

STUDENT LIFE

Students love Christmas classics

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As Thanksgiving leftovers remain in refrigerators and Black Friday kicks off holiday shopping, everyone knows that it is time for Christmas. With the Christmas carolers and Christmas cookies come the Christmas classics. Many of us remember watching Christmas movies from early childhood on and have developed a media-oriented tradition of watching these films. Behrend students love the Christmas classics just as much as anyone else and many wanted to share their favorite memories of select movies.

Everyone's favorite reindeer made his annual appearance on CBS this past Wednesday, Nov. 30. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

premiered on NBC Dec. 6, 1964 and is known as the longest-running, highest-rated holiday special. This claymation (animation with clay figures) stop-motion film was digitally re-mastered in 1998 and maintains its status as a family favorite. Freshman Justin Baker's favorite Christmas story is "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" because he loves the Abominable Snowman. Baker said, "My favorite part of the movie is when the Abominable Snowman falls down and everyone thinks he's dead, but he bounces back up."

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is freshman Nathan Wendell's favorite Christmas movie as well. He explained that it is his favorite because "It's claymation... Honestly, claymation rules!" He mentioned that his favorite part is when Rudolph and Santa are "singing their butts off." Freshman Thomas Coyer has enjoyed "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" since he was a small child. He said that he enjoys the movie because "[he] remembers when [he] and [his] sisters and mom and dad would watch it all together around Christmas time every year." Coyer said that he especially enjoys the concluding scene in which "Yukon Cornelius and the Bumble put the star on the tree because the Bumble is the only one tall enough... Bumble rocks!" He also said that he hopes to receive a DVD of claymation classics this Christmas.

Even though Rudolph is a great symbol of Christmas, who does not love Charlie Brown? "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was released only one year after "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and won an Emmy Award for being an "Outstanding Children's Program." This was the first of the Peanuts animated films and is

highly regarded in millions of hearts including those of Behrend students. Senior Pat Carver said that he loves "A Charlie Brown Christmas" because "Charlie Brown is cool!" Carver said that his favorite part is the happy ending. "[Charlie Brown] got this horrible Christmas tree and then everyone makes it beautiful and... lives happily ever after," said Carver. Freshman Michael Ouellette also enjoys Charlie's pitiful Christmas tree. He said he does not have a favorite scene in particular, but, "any scene with Snoopy in it is always good."

"You'll shoot your eye out!" For millions of people, this exclamation evokes memories of anxiety and participation as felt by Ralphie Parker in "A Christmas Story." "A Christmas Story" was first aired in 1983 and starred Peter Billingsley who played Ralphie. Of course, no one can forget Ralphie's wish of an official Red



Ralphie Parker takes aim with his prized Christmas present, a Red Ryder BB gun.

Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle. This movie has special meaning to three Behrend students in particular. Freshman Heather Smith said that she has made this movie a tradition to watch every Christmas because "it's really funny." She said that as she watches the movie again this year, she will look forward to seeing her favorite scene. She said she likes the Chinese restaurant scene best especially when "the Chinese people try to sing 'Deck the Halls.'" Sophomore Maggie Causgrove also watches "A Christmas

Story" annually because it is "a good movie." She said that her favorite scene is the one in which "[Ralphie] is sitting in Santa's lap to ask for the BB gun and Santa says 'You'll shoot your eye out, kid!' and kicks Ralphie down the slide." Freshman Jamie Morgan said that she "always watched ['A Christmas Story'] during Christmastime" because she "also had a BB gun when [she] was little so [she] thought it was neat." She said that she most remembers the leg lamp, and her favorite part is "when [Ralphie] beats up the bully and goes crazy."

These Christmas movies are only a small representation of all the wonderful films that have been placed in our hearts over the years. As we love to solve the puzzle of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with our families or at "Home Alone," we realize that Christmas is the time of year for giving. So share those wonderful Christmas classics with family and friends, and remember that "It's a Wonderful Life." When Santa finishes his job of supplying gifts to all the children of the world on Christmas Eve, you can bet he will say, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight!"

Black Friday Blues:

Is it really worth it?

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The sun is barely visible, the temperature is freezing and there is a line of people of all ages wrapping around every retail building in America. Millions of bargain hunters wait outside doors of popular stores with the hope of being one of the lucky customers to get the good deals "while supplies last." This unique shopping scene is what Americans have come to know as "Black Friday," the biggest shopping day of the year. The National Retail Federation said that nearly 46 percent of the American population was out Friday, Saturday and Sunday spending more than \$23 million.

Freshman Cara Jones made sure she was up in time to make it to the Ross Park Mall in Pittsburgh to catch some early bird specials. Unfortunately, because of the massive crowd, perpetual lines and chaotic mess, she bought just a few clothing items at regular price. Jones said that she tried her best to shop at her leisure, but "the crowd was just ridiculous, you couldn't even move." Fourth semester student Brian Hutchinson avoided the department store disarray Friday; rather, decided to try his Christmas shopping on Saturday. "I knew there would be sales on Friday, but I didn't think it was worth it for all of the craziness." He said that he too felt as though it was just a usual trip to the mall, no special buys, no extraordinary deals, just a lot of people in one place at the same time.

Cara and Brian are like millions of shoppers who hope to find a break in the prices around the holiday shopping time but end up not and sometimes shoppers spend more than they had intended. The reason for this is strategic advertisement. Chances are you're not going to find a brand new laptop for \$400 any other day of the year. Shoppers will get up with enough cushion time before the store opens, wait outside and when the doors are finally unlocked, they bolt directly to the computer section to pick up their \$400 laptop. They arrive only to find that the store's entire supply of \$400 laptops are sold out, but...they do have in stock a comparable machine for only \$899.99. The buyer might then consider the time and effort he or she put into obtaining a laptop, settle for this one and pay more than double what he or she had planned.

A lot of stores do not offer any deals at all, but because of their convenient locations inside malls next to the stores that do, their sales also sky-rocket. In 2004, Visa reported a 14.3 percent transaction increase and competitor Mastercard checked in with an 8 percent increase.

So what about those who avoided the jumble all together? "Cyber Monday" is a more recently developed epidemic for holiday shoppers. "Cyber Monday," traditionally the Monday after Thanksgiving is the highest internet retail sales day of the year. Major retailers such as Lillian Vernon, JC Penney and Chadwicks will bring in close to 16 percent more on this day than any other day in the year.

Fashion Column: Clothing makes the major

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Obviously clothing and the things carried on a person make a statement about their wearer. A uniform for one's job can easily indicate what that job is and, in some cases, what that job entails. A hooded sweatshirt with a college logo may indicate where one attends school. In addition, I have come to the conclusion that one's attire also holds the ability to tell one's major.

I initially came to this realization while sitting in Bruno's with my best girlfriend during the café's busiest time: lunch time. Between the hours of noon and about two in the afternoon, a sea of students floods the place and, in a Darwinian battle, all fight to the death (or until they have to go to class) standing in line waiting for something to eat. In that sea, students from each major offered are present. Anyone even slightly acquainted with the laws of nature knows that safety lies in numbers so, out of fear, students tend to stay close to those in their specific major. My friend and I made a guessing game out of observing this phenomenon. In watching the smaller herds of students move within the bigger sea, certain clothing characteristics

can be noted that can aid in the determining of said herd's major.

For example, one of the easiest to identify are the male engineers. This herd is one of the most prominent on Behrend's campus and also one of the largest. While broken up into subcategories with slightly different looks, there is a common trait that runs within about two-thirds of this particular population jeans with brown belts worn with tucked in shirts and brown shoes. This look is occasionally topped off with a baseball cap, or, on the chillier days, a hooded sweatshirt.

Another easily identifiable group is the business students. The alpha males tend to dress in higher name brand button down long sleeved shirts or polo shirts, tailored denim jeans, sleek footwear and a cell phone that is permanently attached to some part of their bodies. Their counterparts, the alpha females, appear in a similar manner sporting frilly dress shirts, primarily black dress pants and black heeled shoes. Sadly, both have fallen victim to the popped collar.

Also easily spotted are the male communications students. To the untrained eye, they can be easily confused with the engineering males on account of a shared love of hooded sweatshirts. However, the communications males are only pretending to present the laid

back look of engineers. Closer examination will show that the letters "AERO," or the words "American Eagle" are branded across their chests.

Finally, I will take time to examine my home group, the creative writing students. The writing students would be one of the trickiest groups to identify if not for a few subtle, but very important, traits. First, there is the means by which they carry their belongings. A writing major's choice bag is the messenger bag. This is not done for fashion reasons, but more so to distribute the weight of their books so as not to strain the typical lanky and awkward body type they don. Second, is their always stylish eyewear. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, thick plastic-rimmed glasses with lenses tickled with fingerprints that resulted from failed attempts to push the glasses up by their nosepiece.

In conclusion, the next time you are brave enough to venture into Bruno's during lunch time, take that bravery to a new level. Step away from the safe confines of your own group. Turn that sea of students into a melting pot, watch business students and the engineers eat from the same deli line and take time from chomping your chicken wrap to hold hands and hum "Kumbaya."


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