OUR VOICE *Majority opinion of the Behrend Beacon editotial board*

Stop talking, start writing.

As with almost any collegiate publication, the *Beacon* accepts letters to the editor. These letters are intended to do one or more of a few things: voice concerns over content or coverage, or the lack thereof; express an opinion about an issue covered in the *Beacon*; or thank or call attention to an individual or event.

Rather than expressing opinions behind closed doors or launching profanities via a Facebook status update, tell us what you think of what's in the *Beacon* so that we can improve.

Write down your opinion. Blast us. We ask that you not insult any religion, race, gender, or so forth in your letter, and we also ask that you form a constructive point, but we will lean towards printing almost everything that comes in. Even if it makes us look stupid, even if it's a great point against us.

Here's how to do it.

First, write your opinion. Take time reading through the article and write the angriest thing you have ever written. Don't pay attention to how it sounds, or whether it entirely makes sense.

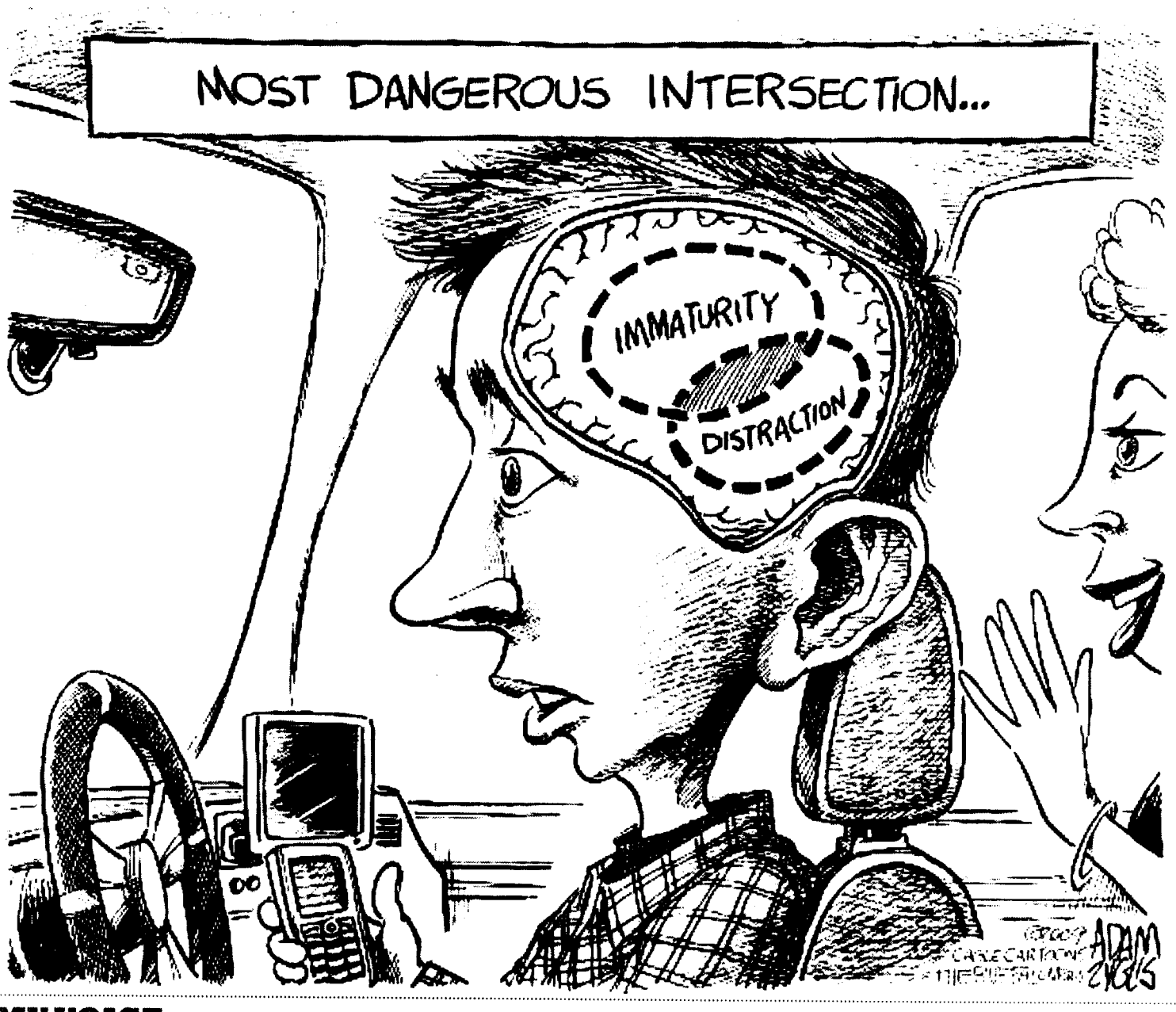
Then, go over it. Add some tact. Put a constructive opinion or two ("The *Beacon* should cover X event more" rather than "The *Beacon* sucks"). Try to get it under 250 words.

Send it. E-mail it to us at **opinion@psu.edu**. Our deadline for publication is Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. We will not print anonymous letters, so make sure your name is on it.

We know it's tough, putting your name on the line on 2,000 copies of broadsheet every week. If it's truly your opinion, though, make it matter.

The bottom line is that we are your student newspaper. We want your voice in these pages. If you think we're doing something horribly wrong, let us know, and we will try our best to correct it.

Connor Sattely for the Behrend Beacon *editorial board.*



MY VOICE

How to spot a freshman:

Still Wearing their lanyards in November: No, those familiar pieces of nylon are not surgically attached to the necks of our newly-initiated comrades. They are simply quaint reminders of a more innocent time, you see. Freshmen carry these around like a badge of honor. The freshiest ones still wear them. Possibly the easiest freshmen to spot.

Actually drive under 15 mph on University Drive: Perhaps the next easiest freshmen to spot, as these freshmen not only make everyone else angry, are the ones always slow-moving. For best results, throw eggs at their vehicles.

Think that interesting classes will continue for all four years: Yeah, that intro to jazz music class is pretty sweet, but wait two years until OMG 462, Theory of Communicable Diseases. Then we'll see who's laughing. These freshmen are tough to spot, but keep your ears open for comments like "this is a blowoff class," or, "I'm so excited about this test."

CONNOR SATTLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Still hanging onto that long-distance relationship: She's in Taiwan, and he's up to his shoulders in good old Erie weather. But don't worry. The flame of their relationship is unaffected by the snow. It might, however, be affected by that chick in his Nutrition class. You know which one. Yeah. That one.

Still brag about "how obliterated they were:" (after two beers) We get it. Calm down. You drank your first Corona, but that doesn't mean you need to call everyone "homes" and roll your R's. Your first shot of vodka doesn't mean you need to wear a fur hat with the floppy ears. These freshmen can usually be found wandering Bruno's and asking for suggestions of "hangover food."

Not yet afraid of job market: Don't worry. It'll get better by the time you graduate. Heh, heh.

Ask when the snow will start: The snow? The snow is waiting silently behind you with a billy club ready to knock you out. The question is not when the snow will start; the question is whether the snow will ever, ever end. The answer is no. Those white posts on the side of the path aren't so maintenance can see where to plow. That's so they know where to find the bodies.

MY VOICE

Stop showboating

Have the players gone too far?

Sending mustard to the city that is known around the globe for their trademark Heinz 57 Ketchup? Really?

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco was planning on sending mustard to the Pittsburgh Steelers before the highly anticipated AFC North matchup on Sunday.

CHRISTIE NEWS

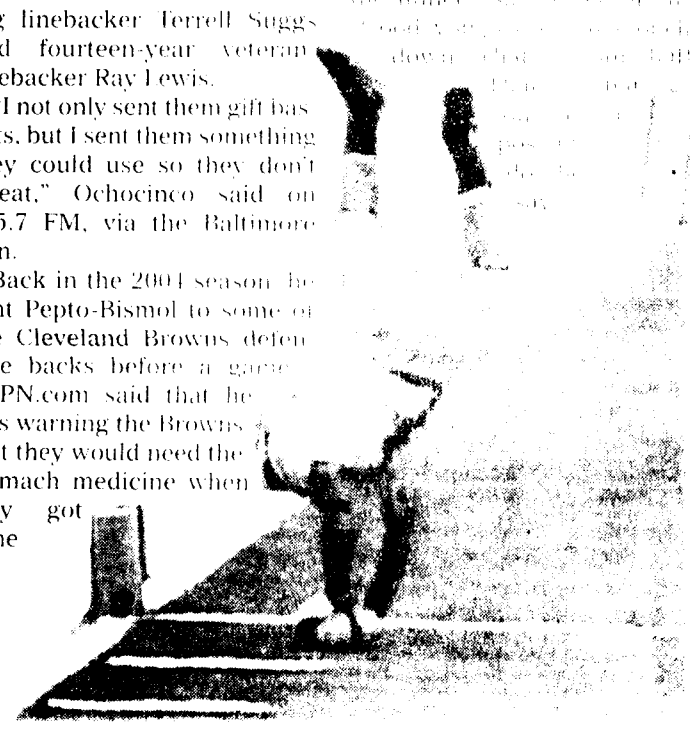
Head coach Marvin Lewis made the right decision by not allowing Ochocinco to send the mustard. Sure, it does sound kind of funny for Pittsburgh to receive the mustard gift, considering that Pittsburgh has been home of America's best-known ketchup since 1869. But Lewis put the humor aside (if he saw any humor in it at all) and made the correct and logical decision.

Professional players need to be focused on their job: actually performing in the game, and not consuming their time wondering what they can send to the opposing team to cause a heated argument before the Sunday game even kicks off.

Ochocinco is known for his flashy, off field activities. Last week he sent gift baskets containing deodorant to some of the Baltimore Ravens, including linebacker Terrell Suggs and fourteen-year veteran linebacker Ray Lewis.

"I not only sent them gift baskets, but I sent them something they could use so they don't sweat," Ochocinco said on 105.7 FM, via the Baltimore Sun.

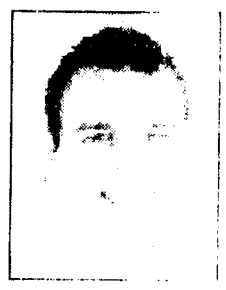
Back in the 2004 season he sent Pepto-Bismol to some of the Cleveland Browns defensive backs before a game. ESPN.com said that he was warning the Browns that they would need the stomach medicine when they got done



THE EDITOR'S [illegible]

Slick or short?

Judging a work of art is a confusing and daunting task. Objectively analyzing literature is even harder, and the best critics can make a bad call on occasion. However, that doesn't stop sophomore art majors from using all of their whole twelve credits worth of literary education to judge each piece of work they see with visceral intensity.


NEIL JAS[illegible]

English majors have very fine criteria for what is good and bad. The usual rule of thumb is: The more obscure the work, the better it is. This means that best selling books (slick fiction) are considered to be only worthy of rectal cleansing when toilet paper has run out. Whereas a 300-word piece of flash fiction written by a community college dropout describing the massive crap he has just taken is considered a work of art on par with The Great Gatsby.

That being said, not every piece of short fiction is good either. In lots of cases, short stories are redundant and over dramatic. These stories usually [illegible]

Have Your Say:

How do you feel about the Drag Show pictures in last week's *Beacon*?

Josh Epps
Senior
international buisness

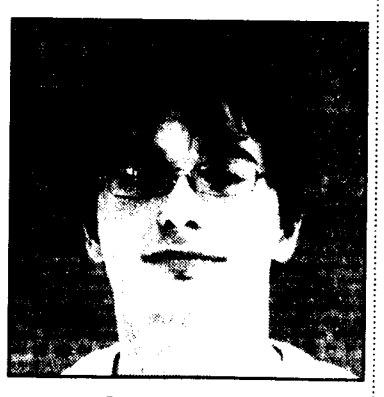
"Although I find it good that the *Beacon's* reaching out to all kinds of students, it was found in poor taste by some students."

Taylor Kline
Freshman
biology

"I thought it was funny and a good portrait for alternative lifestyles"

Felicia Mazza
Freshman
psychology

"I was shocked. I'm suprised that there was a picture like that in the paper."



Greg Matson
Sophomore
undeclared

"I'm not the biggest fan of Drag shows, but if that's what they are interested in, that's their own personal right."

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Any letters intended for publication must be addr[illegible] writer's name and phone number. Letters may be edi[illegible]

The Behrend Beacon does not publish anonymo[illegible] lished, they *must* include their name. The Behrend Be[illegible] not a screen to hide behind. Occasionally, The Behrend B[illegible] sponders will be identified by their username.

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