

STUDENT LIFE

Students share real life Ghost Stories

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Disclaimer: The following seven stories are true in the opinions of the individuals in the stories. They may or may not portray the personal thoughts, opinions or views of the Behrend Beacon staff, including the writers of this article. We do not encourage, nor discourage, the use of Ouiji boards or any such devices.

[Story #1] Junior Jenna Gregory is a graduate of Rocky Grove High School in Franklin, PA. In the late winter of her sophomore year, Gregory and the other wrestling cheerleaders were setting up the gym for a match to take place early the next day. Due to the long process of preparing the gym, the cheerleaders decided to spend the night at the school. That night, the group of 10 cheerleaders and their coach were alone in the school. The cheerleaders were exploring the school and ended up in the auditorium. Though Rocky Grove is very small, the auditorium is larger than Science 101 or the Reed lecture hall. The girls made their way to the one side of the stage to turn some lights on. When the cheerleaders were done flipping switches, a light on the opposite side of the stage above an exit door turned on. As the girls approached the exit, the light mysteriously turned off and continued to turn on and off throughout the night. No one was near a light switch when this occurred. This light turned on and off many other times as well, including during Gregory's theater practice. In her junior year during musical practice, parts of Gregory's costume disappeared and no one knew what happened to them. Students at Rocky Grove have reported sightings of the ghost of a young boy. Gregory said that she has never seen the ghost, but she knows that people who have seen him say that he is friendly and wears a baseball cap.

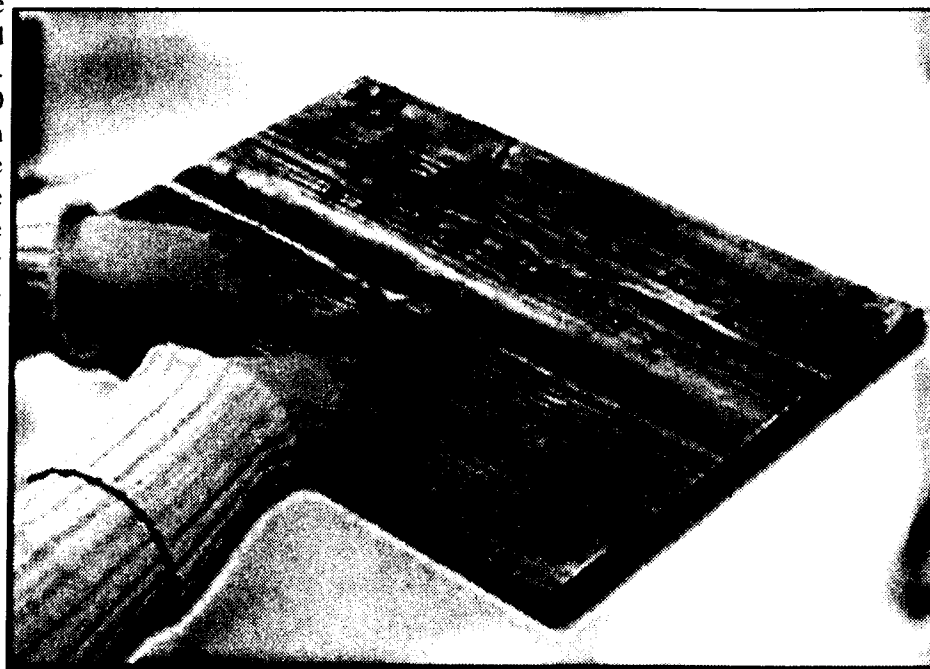
[Story #2] Freshman Breanne Coschigano was sixteen years old when her grandmother passed away. Her grandmother had passed away in England, where many members of her family reside and where her ashes now lie. When she returned from England after the funeral, Coschigano's mother brought a shirt back with her. Since her grandmother had a small frame, Coschigano kept the shirt in her closet. For a period of five days, Coschigano experienced some unsettling occurrences. She would have the same dream each night in which she would be very upset and sobbing about her grandmother's passing. Then, her grandmother would appear to her in her dreams and try to comfort her. Following the dreams, Coschigano would awaken to the opening and closing of her closet door. The closet door has a knob that would actually twist open and then close repeatedly. On the fifth night, Coschigano experienced the same dream once again, but when she awoke, she could not move. Coschigano explained that she felt restrained physically and mentally. She described the feeling of paralysis of her body and the feeling that she could not speak or even cry. After this feeling subsided, Coschigano had no other experiences of this kind.

[Story #3] Senior Pat Carver believes that his sister Stacy has a guardian angel. When he was about six years old, Carver was playing in his parents' bedroom with his four-year-old sister. Carver's house is about 120 years old and contains much of the original design. Because the house is so old, the staircase to the second floor leads to a door in the actual floor of the master bedroom. On the day of the incident, the door was open in the bedroom, which left a large opening in the floor. As Carver and his sister played, Stacy fell headfirst down the opening in the floor, the side opposite of the stairs. As his sister fell, the beaded necklace that Stacy was wearing caught on a piece of wood and flipped her body around so that she would land in a sitting position. The necklace that Stacy was wearing belonged to her deceased grandmother who passed away about 40-50 years ago.

[Story #4] Junior Deepti Soni spent the summer of 2005 at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. She spent 10 days on campus to take two classes and complete research. Soni stayed in one of the residence halls on the Charles River. Harvard University is a very old campus and the hall that Soni stayed in was

built in the early 1900s. According to Soni, Harvard is notoriously haunted as many students have committed suicide on campus from extreme stress levels. Soni spent her first night in the dorms alone, as she did not have a roommate at the time. On her first night, she awoke to a feeling of pressure on her body as though someone was holding her down. As she turned her light on, the closet doorknob twisted open. Soni then saw the whitish outline of a person exit her room. Though this experience occurred only on the first night of her stay, the closet door would randomly open and some objects on Soni's shelves were mysteriously moved.

[Story #5] Freshman Jamie Morgan is from Kane, PA, which is about two hours southeast of Erie. When she was a junior in high school, Morgan and her boyfriend Steve Chittester (Penn State Altoona) skipped school one day and spent the day at his house. As Morgan took a seat in the living room, she heard sounds of someone moving around in the kitchen.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ouji Boards are believed to be capable of contacting and talking to Spirits.

Morgan entered the kitchen, a drawer that was sitting open was pushed shut by an unseen force. As she shouted for Chittester, Morgan discovered that he had been upstairs the entire time. Only one person that has been inside Chittester's house has not had an unexplained experience. Morgan also mentioned that at one time, Chittester's mother considered an exorcism of the house.

[Story #6] Freshman Emily Zimmerman had been recently informed of the stories that Niagra Hall, the dorm she lives in, is haunted. Unsure of the validity of these tales, she and a friend made jokes and went on a "ghost hunt" in the third floor of the building. The next day, sitting at her computer with that same friend, she felt a pain, much like a paper cut, on her wrist. Zimmerman looked at her wrist to see that she was bleeding; it was a small cut that she disregarded as "no big deal". The wound, however, did not heal as it should have, leaving an abnormally large scar on her wrist. Needless to say, the girls no longer make jokes about the haunted dorm.

[Story #7] Ever since moving into a house on Buffalo Road, the Delta Chi Fraternity, Behrend Chapter, has had many paranormal experiences leading the chapter to believe its house is haunted. Over the 13 plus years that they have lived in the house, there have been countless incidents that have occurred with no logical explanation available. These include things like voices in empty rooms, doors and windows slamming shut, light switches and outlets mysteriously not working at odd intervals and electronic devices turning themselves on, just to name a few. Most of the incidents do not cause the brothers to fear the spirit, but they all believe that it's best not to make a big deal of it. They feel that Rob, the ghost's name, is mostly a practical joker enjoying the atmosphere of the fraternity house.

Sex Column: P.D.A. is B.A.D.

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Let me begin by saying that there are many different kinds of "public." There is the "public" dorm, suite or apartment in which there are five or more people, but usually no more than 20, and the majority of whom you are either friends with or are acquainted with. The "public" hallway is a little different because, depending on the time of day, there can be any given number of people, but it is a kind of "public" nevertheless. Then, there is the "public" cafeteria in which there are 50 or more people, and the majority of these people you do not know at all.

There are also different types of "displays of affection." First, we have the peck on the cheek and lips. Second are the makeout sessions. Third are the quick grabs of whatever obscene member of the genitalia is closest. And last, but not least, are the full on dry hump fests.

Now, when combined into public displays of affection (PDAs), a different light is shed on these topics. We look at them differently depending on the location and degree of display. There are PDAs that are acceptable and those which are most definitely not. It is always important to keep others in mind when you're going to share your feeling for your partner.

The first degree of a PDA is pecks on the cheeks and lips. These are the most common and the least bothersome. They are okay anywhere; in a small room of five or more or in a cafeteria with 50 or more. Just keep it in line and make sure that it does not escalate into anything that could be considered gross by others.

The second degree of a PDA is makeout sessions. These are hard on the eyes and make me want to turn the other way, but they typically do not make me gag, depending it depends on whom it is I suppose. These should be kept in settings where there are fewer than 20 people, all of whom are acquaintances.

Groping is the third degree of PDAs and is just gross. There is nothing else that can be said about groping, just don't. It's nasty and no one wants to see a desperate grab for a breast, penis or butt. This is not acceptable anywhere other than a small setting with you and your partner and never, even remotely, acceptable in a group setting.

Dry humping, the fourth degree of PDAs, is not acceptable in public under any circumstances unless, you should be by yourself with your partner. No particular kind of setting will do. You should be alone and sure that no one else will see.

The bottom line here: keep your personal displays of affection just that - personal displays of affection. Chances are no one other than you and your partner wants to see it. It is nice when you want to share your love or lust with your partner, but you don't need to physically share your love with the rest of the world.

Frightening costume Faux-Pas

By De'Adra Walker
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For the typical college student, the end of October means a few different things. It signals the middle point of the fall semester and the swift kick some may need to push themselves into gear academically. For students in Erie, it signals the skipping of autumn and the beginning of Erie's frigid winter. Most importantly, the end of October signals Halloween.

In traditional American culture, Halloween is a time for people to dress up in elaborate costumes and parade through neighborhoods demanding sweet things to eat. This is basically a free ticket to step outside the realms of what is real for one night and run amuck. The key to getting away with this suspension of belief in reality is the perfect costume.

Choosing the perfect costume can easily be as big of a deal as choosing the right school, the most fitting career, or even the ideal life partner. Because such a heavy weight lies upon choosing the ultimate costume, a few rules for the selection process must be put into place and followed in order to ensure a successful night.

First and foremost, Halloween does not provide an acceptable excuse for collar popping. Period. Or wearing Ugg boots. That is unacceptable year around.

Second, ladies - please beware of what is being dubbed the "Mean Girls" approach to Halloween. Anyone who is familiar with this teen comedy can recall the scene when the girls prepared for their Halloween party. In this scene, it was stated that Halloween is the only time when young women can dress in an overly provocative manner. Thus, extremely slinky skirts and barely-there tops are allegedly acceptable. Let's attempt to stay classy this year, ladies. If not for self respect, then for the simple fact that we do live in Erie and that can mean anything from sunshine to a tsunami.

Halloween weekend should be a time of friends, music, candy and fun. Happy costuming, Penn State Erie.

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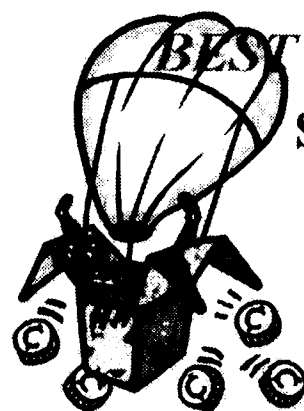
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