

The Snowball Dance: tradition and legacy at Behrend

by Valerie Hammond
staff writer

The evergreen that now towers over the theater building and Turnbull

Dances in the fifties were very elaborate affairs. Decorations were

sparkling stars, tinkling bells, holly, and mistletoe. One year, an old-

adorned with lights. The revolving pedestal on which the tree sat was the creation of the engineering students.

Along with the decorations, the music was a main attraction at the dance. At a time when Elvis had yet to break out onto the stage, the big band era offered students swing and classical music to dance to. As a result, the early Sno-ball dances were large, well-attended events. The gymnasium was always jam-packed, and faculty and students alike were a part of the occasion.

Like most dances of the time, the Sno-ball always had refreshments and a receiving line. The ladies received favors, and the men boutonnières. The ladies also had what were called dance cards. These were small booklets with an attached pencil in which they would write down the names of the gentlemen with whom they danced. Guys would ask for dances by numbers. For instance, they would ask to have dance # 1 or # 4. After the dance, these cards served as memoirs.

The Sno-ball dance remained an annual affair for about ten years. But beginning in the early sixties, with the changing music and dancing styles, big bands such as Neil Charles began to lose popularity. People

became more interested in informal dances with small combo bands. Traditions faded into the more relaxed atmosphere we enjoy today.

In addition, the whole demeanor on-campus changed. Students became involved in equal rights, and students' rights movements, and other activities took the place of the traditional ballroom dances.

Since 1960, there has only been one Snowball Dance. This year will mark the first time since its earlier days that the event will occur in successive years. The dance was brought back in hopes of reviving the tradition and legacy of the earlier dances at Behrend.

Due to busy schedules in December, the dance this year was planned for the middle of November. But since there wasn't any snow then, the Lion Ambassadors decided to postpone the dance to February 26.

Last year about one hundred people attended the dance. This year the Lion Ambassadors are hoping for over three hundred. The first three hundred people through the door will receive a glass mug. Tickets for the dance can be purchased at the door. Cost is \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per couple.

The Dance will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Penn State Behrend Snowball Dance that will take place this Saturday night is yet another occasion for students to celebrate. But what many students don't know is that this very same dance existed long before any of them were even born.

The first Snowball Dance, held in 1950, was called the Sno-ball, and was the first semi-formal dance at the school. Also referred to as the "Dance of the Semester," it was held off campus at the Masonic ballroom in Erie. There, couples danced the night away to the sounds of Neil Charles and his ten-piece orchestra, one of the most popular local bands in Erie at the time. Admission for the dance was \$2.00 per couple.

The Sno-ball dance always took place shortly before students left for Christmas break. Christmas was a much bigger event on campus then, also. Yuletide festivities began early in December when students and faculty would decorate the campus beginning with the "hanging of the greens." They would proceed to trimming the tree in the student union and having hot chocolate before sledding down by the picnic grove.



An early dance at Penn State Behrend

FILE PHOTO

Hall used to be much smaller, and was also strung with twinkling lights. The dance was a continuation of these Christmas festivities.

especially important, and the Sno-ball was no exception. Each year traditional Christmas decorations were part of the décor, including

fashion sleigh was the center of attention. At a later dance in 1957, the main attraction was a revolving twenty-foot high evergreen tree

Area bowling alleys offer a good old time for college students

by Christine Kleck
staff writer

Erie's local bowling lanes have everything you need to bring out your kingpin within. No matter where you live, or when you have free time, there is a bowling alley for you. It doesn't matter how good or bad you are or how much extra money you have, bowling is definitely an inexpensive and fun way to chase away those winter blues.

Eastland Bowling is conveniently located for dorm residents at 3729 McClelland Ave, across the street from the East 38th Street Country Fair. Open Bowling takes place Saturdays during the day from noon to 5 p.m. The price is only \$2.00 per person per game, and shoe rental is only \$1.00 a pair.

Public Glow Bowling and music and lights is held on Friday and Saturday nights from 12:15 a.m. to 2:45 a.m. Admission price, for unlimited bowling, is only \$8.00 per person, while shoe rental is free. Tuesday is College Glow Bowling Night. From 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. admission is only \$5.00 per person for unlimited bowl-

ing. Shoe rental is free. For more information about Eastland Bowling, call 825-5990.

Eastway Lanes is also conveniently located for on-campus residents at 4110 Buffalo Road, next to Wendy's. Open bowling takes place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights after 9 p.m. Public bowling is held as well, on Fridays after midnight, and Saturdays after 11 p.m. The lanes are open to the public all day during the week. All sessions are only \$2.00 per person per game. With a college ID, shoe rental is free!

If you get hungry after a long day of bowling, check out the kitchen at Eastway for a reasonably priced, tasty treat. For more information about Eastway Lanes call 899-9855.

Greengarden Lanes is located at 1583 West 38th Street, next to Creditron. Open bowling is held Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the week, public bowling is held after 9 p.m. Open bowling takes place as well on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after 8:30 p.m.

The prices are as follows. Monday through Friday, pay only \$1.85

per person, per game. On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, pay just \$2.00 per person, per game.

On Friday and Saturday nights from midnight to 2:30 a.m., you can bowl to music and lights at "Rock and Bowl." The price is \$10.00 per person for unlimited bowling. Shoe rental is always \$1.00 per pair. For more information about Greengarden Lanes, call 864-2642

Rolling Lanes is located at 3304 Zuck Road. Open bowling on Monday is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and after 9 p.m. Public bowling on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday is from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and after 9 p.m. Open bowling on Saturday is from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and after midnight. Admission Price is only \$2.05 per person, per game. Shoe rental is always \$1.00 per pair. For more information about Rolling Lanes call 838-7681.

Chase away those winter blues with a trip to a bowling alley near you. You don't have to own your own ball, be a pro, or go broke to have a good time, and no matter where you live there is a bowling lane nearby.



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19). Head's up — never know about the worm.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Spend a little extra time in the library this week.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Enjoy a night of sled riding for a stress reliever.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). No limits baby!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Watch your step.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Watch the AMCC tournament. You might learn something.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Read a book just for the hell of it.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Mango. It's time to tango.

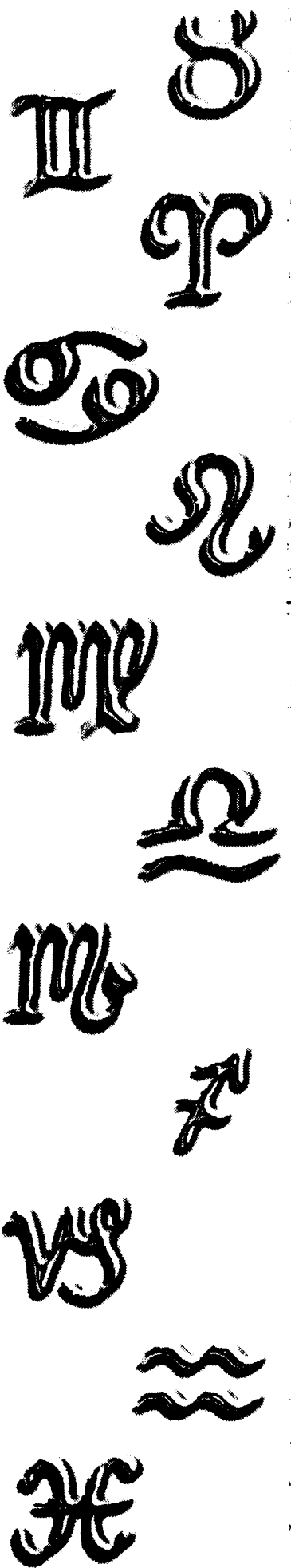
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your hell is the closet you're stuck inside.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Gear up for St. Patty's Day.

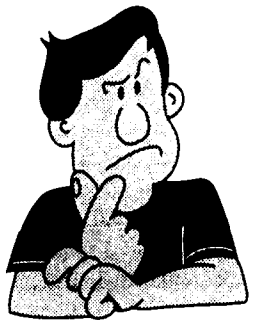
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Strive as far as the eye can see.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Deep thought — Rhode Island is neither a road nor an island.

by Bongo the three legged monkey



DICK and Jane



Dear Jane,
I caught my boyfriend looking at pornography on line. He acted like it was no big deal! It bothers me to think that he probably does it all the time. I don't even think I could talk to him about it, let alone tell him to stop. What can I do?
Grossed Out

Dear Very Confused Girl,
There is absolutely nothing wrong with your boyfriend looking at pornography. Many people have religious and moral problems with pornography, but if you were a religious zealot, I don't think your guy would have, "acted like it was no big deal." So, my guess is that you are taking it personally. Do you think he looks at pornography because he isn't happy with you? If that's what's eating you, you can calm down. Looking isn't cheating, it is just looking. If you would consider your relationship pretty happy, and he has never shown any discontent, things are fine. It is natural for guys to look at girls on the street, in magazines, and on the Internet. Trust me, if your boyfriend

ever met one of those zero-body-fat, incredibly over endowed (in the chest area) women on the street, he would probably be too scared to talk to her. And she wouldn't give him the time of day.

Why don't you think you can talk to him about it? He wasn't freaked out when you "caught" him, so he thinks it is normal. And he's right. So, talk to him. You can't tell him to stop. If you did, he wouldn't stop. He'd just do it behind your back and maybe feel guilty for it. You do need to tell him it bothers you though. That way, he can make sure you don't walk in on him again (i.e., lock the door). You won't find many guys who don't look. You might not find any. If you like this guy, except for the Internet porn, drop the issue completely.
Jane

Dear Jane,
My good friend said it hurt like hell the first time she had sex. I am thinking of becoming sexually active, but I'm afraid of the pain. Is there any way to avoid it?
Sensitive

Dear Sensitive,
It may have hurt for your girlfriend, but it doesn't have to hurt for you. Some of the reasons sex might hurt the first time include:

1. Not enough foreplay (this relaxes the muscles and usually solves problem #2)
 2. Not enough lubrication (you should be using a condom, so make sure it's lubricated)
 3. Going too damn fast (usually his fault, so tell him to start slow)
 4. The girl being too tightened up because she's scared it will hurt
- All of this should help, but there is no guarantee that it won't hurt. If it does hurt, it is really not that bad. If it was, the world would not be so populated.
Jane

If you have a question about sex or relationships (and who doesn't?!), write to Jane. Leave your letters in the Beacon mailbox marked "Jane," or email Jane at dickandjane@wildmail.com.