

The Behrend Beacon

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The Year in Review

The best stories from the 2008 and 2009 school year

Jerome Bettis speaks to students at Behrend

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November 14, 2008

Jerome Bettis, a former Pittsburgh Steelers' runningback, spoke at a packed Junker Center on Thursday as part of Behrend's Speaker Series.

The overall purpose of Bettis's message was to speak about championship decisions and share his football experiences.

Bettis drew students, faculty and members of the public to the Behrend campus. Over 2,000 people gathered to listen to the speech entitled "Championship Choices."

"I was very excited when I found out Jerome was coming," said freshman Emily Griffith. "I've seen him speak before, and he is very inspirational and down to earth."

Bettis, also known as "The Bus," has achieved much success on the football field throughout his 13 year career. He won awards that include Rookie of the Year (1993), NFL Comeback Player of the Year (1996), six Pro-Bowl and three All-Pro selections, and what he considers to be his greatest accomplishment, Super Bowl XL champion. Playing in a total of 192 games, he ranks fifth in all-time rushing in the NFL with

13,662 yards.

Not only did Bettis receive awards on the field but also off the field. In 2001, he won the Walter Payton Man of the Year award for his volunteer and charity work.

The Bus Stops Here Foundation and the Asthma All-Stars Program are two major charity works that Bettis is involved with. According to Bettis's official website, The Bus Stops Here Foundation began in 1996 and improves the quality of life for troubled and underprivileged children in America's inner cities.

Bettis spent the majority of his NFL career with the Steelers. From 1996-2006, he played in over 160 games for the black and gold.

Surprisingly "The Bus" was not raised on football- bowling was his sport. With two older siblings going to college, he knew that money was short and his family wouldn't be able to pay for his college education.

"I thought to myself, 'my older brother and sister are both going to college so there won't be enough money for me to attend college,'" said Bettis.

At this time in Bettis's life, he realized that it would take other means to get him to college. Football would be Bettis's answer and ticket to college.

"The Bus" began his football career as a freshman in high school, which was a very late start compared to many NFL



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon

Jerome Bettis speaks to students at Behrend

athletes. Bettis knew nothing about the game, let alone what position he would play.

"When I showed up for practice the first day, the coaches asked me what position I played," explained Bettis. "I looked at them and said 'What position does it look like I

play?'"

Bettis did not play the runningback position until his junior year. His freshman year, he was a linebacker, while his sophomore year brought a position change placing him at tightend and nose guard.

Bettis's hard work and deter-

mination to go to college paid off as he received a scholarship to play at Notre Dame College. According to the Official Website of Jerome "The Bus" Bettis, he averaged 5.7 yards per carry while rushing a total of 337 times for 1,912 yards.

During Bettis's speech at the see Bettis on page 6.

Police cite Behrend students for underage drinking

By Matthew Schwabenbauer
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March 27, 2009

State police and liquor control officers gave out 82 underage drinking citations at a party on Buffalo Road this weekend.

The police gave out the citations at a warehouse commonly referred to as the "Sigma Kappa Nu warehouse" by students.

According to information released by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, officers served a search warrant for the building at 12:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 22. In addition to the citations, authorities seized 30 gallons of beer, tap equipment, six beer kegs and \$395.

"One of my friends told me the cops were outside," said an eyewitness. "The next thing I know, the cops burst through every door. It was the most ridiculous thing I've ever seen."

One individual was charged with disorderly conduct after attempting to flee from the scene.

"Someone tried to run and a cop grabbed him and threw him against a wall," said an eyewitness. "They had a bunch of people pinned up against the wall and things like that."

"First, they separated the 21-year-olds from the minors and let them leave," said an eyewitness. "Then they separated everyone who said they weren't drinking and tested them with a breathalyzer and let them leave. They took everyone else's identification and called them out one by one to give them their citation."

Director of Student Affairs Dr. Ken Miller claims that despite rumors, his office had no involvement in the arrests.

"I didn't know it happened until news agencies talked to me," Miller said. "We didn't know this was going to happen."

Eyewitnesses claim members of the Sigma Kappa Nu fraternity organized the party.

According to Interfraternity Council President Todd Ericsson, Sigma Kappa Nu has no affiliation with Behrend's fraternities or sororities.

"The Interfraternity Council and the fraternities at Penn State Behrend are not associated with the off-campus organization, Sigma Kappa Nu," said Ericsson. "As an off campus organization, SKN is not a part of the IFC at PSB and as such this situation should not reflect upon the fraternity and sorority community at PSB."

Penn State Behrend has not officially recognized the fraternity, commonly referred to as "Skins," for several years due to a lack of affiliation with a national organization and violating recruiting rules.

Junker rocked by All-American Rejects

By Evan Koser
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April 24, 2009

Last Friday, the All-American Rejects and their opening acts brought down the roof of Junker - literally - while concert-goers had lined up from the Junker Center to Jordan Road to the Bayfront as early as noon that day.

Material fell from the ceiling of the Junker center during the sound-check of the sound systems around three in the afternoon. "It's not a problem," Kris Torok said, who headed the entire event in place of Jill Caldwell. Caldwell, who would normally act as head of the activity, was out for maternity leave.

It's not so extraordinary to see celebrities at Behrend. Last year the Junker Center played host to comedian Jim Gaffigan in the fall and 90s alternative band, Third Eye Blind in the spring.

Playing in front of a sea of unfamiliar faces, Vadera lead singer Kristen May asked the Junker Center crowd to remember their name. By the end of their set, there was no way anyone would be forgetting.

Formerly playing under the name Veda, Vadera formed in Kansas City in 2004. It didn't take the foursome long to land a record deal and get started on the road to stardom, a road which led them to opening for the All American Rejects at the Junker Center.

Vadera opened Behrend's date of the "I Wanna Rock" tour

for 2,500 people that didn't even know they were playing. With their name left off the posters and advertisements for the event, Vadera proved during their 20-minute set that they have every right to have their name next to the All-American Rejects's.

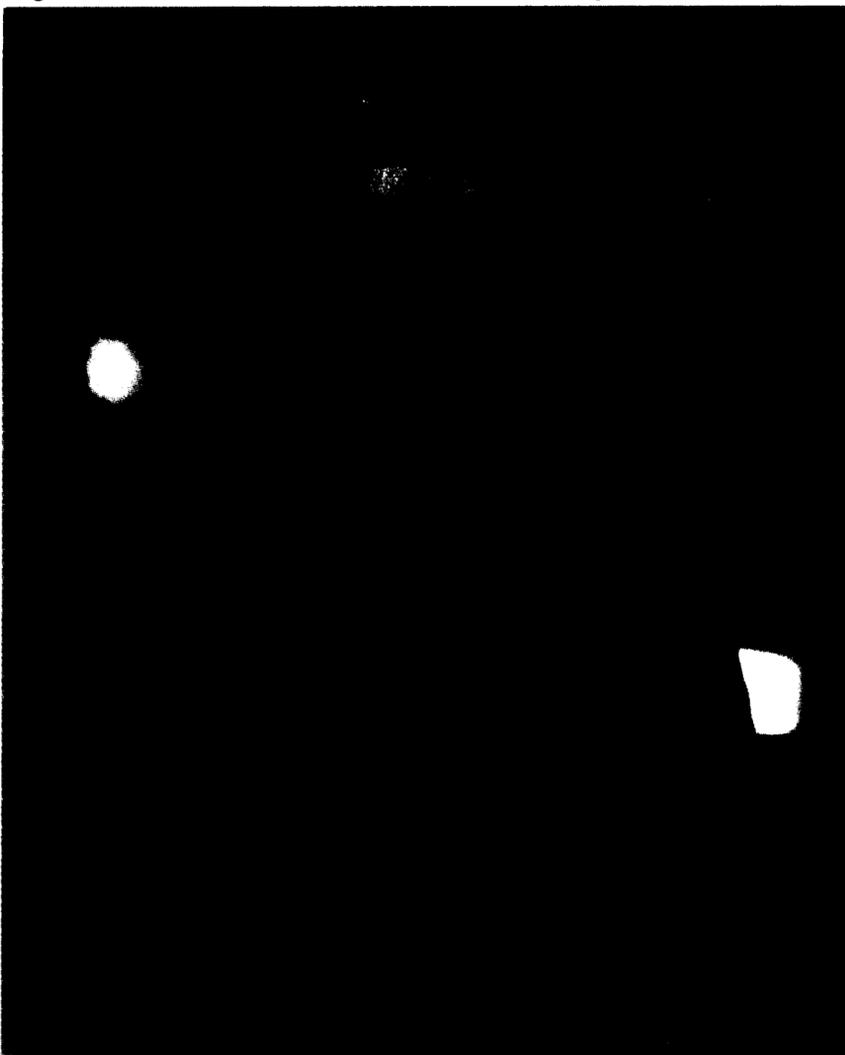
Following Vadera was the solo project of Ace Enders, the former frontman of the Early November, aptly titled Ace Enders & A Million Different People.

Enders's foray into solo material doesn't stray far from the formula he crafted with the Early November in 2002. Ever since then, swarms of whiny kids in tight pants with swoopy bangs longed to emulate Enders's style at every café and talent show they could. Seven years past his prime, Enders too seems to long for his past glory.

Next to take the stage was Shiny Toy Guns. Dawning their heavy face make-up and stunning apparel, STG was a band who put on more than a show for show's sake. This relatively unknown group performed in front of thousands of men and women, most of whom hearing this unique blend of sound for the first time.

Leading the Shawnee, Oklahoma based band on this night was the petite vocalist, synthesizer, and bassist Sisely Treasure of STG. STG put up a phenomenal show. A sea of more than 2,500 people felt their ears tingle as a combination of synthpop and alternative dance-rock flooded the Junker

see REJECTS on page 5.



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon

Tyson Ritter of the All-American Rejects rocks Junker Center

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The Behrend Beacon would like to extend its condolences to the friends and family of Ian Johnson.

Ian passed away peacefully at his home in Naperville, IL.

Ian Johnson was a psychology major, an avid computer gamer and a member of the Men's Water Polo Team.

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