

# The Behrend College Collegian

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## Students camp out for first chance at housing

by Damion Miller  
staff writer

It's 10 p.m. do you know where your friends are? At the annual Housing Contract campout. It's the second week of school and students have received their housing contracts.

Students from every residence hall, semester standing and major, participate in this ritual of waiting all night until housing opens in the morning at 8 a.m. Susan Carry, 02 Psychology, says she's here because, "I want a suite; the dorms suck. The dorms are dirty and cold." Most students share the common reason of, "I have to do what I have to do, to get what I want, which is a suite." Erika Forde, 02 Psychology.

There was an atmosphere of mixed emotions and uneasiness among the many students. Most students who were at the event for their first time were not enthusiastic about it. "Thought it would be fun, but now I'm pissed and going home," states Kevin Mink, 04 Elementary Education.

Kevin Mink arrived at 9:30 p.m. while another students closer to the front of the line were there from 7:30 p.m. There were many complaints ranging from, "It better be worth it," "my butt hurts," or "what the hell was I thinking? My room better come with a view."

The stairwell was cramped, "stuff"

(food, blankets, and clothes) was trampled, water was everywhere—not to mention the absence of sleep.

Geoffrey Pieper, 06 Political Science, said, "I say we start a riot!", to sum up the frustrations of many students. However, some students tried to diffuse the tension by smoking, reading, counting to a million by 2s, and then there were those who were already drunk.

With the many problems the students had came some solutions. Aaron Horneman, 06 Math/CMPBD, stated, "I think housing should be done by class rank. I can't believe I was here since 7:30." Chris Maguire, 04 Accounting said, "It's very annoying that we have to stay up during the week. This should start either Saturday or Sunday morning."

With the many complaints what will housing do? Edward Mulfing, manager of housing and food services, stated, "We need to, as a college, get input from people... I think it needs to be equitable, fair. I hate to see it as chance."

The chance Mulfing was speaking of is an idea thought of by Housing and Food Services to have a lottery for student housing. However, it was already pointed out that students wouldn't like this because if your name wasn't chosen then, you don't

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## Professor Charles Johnson speaks on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy

by Will Jordan  
staff writer

"None of us can make it alone." The birthday and life of Martin Luther King, Jr., who spoke these inspirational words, was celebrated on Monday with a speech by Professor Charles Johnson, "The King We Left Behind."

Charles Johnson won the National Book Award in 1990 for his novel *Middle Passage*. He is an English professor at the University of Washington, and his new novel is called *Dreamer*.

Behrend Provost and Dean John Lilley introduced Johnson with his own personal feelings on Dr. King. He reflected on changes in the country, touching on affirmative action and race relations. He referred to "small steps of improvement," citing changes at his own church.

Johnson opened his speech by stating that the audience was there to remember and honor, "one of the greatest Americans in the twentieth century." Johnson believes that Dr. King has been left behind as an individual and his ideas have been packaged and commercialized. Johnson gave the example of King's "I Have a Dream" speech being cut up into one minute sound bytes to be played on a radio station throughout the day.

He also made reference to dolls being made in King's likeness as an example of commercialization.

Johnson stated that in the nineties, people seem more apt to follow popular culture, rather than be an individual voice. He emphasized that popular culture had a hand in social disintegration which, in turn, affected the "beloved community." Dr. King, according to Johnson, held a universal belief in brotherhood. Johnson compared Dr. King to Jesus and Gandhi because of their shared beliefs of non-violent protest and individual sacrifice for the good of the whole. Some of Dr. King's contemporaries, such as Malcolm X disagreed with King's approach and felt that segregation would be more effective than loving your enemy. Dr. King once stated, "Malcolm X has done our people a great injustice."

Johnson commented that after Dr. King's death, radical groups began to be more prominent. Their beliefs of violence as a means of reaching their goal eventually overshadowed Dr. King's "Gandhi-esque nonviolence"

approach.

Johnson pointed out that African-Americans played a significant role in the shaping of United States history, but their contributions have not been recognized by mainstream culture. He stated, that was a "divorce of black people from a nation of their own creation." Johnson touched on Louis Farrakhan's beliefs about race relations and voiced his disapproval of Farrakhan's ideas.

Johnson touched on the subject of segregation within a race, and stated that a race can be 99% the same, and the 1% difference is what is used to segregate. Johnson also recalled the signing of the Civil Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson, where Dr. King was present.

Johnson concluded his speech with his thoughts on Dr. King's message

and how it has survived into the nineties. He made reference to the report of African-American students laughing when a Jewish woman is shot in Schindler's List and to a group of African-American pregnant teenagers cheering on a rapist during a play. He used these examples to show how King's ideas on brotherhood have become "passé."

Finally, Johnson reiterated Dr. King's beliefs that we are all intertwined, citing that industries throughout the world depend on other countries. After his formal speech, Johnson read from the prologue of his current novel, *Dreamer*, which is about the last two years of Dr. King's life.

For the most part, Johnson's speech was well received. Shannon D. Jones,

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photo by Jason Blake  
Charles Johnson speaks on "The King We Left Behind"

## Erie resident Ted Junker named chairman of Penn State Board of Trustees

by Andrea Zaffino  
editor in chief

On January 16th the Penn State Board of Trustees elected Erie resident and Penn State alumnus Edward "Ted" P. Junker III as their Chairman. Junker is a retired vice president of the PNC Bank Corp and has served on Penn State's Board of Trustees for the previous 12 years. The last two were as the board's vice chairman. His term as chairman will last through 1998.

Junker, his wife Barbara and their three daughters all obtained degrees from Penn State. Because of this, Junker carries with him a fondness for Penn State and feels in a way indebted to the university. Junker, who is excited about the announcement of his

appointment, said "I'm pleased and I'm honored and I'm challenged. The latter is my favorite because I enjoy being challenged."

Junker graduated from Penn State in 1960, and he followed up with a graduate degree from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Today, Junker is a distinguished member of the Erie community who serves as a member and treasurer of the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority, and is a member of the board of directors and executive committee of the Erie Conference on Community Development.

As a resident of Erie, Junker has been involved with and done much to the benefit of Penn State Behrend. Last year he donated two million dollars to the Penn State Behrend Ath-

letics Department. In addition to this, he and his wife Barbara have established the Edward P. and Barbara F. Junker Leadership Scholarship, which has been endowed to the college, meaning that it is made available to students on a yearly basis.

Junker has also served for many years on the Board of Fellows which is like a Board of Trustees or an Advisory Board working specifically for the Penn State Erie campus. Anne Marie Welsh, Manager of Publications and Public Information said of Junker, "In the community, he has been so involved politically that he has been a tremendous help for Behrend over the years."

Both Junker and John Lilley, Pro-

**Junker continued on page 3**



New Penn State Board of Trustees Chair Ted Junker stands with Penn State President Graham Spanier to his right and Penn State Behrend Provost and Dean John Lilley to his far right.

## General education requirements to change

by Andrea Zaffino  
editor in chief

Earlier last year, the Special Committee on General Education (SCGE) proposed a list of ten recommendations to the Behrend Faculty Senate, highlighting possibilities for changing the General Education requirements. The proposed changes will raise the current expectation levels for General Education courses and help Penn State University to meet higher educational goals.

Of the ten recommendations included in the SCGE's proposal, two especially had an impact and have been amended by the Faculty Senate. The first is the establishment of freshman seminars to help incoming students adjust to the new expectations and enhanced freedoms that go along with college life. The seminars will be academic in content

and will help the new students to become acquainted with the faculty.

These seminars will be taught through the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS). The Director of the School of H&SS, Roberta Salper said of these

**"I am hopeful that the freshman seminars will provide a stimulating experience for first year students."**

Roberta Salper  
Director of the School of H&SS

introductory seminars, "I am hopeful that the freshman seminars will provide a stimulating experience for first year students."

The second of the ten recommendations that was amended

by the Behrend Faculty Senate is to restructure the health sciences requirement so that it focuses on academic issues in the area of health and wellness and will include physical activities that are useful throughout one's life. Along with the changes in the way health classes are taught, the required amount of credits in this area will be reduced from four to three.

There are other changes occurring in the General Education requirements outside these recommendations. These include plans for more Computer Science credits as a part of the General Education curriculum, as well as a new policy that entitles a student taking a second foreign language to count those credits toward fulfilling their Humanities requirements rather

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