

# THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, October 6, 2006

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

Vol. LIII No. VI

"Country music has come a long way from its original roots of the country-western singers, so maybe a new term should be applied to today's songs."

-Ashley Bressler  
03

## WHO'S INSIDE

"It is nice to see that we can really make a difference as college students."

RECEIVED

OCT 06 2006

LIBRARY

-Megan Miller  
Psychology Club President

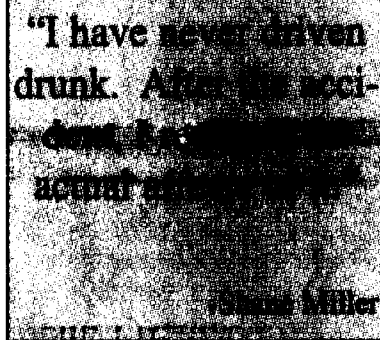
## Behrend student narrowly avoids fatal accident

By Christopher LaFuria  
news editor

The picture that Shane Miller carries around with him is his reminder that drinking and driving can affect anyone. Pictures of a completely destroyed red Pontiac Sunfire are the only useable remains of what could have been a fatal accident, and ultimately a life-changing experience. On Sunday, Sept. 4, Miller's life was in jeopardy as the result of a vicious car accident.

While driving home from a late-night hockey practice, Miller headed east on East 38th Street, after a long, grueling session. When he reached the intersection of 38th and Davison, Miller was struck on the passenger side by an oncoming vehicle, which completely neglected the red light. Upon collision, Miller and his Pontiac Sunfire were sent spinning onto the curb of Family Video.

Miller, who was uninjured except for a minor knee bruise, has no recollection of the immediate impact, but can vividly remember his thoughts. "I didn't even know what had happened," he says, "I just remember the fact that I got hit, and checked to see if I was injured."



"I have never driven drunk. After the accident, I realized the actual affects of it." -Shane Miller

After exiting through the passenger side of his vehicle, Miller hurried to the other driver to assess the overall damage. As he got to the other driver, he witnessed a dazed man in his mid-20s, who reeked of alcohol. Miller then returned to his vehicle to observe the calamity before him.

A few minutes later, a female passer by alerted Miller of an apparent escape attempt by the other driver. A group of residents from the area witnessed the driver taking off from the accident scene, only to be brought back by an older male, who caught the driver, and forcefully brought him back to the scene of the accident.

Moments elapsed as police, paramedics, and ambulances arrived to provide assistance to the injured parties. One officer informed Miller that the other driver was being taken to the Emergency



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After a nearly tragic accident, Shane Miller's Pontiac Sunfire is left completely totaled and irreparable. Above is the remains of Miller's destroyed vehicle.

Room for minor head injuries and also for a Blood Alcohol Test.

After almost a week of awaiting the results, Miller was notified that the other driver was cited for a D.U.I. Although it failed to lessen much of the damage, finding out that alcohol was related to the accident brought Miller closure as to the cause of the entire ordeal. Although the driver admitted to drinking only four 16-ounce beers before the accident occurred, the amount consumed was enough to have an immediate impact on his driving capabilities.

In the mid-nineties, former Supreme Court judge

William Rehnquist revealed that there are over 25,000 annual deaths from alcohol related accidents. Miller was fortunate to not be a part of that statistic. In every state, the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is .08. Research has shown that a 180-pound male can reach this level after only four beers. Even though the driver in Miller's accident may have thought he was capable of driving after such consumption, he was indeed intoxicated.

Drivers who have a BAC of .08 or greater are 11 times more likely to get into a car accident than someone who has consumed no alcohol at all.

Miller, upon realizing the citation for D.U.I., has a prominent sense of the affects of drunk driving. "I have never driven drunk before," Miller says, "After the accident, I realized the actual affects of it."

As long as Shane Miller keeps the picture in his possession and recalls the nearly fatal accident, he will forever be cognizant of the affects of drunk driving. Miller also realized that car accidents of this magnitude could happen at anytime. "Now I realize," Miller says, "accidents can happen at anytime to anyone."

## Recent school shootings have students questioning safety

By Miranda Krause  
copy editor

Penn State Behrend student, Katie Miller, 03, is shocked by the recent school shootings that leave her with one question, "Could this happen here?"

### Contents

- News.....1-3
- Editorial.....4
- Humor.....6
- Student Life.....7-8
- Sports.....9-10

### Contact Us

Newsroom:  
898-6488  
Fax:  
898-6019

E-mail: jah1005@psu.edu

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

Miller says, "With the shootings now, it seems like they are getting closer and closer."

Three school shootings within one week occurred and shattered communities. Students of Platte Canyon High School mourn the loss of Emily Keyes, 16, after a 53-year old gunman named Duane Morrison entered the school and took six girls hostage on September 27. Morrison molested all six of the girls and shot Keyes before taking his own life. Two days later, student of Weston High School, 15-year old Eric Hainstock, opened fire on his school principal, John Klang. Klang, 49, was shot in the head, chest, and legs and died hours later at a nearby hospital. Then, on October, Charles Carl Roberts IV, walked into a small Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster, PA, took 11 girls hostage and let the others go. The girls were aged from 6-13 years old. Roberts tied the girls and had them face the chalkboard as he shot 5 girls in the back of the head. Roberts then took his own life.

These recent shootings bring old memories to life as students everywhere remember the Columbine High School shooting which occurred on April 20, 1999. Two male students, Eric Harrison and Dylan Klebold, killed 12 peers, a teacher, wounded 24 others and shattered the community of Jefferson County. Harrison and Klebold took their own lives

"With the shootings now, it seems like they are getting closer and closer."

-Katie Miller

after the massacre ended. Just before Columbine, on April 25, 1998 a 14-year old student of Parker Middle school of Edinboro, PA, Andrew Jerome Wurst, entered a graduation dance armed with a .25-caliber handgun. Wurst shot science teacher, John Gillette and wounded three others.

Liz Stablein, senior here at Penn State Behrend, was not present at the school dance but attended Parker Middle school. Stablein was in seventh grade at the time, "It's hard for me to remember, since I wasn't there [at the dance], but, I just remember it was highly publicized, and that's one of the factors in the recent shootings that it was so highly glamorized that it gives the shooter the attention they are looking for."

At Behrend the possession or use of any kind of weapon, ammunition, or any kind of explosive is only permitted by authorized law enforcement officers or other authorized by the university. Paintball guns or paintball markers may only be used on the campus if authorized. These rules apply to students as well as visitors but nothing prevents an outsider from walking onto our campus with any type of weapon.

Miller is concerned with safety in some places more than others, "I feel safe to a degree. I feel safe in the dorm. You think that you

would notice someone suspicious. In other schools you have to show your I.D. to get into a building, here anyone could just walk into a classroom. In classrooms I don't feel as safe," she says. Some students are not as worried as others. Jen Eberlin, 03, says, "I guess I don't think about it because I feel safe here."

"It could happen anywhere. I'd be shocked if it happened here," said Ashley Magee, 05. However, Magee isn't worried about the Behrend campus, "I feel extremely safe here."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A police officers patrols Weston High School after a student shooting.

If you see news happen or would like to see something covered, please contact the Beacon news room or email CSL5005@psu.edu for ideas.