



photo by Jason Blake

Ed Mulfinger, Manager of Housing and Food Services

New organization tries to raise interest in economics

by Scott Warofka
staff writer

Are you interested in finding out exactly what "economics" is? If so, there is a new organization on campus that has the answer. The Student

Government Association has recently voted to recognize the Society of Undergraduate Economists as a new organization on campus.

In addition to conveying the importance of their major in regard to

Pets continued

problem with pets are: the sanitation, the abandonment, the noise, and the safety. "So many people are allergic or afraid of pets," said Mulfinger.

Well, if you can't control them, you don't deserve to have one," stated Plummer. Animals are unpredictable, no one can tell what they are going to do. The abandonment issue troubles the Housing and Food Service staff because they are the people who are responsible for the animal's safety after it's been left behind. "I think you should fine them, give them some repercussion for what they do, it's abuse," stated Angela Snippet, 04 Criminology. The problem with giving a fine is that it's hard to prove that a certain animal belonged to a certain person. The sanitation issue affects everyone. Certain animals carry with

business, members have been hard at work building the new club. Todd Shade, 06 economics, has been elected by other members to serve as the organization's first president. Shade said that the organization grew out of necessity. He and several other economics majors were discouraged by the overall lack of understanding pertaining to their discipline. Shade explained that many of the employment recruiters would pass on economics majors in favor of better known business related majors.

Shade went on to say that the organization has several goals. One of the primary goals is to explain what an economics major studies and some of the career paths available to graduates. Second, the students wanted to establish a resource for other economics students. Shade said, "We wanted to pass on to underclassmen internship and employment opportunities. Sometimes they don't feel comfortable talking with an advisor."

Dr. James Kurre, associate professor of economics and one of four faculty advisors to the organization,

them diseases, fleas, or fecal matter that can be spread among the student population due to unsanitary conditions. For example, a lizard can spread a disease to its owner if the owner did not wash his/her hands after handling the lizard. This is a major concern of Housing and Food Services.

Housing and Food Services of University Park make up the rules and regulations that every student must adhere to. It is Penn State Behrend's Housing and Food Services' duty to carry out these regulations for the benefit of the entire student body. Therefore, because a group may want something it may infringe on others' likes or dislikes as well.

agreed. Kurre said that one of the primary goals was to "...promote the major." He explained that through understanding the major and what career opportunities are available, the organization will help provide a means for current and future students to network. He went on to explain that in addition to these goals, the organization will provide, "the opportunity for economics students to talk with other economics students."

The organization has planned several activities that will help members enhance their understanding of economics. Among the proposed activities is inviting speakers from various business related disciplines to address the organization. Other ideas include attending related conferences and visits to the New York Stock Exchange and the Federal Reserve Bank.

The organization is open to students of all majors with an interest in economics. Meetings will be held every other Tuesday starting March 17 at 8 pm in Academic 57.

Question of the Week

What are your plans for Spring Break?

- "I'm going to go home and sit on my ass."
-Todd Pound, 02, Accounting
- "I plan to go to Cancun."
-Steve Taylor, 04, Accounting
- "I'm going to work alot."
-Rick Armstrong, 02, DUS
- "I'm going to stay on campus."
-Meghan Stevenson, 06, English
- "I'm going to Daytona Beach."
-Nathan Jones, 04, Communications
- "Nothing."
-Shawn Dunson, 10, MEBD
- "I'm doing all the homework I have due after break."
-Bill Ross, 06, Management

Police And Safety REPORT:

- 02/26/98** Complainant hit her head on the windowsill in her room causing a deep gash. She was conscious and requested that a friend transport her to the hospital.
- 02/27/98** Complainant reported hearing a loud explosion in the apartment quad area. Possible M-80. Searched the area but found nothing.
- 02/27/98** Vehicle had slipped the parking brake and coasted off the parking lot into the drainage pond. Owner was contacted and vehicle was able to be driven out.
- 02/27/98** Complainant stated he received a letter from student affairs concerning disciplinary action against him from a police report and he didn't know what it was for. Found it was for driving in the quad.
- 03/01/98** Officer stopped vehicle driving too fast in the south lot. Verbal warning was given to the driver.
- 03/02/98** RA reported two rottweilers running loose in the apartment area.



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Dr. Roger Knacke, Director of the School of Science, presents "The Clouds of Jupiter" at last week's astronomy open house.

Dr. Knacke presents Jupiter

by Will Jordan
staff writer

"The Clouds of Jupiter." Dr. Roger Knacke, Director of the School of Science, conducted the astronomy open house last Thursday in Science 101. The open house was attended by several children and senior citizens.

Dr. Knacke opened by welcoming everyone to the fifth of Behrend's open houses this year dealing with astronomy and spoke of events to look for in the future. March 26 there will be a speaker on extra-solar planets (planets outside of our solar system). They are also working to construct better telescope facilities.

The topic of discussion was Jupiter, the Jovian atmosphere, and its satellites. Dr. Knacke had slides to complement his lecture. Jupiter weighs 318 times as much as the earth. It has a variety of clouds within its atmosphere. Jupiter has many moons. There are four Galilean satellites which are moons discovered by the astronomer Galileo.

Jupiter is a very cloudy planet. The core of the planet is ten to fifteen times

as big as the Earth. In size relationship, Jupiter is the largest followed by Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Earth. If you look at Jupiter through a telescope you will see a large "red spot" which has been identified as a large Jovian hurricane. "You don't want to get into a Jovian Hurricane if you can avoid it," Knacke told the audience. The winds of Jupiter are much stronger than those on Earth. There is a thin, light gas ring which surrounds Jupiter, similar to Saturn. The geography or depth of the planet has been defined by the colors of the clouds in Jupiter's atmosphere. Orange clouds indicate the deepest level; white clouds indicate the higher level.

Jupiter has a very strange environment. The atmosphere is predominantly hydrogen. The atmosphere of Jupiter is reducing while Earth's atmosphere is an oxidizing pattern. Early in Earth's history there had been relatively less oxygen than there is today. "Oxygen is created by life and life needs it to keep existing," said Knacke. By learning more about Jupiter, we learn more about Earth.

"We want to understand the Earth's

atmosphere," he stated. Earth is a physical system. It is one system by itself. We learn techniques, problems, and issues of our atmosphere by studying the atmosphere's of the other planets in our solar system. For example, by studying the atmosphere of Mars we learn what would happen if Earth's atmosphere became filled with dust.

After asking some simple questions to get the younger people in the audience more involved in the lecture and doing a little magic trick by adding a solution to water and turning the water to ice, Knacke next talked about the relationship between the clouds of Jupiter and the clouds of Earth. The upper clouds of Jupiter are basically composed of ammonium crystals. Our highest clouds are composed of ice crystals. There are very violent lightning storms on Jupiter due to all of the transport in the atmosphere.

The next segment of the lecture was on the mission of the space probe "Galileo." The mission to find out the chemical and physical composition of Jupiter and its satellites began in 1989 when "Galileo" was launched.

"Galileo" reached Jupiter in 1995 and began to orbit. The whole mission cost over a billion dollars. "Galileo" shot a probe into the atmosphere and parachuted down. The probe collected and relayed data for about 80 minutes before contact was lost. The probe unfortunately entered the atmosphere at a clear spot where there were no clouds. Ten percent of Jupiter is not cloud covered. The main probe of "Galileo" is still orbiting Jupiter. It takes the probe a up to a month to relay its data back to Earth due to the fact that the main antenna failed. The scientists had to reprogram the computer to relay the information through the "probe relay antenna" which is smaller and slower than the main antenna would have been.

The four Galilean satellites are Io, Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa. "How do we measure distant objects?" asked Knacke to audience members. An infrared space observatory, a telescope that orbits the Earth, makes heat measurements. It was put in space by the European version of NASA.

Light characteristics tell what element something is composed of. At this point Dr. Knacke did a small experiment to demonstrate what is done. He had four petri dishes which were filled with four different elements, bromide, potassium, strontium, and

sodium. He then lit them on fire which caused them to produce different colors. Bromide became green, potassium became blue, strontium became red, and sodium became yellow. He said that in the chemistry lab they use a spectrometer which shows a flux spectrum from Jupiter.

Out of the four satellites, Europa has the strangest appearance. There are many cracks on the surface. The surface is fairly young, there are very few craters on the surface, and there is a lot of ice. The surface of Europa resembles the Arctic. There are big pieces of ice sheets. The fact that the material in between the ice sheets has frozen up again suggests that there is or was water on Europa. The significance of this is the search of life. Liquid water equals life. "Is there life on Europa?" Knacke suggested. To find

out, NASA has extended the Galileo mission for two more years. On December 31, 1999, Galileo will fly very close to the satellite Io which has a lot of volcanic activity, in which case the space craft will be destroyed. The closest flyby of Europa was conducted in December of last year.

The next segment of the lecture was a question and answer session. The first question was "How do we know that it's liquid water on Europa?" Dr. Knacke answered by saying that it was too warm for nitrogen, and that it is water from its reflection. "How deep did the probe penetrate Jupiter's atmosphere?" "100 kilometers or 20 bars below the hypothetical water clouds." "Is the "great red spot" permanent?" "Very possible. It is more like a hurricane, an atmospheric disturbance."



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Wet snow covers a tree in the Gorge this week to symbolize the final days of winter.