

# STUDENT LIFE

## Modest Mouse floats on alright already *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank*

By **Joshua Lane**  
student life editor

Going back to their dark and melodic ways Modest Mouse returns with a new offering called *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank*. Not much has changed from Modest Mouse's last album *Good News For People Who Love Bad News*. They have kept their over-the-top sound and production quality intact. The word play is just as dark and eccentric as last time around but this time Isaac Brock lets himself go just a little further lyrically with lines like "If you think you know enough/ to know you know enough you've had enough/and if you think you don't/you probably will." The album is riddled with these types of tongue twisters.



Modest Mouse's new album *We Were Dead...* is in stores now  
contributed photo

thumping throughout the album makes your foot jolt up and down pounding hard into the ground. The first single "Dashboard" was made to bounce your head to. The guitars gently intro with Brock gracefully holding back as he says "Well, it would've been, could've been worse than you would ever know/Oh, the dashboard melted, but we still have the radio." Then comes the catchy riff that gets stuck in your head and you hum for days after, just before Brock loses all restraint and yells the chorus "Well, it would've been/ could've been/ worse than you would ever know/Oh, the dashboard melted/ but we still have the radio."

Lead singer Isaac Brock brings his signature all over the place vocals back to this album. He is the reason people connect with the album. When his voice is at a lower volume it often quivers sounding very restrained and allows his slight lisp to come through. When Brock lets himself go, he bursts out in rants, often slurring his words sounding like he's about to get into a bar fight.

With all this odd mixture thrown into *We Were Dead...* the addition of bandmates, and with Brocks sometimes non-restrained vocals, the sound is still surprisingly tight. They never let it stray to far off course. The album is full of catchy numbers from beginning to end. So it's good news for Modest Mouse fans *We Were Dead...* is just what they wanted.

The band has grown larger this time around adding a sixth member to their lineup. former guitarist of the Smiths, Johnny Marr. Marr adds another layer to the band but doesn't muddy up the sound. You can hear he adds a cooler softer groove in just the right places. It's a difference that gives the album a different feel instead of a different sound. Modest Mouse returns to their more indie ways in this album, straying off the beaten path that they created with "Good News." There is no up-beat "Float On" on this record, but there is no shortage of great anthems either. The constant theatrical

## Wiffle Ball warms up

By **Joshua Lane**  
student life editor

The cabin fever of winter is finally breaking and we are already heading into spring. Behrend students can't wait to finally be outside without the necessity of a coat or sweater. Along with the warmer weather comes some outside activities. One of the biggest summer activities seeing a big resurgence is wiffle ball.

Everyone remembers wiffle ball. It's the neighborhood version of baseball that can be played with two or more people. The game has been around for a lot longer than you'd think. It was invented in the early 1950s by David Mullany who invented the ball because he and his friends were tired of constantly getting in trouble for breaking windows while playing baseball in a field that was too small. The neighborhood sport caught fire all the way up through the '80s but died off in the '90s only to see a recent resurgence in the new millennium.

"It's easier to have a pick-up game," says Chris Brown a Behrend Junior. "You don't need to have a whole baseball team." Pick-up games can be found all over major Peach Street parking lots during the warmer weather seasons. The lights never go out in

major parking lots there so it's easy to play late into the summer nights.

Wiffle ball has the unique ability to bring people of all skills together. It takes a great amount of talent to hit a 90-mile an hour fastball, but almost anyone can hit a floating wiffle ball.



Wiffle Ball is quickly becoming the new hotness  
contributed photo

Wiffle ball associations and clubs are appearing all over the country, some of which offer regular weekly games. Clubs are also coming up with their own version of the classic wiffle ball rules, including outfielders and home runs.

With the resurgence of wiffle ball comes different variations of the wiffle ball. One version known simply as a "practice ball" or "the swiss cheese ball" to veteran wifflers is a plastic ball with lots of holes cut out. The traditional wiffle ball has holes cut out of the side and is specially designed to throw breaking balls. The newest model to the wiffle ball family is called the "junk ball." The junk ball, which can be found at [www.junkball.com](http://www.junkball.com), has a rotating center that can open and close the holes to allow for fastballs as well as breaking balls.

Jim Kinnane, a Behrend freshman, says he loves wiffle ball because "It's freakin' awesome." That seems to be the general consensus. So when that cabin fever finally breaks and you can step outside and breathe the warm air into your lungs, and start a pick-up game of wiffle ball.

## France brings new view to Behrend Students

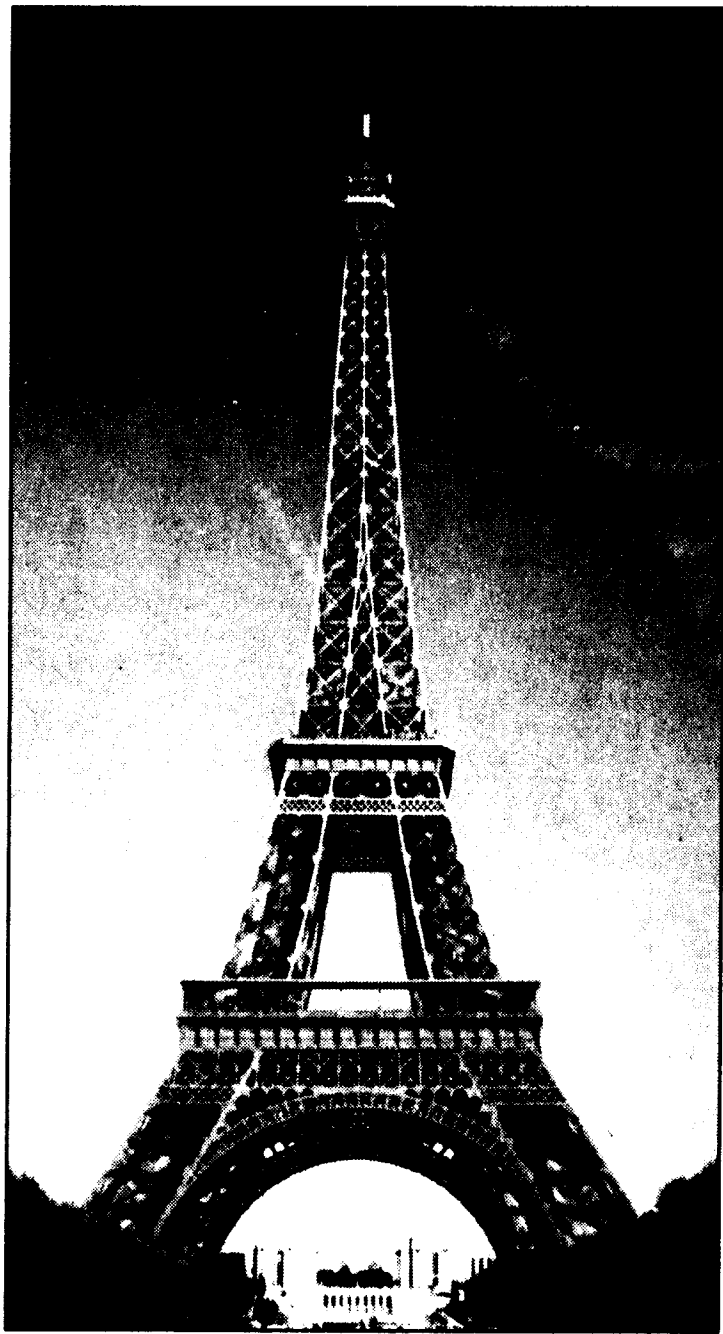
By **Ryan Gallagher**  
contributing writer

Thousands upon thousands of miles and then some, rests another world. It's called Europe.

What's that, Europe is a continent that is part of Earth? Ha.

Each and every individual did something uniquely different from the next for spring break, so I followed the trend and went to France. This was the first time I had ever left the States, except for Canada of course. The instant I stepped foot out of the terminal in Nice, France, I immediately regretted never traveling there until that moment, so I decided to make it the best experience of my life. I succeeded.

This "other world" is not just different from where we live; it is unimaginably, the perfectly exact opposite of the lifestyle that we follow. The food is better, but healthier; the clothes are different, but beautiful and full of fashion that stands out like no other; and the



France is new spring break destination for some Behrend Students  
contributed photo

did. Everyone is living their life, and making as many friends as they can along the way. Don't get me wrong, I did stumble upon a bar fight or two but I guess wherever you go, you will never get away from that.

Originally I was supposed to leave March 16, however, flight after flight was cancelled and I could not leave until Tuesday. I had never been happier. This gave me the opportunity to celebrate St. Patrick's Day across seas. Many have asked, "Do they celebrate St. Patty's Day in France?" Well, I stumbled upon more than a few Irish bars that put any celebration that I've ever experienced in the States to shame. I've never seen more people get together and drink Guinness simply for the love of one another. I mean, very few people that I met were in fact Irish, but no one could tell, and no one cared.

All my life people have talked of traveling abroad and experiencing life somewhere else, and I never thought much of it. Hopefully, you did the opposite of me and have already been around the Earth and seen so much already. If not, then go. Go now, before you're 30 years old and have a life that is so blind to everything else that occurs across the globe. Get out of this country, even if it's for a week and it will change everything.

And yes, in case you heard, I did fall out of a window the first night I was there and had the joy of spending the following evening in a hospital. Ask me about it - it's a classic.

## Billboard Top 10

Fergie - Glamorous

Mims - This Is Why I'm Hot

Akon - Don't Matter

Gym Class Hero's - Cupid's Chokehold

Gwen Stefani - Sweet Escape



## What's Missing?

Can you guess what's missing out of this picture of the Behrend campus?