

# The Behrend College Collegian

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## Student involvement a letdown in SGA open forum

by Andrea Zaffino  
editor in chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) Open Forum last night adjourned in less than ten minutes. After nobody showed up to the Forum in the scheduled room, Michelle Benjamin, SGA secretary, suggested to move the group to Bruno's in an attempt to involve students.

Mike Zampetti, SGA President, led the Senators to the stage in Bruno's cafeteria, where he picked up the microphone and announced that the meeting was going to take place. There were not many students in the cafeteria to begin with, but despite the lack of attendance, Zampetti tried to get the attention of those who were there by asking what they thought of the raise in the Student Activity Fee. No one had a reply to his query, except for one onlooker who suggested to Zampetti that he "dance". Zampetti made light of the comment and suggested that he himself, "sing something" and followed up with a verse of "Singing in the Rain".

Even these antics were not enough to provoke student involvement in the forum. Some who were eating even got up to leave. After this, Zampetti attempted to attract students by bringing up the inadequate size of Bruno's hamburgers, a subject discussed in jest during the business portion of the SGA meeting. Still, no one bothered to make a comment or participate in any way.

Rob Ring, the president of the Student Programming Council, took the microphone from Zampetti to announce that Thursday night in Bruno's there would be a comedian, Robbie Printz, performing at 8:30 pm. By this time more students had left the cafeteria.

In one last attempt to grab student's interest Benjamin got on stage to ask if anyone had any complaints about the amount of tests professors normally give the week before Spring Break. Following in the style of the rest of the meeting, no one answered or gave any impression that they cared at all.

As a whole, Student Government was upset with the turnout and poor participation on the part of the students. Zampetti had this to say, "It sucked! I can't believe people actually got up and left ... I'm flabbergasted."

Karl Gressly, the president of the Commuter Council, also took a moment to express his disappointment in apathy on the students' part. "My big complaint is that people claim there's nothing to do [on campus] and SGA holds forums to discuss this but no one even attends them." This apathy seems to be extending into Gressly's organization, Commuter Council. "Right now, I'm the only person running my council- it's really discouraging."



photo by Melissa Roberts

Barrels of plastic resin create an eyesore off of Jordan Road

## Behrend attempts to remedy garbage dumping problem

by Melissa Roberts  
staff writer

Several weeks ago, a nice walk on a dirt road off Jordan Road would have lead you to a clearing in the woods. Unfortunately, the clearing was filled with tires, blue barrels, some of which were overturned, wooden palletes and other miscellaneous trash. Today, the former eyesore still needs some work, but has improved remarkably.

Earlier this year, the University took it upon themselves to clean up an area on their property off Jordan Road above the last parking lot. The area had been the former site of an old barn, which had burned down about 5 years ago. The barn had housed donated bags full of plastic resin, used by the plastics engineering department. After the barn burned down, the plastic resin was put into blue barrels and left on the land.

Over time people have found this area and vandalized and pushed over the barrels, spilling the plastic resin on the ground. In addition, they added their own trash to the area. These actions caused the area to be

an eyesore and a potentially dangerous situation.

The University used this area to store such things as the barrels of plastic resin, wooden palletes, tires, cinder blocks, metal and other organic trash. Dean Lilley said that this area was needed to store these items because, "sometimes you have to store items back there because it saves the University thousands of dollars in dumping."

The problem of these overturned

search assistant at Behrend, explained that the plastic resin that was stored in the barrels was donated to the school eight years ago and is used in teaching labs for plastics engineering majors. The resin is used to make different kinds of plastic materials.

Director of Operations John Ream, said that "the problem has been taken care of." He explained the material that was off Jordan Road has been relocated to under the water tower behind Almy Hall. Dean Lilley said

that putting the barrels of plastic resin under the water tower would keep the vandals out of them because the water tower is surrounded by fence with barbed wire at the top.

Ream explains

why the entire area hasn't been cleaned up yet and why there are still remnants of plastic and other trash. "(The) plastic material has been moved the best we could with the weather we've had." They tried their best to clean up the area by burning the piles of wooden palletes, they took the tires to the landfill and covered most of the plastic resin that they couldn't get of the ground with dirt so that animals wouldn't eat them and die.

"Sometimes you have to store items back there because it saves the University thousands of dollars in dumping."

Provost and Dean John Lilley

## No pets allowed in Penn State dorms

by Damion Miller  
staff writer

The possession of any sort of animal besides fish is prohibited in all Penn State housing. Most students

who know about this policy are the students that have pets, want pets, or know someone with a pet. Others really don't know what the policy is.

Penn State's policy on pets states

that, "For reasons of sanitation and safety, pet animals, with the exception of tropical fish and goldfish, are not permitted in residence halls, apartments, dining halls, or other University buildings." Some students have expressed responses to that policy. When asked, Brandon Abate, 02 Civil Engineering, stated, "I guess that's alright, I mean you can get a dog when you're off campus, I mean 'cause some of them smell." Nicole Curry, 02 DUS, said, "It's cool with me, I've got allergies." On the other hand, Craig Plummer, 02 Communications, says, "something small, like a hamster, or a turtle that doesn't bother anybody on the floor, they shouldn't have a problem with that." Claudia Vila, 02 DUS, thought that the policy should be extended to allow turtles, iguanas, and parrots.

Ed Mulfingher, Manager of Housing and Food Services, wants students to know what has happened in the past due to students keeping certain pets on campus. Mulfingher pointed out that about 14 years ago, a boa constrictor got loose in Perry for months. In another incident a pet hamster was running around a hall, scaring its residents. There are numerous amounts of stray cats around due to abandonment. This is another issue when it comes to the pet policy. The owners leave them because they graduate, they are moving, or they simply don't want them anymore. The abandoned pets either are found and sent out for adoption or they die. On one occasion, Housing went to clean up an apartment during the semester break and found a dead piranha that left a pungent odor. Mulfingher pointed out that it cost \$100s to fumigate and clean rooms that once had pets. Based on that statement, Vila said, "OK then, it's cool, it's fine, I mean, we can't all have our own dogs running around. Imagine the chaos, the noise, and the smell, of having 30 dogs room to room on a floor." Four main reasons the University has a

Pets continued on page 2



photo by Jason Blake

High flying guard Kim Moses heads to the basket for another of her patented finger roll layups last Thursday against Lake Erie college at Erie Hall in the first round of the AMCC playoffs. The Behrend women lost in the AMCC finals, but were invited to participate in the ECAC playoffs which start this weekend. The men's basketball team won their AMCC championship and will also be participating in the ECAC tourney. Stories pages 11 and 12.

## Students starve themselves for charity

by Ayodele Jones  
staff writer

On February 27, students from the Behrend community began a thirty hour famine to raise awareness about world hunger. The famine began at 12:00 Friday afternoon and ended the following evening at 6:00 pm. The Thirty Hour famine was sponsored by The Newman Association.

The Thirty Hour famine is an idea created by World Vision, one of the largest funded Christian nonprofit relief and development organizations in the United States. It is dedicated to addressing the needs of children and families in need of nutrition around the world. World Vision was started forty seven years ago and they help about fifty million people each year. The students who participated in the thirty hour famine were only a few of the million others who participated around the world. One weekend each year, a million people go without food to

demonstrate the human ability to raise funds for medical and emergency care. Last year 400,000 people in the United States participated in this nationwide event to end hunger in places like Angola, India and even the United States itself.

The students at Behrend passed

"I thought it was interesting to see life through someone else's eyes. You don't realize how much you have until it's gone."

Lisa Perrette  
04 Political Science

the thirty hours by doing local community projects and learning about world hunger. On Friday students met at 5:00 pm, and they participated in activities that dealt with the famine and watched a video which

showcased the effects of hunger on third world children, so that they would know or see the people they were actually helping during their sacrifice.

On Saturday, four groups of Behrend students participated in service projects in the Erie community. Three groups spent the day at a local home where mentally challenged adults and children lived. The remaining group went to assist the second grade communion class at St. Marks. After their projects students ended their fast with dinners donated by Old Country Buffet. Jennifer Sloka, 04 Communications, described the thirty hour famine as "a great way to get to know people on campus because it is a good cause that addresses the different needs of countries." Lisa Perrette, 04 Political Science, said "I thought it was interesting to see life through someone else's eyes. You don't realize how much you have until it's gone."