

The Behrend College Collegian

RECEIVED
DEC 12 1997
BEHREND COLLEGE
LIBRARY

Thursday, December 11, 1997

Erie, PA 16563

Published weekly by the students of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Volume XLVI, No. 12

INSIDE...

News

Kwanzaa celebrated
...page 2

Editorial

Safer Sex Cabaret lauded
...page 4

National Campus News

Job market best in a decade
...page 7

World and Nation

Prodigy sparks controversy
...page 8

Features

WCW comes to Erie
...page 10

Sports

Track and field coming to
Behrend
...page 12

Health and Wellness suggests meningitis vaccinations

by Ray Morelli
collegian staff

It's the time of year when many people worry about getting the flu. Some even get a flu vaccination every year. Many college students are unaware of another potentially life threatening infection: meningococcal meningitis. The American College Health Association has just issued a recommendation that college students consider being vaccinated. Because the bacteria that causes meningitis is transmitted through the air via coughing and sneezing as well as by direct contact with an infected person, college students living in close quarters like residence halls have an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Past investigations of campus outbreaks indicate several student behaviors

increase the risk of contacting meningitis. These include active and passive smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. Meningitis sounds like something from an "Outbreak"-type movie. It's an air-borne bacteria which you could fall victim to simply from being near someone infected. The bacterial infection causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis kills about thirteen percent of those infected, which makes over three hundred deaths per year in the United States. That total included one University Park student last year. Meningitis can be treated if detected early. It's often treated with IV antibiotics, which does require hospitalization. The best way to deal with it is through vaccination. This consists of one

shot which has virtually no side effects and is generally effective for three to five years. Margaret Spears, director of Health Services at University Park says, "The vaccination is an easy and highly effective way to protect students who live in highly populated quarters against infection." For those who don't get a vaccination, symptoms to watch for include flu symptoms, a rash, high fever, and the largest indicator: a stiff neck. "We would encourage everyone to be vaccinated, just to be safe," says Patty McMahon, director of Health and Wellness. The vaccine costs fifty-eight dollars, which can be billed to a student's account. Appointments for vaccinations can be made by calling Health and wellness at 898-6217.

Behrend's Knowledge Park to provide economic benefits

by Ayodele Jones
collegian staff

In upcoming years, Behrend students may have the opportunity to have internships with various companies without even leaving campus. This may be possible because of a planned research and development area called Knowledge Park.

"Knowledge Park is a research and development area which will allow knowledge-based high-tech type companies to locate closer to and take full advantage of the intellectual and physical resources of the college," said Robert Light, Associate Provost and Associate Dean.

Knowledge Park would be situated along a mile-long stretch of the college's property on the north side of I-90. This property includes nearly 200 acres for potential Knowledge Park use, of which nearly half can be developed. It would consist of larger and also some smaller buildings because the land is fairly flat. By constructing these buildings they would also take advantage of the nice streams running through it which would make for a very inspirational setting.

One of the main reasons why Knowledge Park is being created is because of the existing relationship that Penn State-Behrend already has with companies. "The next best thing would be to bring the companies to us," said Robert Light. It would be beneficial in many ways; students would be able to work and have internships and employees of these companies would also instruct classes. Knowledge Park is beneficial to the tenants because it allows early access to graduate students, access to education, training programs and support, availability of teleconferencing and distance education technologies and a host of others.

Knowledge Park is not to be considered a real estate development but rather it will consist of companies that have a strong relationship with what Penn State-Behrend is trying to do and accomplish. They are not looking for manufacturing companies but rather research and development, marketing and information based companies that would be able to relate to what is being taught here at Penn State-Behrend. The organizations that will comprise Knowledge Park are described as innovative/

creative, provide professional and/or technical services, incorporate emerging technologies and many other characteristics.

Knowledge Park is being built with state money, university money and also from other entities. In the past the state has not invested very much in buildings here; we have forty main buildings and the state has



Provost and Dean
John Lilley

only built two of them. "In the future we would like the state to build our buildings and let me spend more time raising money for endowments, scholarships, sponsorships and the study abroad programs," said Provost and Dean John Lilley. The planners are trying to move quickly, so that they can take advantage of the tenants that are interested. They would like to break ground for the first building in March of 1998. It would take about twenty years to complete Knowledge Park but it is their goal to finish phase one over the next five years. Phase one consists of six building sites which will house about ten to twelve companies. "One of the biggest stumbling blocks has been working all the politics," said Light.

Due to the expansion of size, resources and facilities, Behrend will also increase in enrollment size. "The University has asked us to become four thousand and the master planning which is going on right now says that we could be at seven thousand students," said Dean Lilley. Such an increase in student population will not happen quickly. "We would probably not approach four thousand students until the year 2004," said Light.

could have a significant impact on the environment. As the Statement developed, a public hearing in April of 1996 was held, allowing citizens the opportunity to express comments on it, as well as general concerns. The Right-of-Way Acquisition summary was addressed as well, answering the questions of those residents whose homes and businesses would need to be condemned in order to erect the highway.

On March 3, 1997, the Record of Decision by the Federal Highway Administration was issued. The East Side Access project had satisfied the environmental review process and could now proceed to final design and acquisition planning. The public viewing of the plans for the first construction section, from the Bayfront Parkway to East 6th street,

please see EAST page 2



photo by Jessica Trzeciakowski

Snow rests on the hill behind Porcupine Hall. The building will soon empty for winter vacation.

East Side Highway to bring improved access to campus

by Amy Seley
collegian staff

As far back as the early 1960's, studies concerning the transportation needs and connections on the east side of Erie have been conducted. Concern back then, as it is today, was with the strain on the roadway system, which had to provide for development as well as the businesses and attractions already situated there. The downtown business district and the Port had never been easy to access from the east and I-79 and I-90 have never been able to pull people into the city of Erie quickly and easily.

In 1980, plans for the Bayfront highway were begun and a few years later Erie was blessed with an easy

access to the Port and I-79. But traffic deficits in capacity and access still were present for those commuting from the east side and future prognosis was not promising. In November of 1991, the Erie County Department of Planning released the Erie East Side Needs Analysis, which was an in depth look at traffic levels and predicted land use. The study found major activity centers such as the Millcreek Mall, Gannon University, Behrend College, General Electric, and the Port, seriously lacking in adequate connection, as most access was gained through city streets filled with numerous lights and stops. Safety, due to the congestion, was also an item probed into by the report. A connector between the Bayfront highway and I-90 was suggested as

the solution for all of these problems. The first step in the Eastside Access Highway process had begun. From there, five alternate routes for connection were formed, ranging from passing General Electric up to Station, running along McClelland Avenue, and following the Allegheny and Eastern Railroad and Conrail tracks to the Interstate. Numerous meetings were held, beginning as far back as 1992, allowing citizens to voice their opinions and suggestions for the possible roadway. Unlike earlier attempts to improve the roadways, public involvement from the onset of the project is what really kept it moving. Committees made up of business people, government officials, and residents joined forces to examine all choices and decide the best route. April 1995 saw the

announcement of the "preferred alternate", the route that seemed the most desirable of the five. Alternate 3, the slated route, runs from the Bayfront Highway south east along Conrail's tracks, crossing McClelland and 38th street, over Wintergreen Gorge, through what is currently the intramural fields at Behrend, and connects with Station Rd in order to join with I-90. It is the most expensive of the five alternates, but it displaces the fewest homes and businesses and had the most support from the public.

During February through November 1996, an Environmental Impact Statement was drawn up and approved, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 whenever a federally sponsored, funded, and/or permitted project