

MY VOICE

Penn State's proud legacy

MARISSA LANICH
staff writer



"When they say, 'We Are Penn State,' this is what they're talking about." - Joe Paterno

What I'd like to know is how many Behrend students actually know what Joe Paterno was referring to in his statement? While it may seem as if our legendary coach was talking about the impressive football games we host at Beaver Stadium, he was really talking about something much more incredible.

The Penn State Dance Marathon, more commonly referred to as THON, is a year-long effort that raises funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. These efforts all build up to a 46-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon held in the Bryce Jordan Center at University Park every February. Thousands of students from the Penn State community come together each year to make this event a reality and to make a difference in the lives of children affected by cancer.

THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, raising over \$61 million throughout its history for the fight against pediatric cancer. Many students don't even know what THON is and aren't aware of the amazing opportunity that is in front of them.

Although the Dance Marathon, THON's main event, is held at University Park, it is an event that is made possible by the effort shown year-round by students from all across the commonwealth.

Of the \$7.49 million that was raised last year, our THON team at Behrend raised an impressive \$29,134.

This is the third year that I have been involved with THON, and I can honestly say that joining this organization is the best decision that I have made here at Penn State.

The effort that thousands of college students put forth throughout the year and the impact that it makes on the lives of children battling cancer has truly inspired me.

The experiences I have had have changed my life. My participation in THON has made me so proud to be a Penn State

student, and I feel lucky to have had such an incredible opportunity.

As college students, we all have a lot on our minds, including our classes, schoolwork, exams, work, as well as other responsibilities. However, after meeting children that have the strength and the courage to face and fight cancer, college life feels much less overwhelming. THON is a great opportunity for students to help others and make a difference, and I would encourage anyone that can get involved to do so.

The Behrend THON team will be canning this weekend throughout Erie, specifically on Peach Street and Buffalo Road, to wrap up our year of fundraising. And we will be traveling to University Park for THON weekend on February 19th-21st. If you see any of your fellow students out in the cold, show them your support and donate to a great cause! If you would like to get involved with THON, contact Carly Lapp (cml5158@psu.edu) or Erin Moran (efm5026@psu.edu) for more information.

MY VOICE

Vexing Valentine

Roses are red, violets are blue, Valentine's Day is approaching, and it's a load of crap.

Romantic, isn't it? Ladies, before you come after me for my poetic talents, and its message, hear me out for just a moment.

The idea behind Valentine's Day is fine. Showing your love for someone you truly care about is one of the best things a person can do.

Of course, advertisers have taken hold of this holiday and commercialized it to the extreme. Now, chocolates, cards, and flowers dominate every Feb. 14th.

Basically, it's a race to spend a whole lot of cash in a short amount of time. Sure, you and your partner will be happy all day, but the only person that benefits long-term from that box of chocolates is the person who pockets the profit.

This isn't to say that guys shouldn't buy anything for their girlfriends. If you try doing that, don't point to my column and blame me.

Chocolate is great, flowers are fine and cards are just dandy, but material items only go so far.

Last time I checked, there were 364 other days on the calendar, and I'm sure your partner would love for you to show some affection on those days, too.

I won't ever claim to be Dr. Love, but even I know that it takes more than one day to make things last. Why not show your affection on Nov.

17? Jan. 8? May 2? Heck, why not every day? That doesn't mean to go out and buy a rose or a cheesy card each and every day, but even the smallest effort goes a long way.

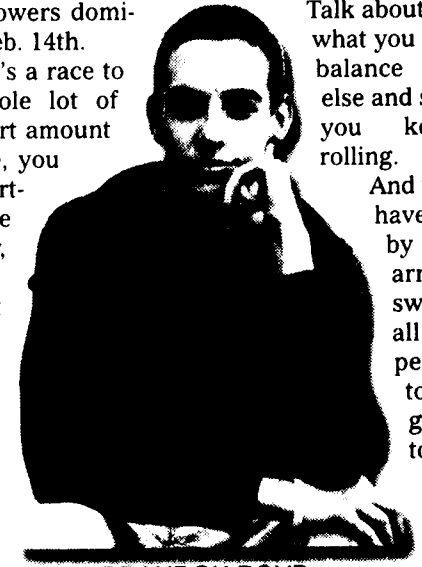
For the guys that think being romantic is buying your girlfriend a cheeseburger at Bruno's, the idea of a mushy-gushy day might be like sugar to a diabetic.

Here's a tip for you: For every affectionate deed you do, go ahead and do something manly.

Grow some sweet sideburns. Make your own beef jerky. Talk about football. Do what you need to do to balance everything else and stay happy as you keep things rolling.

And for those who haven't been hit by Cupid's arrow, don't sweat it. With all the other people having to shell out the green, you get to keep it all in your wallet (scratch that; we're in college). Well, at least you don't have to spend it on chocolates that you don't even get to eat. Then again, some of those chocolates in the heart-shaped boxes taste like they're filled with toothpaste. Maybe not eating them is a good thing after all.

When Sunday arrives and the abundance of flowers and sugary sweets shower couples around the world, just remember that it's only one day. To make it truly count, one day in the grand scheme of things means nothing. Showing affection on more than just the day florists dream of is what really makes it count.



BRANDON BOYD
senior writer

"SNOWMAGGEDON" SHUTS DOWN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



FOR THE BEHREND BEACON

MY VOICE

My second time around

Many students at Behrend partake in one of the biggest debates on campus: which is better, Behrend or University Park?

I like to think that I have some authority on the subject, since I have experienced both. I transferred to University Park for my junior year and spent all of last semester attending State College. And then I transferred back to Behrend.

So here is my declarative statement on the everlasting question: it depends.

For some people, University Park really is a good fit. If you know exactly what you want to do, University Park has a lot to offer. The wide range of classes covers anything you could ever want to know, and it offers majors that Behrend doesn't. If you grew up in a family where everyone went to University Park, there is a lot of tradition and a lot of good connections available to you at the big campus. And there is something to be said for Beaver Stadium being a short walk away, as opposed to a four-hour drive.

Personally, University Park just didn't make sense.

First of all, I tried to change

my major from Journalism to Public Relations over the summer, after the application to major process had already wrapped up. Although the Communications department at University Park is impressive, it is not very kind to anyone who changes their mind a little late in the game, or hasn't figured out exactly what they want to do with their lives.

It was also difficult to get used to the size. The communications program there is the largest in the nation. This means that classes for my major still had upwards of 300 people in them.

The first day I walked into my Public Relations class (population 370), the professor said, "Don't even ask for a letter of recommendation

at the end of the semester. I don't know you, and I never will."

That is a hard thing to deal with coming from classes of 30 and close relationships with professors at Behrend.

And then there is the reason that looks terrible on paper, but still counts for something in real life. I love Behrend.

I love the student organizations that all work so hard, and the mentors I have here. I love how beautiful the campus is, how great the housing is, and the closeness of the classes. I wouldn't trade my opportunities here for anything.

I'm a member of the concert committee, I work in the athletics department collecting stats, and I just took a job as an R.A. In a month, I am traveling to Boston for four days with the



RACHEL REEVES
staff writer

your voice

Letter to the Editor

Send us a letter to opinion@psu.edu
Submissions must be shorter than 350 words.
All submissions will be printed as written.

Renaming Aquarius Drive

I was recently invited to join a Facebook group entitled "Rename Aquarius Drive at PSB". This is a group, attempting to gather a list of names which students feel would better suit the road. The Behrend Student Government Association, the group of individuals elected by the student body to represent the student body, is putting their time into changing the name of a road.

Let me state before I continue, this is not an attack on SGA. I will openly admit that SGA does amazing things for this campus and its students. If SGA is truly meant to represent the majority of the students on this campus, then how is changing the name of a road that most students don't know where it is located, let alone what its name is, so high on the priority list.

I do not mean to go as far as saying that this isn't important, I just feel it doesn't represent how the majority of the students feel. I would safely bet that the hundreds of students, who walk up the side of Jordan road to and from class each day, would be more concerned with having sidewalks installed than whether or not Aquarius Drive is renamed. Sidewalks are not the only issue that SGA should be looking at either. Perhaps another entrance to campus to reduce congestion, more parking lots, and even another residence hall should be on their radar. Not to say that SGA is not working on these other problems, it is just not as obvious if they are.

My concern is that SGA is focusing on the easiest tasks as made evident by the creation of this Facebook group. Where is the group for installing sidewalks on Jordan road? Perhaps the name change is important, but it should not take the forefront in SGA because it is the easiest. If SGA is working on these other issues, the students should be informed. Create a Facebook group for building a new dorm. Don't allow the harder projects to fall by the wayside.

JOE GOETZ
Fourth Semester Education Major

All profile photos taken by Daniel Smith / Behrend Beacon

4701 College Drive, Erie PA 16563
Room 10H

THE BEHREND BEACON

Telephone: (814) 898-6888
Fax: (814) 898-6019

Editorial Policies

Single copies of the Beacon are free and available at newsstands around campus. Additional copies can be purchased with permission of the editor-in-chief for \$1.50 each.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of all students, faculty or University administration. Opinions expressed in columns, cartoons, and letters are not necessarily those of The Behrend Beacon unless otherwise indicated.

Any letters intended for publication must be addressed to the editor, be no more than 350 words, and include the writer's name and phone number. Letters may be edited for content or length at the editor in chief's discretion. The Behrend Beacon does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. If students want their letters to be published, they must include their name. The Behrend Beacon intends for its Opinion page to be a forum for discussion, not a screen to hide behind. Occasionally, The Behrend Beacon may request responses to online queries in which responders will be identified by their username.

The Behrend Beacon is editorially independent from the Penn State system. The Behrend Beacon operates partially on Student Activity Fee, and partially on advertising revenue. It is published every Friday during the school year except for before and during scheduled vacations, with exceptions for special issues.

The editor-in-chief has the final authority on editorial decisions, including, but not limited to, all columns, editorials, and letters to the editor. Complaints regarding Beacon coverage of school events should be directed to the editor at editor@psu.edu.

Executive Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Connor Sattely
editor@psu.edu
Managing Editor:
Shawn Annarelli
sma5189@psu.edu
Web Editor:
Jeremy Korwek
jdk5009@psu.edu

Business Manager:
Bethany Long
bjl5037@psu.edu
Faculty Advisor:
Kim Young
kij10@psu.edu
Marketing Manager:
Katie Cook
kic5293@psu.edu

News Editors:
Ally Orlando
aco5051@psu.edu
Rachelle Thompson
rt5065@psu.edu
Opinion Editor:
Neil James
opinion@psu.edu

Sports Editors:
Nick Blake
npb5041@psu.edu
Alec Italiano
aji5037@psu.edu
Culture Editor:
Evan Koser
emk5110@psu.edu

Editorial Board

Ast. Culture Editor:
Shannon Ehrin
sbe5017@psu.edu
Copy Editors:
Jeff Kramer
jsk5161@psu.edu
Marcus Yeagley
mij5012@psu.edu

Photo Editor:
Daniel J. Smith
djs5223@psu.edu
Videographer:
Mike Fultz
mjf5204@psu.edu
Engineering Editor:
Connor Sattely
editor@psu.edu

Business Editor:
Garrett Carson
gmc5021@psu.edu
Humanities Editor:
Adam Spinelli
als5589@psu.edu
Science Editor:
Ryan Gula
rgg5029@psu.edu