

Cheapskates and Pennypinchers

a special Beacon series for the budget-minded and cent friendly student

This week: Bored? Here's entertainment tonight!

by Christine Kleck advertising manager

Question: what are the 15 most boring words in the world? Answer: "what do you want to do? I don't know, what do you want to do?"

Question: where do the 15 most boring words in the world come from? Answer: a lack of funds, no bread, tight budgets, miniscule moola, little bank account content. However you want to say it, we college kids have no money.

But does that mean that college students can't have fun? NO WAY! That is why in this third installment of Cheapskates and Penny Pinchers, the budget-minded and cent friendly Beaconians are taking a closer look at what inexpensive entertainment the city of Erie has to offer for the average college student.

When one wants to be entertained what comes to mind? Good food, close friends, invigorating atmosphere, and exciting activities are a few things that can lead to a "fun night" for any college kid. Any student with any type of social budget can afford to partake in any of the above with the right strategies, planning and skills.

Most evenings out begin with a little dining out - after all, a constantly strained brain needs reinforcements after a long week of studying, papers,

and projects. Just outside of campus, locally owned places such as Coney Island Lunch, Italiani's Pizza Shop, Barbato's Italian Restaurant, Patrick's Family Restaurant and Valerio's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, all located on Route 20 (or Buffalo Road) offer reasonably priced meals for a variety of different tastes.

A little further from campus, Steel City Sandwich and Pizza Company at 2829 Raspberry offers a little taste of Primanti Brothers of Pittsburgh with an Erie twist and price.

Popping up on every Erie street corner are "super-sized" multiple item buffets that offer a lot of food for a small price. Beaconian buffet favorites include Tops Buffet (see classified ad in this week's Beacon) and Jade Garden, located on East 38th Street near the main post office.

Now that everyone is fed and ready to go, what's next? Cinema 6, located behind the mall on Peach Street, offers patrons movies in stereo sound quality within a handicap accessible theatre - all for less than a gallon of gasoline. One dollar covers the cost of regular admission. On Friday and Saturday nights, movies are only \$1.50, while all Tuesday shows cost only 50 cents.

Let's say you feel like spending the evening your friend's place. What better way to enhance quality time with friends than with a board, group or card game?

Games like these make great gifts and are a great investment to ensure many inexpensive exciting home hangout nights in the future. Popular games at the moment include Battle of the Sexes, Catch Phrase, Pictionary, Guesstures, Taboo and Outburst.

No mater the location, these are sure to be a hit every time with your guests and not a hit on your bank account.

For those students who are of the "legal age," there isn't a bar or club in town that doesn't have at least one drink or appetizer special per week. The Plymouth Tavern on State Street, for example, has Mondays covered with 25-cent drafts. Antlers Bar has quarter drafts on Mondays and Tuesdays, while Scorchers on West 8th Street features local talent and drink specials on Wednesday's Karaoke night.

Thursdays are hopping back at the Plymouth with dollar imports, while Fat Boys at 12th and State still gets rave reviews and great business with its Friday and Saturday night 99-cent Long Island iced tea specials. Saturdays are famous for dollar shots at Calamari's Squid Row on State Street and power hour (every thing is a dollar) at Antlers Bar.

Question: What 15 words will you not hear or say this weekend? Answer: (Well, you know the answer.) Question: How are you going to prevent those fifteen words? Answer: By being a creative and strategic cheapskate, penny pinching yet budget-minded and cent friendly college student.



Barbato's Italian Restaurant boasts seven locations, including its Wesleyville location (pictured above).

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With board games like these, it's impossible to get bored!

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Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

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Solutions

Solutions for the crossword puzzle, including words like 'Lasso', 'Muscat sultanate', and 'Village painter'.

- DOWN 1 Transmission components, 2 Permit, 3 Feline breed, 4 Forbid, 5 Elbe tributary, 6 Less, 7 Reflexive

- 50 Dejected, 51 Warsaw, 52 Sends forth, 54 Bay window, 55 Return in kind, 56 Dramatic, performance, 57 Abundant, 58 Winged wader, 59 Withered, 60 Skin opening, 64 Distress signal letters

Traveling abroad? You might not come back!

by Erinn Hansen calendar page editor

Spring Break is fast approaching, and students at Penn State Behrend are looking forward to traveling to Florida, California, and many other places for vacation, including abroad.

Most students will enjoy themselves, be safe, and have a wonderful vacation. For some students, however, the trip will be ruined because of drugs, alcohol, and reckless behavior.

Each year, more than 2,500 American citizens are arrested abroad, according to the Bureau of Consular Affairs (BCA) fact sheet on the web.

"About half on narcotics charges, including the possession of very small amounts of illegal substances. A drug that may be legal in one country may be illegal in another," the BCA warns.

People become victims of such dangers because they are unaware of the laws, customs, or standards of the country they are visiting. Many of those arrested assume that as United States citizens they cannot be arrested. From Asia to Italy, students are finding out the hard way that drug possession or trafficking (selling of illegal drugs) equals imprisonment.

"There is very little that anyone can do to help you if you get caught using drugs," states the BCA. "It is your responsibility to know what the drug laws are in a foreign country before you go there; because [the statement] 'I did not know it was illegal' will not get you out of jail."

In the past, there has been an increase in the number of women arrested abroad. The rise is a result of women who serve as drug carriers, or "mules," with the belief that they can make quick money or take a vacation without getting caught. But instead of an enjoyable vacation, they get a

lengthy stay or life sentence in a foreign jail.

"Many Americans arrested abroad because of drugs possessed marijuana," said the BCA. "The risk of going to jail for one joint is not worth it. Also, if you purchase prescription medicines in quantities larger than necessary for personal use, you could be arrested for suspicion of drug trafficking."

If you are caught buying, selling, carrying, or using drugs - from hashish to heroin, marijuana to mescaline, cocaine quaaludes to ecstasy, the following may happen: interrogation and delays before trial, including mistreatment and solitary confinement for up to one year under harsh conditions; lengthy trials that are conducted in a foreign language, with additional delays; weeks, months, or life in prison where some places include hard labor, heavy fines, and/or lashings, if found guilty; and the death penalty for a growing number of countries (for example, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Turkey).

Drug laws vary from country to country, and it is important to realize before making the mistake of getting involved with drugs, that a lot of foreign countries do not react leniently to drug offenders.

"In some countries, anyone who is caught with even a very small quantity for personal use may be tried and receive the same sentence as the large-scale trafficker," said the BCA.

People often say it could not happen to themselves, but the truth is that it could happen to them if they find themselves saying either of the following statements: "I am an American citizen and no foreign government can put me in jail," or "if I only buy or carry a small amount, it will not be a problem."

If you are arrested on a drug charge,

it is important to know what the U.S. Government can and cannot do for you.

If you are arrested on a drug charge, the U.S. Consular Officer can: visit you in jail after being notified of your arrest; give you a list of local attorneys (the U.S. government cannot assume responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of these individuals or recommend a particular attorney); notify your family and/or friends and relay requests for money or other aid - but only with your authorization; intercede with local authorities to make sure that you are treated humanely, according to internationally accepted standards; and protest mistreatment or abuse to the appropriate authorities.

The U.S. Consular Officer cannot do any of the following: demand your immediate release or get you out of jail or country; represent you at trial or give legal counsel; or pay legal fees and/or fines with United States government funds.

Besides being arrested for drugs, the possession of alcohol can also get students into trouble in a foreign country. Students have been arrested for being drunk in public areas, for underage drinking, and for drunk driving.

"Some people travel abroad assuming that local authorities will ignore such behavior," said the BCA. "Many also believe that they are immune from prosecution in foreign countries because they are American citizens."

Americans, however, are expected to obey all of the laws of the countries they travel to, and those who break the laws often face severe consequences, including prison sentences.

Another thing that can get U.S. citizens arrested is reckless behavior. In many countries, behavior that would not result in imprisonment here in the

United States could get you arrested.

Besides being arrested, there are other things that can happen to students on a vacation abroad.

"Many young U.S. citizens have suffered injury or even death from car accidents, drownings and falls, in addition to other mishaps," said the BCA. "Sadly, other Americans have been raped or robbed because they were in unfamiliar places or were unable to exercise good judgment while being under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

Reckless behavior while abroad, can do more than ruin your vacation, it can land you in a foreign jail or worse. It is possible, however, to have a fun and safe trip, and avoid risky behavior that can get you into trouble

Here are some tips that everyone should follow when traveling abroad.

- 1.) Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and visas, if required. Also before you go, fill in the emergency information page of your passport. 2.) Read the Consular Information Sheets (and public announcements or travel warnings, if applicable) for countries you plan to visit. 3.) Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family and friends at home, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency. 4.) Make sure you have insurance that will cover your medical needs while you are overseas. 5.) Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs, especially when it comes to dressing and socializing. 6.) Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas and never



This could be your new home if you mess around in a foreign country. Scary? You should see the cellmates!

- accept packages from strangers. 7.) Do not announce that you are traveling alone. 8.) Do not become a target by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. 9.) Before leaving your hotel, ask for directions. 10.) Ensure that the hotel where you plan to stay has good security and easy access transportation. 11.) While abroad, avoid using illicit drugs or drinking excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages, and associating with people who do. 12.) Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money to avoid violating local laws. 13.) When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed. 14.) If someone offers you a free trip and some quick and easy money just for bringing back a suitcase, say no.

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