

MY FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS

STUDENTS IN COMMUNICATIONS 001 GIVE THE SCOOP ON THEIR FAVORITE "HOT SPOTS" AT BEHREND. MORE TO FOLLOW IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE BEACON.

The Commuter Council Office

by Becky Weindorf

You know, as much as I love nature, it just gets too cold too fast around here. I like summer and spring and fall for nature, but for the past eighteen years that I've been alive, winter seems to overtake our city for awhile. For now, I'd prefer a place that's always warm and full of people—the Commuter Council office. Many complain it's too loud since it's next to the Back Room, but the bickering between the CC office and the *Beacon* office about whose turn it is to write the Commuter Corner adds to the colorfulness of the place. The tiny hallway that people use to "get away from it all" is a place to just sit and gossip (um, talk) and rest from the beast called "class" or its close counterpart, called "tests." A word of advice if you decide to visit though—unless most of the crowd is in class, don't plan on bringing any study materials.



The Library Aisles

by Jermaine Hardy

At the start of my first year at Behrend, I had some feelings of insecurity. I asked myself, "Is this the place for me? Will Behrend help me get where I want to go and be the person I want to be?" These were questions that I had to eat, breathe, and sleep with. One day while taking a stroll through the aisles of the library, it hit me. I can be any and everything I want to be: writer, accountant, computer engineer, sociologist, or psychologist; whatever interests me most. I began to pick up books and scroll through the first couple of pages to see whether it sparked my interest. Nine times out of ten, I was interested. I began to like the fact of having so many topics to study and, even more, I began to love the fact that there was such an abundance of information that applied to me, right here in these very aisles.



Erie Hall

by Karl Benacci



My favorite place at Penn State Behrend is Erie Hall. It was the first building at Behrend that I had ever been in, because I went to watch basketball games there when I was younger. I don't usually have a chance to go there very often (thanks to my studies), but when I go I have a lot of fun. What is so fun about Erie Hall? Basketball! Yes, I love basketball. I love to watch it,

read about it, and, most importantly, play it. And where else is a better place to play basketball than Erie Hall? The court is nice, the lighting is great, and the floor is never dirty. It's a great basketball environment. Basketball is not only a form of exercise for me, but it gets my mind off of college and it helps relieve stress. I played basketball for my high school's team, and I continue to play every once in a while so that I don't get "rusty." I am very excited for intramural basketball to get started. I am playing for Perry Hall. That will give me an excuse to be in Erie Hall even more.



The Fishbowl

by Katie Przepyszny

Need a new take on life at Behrend? Well, I have the perfect place. Go to the second floor in Reed, walk into Bruno's Café, step up to the elevated section, and take a seat next to the window. Welcome to the fishbowl, my favorite place on campus!

People may complain about cafeteria food all the time (and I admit that I do my fair share of griping), but how can you complain about a place with a great design? Architecturally, Bruno's Café is one of the most interestingly designed dining halls I have ever seen, and the extended round window section, "the fishbowl," is the highlight of the area.

I often spend my downtime at the fishbowl. It is a great place to sit between classes, have a bite to eat, watch a little TV, or catch up on some schoolwork. And every now and then I get a quick smile from a passerby or a wave from friends as they make their way to class, grab some food, or converse with others.

When I want to be alone where I can still watch as the world passes by, I go to my favorite spot on campus, the fishbowl.



In the Gardens

by Adam Costa

I live on East 38th Street. For me, campus is a place I go for class, not a place to live. There are no doors I have keys to, no rooms full of my things, no beds set aside for me to sleep in. Thus, my existence on campus is solely a public one. When I am on campus, there are always people around.

Everyone, I think, needs some place on campus that they can call their own. For a commuter it may be harder to find, but the possibility is still there.

I found my favorite spot in the strip of yard east of Turnbull, overlooking the garden. On a nice day, one can usually find me sitting on my frisbee with my back up against a tree at the intersection where the road from Reed to Nick and the road from Health & Wellness come together.

The latter seems to be my favorite, because you can learn a lot about human behavior if you just step back off the road and watch life go by. People seem to say a lot about themselves without ever speaking to me, or even acknowledging my presence. It makes me wonder sometimes, what do I say when I'm walking by? What do you think of me when you see me walking past, totally unaware that I am being gauged?

I think about all of these things just by sitting in the lawn east of Turnbull. That's why I like the spot so much. Or maybe I just like the garden...



Perry Porch

by Kristin Grudowski

My favorite spot on campus is the porch of my dorm, Perry Hall. Where else can you make plans for tomorrow night, talk about how great/terrible tonight was, bitch, gossip and bond with people you consider friends, acquaintances or anything in between. You can do all this while fixing a nicotine craving, which is usually accompanied by some sort of mental instability provided by a variety of substances we won't mention here. Perry porch serves its occupants as a gathering place, a place to waste time, a place to meet, and even (if you are on the shady side of the porch) a place to escape.

As a first semester student, Perry is my first dorm experience. I obviously don't know if all of this happens on the porches of the other dorms. But we do get visitors, not only from surrounding dorms, but from as far as the suites and apartments. If Perry porch can pull in even those elite, who travel down the million-dollar staircase just to visit, then we must have something special here.



The Top Bunk

by Raechel Kiska

Every morning I have the pleasure of waking up on top of my roommate, Erin. Wait! I should really rephrase that! I sleep on the top bunk, she sleeps on the bottom bunk therefore I sleep on top of her. At first, I wasn't keen on the idea of bunking our beds, but we really needed some extra romping room. The first couple of days were a bit of a challenge. When I first ventured up onto the bed, I made the mistake of trying to stand up. Even though I'm just over five feet tall, I quickly learned that there is not nearly enough room to stand up! Within a few weeks, I began to love my bed. When I am up there I feel like I am in my own little world. I have noticed, though, that once I am up there, I don't want to come back down because I just love it too much! I have resorted to asking my roommate for the phone, food or anything I need that is not within arms reach. For the future, I am considering buying a small trampoline to practice my vaulting skills for the 2000 Summer Olympics. Until then, I will just sit on my top bunk and enjoy my favorite spot on campus.

Second Floor of the Library

by Rob Wynne

There's a quiet place on campus that has four padded chairs, a wooden table, and a view of Behrend that's worth a thousand words. That's where I go to concentrate—the second floor of the library.

Sometimes it's too quiet and I nod-off while I'm reviewing my history notes. There are not very many people moving around. Most of them look similar to myself—notes spread around and a jacket draped over the chair. In there, I can get work done while occasionally watching tiny figures move across the walkways as leaves blow around them. That's why this is my favorite spot on campus.

Quiet time means a lot to me. I commute to Behrend from Millcreek. I still live with my family and work at a small grocery store in Fairview. Family and grocery have one thing in common—noise. I cherish every minute of total silence I can get. That's why I'll leave at 8 a.m. for my 10 a.m. class. Yes, Behrend is only 20 minutes from my house, but the quiet time in the morning is priceless. My spot on the second floor next to one of the huge windows allows for a superb view of the many trees that turn colors during the fall. There are no groceries and no family quarreling. Computers are readily available to search for materials, and I can get answers to any questions I have. I just hope that I don't daydream for too long while I am there.

