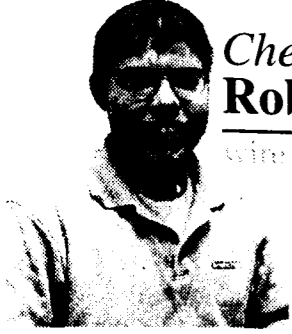


Some realizations about reality television



Chew on This
Rob Wynne
staff writer and editor

I usually don't take the time to write my editorials about mainstream happenings in the world - you know, the stuff everyone complains about already. I have, however, become quite fascinated with the introduction of "reality TV" over the last year, and I've slowly been collecting tidbits of fact and opinion about the new fad. Combined with all of the recent hype about the morality issues (or lack thereof) in the new *Temptation Island* show, I feel I have come up with a few points for you to chew on, and maybe spit back at me. It's just an editorial, remember.

First off, (and I don't mean who was first off of the island) I must say that *Temptation Island* isn't a bad show. For those of you who are ready to quit reading my editorial now (Katie G.), thanks for showing up and enjoy reading the rest of the paper - perhaps you can check out my auto supplement. Really, I think the show serves as a good example of exactly how shallow some people can be. If a person finds that the best way to have a good time with someone else is to be put on an island where handsome and beautiful men and women have to be shipped in, then there is a problem. Actually, it's too easy. This show represents the growing stereotype of many young people - lazy and selfish. If one can get the best quality for minimal effort, and then success is achieved, right? Couples that are willing to throw away years of memories for a quick flirt don't deserve to be together anyway.

Moreover, I don't know how many of you are currently in a "real" relationship or have been in the past, but isn't part of learning to love someone taking the time to understand him or her and realizing that they may have different and interesting qualities from yourself? I don't think I would want to date someone *just like* myself. Just a tidbit of info - the show did say that "compatible" singles were brought on to the island - I guess it's all a part of the whole "temptation" theme.

I have noticed one drawback about the show, however. Everyone is too comfortable. How come everyone on the show is a massage therapist, a doctor, or a lawyer? At any rate, if you hate the show, at least watch it and learn from it, maybe even laugh at it. My girlfriend said she was queasy watching the show by herself, so now she tapes it and we watch it together. Just remember that the show doesn't break couples up - couples break couples up. Got it?

Moving on, I am curious if you remember the 1987 movie "The Running Man," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. The movie was based around something of a "survivor" plot - except it was prisoners that were trapped in a labyrinth struggle to survive by any means possible for the glory of freedom. If you remember that movie, don't even tell me you didn't think it was a little far-fetched at the time. Granted, the most action-packed game shows during that time were "Family Double Dare" and "America's Funniest Home Videos," but what seemed unreal just a decade or so ago is reality today.

What I'm waiting for now is some kind of show involving cars. Maybe a cross-country or cross-continental trek to see who has the car with the most guts. It's kind of ironic, but there is actually a movie called "Death Race 2000." It was made in the late 70's or early 80's and was one of Sylvester Stallone's first movies. Basically, in the year 2000, six or seven people race their cars across the country, scoring points for damages done to other vehicles and innocent pedestrians. Whoever made it to the end of the race first, alive, and with the most points became the new president of the United States. I guess that would eliminate the electoral college. What's even more interesting, the intense focus of the media on the event also seems eerily realistic.

One more paradoxical item; I find it humorous that reality is making its way on to reality TV. The news about the couple who have a child and didn't tell anyone will surely boost the ratings of the show, because the more twisted the show, the higher rating for the TV show. So who will be voted (or booted) off next? Only morals will tell...

Wynne's column appears every three weeks



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Behrend high school drama club presents...



Coffee Talk
Kristin Rodgers
Physical Education teacher

When you think of leaving high school, many exciting things come to mind—hopes of starting over, dreams of your first class starting at 3:00 p.m., and the greatly anticipated—being freed from the grip of the 'rents. Although admissions counselors may tell you Behrend is "hot and trendy," the one thing admissions counselors and brochures do not tell prospective students is that they will only be starting high school all over again.

Yes, I said high school, and why? Mainly because nothing has changed from then to now, it is all the same. Yes, teachers do offer extra-credit. Yes, you still have to walk forty miles to your first class in boots and layers of wool through four feet of snow—but hey, who wants to be on time anyway, I mean maintenance never is, right? Yes, the cafeteria food still tastes the same, and yes, the best friend you thought you had next door will sleep with your boyfriend at

some point in time. Maybe I'm exaggerating a bit about the snow removal, but everything else has remained exactly the same from high school.

The inevitable question at every party, "what is your name" and someone always knows who you are and everything about you right down to what you call your favorite blanket. So why is this annoying? Well my friends, weekend after weekend Behrend College presents a little something for the students to look forward to—Drama Club. That's right, each weekend something different happens at many different parties, fraternity houses, chess club meetings, what have you. However, the week after these parties is the best. You see, these Drama Club meetings are usually held Friday and Saturday nights, but the real reviews of how the show went don't happen until Monday morning hits, when everyone drags themselves down to Bruno's for their first meal since Friday, which explains the mad crowds at Bruno's every Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

Friday—and you ask "don't they serve food at school during the weekends?" Of course they do, but you see these Drama Club meetings involve alcohol, and not a beer or two, we're talking keg stands, funnels and all the fun stuff. By the time Sunday night rolls around, the odds of a

Drama Club student doing any work is pretty unlikely, and by work I mean getting out of their smelly bed.

So here it is again Monday, everyone's eating, everyone's happy and all of the sudden the Drama Club reviews start to roll in. It is actually a quite unique process because it always seems as if a group of friends have pre-selected which group member will attend what showing of the Club performance. So for instance, let us say there are four students (reviewers) who decide to chat about the weekend and all that happened therein. Well each reviewer obviously went to different parties, or maybe they attended all the showings, in which case I would have hated to be driving Friday night. Regardless of who went where, the reviews start and suddenly every on-campus student name comes into the conversation (or just the half of campus that actually stays here on weekends).

That's right, eating Bruno's and hearing about how your best friend puked at a party and then proceeded to take your boyfriend home is really what I looked forward to in college! Or maybe some girl you hate "hooched" it up and took herself to some "anonymous" off-campus party where she drank illegally and all of a sudden it's the hugest story (drama) in the whole world. Or maybe you are sick of seeing the same people over and over at every party known

to have hit college life. What I'm sure you are sick of is that no matter where you go, you absolutely cannot get away with anything; students live for drama and whoever can make the biggest fool of themselves at a party is the life of the crowd—the one who always gets invited back and the one you hate seeing because they are the sloppy drunk.

My suggestions for those who feel either A: that they like to be this sloppy drunk, or B: those who find this drama absolutely worth living for, is to find a new hobby. College is turning out to be the only one party you high school students have ever attended—the thing you talk about all year, where your reputations are grounded, and if you don't perform, forget it—you're out. I mean, I have to admit when my parents were ready to fork over a good \$12,000, all I had on my mind was beer, "hoochy" clothing, boys, and how many parties I could puke or pass out at. One final word of thought would be to remind anyone that thinks their high school sweetheart will last through college—wrong again my friend, there are too many fish in the sea, especially when your best friend next door wants him as well. Hang up the letter jackets my friends; this is the best game you'll ever play!!

Rodgers' column appears every three weeks.

Upholding cultural integration during Black History Month



My Society
Jermaine Hardy
features co-editor

As we are on the verge of Black History Month, a prime question lingers in my mind, and with this editorial I plan to delve right into it. Is integration between races welcome at Behrend on a social level? Such a question was somewhat addressed at the "Talk Back to the Beacon Forum" last December, when students of all races and creeds got together to express their concerns as to whether or not diversity was reflected in the various school media. I would now like to extend the question to the overall social life in general. Is Behrend a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere for racial integration?

From a social standpoint, I haven't observed as much interaction between blacks and whites as I would like to. I

noticed that either one culture or another dominates many of the on campus events. For example, at the various Karaoke events that take place in Bruno's, the audience is either all to predominantly white or all to predominantly black. The case is also the same for the many on campus dances. As well, reporting at last weeks "Open Mic Night" in Bruno's, I observed nearly no blacks at all.

Now, I know what you're going to say. As different cultures we are all into different activities and different forms of entertainment. However, at the events I have just cited, the entertainment is not and does not have to be dominated by one culture. There is no real reason why blacks and whites cannot attend the same karaoke event or "Open Mic Night," for example. The entertainment provided at these events can be enjoyed by all races, so why aren't they? With such observations I am beginning to suspect that Behrend is reluctant to integrate on a social level.

While in the classrooms, I have observed that race relations are relatively comfortable enough to allow the professors and students

to discuss various race issues, but race relations beyond the classroom are of questionable status. As many of the events on campus are sponsored and presented by key organizations, which are characteristically made up of single cultures, students are often under the impression that because a black or white organization sponsors an event they will only welcome black or white students respectively. This preconceived notion is what I believe to be responsible for much of the lack of integration in events held on the Behrend campus.

As a member of various organizations, I see this as very unfortunate. As former programs chair for the National Society of Black Engineers, I planned most of my own events with intent to welcome all races. I find it to be disturbing though, when students are hesitant to attend the event that a particular cultural group is sponsoring. For many of the on-campus groups and organizations this should be a grievance. I know from first hand experience that the programmers of the various campus organizations don't put their hard work into an event to limit the amount of students

who can participate in them.

Why do I kick up dust now about such an issue you ask? Well as I have said in the beginning of my editorial, we are on the verge of Black History Month and I would like to see the special events that take place during this month in particular to enjoy more cultural integration. Black History Month is not a celebration that is solely for Blacks. This month I encourage every one to participate in all the events being offered by Black organizations and others as well.

Pardon the slang but I think it would be a lot "cooler" if the campus community indulged in more cultural integration. The line, which distinguishes the many diverse cultures of today's young generation, is thinning. In the year 2001, the Behrend campus should look to taking cultural relations to the next level by looking to the similarities amongst the diverse cultures and conducting social activities with this in mind.

Hardy's column appears every three weeks.

Fighting over something with your friends? Want to see it debated in the newspaper? Send us your idea, and we will debate it in our 'Hot Debate' of the week discussion!
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