

Features

The Hooters experience

By Anne Rajotte
Managing Editor

The infamous Hooters restaurant, complete with such slogans as "More than a Mouthful" and "Delightfully Tacky, Yet Unrefined," opened its doors to Erie early last year. The restaurant sparked controversy in parts of our conservative community, while establishing a strong customer base in others.

The waitresses or "Hooters Girls", as they are known, are a famous constant in all of the Hooters restaurants. The waitresses are required to wear very skimpy orange shorts, a cut off t-shirt or tank top, full makeup, and their hair down. Obviously this sort of uniform would seem to constitute a specific body type. Derek Bayer, manager of the Erie Hooters said that the girls need not necessarily be thin, though on that particular night there were no overweight girls working, they just needed to be comfortable with the uniform. When asked if he would hire an overweight woman, he simply said that he hires with the uniform standards and projecting a positive image of Hooters in mind.

Waitressing is not the only duty required of the Hooters Girls. They also sell t-shirts and other merchandise, and occasionally perform songs or dances. The fact that they sing and dance classifies them as "performers", therefore allowing them to hire only women as waitresses, and avoiding gender discrimination problems.

According to the Hooters media statement, "The Hooters Girl is the 'all-American cheerleader' or the 'surfer girl next door.'" It goes on to say that, "Claims that Hooters exploits women who are attractive, are as ridiculous as claims that the NFL exploits men who are big and fast."

Hooters has been the subject of much controversy concerning its portrayal of women. Dr. Diana Hume George, professor of English and women's studies at

Behrend said, "As a feminist and a teacher of women's studies, of course, I find the idea of exploiting women's bodies in these ways moderately disturbing or offensive, but I think the only way to handle it is to laugh at it. It's just silly...It's on the comic end of a continuum that has more serious symbolic content and real social consequences." She also feels that the experience of being a Hooters girl could be harmful, depending on how the women internalizes it. Some could walk away completely unharmed, while some will look back and wish that there had been other ways.

Rob Spencer, a Hooters customer, doesn't see Hooters as degrading women. He stated that the women "wouldn't do it if they didn't want to." Interestingly, he also said that he wouldn't bring his eight year old son to Hooters, "I don't think that he should be staring at cleavage."

Spencer said that the reason he patronizes Hooters is because it is close to his house, it has good burgers, and he finally admitted that the women something to do with it. Carol Hogan, a female customer, said the food was the reason she ate there. She doesn't find it degrading, and said, "if I had the bodies of these girls, I would work here too."

Kelly Pahel is Hooters Girl and a Behrend student who started working there last April. She enjoys her job and says that the money is good. The tips are about 18-20%, as opposed to the standard 15%. There is also the occasional extra big tip, for example, a hundred dollars or a peice of jewelry. She feels that girls who work there have a lot of self esteem, and generally feel good about their bodies. According to a woman who worked at Hooters for a short time, this may not necessarily be true. She said that there was a lot of competition among the women about their bodies.

Pahel feels that she is often judged differently because of her job, but once people visit Hooters, they change their minds. "I would tell anyone that has preconceived notions about Hooters; don't judge it until you've tried it."

In a place with the atmosphere of Hooters, there is a reason to believe that an excessive amount of sexual harassment or inappropriate behavior takes place. Bayer says that although the incidents are slightly higher than a family type restaurant because of Hooters' all female waitstaff and the fact that it serves alcohol, the problems are only occasional. This was confirmed by Pahel, who says that she has only witnessed a few serious incidents. A group of men, who were already drunk came into the restaurant, and were not served alcohol, became irate, and verbally harassed the waitresses. In a situation like this, the party is escorted out of the restaurant.

Inappropriate behavior on the part of the waitresses is also not tolerated. Sexual behavior towards customers results in termination of employment. Despite this there is still minor flirting and suggestive behavior. On a hat signed by the waitresses at the Erie Hooters are the phrases, "Do us again!", "Get wet!", "Get busted at Hooters!", and "Hang loose". Flirting also seems to be part of the job. A former Hooters girl felt that the women compromised their personalities for the sake of a higher tip.

Families with young children are a regular occurrence at Hooters, and women make up about 30% of the clientele. Hooters claims that they do not market themselves to children, however they do offer a children's menu, which suggests that children make up a large enough part of their customer base to have such accommodations. Pahel feels that, "Hooters is a fun place

for the whole family to enjoy; men, women, and children."

Bayer said, "For a conservative market, we've been very well recieved." There was an initial problem with the Millcreek school district PTA. They asserted that the restaurant was too close to Tracy Elementary school to have a liquor license, and it was also inappropriate for children. The school was planning to move to another location before the start of this school year, which put an end to the PTA's complaints.

Hooters is very upfront about the type of atmosphere it creates. The name itself is a slang term for breasts, though the company attempts to make it a double meaning by including an owl in its logo. The Hooters media statement clearly states, "You can sell the sizzle, but you have to deliver the steak. Sex appeal is legal and it sells."



DEREK BAYER: General manager of Hooter's.

Photo by Jessica Trzeciakowski

Family affair

John Amorose
Entertainment Editor

"Do you know what it says in the bible about f---ing your own sister? It says 'don't!'" Red spews in a drunken slur. If this statement is true, then the Pews family has got a lot of explaining to do when or if they reach the pearly gates. In The Roadhouse Theater's production of *Coyote Ugly*, not only is incest practiced, it's accepted as a way of life. The story takes place at the Pews house in Herber, Arizona. The quaint kitchen/living room, in which the bulk of the action takes place, is a scene straight out of "Deliverance." Tattered with garbage, a shrine to Elvis Presley over the hide-a-bed, and various clippings from the *National Enquirer* on the refrigerator, the stage provides a perfect backdrop for the backward, country lifestyle that is the Pews's.

The play opens with the return of Dowd Pews (played by Michael Bush) after a twelve-year sojourn to Philadelphia. He has come back to introduce his new bride Penny (played by Tara Dougherty) who, with blond hair, blue eyes, and overwhelming effervescence is the complete opposite of the Pews's. Penny immediately catches the wandering eyes and hands of Dowd's father, Red (played by Joe Thornton), who is celebrating his acquisition of a new "hot" car. Dowd is welcomed graciously by his mother, Andreas (played by Kim Mc.) with whom he had an incestuous affair before his journey to Philadelphia. The final piece of the Pews puzzle is daughter Scarlett, performed by

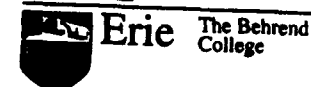
Lori Allen--by far the most talented actress in the play. The story centers around Scarlett, and her particularly dysfunctional relationships with each of her family members. The constant recipient of verbal abuse by the entire family, Scarlett regresses into a primal state, complete with barking, biting, and voodoo-esque rituals, in which she wishes harm things to those around her.

Those are the facts. Intriguing, sure. Funny, most definitely. Shocking, well you'll have to see it to believe it. *Coyote Ugly* is like a Jerry Springer show from Hell, brought to life by five very talented actors and actresses. The cast portrays an actual family realistically, adding a shocking realism to the racy subject matter. Also, music is played throughout the theater between scenes--intermezzo-- to reduce "dead air" and help the play flow from one hilarious scene to the next, a technique frequently used in the Roadhouse Theater.

Coyote Ugly was written by Lynn Siefert and is directed by Scott McClelland. It will be performed at the Roadhouse Theater, located at 145W 11th street, until October eleventh. Show times are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights starting at 8PM. Tickets are \$8, \$6 for students and senior citizens on Thursdays, and \$10, \$8 for students and senior citizens on Fridays and Saturdays.

I definitely recommend taking in the *Coyote Ugly* experience. I must warn you, it's for adults, due to the obvious content, adult language, and several instances of full-frontal nudity.

PENNSTATE



Film review: The Game

Jon Stubbs
Collegian Staff

Michael Douglas stars as millionaire entrepreneur Nicholas Van Orton in this weekend's thriller *The Game*. Van Orton is a ruthless business man whose life has been plagued by failed marriages and the suicide of his father. Nicholas is given a gift certificate for a company called Consumer Recreation Services as a birthday gift from his brother, Conrad (played by Sean Penn). Conrad doesn't really tell Nicholas what the company does,

but simply implies that they specialize in creating some sort of fantasy, or game.

Nicholas visits the company where he is given extensive psychological and physical tests. He is not told when the game will begin, just that he will be contacted.

Soon afterwards, strange things begin happening to Van Orton, escalating to the point of being harassed, chased, and pursued by hitmen; all part of the game.

Director David Fincher has made this film just as dizzying and electrifying as *Seven*, one of

his previous productions. Throughout much of the movie, the viewer will find it impossible to keep from biting their nails or clenching their fists. The film is blessed by talented acting and has a solid plot that will leave the movie-goer with a feeling of completeness at it's end.

However, if you are of the type that says, "Oh, that could never happen," at least once during every movie you have ever seen, you may enjoy *The Game* a little less than one who possesses a more patient willing suspension of disbelief.



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SELECTIVE MEMORY... Good or Bad?!

Sometimes this can be GOOD.

Remember when you threw up in Bob's Mercedes?

No.

Or it can be BAD.

My ex is so considerate!

Sure.

REALLY BAD.

Maybe I should go see him.

Have you suffered from any head injuries lately?

BY KEITH KNIGHT

THE K CHRONICLES

"stink of swim"

SOME PEOPLE CLAIM I HAVE AN IRRATIONAL FEAR OF DROWNING...

I SAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT...

HELL... I STOPPED WEARING MY LIFEPRESERVER IN THE BATHTUB MONTHS AGO...

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M CRAZY ABOUT IT OR ANYTHING...

HOW DID I GET THIS WAY? YOU MIGHT ASK... THEY!! ANYBODY WANNA SEE HOW THEY SAVE PEOPLE IN THE NAVY??

YEAH!!

Um... NO. Toss.

BASICALLY IT INVOLVED THE NEIGHBORS BOO. ME CHOKING ON WATER... MY DAD PULLING ME BY MY HAIR... & LOTS & LOTS OF PEOPLE LAUGHING....

WHEN I GOT OLDER... SO CALLED "FRIENDS" WOULD TRY TO THROW ME INTO THE DEEP END OF POOLS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT I COULDN'T SWIM...

Um... Maybe we should fish him out.

Now... Give him a few more minutes...

ISN'T THAT BASICALLY ATTEMPTED MURDER?

WHAT IF THEY HAD ACTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN DOING THIS?

IF I BREED, I WANT MY OFF-SPRING TO BE ONE OF THOSE WATERBABIES...

Swim for DA-Da!

SO THEY CAN IMMEDIATELY START OUT BETTER OFF THAN THEIR POOR FATHER...

BUT I'M MAKING A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO CONQUER MY FEARS!

BUT REALLY FOLKS... ISN'T TAKING A BATH JUST LIKE MARRIAGING IN YOUR OWN FAITH?

I DO ENJOY THE BUBBLE-MAKING THOUGH...

THIS IS MY FIRST BATH IN 19 YEARS.

STOP