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INSIDE...

News

Progress made in 50th Anniversary plans ...page 2

Police and Safety

Suspicious people in S-lot ...page 3

Editorial

Support for increase of Student Activity Fee ...page 4

Calendar

This weekend's movie: *Seven Years in Tibet* ...page 5

Campus News

Defective condoms at University of Illinois ...page 7

World & Nation

Frozen embryos brought to life ...page 8

Features

Video review: *The Shining* ...page 9

Sports

Men's basketball splits two ...page 11

Final activity fee decisions made

by Anne Rajotte
managing editor

The Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee concluded its work creating a budget for next year's student activity fee money at last Thursday's final meeting.

The major focus of this year's committee was to provide activities for both resident and commuter students so they can see where their money is going. This was accomplished by increased funding for bands, including a plan for bringing in one big, well known band. In addition, money was allocated for improvements in the back room, upgrading movie equipment, formal dances, mocktails in Bruno's and tailgate parties in Bruno's, Erie Hall and residence halls for sporting events.

At the final meeting, the committee, which is made up of seven students and three faculty members, had to reduce the preliminary budget from \$189,228 to \$158,550. Each committee member had suggestions to change the budget appropriately. Each suggestion for how to reduce the budget brought a downside. There was a suggestion to cut the funding that Student Government Association (SGA) receives to allocate to clubs and organization. Michael Zampetti, SGA president and committee member, emphasized the importance of staying at at least \$50,000, which is what was allocated last year. He stated that

there are four new organizations on campus this year and that it is already, "very difficult to allocate money for clubs."

A major point of conflict was the funding of books and videos for the Multi-Cultural Resource Center (MCC). MCC originally requested \$800 for this purpose. Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, pointed out that SGA allocates \$10,000 in diversity funding each year. Charles Testrake stated, "I don't think we should keep something just because it is a diversity program." The issue was resolved by cutting the request in half to \$400.

Another point of discussion was ballroom dancing lessons for students, faculty, staff and possibly community members. Julie Cain, a committee member, was the strongest advocate of this program. This funding was eventually cut, with the recommendation that ballroom dancing be offered as an ESACT course in the future. Cain argued that offering ballroom dancing as a class would limit the opportunity to a small number of people.

After debating each item and cutting something from nearly all of them, the committee eventually brought the figure down to the goal of \$158,550. Many suggestions that the committee members supported had to be cut, but as Cain stated, "We can't do everything in one year."

Reed commons to close in April

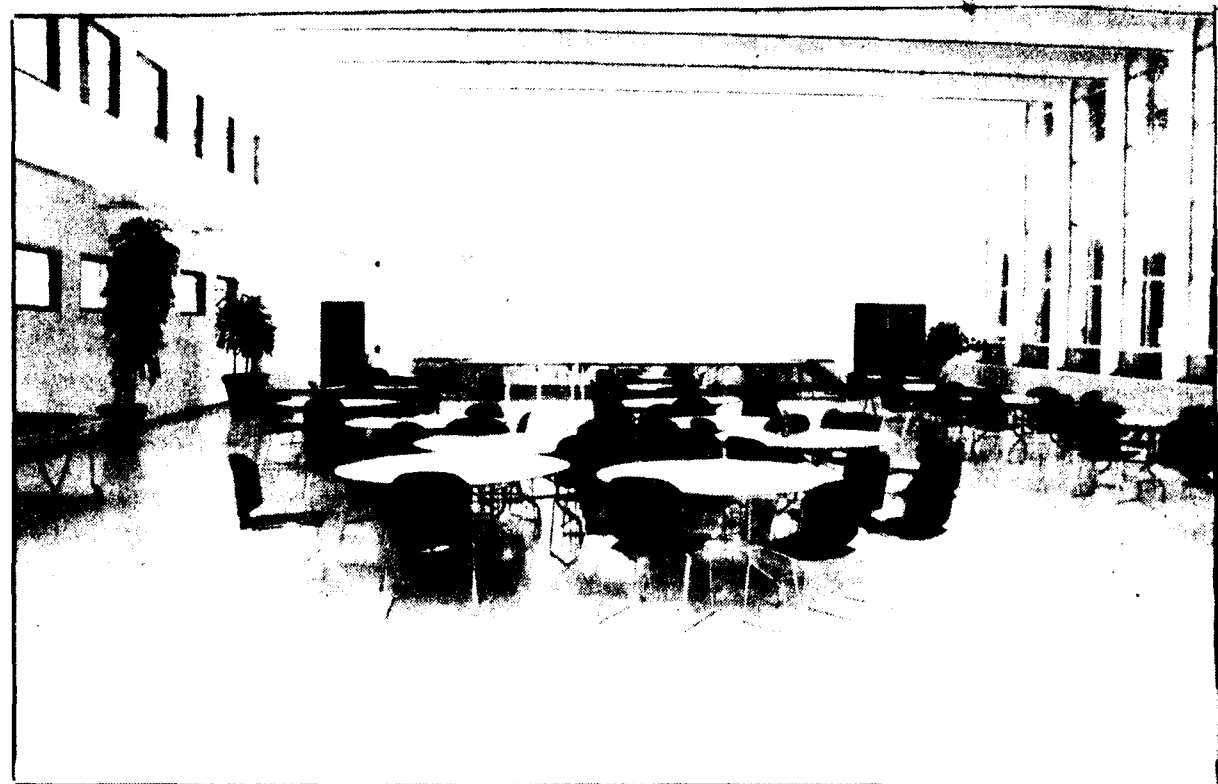


photo by Jason Blake

Reed Union Commons: Students will not have the use of this space to study for final exams

by Anne Rajotte
managing editor

Students returning to Behrend next year will be greeted with a newly renovated Reed Commons. The work will begin in March, and the Commons will be closed from April 1 to the end of the semester.

Penn State's Board of Trustees will be meeting at Behrend in June. According to Chris Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, this meeting provided the opportunity to make changes that have been needed for some time. The renovated Commons will have a new sound system specifically designed

for the acoustics of that room, new lighting and a catering area. The Commons will also be improved aesthetically by a new floor and repainting.

The lighting will be improved and have lighting zones and more capabilities, such as the ability to accommodate equipment for a band.

Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, said the feel of the room, "will be much more warm and inviting." He went on to say, "I hope the students will use the space even more." It is also hoped that the students will use it more for informal activities, such as studying.

The downside of the renovation is

the fact that the Commons will be closed from April until the completion date which is June 27, in time for the Board of Trustees meeting. There are regular activities held in the Commons, such as the Catholic Mass on Sunday night. Rizzo has attempted to let people know about the closing so events can be scheduled around it. So far, there have been no complaints and no rescheduling problems.

Reber commented that the minor disruption this year will be made up for by benefits of the renovation in the long run. Rizzo stated that when completed, the Commons will be "a top notch programming area."

NSBE's "Night of Style" this Thursday

by Ik Chan Kang
staff writer

February 19 for NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) is going to be a big day. It is the first time that any organization at Behrend has organized a formal fashion show. They call it "A Night of Style." Beginning in October of 1997, mem-

bers of NSBE such as Erica Forde, 02 psychology, Channasa Taylor, 02 Marketing & International business, and Tammy Freeman, 02 Finance & International business, have worked hard to organize a fashion show within our campus, and their plans are about to become reality on February 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the

Reed Commons with support from another student organization, ASO (Asian Student Organization). These three freshmen are co-directors of the upcoming event.

NSBE's initial purpose to organize the fashion show on campus was for fundraising. As time progressed, they have realized that their initial purpose has taken a different route in bringing benefits to Behrend and institutions around us.

In the beginning, they literally had to run from one place to the other in

It will be travesty on the part of our faculty, staff, and students if they did not come and support us. It shows Behrend's pride and spirit."

Co-chairs of the NSBE Fashion show

order to find sponsors who would be interested in the event. Since the budget was limited and the cost for the event was higher than they had expected, they had to find as many sponsors as possible. They went to stores around Erie with formal letters explaining their intent. After the search process, they managed to find several sponsors such as Burlington Coat Factory, J. Riggins, 5-7-9, The Gap, Hammond's Clothing Store, The Limited, Bridal Elegance, and the Behrend bookstore. These sponsors are the primary providers for the clothes that will be used in the show. To make the show more interesting, three co-directors created 6 different scenes to the show, which are disco, business, casual, sports, formal, and wedding scenes.

All of the models who will be walking on the stage are volunteer

students from our campus. There are not only members from NSBE, but there are also students who are highly interested in the event. This spectacular event is not only organized by the student body such as NSBE, but also by several administrators, such as Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, Kris Motta, Assistant Director of Student Activities, and Anne-Marie Welsh, Director of Public Relations and Publications. Welsh has organized the publicity not only to the people in the campus community but also to the local people in Erie by providing publicity to local radio stations, and newspaper press releases on last Monday, the 16th. The day before the fashion show there was more publicity that was shown on local TV stations along with the halftime segment of a basketball game.

There will be a lot of things going on at "A Night of Style". There will be refreshments and a buffet dinner served after the show, catered by the Penn State-Behrend Housing and Food Services, which will be followed by prizes (including gift certificates) which were donated by various local restaurants. For all these services and entertainment, NSBE is only charging for \$9.00 for a ticket at the door and \$7.00 if you purchase it in advance.

The student directors' goal for the future is to make this show an annual event if possible. They urge all the students to come and attend "A Night of Style" which will bring levels of full entertainment. They also strongly state, "It will be travesty on the part of our faculty, staff, and students if they did not come and support us. It shows Behrend's pride and spirit."

Students voice opinions on visitor parking

by Damion Miller
staff writer

"Hey!, that's my car," is a common exclamation heard in the parking lots around Behrend when people arrive to the sight of their car being ticketed or even towed. Many campus residents know someone who has been a victim of a ticket or a car towing. The students who live on campus often find themselves wondering why

Bill Donahue, the head of campus police and safety, explained why individuals find themselves in bad situations due to parking. Donahue pointed out that the regulations for parking were already in a pamphlet that is handed out to students that get parking permits. Gabby Carroll, 02 Kinesiology, doesn't know about this pamphlet because she doesn't have a car, like many other students that have visitors. They don't drive but they have guests who are subject to the Penn State parking regulations. Donahue made it clear that the signs are there for that purpose, so that those who don't know will know where to park. Visitors must get parking permits from police and safety before trying to park their vehicle on campus.

Melinda Fernandez, 02 Psychology, stated, "I didn't even know that there were different ones, my friend got a ticket for having the wrong permit, I got a temporary instead of a visitor." Carroll has witnessed her friend's car just about to be towed because it didn't have a permit. Fernandez says, "The signs don't even make sense." Her friend parked in the Reed lot thinking that it was possible because the sign says no student parking be-

tween certain hours. Her friend was a visitor, without a permit, who thought that visitors were exempt from this rule. A ticket was issued to that individual.

Where should our guests park? Donahue stated that with the appropriate permit, visitors are allowed to park in the Reed lot (for overnight guests) after hours, the Dobbins lot (for temporary guests) after hours and other places around campus that don't have signs prohibiting visitor parking. Donahue wanted everyone to understand that the signs are as helpful as they possibly can be and even if a visitor parked somewhere after it was prohibited a little leeway is given.

Donahue stated, "We don't want to see people towed. We don't wait until the exact time to go give the cars tickets and have them towed, none of the cars towed have the time in which parking is prohibited as the time of the ticket. The time that they are towed is usually up to an hour after the prohibited time, to give people a chance to move their vehicles."

It is also possible to prevent a car from being towed if visitors reach their car before the tow company leaves their base. Police and Safety can stop them, but if they are already halfway, individuals are on their own. Fines for parking are a \$42.50 citation and a \$45.00 towing charge.

Lisa Delfinger, 04 DUS, a commuter, stated, "I don't think it's right for visitors to have to get parking permits. The easier we are on visitors, the more it will help us look more relaxed and it might entice people to come here." Another commuter, Kelly

Parking continued page 2



photo Courtesy of NSBE

Erika Forde and Channasa Taylor, freshmen members of the National Society of Black Engineers, are co-chairing "A Night of Style" along with freshman Tammy Freeman.