

FEATURES

Website of the Week

by Christine Kleck
staff writer

From Peach Street to Wall Street, on-line auctions are changing the way people do business and how Americans buy and sell everything, from Beanie Babies to plane tickets and computers. If you're looking for something less mainstream, there are also sites that auction items as off-the-wall as oil-drilling equipment and bulk seafood.

According to statistics from the Internet research firm Media Matrix, around 13% of all Internet users tracked during its fall research period visited auction sites. This amounts to about 7 million unique visitors. But along with these hundreds (and rapidly expanding) sites come almost as many things that you have to keep in mind when using them.

There are two primary kinds of auction sites: buy-and-sell and vendor only. For both of them, membership is usually free, and most of the time you can either follow the bidding yourself or have a proxy-bidding engine do the work for you. All you have to do is set a maximum price. In the buy-and-sell type, the site is more like a third party that brings individual buyers and sellers together and most of the time takes a small commission from the seller. One thing to watch when

using these sites is that payment and delivery are up to the individuals, so the sites rely more on community feedback to police other members. In the other model, the vendor only site, there is one seller. Usually it is a warehouse wholesaler or liquidator, who sells items in quantity and then delivers them right to you.

Another thing to watch out for is that if you bid be prepared to buy. If your bid is the last one standing, the item is yours, like it or not. Also, check the details of the item, most have photos and precise descriptions. Be sure you know whether the item is new, used, a demo, and most of all be sure they come with some type of warranty.

WWW.AUCTIONADDICT.COM is an easy to use buy-and-sell based site, courtesy of its well-designed layout. A convenient list of categories tells you at a quick glance what is available and how much of it there is. This site is a great choice for sellers the commissions are only 1%. Computers, collectibles and toys are the main attractions.

Another buy-and-sell based site is one of the most popular sites online today WWW.EBAY.COM. Its package includes lots of merchandise, a popular name, and an abundance of loyal users. More than 41 million items have been up for sale on the site in the past 2 years. Sellers pay eBay a small commission of their sale price

(a minimal listing fee, then 5% for sales up to \$25, and 2.5% thereafter).

One big name vendor-only site is WWW.UBID.COM, whose popularity is growing almost as rapidly as the price of its stock. uBid deals mostly with computers and electronics. It also handles all of its own shipping, which often occurs within two days. The items are usually offered in quantity.

Another vendor-only site, not to be confused with uBid, is WWW.BID.COM, also relying heavily on computers and electronics. This site offers a different twist it presents the "straight ahead" auction and also the Dutch auction (the price starts at the top and goes down, and bidders jump in when they see a price they like). One drawback to this site is the shipping time; its promise of 14-21 days is one of the slowest available.

No matter which auction site you use, make sure you know what you are getting into what you are bidding on, the quality of the item, and if you are a seller, how much commission you are going to have to pay to the site. Also, have a realistic idea of how much you want to pay, or how much you want to sell the item for. Auction sites are the newest on-line phenomenon and promise to make buying and selling as easy as point, click, and bid.

STUDENT CLUB OF THE WEEK

Knights of Columbus and The Newman Association

by Liz Hayes
staff writer

At Penn State Behrend there are dozens and dozens of student organizations that are leadership, academically, or socially oriented. However, there are also a few religiously-affiliated organizations that few seem to know about.

The Behrend Knights of Columbus - K of C - is one such organization. Many are probably slightly more familiar with the parent organization that has branches in many communities. This organization was founded in 1882 by Father Michael McGivney in St. Mary's Church, New Haven, CT. The Behrend K of C was started in the early 1990's with the help of a local K of C chapter.

Back in the 1800's, the organization was founded with the intent of providing support for the great influx of Catholic immigrants. According to Grand Knight Richard Zmijewski, the College's chapter has the slightly more modernized aim of stressing "support of [the] Catholic campus ministry, various service projects, and the spirit of fraternity."

One of the main activities the K of C is involved in is assisting with the setup of the Sunday masses in the Reed Commons. They also sponsor many activities throughout the year. One service-oriented activity that is approaching is their annual food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Members take plastic bags to surrounding communities and leave them

at people's residences, attaching a note stating that the bags will be picked up in one week, hopefully filled with food goods. In the past six years, the K of C has raised over 10 tons of food with this activity.

The Behrend Knights of Columbus is open only to male Catholics. While it may appear that the club is open to a very small amount of people, Zmijewski pointed out that 60% of Behrend's students are, indeed, Catholic. The club holds meetings the first Sunday of every month at 9:00 p.m., but they, too, are only open to Catholic men.

For those interested in the K of C, the club can be reached several ways. They have a recently-launched website at www.clubs.psu.edu/kofc. By phone, students can contact the club through Father Santor or Sister Mary at the Catholic Ministry. The number is that of the Student Activities Office, extension 6171. The national website for the Knights of Columbus can be reached at www.kofc.org.

Also, the club is sponsoring an Open House next Thursday, October 14th. Those interested should meet at the RUB desk at 7:30 p.m.

Another organization that is affiliated with the Catholic ministry is the Behrend Newman Association - BNA. This association was founded in 1893 at the University of Pennsylvania by Cardinal John Newman. The Behrend chapter began in January of 1990. As stated in the Newman Association Constitution, the

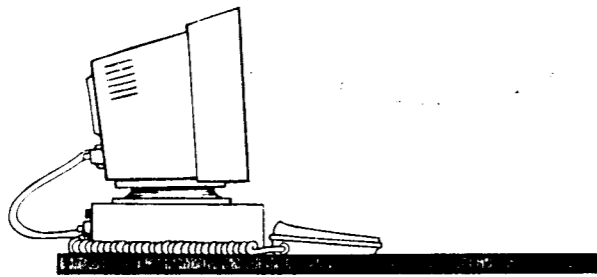
organization's purpose is to "enrich members during their academic tenure, to elevate student values and standards and to motivate members to become productive in society by aiding them in religious, academic, and social activities."

Unlike the Behrend K of C, the Newman Association is open to the entire student body, male or female, Catholic or not. It is Catholic-based, but one does not need to be of the Catholic faith to join and participate.

Two major events sponsored by the BNA last year were the 30-hour Famine and Habitat for Humanity. The Famine is an international project that raises money for hunger relief in Third World countries. Students that participate don't eat for 30 consecutive hours; during this time, they also participate in other service projects. Also, the BNA built two Eric homes last semester through Habitat for Humanity.

BNA holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 8:30 p.m. in room 3 of the Reed Building. These meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in participating in BNA activities can contact the club's co-presidents, Heather and Jen. Their on-campus phone number is X6944, and their email addresses are hab1400@psu.edu and jls421@psu.edu, respectively. Also, the club has a Web site at www.clubs.psu.edu/bna. The BNA can also be reached through the Catholic campus ministry.

Auctions



H

Aries (March 21-April 19). Take advantage of the new Fall Break, get caught up on your homework and studying.

O

Taurus (April 20-May 20). While school might seem overwhelming right now, things will begin to sort themselves out.

R

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Confrontation with someone will cause you trouble, compromise can be the answer.

O

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Smoking is the number one cause of lung cancer, so don't do it!

S

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Take some time for yourself this week, or you will end up burning yourself out.

C

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Quit putting off the papers that you have to write, it will catch up with you in the end.

O

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Relax!

P

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Try something new and exciting, clean your room and discover the color of your carpet.

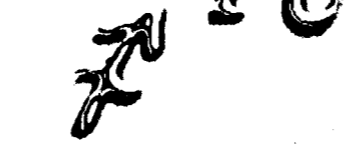
E

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Spend some time with your significant other this week.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Things will only get more complicated from here on, so try not to get too far behind.

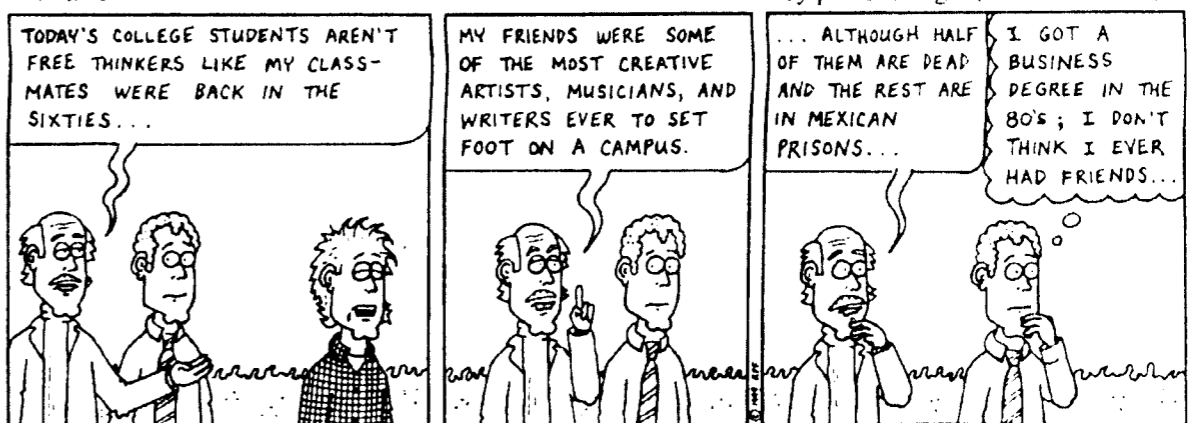
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). A fish tank can be a very relaxing way to spend your free time.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't be too demanding, it can backfire on you when you least expect it.



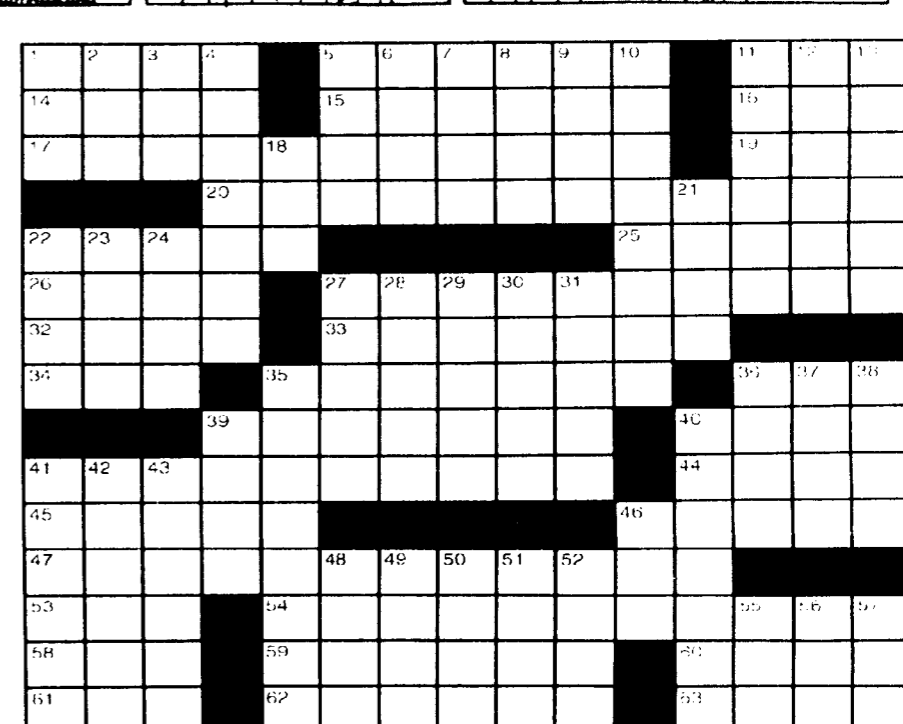
LEX

by phil flickinger (www.l-e-x.com)



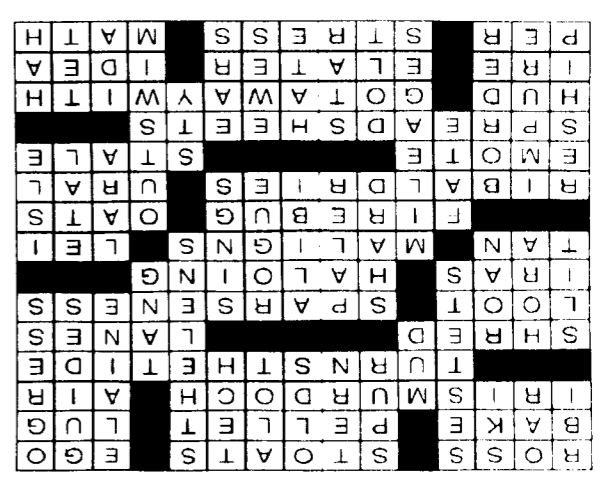
- ACROSS**
- H. Perot
 - European ermines
 - Self-image
 - Oven setting
 - Shotgun ball
 - Ear-like projection
 - Author of "The Sea, the Sea"
 - Jordan's nickname
 - Reverses a trend
 - Tear into strips
 - Bowling alleys
 - Spoils taken
 - Rarity
 - Pension \$\$
 - Surrounding with a glow
 - Beach acquisition
 - Speaks evil of
 - Floral ring
 - Arsonist
 - Trigger's lunch
 - Lewd jokes
 - River to the Caspian
 - Ham it up
 - No longer fresh
 - Accounting programs
 - Newman classic
 - Escaped the consequences of
 - Anger
 - Click beetle
 - Brainstorm
 - ... diem (daily)
 - Underscore
 - SAT section

- DOWN**
- Diamond stat
 - Pole with a blade
 - Go on snow
 - Sonnet stanzas
 - San Antonio player
 - Fork-tailed seabird
 - Early car maker
 - Plenty



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- Software support
- Volcano in the Cascades
- Galahad's mother
- Shows the way
- Female beast
- Wet soil
- Zesty flavor
- Long, narrow cut
- Round dance
- Chestnut-and-gray horse
- Piece of broken pottery
- Less-colored
- Excuse
- Scoundrel
- Carries a tune
- Travel distances
- Zhivago's love
- Alternative to etc.
- ... of Wight
- Destiny
- Do the crawl faster



- Send back cargo
- Contaminated
- Boundary
- Farm enclosure
- Clumsy clod
- Night light
- Dislike intensely
- Flock females
- Corn units
- Rhoda's TV mother
- Hanoi holiday
- Triumphant exclamation

by Bongo the three legged monkey