

Local District justice accused of racial comments

By Anne Rajotte
editor in chief

Harborcreek's District Justice Peter Nakoski is known at Behrend for being notoriously hard on students who have to appear before him. Recently, however, he has been getting publicity for another reason.

According to the *Erie Daily Times*, during a training session for district judges that took place a year ago, a criminal law instructor asked the judges in attendance, "It's not unlawful or illegal to be a black man, is it?" The Judicial Conduct Board, who brought charges against Nakoski, alleges that Nakoski replied, "Yes, it is unlawful to be a black man. They're all in jail. They are the ones doing all the burglaries and robberies."

The board also alleges that after he

made this comment he said to Nancy Matos-Gonzales, another judge in attendance and a Hispanic woman, "Oh, no disrespect to you."

If a special disciplinary court finds these allegations to be true, Nakoski could be censured or removed from office.

Nakoski is currently serving his fourth six-year term. He is up for reelection next year. Nakoski's jurisdiction covers Harborcreek, Wesleyville and Lawrence Park, including Behrend.

Nate Crawley, 06 DUS, is one Behrend student who has appeared before Justice Nakoski. Crawley was given a ticket for parking in a handicap parking space in the K-Mart parking lot on Buffalo Road. He explains that he was having car troubles and

had to push the car into the nearest space, which happened to be the handicap space.

When he returned to get his car, he had received a ticket. He tried to appeal the ticket, hoping that his car trouble would be a valid excuse to have his fine reduced or thrown out.

Crawley stated that Nakoski "acted like anyone under 25 was a teenager that needed to be punished. He treated me like a little kid who needed to be dealt with."

Crawley did not get his fine reduced or thrown out, and had to pay court costs. He felt that if he had been a little older, "I would have at least gotten a little more respect. [Nakoski] would have treated me like I was on his level."



The library on a balmy Sunday afternoon

photo by Andrea Zaffino



The bridge by Turnbull Hall

photo by Andrea Zaffino

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Penn State Behrend at 50: A Golden Opportunity!

A private celebration for faculty, staff, and students is being planned for the Reed Union Building Wintergarden and Commons on Thursday, Oct. 29 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Please plan to join with your friends and colleagues to celebrate and enjoy the spirit of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

Hosted by John and Gerrie Lilley and the Lion Ambassadors, the one-hour program will include remarks and a presentation by Richard Sayre and his brother, William, grandsons of Ernst and Mary Behrend.

The choir will perform, artifacts from the Behrend family will be on display, the anniversary video will be shown, and cake and punch will be served!

In addition, any individuals or groups of friends and colleagues who would like to leave a message on the 50th anniversary video time capsule will be invited to do so beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Lantern tours of the campus, which will be lit with luminaria from the Reed Union Building to the Glenhill Farmhouse, will be available for those who are interested in learning more about the history of the college and the Behrend family.

Please plan to join in this once-in-a-lifetime, golden opportunity!

What advice would you give Behrend student Trista Rupp, who's lived for a month in a Volkswagen Beetle?

"Get out."

-Meggan Allen, 01 Mechanical Engineering



"Push them out of the car when they're sleeping."

-Mike Linhart, 05, Elem. Ed



"They're crazy. How are four people going to share one car (if it's a draw this will happen) without any arguments?"

-Miranda Moore, 01, Nursing



"People like that need Jesus and all the prayer they can get."

-Brian C. Atterbury, 03, Accounting



"Start eating a lot of chili and stink them out."

-Seth Leslie, 01, DUS



Question of the Week