

STUDENT LIFE

Study Abroad Program Incredible Opportunity

By Lauren Weaver
staff writer

Watching the Eiffel Tower twinkle on the hour, a wild and crazy night of clubbing in Barcelona, standing over the grave of Caesar in the Roman Forum, a stadium full of crazed, drum beating, chanting German soccer fans; perhaps some of these things seem as unlikely to be in your near future as climbing Mt. Everest... without oxygen. But that need not be the case. These opportunities are the "spice of life" study abroad students thrive on. They have the opportunity to experience an unfamiliar culture, landscape, and lifestyle, all while obtaining credits toward graduation. Students can go to the Learning Resource Center (LRC), take any of the multiple pamphlets containing information on 40 different countries, select from 150 various programs, and (with a little help from LRC directors) make a plan and take the jump.

Currently, Penn State Behrend has four students studying abroad. The lucky host countries are Spain, China, England and Costa Rica. Next semester Megan Hammers, a current junior, is flying out to Australia. She's very excited for her upcoming adventure. Traveling and getting away from home are just a couple of the reasons for her enthusiasm. "There's a program for everyone," says Ruth Pflueger, Behrend's International Programs Advisor. Summer programs are open to everyone, while semester and year programs are a little more restrictive. The longer a person's experience abroad the more they will learn. More time also provides more chances to squeeze in that extra weekend trip to wherever. There's a vast array of bonuses, perks, and benefits to going abroad. Pflueger added, "It changes

your perspective in ways you couldn't predict."

Allison Gray, a senior majoring in creative writing, had the experience of participating in a summer program in England for 5 weeks. Beyond normal student life, her favorite part of traveling was the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view some of the most astonishing artwork in the world," she said. Her advice to students unsure of whether or not to take a chance on one of these overseas programs? "Go for it. Spend the loan now and pay for it later. ...It was the most memorable experience of my life and one that I'll cherish for as long as I live." The experience gave her the urge to travel more and explore the variety in the potluck of world cultures, she says. There is no plausible comparison for the friends waiting to be made, the rapid and eye-opening expansion of our "small world" and the influence the entire ordeal will have on your life. A textbook could never convey the things that can be learned abroad.

Penn State offers summer, semester and full year programs all with opportunities for scholarships. If your foreign language skills are iffy, no worries: there are programs in nearly every country that offer classes in English. This also gives the added advantage of accessing unique topics without a language barrier. The only catch is that the priority deadline for the fall semester and for year long exchanges is December 1st.

If you're interested in a chance to jet around the globe, contact Ruth Pflueger and set up a meeting either by phone (814-898-6418), e-mail (repl@psu.edu) or even better, stop in the LRC and take a look at all of the incredible options.

Student Life Snippets

Latin collective Inca Son play Bruno's



INCASON.COM/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

To celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins today, the Rhythms of Life Series presents a performance by the Andean collective Inca Son on September 18 from 12:15 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. in Bruno's Cafe. As a group, Inca Son have been together for over fifteen years, and first won acclaim with a contribution to the score of PBS series Columbus and the Age of Discovery. According to Inca Son's website, the band has a clear and precise goal, "to introduce and educate peoples to the riches of Andean Culture." To do this, the collective dons richly colored, authentic Inca attire to perform the traditional music and dances of Latin America and the Andes Mountains of Peru. Besides performing standard Latin American compositions (which the band does alter slightly to fit their style), the group writes original music as well. The band's discography includes four volumes of music, while songs culled from the albums, including "Ascope Tierra del Amanecer" and "Cholita Tania," were hits in Peru.

Over the years, the band has gained huge acclaim for their unique world musicality. In 1993 and 1995, Inca Son was nominated for the

Boston Music Awards, and in 1997 was voted "Best Local World Music Group Award" in the Boston Phoenix Music Poll. The group has also performed with a slew of professional performers in North America, South America and Europe. As traditional as the band's music is, Inca Son maintains a non-traditional sense of performing. Besides spreading their love of Latin and Incan music to large crowds at big venues, the band plays in schools, museums, private parties, restaurants, theaters, universities and, of all places, on the streets... to keep their cred, of course.

Don't miss your chance to see this incredible collective of musicians perform standard and original Latin American music and dances this Tuesday in the Reed Union Building in Bruno's at 12:15 p.m. The Rhythms of Life Series began in 2002 and is sponsored by the Office of Educational Equity and Diversity Programs and the Student Activity Fee. For more information about the Rhythms of Life Series, please call the Office of Educational Equity and Diversity Programs at 898-6111.

LEB Presents: Comedy X Tour

By Michael Masilunas
contributing writer

The Comedy X Tour is making its last stop at Penn State Behrend on Sunday, September 17. BT, Ray Devito and Danny McDermott are three nationally touring comedians headlining the event. BT has been featured on The Man Show and the HBO movie "Suckers." Ray Devito has been featured on MTV, Entertainment Tonight and XM radio. Danny McDermott has appeared on ABC and been in over 100 commercials. The event is free and open to the public. Prior to the show, there will be a student joke off for prizes. Everyone who attends is also entered to win a one week free course in acting, film or film making courtesy of The New York

Film Academy. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 8:00 p.m. in McGarvey Commons.

The Lion Entertainment Board (LEB) is sponsoring and organizing the event. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact Michael Masilunas at mjm659@psu.edu.

LEB also programs bands and other special events in addition to comedians. This Friday, the band 2 Skinny Dorks will perform in Bruno's. To become involved with LEB attend a meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Reed 114. Visit behrendleb.com to find out extra information on LEB.

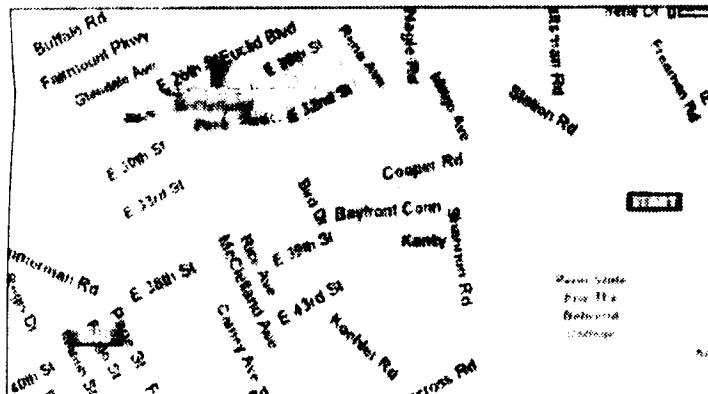
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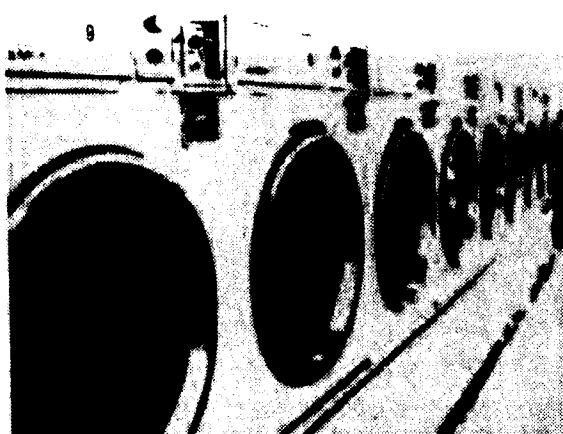
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Lion Entertainment Board's Fall '06 Film Schedule



September 13-16
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September 20-23
The Break-Up

September 27-30
Mission Impossible III

October 4-7
Nacho Libre

October 12-15
You, Me and Dupree

October 18-21
Superman Returns

October 25-28
Pirates of the Caribbean 2

November 1-4
Clerks 2

November 8-11
Accepted

November 15-18
Talladega Nights

November 29-Dec. 2
Beerfest or Idlewild

December 6-9
Invincible or Black Dahlia