

# THE BEHREND BEACON

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A Penn State Erie Student Publication

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"We always make sure people who come to our parties have a safe way home."

- Adam Wilson

## WHO'S INSIDE

"You always have a starter race. Everyone will improve from here."

-Brad Ruffo

## Students concerned with difficulty crossing Jordan Road

By Lenny Smith  
staff writer

Penn State Behrend students are having difficulty crossing roads on campus due to new developments. The Research and Economic Development Center (REDC) forces students to cross Jordan Road, and the University Gate Apartments create foot traffic across Station Road and the Bayfront Connector.

Sophomore Biology major, Brittney Noss, lives in the University Gate Apartments and she believes crossing Station Road is difficult after an incident on her way to classes one morning. Noss, who was running across the street during the safe cross time, tripped in the middle of Station Road during her rush to make it to the other side. "They (the traffic signals) definitely don't give you enough time to cross the road. You'll be in the middle of the four lane highway when the orange hand comes up!"

"They fly down the street, you really have to watch out!"

- Mark Westerlund

Noss has her own ideas on how to solve the problem. "Well, for starters, they could give you more time to cross the streets, but I think in the long run they should invest in some sort of walk way bridge like they have over at the Behrend Fields. It would be a lot safer, especially when winter comes around and there is black



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

With the addition of large numbers of students and traffic, people trying to cross Jordan Road find themselves waiting, due to no crosswalks. This Behrend student waits for his turn to cross the busy Behrend road.

ice (on the roads). A lot of cars speed on Jordan Road and are then forced to stop very quickly once they reach the crosswalk to REDC, which is where the majority of

students cross. This is very dangerous because when students see these cars speeding towards them, they begin to hurry, which could cause them to trip, like Noss, and possibly get injured.

Could the drivers do a better job yielding to the student pedestrians? Mark Westerlund, a freshman, certainly thinks so. "I almost got run over!" Westerlund recalls. Danielle Wilson, a freshman psychology major, agrees. "They fly down the street, you really have to watch out!"

The majority of the students seem to have the same thing to say. Freshman Kayla McLaughlin acknowledged the fact that "the drivers do not yield (to the pedestrians)." Wilson echoes the fact that "the kids who drive down the street never slow down."

Several of the solutions that have arisen are quite simple. First is for drivers to slow down. Just by slowing down, crossing the road will be much safer.

Secondly, posting a pedestrian crossing sign would advise drivers to the highly trafficked area. Another solution would be to place a stop sign on Jordan Road, forcing the drivers to slow and yield to the pedestrians.

Until something is done about the crosswalk from the University Gate Apartments to campus and across Jordan Road to the REDC, students will simply have to stay aware of speeding drivers as they cross the road. Students hope it doesn't take a serious accident to have something done.

## New humor magazine published at Behrend

By Scott Muska  
staff writer

In current times, newspapers report the grim, solid facts, and they are often harrowing and depressing. Articles are frequently written about deaths, war, and other terrible tragedies, and the news is brought to readers lacking one very crucial element to the human condition: laughter.

That is where Behrend's new humor magazine, *Thalia*, comes into play. With stories that make light of serious topics, the publication has the potential to uplift readers' spirits and supply them with side-splitting laughs and an amount of relief from the depression that is found in the news of the present.

*Thalia* is in its first year of publication at Behrend, and one of the founders and main contributors is former notorious humor writer for the Behrend Beacon, Jerry Pohl. Jerry passed up a possible opportunity as the Beacon's humor editor to begin this publication. "I founded that *Thalia*, instead of applying for

Beacon humor editor, for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I didn't want the writers, including myself, to be censored. With a separate publication there's more opportunity for students to get published and get involved."

The beginning of *Thalia* came with a sample issue that was released in late April of last school year. It was a Beacon Humor Page draft that was rejected by the editors.

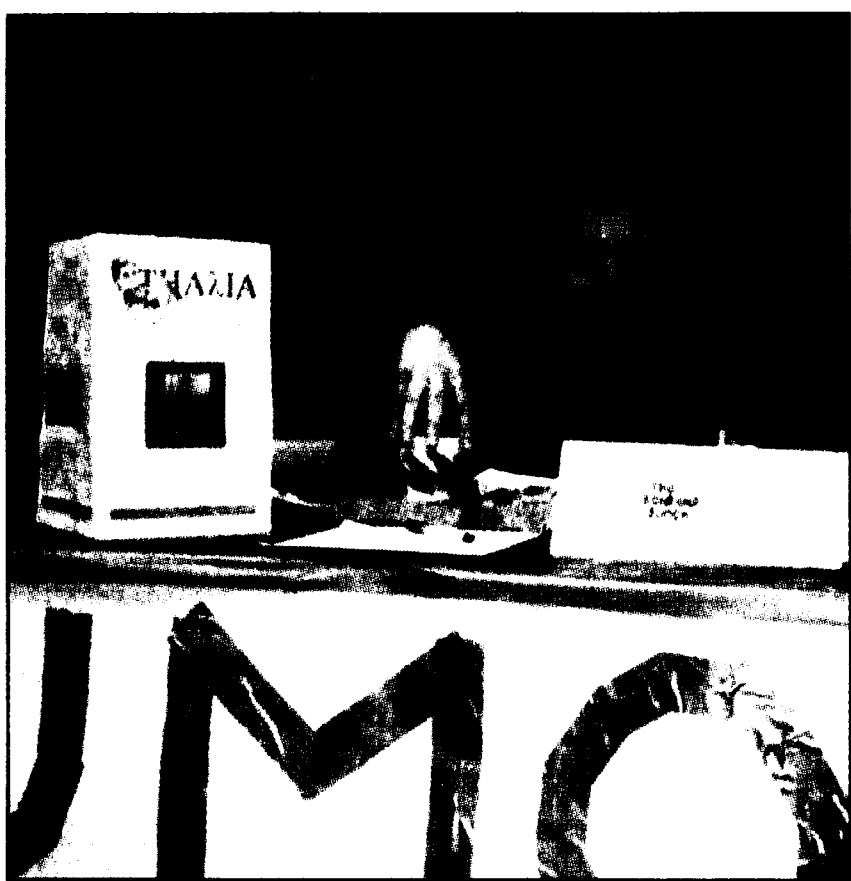
There is no censorship whatsoever in *Thalia*. The group takes on such controversial subjects as Lance Armstrong's LiveStrong bracelets and their possible link to the cause of cancer, and an analysis of the impact that various movies released earlier in the summer had on various religious groups and fans.

The brave contributors to *Thalia*, however, are not swayed or worried about possible friction that their publication could bring about with the public. When Pohl was asked about possible cause for worry about those objecting to their controversial subject matter, he said that "There's always the possibility that someone will choose to be offended. If and when someone has a complaint, I will handle it."

*Thalia's* willingness to reveal themselves and shy away from pseudonyms is a very different approach than their predecessor, BUDPOT, which was a humor magazine that circulated on the Behrend campus for a semester in 2001.

"I don't feel that anonymity would give us any additional freedom," said Pohl when asked if they felt that they could write even more freely about subjects than they already do.

Pohl wrestled with the idea to launch a magazine as opposed to becoming



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

*Thalia* founder Jerry Pohl looks for support at last week's Club Rush. Pohl and his staff have established Behrend's only comedy magazine on campus.

and editor for the Beacon over a long period of time. "For me, the defining moment, so to speak was when I first saw the *Thalia* logo by Zack Mentz.

"There's always the possibility that someone will choose to be offended."

-Jerry Pohl

After I first saw the logo Zack made I knew there was no way this wasn't happening."

At first glance, *Thalia* seems like a wise-cracking publication that is just

being put together for the sheer enjoyment of it, but when it comes down to it, it is much more than that. It's a great deal about giving.

"When I got involved in the humor page over a year ago it was an opportunity for me to get published, to grow as a writer, and to gain valuable experience," says Pohl. "Now I can give others that same opportunity."

The *Thalia* staff seeks to get people involved, being that a source of their pride is in the ability to include many people in their publication.

Any writers, cartoonists, or other possible contributors can reach Jerry Pohl through e-mail at jbp153@psu.edu. *Thalia* is here to stay, and it can be picked up in many areas of the campus, so if the normal news has you feeling down and out, pick up an issue of *Thalia*, and it can give you a brief reprieve from the daunting news stories of the day.

## New system for job search launched

By Jeff Thoreson  
staff writer

Penn State University has launched a new online employment system designed to allow students and alumni to search and apply for jobs and upload resumes for employers to find them. From the convenience of any computers, students and alumni of Penn State Behrend can search for full-time employment or upload their resume to the system, called Nittany Lion Recruiting, or NLR.

"NLR is designed to aid in the job search and career advancement efforts of students and alumni," says Carrie Payne, assistant director of the Career Development Center at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College.

Payne says that NLR will connect students and alumni from 16 Penn State campuses, including Behrend, Altoona, Beaver, Berks, Delaware County, DuBois, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, McKeesport, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, University Park,

"NLR is designed to aid in the job search and career advancement efforts of students and alumni."

-Carrie Payne

Wilkes-Barre, Worthington Scranton, and York, with job listings from employers who work with the sixteen schools in the Penn State system.

Nittany Lion Recruiting replaces the emails the Career Development Center used to send. Postings of full-time jobs on the

system will be updated monthly, but students and alumni who visit the website at <https://psu-behrend-csm.symphlicity.com/students/> can sign up for weekly email updates of job postings.

However, NLR offers several other no-cost services, including employer resume searches, announcements, career fairs at University Park, and employer information sessions and presentations. In addition, on-campus recruiting and interviewing opportunities will be made available to students and alumni for the entire 2006-07 school year. For this service, there is a one-time fee of \$15 for students and \$40 for alumni. The campuses at Behrend, Altoona, Berks, Harrisburg, and University Park have plans to advertise on-campus recruiting an interviewing opportunities through NLR.

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