

OUR VOICE

Majority opinion of the Behrend Beacon editorial board

Free EMTA passes not necessary

The Beacon has received several calls over the last few weeks from interest groups in favor of public transportation. These groups seek to increase use of public transport, and recently, their focus has been upon Penn State Behrend. Penn State Behrend is the only school out of Edinboro, Mercyhurst, Gannon, and itself that does not give students "free" passes on the Erie Metro Transit Authority (EMTA) public busing system.

Through our research, it has become very clear exactly what "free" means in this case. "Free" means that while students don't pay the bus driver, or EMTA, they end up paying a large sum on their tuition that pays for the tickets [See EMTA, front page]. We applaud Penn State Behrend for making the choice not to move to accept this deal. Sacrificing a huge fee of our Student Activity Fee, into which we all pay, to provide free

passes for the minimal amount of students who would use this system is a horrible decision and one that needed to be passed up. While free public transportation is an absolutely great idea, and would benefit certain students in large ways, the price is not worth the reward in this case, if the money were to come from the Student Activity Fee. If the price were more representative of the amount of students who regularly would

use the EMTA, or if the money were to come from a different source, this deal would be an easy "yes." The idea of a campus loop, too, is one that should definitely be explored. The administration of this college just needs to consistently take into account that in this economy, every dollar of our tuition counts - don't waste it. Connor Sattely for the Behrend Beacon editorial staff.

MY VOICE

I hate Facebook

JEN SLANE
staff writer

Facebook is getting out of hand, and I'll proudly say that I'm getting a little tired of it. Here are seven reasons why:

1. Procrastination Tool: I realized throughout my years of using the website that even if nothing is occurring on Facebook, you can still manage to sit on it for three hours instead of doing your homework. Facebook, I hate you because you are addicting for absolutely no reason, and it results in me staying up later to finish my work.

2. Annoying status updates/the kid that likes everything:

There is that one person on Facebook that updates their status a little too much. You know more about their life than you really wanted to. There is also that guy that tends to comment on or "like" absolutely everything you put up in a short time after you post it.

Creepy much? I don't care if you say "it's not stalking, it's in my news feed." No, it's creepy. Stop it.

3. People You Might (Not) Know:

Okay, I'm sick of the "People You May Know" in the upper right corner. I am in the Penn State and Pittsburgh networks which are both large. What are the chances of me actually knowing the person they are displaying? And am I being displayed to them? I feel like I'm in a battle of not clicking "Add as a Friend" first and seeing who caves in, and I don't like it.

4. Farmville and Mafia Wars:

I want nothing to do with your elephants and I do not want to join your Mafia War gang. These applications among others on Facebook are ridiculous and waste of time. If you want to participate, go for it, but don't send me an invitation every time you play. Also,

I'm sick of seeing that you are a Level 62 or seeing your farm pictures in my News Feed. If you're going to play, please, just keep it to yourself.

5. Relationship Status and Family Trees:

I think it's pathetic that "it's not official until it's on Facebook." You see couples break up and get back together all the time via news feed. I do not need to know your relationship issues, and if you're going to be breaking up and getting back together all the time, you probably just shouldn't have a relationship. It's not something you should take too seriously. I mean come on, I'm "engaged" to my roommate and my family tree consists of my friends.

6. Threads:

So, today I "liked" one of my friend's statuses. About 2 minutes later I have 5 new notifications because "so and so commented on so and so's status that you liked." Really, Facebook? Really? You felt the need to tell me this? I simply wanted to express that I "liked" the status, that doesn't mean I want to know what everyone else said about it.

Then, for the rest of the afternoon I kept getting notifications about the status. I hate threads because I can comment on something once and pay the consequences for weeks if people continue to comment.

7. Facebook Chat:

Okay, first, if they're going to make a chat, they should make sure it works. Half the time when I communicate on Facebook chat it freezes or doesn't send my message. Two, just because I am on Facebook doesn't mean I want to talk to you. Most of the time I am just checking it between classes and I don't have time to have a conversation.

Also, most of the people that tend to Facebook chat you are the people you don't want to talk to. Just send me a text message, thanks.



MY VOICE

Why I love to run

Exhaustion, the pounding of my shoes hitting the pavement, the music of my green iPod screaming into my ears. Sweat dripping down my face. Just me and the road. All reasons why I love to run. Generally, running is an activity that either you love or hate. Some people don't understand the point of it and cannot imagine that going for a run is actually a voluntary decision. The thought of exerting energy to run three miles would never be a possibility for some. On the other hand, I don't know what I would do if I didn't run. Now, I'm no cross-country runner, but I make sure that I run when I can, depending on the specific day and my agenda, and I increase my distance over time. Key reasons why I love to run and believe it is important include:

- Running allows me to get in better shape. Since I have played sports throughout my entire life, it is a necessity for me to run. After playing basketball and softball for four years in high school and soccer for two years, I can't just suddenly stop exercising.
- Running reduces stress. This is a vital reason why college students should run because they can easily be in stressful situations.
- Running is an activity that gets me away from every day activities and responsibilities. It allows me to escape from classes, studying, homework assignments, and work for just

the right amount of time. A 25 minute run does not consume too much of my valuable time, yet it lets my mind go somewhere free from academics and what I need to accomplish. Running is a way to take a break. For example, if I have been studying for hours and need a break to clear my head, there is a good chance that I will go for a run. Running provides a change of scenery, which helps because of daily regular routines. Feeling the fresh air as I run automatically improves my mood, which is another benefit of running. I love exercising outside compared to on a treadmill. In a gym, I feel cooped up on the treadmill and find it boring. Additionally, I think that I get a better workout outside. Behrend's location provides excellent places to run outside, for example, the Behrend Fields. However, due to the majority of paths at the Behrend Fields being very isolated and surrounded by woods, I feel that additional emergency call boxes need to be added for the safety of students. Currently, the furthest emergency call box is located near the windmill which is across from the soccer field. Once you go across the bridge and head past the Logan House, the call boxes disappear. While running I am always aware of my surroundings, but I would feel much more comfortable and safer if additional call boxes were added.



CHRISTINE NEWBY
managing editor

MY VOICE

Respect the prize

MARISSA LANICH
staff writer

I am not a political science major, and I have never held strong political opinions. I won't pretend to have any extensive knowledge of President Barack Obama's work since his election or his intentions for his term in office. However, what I do know is that in a time when many have lost everything, including their optimism, Obama has inspired millions to maintain their hope for the future, and I think that is pretty impressive. Last week, The Norwegian Nobel Committee also expressed their endorsement of our president's efforts by awarding him the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He was chosen from 205 nominees for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples" and especially for his "vision of, and work for, a world without nuclear weapons."

star power outshined other nominees' "real achievements." Erick Erickson, editor-in-chief of the conservative blog RedState.com, suggested Obama was chosen to meet an affirmative action quota, rather than actually earning the honor. Even Saturday Night Live has joined in on the fun, insinuating he only won the prize for "not being George Bush." It's unfortunate that there has been such a lack of support for our president and such a lack of enthusiasm for this honor that's been given to him, especially among Americans. Regardless of political preference or opinion, this should be a positive piece of news. Our president has been honored with one of the world's most prestigious awards during a time when our country is still struggling to get back on its feet and to regain the rest of the world's respect. He is reacting humbly to the news, and intends to donate the \$1.4 million award to charity. Also, the award will likely help Obama achieve some of his admirable goals, such as working towards a more unified world. So why are we looking at this in such a negative light? Why are we finding reasons to complain and ridicule those involved in this decision? Setting politics aside, why don't we try to avoid the negativity since there is already enough that can bring us down? Instead, let's support the committee's decision to honor a man who has inspired in millions when we need it most.

MY VOICE

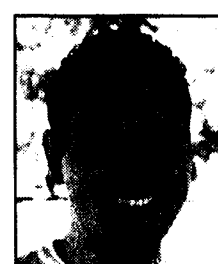
Sleep: a staple of college sanity

I have never really been enticed by the vices that hook most of humanity. I don't like to drink; I've never done drugs; I don't focus too much on getting laid. These things are fine for different people, but it is simply not my thing. However, I do have one weakness that will always get the best of me. Simply put, I love to sleep. It is the highlight of my day. Never have I been involved with an activity that I wanted to do for more than twelve straight hours. Though it may be obvious that sleeping is an awesome thing, I feel that college stu-

dents are sadly being forced to forgo this great gift. Each night, I trudge home from the library or Reed and see other sleep deprived students just like me. We wander like zombies, our sanity and drive ripped from our bodies by the unholy stress of college. It breaks my heart to see my friends drag themselves into class, looking like they just finished shooting the Thriller music video.

Putting off sleep is something we all do at one time or another. We want to catch up on work or have a little fun, but this has a serious drawback a few days down the road. After three days of burning the candle at both ends, you'll be at the same mental level as a bottle of maple syrup. It may be counter-intuitive, but not getting enough sleep is one of the worst things you can do to your

GPA and your ability to be productive in class. To me, this is a terrible injustice. My fellow students are entitled to this God given right and deserve some freaking sleep. Our grades suffer and our comprehension fades with each passing, sleepless night. As important as studying is and as fun as certain activities may be, sleep should always be high on our list of priorities. So please do yourself a favor and heed these words: put down this paper, go back to your room, draw the blinds and go to bed. Sweet dreams.



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