

The Behrend College Beacon
published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

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The Ordinary College Student

MARK GREENBANK

A return to the Eighties

People say that things tend to come back around again. It seems to me that the 1980s are trying to come back in some way. Obviously the '80s will never be back in full force, but certain aspects have been popping back up recently.

The biggest one that comes to mind immediately is The Phantom Menace. For those of you who aren't fully aware, and shame on you for not knowing, The Phantom Menace is the title of the new Star Wars prequel movie. While the original Star Wars trilogy was popular in the late 1970s through the early 1980s, it was still around long enough for many of us to remember. Personally, I was excited when the action figures were re-released a couple of years ago. Unfortunately, I was sucked into this marketing gimmick and bought far too many of the same figures I origi-

nally had. So yes, Star Wars mania will begin again this coming summer.

Another more timely event is the exciting victory of former professional wrestler, governor elect Jesse "The Body" Ventura, in Minnesota. I'm sure many of us remember the good old days of professional wrestling, before Hulk Hogan starred in *Thunder in Paradise*, and joined the WCW looking like the poster child for skin cancer and tanning beds around the world. Good old Jesse "The Body", who cleaned up his act a bit by losing the feather boa, and quit battling it out with the likes of King Kong Bundy, Jake the Snake and The American Dream will take over the governor's seat in Minnesota. Supposedly he's now calling himself Jesse "The Mind" Ventura. Whatever. I'll always remember him as the tobacco chewing commando in *Preda-*

tor and the Captain America wanna be in *The Running Man*.

Last year seemed like it was the year of '80s movies. With films like *Grosse Pointe Blank*, and the *Wedding Singer*, songs and music from the 1980s underwent a rebirth. Why is it that songs from the strangest decade are so popular? All it is just a bunch of lyrics that don't make sense and repetitive sounds from a keyboard. I guess that's why in today's era of complex moody and emotional music those simpler tunes sound so good.

Thankfully, most of the wacked-out manner of dressing has not come back into popularity. I don't think anybody would appreciate seeing some of those eyesore costumes again. It's so much simpler to just throw on a pair of jeans, a t-shirt, and some shoes and not have to worry about running out of glitter to cover myself in, or using

three cans of colored hair spray before going out of the house.

I'm sure some of us appreciate the reruns of decade old cartoons on Cartoon Network. It was great to see shows like the *Thundercats* and *Robotech* again, and realize how cheesy they really were. Too bad they don't air shows like *Silver Hawks*, *Transformers*, and the *Go Bots*. Hopefully they'll start them up again soon.

I liked the eighties and all that went on. Well, almost everything. Even though I didn't fully understand all that went on and still don't, I'm glad that certain aspects of my childhood remain and are being renewed.

Greenbank is the associate editor of the Beacon. His column appears every three weeks.

A view from the lighthouse

Goo Goo Dolls concert a success

Monday night's Goo Goo Dolls concert seems to have been a success in many different ways. The concert was sold out, and most agree that it was a good show.

Although it costs a great deal to bring a band of this caliber to Behrend, it was well worth it. Participation from the student body, usually a problem, was high for this concert. Behrend also received a good deal of local attention from radio stations and other media. Any event that excited the students as much as this concert is worth repeating. It raises school spirit and student participation. It also gives students reassurance that their students activity fee money is going toward something that they are interested in.

Putting this concert together required a lot of work and time on the



part of the Office of Student Activities. Also, many students worked or volunteered at the concert. All those who participated should be congratulated on the success of the event.

While shows of this type are probably only possible once a year, this is an activity that should definitely be continued. It is an excellent way to raise participation in other events on campus and attract positive attention to Behrend.

Good medicine includes safe abortions

By Douglas W. Laube
Special to Newsday

The murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian has cast an ominous shadow over physicians and other health-care workers who provide legal abortion services. Undoubtedly, that's one goal of the sniper who shot the Buffalo obstetrician in his kitchen two weeks ago. But this act of terrorism is also an attack on our nation's women and their right to choose what is best for them.

Historically, American women have been at a disadvantage. Fortunately, our nation has finally taken great strides to redress that imbalance. Although reproductive choice is not the sole marker of social equity, it represents a significant part of women's ability to make decisions for themselves. To ensure that women don't lose ground, there must be a cadre of health-care providers willing to support women's reproductive rights.

While it is true that the number of abortions has declined steadily since 1980, it is also true that the number of health-care providers who offer abortion services has declined even more rapidly. This disproportion threatens women directly. Available data suggests that only one in six resident physicians in family medicine had clinical experience providing first-trimester abortions. Only 5 percent of these residents will provide abortion services once they establish their own medical practices.

A recent nationwide survey of obstetrics-and-gynecology residents offers even more compelling evidence of their reluctance to offer abortion services. After all, about 90 percent of the physicians who provide abortion services in this country are obstetrician-gynecologists. It is very important for this group to bolster the diminishing ranks of legal abortion providers.

Currently, all U.S. residency training programs are required to make abortion techniques available for anyone who wants to learn them. The instruction is voluntary, not a requirement. In a survey of about 4,500 resident physicians in training, a third have availed themselves of this training, and

about the same number have said that they would provide abortion services in their future practices. Of those who plan not to provide abortion services, three-quarters stated that they would not do so because of personal beliefs.

On the other hand, the prospect of successful medical abortions -- that is, abortions done by prescription drugs like the RU-486 pill -- almost doubles the rate of resident physicians in training who say that they would offer these services to patients. One wonders whether the relative ease of writing prescriptions as opposed to doing a minor surgical procedure is the reason for this change in attitude.

Certainly there is less stigma attached to giving prescriptions than performing an office surgical procedure. And, at least in most areas, it can be done more privately than a purposeful surgical intervention. But that shows that their unwillingness to perform the procedure is not necessarily based on moral principal. And with some encouragement, perhaps more physicians would offer women this important service.

But the question remains: Without a cadre of physicians adequately trained in abortion techniques, will the increasing threats of terrorism curtail our current environment of safe, legal

Live from Guyana

AYODELE JONES

For the holidays: go Greyhound?

The holiday season is quickly approaching and like many, I am anxious to return home. These holidays provide an opportunity for students to spend time with loved ones and not so loved ones in an atmosphere of food, happiness and giving.

When November comes around, students are eagerly counting down the days that are left in the semester, except me. Oh don't get me wrong, I love to go home as much as the next guy or gal but I just hate, rather I disdain or maybe even better I loathe and abhor (did I say hate already), the way in which I have to get there.

Unlike you lucky students who live a couple of miles from good ole' Penn State Behrend, I live in New York City, which is an eight hour drive one way. I am unable to drive this route (because I don't know how to drive), so I must resort to an alternate means of transportation -- Greyhound or Amtrak. While the drive is only eight hours long, on Greyhound and Amtrak, my trip home is lengthened to a journey which lasts ten to twelve hours. I know, I know, this is the season to be thankful for all that is given to us but there is just no way that I can give thanks, when I've been clutching my pocketbook for twelve hours from the guy who looks like Slick Willie on last night's episode of America's Most Wanted.

Before I plunge into a dark abyss and describe to you the "colorful" and reproductive choice?

Following the murder of Slepian in Amherst, N.Y., it is understandable that fewer physicians in training would want to provide abortion services. But training in this technique must be maintained as an option for obstetrics and gynecology residents-in-training. The reasons for this go well beyond religious or moral arguments. It is an ethical obligation to be fair to more than half of our nation's population.

We must not return American women to the back-alley days of illegal abortion when rates of mortality and morbidity were unconscionably high. We don't have to look too far to see what that means. Today, abortion is almost universally illegal in Central and South America, where death rates attributed to pregnancy complications

"unique" characters that ride "da bus" let me explain why I must resort to this enchanting form of transportation. There is only one train that runs daily from Erie to New York and it leaves at 5:45 a.m. I don't know about you but I have a rough time waking up in the middle of the morning to go and catch a train, case in point this is why I travel by Greyhound. Greyhound offers greater

flexibility in terms of arrival and departure times and you can practically leave from the Erie bus station en route to New York City on at least five different times during the day. Don't get me wrong, this is not a paid advertisement for Greyhound or anything I am just pointing out the only benefit that Greyhound does possess.

One should feel a sense of regard and honor because Greyhound is not only popular among college students, but it somehow manages to attract all levels of society even the guy (with one tooth) who has been smiling at you for the past 534 miles. Don't worry, if that's not enough to run a

chill down your spine the bus driver will probably turn up the air conditioning, so that the temperature on the bus is a nice cool and "comfy" thirty-two degrees. If the situation arises in which you should be squeezed into the corner window because your "next door" companion decided to bring his/her entire life's possessions, please do not worry. The gook (crumbs) in the corner is only the remainder of little

Johnny's lunch, so there is no cause for alarm. Greyhound has a policy of only removing items which have fully passed their disgusting stage, so your still safe.

As if you don't have enough to be concerned about, you also have to make sure that your luggage is not "accidentally" left at the wrong terminal or that someone or something does not "mistake" your luggage for their own. But be encouraged, you can soon receive a break from your post if you decide to retreat to one of the lovely bus stops which provide a wide array of four course meals, in other words beef jerky, Doritos and a

can of soda. After carbo-loading and regaining some of your energy you are ready to hit the road, only to find that somebody's kid has decided that your seat is their new place of residence. Being the kind person that you are, you politely inform the parent of the matter hand, only to hear "don't tell me how to raise my child."

As you pull into your final destination, your spirit begins to soar as the color returns to your face (several hours of re-circulated air can have a very debilitating effect on human skin) and you realize that you are finally home. After removing your garbage (as any law abiding Greyhound traveller would) and checking the seat to make sure you didn't leave anything behind you gratefully leave the coach. You see the bright smiles of your loved ones waiting for you at the gate and you quickly grab your luggage only to find that the handle has been broken by the ever courteous baggage handlers. But what do you care, you don't have to sink into the underworld of travel for another four whole days, and if there's a god maybe Uncle Oliver can drive you back to school, but don't forget the 15% cancellation fee.

Jones is managing editor of the Beacon. Her column appears every three weeks.

Letter to the Editor

Community member expresses concern about planned Gateway facility

Dear Editor:
Eight Facts Why: NO TO GATEWAY

8. Inmates verbally assaulted a woman while she was walking by Gateway. She called from the nearby store for a ride home so inmates would not see where she lived. She was afraid of being raped.

7. Police are called about every other week for a Gateway incident.

6. Police are posted in the Neighborhood following an escape. Inmates escape frequently.

5. An inmate was gone for 3 hours, he lost his behavioral Gateway points for the day. He told them he was lost.

4. Inmates WALK by themselves to local businesses to work and find jobs.

3. At the Neighborhood monthly meeting a prisoner confessed that the inmates talk about breaking into the homes near the Gateway facility. Gateway permits no inmates at the meetings now.

2. Shots were fired in the Gateway parking lot when an inmate escaped.

1. The children wait with and are put on the school bus by a security guard.

These residents near the Pittsburgh Gateway facility would like it to be moved. The above information came from their local paper and the residents. They are afraid of publicity because their homes will decrease in value. One resident stated. If your contract with the State Department was worth hundreds of thousands of dollars or even millions over the years all that currency is not worth the lost of life, a dismemberment, a rape, or other heinous crimes. The people in this community are prisoners in their homes. They MUST have burglar systems, guards, and special police response for their safety. Come to the Harborcreek Municipal Building on Nov. 17th at 7 PM. Show Gateway we do not want their inmates in the old Kanty Prep building. These inmates will threaten the safety of Behrend students.

Cindy Carlson
Wesleyville resident

