

# The Behrend College Collegian

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## Mack House renovations

### Erie's past joins Behrend's present

by Mike Woycheck  
Collegian Staff

A part of Erie's past will join Penn State Behrend's present later this year when the Mack House is officially opened.

The Mack House, located on Station Road, built in 1928, has undergone extensive internal and external renovations since last summer.

The house was originally owned by Clarence Mack, the owner of Erie's Boston Store, previously known as the Erie Dry Goods

met. Many of these offices have been relocated from the Glenhill Farmhouse to the Mack House within the last two weeks.

The inclusion of the Mack House into the campus of Penn State Behrend will be integral in the overall expansion of the college, according to Dr. John Lilley, Provost and Dean. Lilley indicates that the house will be a definitive part of the campus as soon as the playing fields between the current intramural fields and the Mack House are complete. Lilley went on to say that, "Once the bridge and



Once the bridge and the sidewalks are built, linking all of that together, it should feel like a major campus expansion.

- Dr. John Lilley  
Provost and Dean

Store. The building has received new wallpaper and carpeting, as well as interior and exterior structural changes that were necessary requirements because of the Department of Labor and Industry, Harborcreek Township, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first floor will primarily be used for formal receptions, dinners and special events which students and faculty will be able to attend. Also housed on the first floor is the Office of Publications and Public Information. The Office of Development and University Relations resides on the second floor, while the third remain unused until OSHA standards for fire escape can be

the sidewalks are built, linking all of that together, it should feel like a major campus expansion."

The house will also be extensively used by students and faculty said Dr. Christopher Reber, Dean of Student Affairs. "This kind of student faculty interaction can be very meaningful for students, and has frequently been correlated with student satisfaction and student success," Reber states.

Lilley said he believes students should see and use the Mack House "primarily as their private dinner club."

Student groups will be able to use the dining room for club use as, well as for receptions with com-

munity members.

With students able to "rehearse" dining skills, which will be essential in a business or interviewing setting, Lilley indicates the Mack House will be, "a place to learn to handle oneself in a gracious setting of the kind that one will encounter

in the business professional world as an alum."

"It is a beautiful facility that will benefit the entire Penn State Behrend community in more ways than we can fully envision now," Reber stated.

Loretta Brandon, public infor-

mation assistant in the Office of Publications and Public Information, indicated that there is still work to be done. She indicated that the process for placing the finishing touches on the house is now underway.

On the path to completion, the

arrival and installation of furnitures is set for March or April. Landscaping outside the house is also on the agenda. "I can see student activities getting fully underway in the Fall semester," Brandon said.

A tentative open house is scheduled for May or June.

## Vanishing Greeks? Pledge numbers dwindle

by Scott Woznicki  
Collegian staff

Fewer students are joining Behrend fraternities and sororities. The Greek system in general is experiencing drastically low numbers.

Fraternities and sororities for the most part are having a hard time keeping their numbers up. Even though the overall student population of Behrend is steadily increasing, the Greek system is not following. The fraternities and sororities had many more active members a few years back, and pledge classes were much bigger.

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take a different  
approach to rush.

-Nicole Pepicello  
ΑΣΤ Rush Chairman

blame the problems on the school and others on the students themselves.

"The administration does not really support the system," said Brad Wetzel, rush chairman for Kappa Delta Rho.

"A lot of people are scared of the Greek system," said Nikki Dellasandro, a sister of Theta Phi Alpha.

There could be many reasons why fraternities and sororities are having a bad time, but one of the major reasons might have something to do with deferred rush.

Deferred rush is a school policy stating that freshmen in their first semester cannot pledge a fraternity or sorority. Most schools around the country do not have this policy, including University Park.

When asked how she felt about deferred rush, Katie Ryan, a Panhellenic Council delegate and sister of Theta Phi Alpha stated, "It's discriminatory towards freshmen, which is actually most of Behrend's population."

"I strongly disagree. Students should have the choice whether to join their first semester or not," said Wetzel.

"It stinks," said Ron Horvath of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Not everyone believes that deferred rush is a detrimental thing. A Behrend staff member and advisor for the Panhellenic

Council, Chris Mata, stated, "I'm for deferred rush. It's a good thing because it gives people the chance to think about whether they are joining for the right reasons."

A possible solution could be that first semester freshmen would be allowed to pledge only if the chapter's grades were in good standing. This way, students might be attracted to an organization with exemplary academics.

If there is a way to overcome the problems that the Greek system is having, it needs to be discovered soon. The answer may be that the Greek system needs to work together. "We all need to take a different approach to rush," said Nicole Pepicello, rush chairman of Alpha Sigma Tau.

If the numbers continue to decrease, this could mean certain doom for some of the Greek organizations on campus. Fraternities and sororities cannot exist without members. No organizations are in extreme danger, but the situation could get worse.

Although the Greek system at Behrend is quite diverse, the popular adage of "We are all Greek together" may take on more meaning in the next few years as fraternities and sororities realize that they need to work together, to overcome their hardships.

## Fee allocations

by Eric Krouse  
Collegian staff

Preliminary spending plans for the student activity fee have been released.

On Feb. 15, the 1997-98 Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee announced its plans for the annual \$50 fee required of all Penn State students. The committee, comprised of Behrend students, faculty and staff, took recommendations for the spending.

Behrend is expected to receive \$160,000 from the fee. Money carried forward from this year brings the total funds available to \$162,635.

According to the committee's 1997-98 plan, almost 50 percent of this money will be given to campus activities. Some of the funding will be supplemental money for registered student organizations.

Student organizations at Behrend have nearly doubled in the last ten years, while funding has declined.

The Blue Bus is receiving a supplement to maintain service. This service was revived two years ago in response to numerous requests. This money was given to keep the bus fare at an affordable level for students.

About 5 percent of the fee money will go to the equipment needed for activities. One of the projects that will be started with this money is a master calendar to schedule on-campus events. This calendar, which will be ac-

cessible on the Ethernet. Backbone, will be available for faculty and staff to update events. This will keep everyone informed of changes in the schedule and will also keep events from being scheduled at the same time. \$400 will be allocated to a fund to place plaques on all equipment purchased with the student activity fee.

\$3,000 was allocated to the Back Room in the Reed Union Building, to refurbish the water damaged walls and make the already popular game room a more attractive place.

\$17,500 of the fund will go to the Jageman Fitness Room to maintain the heavily used equipment. This money will be used to purchase new equipment including a rowing machine, a lateral pull down machine, a leg press and two treadmills.

Intramural activities had a total allocation of \$9,000. Jon McCaslin, PLET 4, said, "Many students on campus play intramural sports and it's good that it is getting some money."

This money will support the expense of referees, a part-time assistant in the IM office, aerobic equipment, and intramural sports equipment.

\$2,300 was allocated for a new Behrend College lion mascot uniform. Years of use damaged the old costume.

McCaslin felt that "the mascot is not really needed, but if they are going to get it I don't imagine it costs that much."

Lara Herrmann, BIOBD 06,

and a member of the Student Life Task Force, explained the situation. "I remember once there was a speaker that wanted to have his picture taken with the mascot, but it looked horrible, and we were ashamed to have his picture taken."

Mike Curryowsky, MIS 04, said he thought that "It's fine if they want to buy a new (mascot uniform), as long as it is at more student sports, like soccer."

Funding in the amount of \$1,675 will further diversity on the Behrend campus. \$1,000 was allocated for Multi-Cultural Council Resource Center for new equipment such as a new TV/VCR to enhance the lending library. The remainder of the money will go to the Women's Resource Center.

\$20,000 will be given to the Child Care Center. According to Dr. Christopher Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, only 20 of the children at the center are from Behrend students and faculty. The other remaining children are from the Erie community.

\$9,600 was allocated to the new varsity track and field program. This money will be spent for the start-up costs of the new sports.

Many requests for allocations were turned down.

