

## Weekly Political Ticker

ADAM SPINELLI  
humanities editor

Tuesday was election day... The GOP picked up both seats in the New Jersey and Virginia Gubernatorial races... Democrat **Bill Owens** won the NY 23rd Congressional seat...he is the first democrat to pick up this seat since **Ulysses Grant** was president... New York City Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** elected for his third term as Mayor... Maine repealed the same-sex marriage law the governor passed earlier this year...Republican Candidate **Dede Scozafava** was forced out of the race by other conservatives like **Sarah Palin** and **Glenn Beck**...Political Analysts say that this is the beginning of a divide in the republican party...Analysts also say that Tuesday's elections were not a referendum on **President Obama**...Vice President **Joe Biden** criticized **Sarah Palin** for her naivety...**George W. Bush** and **Bill Clinton** are set to appear at Radio City Music Hall in February...House Democrats are beginning to prepare a health care bill for debate on the house floor...**Karzai** was declared president in Afghanistan after his opponent dropped out of the race...Former Governor Sarah Palin is set to kick off her book tour... Former Governor **Mike Huckabee** wrote a book on Christmas and is ready for a book tour as well... Louisiana Judge resigned after denying an interracial couple their marriage license.

### On This Day in History: October 9th

**1851:** Charles Henry Dow was born. He was the founder of Dow Jones & Company.

**1860:** Abraham Lincoln was elected to be the 16th president.

**1861:** Jefferson Davis was elected as the president of the Confederacy in the U.S.

**1923:** Joseph Stalin was granted a patent for the electric mixer.

**1952:** The first hydrogen bomb was exploded at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

**1965:** The group was formed.

**1989:** United States government officials unfroze \$567 million in Iranian assets in hopes of freeing hostages.

**1996:** The group was formed.

## Toronto course set for summer

ALLI HEITZENRATER  
humanities writer

Unfortunately, most Americans' knowledge of Canada comes from the flapping heads and block wheels of *South Park*.

Fortunately, for those among Behrend students interested in going beyond the stereotypes of mainstream society is a new course intended to educate students in relations between Canada and the United States.

PLSC 299/499 North American politics is a three-credit course that students are now able to take while studying abroad at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada between May 9 and June 5, 2010. The course satisfies the political science major or minor at any Penn State campus, and requirements in some majors for an Education Abroad component which includes the international business major at Penn State Behrend.

The course is being co-taught by Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of Political Science at Behrend and a political science professor from Ryerson University. If students should choose to complete this course, they will be in the classroom with students from Ryerson University. Penn State students' performances in the class will be graded by Speel.

"The course focuses on the comparative politics of the United States and Canada and

on international relations between the two countries," says Speel.

Topics will include the comparison of the development of separate political cultures in the two countries, comparisons of government institutions, election systems, federalism, and regionalism, and comparisons of each country's policy approaches toward the economy, health care, gun control, same-sex marriage, language, free speech, abortion, and the role of religion in public life.

The class begins the week after the spring semester's finals week, and meets 14 times over a four week period from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends will also be free, giving students time to go sightseeing around the local Toronto area.

Penn State students taking this course will reside in the International Learning Living Center on Ryerson University's

downtown Toronto campus. To take the course and participate in the Education Abroad program, students will need to fill out application forms, pay a 200 dollar non-refundable deposit and pay Penn State tuition for three credits next summer.

Local attorney and Penn State Behrend alumna Barbara Welton made a donation.

Thanks to her, the first ten students to submit application forms and the 200 dollar deposit and have their applications accepted will not need to pay any additional money toward the cost of the Toronto residence

for a month.

Applications are available at the Learning Resource Center and Speel's office - 159 Kochel.

If students are interested and have questions, contact Ruth Pflueger at the Learning Resource Center or Speel.



Photo by Kevin Chung/KAYCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
Penn State students will live at the International Learning Living Center on Ryerson University's campus in Toronto.

### CREATIVE WRITING

## Dr. Loss teaching class for 16 years

ALLI HEITZENRATER  
humanities writer



Dr. Archie Loss,  
Professor of  
English.

Dr. Archie Loss has been teaching his class on American cultures almost as long as his course covers.

Loss, professor of English and American Studies, has taught his extremely popular class, American Studies 105: American Pop Culture and Folklife for 16 years. Loss is the only professor on campus who teaches the course. For the

spring 2010 semester, there are two sections being offered. Loss will also be teaching one section of English 202 D, one

section of English 484, and one section of English 494.

The American Studies class dives into the analysis of the historical significance of America in the 1960's which includes, but is not limited to, the music/pop culture scene, Vietnam War, technological advances, and family/home life.

Additionally, there is also a heavy emphasis on the music and media. Musical artists discussed by Loss include The Beatles and Bob Dylan. One of the two texts used in the class is Loss' own book, *Pop Dreams: Music, Movies, and Media in the American 1960s*.

Loss himself has been a professor here at Penn State Behrend for nearly 35 years. In addition, the three credit course satisfies General Humanities and United States Culture.

This very popular class includes guest speakers and movies. Films featured are *Easy Rider*, *The Graduate*, *Rebel Without a*

*Cause*, and *Apocalypse Now*. Loss brings in a guest speaker who was a student at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio during the time of the legendary Kent State shootings.

Before the class became as popular as it is today, Loss' class was mainly pure lecture. However, now that the class has gained in size, student demand, and popularity. Small group leaders are led by upperclassman students who have completed the course.

The groups meet every few weeks, discuss what is currently being taught in class and assist the students as well as Doctor Loss. The small group leaders also led the discussion and help the students in their groups apply what they are learning to their lives today.

Loss has been one of the very few professors to teach this class, and one of the very few professors on campus to teach a single class for so long.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE

## A glimpse into their political futures

Students meet with alumni, community political leaders

ANDREW TARR  
humanities writer

For a few lucky political science students, their futures in an uncertain job market might be getting a little more concrete.

Penn State Behrend's Politi-

cal Science Advisory Board, which consists of prominent community leaders and Penn State Behrend Alumni, will convene at the Logan House on Nov. 11. Several students as well as a few full-time political science professors are invited to the event.

Political science professors John Gamble, Robert Speel, Christopher Cook, Zachary Irwin, and Celise Schneider will represent Behrend's faculty at the luncheon.

"The purpose of the board is two-fold," says Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of

political science at Behrend.

"First, for the political science faculty to get suggestions and advice about programs and outreach efforts. The faculty can seek support from the advisory board in publicizing political science program initiatives and events to broaden the community.

"Second, to meet with Behrend student political science advisers about careers and internships available to students."

The meeting is intended to be an opportunity for students to meet with the Political Science

Advisory Board members and vice versa. The board members can offer a great amount of advice about internships opportunities, career goals, graduate and law schools, and how to look for jobs.

The meeting will also include a group discussion regarding how students can get more involved with politics around the community and how the community can engage our students more in political issues.

**A group of experts:** The Political Science Advisory Board includes local politicians, community leaders, and more. Its members include:

- **Troy Frederick** (far left), an attorney and Penn State Behrend alumnus;
- **Sister Joan Chittister** (left), author, columnist, public speaker, and co-chair of the UN Global Peace Initiative of Women;
- **John Trucilla** (right), judge and former Assistant U.S. Attorney;
- **Christopher Mong**, Pa. Dept. of Community and Economic Development
- **Wendy Noble-Sidellinger**, legislative assistant to Jane Earl (R-49)
- **John Falcone**, Attorney, Erie County Judge, Behrend alumnus
- **Barbara Welton**, Attorney, Member of PSB Council of Fellows



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### What's hot this week:

#### Pop Chart:

"Party In The U.S.A"  
Miley Cyrus.  
*The Time of Our Lives*

#### Country Chart:

"Toes"  
Zac Brown Band.  
*The Foundation*

#### Rock Chart:

"Check My Brain"  
Alice in Chains.  
*Black Gives Way to Blue*

#### Hip Hop/R&B Chart:

"Pretty Wings"  
Maxwell.  
*BLACKsummernights*

#### Album:

Various Artists  
*Twilight: New Moon Soundtrack*

### Message From The Editor:

Based off of the recent elections around the Erie area, it has become clear that now more than ever all of our votes matter. With the battle for County Executive coming down to the roughly 11,000 absentee ballots that were cast, Barry Grossman and Mike Kerner are still waiting to see who has won the election. Grossman holds a slim lead of around 300 votes. 300. That's not a large number given the size of our county. So if you have ever thought that voting isn't a big deal, or it doesn't matter, you're wrong. When our generation gets involved in politics and votes, officials will actually listen to us and our needs. But until then, we will continue to go unheard.

ADAM SPINELLI  
Humanities and Social Sciences Editor

### Corrections:

Two weeks ago we published an article about Dr. Christofferson's recent trip to France. He went over to France because of his book. As the editor of the Humanities and Social Sciences page, my name was put on the article by mistake. And as much as I am more than willing to claim responsibility for as many things as possible here, I did not write the article. The article was written by humanities writer Alli Heitzenrater. We are sorry for the confusion and hope that Alli will continue to write for us, despite me taking her articles.

Own a piece of Behrend history.

To purchase photos printed in the *Beacon* or on the *Beacon* website, contact photoeditor@psu.edu.