

Anti-"balconite" Facebook group inciting controversy

ALLY ORLANDO
news editor

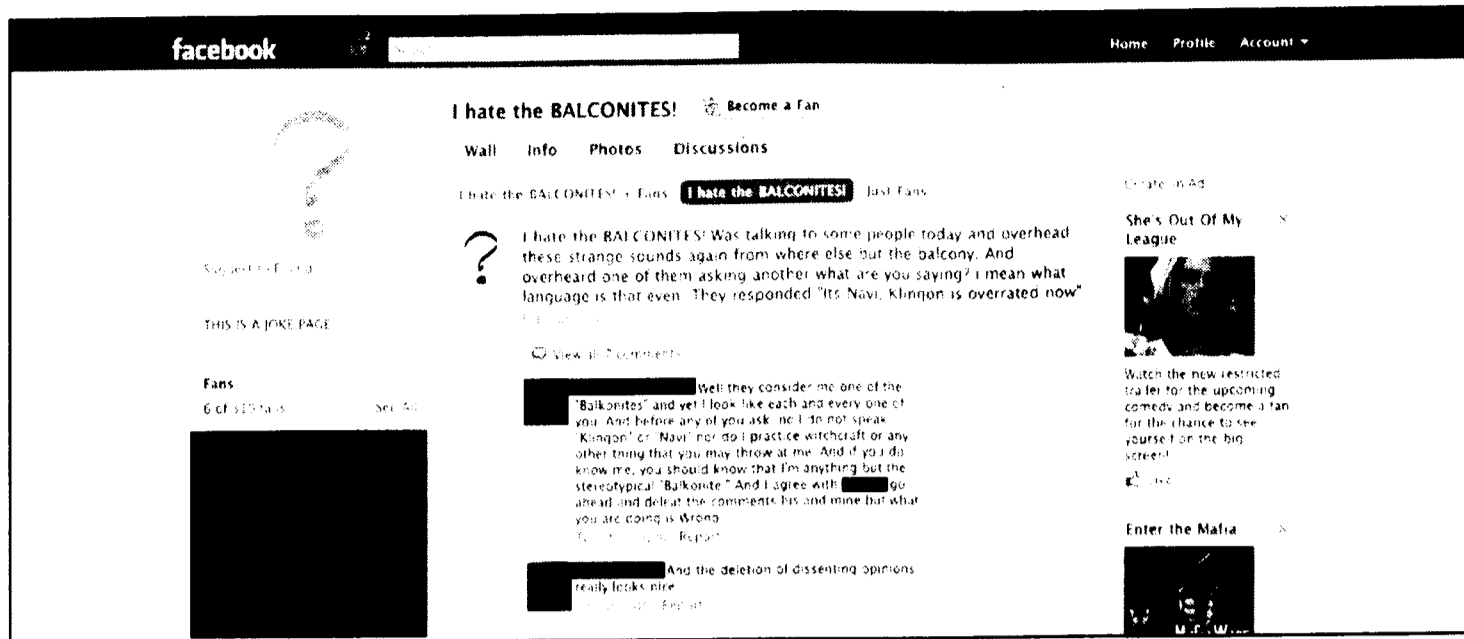
A group called "I hate the BALCONITES!" on Facebook has incited some controversy around campus, particularly in its 300 plus fans.

The group, which includes disclaimers that it is a "Joke Page," contains various comments regarding students who hang out on the balcony outside of Bruno's - a.k.a., "balconites."

Complaints made from students about the "Balconites" range from "they're constantly in the way" to "locking the computers" to "they should at least clean up their trash at the end of the night," and even that there should be a "yield Balconite sign" outside of Bruno's.

However, other comments respond from those targeted students.

"Calling this a 'joke page' only makes it more obvious that you know it's a project bent on insulting/bullying peo-



A recently formed Facebook group entitled "I hate the BALCONITES!" already has hundreds of fans.

ple different than you," said one student.

According to a comment on the Facebook group page, the students who created it were sent e-mails from the school on Feb. 3 asking them to take it

down. Currently, the page is still up and running.

Other students on the page allege that comments made in defense of some students were promptly and repeatedly deleted.

One comment from the creator of the page reads, "I was in Bruno's yesterday and this bright light was coming from out on the balcony. I wondered, 'Now what the hell could that be?' So I looked out, to find the

Balconites were shining. Apparently they thought that rubbing glitter on themselves would make them vampires."

Debate ensued, including one student likening the group to the KKK.

Chapel to hold "Discovering Your Strengths" seminar

AMBER MILLER
staff writer

Campus Ministry and the Protestant Campus Ministry are arranging a seminar entitled "Discovering Your Strengths" for Thursday Feb. 18, and Thursday Feb. 25.

This event will be located in the Smith Chapel living room at 8:00 p.m. both days.

Materials needed to participate will be provided for anyone attending. There are strictly 25 seats per seminar.

If interested, contact Father Dan or Claire Chadwick. Both are located at the Smith Chapel.

Aquarius

continued from front page out of place."

It seems out of place because two of the other main roads on campus are named Technology Drive and College Drive. Aquarius Drive does not fit into that group well.

Aquarius Drive runs below Dobbins Dining Hall and above Perry Hall and Niagara Hall.

A Facebook group, "Rename Aquarius Drive at PSB," has been created by Goncz to re-

ceive input from Behrend students. These students can submit new name suggestions, endorse fellow students' ideas and debate whether or not this should be a concern at all.

The Facebook group has drawn upwards of 250 members. Some students are readily offering potential new names, while others are taking offense to the fact that SGA is even taking time to address this issue.

Students against SGA's involvement in this process are sending the message that our Student Government should be

reevaluating their priorities.

"There are concerns about the process of what we are doing and where we are placing our resources," Goncz said. "I will answer those concerns on a discussion board called "Questions, Concerns, Suggestions." A link is provided on the Facebook group for students with input that does not contribute to the process of changing the road's name.

SGA asks that students' submissions on the Facebook group be "creative" and not "inappropriate."

"Lastly, I cannot emphasize enough that this is easy to do," Goncz said. "After surveys have been taken all that needs to be done is an administrator needs to make a phone call to change the name. This does not take away from any resources in SGA."

A committee will choose the most creative names submitted and place them on an open ballot this semester.

Students and faculty may voice their concerns at weekly SGA meetings in Reed 114 on Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Simonelli

continued from front page

He studied business and economics at Cardiff University

and started his career with Mitsubishi Bank in international and corporate finance, accord-

ing to GE.

He began working for GE in 1994, moving around to various locations, including Asia, Europe, and the U.S.

In 2002, Simonelli joined Consumer Products and after two years became the CFO for Americas for Con-

sumer and Industrial before being appointed to general manager in 2005. He served as President and CEO of GE Consumer and Industrial (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) between 2007 and his promotion to his current position in July 2008.

"He will be very accessible to our students," Ford said. "He'll have some really good advice and will be someone that our students can relate to."

Simonelli's presentation will last roughly a half hour; a Q & A session will be held with students afterwards.

Penn State unites for Haiti relief

AMANDA STETZ
staff writer

Ever since the earthquake, different organizations have had tables outside of Bruno's asking for donations or selling candy, shirts, and other items to benefit Haiti. Originally, these clubs were planning to fundraise for Haiti on their own.

However, a new organization has formed at University Park Penn State United.

Originally just a dream of Alain Bonny, Penn State United has now been officially recognized as a group by Penn State University.

Led by Bonny, Penn State United is hoping to combine the efforts of all the clubs and organizations at all the Penn State campuses and submit the donations as one.

"Rather than trying to appease each individual organization with separate fundrais-

ers, we thought

our time, efforts, and resources would be better spent unifying them into a coalition," Bonny said.

Bonny hopes that Penn State will match what all the organizations raise and will submit the donations to UNICEF and Partners in Health. There are other charities that Penn State United is considering, but according to Bonny, they want to make a significant contribution.

Though most organizations do not usually work together in fundraising, SGA Vice-President Molly Thomas is hoping to spread the word about this idea on campus and trying to get everyone on board.

"I want to find out who is all involved in raising money for Haiti," Thomas said. "There are many different clubs on campus who want to raise money for Haiti but aren't recognized."

There are many different clubs on campus who want to raise money for Haiti but aren't recognized.

Molly Thomas
SGA Vice-President

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

monday

25/23

rain/snow showers

tuesday

27/23

rain/snow showers

wednesday

26/23

rain/snow showers

thursday

27/23

rain/snow showers

THE BEHREND SHOWCASE

a presentation of the culture page featuring the works of students

Looking for a chance to be published?
Want the opportunity for a resume bolster?
Submit your creations to the Behrend Beacon!

admissions can include the following:
- flash fiction, short stories (in segments)
- prose and short dramatic scripts

...the world will end in fire.
Some say it is
...what I've heard of heaven
...I had to perch with
...I think I know enough to hate
...may they far destruction in
...the great



Order a subscription to

THE BEHREND BEACON

Stay aware of what's happening on-campus!
Get home delivery of The Behrend Beacon,
regardless of how far away you might be.
Simply fill out this form and mail back to:
The Behrend Beacon, 4701 College Dr., Erie
Pa. 16563.

Perfect for alumni, parents, extended
family, friends, and any Behrend faculty, staff, or
student living off-campus.

To order:
Contact our Business Department at 814.898.6488
or contact the Editor at editor@psu.edu.

In Erie County*:
One month (4 Issues): \$4.00
Half semester (7 issues): \$7.00
Full semester (13 issues): \$13.00
Full year (26 issues): \$26.00

Outside Erie County*:
One month (4 Issues): \$6.00
Half semester (7 issues): \$10.50
Full semester (13 issues): \$20.50
Full year (26 issues): \$39.00

*Prices cover shipping, labeling, and packaging costs.