

**OUR VOICE:** Majority opinion of the Behrend Beacon editorial board

## Student organizations must be public

Last week, the *Beacon* published an article [JFC President Mancini Removed from Office] regarding a club dealing in closed-doors meetings. This has been an unfortunate trend this year; more and more clubs are closing the doors to their meetings to not only the *Beacon*, but to the public as well. This raises several unfortunate results. First, freedom of information is not available to students. Students deserve to know what is going on within organizations – especially those in charge of governing others. We agree that some meetings of organizations (such as a meet-

ing of the Student Government Association's executive board) be private; personal matters and executive decisions that are made within officers are obviously something that clubs may not want publicized. However, large meetings that involve a majority of the organization should be open to the public. Obviously, this increases the probability of introducing public feedback – no matter how inane or pointless it may seem – to a club's functioning. Additionally, holding meetings in a public setting adds to the base legitimacy of a club, because it shows trans-

parency and accountability. There are always issues within a club that must be handled privately, and the *Beacon* has always and will always respect that. We want to afford every club and organization the privacy they deserve, but we also have a duty to educate students regarding events on-campus. As always, the *Beacon* invites any and all students to attend its weekly editorial board meetings. We have a portion of our meetings which are open for public comment, and we invite any readers to come and give feedback – both good and bad.

We truly want to know what you think.

Our meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in Reed 150, the new conference room next to the Academic and Career Planning Center. Come with suggestions, complaints, or even a note of praise.

Connor Sattely for the Behrend Beacon Editorial staff

*Note: This Tuesday, Oct. 27, we will not hold our meeting due to an editorial board trip to Austin for the Associated Collegiate Press national journalism conference.*

**MY VOICE**

## Fresh scheduling

BRANDON BOYD  
staff writer

It's that time again: scheduling.

For those of you that are on pace to pass the semester, congratulations.

For the others? Maybe schedule a few extra gym classes to boost your GPA. For all Behrend students, scheduling offers an interesting dilemma: what will I torture myself with next semester? If we are going to work hard in a class, let us at least make it entertaining. We need to add some pizzazz to a bland list of classes – math, history, and science? Yeah, yeah, I took those in high school. The only thing Penn State does is change the names of them to "quantification, natural sciences and humanities."

If you put lipstick on a pig, it's still a pig.

If the higher-ups of the college really want us to succeed in life, why not try introducing these classes?

- Competitive Eating.** Who doesn't want to try to eat as many hot dogs as they can in ten minutes? What's more American than watching the Nathan's Hot Dog eating contest on July 4th? With this class, the students of Penn State Erie would have the wonderful opportunity to train for competitive eating contests around the world. This is our chance to dethrone Joey Chestnut as champion and bring the title to Behrend. 68 hot dogs in ten minutes? I can do it in nine, thanks to this class.
- Fantasy Sports.** Here is an

excellent opportunity to teach all the sports-loving students some math. On the first day of class, the students each draft a team, depending on what sport is in season. Throughout the year, students calculate how many points their team scores by hand. To get a good grade, you turn in your compilation of the points, and the professor compares it to what is online. If it's on the money, you get an "A." If you're less accurate than a JaMarcus Russell pass, you fail.

- Zombie Survival.** We have "humanities" and "quantification," so now we need a "social and behavioral science." In this class, students can study zombies and their social and behavioral tendencies. That way, if an attack ever occurs, we will all be ready. It takes real deactivation to pass this class.

- Stick Figures and Finger Painting.** Let's face it; some of us (myself included) are the same artistically as we were in kindergarten. Why punish us by making us paint a tree that ends up looking like a telephone pole wearing a big green hat? This class is for those of us that appreciate the simpler things in life.

As you begin scheduling your classes, think about what could be. Sure, you could know how to find derivatives and how George Washington became the first president. Or, you could know the essentials, like how to eat a bunch of hot dogs quickly, how to create a successful fantasy sports team, how to survive a zombie attack, and how to draw a mean stick figure. Your call.

**MY VOICE**

## NFL quarterbacks need to man up

A game in the NFL is violent and in-your-face. Unless you're a quarterback.

Unfortunately, professional football has devolved from a game where the quarterbacks used to not only get hit but even punt and play defense.

Now, thanks to a knee injury to Tom Brady, the quarterback is nearly as safe as the kicker or punter.

"The Brady Rule," which states that "a defensive player on the ground may no longer lunge or dive at a quarterback's lower legs," took effect this year after Brady missed his entire '08-'09 season due to a (perfectly legal) hit from the Kansas City Chief's Bernard Pollard.

Pollard was pushed from behind while blitzing, causing him to tackle Brady low, thus

injuring Brady's knee.

What upsets me about this rule is the fact that the change was made after Brady was injured.

Am I suggesting that the NFL created the rule because Brady got hurt? Yes, that's exactly what I'm suggesting.

There is no doubt that the quarterback position is one of the most exciting in the game. Quarterbacks have made the game more exciting and interesting to watch. Injuries happen. They are unpredictable and part of the sport. Everyone hates to see a player miss his entire season, but is it necessary for the NFL to implement a new rule because their golden boy suffered a torn ACL?

What would

happen if someone fell on the Oakland Raiders quarterback JaMarcus Russell's knee and sidelined him for a season? I'm willing to bet nothing would happen, considering Russell is currently one of the worst quarterbacks in the league.

Former NFL quarterback Vinny Testaverde went down in 1999 with a torn ACL. No tears were shed. There wasn't a new rule named after him the following season.

Brady has already received a penalty call in his favor for his new rule this season. Terrell Suggs of the Baltimore Ravens was rushing Brady and fell at the feet of the "untouchable quarterback" brushing his legs. Brady immediately turned to the referee, asking for a call. Can you guess what happened next? The Fates looked kindly upon the poor baby Brady and gave Pollard a 15-yard roughing the passer penalty when Brady

barely got touched. He didn't even fall down.

Ray Lewis, teammate of Suggs, said it best when he was questioned about the call after the game:

"He's a man. They can be hit just like us."

As much as I dislike Lewis, I agree completely with his comments. Correct me if I'm wrong, but Brady is a man and football is a

contact sport.

Brady's former teammate Rodney Harrison, who is currently working with NBC, also felt the call was unnecessary.

"Horrible call, you can't make this call," Harrison said on NBC's Sunday Night Football. "Tom Brady, if you're listening, take off the skirt and put on some slacks. Toughen up."

I know it is a worn out comment, but if the NFL doesn't want their quarterbacks being hit, then put some red flags on their hips and eliminate tackling all together.



NICK BLAKE  
sports editor



"AND IN THE MAGICAL KINGDOM OF 'HAPPY' NO ONE DID 'IT' UNTIL THE WEDDING. THE END."

**THE EDITOR'S BLURB**

## Keeping friends during college chaos

The college experience can place a lot of pressure on an individual. With all the assignments and exams, it is easy for some things to slip through the cracks. Sadly, in most cases, a friendship is usually the first thing to go.

All relationships require maintenance, and this is where most people falter. I might have a friend for whom I care very deeply and I might drop everything I'm doing to help her. However, if she does not

reciprocate these favors, then I'm not going to continue doing as many things for her. Eventually, if she keeps neglecting me, then I will simply go somewhere else for attention. A one sided relationship will lead to ostracism, but for some reason, the forsaken friends never seem to under-

stand why they've been left all alone. This abandonment is not a result of selfishness, but friendships are a two-way street.

To prevent a four-year sentence of solitude, you need to treat people how you'd like to be treated. Would you like to be hugged when you are upset? Then comfort a friend when

they are having a bad day. Perhaps you would enjoy a congratulatory high-five when you do well on a test. I would recommend you do this on occasion just to keep things fresh with a buddy.

Keeping a friendship healthy is simple as long as you are caring and positive. I would also recommend that you not crash their car or light their bed on fire. That will usually put undue strain on any relationship. So look out for that.



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**Editorial Policies**

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