



THE BEHREND BEACON

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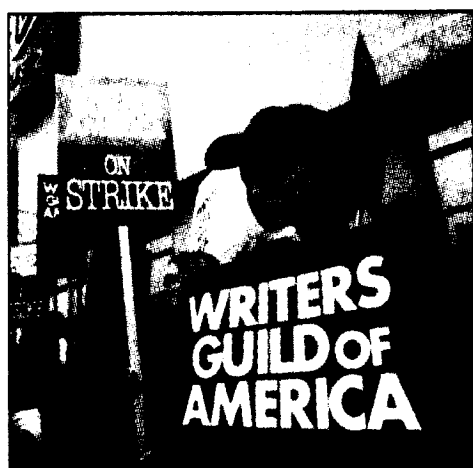
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Rising video game costs are troubling for students.

Will students still buy them? Find out on page 7.

Behrend Volleyball loses to Altoona in AMCC semifinals.

Details on page 10.



Students upset over Writers Guild of America strike.

Read their reactions on page 7.

Student-run program focuses on a cleaner campus.

Find out how on page 3.



Keegan McGregor/THE BEHREND BEACON

Erie was hit by the first lake effect storm of the year. The heavy snowfall made driving conditions difficult and classes were cancelled.

Wet and heavy snowfall brings down power lines, closes Behrend's campus

By Lenny Smith
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The first snow fall of the season brought some unwanted companions along with it. Penn State Behrend was left without power forcing administrators to shut down campus on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

A wet and heavy three and a half inches of snow fell over the Erie area, according to meteorologists at WJET-TV. The snow quickly accumulated in the morning hours and brought down power lines all over the area. Behrend was included in the over 15,000 customers that were without electricity Tuesday.

Senior Director of Business and Operations, John Ream, said that Behrend lost power around 7 a.m. and by 7:15 a.m. the administration was on the phone with Penelec. "When we reported the outage to Penelec they told us it would be an estimated two hours before power would be restored to campus," Ream said. It's a group decision where a lot of different aspects have to be looked at, Ream said, and at 8:05 a.m. they made the call to delay classes until noon, expecting the power would return in time for afternoon classes to still take place.

As soon as the decision to delay classes was made, Behrend officials were getting the word out to the community. "We had a live person at the phone," Ream said. Anyone who had registered for the PSUTXT emergency

text messaging service were notified at 8:45 a.m. "Things happened pretty quickly and there really wasn't time to get anything out for the 8 a.m. classes," Ream said. Many professors and students with 8 a.m. classes went to their classrooms only to find them dark and unable in which to teach.

"As late at 11:30 a.m., Penelec had not been able to find the fault on the line and they told us it would be another two hours," Ream said. "At that point the decision was made to cancel classes for the day and evening." At that point, another message was sent out to students and professors via text message, the school's status was changed on the website, and local news media outlets were notified. Each individual school was also notified by phone, Ream said.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences just happened to have a couple administrators in the office when the cancellation call came. "We made an attempt to reach them (professors) by phone because we don't know who has that text messaging and who doesn't," said Administrative Specialist Diane Nowacinski. "We left messages and we did catch some of them, but some were already en route. We just did it as a courtesy. We weren't under any obligation to call." Each individual school has its own procedures on notifying its faculty and staff. The H&SS Department also hung signs throughout the Kochel Building to notify those who showed up for classes.

Students have mixed reactions, concerns after campus closure

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Even though the Penn State Behrend campus closure on Nov. 6 was due to a power outage, many students looked at their day off as a "snow day." Students could be seen playing "snow football" and building snowmen throughout the campus. But with this fun, students had mixed emotions over the closure.

With so many people to contact, it is impossible to catch everyone before they leave for classes if they are not signed up for the PSUTXT system. Many students had no one but themselves to blame for going to class after the campus was closed. "I wish I would have signed up for the text messaging thing. I had no idea classes were canceled," Sophomore Andrew Harmon said. "I am definitely going to sign-up for that now." With the power out all over campus, the emergency text messaging system was the only way for campus administrators to contact students. Behrend officials updated the school's status on the website, hung signs throughout campus and notified local news media to broadcast the closure. However, for those in the area without power, which would be almost everyone, a text message was his or her only source of information.

Students with exams scheduled for Tuesday were particularly excited about the cancellation. Sophomore Brad Troyan said, "I was glad (classes were cancelled) because I got an extra two days to study for my exams that were supposed to be on Tuesday." Professors who had exams scheduled weren't as

excited. Dr. Archie Loss called himself lucky because he didn't have any exams scheduled for Tuesday. "The cancellation threw me off a little bit, (but) I'm not making any changes as a result of it," Loss said. "If I would have had an exam scheduled, it would have been more of a problem."

Students that braved the cold to get food were not short of complaints about the state of the campus. "I think the sidewalks were pretty bad," Freshman Mindy Geibel said. Geibel said that she was not happy about the snow and slush on the campus sidewalk. "I got water all through my shoes," she complained. Sophomore Amber Wilks said, "The sidewalks were a big inconvenience for those of us who forgot our boots at home. It was a real big problem for those who are handicapped or on crutches." Calls for comment to the maintenance department were not returned by press time on Thursday evening.

Students were left with not much to do but find something to do outside since the campus was without electricity for about six hours. "I was very annoyed with the outage," Troyan said. "I couldn't do anything that I needed to get done." Students were met with another let down when the power came back on, the cable was out. TimeWarner Cable said the cable television service was out because two feeds on Jordan Road were dead. Service was returned to students on Wednesday night.

With all the inconveniences that came with the closure of campus on Nov. 6, students could all agree on one thing. It was great surprise to have a day off.

The Clarks play to a packed Erie Hall

By Liz Carey
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On Thursday, Nov. 8, Erie Hall was jammed full of people as they all rocked out to the hit band, The Clarks. The Lion Entertainment Board and Theta Phi Alpha were extremely excited to present all Behrend Student with the opportunity to see The Clarks with Zox as the opener.

These are four members of The Clarks, Scott Blasey on the guitar and lead vocals, Robert James also on guitar and vocals, Greg Joseph on the bass and vocals and Dave Minarik on drums and vocals. The members of the band met at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and realized how good they sounded together, so as they slowly gained popularity they quit their part-time jobs and began to play up and down the east coast. Although these four guys began as simply a college band, 21 years and a quarter-million albums later they are having the time of their life, and

agree they would never want to change what they do, break up the band or stop playing. Two members confess to never having touched a guitar before college, but they all agree that they were musicians from birth, having a deep love for music.

The concert was packed full of The Clarks hit songs such as "Shimmy Low", "On Saturday", "Let It Go", and "Penny on the Floor". The concert's

audience varied from students who knew every word of every song and were really rocking out to adults from throughout the community. Brittany Sexton, a freshman communications major said this about the concert, "Even though I had never heard of the Clarks previous to this concert I really enjoyed their music." To order a CD or find more information visit their website, clarksonline.com.

The band that opened, The Zox, consisted of Dan Edinberg on bass, John Zox on drums, Eli Miller on guitar and vocals and Spencer Swain on violin. The concert they performed was the first of a tour for their new record coming out in January 2008 which is titled "Line in the Sand", it is the follow-up record to their debut record, "SideOneDummy". The new record is described as "a huge leap forward in both musical maturity and potential for reaching audiences world wide." For more information on the band visit the website zoxband.com



Keegan McGregor/THE BEHREND BEACON

The Clarks played to a pack house of students playing fan favorites like, "On Saturday."

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