

SGA continued

Melissa Musante, 07 Biology, had this to say concerning changing the numbers on the apartments and emphasizing the names on the buildings: "It's a pain. I don't like it!" Jessica Lloyd, 08 Political Science, stated, "If they want to draw more attention to the names—they should replace the (missing) letters." Another complaint concerning the apartment quad was that there needs to be either a map or signs erected so that there aren't quite so many lost pizza deliverers wandering around aimlessly. Chris Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, replied that there is supposed to be a map put in the quad.

What really caused a number of people to become upset was a simple statement from Kelly Pabel, "Our apartment stinks!" This led to com-

plaints that ceilings and walls don't meet, windows are not sealed shut so there are holes in the apartments which allow all types of creatures to roam about the apartments freely, and carpets need replaced—just to

Some of the professors were annoyed that SGA had the nerve to criticize them for their book selections.

name a few of the complaints. The students who expressed their discontent feel that housing doesn't care and they also feel like they are being taken advantage of since they are paying \$260 per month for accommodations that are not worth that much. Lloyd gave an example of the top quality materials that must have been used in her apartment by

telling the group how she was able to visit her neighbors without even leaving her apartment when she put a hole through her wall. Someone else complained that they could hear the people next door sneezing. With

all of the talk of the bad conditions of the apartments and the plans to build a new residence hall, one student was heard mumbling, "Fix what you've got."

One sorority member suggested that they be allowed to write on the sidewalks like they used to. Reber tried to address this by stating that in the past, washing the writing off

has taken up a lot of the maintenance crews' time. The same student fired back saying, "Rain washes it away and they can't even plow the sidewalks!" Kelly Pabel added, "The sidewalks aren't in good condition anyway."

In frustration one student asked, "Who can we talk to?" Zampetti said that any problem or suggestion can be put into the SGA box or can be brought personally to the SGA meetings every Wednesday at 5:30 in Reed. In addition, Reber said, "You have every right to express your concerns. Go to the person closest to the problem. For example, for those of you with complaints about the apartments, email Ed Mulfinger. Or, send a letter to *The Collegian*."

"Extra-Solar Planets" explored at Astronomy Open House

by William Jordan
staff writer

"Extra-solar planets" was the topic of last Thursday's astronomy open house which was held in Science 101. Dr. Roger Knacke, Director of the School of Science, introduced Alan Boss, who received his Bachelors degree of Science from the University of South Florida, teaches at Carnegie Institute in Washington, and is the author of "Looking for Earths."

Alan Boss began the lecture by talking about the "media hoopla" of the existence of extra-solar planets. Boss said that "the claims really are real." For the first time there is scientific proof of the existence of other planets. Boss had slides to accompany his lecture. "Why did it take so long to discover the first planets outside our solar system?" Boss asked. He answered his own question by saying that it is very hard to see a planet that is next to a star. He said that infrared wavelengths can be detected. He also said that future telescopes will operate on infrared.

Boss said that there are two indirect methods of finding other planets outside of our solar system. The first that he spoke of was that it is possible that when a star has a planet, the star may be going around the planet in what is known as a "wobble." A scientist named Peter Van de Kamp thought that he could use this method to find other planets. By 1963, they had accumulated a great deal of data about stars. Barnard's star, which Van de Kamp discovered, was believed to be moved by a planet.

In 1973 George Gatewood, while doing research, found out that he could not find or duplicate Van de Kamp's orbit of Barnard's star. It was later discovered that the telescope that was used to find Barnard's star was changed twice.

It was changed once in 1949 and again in 1957. These changes introduced errors in their data.

The second indirect method of finding other planets outside our solar system is the Doppler method. Boss gave an example to explain how the Doppler method worked. If a star was moving around a mass, such as a planet, scientists would measure the Doppler variation of light given off by the star. He compared the Doppler measurements to a train going by. If a train were coming, the whistle would be louder as it got closer, then it would get quieter as it moved away.

"Why did it take so long to discover the first planets outside our solarsystem?"

Alan Boss
Teacher at the Carnegie Institute in Washington
and the author of "Looking for Earths"

Boss then said that in 1995 Swiss astronomers discovered 51 Pegasus which is the first planet discovered outside of our solar system. The astronomers found something peculiar about 51 Pegasus. Its mass is about half of Jupiter and its orbit is roughly 4 days, not 12 months.

Boss then said that two scientists Marcy and Butler had been collecting data since 1988 and as they looked it over they discovered two other planets. In October of 1995, the first cool, brown dwarf star was discovered. The mass of this type of star is too small to burn hydrogen and they do not stay bright for very long. Brown dwarf stars also have a peculiar spectrum. Scientists also discovered the presence of methane in these types of stars.

The next topic Boss covered was the theory of star and planet formation. He began with the formation of a star. Boss said that the formation of a star begins with a dark

cloud in space. A portion of the dark cloud starts to break down until it reaches the size of 3 Jupiter masses which is the lowest mass that you can reach as the cloud collapses. The cloud then begins to heat. Because of this it can no longer break down. This process is what creates a star. Planet formation begins with a central star which is surrounded by a flat disc of dust. Over 1,000 years, the dust particles begin to connect. After 100,000 years there are some small and some large pieces of rock which have been formed and continue to collide with each other. "The bigger you are the more grav-

ity you have," Boss said. He also said that "this phase of evolution was very chaotic." After about a million years the rest of the gas and dust disappears and the planet is left behind. Scientists do not know why. "Giant" planets such as Jupiter form in basically the same way, except they have rocky and icy cores with gas around them. Boss stated that scientists are doing calculations to see how hot or cold the discs are. He said that an alternate theory to the creation of "giant" planets is that if the discs of dust get cold enough, "it clumps into blobs of gas." This theory of creation is thought to only take 1,000 years.

Boss said that before the first discovery of an extra-solar planet in 1995, "basically nothing was known." Today a lot is known about these extra-solar planets and several other classes of objects.

Boss concluded his presentation by discussing the future of the search

for extra-solar planets. He said that right now they are using a Keck 10 meter telescope to search for extra-solar planets. In the future scientists hope to combine 2 Keck 10 meter telescopes to form a 100 meter telescope. He said that scientists hope to be capable of seeing Uranus or Neptune size particles within the next five years. Other concepts for the future include an interferometer telescope and a terrestrial planet finder telescope which would be on a satellite in space. He also said that in time by using the thermal spectrum scientists will be able to measure the atmosphere of an extra-solar planet.

After his presentation, Boss opened the floor to questions. One member of the audience asked if the formation of Earth's core was unique. Boss answered by saying that we do not know if the other planets have cores yet but the formation of a core is evident. Therefore Earth's core may or may not be unique. Another member of the audience asked if a planet the size of Jupiter will form in our solar system. Boss replied by stating that there is no longer enough gas or dust within our solar system to form another planet. Major planets remain in a constant orbit and our solar system is very stable. Another audience member asked about 51 Pegasus. Boss said that systems such as 51 Pegasus are not rare. 51 Pegasus is in a stable system right now. Scientists hope to find more than one planet in each system. It all depends on how precise your data is.

Management students hold mock job fair

by Anne Rajotte
managing editor

Recruiting job applicants, interviewing and choosing employees. Behrend management students are learning these real life skills in their classes. Tuesday night, two sections of management classes held their own mock job fair in the Reed Commons.

Peg Thoms, assistant professor of management, was overseeing the fair. According to Thoms, the students had to create their own companies, then recruit other students in their class to apply for jobs. At the job fair, the students had to interview each other and give tests for

the specific jobs they were offering. Thoms stated that the students had to "design all questions and choose the type of tests." Some groups used

The students had to create their own companies, then recruit other students in their class to apply for jobs.

personality tests while others were more specific. A group looking for an interior designer had paint samples and another group gave a

typing test.

Thoms stated that "when the students are all done, they have really learned how to do something." Jill Brown, 08 management, agreed, stating, "I think it's a great learning experience and it applies to the major." Brown's group recruited twenty seven people to fill six jobs. During their recruiting session, they gave away free pencils and candy to encourage students to apply.

Thoms stated that this exercise give students a chance to practice both interviewing and being interviewed. The students "have to make choices as to which candidates fit the job."

Police And Safety REPORT:

- 03/24/98 Met with complainant regarding student who had copied his parking permit on photocopier.
- 03/24/98 Complainant brought in stray dog. Dog was placed in garage and state dog warden was notified.
- 03/25/98 Caller stated that there was a very strong odor of urine in the elevator of Almy Hall.
- 03/26/98 Student lacerated toes while playing outside of Perry Hall. Victim was treated and transported to Health and Wellness for further treatment.
- 03/28/98 Saw a female with a Miller beer can in the quad. She gave it to a male who fled into an apartment and jumped out the window.
- 03/28/98 Reported fight at the suites. Turned out to be a fake complaint. Checked it out and no one was there.

Who do you think donated the \$20 million to the School of Business?

Question of the Week

"Actually it was me, but don't tell anyone."

-Todd Benson, 02, Accounting

"It was my buddy Pound."

-Brian Stanisavlovich, 02, DUS

"I don't care because I'll never see it."

-Tom Papadatos, 04, English

"Dean Lilley"

-John Rix, 08, Psychology

"The Behrend Lion."

-Peggy Wong, 06, MIS

"Joe Paterno."

-Jim Roth, 04, Accounting

"It was probably Mr. Behrend."

-Amy Swadling, 06, Management



photo by Jason Blake

Dan Merson, Assistant Coordinator of Residence Life, displays a replica of his \$25 reward money for being the first to come up with the name of *The Beacon* which will be the new name for *The Collegian* next year. Managing editor Anne Rajotte is on the left and editor in chief Andrea Zaffino is on the right.