

Website of the week

By Mike Perkins
layout editor

Imagine controlling an entire country yourself. You must set up the government; will you be a dictator, a king, a benevolent president or the overlord of a communist society? What will your taxes be like? Will you be a warring nation or one dedicated to the pursuit of peace?

You can have that control at the free website <<http://www.solariagames.com/earth>>. At this site you have the option of two types of games, standard or tournament. In the standard game you must

set up your country, and expand to gain land and people. You need to construct buildings to service your people as well as research technologies to make your nation more powerful. With hundreds or thousands of other players trying to expand as well, you must master the skills of diplomacy, negotiating treaties and alliance with other nations. And where diplomacy fails, you must gather your army to fight for survival.

In the Tournament game, you must also master all this skills but the action proceeds faster. The

Tournament game, which holds less players lasts a month, while the standard game lasts for three.

The Earth game is a lot of fun, and while it doesn't have all sorts of fancy graphics, it more than makes up for it with strategy and enjoyment. Remember the game is entirely free, and is not weighted down with all sorts of advertisement banners that can be so annoying.

Remember the website <<http://www.solariagames.com/earth>>.



The Beacon will be featuring a different website every week

Alumni return to offer advice to communication majors

By Rose Forrest
layout editor

Everyone knows, especially the staff of the *Beacon*, how disparaging it can be going into the field of communications. Communication majors aren't going to school for the money or the availability of jobs.

This Tuesday, November 10, the Communications Club helped a few students out. For the second year now they have invited Penn State Behrend alumni with communication degrees to talk about how they got started and where they are now. Tuesday's panel was made of five new speakers this year.

Randy Furgason graduated from Behrend in 1994 with a Bachelors of Arts in Communication. He considers himself a non typical student because he was married during college and had a daughter in 1993. For this reason he wanted to find a paid internship. He found a position in public relations at the Horizon Hospital. At the end of his internship he received a complimentary review stating pleasure with the experience he brought from Behrend, "a credit to Behrend," he explained.

After graduating, Furgason spent a year editing an outdoor magazine then decided to make a career move to a hospital in Meadville. For the past three years he has worked for Channellock as a communications director.

Vicci Snyder, the district representative for Congressman Phil English, graduated a year earlier than Furgason with a communications degree. She started her career as a journalist and it actually began here at Behrend with

the Collegian where she was Editor in Chief. She described it as, "an experience I value."

She took her internship in her senior year at WJET TV. After working for Jet TV she switched to WJET radio for another year. The biggest change in all three of these fields she explains was the difference in writing styles. For this reason she advises it is, "important to learn different styles of writing."

After the year she was fired with five other people because of low ratings. Snyder didn't get discouraged, however. She explains, "you have to be prepared because that happens ... you have to pick yourself up and move on ... It is part of this business ... Almost everyone in TV and radio has been fired."

She took a job at WLKK which she described as a "totally different experience" until February 1997 when she was offered her position with English where she can, "get into the community to benefit the congressman."

Loretta Blakesley also graduated in 1994 with a Bachelors of Communication and did her internship with Senior Health Care Services. Blakesley only worked on the Collegian for a semester or two but she says, "I wish I did more ... Its beneficial as hard copy" to show when looking for a job. She also suggests taking greater advantage of public speaking and computer classes.

Sherri Reider is the front page and makeup editor of the Times Publishing Company. She graduated from Behrend in 1987 and served her internship at the mall. She was discouraged at first but ended up learning many valuable skills and worked

there for a year after.

The next two years she spent at a door and hardware supplier until she realized it was not for her and took a secretarial job where she could move up. For this job she was tested on grammar, punctuation and she could not make one mistake. She feels this proves how important school is.

She is very happy now though and explains, "it is different job every day, something new happens."

Tammy Owens who graduated from Behrend in 1991 agrees with the importance of new experiences everyday. Owens, who works for Froggy says, "everyday is different," when she explains why she likes working for the radio station. Owens selected the Behrend communication major because she wanted to get into sales and thought that interpersonal communication skills would help her more than marketing class.

She feels she needs to know how to talk, to present herself, PR skills, and writing. One point she stressed was that when students first start their careers they do not get a textbook. Sometimes there are training courses but usually they are on their own which is why taking advantage of the classes here is so important. Owen's also made four points of personal advice. They are- getting grants because, "every penny you don't have to pay back is a penny you have later," stay home for as long as you can; stay away from credit cards; and start saving for retirement early.

After these Alumni shared their stories students were allowed to ask questions. The Alumni were able to present them with relevant advice to help get started.

Serraffini's: not quite up to par

By Roger Burlingame
staff writer

Recently I visited Serraffini's Italian restaurant (located on W. 12th street) because I heard it was the best Italian restaurant in Erie. I was sadly disappointed. If this is the best Italian food Erie has to offer, then I suggest going to some other city for Italian food. We sat at the bar for ten minutes before someone came to seat us. It was another ten minutes until we were waited on. And to top it off, they didn't have the first three drinks I ordered. This was to be the sad story throughout our meal, with an atmosphere that was more oriented toward quantity rather than quality. With poor service, mediocre food, and a limited selection, this establishment proved to be no more than an overpriced family restaurant. The appetizers we had to choose

from were limited to deep fried veggies or shrimp cocktail. So we skipped the appetizers and I went straight for the french onion soup. However, it seemed that they had mixed the old batch of soup in with the new batch and put too much salt in the lot of it. Next came the salads, which were very ordinary; but let me say that the house dressings were very good. Their Italian dressing was excellent, as was the blue cheese. However, I'm sorry to say these two dressings were the highlight of our meal. The best chardonnay that they sell by the glass is fair at best. The huge selection of two wines was what I had come to expect at this point in the meal.

For the main course, I had the veal marsala and my date had the broiled scallops. Both were overdone. The marsala dressing was

not bad, to be mild. My date's scallops had a rubbery texture, which happens when scallops are overcooked. She may have found maybe four good scallops out of twenty. However, she liked the pasta marinara. I tasted it and found it to be passable, although a little bland.

For dessert we were offered all of three basic choices: ice cream, chocolate cake, and cheese cake. They were out of everything else, which came as no surprise. I had one bite of the dry cheesecake, and I passed on dessert. I had coffee instead.

All in all, I would not suggest going to Serraffini's, "the best Italian restaurant in town." I was so disappointed I will most likely never go there again.

If any readers have any suggestions for any other Italian restaurants in Erie they would like for me to review, please, E-mail it to the Beacon at behrcoll4@aol.com.

Waterboy a splash at opening weekend

By Michael Coursey
staff writer

The *Waterboy*, the latest Touchstone release starring Adam Sandler, opened last Friday night with a sold out theater at Erie's own Tinsletown. This lighthearted comedy also starred Henry Winkler and Kathy Bates, about a 31 year old Cajun waterboy with an overprotective mother (Kathy Bates).

The movie started out portraying a slow, stuttering Bobby Boucher (Adam Sandler) as the waterboy for a fictional University of Louisiana's football team. The team's players were ruthless in their treatment of the waterboy, staging pranks and poking fun at him, until the coach finally fired him. Feeling rejected, he went home to his mother and told her of his plight.

He then ventured out to another school, SCLSU, where he met another football coach, played by Henry Winkler. Bobby talked to the coach

about becoming the waterboy for the football team, and he agreed. Everything was going well at his first practice with the new team, until the quarterback played a trick on him and had a few players run him over. The coach told him he had to stand up for his rights, and visualize his adversary as somebody that would irritate him to fire him up and take action. After more taunting by the team's quarterback he lashed out at him and tackled him with a stunning hit.

The coach and team were quite impressed and offered Bobby a chance to join the team, along with the Cajun hillbilly defensive coach, who spoke in an unintelligible Cajun dialect. Bobby's natural instincts made up for crude but enthusiastic ability when they put him as line-backer, where he made an instant impact. Although he was a tremendous asset on defense, they did not utilize him on offense.

As Boucher started to develop

a cult following among the "Mud Dog" supporters, he kept his football a secret from his mother, who disapproved of it. His girlfriend Vicky came back to see him and made some amorous advances towards him, for a man that was all too innocent for a 31 year old man. Bobby and the team continued to make strides towards a bowl win after 40 consecutive losses.

The movie continued with some predictable but funny college scenes, and a barbeque with baby alligators for the main course among other things. The use of the visual effects in the key scenes proved key to the humor. Along with the directing and composure of Adam Sandler, the effective acting of Henry Winkler and solid performance by Kathy Bates, *The Waterboy* proved to be hilarious especially to Adam Sandler fans.

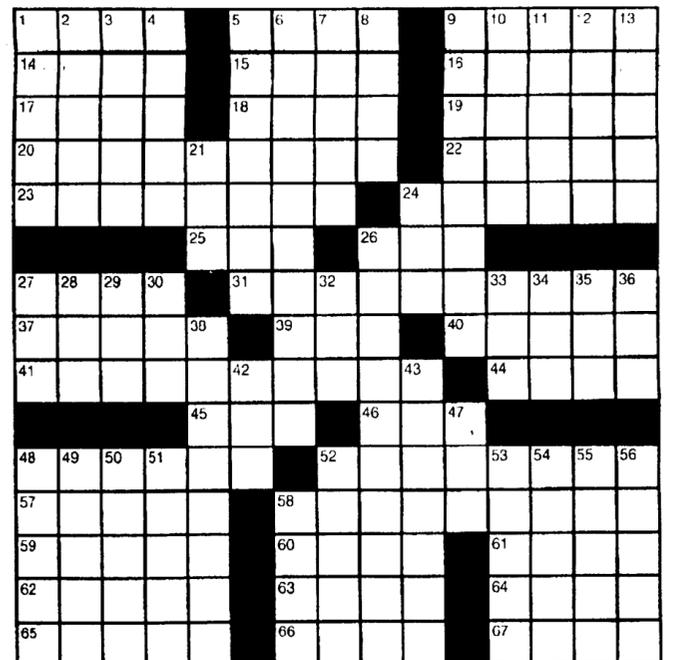
The entire theater was laughing continuously throughout the movie. *The Waterboy* is highly recommended for people who have enjoyed Adam Sandler's other movies, and also to those who have yet to see one of Sandler's comedies.

ACROSS

- 1 Enthusiastic
- 5 Killer whale
- 9 Forces out
- 14 Mexican treat
- 15 Kyser and Medford
- 16 Loosen laces
- 17 Lost one's balance on ice
- 18 Restless desire
- 19 Steak cut
- 20 With tasteful beauty
- 22 Washed
- 23 Terrier type
- 24 Dogma dissent
- 25 Meadow mama
- 26 New Zealand parrot
- 27 Stare open-mouthed
- 31 No matter what cost
- 37 Images of gods
- 39 Have regrets
- 40 Madrid mister
- 41 Party horn
- 44 Dancer Pavlova
- 45 Rim of a cup
- 46 Tennis shot
- 48 Joel of "Sullivan's Travels"
- 52 Devoid of inhabitants
- 57 Like a temp committee
- 58 Female relatives
- 59 Ground grain
- 60 Old crones
- 61 Braided string
- 62 Film
- 63 Pot starter
- 64 Land measure
- 65 Rectify
- 66 Port on 5D
- 67 Burden

DOWN

- 1 Perplexed
- 2 Frankie of The 4 Seasons
- 3 More aloof
- 4 Move aside
- 5 Japanese island
- 6 Worn-out car
- 7 Full course
- 8 Drained of color
- 9 Jumps farther
- 10 Open a castle door
- 11 Kitchen appliance
- 12 Fork prongs
- 13 Squid
- 21 Curb-side quaff
- 24 Yo!
- 26 Skirt description
- 27 Tonic's partner
- 28 Bother
- 29 Food from taro
- 30 Golfer Ernie
- 32 Northern sea bird
- 33 "The Crying Game" star
- 34 Country hotel
- 35 Opposing position
- 36 End of an ___
- 38 Chosen
- 42 Woody's ex
- 43 Antarctic body of water
- 47 Ship's front



© 1998 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

11/12/98

- 48 Molten matter
- 49 Computer disk
- 50 Onion-flavored seasoning
- 51 Pine sap product
- 52 Princess of Wales
- 53 In the neighborhood
- 54 Shell rival
- 55 ___ cotta (ceramic clay)
- 56 Concluded
- 58 Aga ___ III

