

The Behrend

Beacon

Eric, PA 16563

January 28, 1999 Volume XLVII No. 18

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
RECORD & EDITION
Erie

JAN 28 1999

BEHREND COLLEGE
LIBRARY



Housing camp-out turns into chaos

by Nicole McGee
staff writer

This Sunday night the Wintergarden was full of students waiting to submit their housing contracts. Housing and Food Services began collecting them at 6:00 am Monday morning.

Eighteen hours beforehand, students began lining up and waiting in front of the doors to the Reed Commons. Students relocated all the furniture from the first floor of Reed Union Building to accommodate their wait. They took the couches from the back lounge and the student organization lounge. They brought stereos, videogames, chairs, bean bags, books, cards, pillows, blankets, and even a few televisions with them.

Traditionally the camp-out had taken place outside the office of Housing and Food Services, but this year it was moved to accommodate the students.

Although the Office of Housing and Food Services doesn't encourage this kind of sleeping out, they figured it would be more beneficial to comply.

Acting Associate Dean of Student

Affairs Linda Lombardi explains, "If students are choosing to sleep out, we want to make it safe for the students; we want to keep them warm."

Manager of Housing and Food Services Ed Malfinger, adds, "Our plan was to open [the Commons] at 9:30 pm, and everyone could line up then."

The plan did not work exactly as planned though. With over two hundred and fifty students, some estimates over three hundred, in the Reed Building it was hard to keep control. One problem was line cutting. Students at the end of the line pushed their way to the front, stepping hundreds of places before those who had been waiting hours longer.

Other students started chanting, yelling, pushing, and name-calling. This activity began as early as eight hours before contract submission would even start.

Lombardi says, "The students showed no regard or respect for the students who had stayed out since noon...they showed no membership and no respect for the Behrend community."

Malfinger adds, "It was like a mini riot. I was very concerned about

safety issues...I can't believe students would do that to each other."

Bryan Katzenmeyer, 02 Chem supports those who were pushed to the back, "I feel bad for the people who were here before all them who cut. They probably had a legitimate shot at the suites until we had to move into the Commons; they lost their place."

These problems were not, however caused from disorganization. There had been planning and various meetings beforehand. There was also student representation involved in the planning. Also at 7:30 (one and one half hours before the doors opened), Lombardi and Malfinger went down the line speaking to students. They made sure students were aware of their place in line, and of which direction the line took.

Lombardi notes, "People's attitudes completely changed from 'how ya doin'?' to screaming, yelling, and name calling. It was really alarming."

Eventually, students proceeded to

Continued on Page 2

The Future site of Gateway Rehabilitation Center on East 38th street



Photo by Andrea Zaffino

Owner puts 2 million dollar price tag on Gateway

Elizabeth Guelcher
Layout Editor

Although residents of Wesleyville and Haborcreek have been waiting out the drama of Gateway Rehabilitation for about the past three months, it seems that the end is in sight. With the victory of Gateway in the most recent appeal, all that stands between them and Kanty Prep is \$2 million.

The Gateway Rehabilitation Program was created for inmates who have been recently released from State prisons as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. This will be Gateway's second facility with the other located in Alaquippa, Pennsylvania. All of the residents of the Gateway facility would be Erie residents, which will house about 50 men and women.

The building is supposed to be leased to Gateway, but Ken Lochbaum,

owner of the former Kanty Prep building, told residents at a meeting two weeks ago that the building is on the market for \$2 million. At this point, buying the building is the only way community members can keep the rehabilitation center out of their neighborhood.

The Haborcreek residents, who oppose Gateway occupying the former Kanty Prep building, cite security issues as their main concern. Gateway has stated that no resident of their facility in Alaquippa has committed a crime while in the program. In contrast, four years ago, while 500 college students were housed in the building. There were a total of twelve appearances on front of the district justice. Greg Loyed, 08 engineering, is a member of the Sigma Kappa Nu fraternity, whose house is located on the road from the proposed site said, "I think it will effect us but it could be

positive or negative. It's a good opportunity for community service."

The building sits on property completely surrounded by land owned by Behrend. Lochbaum didn't sell the Kanty Prep building to Behrend simply because school officials were not looking to buy. He stated that the college wanted the building donated, and that was not an option.

Governor Tom Ridge has the power to prevent Gateway from occupying the building, but has made no efforts in that direction thus far.

The Beacon contacted Ridge's office; however, the Governor has no official statement. Jerry Feeser, Ridge's representative on the issue only told us that the Governor "...has done everything he can to facilitate meetings between (the involved parties), and that he will continue to do so until the situation comes to a close."

SGA UP AND RUNNING

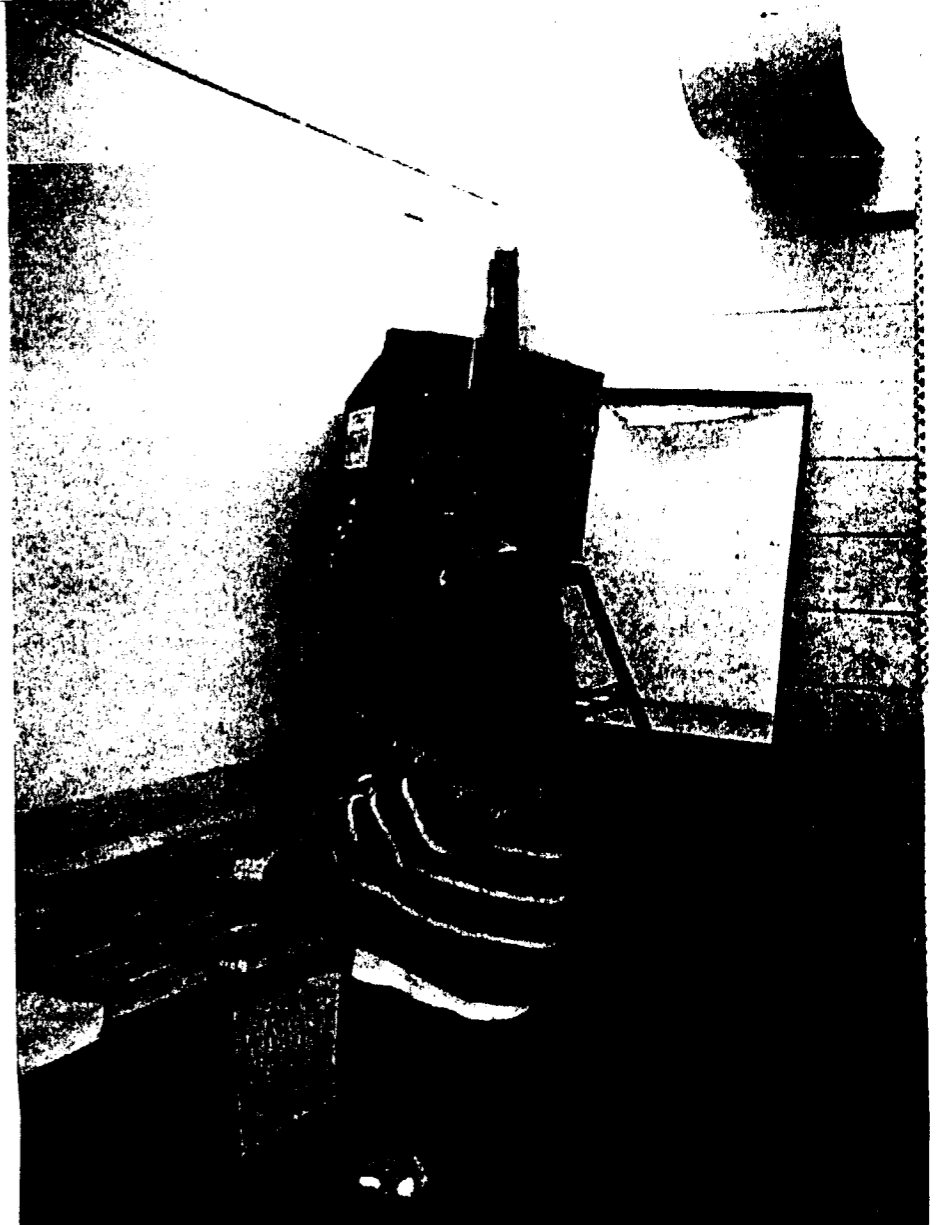
by Ayodele Jones
managing editor

It's the third week of the semester and now that classes have taken their usual course, students at Behrend can begin to ask what exactly is Student Government Association doing?

SGA has already begun plans for the spring semester. SGA, which meets on Thursdays at 6 P.M. in Reed 113, has started to transform the budget process. The budget committee wants to make the budget process shorter and quicker; this will save student clubs the hassles and aggravations normally associated with this process.

SGA also wants to improve student life; one particular aspect being the way in which housing contracts for the following year are accepted. Students camped out in the Reed Commons on Sunday night in order to insure that they would receive the residence of their choice for next semester. Unfortunately, students who had spent the entire night in the Commons were skipped by people arriving at 6am.

The SGA is especially proud of the "book co-op" that was held the first week of school. The book co-op provided students an opportunity to buy books at a cheaper price than that of the book store. Of the sixty books that were dropped off for the sale over half of them were sold. SGA only hopes that, with the participation of more students, it will be more suc-



cessful next semester. "I hope more people get involved in SGA, especially since there are going to be openings on the SGA Senate, I hope that

people participate in the upcoming elections. SGA wants to prove itself and do things for the students," said Andrea DiPlacido, vice-president of SGA.



The Beacon would like to run a correction in regards to the Clark family article. The Clark family, owners of Snap-tite, INC. established an endowment of \$850,000 in scholarships for the employees of Snap-tite and the employees' children.

What's Inside?

Fights during the Housing Contract camp-out

pg. 2

Good home cookin' at Chuck and Ginny's

pg. 8

Lady Lions undefeated in AMCC play

pg. 10

What's Inside?