

BEHREND BEACON YEAR IN REVIEW

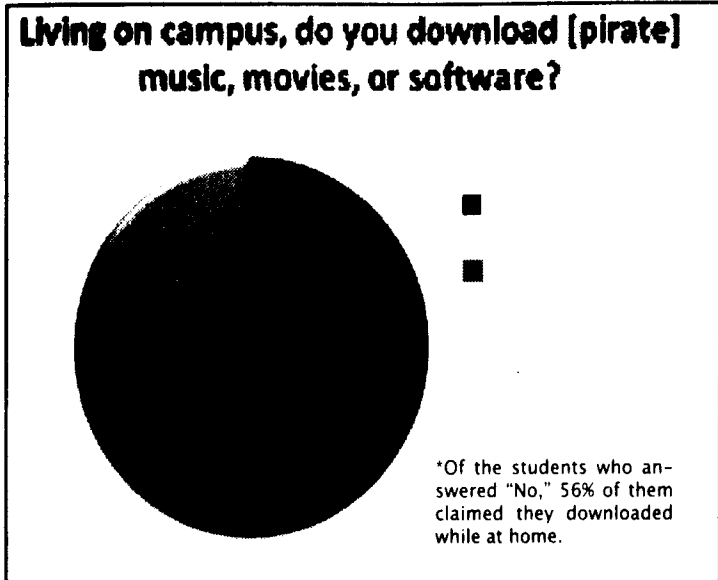
A look back at the stories that define the 2009-2010 academic year at Penn State Behrend

(ALL STORIES PRINTED WITH AUTHOR, THEIR STAFF TITLE AT THE TIME AT WHICH THE ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED, AND DATE THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY RAN IN THE BEHREND BEACON.)

# CAMPUS PIRACY:

Size	Downloaded	Done	Status
367 MB	64.3 MB	20.6%	[F] Downloading
84.8 MB	44.0 MB	51.1%	[F] Downloading
554 MB	0 B	0.0%	Queued
85.0 MB	0 B	0.0%	Queued
349 MB	0 B	0.0%	Queued

## ETHICAL PLAGUE OR LEGITIMATE FREEDOM?



Data was compiled through the collective efforts of the culture editor and four staff writers. The above data represents approximately 10 percent of the student body.

EVAN KOSER  
culture editor  
February 5, 2010

In the world of piracy, people belong in one of two categories: they do or they don't. Justin Pekular, a senior MIS major, is one such "doer."

On Aug. 31, Pekular was greeted with an e-mail that he'd been caught downloading Paramount's *I Love You, Man* and was therefore to be reprimanded through the system at Penn State Behrend.

His punishment came in the form of a talk with Meeghan Hollis, Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Todd Say, Manager of IT Support Services. The meeting was followed by an online course that

teaches violators the negative impact piracy has on society.

"We receive notification from security at University Park," explained Hollis. "Normally that notification comes via email. Security normally receives information from agents hired by larger industry that have copyrights on various media."

All steps taken are in accordance to University Policy AD 20, Computer and Network Security.

Pekular, however, stated that he felt he was doing nothing wrong.

"I started pirating because someone else showed me," he said.

He claims that he began pirating in high school, as is the case for many students who

aren't aware that downloading that new single from the radio is illegal.

"I went to my neighbor's house and he had all this stuff on his computer," explained Pekular, "so he told me about Bit Torrent and all the stuff you could get."

Pekular isn't alone. Students at Behrend aren't as privy with their habits in obtaining music and other electronic media as one might suspect. When it comes to the legalities of these methods, a significant number of students don't bat an eye.

While living on campus, many students still find time to download illegal media, and some fervently claim to do so with good reason.

"If it's a song I really like, I'll download it," says Sarah Tannler, a sophomore biology major. "And if I really like the artist, I'll go to their concerts. I know it's wrong, but oh well."

Junior software engineering major Chris Shumaker says, "It's there, I'm just making a copy of it for myself. Bands get their money from touring and merchandise."

As a self-proclaimed musician, Shumaker equates downloading a song to recording one off of the radio. "The RIAA is the most opposition [to piracy]."

While the wave of piracy subculture at Behrend is certainly prevalent, there are those who don't download anything through the various channels available. Programs such as BitTorrent, µTorrent, and Vuze offer a myriad of opportunities, though some students choose not to indulge in such things.

Zeke Patterson, a junior me-

chanical engineering major, chooses not to pirate media.

"Piracy is stealing. I won't hold it against [the people who do it], but I don't feel like it makes you a horrible person."

Still, little more than half of all those who responded "No" to the piracy questionnaire admitted they do it while at home for many different reasons. While many students believe it's just not possible to do so on campus—therefore not attempting to try—others simply believe it will ruin their computer or are worried about getting in trouble.

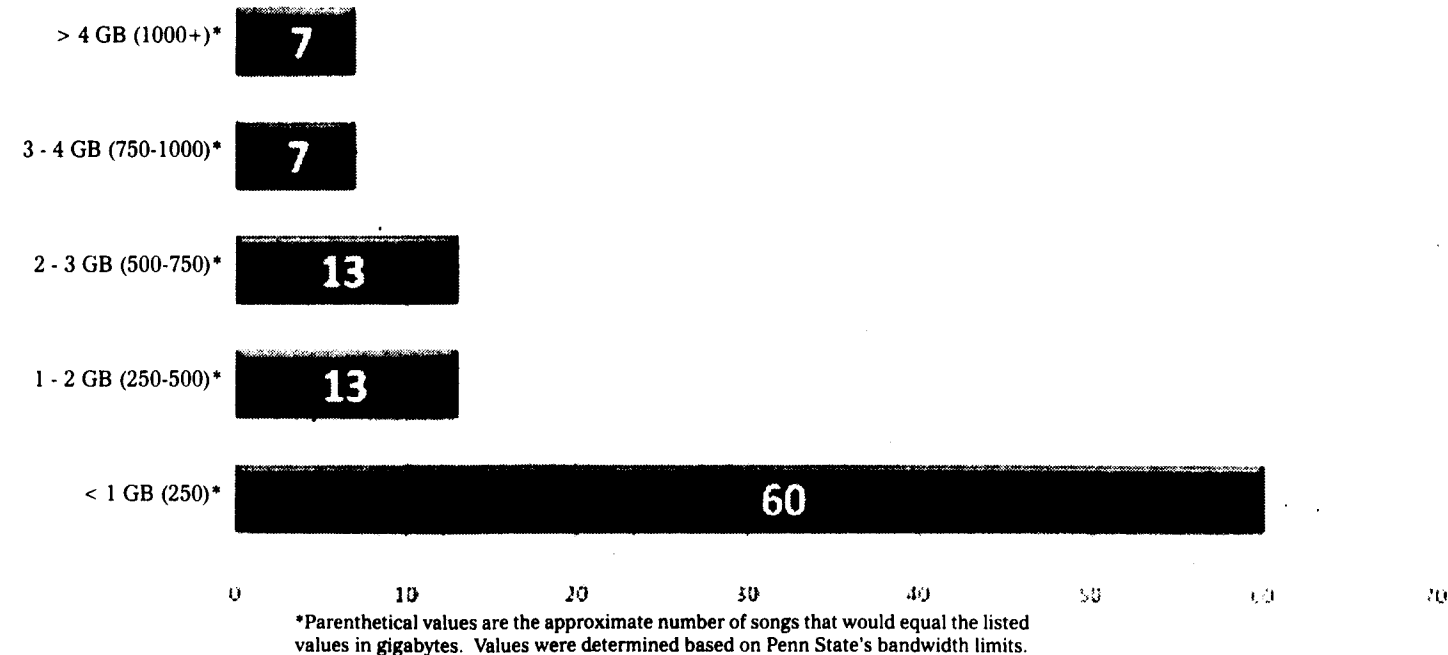
"I actually stopped downloading because my roommate got busted," said Dan Trilli, a junior marketing major.

In accordance with policy, Penn State withholds a violator's identity from their accuser as part of a deal made with recording companies. This provides Penn State an opportunity to reform the student, so to speak, and allow the student to make the right choices thereafter. Any subsequent violation, and the student is on his or her own.

On-campus piracy isn't a local issue; it happens all over the nation. Yet, some students still feel it's their right, so long as it's available to them, to obtain something for free if they have the opportunity. In the end, it all boils down to ethics and morality which will always vary from person to person.

"I'll still support the things that I like. I bought Microsoft Office after I pirated it. I go to concerts of bands that I enjoy after listening to their pirated albums," Pekular says.

### Percentage of information (in gigabytes) obtained by students who live on campus



## Straight-edge: Campus prominence

DAN KINEM  
staff writer  
September 4, 2009

It has become normal and acceptable of people to go to parties, drink, smoke, and sleep around. Many people are praised for getting extremely drunk and passing out at a party. However, there is an alternative to such activities: straight-edge.

Straight-edge is a counterculture to many norms in society and a lifelong choice to abstain from alcohol, drugs, and promiscuous sex.

The movement began in 1981, with traces of it a couple years prior. The band Minor Threat wrote a song called "Straight Edge" which basically set the groundwork for the movement. The song suggested that although peers and/or parents may poison their bodies, you don't have to, and that there are other ways to have fun. As Minor Threat toured, the message was spread and other bands and people began labeling themselves as straight edge. Ian MacKaye—the lead singer of the band—never intended for it to be a movement, but in the years that followed, it became a way of life for people of all ages.

A freshman engineering major at Behrend, who wished to remain anonymous, admitted, "I need alcohol to feel less awkward. It helps me meet people and makes me friendlier." Another anonymous Behrend student said many times

that his own girlfriend "isn't fun" because she doesn't drink.

"I had always been kind of skeptical of drug use," explains freshman biology major Steve Bucklin, a straight-edge student. "I saw that a lot of people around me were changing their priorities because of their use of substances. Their focus was on obtaining all these substances and using them rather than more important things in life that I wanted to focus on."

Over the years there have been hundreds of straight-edge bands and hundreds of thousands of straight-edge people. People find straight-edge for many different reasons.

Some are rebelling against their peers, some do not want to take after their parents, and others just want to live a positive life.



Still others take to the extreme, calling themselves "hardline" and violently taking a stance against smokers and drinkers. In particular, the hardliners in Salt Lake City are notorious for such acts.

Darren Mangold at 19 and currently training to be a cop, says,

"Straight edge is a great lifestyle. [There is] no sense in wasting this short life drugged up and not remembering half of it. I graduated high school and didn't drink or smoke the whole way. I think high school was awesome without the poisons. You don't need that crap to have fun and get through high school. You don't need it to be cool. You don't need it, period. Nothing but good can come from the straight-edge lifestyle. I don't think

anyone, anywhere, should have anything against our common goal: staying clean and pure till the day we die."

Day straight-edge has positively changed the lives of many.

Derek Ski, the lead singer of a local straight-edge band and a substitute teacher for East High School, says, "It impacted me by keeping me out of trouble, legally and personally, because I don't make the types of bad decisions that those who are intoxicated make. I also am a lot healthier because of my clean lifestyle."

Not only do straight-edges say it benefits the self, but his or her friends as well.

"Since I am in the military there is a lot of pressure to drink, especially when I went overseas to Iraq," says Greg Waldon, a member of the armed forces. "[There have] been several occasions where I've had to go pick up my buddies from out of ditches because they got lost on their way back to the barracks from the bar. They view me as a guy they can always rely on."

Straight-edge may not be for everyone. In fact, for some it might be a trend, or maybe even a gang, but to those who do it for personal reasons, it is a way of life.

Bucklin explains, "being edge instills a sense of being more free. You feel that you no longer need or want to use substances. You are free from addiction and free from peer pressure."