

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.)

MY VOICE

A hard decision for the right reasons

With the year quickly winding down, I have begun to think back on the first two years of my college education and how much I have learned here at Penn State Behrend.

For most of my life, I knew I wanted to go to Penn State. My mom, my dad and a number of other family members are Penn State graduates, and I knew it was where I belonged.

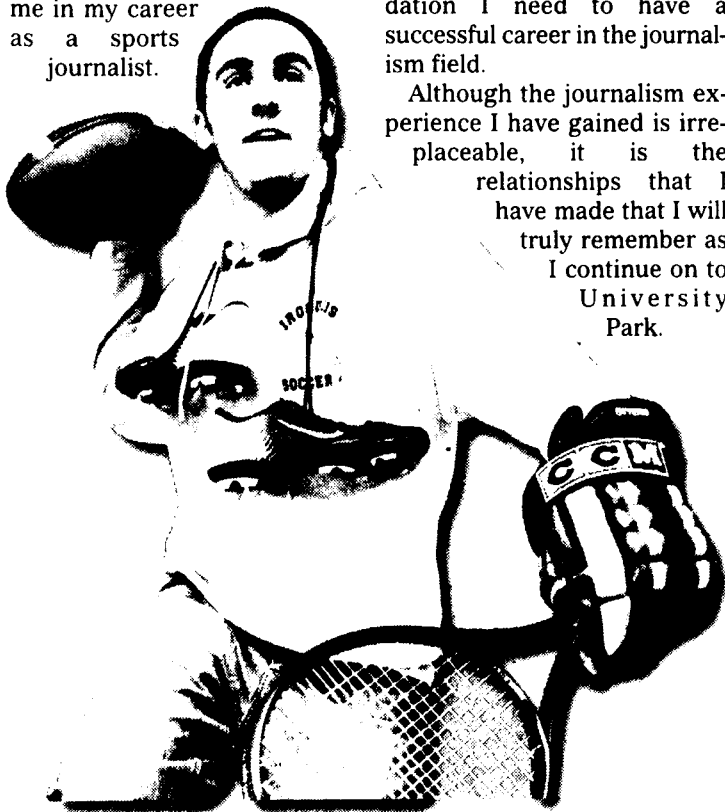
I wanted to go to University Park right away, but I knew that going to such a large campus after graduating from a small school would make it hard to adjust to college life.

After taking some time to think about it, I decided to start my college education at Behrend. I knew that the close location to home and the small campus would help me better prepare myself for University Park.

As I prepare to transfer to State College to finish my last two years, I am beginning to realize how much I have learned and how much Behrend has prepared me to go on to University Park.

My most rewarding experience, by far, has been my opportunity to work as a sports editor for the Beacon.

As a journalism major, I have learned an invaluable amount of skills that will help me in my career as a sports journalist.



NICK BLAKE
sports editor

I have seen my writing improve dramatically over the last two years, and I have learned how to edit and layout a newspaper. I have started the foundation I need to have a successful career in the journalism field.

Although the journalism experience I have gained is irreplaceable, it is the relationships that I have made that I will truly remember as I continue on to University Park.

For everyone who knows what it is like to be in the Beacon newsroom on Thursday night, it is hard to believe that it could be missed.

Even though some long, sleepless nights were spent in that room, some of my most memorable experiences at Behrend happened there as well.

The small group of people that I work with on a weekly basis is easily going to be what I miss the most from Behrend.

I have learned so much from the group of editors that I work with, and that is just as valuable as anything else that I have learned.

As I go on to University Park, I will be diving into the broadcast side of journalism, and there will be a number of new experiences that come with that.

I will not forget all the things that I have learned here at Behrend, though, and I am very proud to have worked with everyone on the Beacon staff. I am glad that I am able to call them my friends, and I could not have imagined working with any other group.

MY VOICE

A detour in life

I have unexpectedly run out of time at Behrend. It is a surreal feeling.

Over the winter break, my mind ran a marathon thinking about whether or not I could return as a full-time student. This was the hardest decision that I've ever had to make due to how much I love Behrend, the Beacon, and because of the fact that it would have been my last semester in Erie.

In the end, my decision came down to one thing: my health. I know that I've made the right decision because I must get my body back to 100 percent.

I was told that I had mono the week before Thanksgiving break. Afterwards, my initial symptoms were gone and I thought I'd be fine going back to my nonstop daily schedule.

However, in December I wasn't sleeping nearly the amount I should have been, considering how fatigued and exhausted mono makes a person. I kept going with classes, producing a newspaper and attending meetings. I'm not sure how I was able to keep going. At times, it was honestly God who gave me the strength. All of this eventually led to me leaving a day early during finals week because I was too sick.

For this current semester, I am commuting to Penn State Greater Allegheny (McKeesport) as a part-time student. I will head to University Park in the fall of 2010 to pursue a degree in journalism and a minor in business.

The Beacon has been such a significant and large part of my life for the past year and a half and it will always be a part of me. I'm not quite sure how to live without it yet. I've learned an unbelievable amount through my experiences. I could fill this entire newspaper with the knowledge I've gained because of this club.

Last spring, the editor-in-chief interview taught me so much. I was nervous when I walked into the meeting and saw six interviewers ready to fire questions at me. However, I learned that being extremely prepared and stepping into a room with confidence will completely surpass nervousness.

I've learned how to produce a newspaper every week and how to manage and run a staff. I've learned how to prepare for an interview, know the types of questions to ask, and dramatically increased my speed with writing an article.

I know what to do if there is a breaking news situation on campus. I've built up hours and

hours of endurance for proof-reading on a Thursday night, our layout night.

Not only have I learned more about journalism, but because of the Beacon I also learned more about life in general.

I know what it is like to work with a group of people so closely that specific music, YouTube videos, and food, all mesh together on a Thursday night. I know how to manage my time effectively.

I've learned that just by knowing a close friend would always be there, even at 2 a.m., was sometimes all that a person needs to know.

I know what it's like to love what I do.

To supporters of the Beacon, thank you so much and I ask for your continued support. To the staff, thank you and I know you will keep improving the Beacon. Always try new ideas, take on challenges, and strive for your goals. Keep recruiting for the future, don't be afraid of anything, and remember to always take care of yourselves.

I know that the Beacon will move on without me as managing editor and I want it to continue to improve. I look forward to picking up a paper when I make my way back to Behrend to visit. I'm excited to see what the future holds for the Beacon, in both the print and online version. I also can't wait to get involved with the Center for Sports Journalism at University Park and learn even more.

I hope that the future editors of the Beacon will find something they love when they step into the newsroom and begin their journey because I sure did. For me, nothing will be the same because of mine.

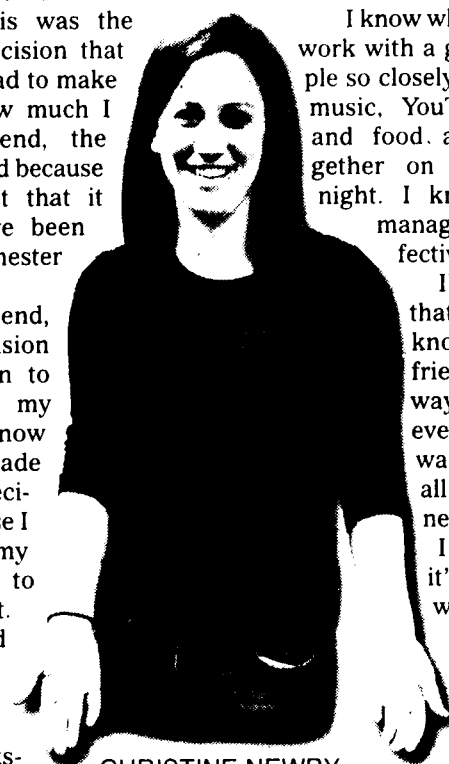
I decided to return to the Beacon newsroom for the layout night of the Year in Review issue.

So what has life been like without the Beacon? Well at first, I wasn't sure how to live without it.

The Beacon was my life at Behrend. I can't even count the number of hours I've spent working in the newsroom or the amount of time I've spent covering games or events, interviewing people, and then writing articles.

But, I've learned that there are a lot of other things to do. After a person spends so much of their time on one specific thing, you have to sit back and remember what you used to enjoy doing.

I am glad I could be back for the Year in Review issue and once again, in the Beacon newsroom.



CHRISTINE NEWBY
contributing writer



BY ADAM ZIPES
CARTOONIST
THE BEHREND BEACON

MY VOICE

Respect the Nobel Prize

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."

While I looked at this news in

a positive light, I was disappointed to hear so many people react very negatively. Many have stated that Obama has done nothing to deserve the award, some going as far as to say his receiving the award is a joke.

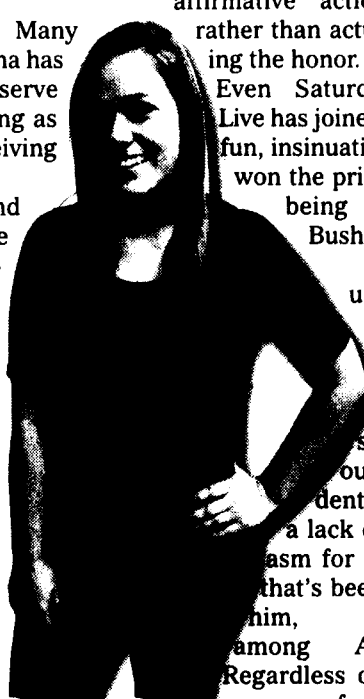
The President and the Nobel Committee have even been criticized publicly by political figures and mocked by the media. Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee, spoke out regarding Obama's award, stating that his star power outshined other nominees' "real achievements."

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.



MARISSA LANICH
staff writer

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.

The Behrend Beacon Editorial staff wishes all students a very safe, productive, and enjoyable summer vacation.

All profile photos taken by Daniel Smith / Behrend Beacon

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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.