

# HUMOR

The people who count will get it

## Thumbing not necessary

By Chris Strayer  
contributing writer

Readers may have noticed that several Behrend students have disappeared—one term they were here, working diligently at reporting the news and raising hell, but they left for summer break and never returned. No letters, no IMs, nothing. All we knew is that they "went to University Park," or Main Campus as it is known, and were never heard from again.

That changed last Monday, when Dan Snedden, whose last article detailed the sumptuous conditions of the aforementioned locale, staggered in. Scars ringed his skull and some sort of socket around his mouth made it difficult for him to speak.

"I got there, in the room, and—even though I had bought my books online—they said that the bookstore there was cheaper. Like it was student run or something. So I say, 'They won't believe this back in Erie!' and send out an email. Anyway, we go on our way, and bam, all the things just pop out of nowhere. Next thing I know, I'm waking up in a lecture hall," Dan said. "Couldn't have been sleeping, what with all the junk hooked into me and being force-fed this glop." He indicated the socket. "No clue what it was, but there was something about hydroponically grown manatees."

His last memory of Behrend was taking his laptop in for a checkup—Ethernet card was glitchy—and the counter student offered him a "thumb drive." The Computer Center employee claimed that "it's the latest thing, man. I mean, wouldn't you rather have more memory? It'd increase your value to...you know, the value you get out of your college education." He produced a pouch and pulled out a plastic sliver, which Dan accepted. "Keep it with your keys

or somethin', you know. No sense losing all that capacity."

As for the rationale for the name, Dan demonstrated: he removed a heavy glove from his right hand, revealing the sliver wired into the singed and scarred stump of his right thumb. Outside analysis of the device revealed that it did indeed possess a modest amount of storage capacity. It also possessed a coded transponder with a 50-click range and two connectors, one standard Universal Serial Bus and one apparently designed to patch into human sensory and motor nerves, as had happened to Mr. Snedden.

"It was almost like the perfect learning environment. They wired us up—whole lecture halls full—and just dumped information in. We were even connected to the Beacon server. I noticed an article on thumb drives. So as to warn the rest of campus, I modified the photo caption. After weeks of being a slave to the University, all the doublethink we did for those papers paid off. I was able to realize that a colon existed in the caption and had always existed. After that, it was a small leap to realize that all the junk could disconnect to let me use the bathroom. Out-thinking the goons was difficult, but getting a ride was straight out of GTA. And now we're going to tell the students something they don't want them to hear," said Snedden, dawning sunglasses.

Bob Fraun, the Manager of Campus IT Services, claimed that the victims had agreed to the procedure when they agreed to attend classes at the Erie campus, stating that "Behrend students are indeed a valuable data storage solution for Penn State.



Michelle Vera Surovic/THE BEHREND BEACON

Dan Snedden's mutilated hand is proof that thumb drives are a sinister plot to turn students into circuits.

Why else would we take the trouble to build a facility out here in the boonies? Even the athletes have several terabytes of usable space. It's not like the University, let alone the IT department, is here to benefit you!"

## Latina superstar missing, presumed dead

By Randy Martell  
contributing writer

Tragedy struck today when beloved Latina television star and outdoors aficionado Dora T. Explorer mysteriously disappeared. Dora was visiting Penn State Behrend in order to film a new episode of her critically acclaimed television show.

She was last seen saying, "Let's go vamonos; we can lead the way." Spanish Professor Steve Smith translated her last known words and discovered that she was most likely casting an ancient Spanglish incantation.

Campus police questioned her co-star Map, a professionally trained navigator with degrees in cartography and mercadian studies from The Vespuchie Institute of Technology.

"Usually if there's a place you want to go, I'm the one you need to know, but I got lost. I got lost. I got lost," he told authorities.

From what campus police were able to gather from the insane ramblings of an old and dusty scrap of paper, it is believed that Dora and Map were headed out early on a journey from the Wilson Picnic Grove to Ohio Hall.

The trek involved going past the Studio Theatre, up the million-dollar staircase, over shark infested waters and finally ending up at Ohio Hall. Things were going smoothly until out of nowhere they collided violently with a building southwest of the Reed Union Building.

"I had no idea it was there, man; it wasn't on me anywhere. What have I done?" said Map.

Map claimed that he was knocked unconscious upon impact with what has been defined as Senat Hall (a new structure which remains uncharted and therefore is not located on any known maps of the area). Map claimed that when he awoke Dora was gone.

After an exhaustive search of the Reed parking lot, campus police declared Dora dead and continued with their regular duties of waiting around to ticket unsuspecting drivers.

"Nothing makes my blood pump more than running

and the signs that should tell me where to go just confuse me even more. I swear to you, if I walk in another giant circle, I'm going to throw feces at someone," said Boots, obviously stressed and bewildered by the disappearance of his dear friend, Dora.

University officials, when questioned about the difficulty Boots had traversing the campus, said, "We believe that Boots' inability to properly utilize the signs is primarily due to the fact that he is a monkey, but this is only a tentative assessment. Faculty council is currently discussing the issue and an official inquiry into the problem will begin no later than 2050."

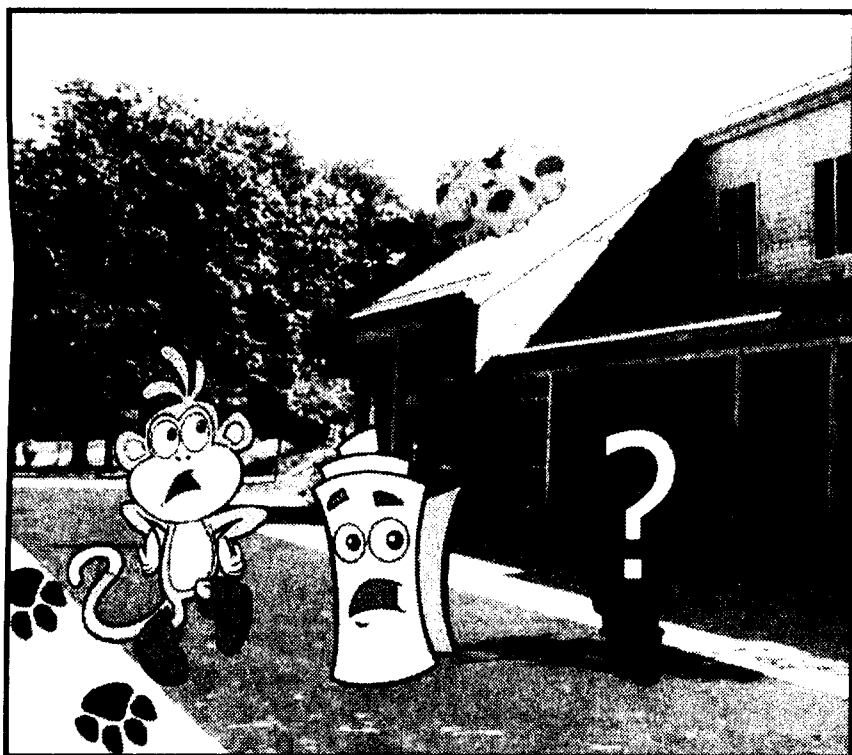
A break in the case came when Boots discovered three paw prints, believed to be clues to Dora's whereabouts, haphazardly placed around campus, as well as an unmistakable and foul odor emanating from the fire hydrant in front of Reed.

"I know this modus operandi. It is no other than my arch nemesis, Dr. Blue. Dora is not just missing. Foul play is no doubt involved," said Boots.

Boots copied the clues into his conveniently pleasant journal, but even with this new information was still unable to locate Dora.

"Dr. Blue is a criminal mastermind. No man alive possesses enough intellect to decipher his enigmatic maze of riddles," said Boots.

Boots stated that he would not rest until Dora was found, or at least until a suitable replacement was located. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Dora T. Explorer should contact Robert Stack of Unsolved Mysteries at 814-666-4355.



Randy Martell/THE BEHREND BEACON

Map and Boots ponder Dora's disappearance as a mysterious figure looks on.

up on a car that's just about to pull out and slapping a ticket on their window. It just makes me feel alive," said one campus police officer.

Unsatisfied with the results of the search, the primate friend of Dora and licensed private investigator, Boots, arrived on campus. But even with his deductive expertise, Boots gained little ground in the search.

"I'm blind out here, I tell you. Map is of no help

## Top 10 "Best lists" List

By Melissa R Whitten  
contributing writer

10. Top 10 Irish greetings.
9. Top 5 topical skin conditions.
8. Top 20 Top's Market grocery receipts.
7. Top 15 spinning tops designs.
6. Top 27 pizza toppings.
5. Top 7 things that rhyme with mop and begin with a T.
4. Top 8 tube top colors.
3. Top 10 pop bottle tops.
2. Top 80 ways to say "top" in different languages.
1. Top 100 literal interpretations of things.

## Your resident president

By Pat Webster  
assistant news editor

Today we look into that most celebrated of government institutions: the Executive Branch! This is the branch of government that receives the most attention, even though, constitutionally speaking at least, it has the least amount of power. This is true; if you read the constitution carefully you will see that the president may only use executive powers on Tuesdays and weekends when Congress is not in session.

Similarly, the Vice President's only governmental powers are to cast tie-breaking votes in the Senate, serve as the Emergency Back-Up President from an undisclosed secure location and something mysteriously referred to as "balancing the ticket." Though this branch of government is shrouded in mystery and press releases, its grandeur captivates the public eye.

This doesn't stop people from making a huge fuss every four years when an election rolls around, however. The whole process of electing the new Big Cheese, though always of the White American variety, seemingly causes more trouble than it's worth. However, this political position is so vitally important that it is crucial that the people make an informed choice on the matter.

Which brings us to the crunchy-on-the-outside but chewy-on-the-inside beefy substance of this week's column: What if we didn't elect any President? My friends, I would like to go way out on a limb here and offer an answer: Nothing.

Think about it. What does a President do, mostly? Oh,

sure, the Constitution says he is supposed to enforce the laws of Congress, veto inappropriate bills, raise millions of dollars for re-election, etc. But what does he really do? He takes vacations, gives speeches that other people write, makes guest appearances on late-night TV and so on. Everything that we used to need a President for is currently covered by our Bureaucracy. (Motto: Solving your problems, as long as they are filed on form RZ-123zqtie4 in triplicate)

Our modern bureaucracy was formed during the War of 1812 (which, as the name indicates, had its first battle in 1807), when British troops chased the President out of Washington and Strom Thurmond was elected to Congress. When the British troops left Washington (it was teatime), President Madison found that the government, somehow, continued to operate without his actual presence. This revelation was more earth-shaking than the incident in which President Taft, weighing in at 350 pounds, fell off his horse. Madison spent the rest of his presidency in the White House private movie theater, eating his wife Dolley's fine cakes and treats (available at a grocery store near you) and thinking, "Boy, this theater sure will be great once someone gets around to making a movie."

That's what Presidents run for these days, access to the White House and all its amenities. This has been one of the government's best kept secrets for nearly 200 years. The Secret Service is, of course, the agency in charge of keeping it that way. I bet you thought they had something to do with the Treasury Department or protecting the president or some other such rubbish.

I know it's true because I read it on the Internet.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If I'm going to get my share of pig's blood I want him to be at the prom."

~Zack Mentz

## Facebook.com Profile of the Week Tyler Durden

Many Penn State students have already met Super Senior Tyler Durden. Tyler has hundreds of friends due to the fact that he has founded clubs at every Penn State campus. Tyler is also the CEO of the very successful Paper Street Soap Company, the most profitable soap company on the East coast due to low overhead. With all this and his two time consuming majors of Exercise & Sport Activities and Psychology, it's as though Tyler is really two people. If you'd like to know more about the clubs Tyler has founded, good luck, because he's not talking. Tyler is currently working on his senior thesis project.

<http://psu.facebook.com/profile.php?id=9333836>

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## Random Ramblings: Hospitals

By Michelle Vera Surovic  
copy editor

So they put me in a hospital because I heard voices. They said not to worry, it was just epilepsy. I met some really nice people there. They taught me how to kill myself with a pencil. That's why they locked the pencils up there. When I got my wisdom teeth out they gave me all these drugs. I'd line them up and make a rainbow. When I took them I couldn't solve Blue's Clues anymore. But I'm pretty sure that episode was in Spanish. My brother took Spanish in high school. His favorite phrase to say in Spanish was "I like to discombowel my family." He was a psychology major. When he went to Ecuador, he gave them all of his clothes and then they liked him. He brought me a pot. It was painted, not shiny, so I couldn't put it on my head and pretend it was a mind reading device.

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