

## STUDENT LIFE

## SGA offers ISBN service

By Jeff Smen  
staff writer  
js5029@psu.edu

It's the beginning of the semester, and all students have to do something they dread: buy textbooks. While most students buy their books at the Behrend bookstore, others buy them online, but knowing if you're buying the right book can be a pain, especially if the book has already been purchased and the professor says it's not needed for the class. The SGA hopes to make the process of buying textbooks online a little easier.

On the SGA homepage is a link where students can look up ISBN numbers for their classes. The ISBN is a number on the back of every textbook near the serial bar that helps identify the textbook. When buying a book online, most

online sites will ask for the number to insure a student doesn't get the wrong book, or the wrong edition of a similar book.

Unfortunately, the SGA did not get all of the ISBN numbers on their website for the present semester. Lori Lawhead, the secretary of the SGA, said, "There are a total of 220 full and part time faculty at Behrend. The SGA sent out an e-mail asking professors for the ISBNs of the book they use and we got around 75. We're hoping to get a complete list next semester."

The internet has many different sites students can use to check out the prices and buy the books they will need. Amazon, BigWords, eCampus and CheapestTextBooks are only a few of the companies selling textbooks on the web. Students who still have textbooks left over from the previous semester

can also sell their textbooks at some of the same sites listed above.

Matt Cherpak, a second semester Management Information Systems major, said, "I almost always buy my books online and I hate trying to search for the book I need for a class. Putting the numbers online will be a big help."

Erin Schroll, a fourth semester accounting major, said, "I never bought any of my books online, but I think it will make it much easier for students who do buy books online. I might consider buying some of my books online if I remember to next semester."

Brandon Eckstrom, a fourth semester business major, said, "I think it's a great idea, it will definitely make buying books way easier."

## The Bombing of eBaum's World popular website earns widespread ire

By Bryce Sayers  
contributing writer  
bas5004@psu.edu

The humor website ebaumsworld.com is host to many jokes that entertain college students, but the recent unpleasantness affecting the site is no laughing matter to its owner, Eric Bauman. eBaum's World is a webpage that features humorous content, mostly digital animation and movies. The site receives an incredible amount of visitors, but it also has made many enemies. Its critics accuse Bauman of using content that was posted on other humor sites and claiming it as property of the site. What is known is that most of the content on eBaum's World is submitted to Bauman from his supporters via e-mail. Bauman gives no public credit

to the creators of the content he hosts on his website, and the winners of submission contests may not be the original creators. What many of them are truly upset about is the fact that their work originally appeared on sites that earn little to no money, while eBaum's World is a corporation that, according to Wikipedia.org, makes over six thousand dollars a day by selling advertisers space on his website. Many of the anti-eBaum sentiment comes from members of somethingawful.com and fark.com, who have claimed that some of their stories and humorously Photoshop-altered pictures were posted on eBaum's World without their permission and rebranded with the eBaum's World logo. Such complaints have been made for some time, but the tension or proves the lack of facial expressions that YTMND targeted.



Michelle Vera Surovic/THE BEHREND BEACON

This Beacon rendering of multiple pictures of Lohan spliced together does not seem salient until a joke about 19-year-old actress Lindsay Lohan emerged on the site. The material in question was titled "Lindsay Lohan Doesn't Change Facial Expressions," a series of fast-moving pictures of her that have remarkably similar facial expressions. The humor website ytmnd.com (short for "You're the man now, dog!") (YTMND) which was Sean Connery's catchphrase in the movie *Finding Forrester*) had a recurring theme of "Doesn't Change Facial Expressions" for some time, including a Lindsay Lohan animation that appeared on the site before the animation on eBaum's World. Eric Bauman stated that his website's version of the Lohan joke was submitted in a contest, and he has permission from the author. He also claimed that he always allows complaints to be filed when someone cries intellectual property theft and that he has heard nothing from the man who claimed to have created the animation on ytmnd.com. At 3 a.m. on Jan. 11, however, the Lindsay Lohan animation was removed from eBaum's World, even though the link to it still exists in the article that addressed the controversy. Max Goldberg, creator and webmaster of YTMND, recognized that tensions were rising as members of his website were posting anti-Bauman videos and messages on the site's forum. On Jan. 8 at midnight, members of ytmnd.com's forum, as well as members of Something Awful's forums and other websites "raided" the forum of eBaum's World. The nature of the raid was their attempts to access the forums en masse in order to overwhelm the servers and force the website to temporarily shut down. According to an anonymous

source, who was present online for much of the controversy, there was some unauthorized illegal activity in the raid, such as hackers who redirected page requests to other pages (inappropriate sites instead of ebaumsworld.com), but according to the source, "these individuals were rogue elements and did not have the general support of the YTMND community." Goldberg assumed no responsibility for the attack and deplored the incident. Later that day, the front page of YTMND had a statement from Goldberg about the attack, "I tried to stop this all when it was just a snowball, but it just turned into an avalanche... it affects a lot more than just ebaumsworld.com and really crosses the line." He has also warned that his website is now in danger of retaliation. Despite the admonishment from Max Goldberg and Bauman's denial of stealing content, the anti-eBaum sentiment still exists within YTMND and many content-creation websites throughout the internet. On Jan. 11, Goldberg posted on his website an e-mail from Neil Bauman, the vice president of eBaum's World and father of Eric Bauman. The e-mail was titled "Cease and Desist." The language of the message was informal, implicated Max as responsible for the raid, accused him of advocating the death threats Bauman received and insulted the members of the YTMND community. Goldberg asked Neil Bauman over a telephone message for verification that the e-mail was indeed his. Bauman's reply to the voice mail confirmed the previous message, including a racial slur and warned Goldberg, "Soon you will be contacted by Federal Investigators." Goldberg sent Neil Bauman a reply, which is posted in the same article that contains the two messages from Bauman. In it he restated that he was trying to prevent his users from attacking eBaum's World and has tried to minimize the anti-eBaum content on his site. After receiving the tirade from Bauman, however, Max replied, "If you had been paying attention, for the last three days I have been deleting hundreds of users, sites and posts with pieces of your personal information...I'm done." Goldberg announced at 2:07 p.m. on the same day that all posts on his site with "ebaum" in the title will be deleted by midnight. There has not been a reply from anyone representing eBaum's World. Many websites contain information about the conflict, but finding a neutral source may be difficult due to the inflammatory nature of the subject. The online encyclopedia, wikipedia.org, has extensive information on the parties involved, but the moderators of the site warn that the neutrality of the eBaumsworld.com article and related information is still under review. This event is, at least, an indicator of how serious many people take the work they display on the Internet. As Max Goldberg said in his first article on the raid, "I think there is something to be said for communities coming together for a common goal, even if it is over something so petty."

## Questions for Qwerty

By Jeremy Korwek  
staff writer  
jdk5009@psu.edu

Qwerty,

**I keep hearing from people that they downloaded a cool video or some big file from a program or website called "BitTorrent." What is "BitTorrent" in the first place, and how does it work? Also is using this program illegal? If it's not, how do I get started?**  
-Torrential

Torrential,

BitTorrent is a very widely used type of file sharing system. Basically, a file of any type is broken down into many pieces and is prepared for distribution. The file, in the new, broken up form, is sent to a group of eight computers in a temporary network group called a "swarm." The "swarm" consists of two "seeds," users who have a complete copy of the file in question and six "peers," users who are still downloading the file.

The file in its shattered form is shared among the group; each piece is sent to a different user all the while each user is requesting a different piece from another user. To keep the sharing speed up, the pieces of the file that are fewest in number are requested so that it prevents the network from bottlenecking and reducing the overall network speed. The great thing about BitTorrent is that even before you finish downloading the complete file, you are already sharing the pieces you have with other users creating a sense of community among the BitTorrent users. The distribution of the file allows many more people to obtain a copy of many popular files. This includes new Linux distributions, new open source programs, videos and other large computer files.

On the question of the legality of

BitTorrent files in general, one would have to say that it is legal, mostly because of the fact that many more legal files are shared using BitTorrent than illegal files. Many of the legal files that are distributed include ones that would be too large to be hosted on a regular web server. Some of the largest files are open source operating systems, including, but not limited to Linux, BSD, UNIX and many variations thereof. Each of the operating systems average around 600 MB, and unless the person who is paying for the web hosting is a millionaire or has a million ads on the download page, it would only take a few people trying to download the file to knock down the server and ruin it for everyone.

As for the "illegal" files being shared over BitTorrent, just as in Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc., I believe that the technology itself is not to blame; the people who misuse the technology are the ones to blame. Unfortunately not every one will use technology in the way that the ones in power see fit.

If you still want to get started in using BitTorrent, you will need to download a client program that will allow you to download the pieces of the file that you want. My personal favorite is Azureus because of the clean interface and simple controls. You can download Azureus from their website at <http://azureus.sourceforge.net>. Once you download it or any other client, you can begin the search for "torrent" files. The torrent files contain all the information about who to look at to find the other pieces of the file you want. To find the torrents you want just use your favorite search engine and add the word "torrent" to the end. From there, it is just a period of time until you have the file of your dreams in your hard drive.

## Big Breasts are a Bust

By Michelle Vera Surovic  
photography editor  
ms121@psu.edu

Many women who perceive themselves as flat-chested desire larger breasts. These women do not understand what kind of a curse they are asking for. These oversized mounds of flesh are not as soft as marshmallows or the trademark of the perfect woman.

If a woman thinks she would like larger breasts, then she should try this little experiment. Take a large purse and fill it with canned goods. Make sure there is a good mixture of soups, beans and tuna, just in case this exhaustive experiment causes hunger pangs later on. Wrap the purse around your neck so that the baggage drapes across the chest. Find an oversized hoodie, since nothing else will fit right, to throw over the purse. Now step out into the world with that new seductive figure.

It may not be the same as being naturally endowed, but it is extremely accurate. Try to take a run or jog. Notice the back and neck pain from all that excess weight? Good, because back pain problems are always sexy. Getting strange looks at that chunky but larger pair? Is the attention worthwhile? Do the extra wolf whistles and howls from creepy, nerdy, drunken freshmen with a bad case of beer goggles give a special irreplaceable feeling on the inside?

If a person enjoys the physical pain, the forgoing of all cute clothes and the unwanted attention, then bigger breasts may still rank high on the list of unattain-

able wants. There are countless other benefits to having a smaller rack, such as the ability to stand straight up and still be able to see the feet without strange maneuvering.

Any woman who feels her bust size should directly correlate with her confidence level needs to buy a Wonderbra and stop making excuses. Wishing to look like a professional model is not the answer. Models are paid to look a certain way and have the assistance of a staff of image consultants at their beckoning. Unless modeling is someone's full-time occupation, there is no need to feel inferior to a cover girl that has her imperfections taped and glued away and has special lighting and post-production airbrushing working in her favor.

Real guys prefer all shapes and sizes, so one person's undesired set may be someone else's fantasy. Remember, larger breasts only stay perky for so long. It's only a matter of time before the granny sag steps in.

Dove's campaign for Real Beauty features confident women with all kinds of curves in an attempt to change the stereotype. In an effort to improve the self-esteem of women, Dove has created the Dove Self-Esteem Fund. In another bold move, Dove is planning to air new commercials during the upcoming Superbowl in three weeks. In between commercials featuring beer babes and celebrities singing about soft drinks, Dove's message about the self-esteem of women will provide an interesting contrast. For some, this message might be very refreshing.

**Do you have ideas  
for articles?**

**Send them to us!**

**SLeitor@psu.edu**