

Question of the Week

by Justin Curry, news editor

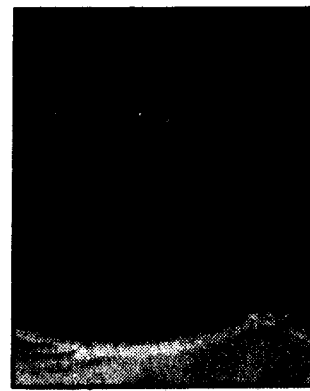
What do you look forward to for the summer?



"Doing absolute nothing."
Ian McLaloe
DUS, 02



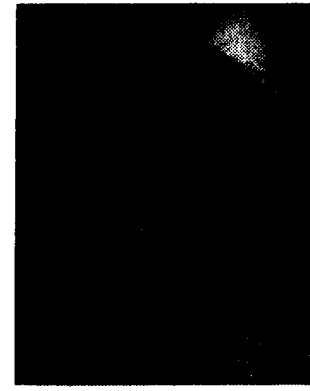
"Going back home. I haven't been there in three years."
Qistina Zainuddin
FNCE, 02



"Making money, working out and not having homework."
Kristen Comstock
COMBA, 04



"Sleeping!"
Joell Sperry
ACCTG, 04



"Naptime at summer camp."
Rob Mulshine
PHIL, 04

Have a suggestion for Question of the Week? Email your question to us at: behrcoll2@aol.com.

The true use of SRTE's Steelers take

by Bradley Stewart
staff writer

In the office of Dr. Archie Loss, interim director of Humanities and Social Sciences, are multiple filing cabinets that stand at least 5 feet tall, span about 10 feet across and are probably a foot deep. The contents of these massive filing cabinets? Teacher evaluations.

As the end of each semester approaches, students are presented with the opportunity to evaluate their courses and instructors. It is a two-step process.

Step one: After filling out the course number, section and season, students are asked to rate certain aspects of the course on a scale of one to seven.

Step two: Students are provided with a space to describe, in their own words, the positives and negatives of the course.

After both steps are completed, bubbles properly shaded in, final obscenities added to the handwritten evaluations, the forms are neatly packed in the manila envelope from whence they

came, are escorted to the office of their respective discipline and are never seen again by a student's eyes.

But what happens to those darn evaluations? Do they serve a purpose other than to provide Dr. Loss with an excuse to have filing cabinets bigger than everyone else's?

"I don't think they do anything with teacher evaluations," said Justin Bloyd, HIST 06. "I was in a class that I know all students evaluated poorly and nothing was done about it."

All instructors undergo an annual evaluation. They are measured in three categories: research, service and teaching. Teaching holds the largest weight of the three, and the forms students fill out are used to evaluate the instructor.

"Students should take them very seriously," said Dr. Loss. "Teaching is important at Behrend, therefore, teacher evaluation is important."

According to Loss, the student feedback has a large impact on the review and evaluation of instructors. For a

teacher on the tenure track, it takes six years to achieve tenure, and bad reviews could result in immediate termination.

For instructors who have already achieved tenure, negative evaluations could prompt disciplinary action or inhibit the opportunity for a raise.

Evaluations are also used to rate the quality and effectiveness of a course. Courses that consistently receive bad reviews might be changed, or new classes might be added to the curriculum.

This evaluative power should not be taken lightly by students. Students with bottled aggression toward a professor must present their criticism in a constructive manner.

"When students take the time, their words are taken very seriously," said Loss. According to Loss, too often a student's comments are discredited by illogical uses of profanity and lack of specific problems that can be addressed.

'Rednecks' to descend on campus

by Ryan Russell
advertising manager

On Saturday night, Behrend is going to go redneck, but in a completely musical way. The PovertyNeck Hillbillies, a western Pennsylvania-based band that describes its performances as "country with attitude," will put on a free performance in Bruno's at 8 p.m.

Of course, that description only scratches the surface of what a Hillbillies show is all about. There's also enthusiasm, showmanship, audience participation, spontaneity and original country music.

Why bring in a country band? Well, according to Courtney Kaplin, MKTG 06, the publicity chairwoman of the Lion Entertainment Board, it all came down to diversity.

"The LEB decided to bring the PovertyNeck Hillbillies to Behrend because we wanted to expand and become more diverse in our music selection," said Kaplin. "I really feel that

we need to bring all different types of music to the campus to better suit everyone's tastes. There are a lot of country fans on campus and also in the surrounding area, who I really feel would enjoy the show."

And the Hillbillies put on quite a show. Every Hillbillies performance is different, but the one common theme is fun. Striving to bring the audience into each performance, the Hillbillies often perform with wireless mikes and can be found anywhere in the room, up on a bar, table, roof or even a bridge at some of the outdoor shows. Some people even find themselves encouraged to join the Hillbillies on stage.

On that stage will be all six members of the band, each with their own unique talents they bring to the group. Chris Higbee plays the fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo and sings vocals. Chris Abbondanza, known as Abby, sings lead vocals and plays guitar. Bob Crafton is on the pedal, steel and electric guitar. Dave Cramer jams on the

keyboards and sings vocals. Ryan Lucotch bangs the drums all day. And last, but not least, Jeff Volek plays bass, accordion and guitar and sings vocals as well.

The band's vocals must have a good sound to them, because it's led to bigger and better things. In August 2003, the Hillbillies released their debut CD, "Hillbilly State of Mind," produced by Bob Corbin, a songwriter for Alabama, Hank Williams Jr., and Kenny Rogers. The highlight of the CD is the song "Mr. Right Now," which debuted at No. 73 on the Billboard top 100 charts. When the Hillbillies come to Behrend on Saturday, they should have copies of their CD for sale, along with a wide variety of merchandise for students who dig their sound.

The Hillbillies have opened concerts for some of the biggest names in country music, including Vince Gill, the Charlie Daniels Band, Darryl Worley, Lee Ann Womack, Mark Wills, Chris Cagle, Joe Nichols, Mark Chesnutt, Tracy Byrd, Trick Pony, Diamond Rio and Mark Wills.

The PovertyNeck Hillbillies have grown from a regional group playing small bars in Fayette County into the biggest-drawing local band in western Pennsylvania. They've packed clubs and headlined fairs and festivals, pleasing crowds wherever they go. When they come to Behrend on April 17, the results should be no different.



The PovertyNeck Hillbillies will be performing Saturday evening in Bruno's. The group is defined as 'country, with attitude.'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steelers take on All-Stars

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Kirk Seth isn't intimidated that he has to guard one of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Nor is he intimidated that he has to take on that task in front of almost 1,000 fans.

This Sunday marks the third-straight year that the Behrend Community All-Stars will take on the Pittsburgh Steelers in a friendly game of basketball. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. this Sunday, and admission is \$5. The Steelers lead the series 2-0.

The event is used as a fund-raiser for the men's basketball team, and close to a thousand fans packed the Junker Center gym for the game last year.

Men's assistant basketball coach Mark Murphy explained how the roster for the Steelers is selected. "The Steelers send us a list of 16 possible players, but only six make the trip," said Murphy.

Some of the names on the list this year include Antwaan Randle El, Kendall Bell, Joey Porter, Hines Ward and Chucky Okobi. Last year, Steelers stand-out Hines Ward played against Behrend's finest.

Seth, along with students Mario Cionni, Marcus Woodard and Matt Stanton, will be teammates on the Behrend Community All-Stars. Four Behrend basketball alumni, a faculty member and Ron Kline from Rocket 101 round out the Community line-up.

Guarding men like Okobi, who stands 6 feet 1 inch and weighs in at 299 pounds and a stand-out like Ward, is what makes

this a memorable experience for the students, says Rob Wittman, director of Intramurals.

"I think this experience should be a fun one for the students," said Wittman. "Especially if they are Steelers fans and get to rub elbows with professional athletes."

Wittman, who played a part in recommending students for the team, says that having basketball talent is a very small part of being selected.

"We mainly try to pick students who would enjoy and appreciate the experience."

Seth, who played in last year's game, hopes to continue his good performance against Ward.

"I played really well, scoring 15 points with Hines Ward guarding me," said Seth. "I'm ready to give it to him again."

Seth also has another reason for wanting to show up the Steelers.

"I'm a Browns fan, so the feelings are more along the lines of revenge," said Seth. "Even though I hate the Steelers, I definitely enjoy playing them. They are good guys and they give the crowd a great show."

In addition to showcasing what Seth describes as his "average" basketball skills, Seth hopes to have a little fun with the Steelers.

"It's not very often you can come in direct contact with great professional athletes," said Seth. "It will be a lot of fun trash-talking with people you watch on TV every Sunday."

Students unclear of purpose of SGA

by Ryan Astor and Jonathan Meyn
contributing writers

Every year the same question comes up on Behrend's campus. What exactly is SGA and what do they do they do for the campus?

SGA, the Student Government Association, gives students a voice on campus and enables them to make changes that affect the entire student body. It is through SGA that ordinary students can make a difference on many issues involving campus life.

One of the big problems SGA faces is the lack of student support recently. Although meetings are open to all students, few ever attend. Students are encouraged to attend SGA meetings and events so that they can help make a difference in their campus experience.

Recently a few students were asked about how much they knew about SGA. One student knew what the organization was but didn't know that SGA meetings were open to all students.

"I just thought that the only way you could attend meetings was to be a SGA delegate. I never realized that any stu-

dent could attend the meetings," said Jeff Rimko, CENBD 04.

This is one of the reasons why some feel that the students in general are not as knowledgeable about SGA as they could be. SGA events are posted throughout campus and in the newspaper and yet it seems that most students are still unaware of the organization and what they can do for them.

Another student who was questioned was junior Amanda Malone. When asked about what SGA does for students on campus, she replied, "I was actually amazed by how many activities and organizations that they were actually involved with. But I definitely feel that SGA should find more ways to reach out to the student body."

