



anes, Paints and Residence Halls

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The Behrend Beacon

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Welcome and welcome back

Two sophmores tell tales of first year at Behrend, encourage club involvement

A letter to commuters
By Deanna Sieberkrob
contributing writer

The new school year is starting and you decided to live off-campus. So what if you don't live in the dorm rooms. You can still get the full college experience other ways by getting involved in on-campus student activities. With more than 80 clubs and organizations you are bound to find one or two that could possibly interest you.

Being an active student on campus will definitely sharpen your social skills. By finding a group that interests you, you will set yourself up to meet new people with common interests that you might not get to meet living off-campus.

Clubs are also a great way to just relax and take time out of your day. You can do what you like without worrying about classes or getting work done. You can also hang out with your club members and waste time between classes so you will not have to go home and then come back later.

Getting involved on campus also gives you the opportunity to open your eyes to new opportunities and "broaden your horizons". Finding and participating in groups you think that you might enjoy could make you rethink your intended major and possibly switch it. You may just be exposed to something else that you may like more.

Joining an organization and playing an active role in it is also a great resume builder. Companies always like to see different organizations on a resume. It shows that you got an entire education and not just a degree from the school. It displays a sense of well roundedness by showing that you participated and took action on your campus.

As a commuter, it is very important that you get involved here at Penn State. Participating outside of the classroom is an essential part of getting an education and also helps you in "getting the full college experience" with out living on campus.

A letter to on-campus students
By Deepti Sonni
contributing writer

Coming to Penn State Behrend has been one of the best decisions of my life. I remember that day I first moved onto the Behrend campus very vividly, even though it was a year ago.

Coming from Atlanta, Erie was a big change for me. I had never lived away from home, and being an only child, I had no idea what the college life was going to be like.

I remember move in day. All the students were there with their parents, moving into their new

home for the next year. I remember seeing their anxious and nervous faces along with excitement for what the year would bring ahead.

During orientation, I met so many first-year students who were going through the same things that I was. I met many resident assistants who were willing to help and always there with a listening ear. Faculty members were understanding, compassionate and eager to teach. Before I knew it, Penn State Erie became my home.

A few weeks after school began, I ran for a freshman senator seat in the Student Government Association, which is a governing organization of Penn State Erie. I had been student council

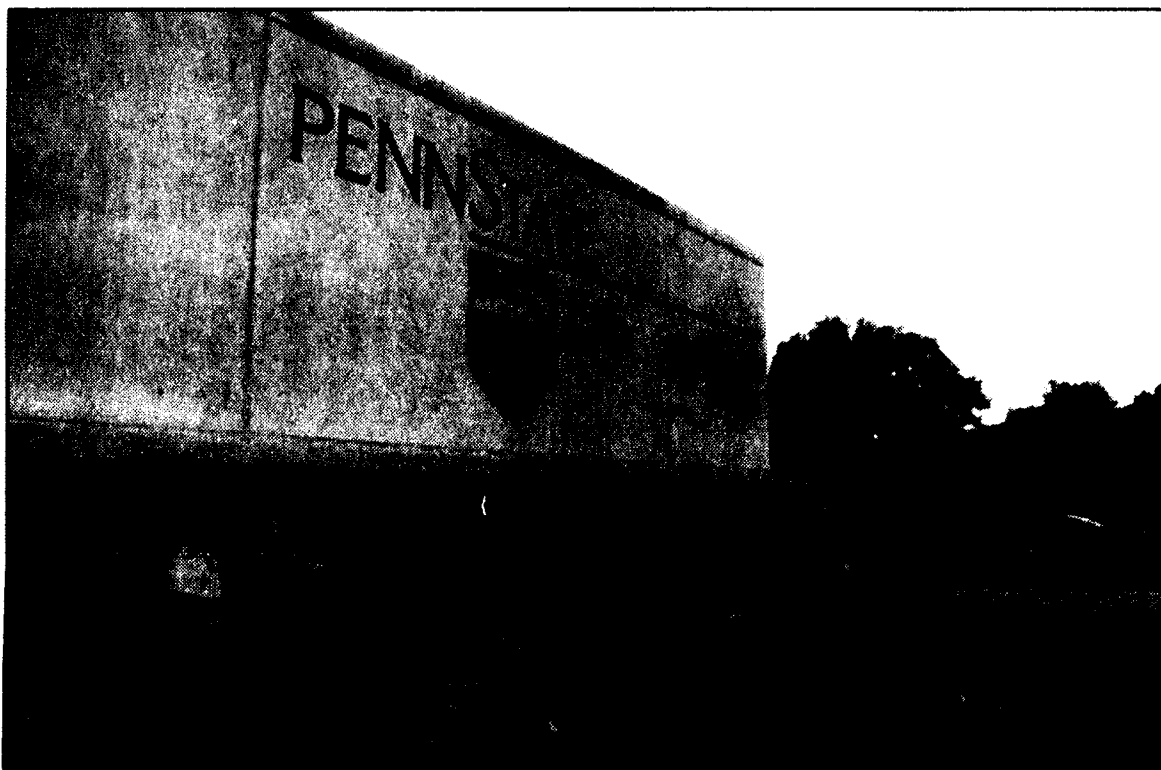
president in high school, and I thought that it would be a way for me to meet many new people and have a voice. To my surprise, I won the election and along the way met many people who shared many great qualities such as dedication and motivation.

Shortly, thereafter, I became involved with the Multicultural Council as well as the Asian Student Organization, which was a great way for me to learn about diverse cultures as well as appreciate differences. Being in this organization gave me so much insight, as I helped organize events and saw many people come together.

Afterwards, I became co-chair of SGA's governmental affairs, which allowed me to be the liaison between the government and students. I helped organize "The Rally at the Rotunda" a University-wide gathering of Penn State students at the capitol in Harrisburg. I then worked with Behrend's committee for THON, Penn State University's 24-hour dance marathon which raises funds for children with cancer. This was a great cause and created such memorable moments.

Along with these great clubs and organizations, I made sure to maintain my grades and do the best I could. Then, during the spring of 2004, I won the outstanding first year student award. This was a very honoring award that came very unexpectedly but definitely made ends meet.

Throughout the journey of my first year at college, I made friendships and relationships that I will cherish forever. Remember to make the most of these four years because they will become the most remarkable times of your lives. Remember that hard work definitely pays off. I now know that Penn State Erie was the right choice for me, and I hope that you will also cherish your time here. With so many clubs, organizations and interest groups, I hope that you also will become involved in the campus, as well as share as many joys that I have.



Daniel J. Stasiewski / The Behrend Beacon

One lonely car sneaks past the entrance sign, Thursday, a day before orientation. A campus population boom begins this weekend when more than 350 first-year students fill the dorms. First-year commuter students will check in Saturday, adding 300 additional students to the population.

Need Something To Do?

Spend some time with
**The Behrend
Beacon Staff**

**Open House
Sunday
4-5 p.m.
in the Beacon
Offices**

(follow our signs)

**Stick around afterward for the first
meeting and get a chance to writer
before anyone else.**

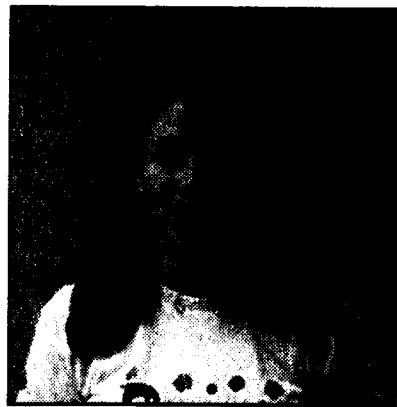
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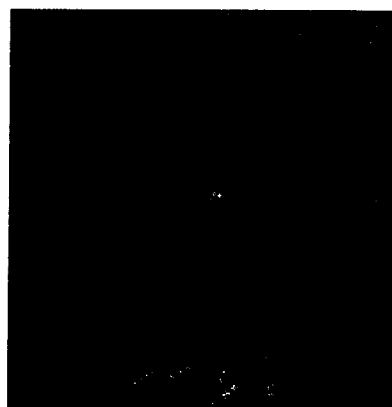
**Our offices are located downstairs in the
Reed Union Building.**

Question of the Week featuring your orientation leaders: Why was Behrend the right choice for you?



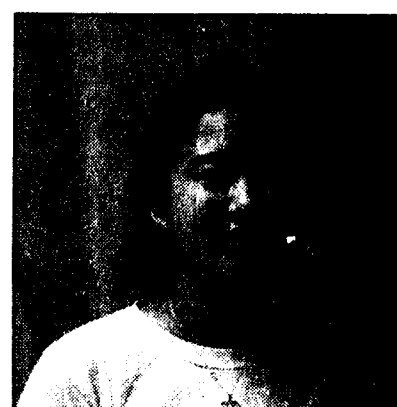
Brenda Starr, ACCT 06

"I transfered from another local college and I could still live at home. Behrend has a pheonomenal business program compared to my previous college."



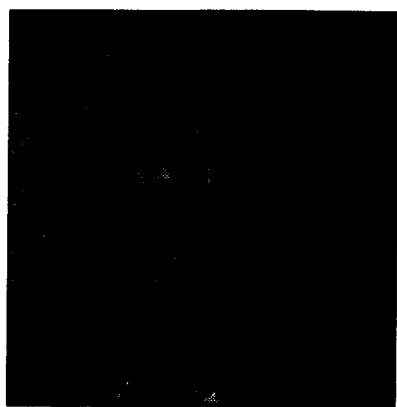
Pam Sumah, INT B 05

"I wanted a Penn State degree without the University Park atmosphere, where people actually know your name and have one on one time with your teachers."



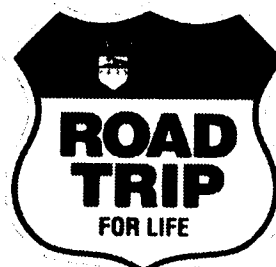
Ying Ang, BIO 05

"It's a Penn State Campus that is small enough so I can use the lab here and the classes are just the right size."

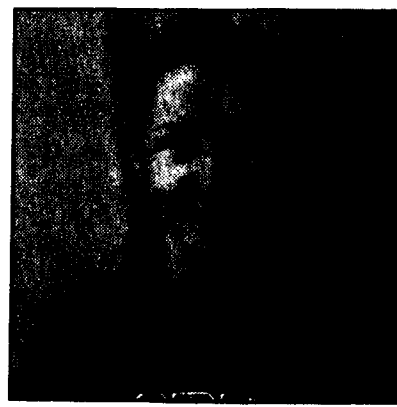


K.J. Margraff, COMMU 07

"It's six hours from home and there are lots of friends here."



Orientation 2004



Jenn Haight, ELISH 03

"It was far enough away from home, but still close. And it has my major and I can complete it here."