

Bomb threat closes west end of campus

by Michael DeSantis
News Editor

Monday morning, Sept. 22, was Behrend's first bomb threat in fourteen years.

The threat was given by means of several notes that were placed throughout the buildings. The first note was found in a men's restroom.

Students waking up and going to class for the first time saw signs reading, "The following buildings are closed until 1:00 p.m. today (Monday, September 22): Behrend Building, Nick Building, Hammermill/Zurn Building, Engineering Buildings. Classes elsewhere on campus are running as usual."

The closing of the buildings caused engineering, science, and a variety of other classes to be canceled and caused tests to be postponed.

At 7:03 a.m., a call was received by Police and Safety reporting a bomb threat on the west side of campus.

Police and Safety, with the help of maintenance closed the Behrend, Nick, Hammermill/Zurn and Engineering Buildings.

Nick was the last of the buildings to be closed. Minutes after entering the Nick Building students were told to evacuate.

Students evacuating left the building in an orderly fashion.

When Kay Johnson, Lecturer in Economics, arrived at Behrend, around 7:40 a.m., she was denied entrance to the engineering buildings.

Forty minutes later at approximately 8:20 a.m., three Pennsylvania State Police arrived at Behrend. They positioned their squad cars to block both the upper and lower entry ways going to the west end of campus.

Anne-Marie Welsh, Manager of Public Information, said since they were "not clear where the bomb was, they closed the west end of campus."

People overheard the police when they said people in the buildings were "looking for something obvious." The bomb squad was not called to help with the situation.

Officer Bill Donahue of Behrend's Police and Safety, said in relation to General University Reference Utility SY18, "Every situation is different, based on the threat it takes different measures. If any type of device is found the building is sealed and the bomb squad is brought in."

The search for a bomb lasted until 10:15 a.m., and nothing was found. The buildings were opened at 1:00 p.m. so classes could resume.

If anyone has information about this incident they should contact Police and Safety at Ext. 6101.



Photo by Jessica Trzeciakowski

OFFICERS' DISCUSSION: Officers discuss the bomb threat by the upper blockade near the Behrend Building. The notes were found Monday morning in the buildings on the west side of campus.

SGA approves ATM resolution

by John Groller
Assistant Layout Editor

On Wednesday, The Student Government Association voted on three proposals that have become major issues among the student body.

A proposal by Sen. for Dennis Dombkowski, D-18, focused on the issue of there being only one automatic teller machine on campus, and the fact that students who are not members of the PNC bank must pay a surcharge of \$1.00 to make any transaction. This charge especially affects those who are from locations outside of northwestern Pennsylvania, as they already pay a fee for being outside of their banking district.

"In the past, we never got charged for it. It just showed up without warning," said Dombkowski.

"Students from everywhere will get charged by PNC and by their home banks. Being the only machine, they have no choice," he continued.

In his proposal, Dombkowski asked that the University request the fee be waived. In the event that PNC does not comply, he asked that the University take steps to accommodate those students who are not customers of the bank. He suggested that the University would

seek out local banks who do not charge customers a fee for the use of their machines, and to enter into a contract with them which would add machines to the Reed Union Building under the condition that no fee will be charged in the future.

The proposal passed unanimously. Dombkowski stated, "When we brought up the idea last meeting, I knew it would work. I knew it would work after I wrote up the resolution."

It is now a question of which suggestion the University will act upon.

"The University will probably look at asking PNC to waive the fee, it's the cheapest solution," Dombkowski said.

Also voted on at the meeting were two proposals set forth by Shawn Goodwin, 06, EET. The first concentrated on the issue of second hand smoke, and the effects of smokers at campus building entranceways on non-smokers. He proposed that there be smoking limits requiring that people who are smoking be at least 20 feet from building doorways, that smoking areas be designated on campus, or that smoking be banned entirely from the campus.

"The smoking in doorways is so

concentrated it would give non-smokers trouble. I have allergies so I get headaches like you wouldn't believe," Goodwin said.

The proposal was turned down by a vote of 12-3.

"I honestly doubted it would pass, but I wanted to put it out there anyway," said Goodwin.

When asked if he would attempt to attack this issue again, Goodwin replied, "Probably not, not unless I can get some more backing for it."

Goodwin's other proposal focused on the abuse of funds within student organizations. He notices that activities are often cancelled in order to "reallocate" the funds to other activities.

"Organizations request money for multiple projects or events. When events are cancelled, it adds up all the money for one event. I'm trying to improve the budget process for both the SGA and other organizations," Goodwin said.

The outcome of this vote was 7 yea, 7 nay, therefore calling on the president to submit a vote to break the tie. With a vote of nay, the proposal was turned down.

"This one I didn't know if it would pass or not. I will offer a revised version next week," said Goodwin.

Students can get drunk without drinking a drop

by Ray Morell
Staff Writer

Under PA's Zero Tolerance Law, an underage drinker may be arrested for DUI with a blood-alcohol level of only .02 - one fifth of that for legal drinkers. This could mean serious consequences may result from just one drink.

Fatal vision goggles, developed by the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, simulate the feeling of having a blood alcohol level of .17 to .18 (the legal limit is .1).

The goggles, which are being borrowed from North West Highway Safety, cause the viewer to experience blurred vision, slight dizziness, and a loss of balance.

Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS), a volunteer club on campus, is gearing up for Alcohol Awareness Week, which starts Monday, Oct. 20.

Students at Bruno's will periodically walk a line on the stage throughout the week. They will be monitored because the goggles often produce a "hangover effect".

Each year, over 150,000 people are killed, crippled, or seriously injured by drivers under the influence of alcohol. To spread awareness of alcohol related tragedies, BACCHUS has a variety of events planned for the week.

During the week, a paper "brick wall" will be on display. Students will have a chance to write a personal positive or negative experience that happened to them while under the influence of alcohol. These bricks will be displayed anonymously to protect privacy.

Housing and Food Services will provide "mocktails" to be distributed by BACCHUS. "Mocktails" are non-alcoholic drinks that have the same taste as their alcoholic counterparts.

The goal of Alcohol Awareness Week is to prevent underage drinking, since a strong correctional system is intact. Tod Allen, the director of BACCHUS says "We have to provide students with the information on alcohol's effects on their personal safety, studies and long-term goals in addition to the legal ramifications."

Patty Patsky McMahon, an advisor of BACCHUS and the director of the Health Center says, "My goal is to be productive in dealing with alcohol and strengthen students' decisions not to use alcohol. We have to prevent a tragedy before the disciplinary system ever comes into effect. We need to be stronger in our preventative efforts."

Alcohol Awareness Week begins October 20th and continues all week.

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Engineering majors accredited

by Paul Marini
Staff Writer

This past week, the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology was notified that the electrical engineering and mechanical engineering programs were accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, or ABET. ABET is a national organization which accredits engineering programs.

Behrend alumni who graduated with electrical engineering and mechanical engineering in 1996 will be affected by accreditation.

Ralph Ford, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, said, "Our engineering graduates have done extremely well in the field and in graduate school. However, accreditation will lend further credibility to their degrees."

"Accreditation will also aid our ability to attract top-notch students to the Behrend engineering programs," continued Ford.

Richard Progelhof, Director of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, said, "Accreditation is significant because it gives our students even more credibility as they enter the work

force or apply to graduate school."

ABET representatives visited Behrend last year to review the electrical engineering and mechanical engineering programs. Progelhof said, "Every aspect of our program(s) was evaluated."

The mechanical engineering and electrical engineering programs are not the only majors to have received accreditation. Electrical engineering technology and plastics engineering technology were accredited in 1991.



ABC political correspondent George Stephanopoulos will present "Politics: The Art of the Impossible" on Tuesday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Reed Commons. Stephanopoulos, a native of Cleveland, was deputy campaign manager and director of communications for the 1992 Clinton/Gore presidential campaign. He later served as senior advisor to President Clinton.