

THE BEHREND BEACON

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A Penn State Erie Student Publication

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"This season, we have tremendous depth for a young team, and I believe we have the ability to win our section and make it to the playoffs for the first time in Behrend's lacrosse history."

- Senior captain A.J. Hopperstead

WHO'S INSIDE

"I'm already killing myself, so why should I care who comes along with me?"

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-Nick Underhill
Co-sports editor



Contributed Photo

Many Americans feel smoking should be illegal while people are in public places.

Should smoking be banned in public?

•Nick Underhill points out why smoking should be permitted in public areas.

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Is English the only campus language?

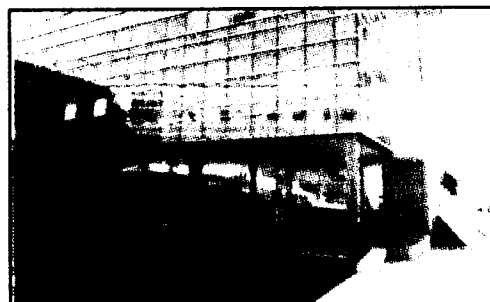
•Ben Raymond writes about the growing use of Pittsburghese in conversation on campus.

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Radio station on Behrend's campus

•WPSE, the radion station here on campus, contributes to the Erie community.

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Mike Sharkey/ THE BEHREND BEACON

The REDC will be hosting a Speaker Series.

School of Engineering Speakers

•Speakers talk about the partnership between the School of Business and the School of Engineering

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Men's Lacrosse.

• Matt Waronker writes about the progression of the lacrosse team this year.

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Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

Websites raise awareness of genocide

By Scott Muska
staff writer

The citizens of Darfur, Sudan are in immediate danger. The government is using its air force and militias occupied by Arabians to harm and kill the blacks that live there.

Between 180,000 and 400,000 Sudanese have lost their lives during this genocide. Along with the substantial number of deaths, over 2,000,000 people have been chased from or had their homes destroyed.

Many groups interested in stopping the genocide by way of United States or United Kingdom involvement operate on the popular internet websites Facebook and MySpace. The most well-known of these groups comes from Facebook, and is an advocacy group called "400,000 Faces." This group's main goal is to gain 400,000 group members, one face for every person who has died in Darfur. Once this goal is met, the group administrators will print the profile icon from each group member and set the pages down on gym floors across the country. Pictures of this mural will be taken and sent to politicians in the hopes that aid will be sent in some form to the struggling inhabitants of Darfur.

The group's goal has not been met yet, though they are knocking at the door of the halfway point. The total amount of members currently sits at just over 190,000 members, and some of these members have predicted that



Contributed Photo

People in Sudan have struggled through a terrible genocide affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Above, these Sudanese people suffer from hunger and disease. MySpace and Facebook are raising awareness for the Darfur cause.

they will have reached their goal by the beginning of the New Year.

MySpace has taken a different angle in acting to end the barbaric actions in Darfur. The website recently announced several concerts called "Rock for Darfur" that would serve to raise money for relief to go to the citizens of the Sudan. Twenty shows have been scheduled to be performed on Oct. 21. Many artists from very different genres will perform, including Switchfoot, Ziggy Marley, Atreyu and Teddy Geiger. Though there will be no concerts played in Erie's immediate area, there will be a concert in Philadelphia, and recently discovered super-group The Fray will be playing in Toronto, Ontario.

Students at Behrend have become

aware of the attempts by MySpace and Facebook to raise awareness. "I think it's a good idea that MySpace and Facebook are raising awareness because it's about time people in other parts of the world know what's going on in Africa," says Sophomore Biology major Sophia Appiagye. "Most of the time, people in the western world are ignorant to what is going on in third world countries. Raising awareness through MySpace and Facebook is a great media approach to educate youth especially"

The magnitude of the genocide in Darfur is being compared to what occurred during the Holocaust and in Rwanda. Earlier this month, President Bush sent an envoy to Sudan to discuss issues with the government there

and to attempt to stem the rising death toll.

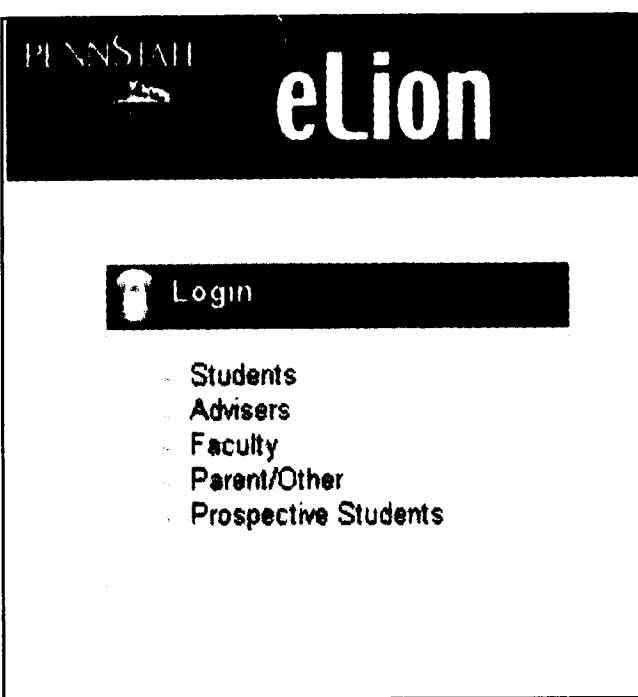
To join this group visit facebook.com and search the group "400,000 Faces." More information can be found about the benefits and venues for these concerts, as well as how to obtain tickets on <http://www.myspace.com/rockfordarfur>.

-For more information, visit www.facebook.com or www.myspace.com

Most of the time, people in the western world are ignorant to what is going on in third world countries.

-Sophia Appiagye

eLion reduces the frustration of scheduling



elion.psu.edu

Above, eLion is the leading source for students to select classes and find a degree audit for their particular majors.

By Lauren Weaver
staff writer

Registering for classes can be confusing and frustrating. There are ways to make the process less aggravating. Representatives in the Registrar's Office at Penn State Behrend suggest that one of the best ways to beat the registration blues is to make full use of eLion. Dr. Mary Ellen Bayuk, College Registrar, says, "Students should first go to eLion and run a degree audit, and then take their

degree audit to their advisor and talk about their schedule with them." Advisor information can also be found on eLion.

According to the Registrar's Office, the number one thing students neglect to do is talk to their advisors. Should the student have a problem with their advisor, that student can go to the college of their major and someone will be available to reassign them to a new advisor.

Speaking with the student's own advisor is also very important; many students attach themselves to a member of the faculty for advice and don't meet with their own advisor. The problem with this is that the faculty advisor they are speaking with may be helpful, but the assigned advisor is actually trained to advise the student in their specific major.

Another serious problem students run into when they fail to talk with their assigned advisor is that they take bad advice from fellow students pertaining to what requirements they must meet to graduate. While peers seem to be a reputable source, every student has a contract with the university for a particular program year. Every program year varies slightly in requirements, so a senior in a major may actually have different requirements than what an underclassmen will have.

eLion is the easiest way to look for courses to schedule. Search options allow the student to look for specific courses, or perform an advanced search to look for general education classes, honors, international cultures, and U.S. cultures, a function that it seems many students are unaware of. Many stu-

dents also fail to observe controls for given courses, which are also listed on the schedule (schedule.psu.edu)

Undergraduate course changes will be effective starting this coming semester. Course changes pertain to a large list of classes that will be undergoing name modification so that they correspond with the names of the same courses at University Park. These changes will be taking place for the next four years on all Penn State campuses to make transferring easier for students between branches. By spreading the various name reassignments over a four-year period, the university hopes to have a working system that will make the transition smooth.

As a general rule of thumb, schedule as soon as you're able to. Dr. Bayuk finds that the most valuable aspect of eLion is that "It allows students to access information on demand, nearly 24-7. They're no longer constrained to the hours we're [the Registrar's office] open."

This nearly unlimited access makes it possible for students to schedule at 12:01 a.m. the day they are allowed to schedule. Priority Scheduling began October 16, regular registration started October 19 and the final deadline for scheduling is January 25, 2007.

Search options allow you to look for specific courses, or perform an advanced search.