

NEWS

Students have mixed reactions to Third Eye Blind concert

Daniel Smith/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third Eye Blind lead singer Stephan Jenkins sang to a packed house in the Junker Center.

By Lenny Smith
news editor
lrs5046@psu.edu
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Penn State Behrend's Junker Center transformed from the home of intramural sports and basketball teams to the home of a high-energy rock concert on Friday, April 4.

Third Eye Blind, a popular group from the 1990s, played to a packed house full of fans of all ages, most noticeably drunk.

Despite the condition of many of the concertgoers, students had a mixed reaction to the show. They disliked a lot of things, such as the band's appearance, the sound system, and how long the show was. Many agreed, however, that it was definitely worth the \$15 admission fee.

Absent Star took the stage as the opening act around 7:30 p.m. and played for about 45 minutes.

As the lights dimmed at 9:30 p.m., the crowd erupted into cheers and Third Eye Blind took the stage to begin their nearly two hour set.

"I was really excited for the concert to start," sophomore accounting major Adam Kaiser said. "They are one of my favorite bands."

The band began the concert with a lot of songs that were somewhat unfamiliar to the Third Eye Blind fans.

"People were bored and wanted to leave by the time they played any of the good songs," sophomore speech pathology major Kayla McLoughlin said.

The audience did hear Third Eye Blind hits such as "Jumper," "How's It Going To Be" and "Semi-Charmed Kind of Life." The audience sang along with all of the favorite songs from the band.

As the concert progressed, security could be seen

physically removing people after throwing objects across the gym or crowd surfing over top of people's heads before falling on a random group.

Midway through their set, lead singer Stephan Jenkins was left on stage as he sang a slower song. As he exited the stage, lights shined and music started to play from the back of the gym. During Jenkins' song, the band had moved itself to the rear of the room to play several numbers for the fans that weren't shoulder-to-shoulder in the front.

The band has plans to return to the recording studio to release a new album towards the end of the year. The band played several songs that they plan to include on their new album as a sneak peek into the band's new style.

"The new stuff they're coming out with definitely has a different sound to it," sophomore management major Chris Behn said. "It might be something I could get into."

However, many agreed that the acoustics of the gym made it hard for the audience to clearly understand everything the band was saying.

"You really couldn't hear the singing that well," sophomore communication arts and sciences major Aaron Marks said. "It was mostly all music."

Fans chanted for one of their favorites, "Slow Motion." However, the politically active band responded to the crowd's request for the controversial song by saying, "We can't play that [song]. George Bush won't let us." The band eventually played the song as the final encore.

At the end of the set, Jenkins began singing lyrics in a jam session type of atmosphere. The crowd quickly realized they were lyrics to Nelly's "Must Be The Money." The crowd immediately joined in and responded to Jenkins' "Oh, why must I feel this way," with "Hey, must be the money!"

Former Behrend student charged and sentenced in child porn case

By Lenny Smith
news editor
lrs5046@psu.edu
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Former Penn State Behrend student Jonathan Demerecz, 24, was sentenced to six months to a year in the Erie County Prison today after being convicted of child pornography possession. After his release from prison, Demerecz will be placed on

five years probation and required to register as a sex offender.

Demerecz was found guilty of possessing 21 files depicting children being raped or sexually abused on his personal computer in Oct. 2007 at a non-jury trial.

While at Behrend, Demerecz was a physics major that was very active in extra-curricular activities. He also served as the vice-president of the gamers club. Demerecz was scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2007, but has not been a registered student at the college since Dec. 2006.

Sen. Clinton campaigns at Mercyhurst



Daniel Smith/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clinton spoke in front of a crowd of about 2,500 on April 1.

By Rachel Reeves
opinion editor
rers5057@psu.edu
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Over 3,000 people huddled in a line that stretched one football field deep into the Mercyhurst campus on Tuesday afternoon, hands crammed deep in coat pockets and heads bent into the wind. Whether they were supporters, scouting out the competition, or merely curious, all of these people endured an hour-long wait, and security that would rival that of an international airport, to catch a glimpse of presidential candidate, Senator Hillary Clinton.

Behrend freshman, Jake Pusateri, was equally determined in his opposition of Senator Clinton. The political science major had been standing in line for an hour already. "I've been here since 3:30 - have to see McCain's competition."

After the doors opened at 5:30 p.m., everyone in line had to file through a security station. Keys, cameras and cell phones were allowed; personal signs and expandable umbrellas were among items that had to be disposed of. When security had screened 2,500 people, they closed the doors to the main arena and opened up an overflow room for the remaining 500.

While hundreds of people were slowly filing into the Mercyhurst Athletic Center, last-minute preparations were being made. Secret Service made a sweep of the main room with police dogs. The traveling national press prepared laptops and cameras for the event. As seating filled up and the only space available was standing room, students shuffled for a good place in front of the stage and several small children found a tall pair of shoulders to climb onto.

"The price of everything is going up, and the means are not," she said as she began her talk about economics in Pennsylvania. Her outlined plan included cutting tax benefits to companies that outsource jobs, making pro-American trade agreements, and cutting special interest corporate giveaways. A major part of her speech centered on the potential for renewable energy, both to "end the addiction on foreign oil," and to provide five million American jobs. Clinton also talked about the importance of universal health-care, creating more preschool and early childhood programs to better prepare children for school, and getting rid of the No Child Left Behind program for good. As for the war in Iraq, Senator Clinton proposed pulling troops out after 60 days. Just as important as bringing them home safely and responsibly, she said, is to "provide care for our troops once they are home."

To close her 45-minute speech, Clinton discussed rising college costs. When she asked the audience how many people were currently paying off college debt, almost every hand sprang into the air. Clinton said that she believed the government should support America in its pursuit of higher education. A modern-day GI Bill was on her list of proposals, along with direct aid grants with minimal interest rates and cutting debt for professionals in the teaching and law enforcement fields.

With "God bless Erie, and God bless America," Clinton ended her speech and stimulated a parting, roaring cheer. Most seemed to think that the evening, long wait included, was a valuable experience.

Behrend's first administrator dies



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

T. Reed Ferguson gives a speech during a 1999 Alumni Reunion at Behrend.

By Lenny Smith
news editor
lrs5046@psu.edu
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T. Reed Ferguson, the first director of Penn State Behrend, died on Jan. 16 at Foxdale Village in State College, Pa. He was 92.

Ferguson was involved with Penn State since his graduation from the university in 1936. He continued his graduate work at Penn State as well as Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania.

Ferguson joined the Penn State staff as an instructor of the fine arts from 1942-1945 at the Pottsville campus, which is now known as Penn State Schuylkill. After serving as a field director with the American Red Cross in Pearl Harbor, Ferguson was named an assistant administrator at Schuylkill.

After the death of her husband Ernest R. Behrend in 1940, Mary Behrend donated the couple's 400-acre Glenhill Farm to Penn State, which created the Behrend Center in June of 1948. In July of that same year, Ferguson was named the first administrative head of the center.

Ferguson was the leader of Behrend until 1954 when he moved to University Park to become the

director of the university's Adult Conference Center. He later became director of the university's alumni relations before he was appointed as vice president of public affairs.

In 1988, Behrend honored its first director with the Behrend Medallion. The Behrend Medallion is awarded to an individual who, by serving society and attaining eminence in the public arena, brings honor to himself, the college community and mankind.

In his honor, Behrend created the T. Reed Ferguson Award, which is awarded to a junior at the college who has demonstrated scholarship, leadership, and citizenship that has impacted fellow students through academics and out-of-class involvement. The junior must also give his or her word of future achievement in the senior year.

Ferguson was also honored at University Park in 2003. In recognition of his years of achievement in their senior year.

Ferguson was also honored at University Park in 2003. In recognition of his years of dedicated service, a building in the West Campus Housing Complex was named T. Reed Ferguson Hall. The College of Education also named Ferguson as one of their outstanding alumnus.

Housing shortage forces students to live at Days Inn

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"My first class isn't until one o'clock on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but I still need to wake up at six thirty to come to the campus and do nothing."

Cooperberg found out about the Days Inn's offer by contacting an advisor who works with international students. The advisor suggested the hotel as an alternative option to on-campus housing. Cooperberg, who was out of options at that point, had to seriously consider it. The owners of Scott Enterprises felt that since they owned several hotels in the area, they could accommodate the school by providing this option for the students. They evaluated the cost of rooming on campus and, considering the benefits of a hotel room, such as housekeeping, amenities and food, tried their best to create a price which was comparable to on-campus housing.

The resulting effect, claims Cooperberg, is a charge of around \$1,000 per month for a single room, and a cost of \$700 for each roommate for a double room. For a double room in Lawrence, Niagara, and Perry, the total cost for a full semester only comes to \$1,910, equaling about \$477 per month.

So, what is Behrend doing about the lack of space on campus? Everyone has heard about

the record-size freshman class this year, which topped 1,000 students. Applications were up 15 percent for the fall semester and the number of students committed is up 21 percent over this time last year. If this increasing trend continues, there could be as many as 1,600 freshmen in just a few years.

Randall Geering, the Director of Housing at Behrend, says that the recent trend of high demand must continue before a new residence hall can be built.

"The demand for housing ebbs and flows," says Geering, who has been working as the Director of Housing since 2001. "Some years we would have no wait list, or less than one hundred. Other years, like this year, we obviously get more demand."

Plans are in place for another building on campus. Tripp Residence Hall, which was a project planned to be constructed with Almy and Ohio, was never built, because its funding was taken to renovate Perry and construct Senat instead. The plans, though, are still approved - but it would be a process of three to five years for the entire building to be funded, designed, contracted, built, and inspected.

In the meantime, University Gates Apartments are supposedly expanding, creating space for around 144 new students in

October of 2008.

Will it be enough, though?

Tony Bruno, who took the large part of the task in orchestrating the arrangement, says that the hotel would need to re-evaluate whether it can continue with this plan. The hotel is currently in charge of transportation, which proves to be a major expense with gasoline, maintenance, and driving wages. Bruno would like to see more of a partnership in the future between Scott Enterprises and the school when it comes to transportation expenses to bring the kids to the school.

As were Cooperberg and Hudson, who now have only one trip to the campus and back. But, as they sit in their wireless-capable rooms watching free HBO on a provided 27 inch television, ordering a pizza from room service, things don't seem that bad.

"I still love Penn State, regardless of the situation," Hudson was eager to point out. "They're still number one." Hudson plans to get an apartment within the next week or two.

Cooperberg has no such plans, as when he applied to Universal Gates Apartments he discovered they were completely full. For him, it seems to be his only option to stay in the hotel, and hope that somewhere a spot will open for him in the spring.