

MY VOICE: DOUBLE BIRDIE

Two swings on Tiger Woods

NICK BLAKE
sports editor

It turns out that saved text messages and voicemails led to Woods' demise, and in December he issued a statement saying that it was all true.

Woods' wife left him, sponsors began to drop him and he withdrew from playing golf.

Woods checked himself into rehab so that he could overcome his "addiction."

On Feb. 19, Woods held his first press conference since the auto accident and expressed extreme remorse for what he had done.

Although I give credit to Woods for standing up, taking responsibility for his actions, and being sincere in his apologies, I still do not buy the idea of him having an addiction.

When it comes down to it, Woods had affairs with all of those women simply because he could.

I do believe he needs help, and hopefully rehab will give that to him. But I just do not think it is justifiable to call it an addiction.

People who struggle with drugs and alcohol have real addictions. They reach a point where they just cannot get by unless they get what they need. This is not the case for Woods.

He will be fine if he does not have sex all of the time. He is a universally known superstar and the richest athlete in the world.

He knew what he was doing, and he did it because he could. He had the power.

Claiming that he has an addiction is just a way to lessen the blow for himself. It is a way to make people say "oh, well he has an addiction, he cannot help what he is doing."

Well, I am not going to fall for that.

ALEC ITALIANO
sports editor

I have been biting my tongue for the last two or three months every time Tiger Woods' name came up.

This was done for mostly two reasons. Being a golfer, a member of Behrend's golf team and a follower of the PGA Tour, I am truly shocked how much this situation is being blown out of proportion.

And it was done to a degree that would be more suited for the President of the United States, not a golfer.

I truly felt as if President Obama was going to be the one to walk out on TV and announce to the world that a meteoroid was heading right for us.

But instead it was just Tiger Woods publicly apologizing for being human.

Everyone and their mother tuned in to ESPN Friday morning as the world truly and utterly stopped for Mr. Woods to stumble his way through a 15 minute speech in which he poured his heart out.

He gave a lengthy apology that stretched from his mother, who was sitting in the front row; to his wife, who was not in attendance; to his countless fans all across the world.

Nonetheless, this speech sounded like step one of twelve for him to make a full recovery and get him back the stature he once had.

He said all the right things and spoke from the heart, and I believe he was able to convince the majority of the people

watching that he was sincere, or at least trying his hardest.

After all, he is a golfer, not an actor.

Out of all that has come from this Tiger situation, the most troubling aspect for me is that

to go up to Tiger, slap him across the face and hand him a 7-iron and a bucket of balls.

I do not think he is going to realize just how difficult it is going to be for him to get back into the swing of things.

What makes Tiger Woods the best golfer in the world is his ability to focus on golf and his recovery from mistakes on the course.

Situations off the course affect him just like they affects everybody else.

We saw Tiger Woods miss his first cut in a major at the U.S. Open just weeks after his father had passed away back in 2006.

So how is his game going to be affected when he decides to return to the course?

My personal opinion: terrible.

As a golf fan, my ultimate fear in this situation is to watch Tiger Woods fall off the golfing planet and come up short of breaking Jack Nicklaus' all-time major tournament victories.

For Tiger, his ultimate goal in life must be golf, and not the celebrity status that comes with success.

After all is said and done, if Tiger Woods is not back on the course by the Masters in April, I, along with numerous other golf enthusiasts, will write him off as a victim to life's troubles.

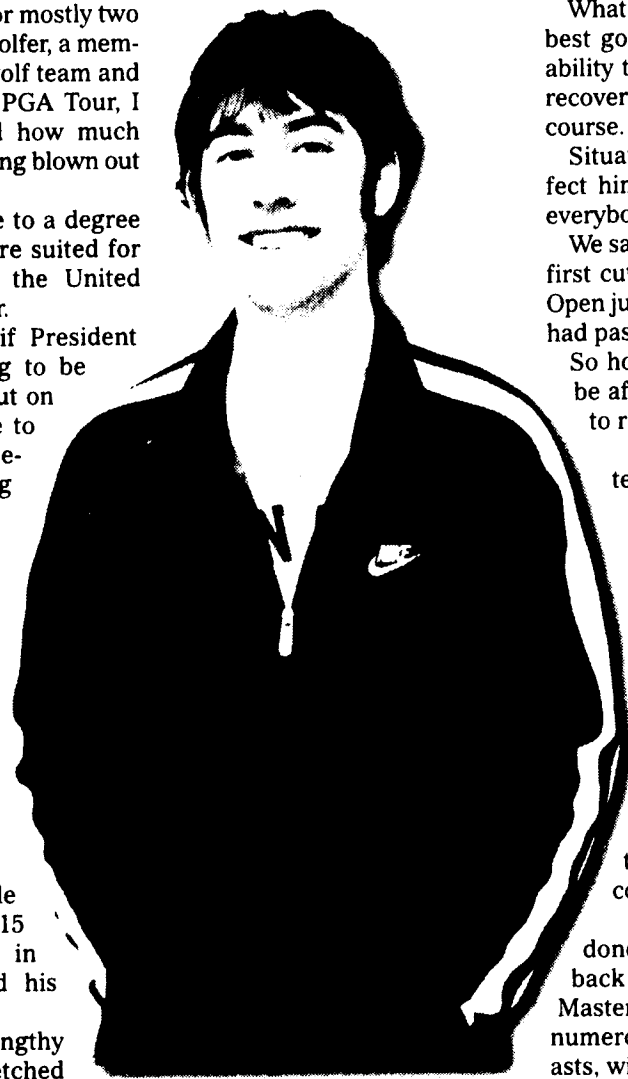
We will watch someone who appeared to master the mental aspect of the game fall very hard to the bottom and not recover.

I know Tiger Woods will not read this article, but someone in his life needs to get him back on his feet and on the golf course, because that will essentially be his only way back to where he once was.

golf is still a question to him.

From the car crash, to his wife and their domestic problems, to his "lack of integrity to the game," as legendary American golfer Tom Watson said, and even to modern golfers such as Ernie Els, who is showing disgust to his fellow golfer and friend for stealing the spotlight from the rest of the tour; Tiger's lack of concern for his own game is most troubling.

I would love to be the person



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Submissions must be shorter than 350 words.
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MY VOICE

Shambled health

The health care debate is one of the most heated topics in American politics today.

I feel that it's in the best interest of the United States that the bill currently making its way through the House is not passed.

The president has said many times that health care needs to be reformed for the better of the country.

How can he say this when this bill is not popular with most Americans because it is full of pork, and also expensive, according to a national poll from Quinnipiac University.

I think that this health care summit that is happening in a couple of days is no more than an attempt to get some Republicans to put their name on it and call it a bipartisan bill that would make people feel better about it.

The bill has also gone up in cost by \$100 million from \$871 million to \$971 million.

This is a cost that America can't afford.

I do, however, know that most of the spending went toward the two wars that we are currently fighting.

If you read some of the bill, you will also find that it will take away the rights of the states by moving the oversight to the federal government and not the states.

Last time I checked, Medicare is not doing well. My grandparents told me it stinks

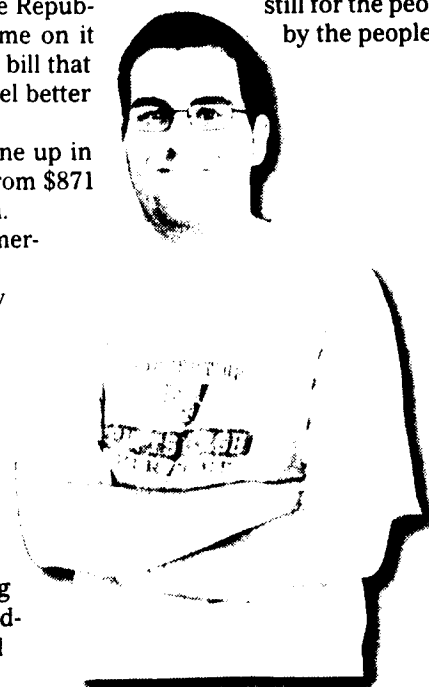
like a skunk.

I also think that there is one underlying question that I haven't really heard in the mainstream media: is it constitutional to make all Americans have health insurance?

I also think that big business has its hand in this as well. I read an article that stated that Wal-Mart was all for a government run health insurance plan because it would mean that they would not have to pay for the health insurance for their employees.

I think in the end, I hope the president will tear down the shroud of "going it alone" and start over.

I still hope that America is still for the people, by the people.



MIKE FULTZ
videographer

SUPPORT RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Beacon has published several articles publicizing the activities of unrecognized organizations. We understand the need to report the activities of all students on campus. We have asked for support regarding this situation yet we have yet to receive it. It is unsettling to witness the Beacon publishing an article in support of an unrecognized organization that only a year ago made headlines regarding the illegal activities that endangered the lives of our students and tarnished the reputations of recognized fraternities and sororities. The purpose of recognized sororities and fraternities on our campus is to promote the positive development and values of its members and community. Our organizations have single handedly raised money and awareness to foundations that benefit the community. Our organizations have also brought speakers and workshops to campus to enrich the lives of students and faculty.

In 2009:

- Panhellenic brought motivational speaker Stacy Nadeau - 3/17/09

- Alpha Sigma Alpha brought an Alcohol Awareness Speaker Mike DeStefano - 4/6/09

- Alpha Sigma Tau held Mr. & Ms Penn State Behrend Pageant to raise money for Pine Mountain Settlement School - 4/9/09

- Theta Phi Alpha held a donation table for Relay for Life - 4/13-17/09

- Alpha Sigma Alpha volunteered with the Special Olympics - 4/24/09

- Panhellenic held Alcohol Awareness Table/Fundraiser from 10/19-25/09

- Alpha Sigma Tau participated in Habitat for Humanity - 10/31/09

- Theta Phi Alpha did Adopt-A-Highway - 11/8/09

- Theta Phi Alpha's Sapphire Man Pageant collected can goods for hunger and homeless week - 11/9/09

- And more

Upcoming events include:

- Panhellenic is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the community - 3/28/10

- Panhellenic is hosting a Self Defense Workshop - 3/21/10

- Panhellenic is bringing speaker on Prevention of Sexual Violence - 3/22/10

- Panhellenic is volunteering at Breastival Festival

We will continue to strive for morality, maintaining fine standards, and for serving to the best of our ability our college community.

HANNAH WHITE
President of Panhellenic Council

RE: BATTER UP: SKN UMPIRES FOR MARCH OF DIMES

I am writing this letter to discuss the article Batter UP: SKN Umpires for March of Dimes. I would like to remind you and the campus community that SKN is not a Greek organization at Penn State Behrend. There is an extreme difference between this UNRECOGNIZED organization and the six recognized social organ-

izations. This group is not a nationally recognized FRATERNITY or recognized by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and does not hold the same values as the recognized fraternities do. They do not provide service to our campus or the community and were not even founded for this reason. They do not have any form of accountability as the REAL fraternities have within their national organization and IFC. This group lost recognition by refusing to obey rules and guidelines set forth by IFC and the College. Therefore they fail to meet standards in order to protect members, potential members, and guests. They have no accountability and they can practice behaviors that are harmful and unlawful which could put others at risk. By fabricating and shedding a positive light over themselves they are misleading the campus and local community. They in many cases tarnish the reputation that nationally recognized organizations strive so hard to achieve. The nationally recognized fraternities strive to uphold the values of their organizations such as honor, scholarship, service, loyalty, leadership, and brotherhood through events like raising money for the Jimmy V Foundation and many others. In October, Sigma Tau Gamma raised money for Breast Cancer Awareness. Kappa Delta Rho has been assisting recolonize a chapter at Slippery Rock University and throughout the year, Delta Chi has been collecting items for the Messiah Lutheran Church in Wesleyville and collecting food for the Wesleyville food pantry. I have asked the Beacon multiple times for the support in not associating with groups that have lost their recognition and I am now publicly requesting that the Beacon as a recognized student group and the campus community to help support IFC in not associating with groups that have lost their recognition.

CODY BROWN
IFC President

RE: BATTER UP: SKN UMPIRES FOR MARCH OF DIMES

There are many factors to being a recognized fraternity or sorority but the one that seems to be drawing the most attention is the fact that social Greek organizations must be affiliated with a national organization. The Office of Student Activities fully supported and continues to support the Interfraternity Council, the governing body of men's social fraternities, in their 2001 decision to revoke recognition of Sigma Kappa Nu for refusing to follow IFC and College rules. A founding member of this group commented on IFC's ruling in a letter to the group's president at the time. "When we started Sigma Kappa Nu back in 1983, it was for one simple purpose 'FUN!' We did not start our [Group] to be recognized by the college, to build a resume or to do good works in the community. ... It is not about the IFC or the administration....we did it without them in the past and if we had to we could get along without them now."

An article in the Behrend Beacon on February 19, talked of how this group has done some fundraising activities in the community. In the article a student was quoted as saying "one of the reasons our fraternity was founded back in 1983 was to better the Erie community. We are continuing to take steps to do our part in that cause." I have a hard time understanding how members of this group now can claim their purpose is anything but what their founder's set forth, which was and is clearly not in line with the values and purposes of the recognized fraternities and sororities at Penn State Behrend. The six recognized social fraternal organizations strive to exemplify the meaning of leadership, brotherhood/sisterhood, scholarship, and service.

While we commend the efforts any individuals who spend time to volunteer or fundraise, we would like to emphasize that this group is not a recognized fraternity and we do not support them. We are happy to help individuals with their interest in service and can provide connections to the community for anyone seeking service opportunities.

LINDSEY HOPKINS HALL
Coordinator of Student Involvement and Fraternity & Sorority Life