

STUDENT LIFE

Dishonesty and deception: Dates gone bad

By Rachael Conway
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Have you ever met someone that you were romantically interested in and were really clicking with that person and everything was great until the two of you went out on a couple of dates? Then, all of a sudden, this person is nothing like you thought he/she was, and you ask yourself, "What the hell was I thinking?"

Many people can have this feeling, and it commonly happens when you find something out about your date that he/she may have been concealing. This was the case for Andy, a junior student here at Behrend.

Andy met a girl at work, and after many conversations on the job, the two decided to go out on a date. They went out to dinner and a movie, and everything was going well.

"We saw each other and went out on a couple more dates over the next two weeks or so, and then I found out some stuff about her from a guy I work with," said Andy. A co-worker informed Andy that the girl he had been seeing has two children. "I was surprised that she didn't bring the kids up at all, but I guess it didn't really bother me that much," said Andy. He continued to see her for a little while longer, until he found out that she was going to have a third child with another man. That was the end of that.

Honesty is important when you are developing a relationship, although some people are misleading on purpose. Kelli, a sophomore at Behrend, learned this the hard way. "I was hanging out with this guy, and I thought he was really nice, but I thought it was weird that when I would ask a question about his ex-girl-

friend. He completely avoided the subject," said Kelli.

Prying into someone's previous love life could make that person change the subject, but in Kelli's case, he was avoiding the topic because he didn't exactly have an "ex." "One night, I was out at the club and I ran into a girl I went to high school with. I pointed my guy out to her and said that I'd been seeing him, and then she told me that he was engaged to her cousin," said Kelli. And again, that was the end of that.

For Andy and Kelli, dishonesty led to the demise of the relationships they were beginning to build. But, in some cases, a person just might turn out to be nothing like you expected. This was the case for Adam, a senior at Behrend. He met a girl, and the two of them talked on the phone for two weeks. Things were going well between them, and they met at a restaurant for their first date. This date went extremely well, so they decided to go out on a second date, which unfortunately didn't go as well as the first. "All she did on our second date was talk about her cows. I couldn't even change the subject," said Adam. Even though she was a little too enthusiastic about her barnyard friends, he saw her again and brought her to the fireworks at Mercyhurst. She met Adam's family there, and again, she couldn't stop talking about her cows. To this day, his family still refers to her as "Cow Paddy."

As you can see, dates might not turn out how you expect them to, and by getting to know someone better, you might find that a certain person just isn't a good match for you. But don't let these stories scare you. Wouldn't you rather have a bad date than no date at all?



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How do I work this thing?

By Logan Stack
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Dear ASCII,

How does a digital camera work?

- Filmfree

Dear Filmfree,

From the person you're photographing to where the film would be, a digital camera works just like an analog camera. The light bounces off the person and goes through the lens, creating an inverted image inside the camera. In an old-style analog camera, the light hits film and causes a chemical change in the film.

In a digital camera, the light hits an array of light-sensitive cells. These cells give off an electric charge based on how much light they are absorbing. The camera turns that charge into a number ranging from zero to 255. These cells can't tell what color light they're receiving though, so your images would be in shades of grey if something else isn't done.

To get colors, the cells are broken into groups of four. Each cell in the group has a filter applied to it, so it only receives red, blue, or green light. The fourth cell is an extra green cell. The human eye is more sensitive to green light than red or blue, so getting green correct is more important. Also, dealing with the cells in groups of four is much more convenient for the computer inside camera because it's a power of two, and computers work best in powers of two.

At this point, light has hit our array of cells and been filtered

into red, green, and blue. When you press the button to take a picture, the 0-255 number is read off of each of these cells and stored in internal memory. This memory is not the same as the Flash card; it's much faster, like RAM on your computer is faster than your hard disk.

Here comes the part where camera manufacturers lie to you: you need the data from all three colors to make a single color pixel. But digital cameras which claim to have 5 million pixels really have 5 million cells. Software in the camera makes a guess at what the value of each pixel is based on the amount of light in each color cell and the amount of color in all the surrounding cells. So it's a bit of a "fudge" to get better resolution.

Once the camera's computer has figured out what all the pixels' colors are, it converts the data into a JPEG image and writes the JPEG to the removable memory (usually a Flash drive).

A good camera may have a gigabyte of internal memory. The processor has to be fast too. It makes several million calculations to write a single photo and has to focus the lens and display to the LCD and make various other internal adjustments. In essence, a digital camera is a very specialized computer small enough to hold in your hand. Good digital cameras are more powerful than the computers you use in the Penn State labs!

Do you have a computer question? Then ask ASCII! Send an e-mail to ASCII@psu.edu with "Ask ASCII" in the subject line, and you may see your question answered in next week's column.

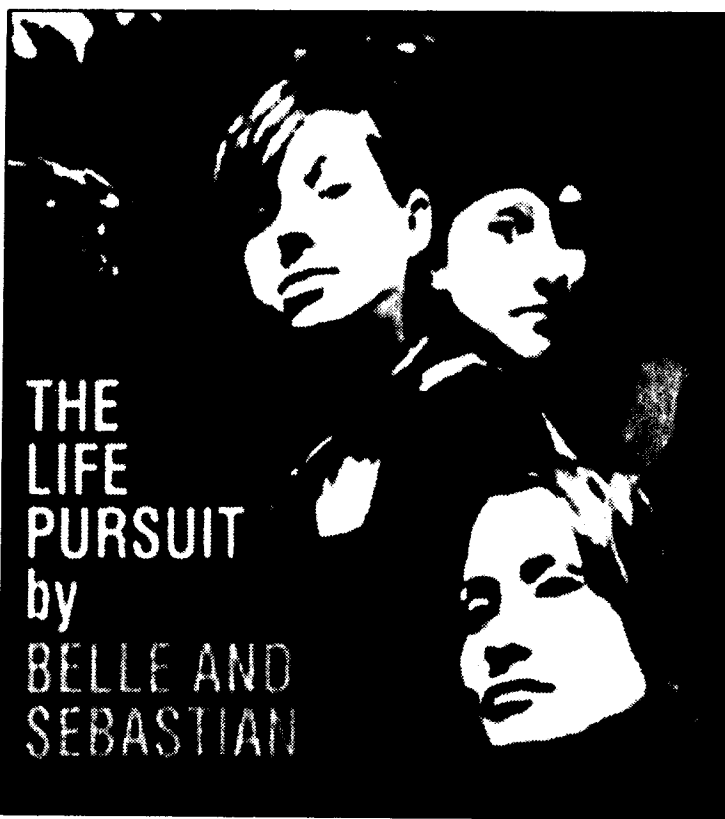
Scottish sensations Belle & Sebastian release *The Life Pursuit*

By Ryan Gallagher
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For anyone who isn't familiar with some of the catchy tunes that Belle and Sebastian has released over the years, I suggest you check them out on Napster. Their newest album, *The Life Pursuit*, should be on your playlist. While it's too hard to compare them directly to any modern band or even genre, they take an approach to their music that is similar to The Strokes or Jet.

That doesn't mean that this album sounds exactly like something the Strokes would release, it just simply means that their music has that vibe to take you back in time to rock music's origin. In comparison to the disposable rock music on today's radio, Belle and Sebastian is a truly unique band. Experimenting with many instruments and even throwing in some blues/jazz material, their album combines many genres into one album. However, the tracks on the album contain a sense of familiarity, even though it is unique to today's standards.

After listening to it a few times, I started to realize that some of the songs contain the overused 60s sound, and some of the simple chord progressions that are the basis for most of their songs sound a little too cliché. Now I don't mean to contradict



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myself since I just said they sound unique, but the main reason their sound is so rare is because they are incomparable to any other modern bands in today's music market. On top of that, a couple of the songs just needed a little more kick, and that brought the album down a bit.

You shouldn't be discouraged if you're considering purchasing the album because their previous album, *Dear Catastrophe Waitress*, should be your Belle and Sebastian album of choice. Something about the tracks on that album will make you want to listen to the entire CD.

As for *The Life Pursuit*, the tracks "For the Price of Tea" and "White Collar Boy" epitomize the sound of Belle and Sebastian. They have a strong, universal sound to them that most people could enjoy, a sound like nothing you've heard in years. Then there are some tracks that just don't do it for me. The songs are too boring, and by that I mean there isn't enough creativity, and I feel there was room for improvement.

But for someone that doesn't get the chance to listen to music that isn't played on the radio, I recommend you check them out just to hear something different. Expand your musical taste to include the unique elements that Belle and Sebastian has to offer. Whether you like the nostalgia of the 60s or are looking for something to break away from the monotony of today's music, I suggest giving this group a chance.

Roundtable Society searching for creative writers to publish

By Zach Mentz
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Roundtable Society is producing the first Behrend student-run literary magazine entitled *Illusions*. *Illusions* will provide a medium for students to display their artwork, photography, short stories and poems. Submissions for the magazine will be accepted until March 3, and the magazine will be distributed in April.

Illusions is a complement to the nationally published *Lake Effect*. *Lake Effect* was developed by George Looney, Behrend's department head of Creative Writing, and began as a collection of writings produced by students at Behrend. Since its creation, the magazine has graduated to incorporate the work of writers and photographers outside of the University. Now, the magazine is recognized on a national level, leaving little room for Behrend's aspiring writers.

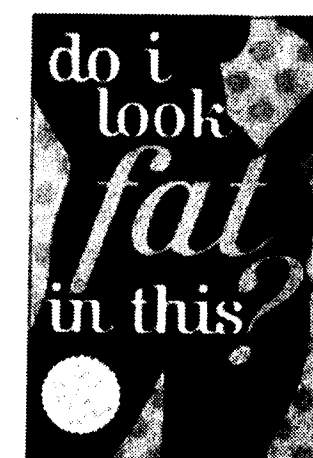
Prema Bangera, president of Roundtable Society, identifies the lack of outlets for the creative students within our campus. "Since Behrend is the only campus that offers Creative Writing as a major in the commonwealth of Penn State, I feel that it's necessary for students to have the chance to enter the publishing world while attending school." The proposed magazine will have about eighty pages and offers a medium that Bangera identifies as

being "uncensored." The only requirement is that the writing and photographs must be "good and done tastefully." *Illusions* is one of Roundtable Society's attempts to rejuvenate interest for the arts on campus. In addition to the magazine, the club is planning open mics, slam poetry performances and a night of "Dubious Taste," an annual event that focuses on the darker side of literature.

The lack of art on campus is not a problem that Roundtable Society faces alone. The Student Government Association recognizes only five of over ninety of the clubs and organizations on campus that fall under the umbrella of art. Besides the Roundtable Society, Jazz Club, Matchbox Players, Gospel Choir, and Screen Visions are the only clubs which are governed by the Student Government's Art Council. The Student Activity Fee (SAF) has recognized this problem as well and have provided funding for *Illusions*, hoping that the magazine might fill a void in the interests of students and spur future art-promoting programs.

To submit work for *Illusions*, send your submissions to the Roundtable Society Mailbox (located in the basement of Reed Building in Club Mailboxes—Suite A) or mail it to MB# 491. Submissions must enclose a self-addressed envelope, your PSU email address and a cover letter. For writers living off-campus, please enclose a stamped envelope. These restrictions will allow Behrend writers to develop the skills for submitting work to national publications.

Write for the Beacon and expand your resumé! To contribute, e-mail us: smm480@psu.edu.



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