

# ADJUSTING TO BEHREND

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FACING STUDENTS BEGINNING THEIR FIRST YEAR AT BEHREND? STUDENTS IN THE "WRITING BEHREND" FIRST YEAR SEMINAR OFFER INSIGHTS.

## A Day in the Life of a Commuter

by Erin McCarty and Christine Kleck

Even though commuters make up the majority of the student body here at Behrend, it is easy for them to feel left out. After all, a commuter is not required to spend the night in an on-campus dorm and does not have to occupy the time between classes and bedtime with on-campus activities.

For a commuter, college may seem a lot like high school. A certain number of hours each day are spent in school and then it's time to go home. The only difference between college and high school is that not all of your school day is spent in the classroom.

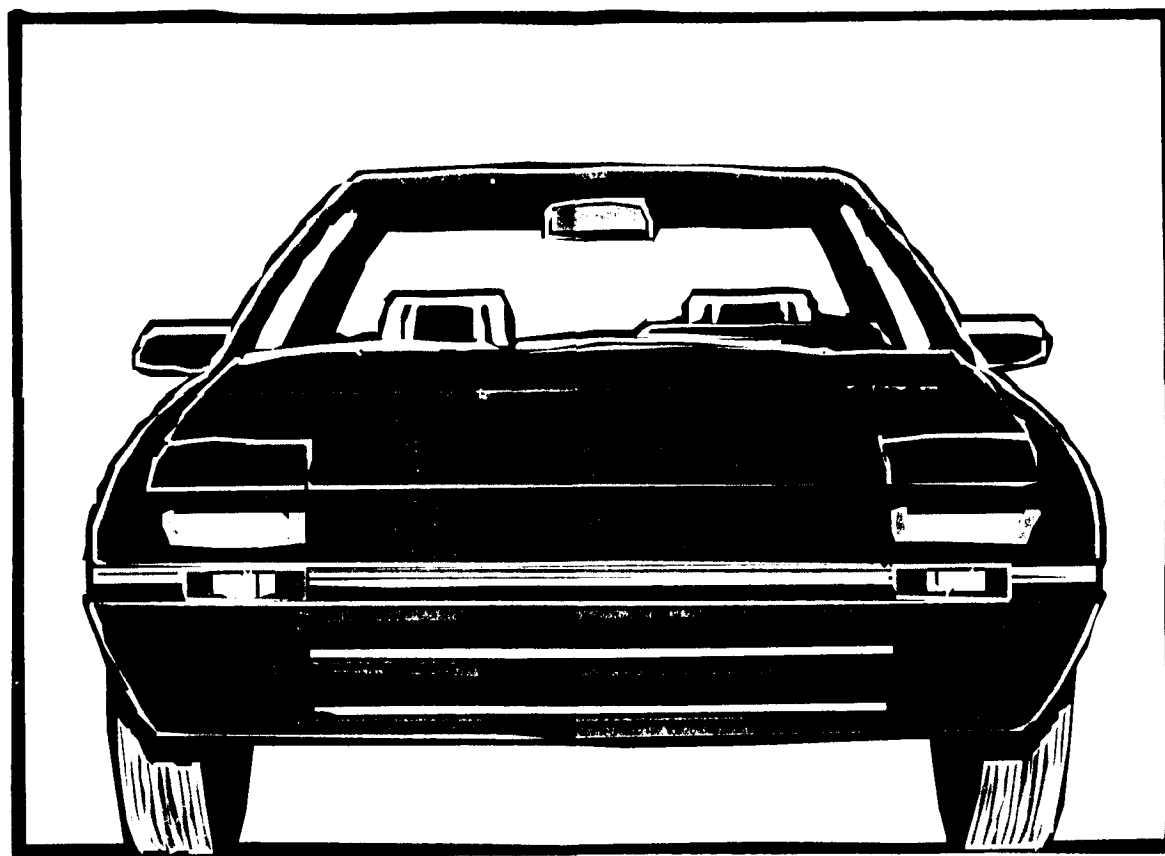
If a commuter lives close enough to Behrend and has time between classes, they have the tendency to rush home; to take advantage of that hour away from much needed school surroundings. Because of this, peer interaction is often exercised at a minimum outside of the classroom for commuters.

Here are some suggestions to make commuters feel more at home at Behrend. Instead of rushing home to get a bite to eat, check out Brunos for snacking, meet new on-campus students or even to learn what's new around Behrend.

Many commuters admit to feelings of alienation, even when they have many friends that also attend Behrend. With 3,500 students attending Behrend, your chances of having more than one class with a friend is slim to none.

College is generally considered an entrance to adulthood. As adults, more responsibilities are taken on. One of those responsibilities includes reaching out to better communicate and get involved with your

community. In a student's case, that community is to join a club that pertains to your interests. This gives



Behrend.

A great way to reach out and get involved is to

you something to do between classes and also offers a nice social time with people that have the same

interests as you.

A group that commuters should check out is the Commuter Council. It is designed to provide a forum for comments and it gets commuters together to make their voices heard throughout the campus. Every Monday at 1pm in Reed 112 this group meets for about an hour. At the gathering the students can catch up on Commuter news, meet new friends and even keep in touch with some of the old ones. Hot topics being discussed right now include car pools, fundraising, and the Commuter mixer on October 16th.

In addition to all of the studies and activities going on at Behrend, a Commuter is also faced with the issue of parking. Between limited parking and traffic jams, drivers face a lot of obstacles just to get to school each day.

In desperation to find a parking spot, students have a tendency to break rules without even realizing it. Rule number one: A VALID PARKING PERMIT IS MORE THAN NECESSARY. Violation numbers can get pretty pricey, and when you tack a late fee on that, you can kiss your weekend spending money good-bye.

For a more complete list of traffic laws and ticket fees you can visit the parking office at the Penn State Behrend WebPage, at [www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu).

Through involvement, time management, driving awareness and social events even commuters can turn their time at Behrend into a complete, fulfilling and worthwhile college experience.

## Survival of the Fittest

by Christy Piccola and Karen McKim

All of us have to deal with being on our own. No one is looking over our shoulders anymore. There's no teachers, no relatives, and—depending on your view point—best or worst of all, no parents. Everyone has taken some time to get adjusted to college and some of us still aren't ready to call it home. Despite hardships, however, everyone is trying to make the best of it—whether dealing with it means getting along without Mom and Dad or finding our own ways to make money.

Some of us are happy to be out of the house, ready to be adults and live our own lives. Most of us realize we're here to make a go of it and we're doing our best to do just that. There still is, however, those times when we remember how much easier being at home really was.

There's laundry. It's hard to worry about that for those of us who never had to before. Separating whites and colors and not putting too much bleach in your load. All of us had a quick lesson from Mom on just how to do it the right way. However, none of us would be surprised to find that shirts that used to be white are suddenly pink or blue.

Then there's the alternate alarm clock: Mom's voice. Maybe this isn't true for everyone but for some of us, if we hit snooze too many times, Mom was there to make sure we got out of bed on time. Now, we're on our own. If the alarm doesn't wake us up, and neither does our roommate, class is going to be missed. Those of us that found Mom's voice annoying are wishing it was still around when we wake five minutes before class starts.

On the other hand, Eugene Butch (01, Commercial Advertising, Film, and Video) says the best thing about being here is, "sleeping without anyone yelling." While Kellie Harlan (01, Biology) just says, "sleeping." So while some of us are praying the alarm wakes us, others are thankful for the extra sleep time.

Another thing that takes getting used to is that if you want money, YOU have to figure out how to get it. It's not so easy to ask Mom and Dad when you're here and they're there. When you're running out of money and you want a part time job, there's a few things you may need to remember.

How many times have you heard how important it is to make a good first impression? Well, it's true. Your

personal appearance when you apply for a job is a huge factor in whether or not you are hired. According to the authors of *The Total Guide to College Life*, Alice & Stephen Lawhead, "Nobody expects an applicant to wear a suit and tie (although you might be hired on the spot if you did), but clean clothes (fresh shirt or blouse and clean jeans) are a must."

Not only is your personal appearance important, your energy and motivation is also significant. An employer likes to see motivation and aggressiveness in a potential employee. Go in person instead of applying over the phone. If you show that you're ready to

learn, and eager to work, employers will be more likely to hire you.

Some other simple tips—be on time, be responsible, and get used to filling out forms. Once you're hired, you're going to want to do your best to keep the job. Most of the same "rules" apply to this.

So whether you bleached your laundry, slept through a class, or bombed your first interview, hopefully you can make use of the tips in this article. Just remember: Everyone needs time to adjust, make sure you take yours!

## A Weekend Without a Hangover

by Leanne Acklin and Angela Majoris

Frat Parties. Keggers. Bar Hoppin'. Typical weekend activities for a college student. But for those who don't want to wake up in a puddle of their own, um, lunch, for a change, have no fear. Alternatives are near.

Let's start on campus. Nearly every weekend, Thursday through Sunday, the LEB plays a movie in the RUB for \$2.00 a show. Titles of some of the upcoming blockbuster include Big Daddy, Varsity Blues, The Haunting, and American Pie.

Not up for a movie? Every so often Bruno's hosts a comedian. We've stopped by to listen to a couple past guests, and these boys weren't lame. Actually, they were pretty profane (you know, college level humor). Definitely on the right track to make you bust a gut.

For those of you who like the limelight, karaoke at Bruno's is a great alternative to waking up without pants next to a goat (heh, purely hypothetical situation, you know, \*gulp\*, no one really ever gets that drunk). Anyone who's willing to brave a tough crowd can take their turn at the mic. For those that aren't so outgoing, choose to just sit back and casually watch your friends make an ass of themselves. Either way, it can be a good time.

Adding wheels to your college experience opens up that

door of opportunity that we call Eric. Now hear me out, Eric has a lot to offer. It's no secret that the majority of us are flat out broke college students. So why not try the dollar movie theater? You can see a flick on its second run and if you're hard up for a place to take your babe, there's nothing wrong with having fun and sparing a buck at the same time. A few more dollars can buy you the ultimate movie experience at Tinseltown (cushy seats and nachos!). Feel like "getting down with a bad self" (um, dancing)? Club Utopia hosts college night every Wednesday. Or maybe you just want to relax (or in my case, feel highly sophisticated). Coffeehouses are scattered throughout Erie, including Cup-A-Cemo's and 1,000 French, which serve a pretty mean mocha. Some houses also host amateur musicians and improv nights for people just looking to chill and jam for a while.

These are just a few ideas for those looking for a fun and sober night. Check your Behrend calendar for dates and times of events, and pay attention to the posters in the hallways, they're talking to you. And above all, enjoy yourself.

## It doesn't look like high school anymore

by Jennifer Primerano and Rebecca Weindorf

The only way to adapt to college is to do it. Many people have prepared for college—taken the SAT's, filled out applications, gotten accepted to a good college, and finally scheduled fall classes. However, no matter how much you prepare for the drastic changes of being in college, you will never be fully prepared until you experience them first.

Right now, thousands of freshmen across the country are getting accustomed to the differences between high school and college. One of the biggest problems that can drag someone down is failing to manage their time efficiently. "It's much more difficult to manage my time since I have more responsibility this year than I did last year," said Jen Crawford (Commu 01).

Some students thrive on the fact that their time is theirs to manage. Some choose to squander away precious hours from studying and choose to attend parties, while others spend endless hours in the library. "Coming home after a party and trying to study just doesn't work," said Susan John (Commu 01).

First year students living on campus are simply getting used to the fact of living away from home, commuters need to schedule in extra time for the drive to Behrend and back. Some take up to thirty minutes to drive each way, which also can cut into study time. Many students hold a part time job, which also needs to be budgeted into their busy schedules.

There are some freshmen that are just now cracking down after a couple weeks of blowing off school work. It's tough realizing that professors go on teaching without you. The allure of having plenty of time and using it to catch up on sleep can damage grades and an important GPA.

What to do? Start with some of these pointers to help ease the stress of juggling your time between classes and social time:

-Get a calendar or personal organizer. It's the best way to keep up with your school week, with working schedules, appointments with professors or advisers, and knowing

when you can party—and when you can't.

-Learn to say "no". So many people have trouble saying no because it can hurt feelings, or worse, seem like they don't want to have fun. When you're drawing the line between study time and your social life, politely refuse to go out for a night because of a test or report. It'll make a huge difference in your study habits, and as an extra bonus, you'll feel more at ease about your life when you do go out and have fun.

-Work hard during the week and save weekends for fun. It's a good bit of advice from some upperclassmen. You can always hang out for a breather between classes, but that extra time you have will work wonders, especially for students living on campus. For numerous students, usually it means juggling a part time job on weekends, which can interfere with going out. But part-timers can always find a way to work during the day and leave their evenings free; employers of college students are usually willing to arrange their schedules for the needs of students.

-Relax—it's been done before. If you find yourself stressed from the overload of working, sit back for a minute and remember that thousands of college students have done this before. It's nothing that you can't do!

-And if you can't relax, find help—NOW! There are lots of opportunities on campus, especially for those who are having trouble with keeping their schedules straight. See your adviser to help out—you may need to drop a class to accommodate your needs, transfer classes, or start meeting with your professors for a little extra help.

Remember, whatever you do, there's first year helping hands to get you through that rough first year of college. Every assignment counts in college, and you need the time to complete each one before going out, or even going to earn some money (What good is that money if you can't afford to keep good grades in college?). Keep ahead of the game (in this case, your schoolwork!) and you'll definitely come out on top!