

TGI Fridays works up an appetite but doesn't hit the spot

by Roger Burlingame
staff writer

This weekend I ate at a very famous chain restaurant. Not McDonalds, but TGI Fridays. I've never eaten there before, but the commercials made me feel like I was missing the party if I wasn't at Friday's. The atmosphere was crazy—an "in your face" style of decorating that you can only find at this sort of chain, where they put more decorations on the wall than there is wall space.

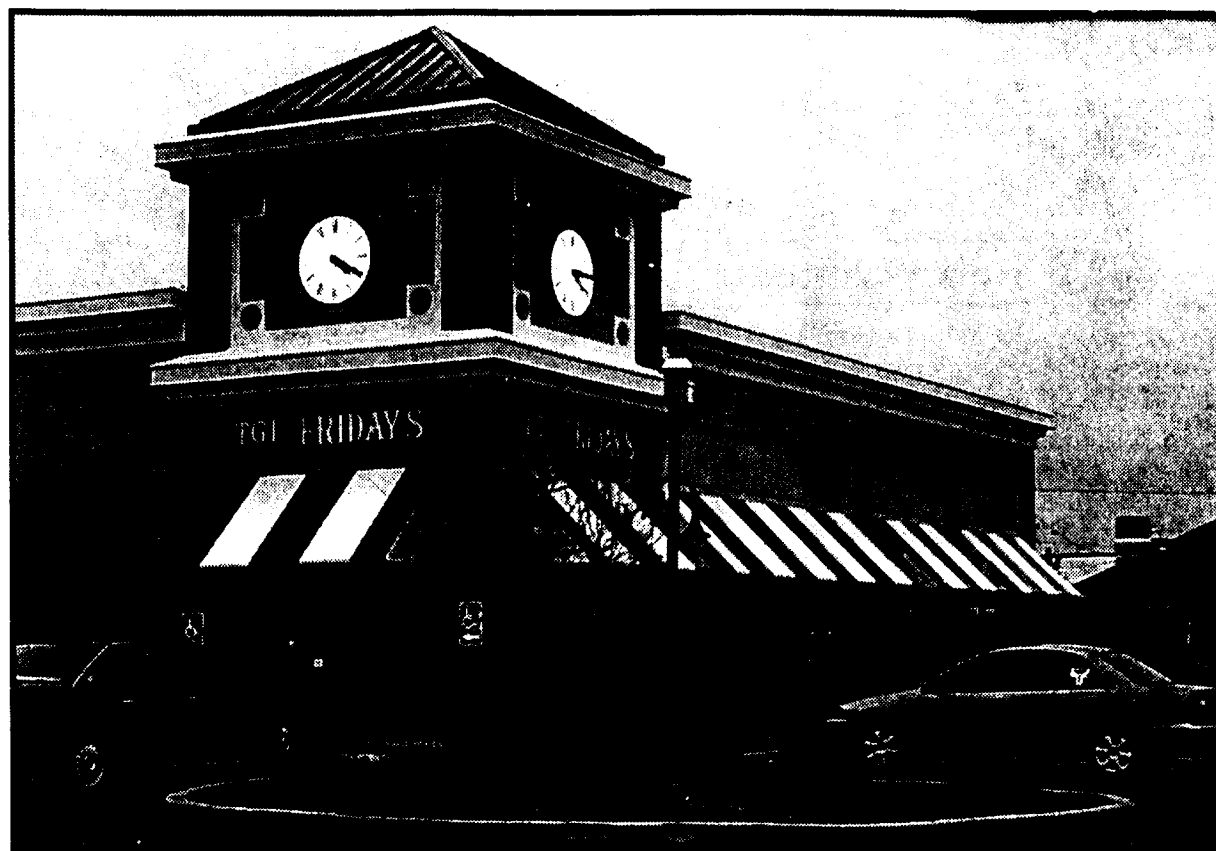
The servers, however, have on even more stuff than is on the walls. They all wear tons of pins and assorted knick-knacks, along with a funny hat, which must be a prerequisite for the job. Our server was right over and seemed a little too happy, but can you blame her? Our waitress did a wonderful job, and the service in general was good. The bar was quite large, but had a limited selection of beer and wine,

but they did have an Erie micro brew on tap which I enjoyed very much.

We started with an appetizer. I tried to pick something different, so when my date and I saw a spinach and feta pizza-dilla, we immediately ordered it, and it may have been the best thing we had that night. It was a quesadilla with pizza sauce for dipping, but the sauce was average, and the quesadilla was better off without it. Spinach and feta cheese are the perfect blend, especially when you throw in a couple more mild cheeses and some tomatoes, which they did. It was an excellent appetizer. For an entrée, my date had the mushrooms steak and mushrooms. That's really what it's called, I'm not making that up. If I could have named it, I wouldn't have called a steakum a steak. If we had realized that it was a steakum we wouldn't have paid 12 dollars for one. It was the thinnest steak I have ever seen, and it was

overcooked. I don't know if you can cook a steakum rare, but neither did Fridays, so I don't feel too bad.

Oh yes, I almost forgot, the steak was served with some tasteless veggies sprinkled with oregano, and a potato dish. I ordered the Jack Daniels shrimp. The shrimp was deep-fried and served with some tasteless veggies sprinkled with oregano, and a potato dish. The Jack Daniels sauce was a very good sweet and sour sauce. It was dark and tasted a little like a Chinese sauce, but the taste of the shrimp was trying to fight its way out of an inch of batter, and it didn't succeed. It was a very unremarkable experience all in all, and I can hardly wait to not go to Fridays again. We were so disappointed, we couldn't stay and eat dessert, so we got out as fast as we could. Their appetizer gave me some hope, but the entrees dashed that hope to smithereens. I give TGI Fridays two stars.



TGI Fridays located on Upper Peach Street.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Boston: where nobody knows your name

Four of us decided to keep up with true college tradition last weekend and make the prerequisite trek across the country that is lovingly referred to as: The College Road Trip. So three girls and a guy packed into an early 90s Chevy Lumina last Friday and headed east for Boston.

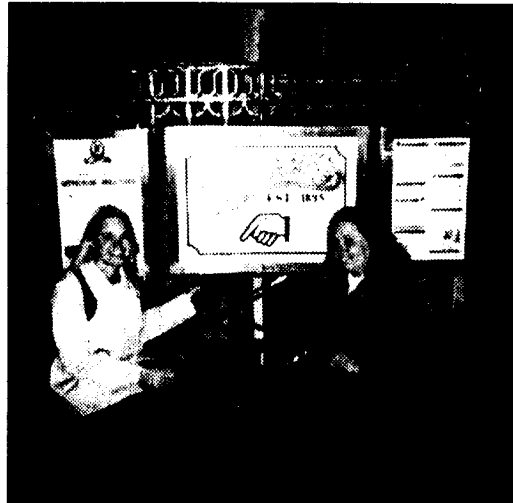
Get ready everyone, but you are about to be clued into some very dangerous but liberating information. I-90 is not just the road that will take bored students from Station Road to the bright lights of Peach Street. It can even take Pittsburghers farther than the exit to I-79 (which in turn can take you to real cities south of the ghetto known as Erie). I-90 goes all the way to the east coast. Yes, you heard correctly. If you get on I-90 and drive east (toward Buffalo, not Cleveland), you will eventually hit ocean. Whoohoo!

However, be forewarned that while crossing the long and unfortunately boring state of New York, you should be prepared to take CDs with you. If they aren't

available, go back to the old cassettes. Even eight-tracks might be better. While driving the six or so hours through New York, the following will be heard on the radio: "Come on Over," 5 times; "It's Gonna Be Me," 10 times; "Don't Think I'm Not," 10 times; "Creep," 10 times. And then there was the tone "Last Resort," which probably saved our sanity but seriously frightened the older lady in the Caddy who had to try and drive while four groggy looking college kids headbanged vehemently while attempting to steer, sing, and pass her going 90 mph. Not a pretty sight. And if you had your sites set on a sundae cone from TCBY treats at the rest stops, forget about it, cause they are NEVER open.

Finally, you will reach Boston. We stayed in the Back Bay area of the city, a nice upper crust college town with really fun streets, shops, and, most importantly, bars! We spent the day wandering around, looking at the sights and trying not to stumble into traffic every time someone honked a horn - every 30 seconds.

We cruised up and down the main



Katie Galley (left) and Liz Hayes pose in front of the pub that the Cheers TV series was based on.

tourist thoroughfare of Newbury Street on foot while our car racked up \$40 in parking fees. The shops along this lane will make you very glad that you have credit cards! Be sure to check out CondomWorld, a scary, but extremely cool "underground" store along the strip. Nowhere else can you get a beginner's whips and chains set for

\$12.99! We also went to Prudential Center to shop around some more. While there, we ate dinner at Legal Sea Food, the must-go seafood restaurant in Boston. Again, thank God for credit cards, as such establishments aren't exactly geared to the college budget. The Penn State credit cards scored big time in Beantown.

After our escapades in the shopping district, we wandered a few blocks north to Beacon Street and home of Cheers, aka the Bull and Finch Pub. We made sure we looked like tourists and took about a dozen pictures in front of the sign. This is where the real fun ended, though. We soon learned that no one knew your name in Cheers (even after several minutes of coaxing the bouncer and flashing your driver's license), and a Rolling Rock draft cost \$5 - probably the most disturbing part of the trip. It is just wrong when a mixed drink

costs less than beer on tap! However, the Bull and Finch is now short three souvenir beer mugs, so I guess we showed them!

After drunkenly stumbling around town a little more, and watching the editorial page editor recklessly driving a scooter around FAO Schwartz, we eventually made it back to our car and hotel. We left pretty early in the morning and made our way back through N'Syncville (with an unexpectedly brief but pleasant detour in Pink Floyd City) to arrive home in plenty of time for *The X-Files* season premiere. And so concluded our trip. Oh yeah, did we mention that the whole point of the trip was to check out Emerson College, the graduate school of our choice? That was pretty fun, too!

Liz Hayes
COMBA 07
Katie Galley
COMBA 06

As editors for the Behrend Beacon, Liz Hayes and Katie Galley are disqualified from winning the Contest.

Cruisin'4 CASH

Contest Rules:

Any Behrend student can submit a 300-500 word story about a road trip they have taken since the end of the spring 2000 semester. The trip must be more than 150 miles from the original location. A photo must accompany entry with sufficient proof that the trip was made. Insufficient proof will lessen chances to win contest. If more than one student took part in the road trip, only the student submitting the story is eligible, unless all members send name in with entry. If more than one student name appears on entry, prize will be divided amongst the students who entered. Send in entries as soon as possible to ensure publication in the Beacon. Only entries appearing in the Beacon will be voted on. Beacon members are ineligible and will vote on the winner.

Students reach out to the community for National Chemistry Week

by Jermaine Hardy
features co-editor

National Chemistry Week is a time honored by the American Chemistry

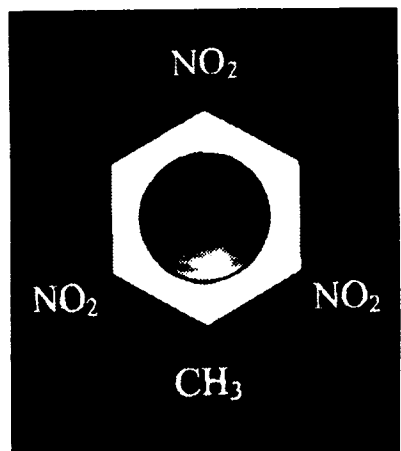
Society during the first week of November. For the past week, the Erie Sector of the National Chemistry Society hosted various events to make chemistry activities more visible to the public. Co-coordinated by Behrend's own Dr. Tracy Halmi, all the colleges in the Erie area collaborated to sponsor local events. At Behrend, members of the Chemistry Club kicked off National Chemistry Week last Sunday by painting the windows of the science building with a colorful "Chemistry Week" sign. They also decorated the window of the Studio Theatre with an artificial model of the t-n-t molecule.

Working collaboratively, the colleges of the Erie area recognized National Chemistry Week with three major events in which they performed several chemistry demonstrations. On October 28, students set up tables in the Millceek

Mall to perform different chemistry demonstrations for shoppers. On November 4, these students made a visit to the Children's Experience Erie Museum and visited 20 community libraries.

National Chemistry Week provided

a means for college students to reach out to the community and celebrate the beauty of chemistry. Students of Behrend made a particularly impressive contribution donating 70 community service hours.



The molecule for TNT now adorns the window of the Studio Theatre.



The Science Building is all decked out for National Chemistry Week

The five star system is a new addition to Greek life at Behrend

by Karl Benacci
features co-editor

Beginning this semester, Behrend's fraternities and sororities had the option to participate in the Five Star Program. The Five Star Program rewards participating chapters for their involvement, cooperation, programming efforts, and other activities. It is designed to recognize the Greek Chapters for their achievement and philanthropy work. The program is a process in which chapters self-report their involvement and activities. Chapters are also rewarded for their support of university policies and deadlines.

Chapters are evaluated annually in six areas. The Greek Advisor is responsible for these evaluations. It is the responsibility of the chapter president to ensure that all of the necessary components have been completed and that the necessary forms, reports, and verification are submitted by the deadlines set by the Office of Student Activities. Each area will be evaluated separately with the possibility of receiving commendations in the individual area of evaluation. Area commendations will be awarded to those chapters that receive 90% of the total possible points in the area of evaluation. Chapters that receive commendations in all of the six areas will be awarded Five Star Chap-

ter status.

The fraternities that are participating in the program are Zeta Beta Tau, Delta Chi, and Sigma Kappa Nu, while Alpha Sigma Alpha is the lone sorority participating in the program.

Shawna Pelasky, Coordinator of Greek Life & Student Leadership Programs, introduced the Five Star Program to Behrend's Greek System. "As I began to review the year and other Greek programs throughout the nation, I felt that we should consider adding a Five Star recognition program to the services we offer. This program is a wonderful way for organizations to register the programs and community service they are providing and get rewarded for their vast contributions. This program will also allow students who are interested in joining the Greek community additional information about the chapters."

Rewards and incentives have been implemented to motivate the chapters that agreed to participate in the Five Star Program. Each Five Star Chapter will receive a plaque, and the president of the organization will be photographed and highlighted in a press release sent to his/her hometown. Chapters will be recognized in the spring of each academic year for their efforts and accomplishments in the Five Star Evaluation Program.

ATTENTION ALL CARTOONISTS:

