

STUDENT LIFE

Dorms named for captians and ships

By Kelly Houghton
staff writer
kjh5000@psu.edu

Most students who attend Penn State Erie would recognize the distinguished names of celebrities such as Madonna or Michael Jackson. Hollywood has a way of embedding the names of those sexy, rich and famous stars into our memories. Even though Behrend's resident buildings are not named after reputable idols, their significance remains prominent. Many Penn State Erie students may be unaware that all campus dormitories and apartments are named after heroic individuals and ships that played key roles in the fierce Battle of Lake Erie.

Many students questioned that reside in the apartments were completely speechless when asked if they knew the meanings behind their building's names. Nick Toomey, an engineering student who resides in Porcupine Hall, had his knowledge tested when asked about the origin of his dormitory. Toomey foolishly guessed that his residence's name possibly originated from a porcupine. "Porcupines have phenomenal intelligence. Maybe they wanted to motivate us," said Toomey.

Thirty Perry Hall students were also recently surveyed and asked the reasoning behind their dorm's name. Seventeen students knew the connection to Commander Perry while thirteen students developed thunderstruck expressions. Students living in Lawrence Hall also failed to make the connection. Michelle Zill, a freshman art major, said, "I would guess that it was named after someone important or close to the Behrend family."

Freshmen students living in Senat also had a difficult time recognizing the basis for their dorm's name. Twenty students were questioned and not one student could state a sensible answer. Fourteen students from Ohio Hall were also asked to recognize what their building was named after. Not one person tied the name to the Battle of Lake Erie. In fact, sophomore Jason Liebel, in addition to his 3 roommates, all upperclassmen, had "no idea."

While it is obvious that many Penn State Erie students have difficulty determining the historical significance behind resident halls, the specific names of the buildings are unique to Erie's maritime history and certainly make Erie County distinctive. For instance, Perry Hall, the first dormitory to open on Penn State's campus in 1968, was named after The Battle of Lake Erie's hero, Commander Oliver Hazard Perry. Niagara and Lawrence Hall, were named after two of ships that were under Perry's command. The Brig Niagara and Brig Lawrence, which both played central roles in the Battle of Lake Erie, even though the Lawrence was the first ship sunk by the British.

When the apartment buildings were constructed they were given the names Ariel, Caledonia, Champlin, Packet, Scorpion, Turner, Elliot, Somers and Yarnall, all of which were either ships or people in the war. Porcupine, Tigress and Tiffany, the suites, all bearing historical significance, joined the Behrend community soon after. For example, Tiffany Hall, built in 1990, was named after Cyrus Tiffany, possibly the most noted African American seaman in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Almy Hall was built in 1997, acquiring its name from Thomas C. Almy, who guided the schooner Somers. Even though the Brig Ohio was captured in battle, Ohio Hall was named after the vessel. The newest addition to Behrend's campus, Senat Hall acquired its title from George Senat, who commanded the Porcupine. However, dormitory construction will not end with Senat Hall. Trippe Hall, a 50-ton ship from Lake Erie's battle, will be the next addition to the Behrend community, making it evident that naming halls after dominant figures and forces from the Battle of Lake Erie will continue.

Just a little friendly competition

By Jenna Gregory and Earl Gordon
staff writers
jag464@psu.edu | eng5002@psu.edu

Liveliness, loudness and laughter are all part of Greek Week here at Behrend. Monday Greek Week kicked off this Monday with Chimp Races, which were held on the lawn in front of the Reed Union Building. Chimp Races are a relay style competition in which the runner has to grip the bottom of his or her pants and run to cross the finish line. The first relay team successfully across the line wins. Sororities faced off against other sororities, then fraternities faced off against other fraternities. The Greek organizations earn points over the period of the week; these points will be tallied on Friday to determine the winning sorority and fraternity.

Dawn Wood of Theta Phi Alpha said that the Greek Week is "for fun and they bring the Greek life together." The spectacle of the races was an entertaining one. Lots of spirit, smiles and cheers were what you were likely to have seen. "[Greek Week] is a great event for people to see what we're [Greek life] about," said Wood. "You get to meet everyone at once."

Amy Hiles of Alpha Sigma Alpha is in charge of the Greek Week events this year. The points are scored based on competition performance, appearance (i.e. Greek letters, face paint, etc.), chants, fans and banners. Monday's event had a lot of letters, face paint, stickers and chants that could be heard up the hill quite a ways. Hiles said that only Greek organizations participate, but the events are for everyone. Hiles said that Greek Week events are important because the organizations "don't get together all at once too often."

Pie eating was the name of the game Tuesday evening as five Penn State Behrend chapters held a competitive, yet friendly pie eating contest on the Reed Lawn. The groups that participated in this event were Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, Delta Chi, Theta Phi Alpha and Kappa Delta Rho. Each fraternity and sorority entered two people to represent their chapter. The pies, which consisted of chocolate pudding, whipped cream and M & M's, comically found their way into each participant's hair, clothing and nostrils. This event became especially challenging for participants with various facial piercings. "I couldn't tell if I had an M & M or my tongue ring," said

sophomore Omitra Gates, whose grinning face was covered in pie. The winning chapter of the pie eating contest was Alpha Sigma Alpha.

The annual Greek Sing event was held Wednesday night in Bruno's at 8 p.m. Each sorority and fraternity gave their all as they performed a production of their choice. Alpha Sigma Tau began the night with a fairytale themed performance. Their production included famous stories such as Cinderella, Peter Pan, 3 Little Pigs, Robin Hood and Puss in Boots. Theta Phi



KJ Margraff Jr./THE BEHREND BEACON
Delta Chi brothers acting out "Piano Man"

Alpha followed with their theme of the 70s and 80s, while singing and dancing to memorable groups and solo artists, such as Elton John, Run DMC, Carl


Douglass and Bon Jovi. Alpha Sigma Alpha chose Michael Jackson's music for their theme as they strode across the stage dancing and wearing his signature white glove. As for the fraternities, Delta Chi used a variety of ideas in their theme, ranging from the knife fight from Michael Jackson's "Beat It" video, to the song "Jump Around" sung by House of Pain. Kappa Delta Rho chose to use the theme from the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and Men at Work, among other things. The crowd at Bruno's was more than happy to participate with the performers and became greatly enthusiastic at the humorous and unforgettable "oompa loompa" and "free willy" appearances. The judges consisted of SGA president Alex Henderson, Chris Fox, the Greek advisor, the Theta Phi Alpha advisor Dr. Champagne, and a Kris Motta Torok. Although all the groups of performers were very good, Alpha Sigma Alpha took first place this year, while Alpha Sigma Tau took second, and Theta Phi Alpha came in third. For the fraternities, Kappa Delta Rho took first over Delta Chi.

Thursday night, Greek Week encountered another exciting event full of rambunctious Greeks. The event was an extreme relay which showed a display of quickness and resourcefulness as the sororities and fraternities raced around Reed. The winner of the extreme relay for the sororities was Theta Phi Alpha, and Kappa Delta Rho for the fraternities.

Tomorrow, Greek Week will end with the traditional Chariot Race, and then the ultimate Greek Week winners will be announced. Check out the races at 5:20 p.m. on the Reed Lawn. It will surely be a sight to see, and the Greeks will appreciate your support.



KJ Margraff Jr./THE BEHREND BEACON
Theta Phi Alpha rocks the stage during Greek Sing




TOYOTA

\$4000 OFF

ANY NEW TOYOTA OF YOUR CHOICE AS A COLLEGE GRAD, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE!

NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY



TOYOTA

COROLLA S

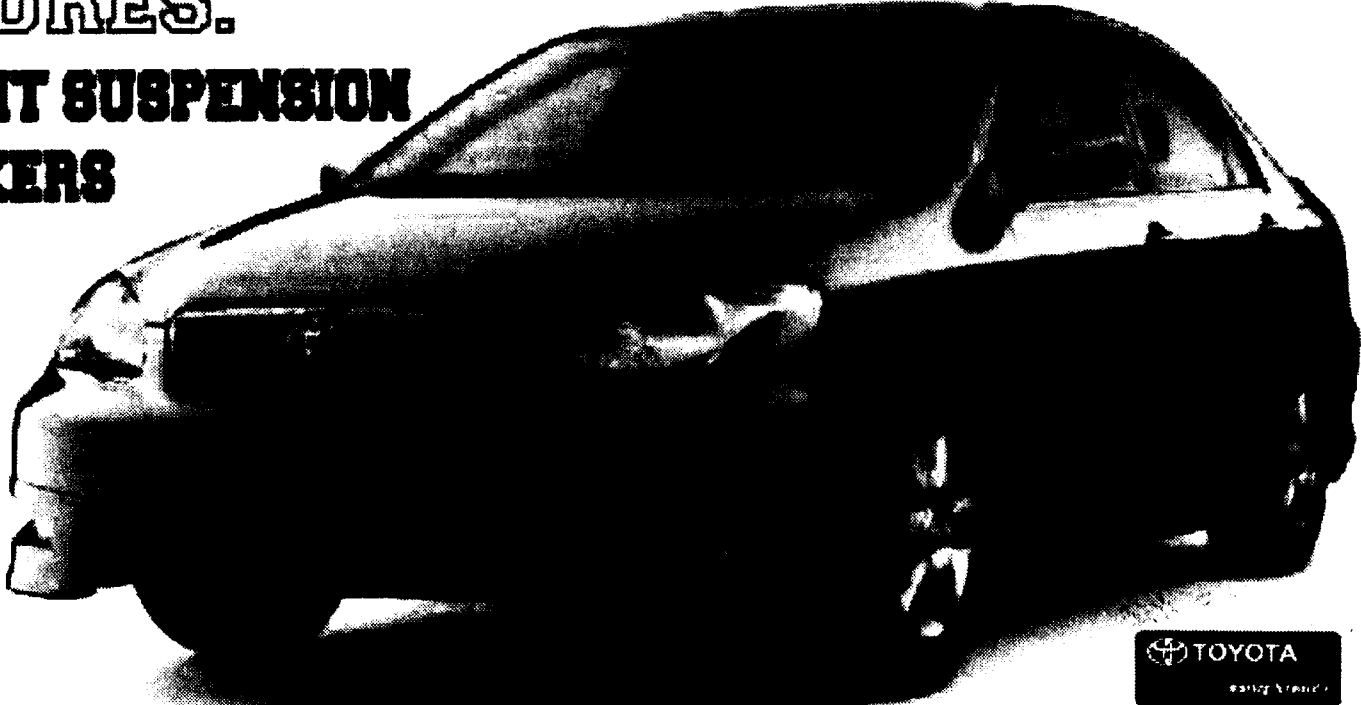

STANDARD FEATURES:

- MACPHERSON STRUT FRONT SUSPENSION
- + AM/FM/CD WITH 6 SPEAKERS
- + 1.8-LITER 170 HP ENGINE
- + SIDE ROCKER PANELS
- + 38 MPG HWY[†]

= YOUR NEW CAR

AS SHOWN \$17,360^{††}

buytoyota.com

*EPA ESTIMATED MPG FOR 2005 COROLLA S MODEL 1812 4 SPEED AUTO. ACTUAL MILEAGE MAY VARY. ^{††}MSRP FOR 2006 SPORT MODEL 1812 EXCLUDING TAX, TAGS AND LICENSE FEES. DEALER SETS FINAL PRICE