

OUR VOICE

The dilemma of journalistic ethics

In the past week, a large amount of students have questioned our policies for printing news - particularly news involving students partying or being issued underage drinking charges. Particularly, the issues at hand seem to be at which point the Beacon deems a story "newsworthy," and at which point we will print names in an article.

To address the question if the story is news, we must consider our readers.

Is this story something that people will read and find interesting? Is this story a relevant representation, somehow, of

Behrend as a whole? Is this story important to write in defense or in the best interest of Behrend students or faculty? If we answer yes to one of these, the story runs.

Also at hand over the past week is the issue of when the Beacon will print names in connection to some type of crime or illegal event. The only case in which we will print student names in an article is if the situation fits two conditions.

First, we must have concrete facts that the name printed is, indeed, connected to whatever the story is about. Usually this means that a name in a police

report will be printed. Secondly, the name must be relevant and important to the story.

The Beacon holds every student at Behrend to the same standard - whether the student is a Senator on SGA, a star athlete, or an executive board member of the LEB.

That also means that students who work for the Beacon are subject to having names printed if it is relevant and appropriate to do so.

If one of us commits a felony and has our name mentioned in a police report, we expect other editors to print it the same way as any other student's name

would be.

The bottom line is, if you don't want it in the newspaper, either don't do it or don't let it be found out. If it doesn't come across our desk, it doesn't make it in the Friday edition. However, if it's a story that needs to be printed, and we hear about it, we are forsaking our duties as journalists - both to our profession and to our students - to not print it.

Connor Sately for the Behrend Beacon editorial staff.

MY VOICE

Angel or Demon?

AARON MORELLI
staff writer

Every Penn State student is familiar with the ANGEL Course Management System. Although it is a great resource, with the lack of participation from our professors, it is un-supportive of a college lifestyle.

ANGEL's major flaw is that teachers do not update grades regularly. One out of my six classes uses ANGEL regularly, and it is very helpful.

Throughout my first semester here at Behrend, I have only been able to gather a general idea of what my grades are in each class. Penn State Behrend Mathematics Professor Jodie Styers believes that "personally, I choose not to use Angel to post grades. During new faculty orientation, the ITS aficionados informed us that if you use Angel as your solo and primary grade book and something happens, you have no way to recover that lost information. I expect each of [my students] to be able to be responsible enough to keep track of the graded papers I pass back. Consequently, you have access to all your grades all the time."

While the responsibility of grade tracking should be left to the students, exact grades are necessary for them. It may be obvious when you are failing a class, but it is helpful to know if

you may have to drop a course due to a low grade.

Not only is the use of ANGEL an issue with Behrend professors, its stability does not provide enough confidence to the professors to actually use it.

On December 17, 2007, during finals week at 2:54 p.m., ANGEL went offline for 20 minutes. ITS spokeswoman, Robin Anderson said that "the overloaded servers spelled disaster for some students who were either unable to log into ANGEL at all or could not complete timed assignments because the site was too slow."

With an entire system crash, ANGEL was inoperable for 20 minutes, and was slow for about eight hours.

Although stability issues have been long resolved, ANGEL's stability may still be questionable in the future with more and more students using the site, and larger sized files are downloaded.

Penn State Behrend student Charles Abbott says, "I think it is a waste of time. I feel as though it is unnecessary and it makes life too complicated than it already is."

Overall, Penn State needs to either find a new way of distributing grades and assignments or enforce professors to use ANGEL adequately (given that ANGEL resolves its stability issues).

MY VOICE

Halloween at twenty

MARISSA LANICH
staff writer

I am 20 years old, and I went shopping for my first Halloween costume last week.

While some may find this hard to believe, I have never felt particularly inclined to participate in Halloween festivities - even as a child. The frightening costumes and decorations always deterred me, and my parents' negative attitude towards the holiday managed to rub off on me throughout the years as well. I can vividly remember spending every October 31st away from the house or turning all of our lights out and pretending we weren't home.

As my high school and col-

lege years have passed, I have been scheduled to work nearly every Halloween at the various jobs I've held, so there has yet to be an opportunity to experience Halloween as an adult either. That is, until now.

This year felt like the right time to make up for lost time, so I took my more experienced friends with me to costume shop throughout the week, trying to find a good look for my first Halloween. However, what I found is that I only had one option as far as costumes go, and that was slut.

The same choices seemed to be everywhere: slutty police officer, slutty sailor, slutty nurse, slutty bumble bee, slutty wizard...and many more.

At first, I wasn't sure why this

upset me. I've obviously seen these kinds of costumes before, and girls using Halloween as an opportunity to remain half-dressed for an evening doesn't particularly bother me.

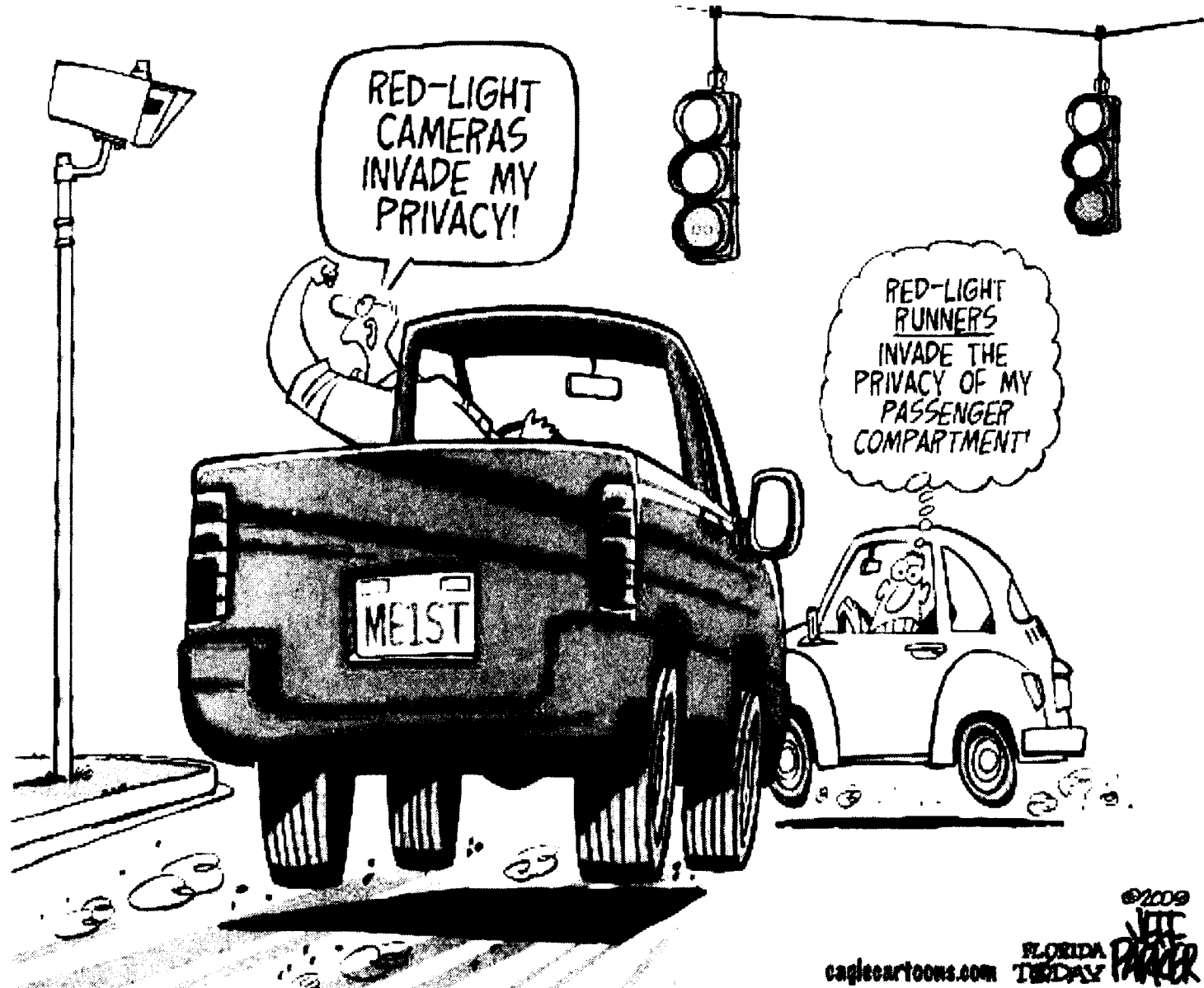
Later, I found that my costume shopping had turned into a realization that the innocence of the holiday is gone. Instead of going straight for the prettiest Disney Princess costume she can find, girls our age are going straight for the skimpiest Disney Princess costume she can find. Instead of going trick-or-treating in our neighborhoods, most of us will be drinking cheap beer at a party.

While this is all just part of growing up (I don't think anyone's neighbors would appreciate 20 year old

trick-or-treaters), it's still a little disappointing that the wholesome reasons for loving Halloween have turned into something else.

Although I can't go back and have an authentic Halloween experience, I hope that while I'm out this weekend I get to see the originality and excitement for Halloween that I used to see.

Regardless of costume choice, whether you've put a lot of effort into a home-made costume or you're purchased the scantily clad firefighter costume, have fun and take a minute to remember the memories you've made celebrating over the years; I know I'm excited to make some of my own.



MY VOICE

Pens still strong

JEN SLANE
staff writer

The Pittsburgh Penguins will be going through an 82-game schedule just like every other team in the NHL. They will go through issues such as personnel changes, injuries, and even the occasional slump.

So far this year the Penguins have started without Max Talbot. Sergei Gonchar is out for what could be six weeks. They will need to win 16 playoff games to lift the cup again.

Winning the cup once does not make it any easier to win again, and it's even harder to win the championship two years in a row. Yet the Pens are blowing everyone's minds with how strong they have started their season.

As the Penguins are number one in the conference with an amazing 9-2 start, there is no sign of a Stanley Cup hangover. All of the players are on top of their game, and with the addition of some new faces, the possibility of winning the cup

again is looking strong.

"We need to make sure that we start over again. Our name is right back in the hat with 29 other teams that are going to compete for the Stanley Cup," said Dan Bylsma, head coach of the Pittsburgh Penguins. "In order to do that, we have to get better. We have to grow together as a team."

At this point in time, the Penguins have showed promise in their performance as well as their motivation. The team is driven to play, their best and it shows in their statistics.

In the game against Phoenix on October 23rd, Team Captain Sidney Crosby scored his first short-handed goal along with two other goals.

Even though Fleury has been playing solid over the past few weeks, it's nice to have comfort in the fact the backup goalie can hold his own.

Let's hope the Penguins can stay headache free and keep up their game for a long and successful season. Let's Go Pens!

THE EDITOR'S BLURB

Getting over the friend-zone

A man's greatest fear, besides seeing Kim Cattrall naked, is being stuck in the friend-zone. It's like owning beachfront property but not being allowed to leave the house. The worst part of the deal is when the woman comes to you in tears and complains about her problems (usually the result of the douche-bag she is dating). This is enough to make any man want to jump out of a window, but how about we look at this from a new angle? I've lived in the friend-zone longer than any man alive, and I can personally tell you that being a good friend is worth the hassle.

I recently ran into an old crush who looked as though she was about to cry, croak and

probably kill the next man to piss her off. Knowing how volatile women can be under stress, I quickly ran for cover.

Later, I found her and asked what was wrong. The usual venting and consoling ensued, but as I left her dorm she gave me a hug and told me how thankful she was that I was her friend. At that moment, I had an epiphany.

A "guy friend" plays a bigger role in a woman's life than any significant other. This is because there is more than one kind of love, and people need

servings of each kind to survive. Just because a woman may not want a man as a lover, doesn't mean she can't love him in more profound ways.

"Guy friends" do a lot for their female companions. For example, girls want a guy's opinion about "guy problems." We have valuable things to say. Her girlfriends hear those things all the

time and are more inclined to simply agree and forget. Guy friends, however, are usually honest and straightforward with their thoughts. They may

initially agree in order make the situation move smoothly but a man will always state the obvious truth. Also, when a girl is hurt by a guy, she wants attention from a guy that will accept her.

A good man is hard to find, so it's no wonder why a woman would want to keep one tucked safely away in the friend-zone. Even though it may not be exactly what the man wants, a good friend is hard to find, too. It makes sense why a woman would not want to risk losing such a valuable thing by dating him.

So remember, a being good male friend is the equivalent of being Batman; we can be what they need us to be.



NEIL JAMES
opinion editor

4701 College Drive, Erie PA 16563
Room 10H

THE BEHREND BEACON

Telephone: (814) 898-6488
Fax: (814) 898-6019

Editorial Policies

Single copies of the Beacon are free and available at newsstands around campus. Additional copies can be purchased with permission of the editor-in-chief for \$1.50 each. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the students, faculty or University administration. Opinions expressed in columns, cartoons, and letters are not necessarily those of The Behrend Beacon unless otherwise indicated. Any letters intended for publication must be addressed to the editor, be no more than 250 words, and include the writer's name and phone number. Letters may be edited for content or length at the editor-in-chief's discretion. The Behrend Beacon does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. If students want their letters to be published, they must include their name. The Behrend Beacon intends for its Opinion page to be a forum for discussion, not a screen to hide behind. Occasionally, The Behrend Beacon may request responses to online queries in which responders will be identified by their username. The Behrend Beacon is editorially independent from the Penn State system. The Behrend Beacon operates partially on Student Activity Fee, and partially on advertising revenue. It is published every Friday during the school year except for before and during scheduled vacations, with exceptions for special issues. The editor-in-chief has the final authority on editorial decisions, including but not limited to all columns, editorials, and letters to the editor. Complaints regarding Beacon coverage of school events should be directed to the editor at editor@psu.edu.

Executive Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Connor Sately
editor@psu.edu
Managing Editor:
Christine Newby
cen5056@psu.edu
Web Editor:
Marcus Yeagley
mij5012@psu.edu

Business Manager:

Bethany Long
bj5037@psu.edu
Faculty Advisor:
Kim Young
kij10@psu.edu

News Editors:

Mike O. Wehrer
mrw5094@psu.edu
Ally Orlando
aco5051@psu.edu
Culture Editor:
Evan Koser
emk5110@psu.edu

Opinion Editor:

Neil James
opinion@psu.edu
Sports Editors:
Nick Blake
npb5041@psu.edu
Shawn Annarelli
sma5189@psu.edu

Business Editors:

Harmilee Cousin
hxc5020@psu.edu
Garrett Carson
gmc5021@psu.edu
Science Editor:
Brian Carlson
bmc5062@psu.edu

Humanities Editor:

Adam Spinelli
als5589@psu.edu
Photo Editor:
Daniel J. Smith
djs5223@psu.edu
Copy Editor:
Jeff Kramer
jsk5161@psu.edu

Photographer:

Jon Klein
jek5034@psu.edu
Engineering Editor:
Kristin Sliwinski
kas5790@psu.edu
Brett Miller
bwm5151@psu.edu