



The death of a landmark

MICHAEL BILZ
staff writer

The tree that once held a long-famed rope swing in the Wintergreen Gorge has been cut down.

Should students venture down into the gorge, they'll notice not a dangling twine, but the remains of a stump. While the gorge in itself is a treasure to Penn State Behrend, many have returned disappointed by the disappearance of the swing.

Any student walking down in the gorge near the creek will be met by an array of activities. Remnants of fires and random trees with dates on them from the 1990s dot the landscape; and, of course, the creek is right there.

The tree that the rope was hanging from has been sawed off, reduced to a stump no more than four feet high. This staple at Behrend's campus has been around for years and countless students have used it to take a plunge into the first deep spot in the creek.

Wade, walk, or leap in, but no matter how one enters, many students promise a great time. The rope swing made it easily accessible for students to

get fully immersed very quickly.

Students were upset or shocked to find out that the swing had been removed sometime over the summer.

Because they are unaware of the circumstances of the swing's removal, some students believe the tree was cut down in malice.

"I can't believe some jerk would do that," said Jonathan Lauser, a senior mechanical engineering and technology major.

The spot, while not easily accessible, was indeed a highlight for students looking for some fun in the wilderness.

"I didn't even know that it was gone until my roommate told me," said Matthew DeFusco, a sophomore creative writing major.

"That stinks, but that wasn't the only way to have fun in the creek. I'll just wade in a bit further to one of the waterfalls. That spot is even deeper."

Others, however, have many memories attached to the rope swing.

"I used to go down a lot with the Outdoors club, and it was so much fun. It was a genius idea for someone to put it

there," senior English literature major Allison Maino commented.

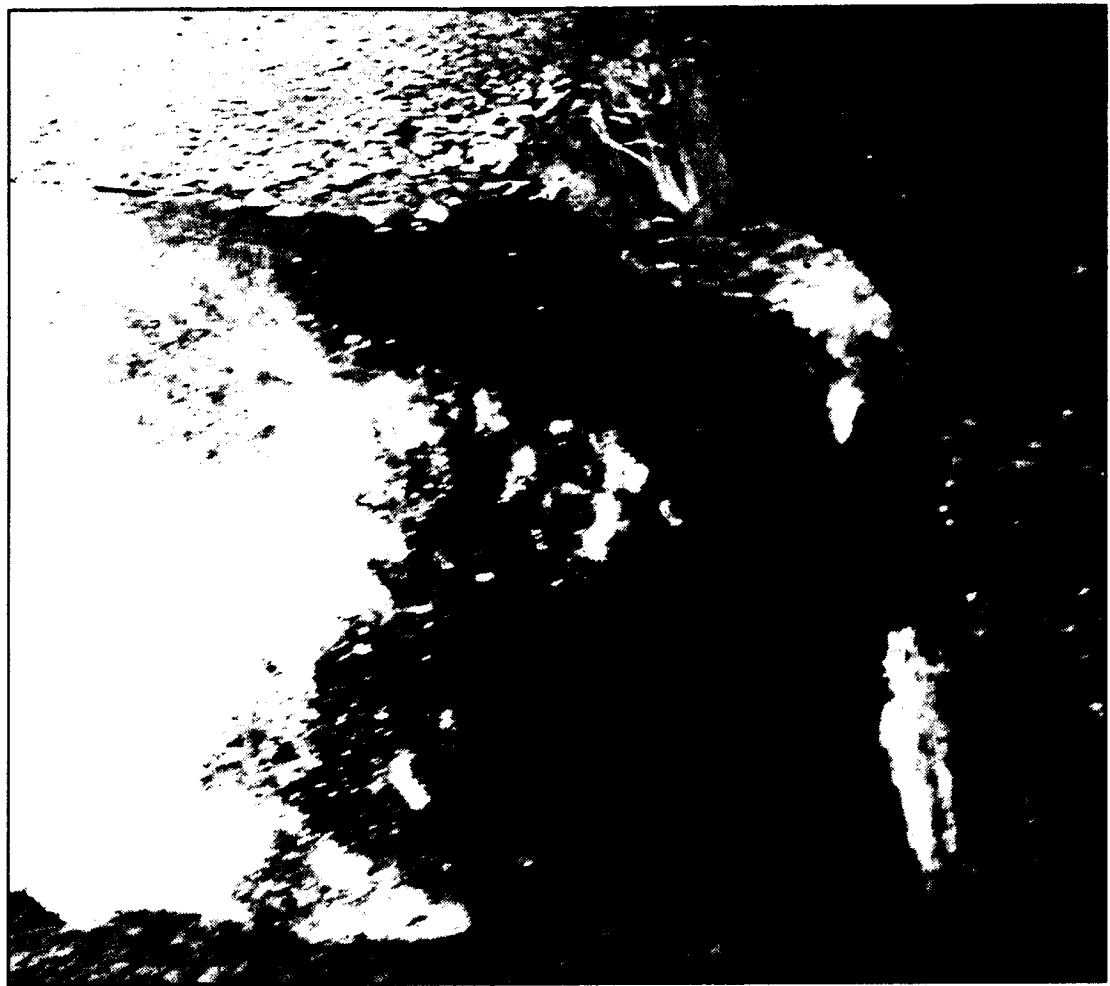
Still, others have remained uniformed about all that the gorge has to offer.

While a lot of mystery still shrouds the removal of the attraction, many rumors are flying around.

One is safety. As one enters the gorge, blue signs are there to warn hikers and venturers with what is permissible. Swimming is prohibited, as are campfires. But traces of fires all around display evidence otherwise.

However, it's clear to many that the swing's removal was one of a liability concern, and not one out of spite. Any student harmed in the use of the swing could have easily laid blame on the school, considering that the section of the gorge which contained the rope gorge is campus property.

While the question may remain unanswered, one thing is certain: the legacy will live on when it comes to the rope swing at the Wintergreen Gorge.



Michael Bilz / The Behrend Beacon

Students hopes to use the rope swing this summer season were cut short.

CAMPUS MUSIC

Bassoon in the Wild

JOE GOETZ
staff writer

McGarvey Commons was filled with the sounds of a quartet called Bassoon in the Wild at noon on Thursday.

The quartet was led by Michael Rabinowitz on the bassoon, with Diana Herold on vibraphone, Bob Bowen on string bass and Grish Alexiev on the drumset. The concert was the second in a series of six that

make up Music at Noon, the Logan Series.

The series is celebrating its 20-year anniversary during the entire 2009-2010 season. The quartet hopes to bring the underappreciated bassoon to the forefront of modern music with a show that includes jazz standards, Latin, bebop, rhythm and blues, as well as several original compositions.

Their first selection, entitled Oblivion, which was written by

Bud Powell, was a very upbeat fast paced number. The piece had a heavy jazz feel to it and included solos on all four instruments included.

Following with the theme of this year's series, Bassoon in the Wild has already performed on the Behrend campus once before. During the 2000-2001 season, Bassoon in the Wild opened the series, helping to kick off the 10th anniversary.

During his introduction, pro-

gram director Dr. Gary Viebranz admitted that the quartet was invited back because they were his most memorable act in the 10 years he's been at Behrend.

The quartet performed six songs during the hour long concert, three of which were written by Rabinowitz. Herold and Alexiev also had original compositions included in the concert. The quartet chose a range of different songs to per-

form so each instrument would get an opportunity to shine and also to showcase compositions by members of the band.

In addition to the Behrend students, faculty, and staff in attendance, students and teachers from Diehl Elementary School were also bused in. The Logan Music Series is a co-op program with Diehl.

All artists that perform in the series also sign on to do an educational concert for the ele-

mentary school. This aspect is one of the most important to the series.

After the concert came to a close, the quartet remained on stage to play for Dr. Viebranz's MUSIC 007 class. Students were treated to a mini concert, as well as a question and answer session with the band.

The next concert is the Ethos Percussion Group and will be on Wednesday, Nov. 18.



Photos by Daniel Smith / The Behrend Beacon

Left: bassist Joe Fonda has co-lead the Fonda-Stevens group since 1991 and has recorded 10 albums to date.

Above: Rabinowitz, the frontman for Bassoon in the Wild has performed in a myriad of locations, including New York City and Pittsburgh.

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