

THE BEHREND BEACON

Bob Dylan: At least he has longevity on his side



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Modern Times is Dylan's first release in 30 years to reach the top of Billboard's 200 chart; it moved around 192,000 copies.

By Chris LaFuria
news editor

The first time Bob Dylan came out with an album, Johnny Carson had just taken over "The Tonight Show," John Glenn made it to space for the first time, Kennedy tried to stop the USSR from building missiles in Cuba, and Jamaica became independent. After the release of his self-titled debut album in March 1962, the 20-year-old Dylan took the New York folk scene by storm, releasing several captivating albums, including "The Times They Are A-Changin'," whose title track was sung on the steps of Washington D.C. minutes before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous speech.

Forty-four years later, Dylan is at it again, with his first new release since September 2001. *Modern Times*, whose name is taken from a 1936 Charlie Chaplin flick, contains songs covering every topic from his recent obsession with modern-day pop stars, "I was thinkin' 'bout Alicia Keys/Couldn't keep from crying/When she was born in Hell's Kitchen/I was living down the line," to his trouble with women, "I'm flat out spent/This woman she been drivin' me to tears/This woman so crazy/I swear I ain't gonna touch another one for years."

While taking a turn from his signature folk style, *Modern Times* reveals Dylan's consummate transition from simple guitar/harmonica hybrids to a more complete hillbilly-type boxcar sound. In addition to himself on the guitar, harmonica and piano, Dylan employs more guitars, violins, violas, steel guitars, a mandolin, and a cello.

While all of the songs are written by Dylan himself, the influences and resources are limitless. There's "Rollin' and Tumblin'," which is

Dylan's modification of the '50s hit by Muddy Waters. "Nettie Moore" is a song which derives from a ballad from the 1860s by the Sons of the Pioneers.

Aside from instrument selection, Dylan has taken more control over the album. Under the pseudonym "Jack Frost," Dylan produced every track on the album. "I felt like I've always produced my own records anyway," Dylan said in an interview with Jonathan Lethem of Rolling Stone, "except I always had someone there in the way."

Dylan and his band are underway with a new tour supporting *Modern Times*. For the tour and the production of the album, he collected what he calls his favorite band ever assembled. Along with Dylan are Tony Garnier, his bandmate since 1989, on the bass and cello, drummer George G. Receli, guitarists Stu Kimball and Denny Freeman and multi-instrumentalist Donnie Herron on steel guitar, violin, viola, and mandolin. Dylan also revisits some of his noteworthy tracks from earlier in his career such as "Forever Young," "Tangled Up in Blue" and "Like a Rolling Stone."

Currently, *Modern Times* sits at number one on the Billboard 200 album chart and holds the top spot on the Top Internet Albums chart. Furthermore, the album is presently the leading seller on Amazon.com.

After his 44th release, Dylan shows no signs of slowing down. *Modern Times* is the third installment of a trilogy that started back in 1997 with the release of *Time Out of Mind*. Following was *Love and Theft*, released in 2001. "I think I'm in my middle years now," Dylan tells Lethem, "I have no retirement plans."

Getting involved is important for first-year students

By Kate Kelecseny
opinion editor

Educational environments are established to create an atmosphere to better facilitate learning and instructive processes. However, as it is instilled in all of us, learning is not merely gained within the walls of a classroom. We are constantly urged to apply knowledge to the real world and to gain experience outside confining classroom walls. Research and application of acquired knowledge isn't enough to fully gain real world experience. In high school, many of us joined clubs and activities as a means to either occupy time or to add something else to our resumes for college applications. Teachers and school board members advocated extracurricular activities as they felt such activities promoted working as a team and not as an individual. They were intended to be beneficial, yet at times were simply another roster to which we signed our names. Looking back, I realized that I was literally in over a dozen clubs, of which only two or three I actually dedicated my time to. I had gotten almost nothing out of it.

After being at Behrend for two years, I have finally realized the tremendous importance of getting involved in so-called extra-curricular activities. As many would agree, it is almost painful to admit that my parents and teachers were right; but, in this case, they were. Of course, everyone is hesitant at first to become involved with certain clubs and organizations, as the leap from high school to college is a big enough shock. However, it is essential to become involved. As a freshman, I was cautious to immediately join in the first clubs I came in contact with. In high school, there are assumed reputations and past occurrences that led you to decide what you wanted to become involved in and what exactly you would get out of it. However,

entering Behrend as a freshman or new student is an entirely different ballgame.

One of the most successful and productive events at Behrend is the annual Club Rush. Here, all the clubs and organizations set up a table with representatives to answer any questions and to give you as much insight as possible to their respective club. Signs and posters cover campus bulletins but do not have the same effect as speaking with an actual member. There are always times when we find ourselves in situations where our initial assumption of something is completely different than what it is in actuality. The same idea goes with joining an organization. Obviously, from past activities and your understanding of your own abilities, there are certain things you can immediately rule out. I know that as an English major, joining the plastics engineers on their next project wouldn't be the most intelligent thing for me or the club. That's a given. However, there are over 90 different clubs and organizations on campus with memberships ranging from a handful of students upwards to 50. There is truly something for everyone. Join something because you are interested in it, not merely because your friend is.

I understand that I sound like a parent and am stressing the importance of partaking in such activities; yet, I believe our parents and teachers are correct. I feel that applying yourself in other things outside of the classroom will better enable us for challenges we will face in the real world and in our careers. High school is over, along with the reputations and stereotypes of what is acceptable and popular. Simply walk through the McGarvey Commons on Thursday, September 14th and check out what Behrend has to offer. Get involved. Make the most of your time here at Behrend.

Stratford Shakespeare Festival trip planned for October 14th

By Ashley Bressler
staff writer

Who wouldn't want to spend a day in the lovely Stratford, Ontario watching theatrical performances at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival? The Penn State Behrend Round Table Society and the Matchbox Players are sponsoring an outing on Saturday, October 14, to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, which is held in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. For the past fifteen years, Dr. Dean Baldwin, professor of English and Assistant School Director, has been offering Behrend students the opportunity to experience a culturally and intellectually enriching excursion to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

This year, there are a total of 25 students permitted to attend the festival, along with the two faculty advisors, Dr. Dean Baldwin and Dr. Christine Mangone. According to their website, www.stratfordfestival.ca, Stratford, Ontario, is the home of the largest classical theatre in North America, which came from the dream of Stratford-born journalist, Tom Patterson, in the early 1950's. The festival was a great success within Canada and internationally, and it now attracts more than 600,000 people each year. The festival opens in April and continues to perform Shakespearian and other classical plays throughout the summer and into November.

All students attending the festival will pay a mere \$20 fee, which handles the cost of transportation and a ticket to either Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, or Roger and Hammerstein's musical, *South Pacific*. Dr. Baldwin said, "A lot of students have never seen a real theatrical performance, and it's really important to have an experience like this in college if not before. It's an opportunity to see a play, a really well performed play at a low cost. The performances put on are just as good as any play you could see in London or New York City, but I know you couldn't get it there for only \$20."

Transportation will be provided by two available vans, but students are required to bring either a birth certificate or valid passport to cross into Canada, and additional money for food and any souvenirs they may wish to purchase. All attending will meet in the Reed Union Building parking lot at 7:30 a.m. on October 14. Throughout the four and a half hour trip to Stratford, there will be two scheduled stops. The first stop will be in Buffalo, New York, for gas and to give students the option of getting breakfast at Burger King, and the second stop will be just outside of Stratford for lunch at McDonald's. Students who do not wish to eat at either of these fast food restaurants are encouraged to bring a packed breakfast and lunch. On the way home, the group will make one stop at a restaurant for dinner. The vans are expected to return to the Reed Union Building parking lot by approximately midnight.

"Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, is a romantic comedy involving a love-sick duke, a pair of fraternal twins, the hard-drinking Sir Toby Belch, and the usual Shakespearean love triangles, disguises, mistaken identities, and high jinks. Malvolio, the puritanical butt of practical jokes, provides both humor and pathos," Dr. Baldwin replied.

"Rogers and Hammerstein's classic musical, *South Pacific*, is set in the South Sea Islands during World War II and features a contingent of sailors and nurses. It's a comedy tempered by the realities of the war and is generally considered one of Rogers and Hammerstein's finest collaborations," said Dr. Baldwin.

All students are encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity to see some really great plays, have once of a life time trip to Stratford, Ontario, meet new friends, and get off campus for a day. Dr. Baldwin said, "I strongly encourage everyone to come on the trip. It's a great chance to put down the books, see a little bit of culture, and just have fun."

There are still tickets available for students who are interested in attending the festival, but all interested students must commit to the trip by September 14. Tickets can be paid for in cash or by checks made payable to Penn State University. To purchase a ticket, contact Dr. Dean Baldwin through email dxbl1@psu.edu or at his office, 127 Kochel. Tickets can also be purchased through Dr. Christine Mangone, cbml1@psu.edu or Professor George Looney, goll1@psu.edu.

Dr. Champagne receives prestigious Fulbright Scholar grant

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

Beyoncé's birthday was four days ago. This past Tuesday, Katie Couric became the first female solo anchor of a major television network evening newscast in the United States. New York's Fall Fashion Week kicks-off this weekend. Photographer Annie Leibovitz snapped Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise's lovechild, Suri, for October's issue of *Vanity Fair*, her first publicly released images. Some of these recent events in popular culture are sure to pop up in one form or another in Dr. John Champagne's lectures this fall in Tunisia. Earlier this year, Dr. Champagne, an Associate Professor and Program Chair of English at Penn State Behrend, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach American Studies at the University of La Manouba, located in the city of Manouba in Tunisia. At the school, which has an enrollment of over 30,000 students, Dr. Champagne will conduct courses in mass media, advanced writing, and ethnic minorities in the United States.

Out of all countries, why choose Tunisia? In 2001, only a few short months after the September 11th attacks, Dr. Champagne took a trip overseas to visit Morocco and Tunisia. He tells the Penn State Erie Newswire that during his stay in Tunisia, he noticed how heavily influenced their culture was by American culture, besides the prevalent influence of European cultures. He says he was "particularly delighted by popular Tunisian music, with its incorporation of elements from such diverse sources as American rap, French pop music, and indigenous musical genres." In a course entitled "United States minority/ethnic literature in an international frame, Dr. Champagne will examine how these influences not only affect a culture's musicality, but literature as well.

Another course that Dr. Champagne created, "Analytical approaches to U.S. popular culture," will provide the University's undergraduate roster with the chance to analyze current trends and events in the United States and apply those analyses to their own popular culture. Students will also be able to question how American popular culture affects their lives as a consumer.

A member of Penn State Behrend's English faculty for over 13 years, Dr. Champagne is one of only approximately 800 University professionals in the U.S. to receive the grant. A heavy dosage of teaching experience and a slew of accomplishments certainly helped him to receive the Fulbright award. Not only has Dr. Champagne taught numerous English, literature and film courses, he's also a nationally recognized author, publishing two novels over the past two decades. Throughout his career at Penn State, Dr. Champagne's received numerous other awards, including the Penn State Alumni Association and Student Award for Teaching Excellence and the Behrend College Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Champagne will be overseas for the entire 2006-2007 school year.



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