

MY VOICE

Let's meet new people

As the second week of classes draws to a close, you may have finally been able to meet up with old friends and catch up. However, there are the few who have had to start over. Whether you're a transfer student, a freshmen, or are just with a new roommate, you may be in the awkward position of not really knowing anybody.

Though this is no life-threatening handicap, it can make college a hell of a lot less enjoyable. However, if you're shy or insecure, this process can be as difficult as integrating a partial fraction while sitting in the Perry Hall lobby on "thirsty Thursday" while a gaggle of plastered freshman sit four feet away, screaming about how shwasted they are. Now, don't go arranging to move back home just yet because there is hope. Below are five sure-fire

ways to make some friends.

1. Talk. It seems rather straight forward, but nothing is going to delay you in your quest to find friendship like being too shy to talk. Sometimes you can't think of the right thing to say, or you want to be funny right off the bat. Honestly, you are just better off offering them a handshake and asking them for their name. Sometimes the simplest solution is the best.

2. Be positive! Never ever, ever, ever be negative when you are first meeting somebody, even if you are trying to be funny. It may work, but it's not worth the risk. Just smile,

laugh, nod and be happy. Even if you have to fake it, be happy!

3. Ask questions. People like to feel appreciated and unique. Nothing achieves this goal more then asking questions about thier life. However, asking the right questions is like an art form. Avoid questions that yield one word answers, but don't get too intrusive. It's really creepy. You may want to know the life story of the cute girl who sits

next to you in math class, but now is not the time to ask. Just play it safe at first. Ask about their major or what the do in their free time. Those never go wrong.

4. Be cool. Contrary to pop-

ular belief, being "cool" is NOT analogous to being popular. Being "cool" is simply being clam. Relax when meeting new people. If you act too extreme, you may scare them away. You don't need to be badass, super happy, or different. Just be calm, relaxed, and collected.

5. Be yourself. Though it may be cliché and annoying to hear, it's still very true. If you act as the person that you genuinely are, then you will develop a confidence that will attract people like magnets. If you don't care what others think and do your own thing on your own terms then you will eventually command people's respect. Once you get their respect, then friendship will soon follow. Just be you and do what you do.



NEIL JAMES
Opinion Editor

MY VOICE

Procrastination

CARA DALLENBACH
staff writer

Picture this: you sit down to your desk and open Microsoft Word. You take a deep exhilating breath, crack your knuckles, and begin typing out your name. You think to yourself, "I've got this 25 page research paper in the bag. There's absolutely no stress here!" Your self-satisfaction is then followed by a fun-loving high five from your roommate, Jimmy, as he makes a swift b-line to the door for some Hungry Howie's. Bringing yourself back to the paper, you type the date: 9/11/09. Your eyes can't help but immediately glance down at your syllabus and you cringe as it reads: Due Date - 9/12/09. Calmly you think, "Not a big deal. A bit worrisome, but all in all, I'm fine here." Then, to your inevitable dismay, you feel your hand slowly creeping towards the mouse. Your mind-set is: "I can accept just this one friend request, there is no harm in one. One is fine."

You check to see if Jimmy is looking. He turns his head slowly in your direction and anxiously whispers, "Don't you do it, not again." You respond with, "What? I'm changing my font to Comic Sans. You know it's my favorite." He nods his head in agreeance and exits the room. The next thing you know, it is 3 hours later. Jimmy is standing over you in shock as you lay under your desk shivering in a helpless and vulnerable fetal position. What happened? You've procrastinated.

You have replaced all of your responsibilities with silly tasks for three hours and where has it gotten you? All you have to show is a heading, 9 accepted friend requests, a pyramid made out of ramen noodles, an unnecessary rearrangement of the dorm beds, and a guilty and confused conscience. Jimmy calls the RA, shakes his head at you, looks away in disheartenment, and utters "It's bad. He stacked the ramen noodles again."

You are probably asking why I am reaching out to the behrend community with this overly exaggerated scenario of procrastination at its worst. I'll admit that it may have been extreme, but this is an extreme problem we are dealt with.

To those of you who are free of the traps of procrastination, I commend you. Hopefully this article, if anything, will entertain you. But for those of you who are struggling with this

hardship, lend me your ears (actually eyes) and I will try to lead you down the path of organization and time-management! Sounds super fun, right? No, not at all. This is the main problem I notice when it comes to finding motivation to do work. Homework is not universally a "fun" thing to delve into.

When I asked for advice on how to end my procrastinating, most responses I received would have been as follows: "Oh that's easy. Just organize your time and manage your life while simultaneously prioritizing your goals and saving the world!" "Great, thanks I'll do just that. Right after I pass out from how exhausting and unappealing that sounds." So what do we as procrastinators do? Well we're going to take the road less traveled on the subject and address things that most people don't think of when procrastination comes to mind.

First, don't call it procrastinating, rather call it something else, time not well spent. The trick is to look at things in a positive light. Entertain the idea of homework as something positive. I know that sounds farfetched but the fact is, and will always remain, that work is, for the lack of a better word, grueling. Therefore, realize that any work completed has its benefits. Whether it's gaining better skill in something like reading or just getting satisfaction out of completing something. Whether it seems it or not, those small aspects are benefiting you.

The other tactic is to find a way to stimulate your wandering and curious mind. Get away from anything scholarly-like and exert yourself physically. Go for a run, work out, walk around campus, or join a club sport. Just be ambitious and try new things. I promise you, if you better yourself physically, you will want to better yourself mentally as well. Try it; I dare you.

Just remember we no longer get a sticker of a bumblebee on our homework when we do a good job, so we have to make our own "mental stickers." Think positively and be excited about becoming smarter. If mental stickers don't work for you because you're a visual person, then just go ahead and give yourself a thumbs up in the mirror, hold it there for 5 to 10 seconds, and repeat what the wise Dane Cook once said, "I did my best!"



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MY VOICE

Parking passes break the bank

BRANDON BOYD
staff writer

I'd like to take a moment to do some complaining in my first column for the Behrend Beacon. I transferred to Penn State Erie from University Park, after only a few days there. I'm a freshman here on campus, and I was recently bestowed a great honor from the Police Services here on campus. I got a parking ticket.

I get that I parked in Parking Lot "A," near the Reed Union Building. I get that I wasn't allowed to park in that lot. That's cool by me. Having to pay \$15 because I parked there for one day? Not cool. Adding that \$15 onto the \$150 that I'm already paying for parking this semester is like a punch to the groin. Under the "Frequently Asked

Questions" section of Penn State Erie's Police Services website, it asks "How are parking permits used at Penn State Behrend?" The answer? "The money generated from selling student, faculty, and staff parking permits is used to construct new parking lots, maintain existing lots, and administer the parking program." Is that a joke?

At almost \$300 a year, and oh, 2,000 people or so (to be safe) buying permits, they would have enough for 150 parking lots, according to Northwestern's website, which says that parking lots cost about \$4,000.

Now, I realize that building parking lots and keeping them maintained isn't cheap. There shouldn't be free parking by any means. However, unless

our parking lots are enriched with gold flakes, we shouldn't have to pay nearly \$300 per year. (As a quick note: Ohio State charges their students \$80 per year.) If you want me to pay \$300 a year, I expect girls in bikinis washing my car every day and perhaps a pizza thrown in as well. Heck, I want access to parking on top of the roof of the Kochel Center. To be serious though, an actual change could be made in that the closer you want to park to the Reed Union Building, the more you pay. You want to park right next to it? You pay, say, that \$300 per year. You want to park a mile away? Pay \$50. Don't charge the same amount to everybody. It's simply not fair.

Fittingly, it seems like nothing in college is fair. When you

add the costs of tuition, housing, food, parking, etc., the amount is mind boggling. All of that money basically goes towards knowledge, a piece of paper, and memories. Awesome. I don't have anything against Penn State, in fact, I enjoy it here and I enjoyed my (very) short time at University Park. It's just that I would love to see something done about the parking passes around here, at the least. I even had a teacher say they could complain about the passes here all day. For those from the Police Services reading this, please don't take away my parking pass. After all, I'm too lazy to walk, and the pass costs me a lot of money. Of course, you already know that, don't you?

OUR VOICE

Majority opinion of the Behrend Beacon editorial board

Market yourself; it's the only way out

The same spiel can be a tired one: sell yourself. Our parents tell us. Our professors plea for us. Anyone who's taken an internship hears the same thing. How are you going to secure your future? Is your resume going to be enough? Are you prepared to, for lack of a proper vernacular, whore yourself during your interview?

We're aware, as a staff, that our future employers are always looking to see who's ahead of the game. What tentative employee will bring the most to the table, so to speak?

First of all, students need to be ahead of their peers. The staff of the Beacon recognizes that. We involve ourselves with extracurriculars. Not only that, but we put ourselves into positions of authority or guidance,

as leaders, we can only improve our chances on the market.

When you view yourself as a product which businesses and employers shop around for, you realize that you need to advertise yourself. Again, sell yourself.

Stay ahead of the curve. That's a must! Keep with the times; when technology takes a step forward, we - you take two.

Manage your Facebook page so that when, not if, your prospective employer looks for you, he or she is looking at a person they're going to want to hire. We'll tell you who they won't hire. You know that one profile picture you have, yeah, the one with your eyes looking in two different directions and the fifth in your hand? Yeah,

they're not hiring that.

Keep a blog. This is almost a must nowadays, as employers are looking to see how involved with the world their prospective employee is. No, we're not talking about the personal blog a lot of you already keep. Not the one that references your weekend parties, or how your girl or boy broke up with you. Employers don't care about that. They want attentive hires.

While you're at it, maintain a twitter. Gather followers. Is twitter the most amazing thing in the world? Absolutely not. Are businesses and the rest of the corporat world taking note of this massive media phenomenon? Heck yes they are, and they're going to love that you took it upon yourself to follow

the trends.

We feel it's unfortunate not enough students take their college education and spent money seriously. These are all things a student can do independently. You don't need professors' approval, nor do you need the go-ahead from your peers. This is upon your own volition.

Does this seem like a lot? Did I lose you somewhere along the way? Then maybe you need to prioritize. Maybe it's time you dedicate yourself to your future a little bit. Get in that state of mind. Prepare. Because as it stands, marketing yourself may be the best decision you ever make.

Evan Koser for the Behrend Beacon editorial staff.

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