

Debate: the internet and the 1st amendment

by Nathan Mitchell
layout editor

The world wide web used to be a 'no-holds-barred' media to communicate freely with anyone in the world. As more and more people surf the ever expanding internet, certain moral ambiguities raise censorship issues.

Wednesday at noon, John Frohnmayer, a lawyer who served as fifth chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts, and David Touretzky, a research scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, came to Behrend to face these issues in a heated debate.

In the opening statements, the highly controversial Communications Decency Act, was the first issue discussed. The Supreme Court ruled the CDA unconstitutional in the case 'Reno vs. ACLU' because it would have banned too broad a range of 'indecent' material from public spaces on the internet even though the term 'indecent' is still theoretical and unclear in law. It is believed that the CDA would be more likely to interfere with

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-John Frohnmayer,
former Chairman of
NEA

freedom of expression than encourage it. "The CDA... persuades me that we must continue to search for intelligent life on Earth," said Frohnmayer.

The CDA was basically directed toward protecting minors or anyone else from receiving illicit material, but the first amendment is designed to protect the speaker. Frohnmayer argued that government should not get involved with information passed over the internet. Frohnmayer believes that "The CDA shows contempt for the human mind and a disregard for the parents who try and teach their children."

Touretzky stressed that the internet is such a large and easily accessible means of communication, it should be treated as any other. Minors are protected from accessing adult material on video, the telephone, in books, and other media. "People have legitimate desires to see certain kinds of speech limited," said Touretzky. "Competing desires must be satisfied."

Frohnmayer argued that seeing offensive material isn't a legitimate reason to censor it. "In a free society we depend upon the marketplace of ideas," said Frohnmayer. "The first amendment is the gears that makes the democratic process move." He continued to emphasize the need for an internet unburdened by legislation, and that technology is not an excuse for more restrictions and government interference.

One recent goal of the federal government has been to develop encryption software preventing 'cyber terrorism.' In fearing hackers who break codes and corrupt data, defense networks and banking departments are instigating such development. Touretzky believes that if an individual's actions on the internet are completely untraceable, there is a temptation for abuse.

As of now, however, the web is a public place of access for all which epitomizes our constitutional rights.

Behrend to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1998

by Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

The 1998-99 academic school year is an especially notable one for Penn State-Behrend. It will mark Penn State-Behrend's 50th anniversary as a Penn State campus and its 25th anniversary as an official college that offers four year degrees.

Anne-Marie Welsh, the director of public relations for the campus, told of plans to commemorate this benchmark: "It will probably be celebrated with a series of events that will take place all throughout next year."

John Lilley, Penn State Behrend's provost and dean, is convening an anniversary committee to plan with this year-long celebration. The committee will be meeting periodically throughout the remainder of the fall '97 and spring '98 semesters.

Thomas B. Hagen, a former student at Behrend, has accepted the responsibility as the committee's chair. Hagen attended Penn State Behrend from 1953-55. Because Behrend was

not yet able to confer four-year degrees at that time, he went to Ohio State University to obtain his degree as a bachelor of science in commerce. Hagen is currently the chairman of the Custom Engineering Company, located in Erie, which specializes in metal fabrications and consulting.

In 1988, the Behrend college honored Hagen as an Alumni Fellow. Along with being the anniversary committee chair, Hagen also has a seat on the Penn State-Behrend council of fellows and served from 1995-97 as the secretary of community and economic development for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania on Governor Tom Ridge's cabinet.

As of yet, the planning committee has not gotten together to formulate any ideas, however planning is not limited to this group. Welsh said, "If any students feel inspired with any ideas for the celebration, they can feel free to email me at axw6@email.psu.edu."



Behrend in the old days: Erie hall undergoing construction

Behrend students celebrate chemistry week

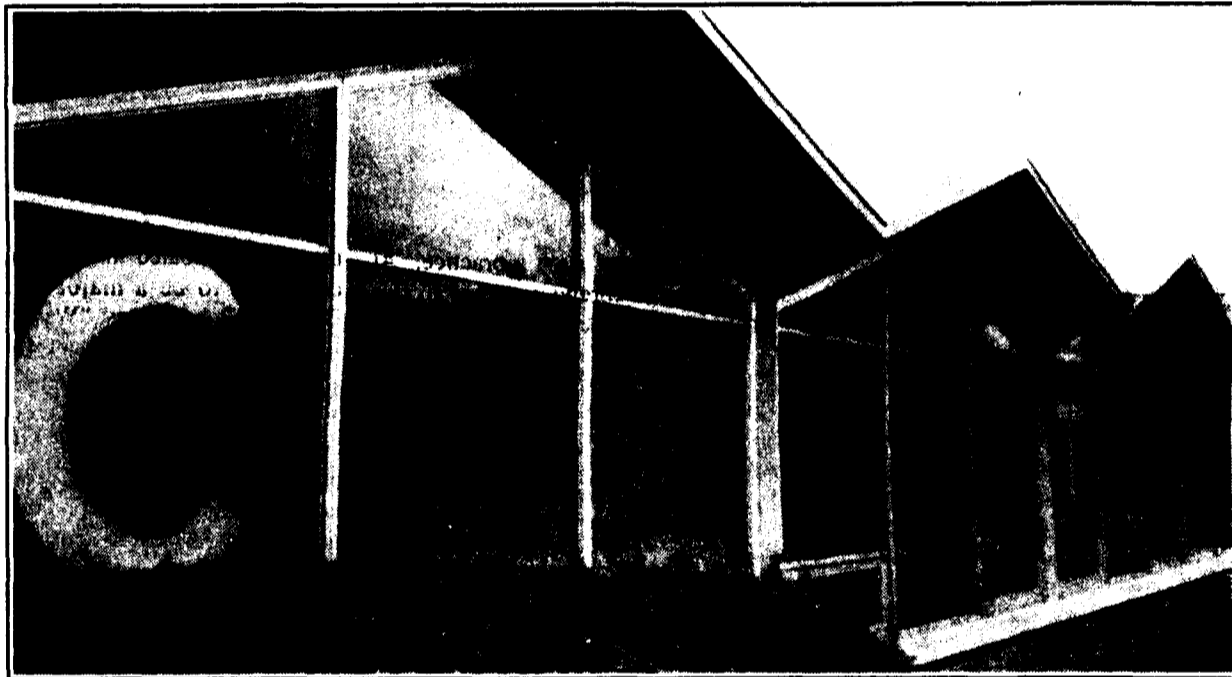


Photo courtesy of Dr. Alan Jircitano

by Ayodele Jones
staff writer

Last weekend at Millcreek mall, members of the Behrend Chemistry Club were at Millcreek Mall demonstrating the chemical properties of wet diapers.

The American Chemical Society is sponsoring National Chemistry Week which runs through November 2 through November 8. National Chemistry promotes awareness to the general public about chemistry as a science.

On November 1, The Behrend Chemistry Club along with students

from Edinboro and Mercyhurst were at the Millcreek Mall demonstrating basic "kitchen chemistry." Kitchen chemistry is the essentials of chemistry which are most likely basic knowledge to the public. Examples include the reaction between baking soda and vinegar and the polymers in children's diapers which absorb wetness.

For the last ten years as part of National Chemistry Week, chemistry majors paint the windows of the Science building, each window depicting a subject students are researching. Neil Vogley, 05 chemis-

try, is the vice president of the Behrend Chemistry Club, he says the club encourages chemistry majors to join and attend the club's meetings, which are every other Tuesday in Hammermill 41. The Behrend Chemistry Club is a way for chemistry majors to get to know each other.

They are planning a trip to the Corning Glass Center in New York on November 15. If you wish to contact the Chemistry Club you can visit www.clubs.psu.edu/BehrendChemClub.



Sunlight reflects through a tree by the path that runs between Glenhill Farmhouse and campus residences on a recent Autumn morning

Police And Safety REPORT:

10/27/97 Complainant reported harassment and possible stalking by another student while on campus.

10/29/97 While coming around the corner of Erie Hall, officer heard a female yelling

10/29/97 Complainant requested help in picking up a student on warrant.

10/28/97 Complainant reported that a vehicle that had a parking revocation notice was parked in E lot.

10/28/97 Called to report a fire alarm in Niagara Hall. Everything was fine, but there was a very strong odor of rubbing alcohol that had been used. They did not open any windows on the floor.

10/28/97 Possible missing person went to Buffalo and did not return.

10/30/97 Vehicle hit while parked in Dobbins lot.

10/30/97 Delivered memo regarding a hose along a walkway creating problems for a handicapped student.

10/30/97 Unknown persons "keyed" complainant's vehicle.

10/30/97 Called to report a bird loose in Nick 156.

AUCTION

Thursday, November 13, 1997
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
Reed Union Building Commons

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Bidding begins at 6:00 p.m.

Open to the Public

Auctioneer - Clark Johnson

AULJ259L

ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED:

Two, one-year memberships to the YMCA, one night stay at the Bethany Bed & Breakfast, ten tanning sessions from Today's Tan, two tickets to any show at the Erie Playhouse and the Roadhouse Theater, one month membership to Penzance, family portrait by E.J. Morris Studio and Captured Moments Photography, painting by Joaz Benet, car cleaning by Murphy's Ultimate Car Cleaning, Snorkel and mask by Divers' World, brunch for two at Peck 'N' Peak, Last Will & Testament from Attorney Robert McBride, flower arrangements by LeJardin and Foster's Rose of Sharon, 2 tickets to the Erie Philharmonic, 4 tickets to the Erie Otters hockey game, Penn State bean bag chair by Hammer's Furniture, and many more items and opportunities donated by local businesses and individuals.



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PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT PENN STATE-BEHREND

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