

# Mark will pay up in pork rinds

# The Missing Pieces

by Mark Owens

I don't know about you, but I feel so much better knowing that I am making a deep and significant contribution to solving the nation's deficit crisis, thanks to those kinder and gentler Internal Revenue Service folks.

Apparently, the I.R.S. believes I haven't been doing my part in the tax department to fund our federal government. Now I have to prove that I have by supplying tax records from my working days as a fetus.

This kind of worries me, since I've never been very good at finding things. One time I lost a friend's pet I was babysitting. It was a turtle, which makes things worse, seeing as they don't move very fast and aren't all that agile. Actually, I was surprised that he made it all the way out to Buffalo Road -- by that time, though, he was considerably less agile than before.

Anyway, now I have to dig through this **HUGE, INCREDIBLY MONSTROUS MOUND** of old bills, bank statements, loan papers, class registration forms, tax forms, rebate slips, junk mail Ed McMahon Sweepstakes letters, old pay stubs and every other indecipherable finance-type of form I have ever gotten in my entire life.

I'm talking about the kinds of forms that read "Dear Mr. Owens: This notice is to inform you that your student loan application XJL-285630522xi has been received, noted, filed, triplicated and laughed at very, very hard because you have the credit rating of an sickly Albanian yak. Our office recommends you find a reputable loanshark. Best regards, Mrs. R.L. Snotstomper."

Of course, I shouldn't be too harsh on the I.R.S. They're a fine organization, dating back to the age of Ancient Egypt.

Around 4,529 B.C. (Before Caffeine -- after all, civilization didn't start until caffeine was invented. Or was it Twinkies?) the great Pharaoh Putt Putt Tut Pourri decided that he needed a great monument constructed in his memory -- namely, a condo (with a pool, three-chariot garage and sand lot baseball area).

Egypt, much like the United States, had fallen onto hard economic times. Due to the Great Date Crisis of 4527, surrounding countries found themselves in a very poor state. As a result Egypt's looting and pillaging had fallen off, putting Putt Putt Tut Pourri's condo in jeopardy. So a plan was made....

Putt Putt Tut Pourri: Hey, where's my minister-type dude?

(sound of minister scurrying forward)

Minister: Yes, oh Exalted One?

Putt Putt Tut Pourri: How's work on my condo going?

Minister: Oh Light of the Sky, oh Salt of the Earth, oh Preservative of the Most Holy Twinkie, oh-



Putt Putt Tut Pourri: Ah, cut the B.S. - How are things going?

Minister: Not good. We have less than no money, as our looting and pillaging program has fallen off considerably.

What your Most Hipness should do is implement a Fanatical Ludicrous Internal Pillaging Plundering Erroneous Raping System (FLIPPERS) for Egypt, which would let you build that obscenely expensive condo you want -- even though the masses will cringe and groan under the weight of your fig barrel project.

Putt Putt Tut Pourri: Most excellent idea, dude. Do it!

Over the centuries the official FLIPPERS title has been changed and altered. Atilla the Hun, one of their finest collection officers, managed to shorten it to "Uhngga." Today the organization is simply known as the I.R.S. -- Irascibly Rapsalicious Scoundrels (it's a family paper and there are some things we just can't print).

I shouldn't be too harsh on the I.R.S. though. No sir, not gonna do it. After all, the Great Deficit Pumpkin Head has given them a job to do, a mission to complete -- a quota system, if you will.

In fact, I figure that this mess all started when President Bush called the I.R.S. chief into his office for the following pep talk:

The Grand PooBah: "We've got a big financial problem here, and we need to keep the great machinery of democracy moving -- namely

my stealth speed boat 'Liberty for me, Taxes for you, ha ha.' Besides, I'll look bad in the polls if I don't do something, and we all know how important that job approval thing is... pork rind?"

It's not the rinds that bother me, but the barrels. The armed forces are still buying (I kid you not) \$600,000 fax machines designed to survive a nuclear war (*Reality Check: If there is a nuclear war, how many of you think there will still be phone lines up?*), Congress is still approving funds to research the mating habits of badgers and President George "Will it affect my approval rating" Bush is still racing around in his speed boat.

Yet the monstrous monolith of the federal bureaucracy is hurtling towards me, a college student who a) has absolutely no money, and b) is in disgustingly deep debt (ain't we all) to pay for college. Now the government wants me to give them money I don't have.

I've got a better idea. Sell the speedboat.

## Letters to the Editor (continued)

### NSBE...

(continued from page 4)

his shoulder playing in an intramural event.

2. A Balloon Bust could be considered gambling by not only the school, but the State as well. Yet the Health Care Center sponsored fair involved a very similar balloon event where students paid money for a chance of winning a prize in a balloon.

3. A movie can be shown, however

a. It cannot be a VCR type movie

b. The film must be shown on 16 mm which costs about \$500.

NSBE was allotted only \$75 from SGA this year, while the Engineering Club received \$175 and the Adventure Club received \$675. Neither of these clubs have turned in organization registration packets. This is the form that establishes them as an active club.

I found this very discouraging to say the least, but I figured the party we had planned 2 weeks in advance, (NSBE presents a Reggae Jam) would not only

supply funds, but notoriety.

1. Friday the 7th--A fight broke out at an ABC party. That night it was understood there was a possibility the NSBE party would not take place.

2. Wednesday the 12th--was the first opportunity to talk with Dave Shields who ultimately had the say on whether or not it would be possible for NSBE to have their party. He stated two Student Auxiliaries would have to be present at every function student organizations sponsored if non-students were present.

3. Thursday the 14th--Dave Shields then informed the President of NSBE that not only two Student Auxiliaries would have to be present but a Commissioned Police and Safety Officer as well. The total cost was estimated at \$120 for security. (Note our Budget.)

4. Friday the 15th--approximately 20 people arrived at the NSBE party.

If Behrend seeks to have new student organizations survive on this campus and become a mainstay here, I suggest the following:

-Have policies work all the time for all clubs; not just when

its convenient for the school.

-Offer more aid for organizations if they intend to be active on this campus.

-Give us a chance period.

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### Double standard

I am just beginning to realize how much I have overestimated the progress of women since the sexual revolution. A few weeks ago, Sigma Theta Chi performed a dance during Greek sing which attracted some controversy. I believe that this whole issue stems from that age old sexual double standard. As hard as it is to believe at times, this attitude is still alive and well in 1990.

First, what is the sexual double standard? Instead of a definition as such, I will use an example which is quite relevant. If a man dances for Chippendale's, he is thought of as a sort of sex symbol, but if a woman takes off her clothes for money, she is a lewd, bad person with no respect for herself.

When this double standard is reduced to its fundamentals, it leads straight back to the ideology that women are not or

should not be sexual beings. Anyone who would spout that doctrine today could be called an idiot because science has provided us with the physiological mechanisms for the sexual process and they are parallel between sexes.

This means all humans are sexual beings, not just one gender. This last statement may seem obvious, but there are still ugly little remnants of this extreme doctrine floating around in our society. This is apparent in the previous example.

Second, why do I relate this controversy over our dance to the sexual double standards? As was brought up at a certain council meeting, several other participants in the Greek sing portrayed roles which could be construed as sexually suggestive. One fraternity in particular was mentioned. Some said that they found their skit offensive also.

No one was offended by it until accusations were made toward us. I personally feel that the point was not that it was offensive but that it was suggestive and since they are men, it's okay. Men are not criticized for being sexually suggestive.

About two years ago a group of men participated in a stripping contest right here at Behrend. The men stripped down to less than I

did and they were not behind a scrim sheet. Yet, I didn't hear any outrage over that. No one said that they degraded themselves or their respective fraternities. There is still this stigma over women and our sexuality.

If we as a society have learned anything, I would think that we would have learned that knowledge, understanding, and acceptance are the keys to unlocking any prejudices. However, as I said before, I overestimated our generation. Maybe I do this because I grew up with and surround myself with people who are open-minded, tolerant, and yes, pretty much liberal.

To confront an attitude such as this double standard is the only way to abolish it. I was asked not to write to the editor about this because it would draw attention to the Greek community in a negative manner. This request only emphasized to me that those remnants of archaic ideology are present in today's women.

I am tired of this double standard, and I feel that it is even more threatening now when it has become so subtle. Many people do not even realize that it is governing their attitudes and closing their minds to acceptance of their own morality.

Finally, to those of you who (continued on page 7)