

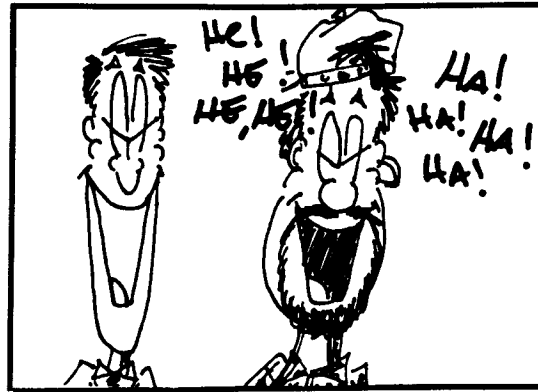
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Behrend slated for "knowledge park" Penn State gears up for the 21st century

by Sean Siekkinen
Collegian Staff

Within the next 5 years, Behrend will become the site of a unique commercial complex that will house research, hi-tech, and information related companies. This 'knowledge park', as the project has been dubbed by organizers, will act as a liaison between job-seeking Erie area college students and the industries of tomorrow.

The knowledge park will be the only research site of its kind in the region, and the only one in the Penn State Commonwealth Campus system.

The 200 acres of land designated for knowledge park construction are located along a one mile stretch of Behrend property bordering Interstate 90. According to Associate Dean Robert Light, Jordan Road will have to be relocated to run directly through the campus. Ground is scheduled to be broken in Spring of 1997. The 21st century project now appears to be getting started just in time for the year 2000.

"It's going to move pretty fast," Dr. Light said concerning construction.

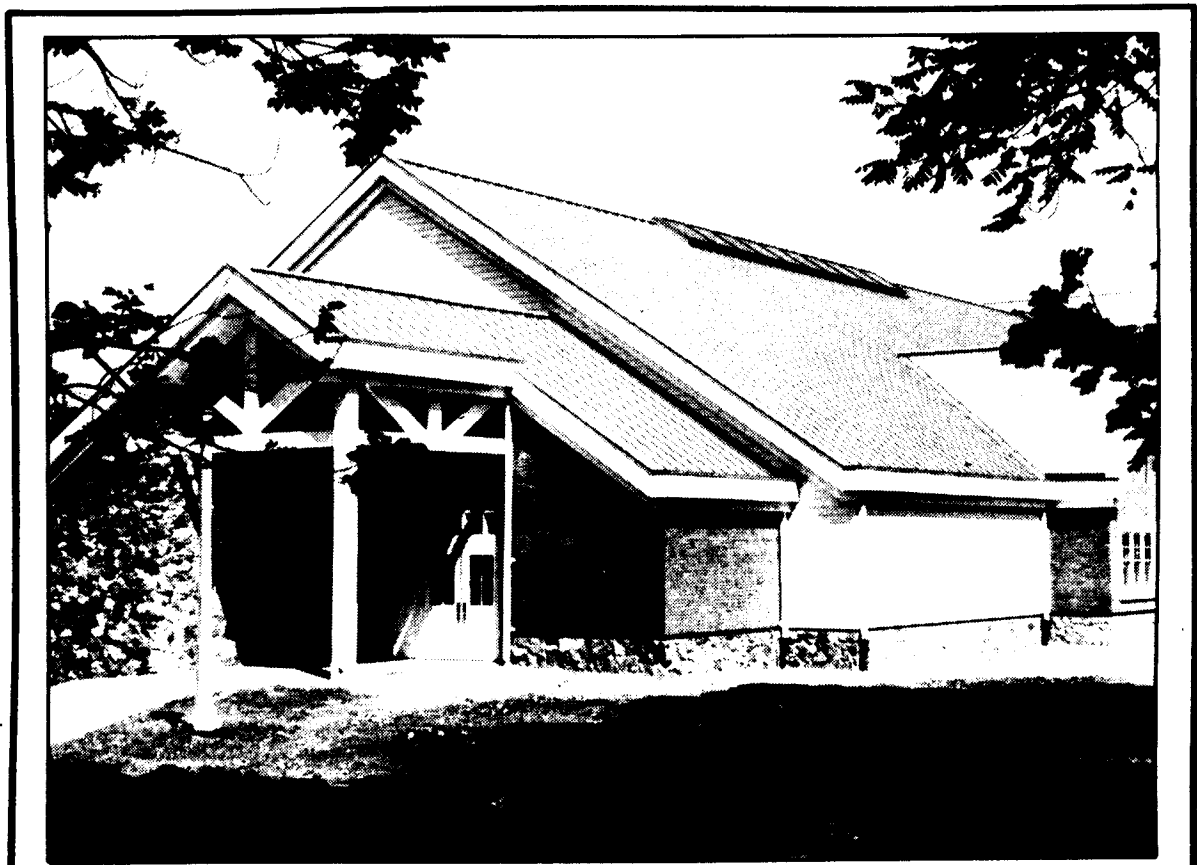
Dr. Light thinks that the addition of a local link between industry and the college will translate into internships and hi-tech jobs for Behrend students.

"It could really help the college," Dr. Light said.

In order to strengthen the college's tie to the park, a Research and Economic Development Center is planned. The center will provide a transition between the park and the college, according to Dr. Light.

But acting as a bridge between Behrend, the knowledge park will not be the Center's only function; it will also help to alleviate space limitations currently facing Behrend. The School of Business and the School of Engineering and Technology are only two of the departments which would move to the new Center.

Dr. Light accredits conception of the knowledge park project to Dean and Provost Dr. John



Collegian File Photo
One of Behrend's newest additions: The Academic Building has provided more office and classroom space in addition to a larger library as Behrend continues to grow.

Lilley. "He always goes way ahead," Dr. Light said.

"Penn State's mission is teaching, research, and service," Dr. Lilley said. "We've had in mind doing this since 1986."

Dr. Lilley sees the imminent increase in the level of Behrend's research and service projects as an

important benefit of the knowledge park. Behrend wants to attract companies who can make use of the faculty and senior students, according to Dr. Lilley.

"[The knowledge park] would be what you might call interactive with the University,"

Dr. Lilley said.

Funding for the knowledge park will be supplied by the state and by the city of Erie, who is working in joint venture with Behrend on the project.

"Neither the college or University has any funds to put into this," says Dr. Lilley.

Hispanic Heritage Month offers a variety of events and celebrations

by Bryan Harkins
Collegian Staff

Hispanic Heritage Month events are underway at Behrend. This nationally recognized celebration will last a month and a half for Behrend students, having begun in mid-October and continuing through November.

Ordinarily, Hispanic Heritage Month lasts from September 15 to October 15. One of the main reasons this is done, is to encompass Columbus Day. Penn State University does not celebrate it during the same time for two reasons.

First, holding Hispanic Heritage Month in September does not allow enough time to organize events. Second, by holding it in November, "It will encompass Puerto Rican Awareness Week, which has been celebrated at University Park for a couple of years," said Dr. Jaun Fernandez, professor of Spanish.

Behrend recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month from mid-October through November so that it still includes Columbus Day.

According to Dr. Lidia Diaz, assistant professor of Spanish, "The main purpose [of Hispanic Heritage Month] is awareness

of Hispanic culture. It is to make people aware of the significance of Hispanic culture in the United States."

"With the great amount of Hispanic people coming into the U.S., Hispanic culture must be alive," said Dr. Diaz. "The melting pot cannot be valued if every culture loses its identity."

Hispanic Heritage Month is a way to point out "the differences and similarities of cultures," said Dr. Diaz. It is also "a way to share with communities not of Hispanic origin, Hispanic products [both tangible and conceptual] of culture."

However, Hispanic Heritage Month is not just to make people aware of Hispanic culture. It is to "give us a chance to shine and it gives us a chance to celebrate who we are," remarked Chastity Irizarry, president of Organization of Latin-American Students.

Hispanic Heritage Month has been, and continues to be a worth while celebration. Irizarry said, "I think it is very effective. There are many different Hispanic cultures and it gives Hispanics [of various cultures] a chance to meet each other."

There are many events planned throughout Behrend. Markus Rodriguez

will reunite the cast of "A House on Mango Street" for a performance on Thursday, November 2 in the Reed Lecture Hall. Rodriguez adapted the novel into a play for his senior project.

The Wintergreen Cafe will be serving Hispanic food, such as tacos and pastelillos. The Cafe will also play Hispanic music.

Behrend is hosting an international film series that ends November 13. For this film series, a Hispanic film is shown on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall.

O.L.A.S. is holding a number of events throughout November which are to include free dance lessons in the Commons from 7-9 p.m. November 7 and 8 p.m.

Other events include "Friday Fiesta" on November 10 from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. and comedian Jeff Garcia November 11 at 8:30 p.m. These events will be in Bruno's Nightclub.

O.L.A.S. and the Human Resource Programming Council will co-sponsor an open forum as part of the Open Fora Series. "Latino: The Other Minority" will be discussed November 15 in the Reed Lecture Hall at 8:00 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month concludes November 30 with the first annual "Cultural Day." The event, sponsored by O.L.A.S., will include Hispanic dance performances, mocktails, and desserts.

Hispanic Heritage Month is to "give us a chance to shine and...celebrate who we are."
-Chastity Irizarry
O.L.A.S. President