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Penn State Pepsi monopoly

by Richard White
staff writer
and
Anne Rajotte
managing editor

At all of Penn State's campuses, Pepsi is the only choice of cola available in all dining halls, cafes and vending machines. This is the result of a 1992 contract with Pepsi that earned Penn State \$14 million.

The Pepsi monopoly has upset some who don't prefer to drink Pepsi and resent that there is no choice between the two major soda companies.

Former Penn State president Joab Thomas at the signing of the contract, said that Penn State "will have new and unexpected help for the University Libraries, the HUB/Cultural Center planned expansion, and other Penn State campuses across the Commonwealth." Six million dollars was planned to go towards the Bryce Jordan Center, one million dollars for the University Libraries, \$500,000 towards the HUB/Cultural Center and \$500,000 towards Penn

State campuses.

The contract was made with funding for the Bryce Jordan Center in mind. However, according to Thomas at the time, "the scope of the partnership has allowed us to provide badly needed funds to other areas as well."

The \$500,000 was divided among the seventeen Commonwealth Campuses that compose the Commonwealth Educational System, as well as Behrend, Penn State Great Valley, and Penn State Harrisburg. The money was also used for University Housing and Food Service vending operations and a new scoreboard for Beaver Stadium.

Pepsi was also happy with the arrangement, as it provided Pepsi with "an array of marketing opportunities in connection with one of America's most prestigious universities," according to Andy Cross, Pepsi's vice president for on-premise sales.

In return for donating the money, Pepsi gained exclusive rights to put

please see **Pepsi** page two



PEPSI, PEPSI everywhere and not a Coke to drink.

photo by John Hoderny

Religious groups bring diversity to campus

by John Groller
news layout editor

For years, some virtually unrecognized organizations have provided Behrend students with a nourishment often left behind during the college transition. These same organizations also provide for charities of all types, including the Salvation Army and the Second Harvest Food Bank, and have been awarded for their unmatched efforts three years straight.

Campus Ministries have existed at Behrend for ten years. Brought forth by United Ministries and Higher Education, which still aids in funding the programs, Campus Ministries offer students of any religious denomination the spiritual nourishment that may be otherwise difficult to find.

Coordinator of Catholic Campus Ministry, Father Mike Allison is new to the Behrend scene this year. Father Allison is a native of Erie, but spent the last four years in Florida where he served as a Chaplain, or Campus Minister, to a Catholic school. He feels that Penn State should be noted for including a religious organization in its portfolio.

"The college is right in recognizing

that education also involves something called spirit. Our role is to nourish those spirits," said Father Allison.

Though Penn State provides office space for the program, it does nothing in the way of funding it. All funds come from outside of the university, usually from churches and other organizations. The Catholic ministry is funded solely by the Diocese of Erie, which is composed of 13 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania; the funding includes both budget and salary. The Protestant ministry is also funded by churches as well as the United Ministries and Higher Education Organization, one of the forefathers of the program. The Jewish Student Organization funding comes from an even smaller source, the Student Government Association at Behrend. The Umbrella Organization Religious Affairs Council provides a student of any religious denomination with a spiritual "nourishment" and was, in a sense, developed by the "main" branches of the Campus Ministry programs.

Goals of the organizations are simple.

see religion on page 2

Student activity fee going to Child Care Center

Andrea DiPlacido
staff writer

One of the most controversial issues over the past year has been the contribution to the Child Care Center using student activity fee money.

The activity fee, which is a \$25 per semester charge, is to be used "solely for student activities and issues," according to the background in the Student Activity Fee implementation packet. Yet the activity fee was used as financing to help startup the center.

Last year, \$20,000 of the \$160,000 projected, over 12%, was given to support the Child Care Center.

The reason this money was contributed to the center was because the expenses in the first three years had exceeded projections. The funding was used to help cover some of the equipment, playground, and materials expenses associated with start-up.

After not being able to find space on campus the child care center was placed in its current location on Station Road, because it was found to be more cost efficient to the university.

Early on, the center found itself with a \$105,000 debt due to startup expenses, new equipment, and renovations that weren't accounted for at the beginning but needed to be done. It is now self-supporting and the university provides the building free of charge. They are able to pay all the direct

costs through user fees and some grants, but are still trying to pay off the initial \$105,000 investment. The university has contributed \$45,000 of the original \$105,000 and the activity fee provided more relief by giving \$20,000.

According to Dr. Chris Reber, Dean of Students,

"I don't understand how we can take students' money and allocate it to something that the majority of students can't use. It's an injustice to the students that we spent their money."

Michael Zampetti
Student Government Association President

"the activity fee guidelines are written with a view of flexibility, so that students at the campus make the decisions about how to spend the money." However, only 0.8% of the student body uses the child care center's services.

Why then does Behrend have a child care center?

Reber stated, "the child care center, while it serves a relatively small number of students, provides an extremely important service for students who need quality child care to attend Penn State." He also added that "students have expressed, historically, a need for child care." Of the 60 children that are enrolled, 40 are the children of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, the others being community-based members.

One of the principal challenges was finding space for the Child Care Center on the campus. The center will have to relocate soon due to the East Side Access Highway, which will cause the child care center to be torn down. They are currently working on a new building to relocate the center.

Michael Zampetti, Student Government Association President, two year member of the Student Activity Fee Funding Committee, and this year's co-chair, feels the committee is being unfair to the students because they pay activity fee money and it is being used on something other than them.

Zampetti strongly disagrees with allocating the money for the child care center because the money is supposed to be given to activities. He said, "I don't understand how we can take students' money and allocate it to something that the majority of students can't use. It's an injustice to the students that we spent their money."

Two new dorms planned near Almy

Brian Ashbaugh
associate editor

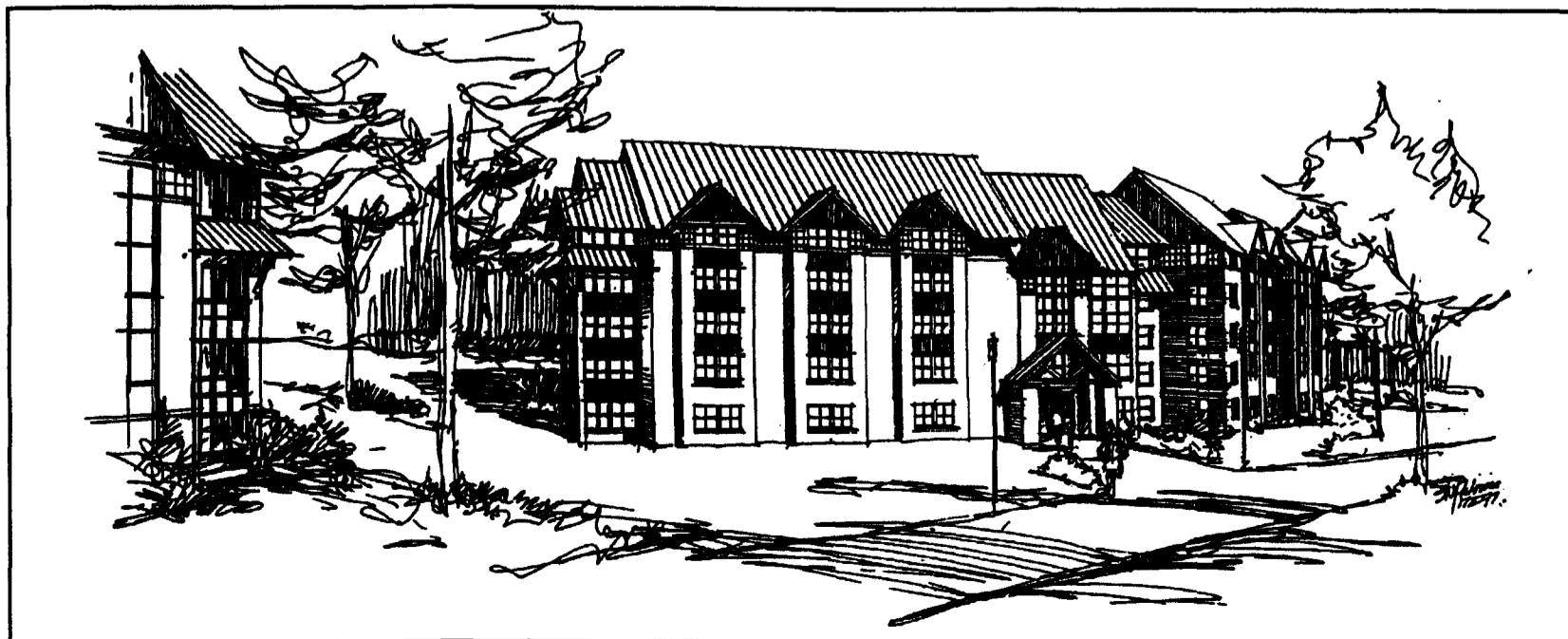
In its November meeting, Penn State's Board of Trustees approved preliminary sketch plans for a new \$10.9 million residence hall to be built for Behrend students. Ohio Hall, the second building in a three-building project, Almy Hall being the first, was developed to meet the growing enrollment at Behrend. The residence hall is being designed by Hoffman-Popovich Architects and Associates of Boalsburg.

Ohio Hall will be a 75,327 square foot, four story building housing 265 students. It will include 64 single-occupant rooms and 96 double-occupant rooms; 9 single rooms for resident hall assistants and disabled students, as well as lounge and study

areas. Ohio is scheduled to open in fall of 1999.

To complete the three-building project, Trippe Hall, identical to Ohio and Almy, is scheduled to open in 2001. The names for the buildings were formally approved by the Board of Trustees, keeping with the tradition of naming Behrend's residence halls after ships and military personnel involved in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. The "Ohio" was a schooner and the "Trippe" was a one-gun sloop.

Student reaction to this new plan has been mixed. Roie Gat, 09 MIS, feels that "it's nice to see Penn State is meeting the demand of a growing student population." While Todd Benson, 01 Accounting, is less optimistic. He states, "I don't want to see tuition go up."



Ohio Hall sits in the center of an architect's design with Almy Hall to the left and Trippe Hall to the right.