

New editions bring excitement to Millcreek Mall

by Christine Kleck
associate editor

As we all fondly remember, the group LFO said it best in their 1999 hit, "I like girls that wear Abercrombie and Fitch." Well, look out LFO and look out Erie, because Abercrombie and Fitch is finally making its way to the Millcreek Mall. Abercrombie isn't the only thing to be hitting the mall this spring. Check out these new arrivals and events happening at the Millcreek Mall.

Matt Boarts, a Behrend alumnus who is Marketing Director of the Millcreek Mall, said, "construction (of the new Abercrombie and Fitch store) should begin in about three weeks to a month, with a grand opening in either late April or early May...so the store will definitely be ready for all the summer clothes." The new store will occupy both of the vacant stores where Gantos and Petite Sophisticate were once located. More information on the grand opening festivities should be out shortly.

Leather Limited will also be new to the Millcreek Mall in the next few months. This leather goods store (similar to Wilson's) will be moving into the vacant store between Lady Footlocker and Lerner New York.

Hawthorne Suites and Fairfield Inn, the two new hotels in the mall area, are also expected to be opening soon, while the future of Regal Cinema is uncertain. "Because its opening was delayed, it has been just sitting out there in the winter weather," Boarts commented. Because of this, the Regal Cinema Movie Theatre may not open.

While you are at the Millcreek Mall, you can check out the newest stores like the expanded Gap store, including Gap Kids and baby Gap. New editions to the mall also include stores like Hot Topic, Electronics Boutique, Gander Mountain and Linens 'N' Things in the Millcreek Pavilion.

For this past Valentine's Day, the Millcreek Mall provided several gift ideas, as well as several events.

Up until this past Wednesday, the members of the Grace Fellowship Church were gladly wrapping two gifts for that special someone. Although the service was free, donations were accepted.

Also, on this past Saturday, February 10, Star 104 hosted the fifth annual Smooch-A-Thon, at the main stage. In order to qualify for the event, couples over the age of 18 had to be caller number 14 when they heard the "super smooch" sound effect on Star 104. The rules were simple: the couple that held their kiss the longest won the grand prize: a Mediterranean cruise. All participating couples received a free heart-shaped cake from Dairy Queen.

Following the Valentine's Day festivities are the mall wide car show from February 11-19 and the President's Day sale happening at various stores around the mall from February 17-19. So if you save any money at your favorite stores, you can put the money that you are saving toward your dream car that you find at the car show!

If you want to see this spring and summer's hottest fashions for all your casual, career, and formal events, don't miss this year's Spring/Prom Fashion show. This preview of fashions to come will take place at the main stage on March 10. Local teens and models will be featured to show you the latest trends in the world of fashion.

Make sure you keep watching for the Millcreek Mall's big events to happen this summer. "We are looking forward to a great summer line-up...we want to bring in some big names and have a few big events," Boarts concluded. All are welcome to take advantage of all these current events, sales and promotions, as well as the events taking place this summer at Erie's own Millcreek Mall.

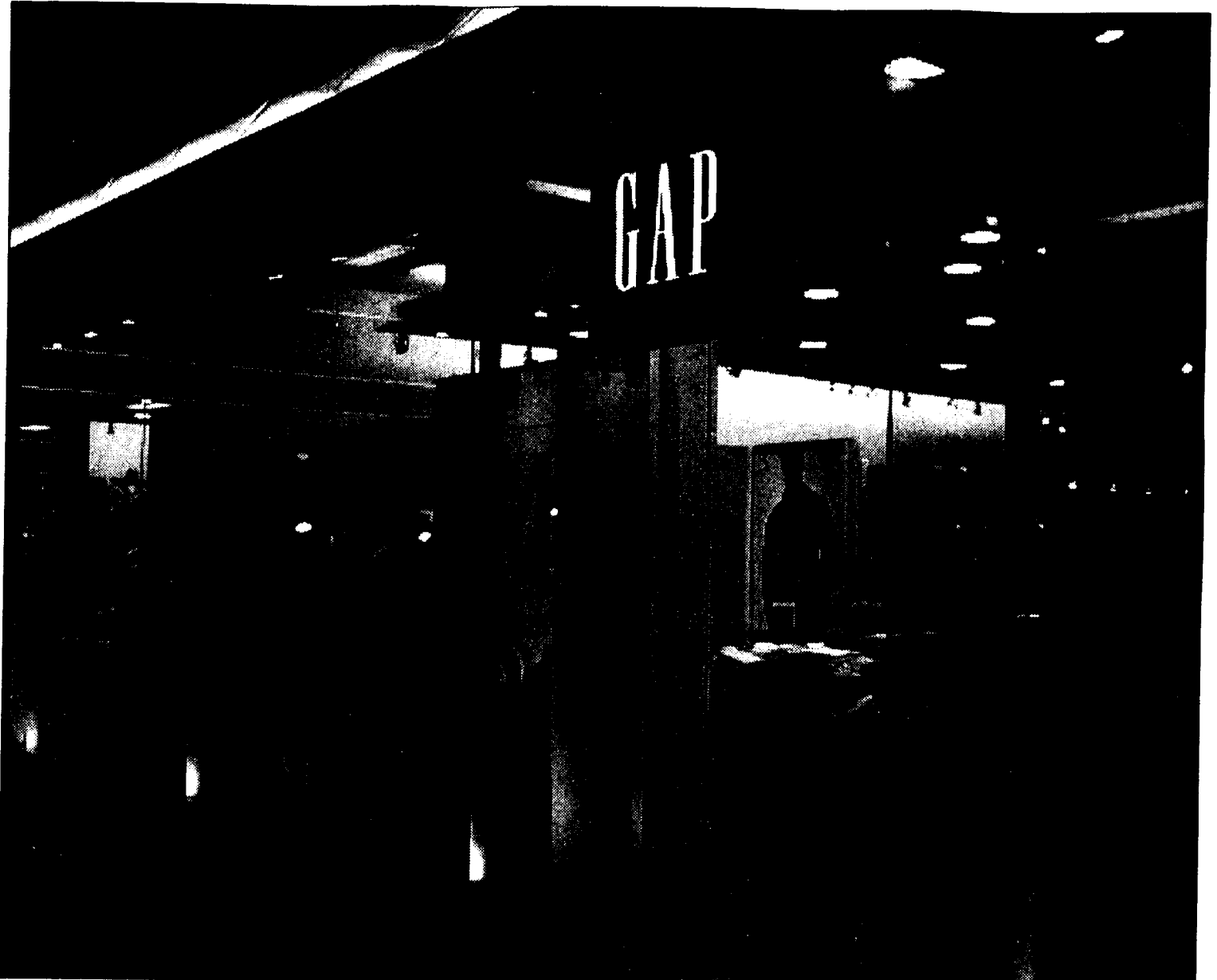


PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

College students can now spend their hard-earned money in the bigger and better Gap. Students can find the new store right next to Spencer's.

Behrend students plan for Spring Break

by Kristin Grudowski
staff writer

The month of March and the warm weather that accompanies it (in areas of the country other than Erie) will be here before we know it. Now is the time, if you haven't already, to seriously ponder what you want to do and where you will be during that first full week of March. Many Behrend students have already compared hotel costs, flight prices, and factored in money to be spent on chugging and clubbing. If you haven't, then you need to read on to obtain inspiring ideas and helpful hints concerning Spring Break 2001.

Steve Slobodnik and the men of

KDR will be catching some rays at Panama City again this spring break. The group has decided to re-visit the city based on their experiences from last year's break. Just when you thought you could not afford a trip to the beach, Slobodnik reassures us that it is possible. "Last year I spent \$400 accumulatively. I'm not saying I lived luxuriously, but I had a blast," he said. This year Slobodnik plans to spend around \$600 of money he earned over the summer while working for Direct TV. He offers other advice to those who dream of sunshine and high temperatures. "It is easy to find inexpensive ac-

commodations if you look for them," he commented. Slobodnik recommended "staying at the Sum-

"Last year I spent \$400 accumulatively. I'm not saying I lived luxuriously, but I had a blast."

Steve Slobodnik

mit; it's the best place to stay because it is right next to all of the clubs."

Who says you have to be swel-

tering in 90-degree weather to have a good time over spring break? The truth is, an inexpensive alternative to the usual sunny beaches visited over break is Canada. Canada, eh? That's right. If you have never pondered it before, the home of the Niagara Falls is much more economical than most places south of Erie. Katie Will is planning on visiting the northern country for a few days over break. "Some of the money that I made over Christmas break will pay for the trip. I am hoping to spend around \$150 overall," Will stated. Motels starting at \$30 a night can help to make this estimated cost

seem more realistic. Will plans on hitting the casinos and clubs with a few of her friends.

While many students perceive spring break as a time to relax, others have set goals to meet and obligations to attend to during the week away from classes. Amy Galloway is one such student. Galloway will work as a waitress at a restaurant in Pittsburgh over the break. "I am totally broke and I need to save up for a plane ticket to visit my boyfriend in Fort Knox, Kentucky," she reasons, as her incentive to choose labor over lounging during vacation.

Still other students at Behrend are planning to participate in the Alternative Spring Break. Some

of these students will contribute their efforts to aiding a homeless shelter in Baltimore, Maryland. Not only will the group of students volunteer at Our Daily Bread, but will stay the week there as well. Hazel Sadiarin, a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity here at Behrend, will be a member of the group. "I was just going to go back home, but I questioned why I didn't do something more productive with my time," Sadiarin said. She added, "this is a worthwhile cause, and volunteering makes me feel good about myself."

Imperial China Buffet offers diners more than the typical Chinese dinner

by Karl Benacci
features co-editor

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to have dinner at the Imperial China Buffet, which is located on Peach Street. The concept of eating as much Chinese food as I wanted sounded like a wonderful idea to me.

I had previously been to a number of Chinese buffets in Erie, and I had been very disappointed for the most part. When I entered the restaurant, I noticed that it was rather nice. The atmosphere was very laid back and for some reason, the place seemed immaculately clean to me.

My party and I were taken to our table, and we were instructed to visit the buffet whenever we were ready. Upon reaching my destination, the buffet, I was elated to see that it was huge. There were a lot of foods to choose from so I decided to get some Sweet and Sour Chicken, some General Tso's Chicken and a few egg rolls.

When I returned to my table (I had to hold back the urge to pull my seat up to the buffet and pig out) I decided to begin my meal by trying the Sweet and Sour Chicken. It was delicious. The chicken was moist and flavorful and the exterior was crispy.

Next, I decided to try some General Tso's Chicken. It too was quite scrumptious. The sauce tasted great and the meat seemed to be of high quality (there did not seem to be a lot of fat on it), for it was tender and

sweet. General Tso's Chicken is very filling, so I decided to only have a few pieces of it.

Lastly, I tried the egg rolls. The roll tasted fine and the contents that were in the roll tasted good. However, I did not enjoy them as much as the Sweet and Sour Chicken and the General

Tso's Chicken.

I would advise all Chinese food fans to try the Imperial China Buffet. The price is rather cheap (approximately eight or nine dollars) and the best part is that you can eat all you want. I give the Imperial China Buffet *** stars.



PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

Dining area of the Imperial China Buffet restaurant located on 5138 Peach Street.

Have you gone on a road trip lately?

If so, write about it and send your entry to behrcoll5@aol.com.

**Cruisin'
4
CASH**

win \$250

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.