

New York Lunch serves burgers with a punch

by Karl Benacci
features co-editor

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to dine at New York Lunch, which is located at 922 East Avenue.

Upon entering the restaurant, I noticed that it looked like a simple diner, with some stools near the counter, and various seats throughout the restaurant. There were also various newspaper clippings framed on the wall, which were interesting to read, for they revealed various stories from Erie's rich history.

My party and I were seated in a booth, where we contemplated what we wanted to eat. Okay, I will admit, I have been to New York Lunch before, and I knew exactly what to order. I ordered greek burgers, french fries, and a vanilla milkshake, for this is what I always order, when I go to New York Lunch.

As always, my order didn't take very long. It took approximately ten

minutes for our meals to be served, which is relatively speedy to say the least.

How do New York Lunch's Greek Burgers taste? Well, they're the best Greek Burgers that I have ever had. The taste of their Greek Burgers is so unique that words cannot explain them, however, saying that they're mouth-watering is an under statement.

The french fries and vanilla milkshake also tasted good, which made the meal a wonderful experience. But best of all was the price; the cost of my meal was under \$7.

I would highly recommend New York Lunch for anyone who enjoys excellent food. New York Lunch also has locations on 1005 Parade Street and 1525 Peninsula Drive (However the food at the Peninsula Drive location is not nearly as good as the food at the other two New York Lunch locations).

I give New York Lunch **** stars.



Enjoy excellent food at New York Lunch, located at 922 East Avenue.

PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

Traveling man Ali Ellis makes a stop at Behrend

by Kristin Grudowski
staff writer

Ali Ellis is a Barbados native and a seventh semester biology major, who joined the Behrend community this past fall. Before attending school here, he went to college at the University of the West Indies in Barbados. I was intrigued as to why Ellis would leave a place where the lowest temperature all year is around 75 degrees, as we all sit here and question why we are still layering our clothes in April.

"The name Erie intrigued me," Ellis said. "It has a dictionary meaning. There is something about Erie that says home to me."

Behrend attracted Ellis mostly because of its size, but attending Penn State had always been a dream that he wanted to pursue.

"I have wanted to go to Penn State since I was twelve years old. My mother thinks that this is a miracle," Ellis said. He continued, "She pushed very hard for me to be here right now."

Ellis's home country is about the same size as Erie. Fortunately, many people were more than willing to help make him feel at home here. In particular, Jane Brady, Donna Shirley and Jan Caiffie aided Ellis in exploring all his options, e-mailing him regularly while he was still in Barbados.

"They helped me with my academic concerns and even helped me to locate an apartment and furnish it," Ellis said. "They went above and beyond the call of duty and I was overwhelmed with their hospitality."

Others also assisted in Ellis's adjustment to the U.S.

"My uncle bought me a bunch of sweaters to help battle the blizzards of Erie," Ellis said. His aunt Eleanor Hackett was also very instrumental with helping him to adjust to his new home.



Ali Ellis takes a moment to relax amongst his travels.

PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

"She lives in New York, so she is like my mom here," he said. Although this has been Ellis's most permanent stay in the States, he has been visiting the U.S. every other year for vacations since he was a child.

"I have been to New York many times and Boston as well," he said. "Anyone who knows me knows that I love to travel."

Ellis said that America and Barbados aren't as different as one might think.

"We have American clothing and fast food, but at the same time, Barbados has different forms of certain American at-

tributes," he said.

Even with all of the similarities, there are still things that Ellis misses about Barbados.

"I miss my 6-year-old cousin Kay and my dogs. I miss the beaches and surfing too," he said.

After being reminded that Erie too has beaches, he laughed, as if to say that Lake Erie and the Caribbean Ocean do not offer the same benefits.

Ellis's future plans include medical school, so that he can someday be an optometrist.

"I want to attend Hershey Medical School (also a Penn State school) because it has been a life-

long dream for me," he said. Ellis also has family members who have endured the education involved in becoming a doctor.

"My uncle, Harold Harvey, is a doctor at the school, and my cousin, William Havery, is about to graduate from Hershey."

In Ellis's free time, he likes to run, play soccer, travel, tell jokes and meet people. He also spends time working at the campus library. Ellis plans to be involved in with a biology internship this summer and enjoy Erie's beaches as often as possible.

Cruisin

CASH

ROAD TRIP RECIPE:

Pringles, Italian bread, shopping cart, and Matchbox Twenty

Destination: Pittsburgh, PA Matchbox Twenty Concert

It's been a *Mad Season* here in Erie this winter. So, my friends and I decided to head for the South during Spring Break. Okay, so it wasn't Cancun or Florida. It was Pittsburgh, PA. But hey, a wise person once told me, "Ainslie, it's not where you are that matters; it's who you are with."

For our road trip, we went to see Matchbox Twenty in concert with Everclear and Lifehouse. Our group of four left sunny Erie (yes-it actually was sunny that day) in two cars. We stopped at the local UniMart for some snacks, as all of us had just come from a long hard, day of work and were starving. But of course, the Uni Mart did not have much to choose from. Deanna, decided to make a loaf of Italian bread and some Pringles her dinner. After this we began our little voyage. Rob Thomas, here we come!

Upon our arrival at the Mellon, our group played childish games along the highway, including calling each other's cell phones and saying, "Tag! You're it!" By the way, did I mention we are all above the age of 10?

Soon we arrived at the Mellon. We ran to find our seats, but made a pit stop for some beer and the ever-so-popular restrooms. I could hear the only song I know, "Hanging by a Moment" by Lifehouse playing as I waited in the long bathroom line. By the way, why is it that girls have to wait in such long lines for the restroom?

Anyway, we managed to find our seats just as Everclear approached the stage. Although I have never been an Everclear fan, I was very impressed with their performance. They pulled people onto the stage to dance with them, including a guy from Turkey who claimed to be the band's #1 fan.

Matchbox Twenty rocked the stage with songs from both their hit albums. For those of you who have not heard the new CD, I suggest you run right out and get it! Rob Thomas stole our hearts with "Rest Stop," a song about being dumped

by the woman you love at a rest stop in the middle of nowhere.

"I would never do that to you Rob!" I wanted to yell. And while we are on the subject: Ladies, Rob Thomas is extremely hot in person! I must admit that this concert was possibly the best I have ever seen.

After the concert, our rambunctious group decided to hit the bars of Pittsburgh. Of course, none of us knew where they were or how to get there, so we had to make a few pit stops to talk to the locals. They were rather helpful I must ad. We paid a total of \$5 to park for a bar we "talked about going into" and never did. Hey, that's ok. I didn't need that \$5 any way. After all, we were not going to starve. Deanna's bread was there for dinner and for breakfast the next morning. Thanks D.

Finally, we arrived at a place appropriately called "Bar Pittsburgh." I think everyone, Pittsburgh native or not, has heard of this place. As we approached the door, my eyes widened. Honestly, I felt like I was in a scene from *Coyote Ugly*. A guy's dream, a girl's nightmare. Beautiful girls were on the bar dancing. I practically had to pick my guy-friend's jaw up off of the floor. We managed to be entertained though and had a great time.

As we made the long trek back to the car, one of my friends found an abandoned shopping cart and offered free rides to all of us who wore those shoes that "are so cute with this outfit, but kill my feet." At 2 a.m., this was hysterical to our tired little group.

We arrived safely to our sleep station for the night at about "3 a.m." Unfortunately for me, I had to wake up only three hours later to drive back to Erie for my job. It was a "Long Day" jam packed with lots of fun and friends. The concert was awesome and I had a good time. What more is there to life besides Rob Thomas, Italian bread, and your best friends?

by Ainslie Ulmer, comba 08

LAST CHANCE TO CRUISE FOR CASH AND 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.