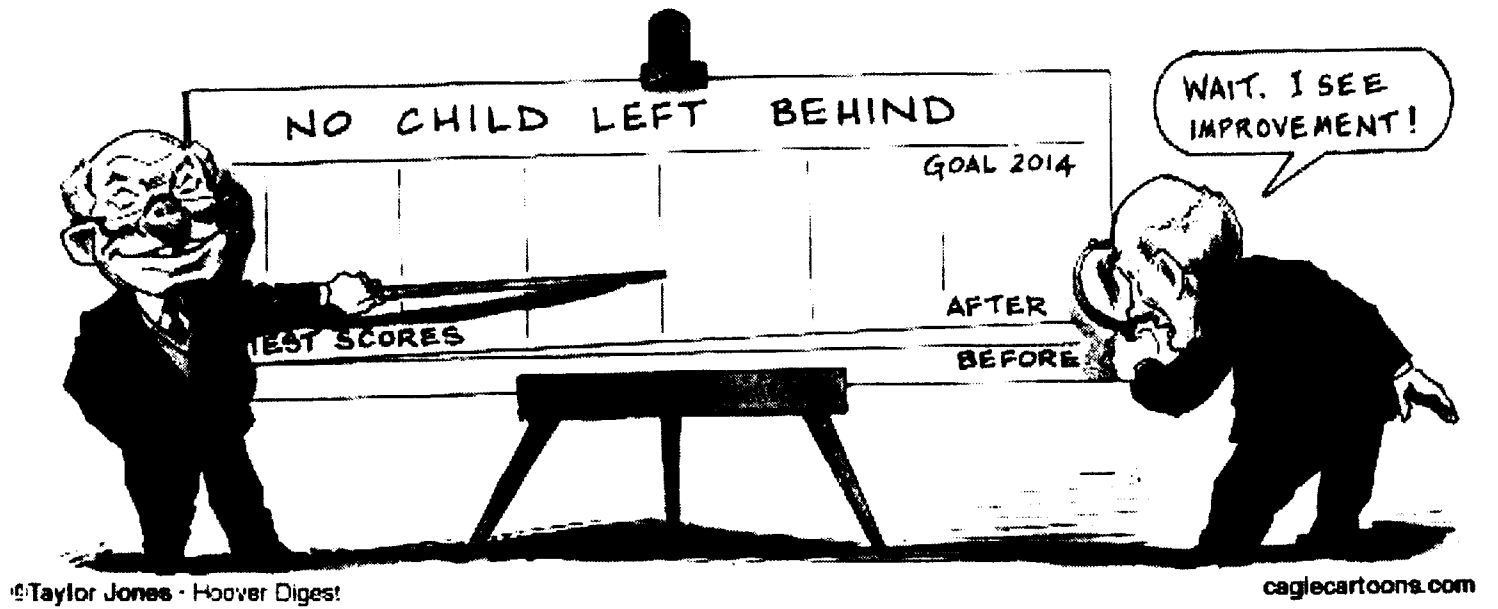
To be fair, there were also 19 that claimed to be aimed toward "all undergraduate students," but they were mostly business oriented. Sure the business and engineering schools at Behrend are prominent, but why is the H&SS department largely forgotten? I think it does a great disservice to the students in the H&SS as well as Science departments to under-represent them at such an important step in moving from college to the real world. I hope that next semester's Fair straightens this issue out, or I will once more be disappointed by the effort by Behrend and will resort to making the long drive to "Main Campus" to fulfill my needs. Step it up Behrend, if you know what's good for you.

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Have something on your mind?
Want to respond to an article?
Send an email to opinion@psu.edu

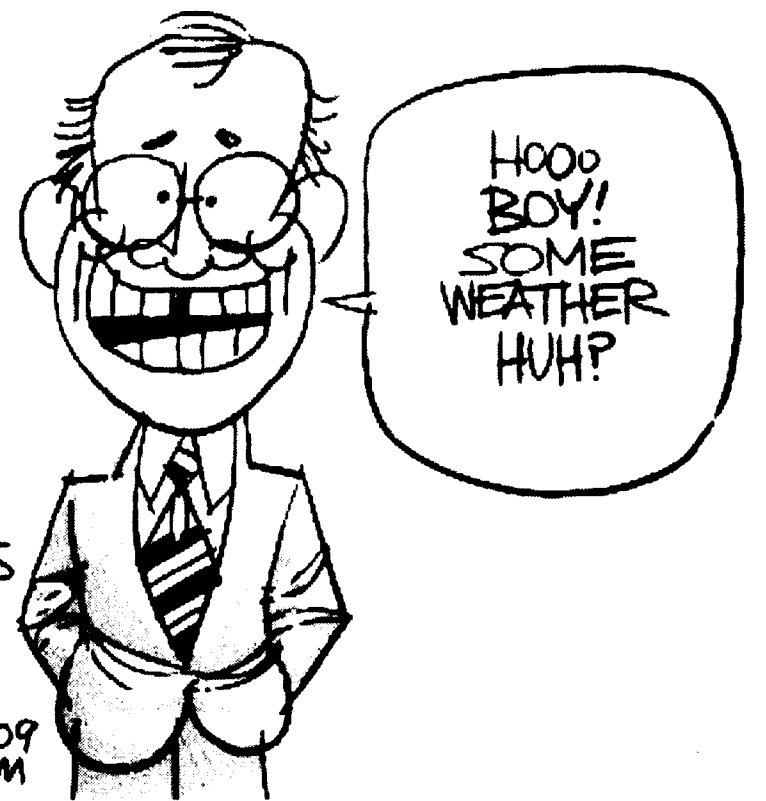
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Check every week for our new section:
-Letters to the Editor-



THE TOP TEN SUBJECTS REJECTED BY LETTERMAN'S JOKE WRITERS

10. SEX
9. POLITICIANS AND SEX
8. SHOWBIZ SHENANNIGANS
7. HARASSMENT FOLLIES
6. FAVORITISM AT CBS
5. EXTORTIONISTS IN THE NEWS
4. BACKSTAGE CANOODLING
3. SARAH PALIN'S FAMILY
2. HYPOCRITES IN THE HEADLINES
1. DAVE



PC vs Macintosh: Point-Counter point

5 things I hate about Macs

JEN SLANE
staff writer

1. Price
Okay now, the first reason why I have less than desirable feelings towards Macs are their price. After Mac OS X was launched eight years ago, there have been eight new versions of the operating system. That is roughly one per year, with each costing about \$199. That is about \$1,600 for anyone who has bought every version. Yet, Apple defends their prices saying the new operating systems contain "more than 150 breakthrough new features," but how many of those features are actually significant?

With the Panther operating system they introduced a "Finder," a way to see all your windows open in one, and video-messaging software. Okay, cool features, but what about the others? I guess you're paying too much for stuff you'll never even use. Mac is selling one thing and one thing only: an overpriced system. With a

PC you can spend approximately \$700 on a decent computer and customize it to how you wish and have a top of the line piece of technology.

The prices are outrageous in comparison to PCs, and for most students, this is an important factor in their decision making for a school computer. When asked why he chose a PC rather than a Mac, student Ben Pearce told me simply because "it costs less."

2. Design

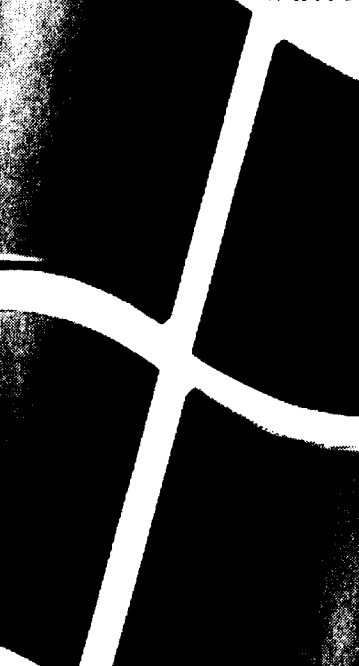
Okay, I will admit, Mac's are the pretty boy on the scene. However, despite popular belief, not everyone needs a computer that looks like it fell out of the back of a Smart Car. The cheapest Mac you can buy, the

Mac Mini, costs almost \$1,000 and it comes with a 60 GB hard disk, 512MB of RAM and no screen. So basically, you're spending \$1,000 on a pretty design. Awesome. I'll stick to my pretty little PC that actually does work for me and I can customize to fit my personal needs. So don't judge a Macbook by its cover.

3. Popularity

So, I do have to say, Macs are pretty popular with all of their "features" and designs. Still, PC has been around for much longer and had built many ties with their loyal customers and is still very popular in their own way.

While



asking students whether they had a PC or a Mac, a majority said PC because it is what they had grown up with and what they were comfortable with. PC already has their stance in the consumer world and have been popular for many years, while Macs are still on the rise and trying to improve their popularity. That being said, in my mind, Macs will never reach the status that PCs have because Apple is more of an iPod company, not a computer company.

4. Performance

Okay, in Macs' defense, they do tend to get fewer viruses, but if you treat your PC with

care and you're not ignorant when using it you should, you should be fine. Also, when a Mac crashes, they are done for. You get to send your Mac back to Apple and they'll ship you a new one in a few days.

With a PC you can sit there and fix the problem or take it to a desk somewhere and in a reasonable amount of time you will be able to be back to what you were doing. Also, the rumor that Mac is faster than PC? Wrong. Your Mac is probably just newer than the older PC and therefore runs a little bit faster. In the end, both Mac and PC are pretty much equal when it comes to performance.

5. Software Compatibility.

Gaming PC's, video workstations, media centers, digital photo PCs, build your own, mini-chassis, mid-towers, business PCs and countless other programs are out or reach if you use a Mac. There are dozens of different PC configurations that can be designed with thousands of specialist components to meet a consumer's needs. With Macs there are three flavors for you to pick from: Mac Mini, iMac, and Mac Pro.

If none of these are compatible with your software, you're out of luck. With the open architecture of the PC platform, you are able to have access to a range of configurations, enabling you to design a PC to your needs without wasting money on things you don't need. It also means you can upgrade without having to replace your existing graphic cards and hard drives by fitting a new CPU and motherboard.

5 things I hate about PCs

AARON MORELLI
staff writer

1. Price

It's no lie that Macs are expensive. This is a generally accepted fact about Macs. But with its high price, you not only receive a great computer, you get a computer that you can actually use for more than 2 years. The battery life of MacBooks allows for years of use, and with the amount of battery replacements that you have to buy for a PC Laptop, you almost make up for the average price difference there. Also with the upgrade from Windows XP to Windows Vista, and then popular downgrade back to XP that most people chose, the average PC user spends hundreds of dollars upgrading and downgrading not only the software, but the hardware as well. Along with the constant and free software updates and the almost annual operating system updates with Macs they allows any consumer to stay up to date to the latest technology.

2. Design

Macs are pretty. One of Apple's main focuses is the elegance of all its products. Closed, open, on, or off, a Mac is elegant, simple, and more or less beautiful. With the MacBook's silver body, and well-designed entirety it is far more aesthetically pleasing than any PC out there. Since Macs are constructed completely by one company and not pieced together by random companies and manufacturers, Apple can keep the whole design scheme of all its products in mind. From start to finish, a Mac is designed not only to be beautiful, but to also be a powerful computing device.

3. Popularity

Speaking of power and per-

formance, Macs are excellent computers. Most PC users are very familiar with the infamous "Task Manager." When PCs freeze or random programs crash, every PC owner knows to hit Control+Alt+Delete to save their computer. On a Mac, this doesn't exist. There is no Task Manager, simply because programs hardly ever crash and/or freeze. Macs are made for people who don't want to deal with the technical side of a computer. Mac computers are 100% protected against viruses aimed at PCs, and with the limited amount of



candy colored iMacs and iBooks came along. Then everybody copied the white colored iBooks, and came out with their own model. After the iTunes Store was released, hundreds of online music vendors instantly popped up in the market. Then upon the creation of the iPod, MP3 players struck the nation and completely took over the physical CD music world. A lot of college campuses are now considered "Mac Campuses." Penn State University Park and various other Penn State campuses are now considered a "Mac Campus." Even the Behrend Beacon is produced solely using Macs. With all of Apples products that work seamlessly together, Macs are making their way to the top of the Personal Computer Market.

5. Software Compatibility.

For the past few decades, most programs have been written for Microsoft computers. Although this would seem hard for Apple to compete with, they simply created their own versions of most programs needed on a computer. With apple's iWork and iLife every Mac is prepared for the world. It has a Microsoft Office equivalence and all picture and video necessities, and then some.

With Apple, the same team of software engineers creates most of their programs, and therefore they are made to work seamlessly together. Also, if any Mac user ever felt the urge to run a Microsoft program, Apple has programs that can run the entire Microsoft operating system as a program, and when you first get a Mac, you are given the chance to run your Mac natively as a Mac, a feat impossible to do on ANY PC.

viruses aimed at Macs, it is virtually impossible to get a virus. Overall, with the up-to-date technology, constant software updates, performance stability, and overall ease of use, Macs are far superior to PCs.

4. Performance

Macs have been trendsetters for the past few decades. With iPods and new operating systems, Apple's originality is exemplified through its computers, operating systems, and various programs. Personal computers used to be box shaped and dark grey until the