

MY VOICE

When a little means a lot

In the wake of tragedy it is human nature to band together for stability. Though us at Penn State Erie are thousands of miles away from the rubble strewn shores of Haiti, our hearts still go out to those affected. It may be difficult for some to imagine such a disaster happening in our corner of the United States, but with the over-exposure it has received, we can easily empathize with their plight.

Some locals have taken it upon themselves to travel to the epicenter in order to lend their services. However, there are many more who would love to help but lack the ability. As col-

lege students, with little money and living on grants, scholarships and loans, we are the least able to assist in this effort and with the media's constant coverage. Our immersion can leave us guilty of our inaction. That being said, the ability for us to lend a hand is still possible. It just requires more work to see.

There are several opportunities on the area that allow us to do something. A local charity, Hearts for the

Hungry, is sending food to the to Cap Haitien, Haiti's second largest city. Donations can be given online at www.heartsforthehungry.org/.



NEIL JAMES
opinion editor

Another option is to volunteer at the Catholic Diocese of Erie. They are accepting manpower as well as monetary donations and guarantee that 100 percent of all donated funds will be forwarded to the Catholic Relief Services.

If either of those are not ap-

MY VOICE

A new way to buy textbooks

It has been two weeks since classes started, and my bank account is going through withdrawal.

You all know what I am talking about. We're back to class, and that means taking out a loan or two just to afford a book.

Let us be honest here. We pay a few hundred bucks every semester for books we'll read once. Despite this, many of us still throw away our money with a single swipe of a credit card. You would think the book store could throw in something to make the process a little less painful.

I would like to propose a plan that would cut down the cost of books from an arm and a leg to just an arm, or maybe only a

finger.

Here's the plan: The bookstore would set up the system that would log a serial number on every book it owns. Then the students would pay approximately half the current cost of the books in order to rent it. At the end of the semester students would return the book in good condition and the bookstore would rent it out during the next semester. If the book were in bad condition, the student would have to pay a higher price, i.e. what we pay now.

In essence, I just created an-

other library on campus.

Both sides win. We get cheaper books and they still make some money. Of course, they will probably have to pay for a new computer system and some more books. I'm sure, however, that between each student paying \$12,000 to \$20,000 for tuition, \$300 for parking and all the other fees students pay, they will be able to find the



BRANDON BOYD
senior reporter

means to pay for this. Then again, someone has to pay Graham Spanier's \$590,004 salary, Joe Paterno's \$1,037,322 salary and each and

every professor's five to six figure salaries. On second thought, maybe we need to start a tip jar for Penn State, or perhaps start a donation hotline.

Think about it. Penn State is paying thousands of its employees, and many of those employees are making straight up bank. We should be paying even more in our tuition, housing and parking to help pay this university's employees. On second thought, my bank account is as low as the temperature outside. It looks like Penn State will only scrape away with a few hundred million dollars this year.



THE EDITOR'S BLURB

I've had enough of Pat Robertson

Nothing makes a person more embarrassed than seeing a fellow member of their race/gender/religion/family do something stupid. It's a nauseating feeling that can only be compared to something as terrible as the Dobbins Effect. This is how I felt when Pat Robertson appeared on TV and spoke about the tragedy in Haiti.

Last week, Robertson stated that the earthquake was the result of divine retribution for an alleged transgression made over 200 years ago. What follows is a direct quote from his show, *The 700 Club*.

"...[T]hey got together and swore the pact to the Devil. They said, we will serve you if you'll get us free from the French. True story. And so the Devil said, 'Okay, it's a deal.'"

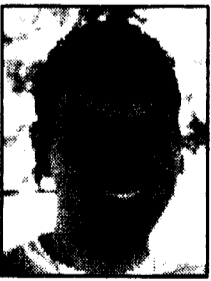
If you are like me, then you

may feel an overwhelming need to severely injure yourself in some manner after hearing idiocy of that magnitude (I chose to bang my head off of my desk, but any self-inflicted trauma will suffice). Once your concussion subsides, please give the quote a second look, and if you are courageous enough, look up the actual video. If you do, please reflect on what was said.

First off, this whole pile of insanity is based off a Haitian urban legend. There is indeed a story that Haitian holy men received a vision from their deity that they would be saved, but that's it. This is the equiva-

lent of saying that Bloody Mary is a real spirit responsible for numerous unsolved murders.

This is not even the first time this has happened. Just Google search for some of his quotes. If you haven't lost faith in the human race yet, you will now. In regard to Walt Disney World's "Gay Day," (a special day to celebrate homosexual couples), Robertson "...[A] condition like this will bring about the destruction of your



NEIL JAMES
opinion editor

nation. It'll bring about terrorist bombs, it'll bring about earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor" (according to Media Matters for America). I'm upset about all of this be-

cause I feel he misrepresents Christians. To be frank, he makes them look bad.

Christians are supposed to be tolerant, loving, compassionate and forgiving. Nowhere in the Bible does it say to be insensitive, ignorant, heartless, prejudiced douchebag, which Robertson is obviously really good at. I just do not want all Christians to be judged by one insane person. If you are going to judge us, do it on an individual basis.

This man is a terrible representation of an entire group of people. He is just a mad man with a microphone. People need to wise up and quit listening to this pied piper make truth out of fairy tales.

If we're going to start doing that then look up the ending to the story of the real Pied Piper.

MY VOICE

Hill is still king

Television just isn't the same without the hit show *King of the Hill*. The fact that the comedic genius Mike Judge would have a show pulled from the air for another Seth MacFarlane show is absolutely ludicrous.

It's not just the fact that *King of the Hill* was pulled from the air for MacFarlane, it's the fact that it was pulled for what is essentially another *Family Guy*.

Family Guy has grown to be very popular, and to be honest, I don't really understand why.

Don't get me wrong. Sometimes I enjoy *Family Guy* and I do find it to be funny at times. But I don't think it can even be compared to *King of the Hill*.

My problem with MacFarlane is that his comedy is so overused and repetitive that *Family Guy* is just becoming boring to me.

I also hate the fact that there is rarely ever a storyline in episodes of *Family Guy*, but just random situations.

What made *King of the Hill* great was the fact that every episode had a story and it lasted for the entire episode.

MacFarlane seems to go off on different tangents, and quite frankly, it gets annoying.

One of the most annoying things that MacFarlane does is the all-too-often used "that's like the time I..." MacFarlane does this all the time, for what seems like space filler.

I remember an episode when the main character, Peter Griffin, for what seemed like no reason at all, randomly said, "And now ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Conway Twitty." At this time the show cut to a performance from Conway Twitty at the Grand Ole Opry.

It was literally an entire song. It lasted two and a half minutes long. It had nothing to do with

the show. At all.

A half-hour TV show is really a 20-25 minute episode, thanks to commercials. How can someone who is supposed to be so talented have to resort to such stupid space filler like that?

This example of gag humor often appears to be the only humor that MacFarlane can create.

Like I said, it's not like this happens every once in a while. This is every episode.

You just don't get stuff like that with *King of the Hill*. Judge provides his audience with interesting storylines and real, genuine comedy.

What it really boils down to is the reality that when you've seen one episode of *Family Guy*, you've seen them all. And when you've seen one MacFarlane show, you've seen them all.

His newest program, *The Cleveland Show*, and *American Dad* give you the same thing.

It's more disappointing than anything, because you know that the talent is there. But it's like the *Family Guy* creators are just lazy. It's the same old thing every episode.

I guess what I want to say is that making an animated show for adults can't be a very easy task. Mike Judge, in my opinion, did an amazing job with *King of the Hill*. The fact that MacFarlane's lame shows have grown to such popularity that they forced Judge off the air is quite depressing.

All I can say is thank goodness for shows like *The Simpsons* and *South Park* being on the air to keep MacFarlane from turning all animated sitcoms into idiotic trash.



NICK BLAKE
sports editor

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Send an email to opinion@psu.edu

Submissions must be
less than 350 words in length.

MY VOICE

life vs. relationship

I'm sure everyone's heard stories about someone ending a relationship because they don't want to "hold someone back." I'm also sure 98 percent of the time, this is absolute, industrial-strength, All-American bullcrap. Most of the time, this is right up there with "it's not you, it's me" on the list of BS

breakup excuses. Let's say for the sake of argument that you've been dating someone for at least six months, and it's going really well. Suddenly, the situation changes; maybe they're in the military, and they're being transferred to a base overseas.

Maybe they were just offered a once-in-a-lifetime job opportunity at a company on the west coast.

Whatever the hypothetical situation is, the person you love has to move away for at least a few years, too long for a long distance relationship to have any hope of success. Do you put your life and career goals on hold to be with someone? There's no commitment, yet you aren't married, so in theory there would be nothing holding you to this person, right?

But the hypothetical situations I laid out are probably the only time I can see not wanting to hold someone back as a valid excuse to end a relationship.

Would it be extremely selfish to ask someone to put his or her career on the shelf just to stay with you? Of course it would. It would be just as self-

ish as your partner asking you to turn down that dream job in California so they could pursue their own goals where you are now. In my own experience and from talking to some of my friends, if the relationship is at a point where the couple is saying "I love you" and

reached a point where they're going to put a good amount of effort into keeping it alive.

So back to my original question, "what matters more to you: your relationship or your life goals?"

My answer is simple: finding someone you truly care about, someone who makes you wake up every day and wonder what small thing you can do to make their day, is just as important as any career goal.



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