

STUDENT LIFE

First date fashion-forward tips

By DeAdra Walker
fashion columnist
February 17, 2006

In the wake of the very Hallmark-ed and commercialized day of hearts, roses and chocolate covered anythings, the world of romance is on complete overdrive and first romantic outings are as abundant as snow in Erie seven months out of the year. Firsts of any kind, whether they are impressions or meetings, hold a very heavy weight. There is only one first time for everything, so it is imperative that one makes that first count. First dates are no different.

First dates can make or break romantic situations. They have the ability to open up doors to new relationships or remind individuals why they stepped back from the dating scene to begin with. Either way, no one enters these situations expecting the worst.

Thus, we as human beings attempt to control the situation in any way that we can. The simplest way to do this is by making attempts to "dress to impress."

There is nothing wrong with wanting to look nice for your date. As a young woman, I think that I would appreciate a well dressed gentleman on a dinner date. This in my mind would show that he put some thought into his presentation before the outing. However, if the gentleman looks stuffy and uncomfortable in his pleated khaki pants, loafers,

buttoned down white shirt and sweater vest, then there are some problems. If one prepared for his date by raiding his father's wardrobe, that is not too impressive. On the other end of the spectrum, comfort does not mean pants so big that the waist falls past your knees. No one needs to see your Scooby Doo boxers. Belts have a purpose, but while you are using one, it's nice if it matches your shoes.

Young women do not get off easily in this aspect either. Girls like to feel pretty. Wear your lacy romantic top. Try out that new skirt. However, if you stumble like a toddler in those new stilettos, leave them at home. Either practice walking in them before your date, or pray that you saved your receipt so you can at least get some store credit for them. In addition, ladies, classy is not trashy. Simply remember that micro-mini skirts and ultra low rise jeans with thighs hanging over the waists send messages that are

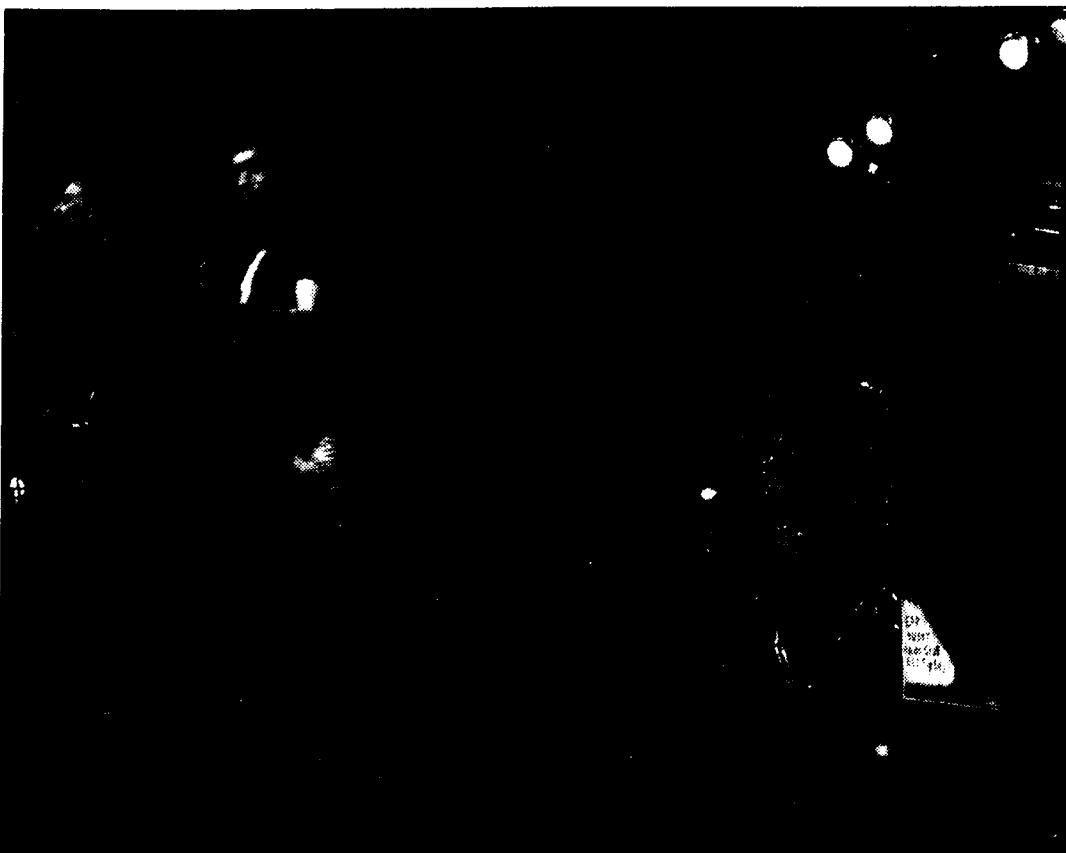


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received quite loudly.

The point is, if you do not appear comfortable, then that will show to whomever you are on your date with. With comfort comes confidence. Confidence, not to be confused with cockiness, is a highly attractive quality. You can't be confident when you are tripping over your jeans or stumbling around in stilettos. Play it safe, and enjoy your date.

Battle of the Bands strikes a chord



Laney Niedenberger/THE BEHREND BEACON

Drive-Thru Records band I Am The Avalanche performed at this year's Battle of the Bands.

By Matt Burneisen &
Jonathan Evans
staff writers
April 14, 2006

From the ecstatic stage presence of Tommy Magik and The Wonderfulls to the unique sound of Tricycle Bicycle Cycle, Battle of the Bands '06 at Penn State Behrend was an exciting event. Several students and music fans checked out the event throughout the day, but Eric Hall was most packed when Tommy Magik and the Wonderfulls took the stage. Early on in the day, the small crowd was more into the free hot dogs and hamburgers than the music. Mas Nova opened up the event with a small but loyal hometown crowd in Eric Hall. The band played impressively and set a standard of professionalism for the more experienced bands to follow.

Kevin Jackson, who worked security for the event, stated that the competition "started as a slow event, but picked up as the night went on."

There's Always Tomorrow was scheduled to perform at 3:30 p.m., but ended up not making it. It turns out they had their final show as a band the night before at a local venue called The Hangout in Edinboro, Pa.

Next up was the psychedelic sounds of Tricycle Bicycle Cycle. They are a Pittsburgh-area band who recently played at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. They only recently formed, though they say that they "all go way back."

Not as traditional as other rock bands, they implement other instruments such as the tambourine and the cow bell. Their lyrics stray from normal rock topics into "songs about Mexican wrestlers, mescaline, and monkeys."

Led by the on stage acrobatics of Dave Trusso and Eric Speeth. Everything Ends

brought a high level of energy and more fans into Eric Hall. Their brand of post-hardcore and punk rock made them stand out. This Jamestown crew plans to release a new EP entitled "Chasing the Ever After" today.

Playing fourth, Dust 'n Ashes not only brought along a great sound, but also a tighter crowd than previously seen throughout the battle. David Dubowski, a Behrend student and talented local musician said, "They performed well and showed to me that they have been performing together for quite a while. They definitely had their act together. The bass player (Matt Green) picked up his role in the band quite well and really held down the low end. He also kept the rock style that they were looking for going strong."

Dubowski's statement proved correct when the three judges awarded Dust 'n Ashes first place in the Battle of the Bands for their spiritual performance.

Bringing the rowdiest crowd of the night, Tommy Magik and the Wonderfulls were on stage during the first ejection of the night. Kevin Jackson, who earlier said, "Everybody was behaving well..." was proven wrong during their performance.

A herd of their drunken fans gathered and started crowd surfing, which led to the dismissal of one of the fans. Ben Winfield, who joined the Pittsburgh-based band in December of '05, said, "The arrangement for the show was a little different than other similar events I have been to. We had ten minutes to set up with only about twenty minutes to actually play our set afterward. We had to wait the whole ten minute setup time before we could begin instead of just playing when we were ready which was a little different."

Their progressive rock sound and Behrend campus ties made them a crowd favorite of the night. Winfield

also said that the band is currently writing and recording a new CD that will be released before the end of the year.

As Tommy Magik and the Wonderfulls exited with the majority of the crowd, the next band, the Sandlot Heroes, took the stage. They still have four shows still to play in April, beginning with a show at the Hawk's Nest, which is located at the University of Hartford. They then will travel between New Jersey and Pennsylvania for the rest of May.

Next to perform was another Pittsburgh band called California After College, also known as "Cali AC." The pop punk licks of their song "Tracing Chalk Lines" caught the judges attention but was overshadowed by their tight rhythm section. Cali AC's next stop is at the Nativity Church/School in South Park, Pa.

Next on the stage was Phantasm. This Jamestown-based group boasts a packed tour schedule throughout the Northeastern United States this coming Spring. They have scheduled stops in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. They also performed at Bruno's Café last night.

Finally, Audio Imagery took the stage to close out the battle portion of the evening. This hip hop/rap/rock group brought their unique, crowd-pleasing unique sound to the stage. They are a very experienced band who have played with artists such as Rusted Root, Ill Nino, Fall Out Boy, Oleander, Sponge, The X-Ecutioneers, Freeway (Rock-a-Fella), Bowling for Soup and Black Thought (The Roots) just to name a few. Other Penn State students will have a chance to enjoy their music when they play at The Crowbar in State College on April 24. Overall, the professionalism of the bands and the quality of their performances made for a successful event.

Sex Column: Are we obsessed?

College students' morals diminishing quickly

By Jennifer Haight
news editor
September 30, 2005

What is our fascination with sex? When did it begin? Are we, college students, obsessed with sex? Have our parents' worst nightmares come true? Are we oversexed, over boozed and demoralized? I can't go a day without hearing some kind of sexual innuendo. I know that I can't go a day without making some kind of reference to sex. But I am by no means "obsessed" with it. Or am I? I don't do it everyday or every other day for that matter. In fact, I have virgin friends and they talk about the deed even more than some of my super sexually active friends. So maybe it is an obsession with the idea of sex.

Who says sex is all that bad anyway? As long as it is consensual, sober and protected, it's all good. Sex can teach some very important lessons that we can't learn from any classes, parents or other forms of media. It teaches us that there is a whole different level to love. Not to say that love isn't love without sex, but it does put a relationship on a different plateau. Intercourse changes things. The first time a couple does "it," it brings a completely new level of intimacy to the relationship. You have given a great gift to someone and it brings you that much closer.

Then, there's the other kind of sex, the kind people have when they are drunk, using poor judgment and ashamed to admit they have. This is the kind of sex we have to worry about. If you ever find yourself about to engage in this kind, you need to stop yourself and just walk away. This kind has conse-

quences far greater and worse than the kind where our hearts are involved. Granted that these consequences may at first seem temporary, but the shame that you have to live with can be so unbearable.

The media glorifies sex. So why can't we? Television shows allude to it all the time - so do magazines and music. Sex and the concept of it is nothing foreign to us. Is there a time and place for sex? Should it stay in the bedroom? I think so. I also think that it stayed behind bedroom doors for so long that it was bound to emerge, much to our elders' chagrin. So sex is out, everyone knows about it, everyone talks about it, will it ever go back into the bedroom?

Maybe it's just a phase. There's always a chance that we will grow out of this sexually charged state that we're in. We may grow up and look back on some of the values we hold now and shake our heads.

Even though sex should be put back in the bedroom, it probably won't. This is because our generation has already shown to be a little less conservative than the generations before us. As the generations grow up, it is very possible that the conservative inklings that we all have will start to dissipate and thus make a much more liberal generation, allowing for even more than an obsession with the idea of sex, but for an obsession with the act of it.

I say, go ahead, have your fun but don't go crazy. Use good judgment and try not to do anything you'll regret the next morning.

Halloween spirit starts in Senat Hall

By Melissa Whitten
staff writer
October 14, 2005

Not a fan of ghouls, guts and gore? Then perhaps you should take a slightly less-morbid approach to Halloween this year and get involved in a child-centered program sponsored by Penn State Behrend University. This year's featured events include Trick-or-Treating at Senat Hall and a Halloween party in the Penn State Behrend Bookstore. Trick-or-treating will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22, for children under the age of 12 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Residents of Senat planned the

event and will be handing out candy door-to-door. There will also be a variety of activities that include crafts for participating sweets-seekers. Cookies and cider will be served for everyone. Students who organized the program are working hard, planning for the expected 30 plus attendees. An event of this size requires a great deal of planning. "It's still a work in progress," Jeff Barber, Hall Council President, says, "we're going to have a lot for the kids, carved pumpkins on every floor and decorations all over the building" Helping the students of Senat who planned the event is Residents' Life Coordinator, Jill Forsman. She

reminds students that if they are interested in volunteering, they can sign up on the bulletin boards outside the elevators in Senat Hall or email Senat Vice President, Mike Bergstrom at meb5072@psu.edu by Oct. 19. Volunteers are still needed to take children around the building, and to work at the various craft tables. Oct. 22 is also Penn State's open house day and would be an excellent time to get involved and meet people. Invited to the event are all children of students, faculty and staff, along with all the children at the Child Care Center and Erie area children that are involved in Make-A-Wish. The Halloween party in the book-

store will be held the following Saturday, Oct. 29, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. On the agenda are games, crafts, snacks and spooky storytelling for kids. Miss Spider, from the popular children's book series by David Kirk, will be making a guest appearance to add to the festive spirit. She is also bringing a special treat for each child wearing a costume at the event. The bookstore, which is located on the bottom floor of the Reed Union Building, can be contacted for more information at 898-6236, or Acting Public Information Coordinator, Christine Palattella can be reached at 898-6063.

The Beacon
staff wishes
all Behrend
students a
safe and fun
summer!