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Students discuss concerns with Dean Lilley

by Will Jordan
staff writer

"I believe in making Behrend better every day." Provost and Dean John Lilley conducted another session of Coffee with the Provost Wednesday night in Perry Hall.

Dean Lilley opened the session by going around the room asking people their major and where they were from. The first question posed by a student concerned the bathrooms in the halls around the campus. The main focus was on the fact that there are no paper towel dispensers, only air blowing hand driers. The Dean reacted to this question with the fact that the paper towels had become a fire hazard in the past. Perry Hall in fact was the worst hall at one time due to all of the fires that had been set. Paper towels were taken out of the bathrooms to save money and because they were not environmentally sound as well.

Another question about the bathrooms in Perry was concerning the faucets for the sinks. There will new faucets put in the bathrooms in the near future to replace the ones that you push down on to make the water come out.

Another question concerned the fact that there are no change machines in Almy Hall. The students have to travel to the apartments or farther to get change for the laundry machines. The Dean stated that the wiring was

"I believe in making Behrend better every day."

Provost and Dean John Lilley

not up to date with the technology of the vending machines. However this problem will be remedied in the near future. There was also concern about the maintenance of the walkways leading up to Almy. There is not sufficient drainage for water and thus the walkways become covered with water and ice.

A major issue about the environment was posed by another student. The student brought up the issue of plastic waste bins that are located off of Jordan road. The student continued by adding that there are wooden palettes, large amounts of brush and

cinder blocks to accompany the plastic. The student said that it was literally a "waste land." There was a concern about the water being contaminated by the plastic. The Dean's response to this issue was that the situation "needs to be taken care of" and he reassured, "don't worry about your water supply."

Another major issue that was touched on was the fact that classes are gradually increasing in size. At this time the average ratio of students to professors is 17:1. A student who had transferred from Allegheny University said that the classes here are smaller than her classes at Allegheny. The classes here are more "personalized." Dean Lilley also brought up the subject of the student evaluations of the professors stating that they are different in each school of a particular major. Dean Lilley also stated that he is interviewing 2 or 3 prospective faculty members daily. He interviews the prospective faculty members on such criteria as teaching style, overall approach, and ways to challenge students. Dean Lilley continued by

Coffee continued on page 3



photo by Jason Blake

Provost and Dean John Lilley

One in a series of articles on Behrend's Fiftieth Anniversary

Students express opinions about Iraq crisis

by Jonathan Tatalovic
staff writer

After months of being denied access to top Iraqi military sites, President Clinton and top advisors have once again taken a strong stance against Iraq. Currently, the United States has two aircraft carriers, twenty warships, and approximately thirty thousand troops in the Gulf area. So far, Clinton hasn't made a final decision, but if action is taken, it could only be weeks away.

In a time when war is a possibility, any action could have an effect on the Behrend community. However, with other events such as the Clinton sex

scandal in the media, the issue with Iraq is almost unheard. Opinions of the situation among some Behrend students vary significantly.

When asked how familiar they are with the situation in Iraq, everyone had a general idea that U.N. weapons inspectors have been denied access to selected Iraqi military sites. Thoughts differed though when asked how serious the situation is. Justin Stanley, 03 Electrical Engineering, and National Guard Reserve, Private First Class, doesn't think that it is extremely serious. "No, I don't think it's very serious, we haven't been drilled since December." Jason Depew, 02 DUS, said, "It could be

inflated by the media, but from what I see on the news, I think it is pretty serious." Opinions varied again when asked what they think the is best course of action to resolve the conflict. Amy Geisler, 04 General Arts and Sciences, responded, "See if we can resolve it without going to war". Chuck Goss, 04 MET, said in response, "Give them an ultimatum and if they don't comply, initiate an airstrike".

Despite individual responses, the fact still remains that the United States and Iraq are eye to eye in conflict. Now, the question which still remains; who is going to blink.

Professor Emeritus remembers 45 years at Behrend

by Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

As Penn State Behrend's 50th Anniversary approaches, the faculty and staff of the college prepare for what will be a year long celebration, to take place throughout the Fall '98 and spring '99 semesters.

One of the pivotal members in charge of planning for the occasion is

Associate Professor Emeritus of English Ben Lane. Lane is currently working on a publication which focuses on Behrend's history as a college. This is a topic he knows quite a lot about because he has worked at the Behrend campus since 1953, just five years after it was established.

When Lane first arrived he and his wife, Carolyn lived on campus in a

small house adjacent to Jordan Road. At the college's very start, all faculty lived on campus. Lane himself began as the Dean of Students as well as teaching four classes. "Everybody did everything." Lane said.

In the beginning, the campus existed of little more than the Glenhill

45 Years continued page 3

New president chosen for JRC

by Joet Kolano
staff writer

Until last week, there was no active organization that on campus students could go to with their complaints. At the January 21st meeting of the Student Government Association, this problem was alleviated by the appointment of Doug Watkins as the new Joint Residence Council (JRC) President.

The JRC is responsible for:

a. Relating the views of the students living in the residence halls to the administration, faculty, and to the Student Senate regarding student welfare.

b. Enhancing resident life through the sponsorship of various activities and programs.

c. Providing a medium through which students' problems and complaints may be resolved.

Watkins is very interested in rebuilding JRC to a group comparable in respect and action of the other groups within the university. He is willing to be the residents' "voice" to

protect our rights.

Watkins has many important topics on his mind that would positively effect not only the campus itself but also the attitude of the residents living here. He is unhappy with the fact that the residents do not have a representative to look after their rights. Also, like many other students who live on campus, he feels that the maintenance crews need to come up with a more effective system of snow removal. In the future, Watkins would like to see JRC (with the help of the Student Programming Council) have more bands brought in.

Next fall he is planning on getting together with the coordinators of all the buildings and trying to find a way to unify the buildings. Watkins plans "to establish councils within each hall to which residents can bring their complaints and suggestions." These councils will then bring the residents' opinions to JRC for them. He wants to have regular JRC meetings so that he can receive input from the residents

and then take that information to SGA meetings.

In the past, JRC has had some bad luck with keeping its presidents. Michael Zampetti, SGA President, stated that "the problem with past presidents of JRC has been a lack of dedication. However, Watkins is different. He is very goal oriented."

Watkins is very keen to the needs of the students. "He always tries to make an impact in whatever he is doing." Watkins would like to change this "tradition" once and for all. With his self-proclaimed "Get goer" attitude, He is willing to better the conditions of this campus.

Any student interested in joining JRC should contact Doug Watkins. Any full-time student (who is in good standing with the University) is eligible for membership. Any one with questions or comments about items that are within JRC's jurisdiction should bring them to next week's Student Forum in Reed's lecture hall at 5:30 pm on Wednesday.



photo by Jason Blake

Brock Bovaird passes to Ashley Orris last night against LaRoche. Men's Basketball wins 5 straight. Story, page 12.