

STUDENT LIFE

Less Than Jake named "Battle" headliner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gainesville, Florida ska band Less Than Jake will perform at this year's "Battle of the Bands" on Apr. 20.

By Ryan Gallagher
contributing writer

Students now have a reason to look forward to Apr. 20 this year, as Less Than Jake has officially been named as the headliner for this year's annual "Battle of the Bands." In addition to this concert, Lewis Black will perform his highly successful stand up comedy routine the following day at the Junker Center. The weekend of Apr. 20 and 21 will be an extremely eventful weekend for Behrend since these names are both well-known and highly popular among the nation. Not since New Found Glory's appearance two years ago has there been a major event, let alone two major events for students to look forward to among all their studies.

For those that aren't familiar with the work of LTJ, they are available to listen on Napster. A group out of Gainesville, Florida, the band, consisting of five members, has changed their sound significantly from their initial work. A trio that began as a punk band soon discovered the remarkable sound that horns can bring to music. Adding two more members that gave them their ska sound, their music in the '90s brought them great success thanks to a younger audience that enjoys events like Warped Tour. After the album *Pezcore* debuted in 1995, they eventually had their first single "All My Best Friends Are Metalheads" in 2000 that peaked at #57 on the UK charts. *Hello Rockview* was released in 1998 and brought a memorable sound to the punk/ska scene and continues to remain in my top 10 albums of all time to this day. Recently, Less Than Jake has taken a different

approach to their music. Unlike their old punk/ska ways, they now have a power-pop sound to their latest work, using the horns sparingly. This is when I stopped following the band, primarily because I hate it when bands switch their sound to pop simply to become more mainstream. This doesn't mean that I won't be in attendance at this epic event, I just hope they play some of their classics that I grew up loving.

I've been hearing a lot of talk around campus about this occasion, and it seems that students are more than pleased in learning that LTJ will be at Behrend this year. The only other option that might have made students as grateful was The Clarks, however I'm pretty sure bassist Greg Joseph, who played in Bruno's last semester, did such a great job (lots and lots of sarcasm) that it won't be necessary for him to make an appearance at Behrend for a long while. Plus, if you really want to see them that bad, just drive down to the Steel City and catch one of their shows that seem to occur all too often.

Ska is an amazing genre of music because the music is primarily made up of happy, fun songs that are easy to jam to. There may not be a lot of people that consider ska as their favorite type of music, however I don't know many people that say that they don't enjoy the crazy, distinctive sounds of ska.

I can only hope that LTJ will give us a taste of their older work, in addition to promoting their new album "In With the Out Crowd". Either way, I will be there alongside LaFuria and McLachlan, drinks in hand, cheering on my very first favorite band.

Behrend Welcomes Zanny Minton Beddoes

By Toni Charnock
staff writer

Accomplished economic journalist Zanny Minton Beddoes will speak at Penn State Behrend College on Thursday, Feb. 22. Taking place at 7:30 in the Reed Union Building's McGarvey Commons, Beddoes will address "Fragile Prosperity: The Outlook for the U.S. and World Economy" in her presentation. This event is one of Behrend's annual Speaker Series and is free and open to the public.

As *The Economist's* Washington economics editor, Beddoes is responsible for coverage of the American economy and domestic economic policy, along with issues surrounding globalization. In 1996, before relocating to Washington, she worked as the magazine's emerging-markets correspondent in London. She originally joined *The Economist* in 1994 after spending two years as an economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Prior to that, as part of a small group out of Harvard University and headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, she worked as an advisor in Poland to the Minister of Finance.

More of Beddoes' roles include being a member of the Research Advisory Board of the

Committee for Economic Development and Trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for the International Peace.

Beddoes is considered one of Washington's most respected economic journalists, published in *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy*. She writes for *The Economist's* annual surveys on the world economy, global finance and the economics of Latin America and Central Asia. She has also testified before Congress concerning the introduction of the Euro. Besides being a recurrent commentator on CNN and CNBC, Beddoes also appeared on "Hardball with Chris Matthews," "Public Interest," "NPR Marketplace" and "PBS' NewsHour with Jim Lehrer." She is also a regular panelist on "Tucker Carlson Unfiltered" because of her ability to clearly analyze the meeting points between politics and economics.



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Beddoes speaks on Feb. 22.

Beddoes' Speaker Series appearance is supported by the Penn State Behrend Student Activity Fee, the Office of Student Affairs and the Harriet Behrend Ninow Memorial Lecture Series Fund. Other Speaker Series lectures scheduled for this spring are Lisa Ling, host of National Geographic Ultimate Explorer, on Monday, Mar. 26 and NASA Planetary Scientist Christopher McKay on Tuesday, April 17.

Murphy's *Norbit* leads weekend box office



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eddie Murphy stars in *Norbit*, which topped last weekend's box office with an earning of \$34 million.

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

Despite lackluster critical reviews, Eddie Murphy's new comedy *Norbit* debuted at the top of box office last weekend, as the actor himself continues to ride a wave of success after his exciting comeback in last year's *Dreamgirls*. *Norbit*, in which Murphy plays a number of characters including the title role and his plump wife, stands as Murphy's 14th number one box office opener. In second, *Hannibal Rising*, a prequel to the last three Hannibal Lecter films, traces Lecter back to his youth, uncovering why and how he became the infamous serial killer. Based on Thomas Harris' novel of the same name, the film marks the first time Harris has written not only the book, but the screenplay as well. Rounding out the top five is the Mandy Moore and Diane Keaton romantic comedy *Because I Said So*, with over \$9 million. "Veronica Mars" star Kristen Stewart's supernatural vehicle *The Messengers*, with \$7.2 million, and the Ben Stiller all-star comedy *Night at the Museum*, tallying \$5.7 million, bringing its

eight-week total to over \$200 million.

Eddie Murphy appears in the top 10 again with the monster movie musical *Dreamgirls*, which comes in ninth after a strong nine week run. Its total gross is an impressive \$97 million, and the film will probably pick up speed after the Academy Awards later this month. With female leads Beyoncé, Jennifer Hudson, and Anika Noni Rose set to perform at the Oscars, *Dreamgirls* will most likely bump up a few places after the ceremony. Also in an impressive run is the fantastical, post-Spanish Civil War fairy tale from director Guillermo del Toro, *Pan's Labyrinth*. At number eight this past weekend, with over \$3.5 million (on only a little over 1,000 screens) and a seven-week total of over \$26 million, the independently released film will climb up a few spots after the Academy Awards as well. Teen comedy *Epic Movie* and *Smokin' Aces* take sixth and seventh place, respectively. Rounding out the top 10 is *The Queen*, which will likely earn Helen Mirren her first Oscar for "Best Actress," following her wins in the same category at the Golden Globes and the SAG Awards.

Box office breakdown

February 9-11, 2007

1	Norbit	\$34,195,434
2	Hannibal Rising	\$13,051,650
3	Because I Said So	\$9,221,130
4	The Messengers	\$7,218,187
5	Night at the Museum	\$5,754,359
6	Epic Movie	\$4,570,090
7	Smokin' Aces	\$4,113,020
8	Pan's Labyrinth	\$3,577,283
9	Dreamgirls	\$2,980,967
10	The Queen	\$2,373,121
11	Stomp the Yard	\$2,358,159
12	The Pursuit of Happyness	\$2,353,543
13	Catch and Release	\$1,760,183
14	Letters From Iwo Jima	\$1,729,451
15	Babel	\$1,677,367
16	Notes on a Scandal	\$1,542,843
17	The Departed	\$1,342,338
18	The Last King Of Scotland	\$1,340,740
19	Freedom Writers	\$1,018,435
20	Children of Men	\$809,190

*Statistics courtesy of BoxOfficeMojo.com

Billboard Hot 100 for Feb. 24, 2007



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

1. Nelly Furtado / "Say It Right"
2. Beyoncé / "Irreplaceable"
3. Gwen Stefani ft. Akon/ "The Sweet Escape"
4. Fall Out Boy / "This Ain't A Scene, It's An Arms Race"
5. Ludacris ft. Mary J. Blige / "Runaway Love"
6. Daughtry / "It's Not Over"
7. Gym Class Heroes ft. Patrick Stump / "Cupid's Chokehold"
8. Justin Timberlake / "What Goes Around... Comes Around"
9. Fergie ft. Ludacris / "Glamorous"
10. Akon ft. Snoop Dogg / "I Wanna Love You"

*Courtesy of Billboard.com

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