

Behrend turns 50

by Anne Rajotte Sept. 3, 1998 issue former editor-in-chief

Behrend celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a weekend full of activities that involved nearly every aspect of the College.

On Friday night, a carnival was held on the Ski Slope. It included carnival food, a petting zoo, games and a fortune teller, who was by far the most popular attraction. Later that night, two bands, Sho' Nuff and Sleeping Giants, entertained students. "The palm reader was cool," commented Jaime Davis, 05 accounting/MIS, "it was the best part." Nathan Mitchell, 03 PLET, agreed, "I liked having my palm read. I thought the weekend was fun."

The next night, a celebration was

held for friends and benefactors of Behrend. A buffet dinner was served in Bruno's and was followed by a champagne toast and a speech by Michael Beschloss, a presidential historian. Beschloss commented on some of the historical events that have taken place during the last 50 years that Behrend has been in existence.

Later, the guests were given their first taste of "Behrend Berry," a Penn State Creamery flavor that was renamed in honor of Behrend's fiftieth.

On Sunday, the faculty and staff participated in a luncheon in which Michael Beschloss again spoke. Students were also invited to hear Beschloss speak.

Throughout the weekend, artifacts from the Behrend family home were

on display, as well as pictures of the Behrend family and their history. In the Studio Theatre, paintings done by Mary Behrend, as well as other works by those associated with Behrend, were on display. Two portraits of former Behrend administrators, T. Reed Ferguson and Irvin Kochel, were unveiled. The portraits were done by a former Behrend art instructor Felicia Van Bork.

Also shown for the first time last weekend was a new video about Behrend. The video included a reenactment of the donation of the Behrend estate to Penn State and also included some history about the Behrend family and how the campus has evolved over the past fifty years.



A family portrait of the Benacci family.

file photo

Goo Goo Dolls bring life to Behrend campus

Erie Hall packed for long-awaited event

by Sarah Edwards Nov. 12, 1998 staff writer

Erie Hall turned into a dollhouse on Monday, November 9 as the Goo Goo Dolls came prepared to bring the house down.

People were lining up for the show around 6:00 p.m. with the doors to Erie Hall opening at 7:00. The opening pop rock band, Athenaeum, started the show off an hour later. Athenaeum played about ten songs and grabbed the audience's attention with their laid back appearance and smooth lyrics.

As Athenaeum left the stage at 9:00, the lights dimmed and the candles on the stage were lit, while 1,000 screaming Penn State Behrend students awaited the arrival of the Goo

Goo Dolls. The band came out blasting with an intense energy that shook the entire audience.

Scarlet Jiminez, 01 Economics, said, "it was a very high energy atmosphere."

The Goo Goo Dolls played about 20 songs, most of which are included in their newly released CD, *Dizzy up the Girl*. Among the students' favorites seemed to be "Slide," "Name" and "Iris."

The concert was made better by the way in which the Goo Goo Dolls conversed with the audience. It wasn't like most concerts where it seems like a band is just there because it is their duty. They came to have a good time along with the audience.

The students of Penn State Behrend especially enjoyed hearing the lead vocalist's views on college life.

The Goo Goo Dolls appeared again for one encore set and a guitar was smashed before the show was over.

Students had various opinions of the concert. Morgan Saeler, 05 History, said, "it was the first show I've ever been to where the opening band was better than the headliner."

Ronnie Esposito, 01 Business, thought, "the Goo Goo Dolls created excitement at Penn State Behrend."

Everyone who went to the concert was able to see excitement on the Behrend grounds. Melissa Davis, 01 International Business and Finance said, "it was phenomenal!"

Benacci family contributes \$500,000 for scholarship

by Mike Frawley April 15, 1999 managing editor

Recently, a \$500,000 donation was made by Joseph Benacci to create a new scholarship for Behrend students. This scholarship will be called the Joseph A. and Berit L. Benacci Family Scholarship.

Benacci, who owns Dosworth Trucking, Transportation Services and the Lake Erie Warehouse and Distribution Center, created the scholarship for the employees of these businesses. Any money not used by them will be made available to others planning on attending Behrend College.

Benacci is also very active within the Behrend community as a member of the Behrend Alumni Society Board, the board of directors of the Behrend Council of Fellows, and Behrend's 50th Anniversary Commit-

tee. He is also a member of the Erie Conference on Community Development.

The decision to create this scholarship was made by the entire Benacci family. They felt it was a good way to give something back to the Erie community, where they have done business in the Erie area for the past 45 years.

"We made the decision when everyone was gathered around the table last Thanksgiving. Our family has been so blessed. We're at a point where it's time to give back to the community, and I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Behrend," said Benacci.

Raymond Benacci, who is currently the president of the family corporation, announced the creation of the scholarship to his employees this past Friday. A reception was hosted at Logan House by Dean and Provost

Dr. John Lilley on Saturday to announce the gift to the general public.

Raymond Benacci graduated from Penn State University Park campus in 1987 with a degree in business. Joseph Benacci attended Behrend in the 1950's, but had to cut short his college education because of the untimely death of his father.

Dr. Christopher Reber, associate provost for Advancement and University Relations said, "many of our students work between 20 and 40 hours a week to support their education. The Benacci's gift will make a real difference in students' lives."

The college will administer the scholarship on behalf of the family. The guidelines for applying for the scholarship will be announced at a later date.

Knowledge Park to open in 1999

by Shannon Weber Oct. 15, 1998 news editor

Late last summer (1998), Governor Tom Ridge announced the release of \$8.5 million of Pennsylvania Capital Budget Redevelopment funds. This money will go toward the construction of Knowledge Park at Penn State Behrend.

The purpose of Knowledge Park is to attract knowledge-based companies closer to the college so that the students will have increased opportunities for interaction and employment. At the same time, the companies benefit from the expertise of the college faculty and research computers.

"The state's \$8.5 million investment here is certainly significant," said Bob Phoel, president of the Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation (GEIDC). "But even more significant

is the new direction that this investment allows Erie County to move in. We've long been known for our higher than average percentage of heavy manufacturing jobs in Erie. The park will enable us to continue our manufacturing leadership. Now, however, the research and development will also be in Erie for products made in Erie."

Knowledge Park will be beneficial in many ways. It will enable the students to work and have internships. Employees of these companies would also construct classes. Students majoring in business and communications will be able to do internships related to marketing. Management Information Systems (MIS) majors will work with the companies on data bases and communication. Science majors will work with Biotech and

other science oriented companies. There will be many opportunities beyond engineering and engineering technology.

The tenants will benefit from Knowledge Park by allowing access to graduate students, education, training programs and support. Tenants will also be able to utilize the teleconferencing and distant education technologies. "Knowledge Park is a research and development area which will allow knowledge-based high-tech type companies to locate closer to and take full advantage of the intellectual and physical resources of this college," said Robert Light, Associate Provost and Associate Dean of Penn State Behrend.

The tenants of Knowledge Park will include organizations and their employees which are likely to form

strong knowledge-driven partnerships with Penn State Behrend and other institutions of higher education. The majority of tenants will relate to the use of engineering and business practices to promote the development and improvement of products and processes.

Knowledge Park is located on a mile-long stretch of Penn State Behrend's campus on the north side of Interstate 90. It resides on Exit 9 of I-90 and is only 25 minutes from the Erie International Airport. Only a five minute drive will separate the Park from the terminus of the Route 17 Southern Tier Expressway, which is a direct link to New York City. Being in the Erie area, Knowledge Park is only two-three hours from Buffalo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

There are over 20 four-acre sites for

the buildings which will be 40,000 square feet or more in the Park. The sites are equipped with utilities. Three sites are available for immediate construction. The first corporate multi-tenant building is to be completed in January of 1999. It will be a two-story, 70,000 square foot structure.

The first tenant of Knowledge Park will be Aalborg Industries, which designs and markets steam boilers and generators. This company, which is Erie based, was purchased by a Danish company. "We anticipate attraction of companies from outside the region and outside the state," stated Light.

There are four phases in which Knowledge Park will be completed. GEIDC Chairman Mike Mead said, "phase one is the construction underway on the first building and the

Knowledge Parkway, which will be one of the most scenic roads in the county, with tall trees on both sides and in the middle of a divided parkway."

He also commented on the investment from Governor Ridge. "The money will help fund phase two. The second phase will include an 8,000 square foot shared-use meeting center, a 36,000 square foot training facility, site work, storm water management and numerous paved public pathways through the heavily forested Knowledge Park site.

"Phase three will include development of the land west of Jordan Road to Evergreen Gorge. And phase four will complete the development of infrastructure such as roads and utilities on the final 40 acres of the Knowledge Park site," concluded Light.

It's a zoo out there

by Kristie Vitron Nov. 5, 1998 staff writer

If you read the Police and Safety Report on a regular basis, you have certainly noticed the abundance of complaints concerning wild, domestic or farm animals roaming around campus. Although it is a common occurrence to spot a woodchuck, deer, dog or even a donkey here at Penn State Behrend, it is usually not a threat to student health according to Bill Donahue, Police and Safety Manager.

According to this semester's Police and Safety reports, there have only been a few sightings of animals acting strangely. However, there have only been no confirmed rabies cases. A rabid animal's behavior can be characterized by increased salivation, seizures, paralysis, or all around abnormal behavior. Because the rabies virus is transmitted through biting, Donahue wishes to remind students, "If you do en-

counter an animal acting strangely, keep your distance and notify Police and Safety."

Most animal related problems on campus concern animal injuries rather than rabies incidents. In either case, The Pennsylvania Game Commission is called to handle the situation because Police and Safety has no animal traps of their own. A qualified deputy game warden traps the animal. After being picked up, the animals receive medical treatment when it is possible. When there is nothing that can be done with the animal they are dispatched and disposed of.

Many students are most concerned with skunks on campus. Skunks, by nature, are scavengers and will usually be found around dumpsters after dark. In the five years that Bill Donahue has been with Behrend's Police and Safety, there have been many reports of students being scared or startled by skunks, but nobody has ever reported being sprayed.

There have also been a few inci-

dents of stray dogs on campus. When a stray dog is picked up by Police and Safety, they are secured at Police and Safety until the owner is found. If the owner can't be located, the Pennsylvania State Dog Warden is called and the dog is taken to a kennel or the Humane Society.

Some of the more unusual animal sightings involve goats and donkeys running around campus. These animals, which belong to a local resident, are considered to be quite friendly and are used to being around people. In each incident, the owner has been notified and the animals have been rounded up without much hassle.

Overall, Bill Donahue feels that, "The campus animal problem is small considering the woody surroundings of Behrend's campus." Also, students should take advantage of the opportunity to view so much nature and wildlife offered here. However, Police and Safety should be contacted if the animal appears to be in danger.

Behrend's Rupp finally steps out of the beetle; but not empty-handed

by Rose Forrest Dec. 10, 1998 layout editor

Trista Rupp, or Twisted Trista as Star 104 nicknamed her, has ended her residency in TinselTown.

Rupp was the third contestant to get out of the Volkswagen Beetle, leaving Beetle Bob, the winner, appropriately named. The three contestants who left early did not completely waste their time, however. Amazing Matt now works at Star 104 and Everlasting Elly relaxed on a cruise courtesy of the radio station.

Rupp won \$1,000, a trip to Universal Studios, her choice between Florida or California, and a Subaru that belonged to the radio station and had been used as an all purpose vehicle.

Although Rupp had to withdraw from classes, she says she is glad she did the contest. She explained, "it opened doors that otherwise would not have been opened." When asked if she was glad to be out, she stated, "I'm elated."

Rupp explained her reasoning for entering the contest saying, "I thought



file photo

Trista Rupp sits confidently in the Beetle early on in the Live In It To Win It Contest.

the bug was cool...I fell in love with the Volkswagen and thought it was a great opportunity to win a Volkswagen Beetle."

When asked about the other people in the car, Rupp shared, "Elly was a nice girl...an all-around person. Actually I can say that for everyone. Everyone was personable...and flexible. They all had the ability to adapt to any situation."

Rupp still sees the people she lived

in the car with from time to time. She still has to give Matt his baseball cap and a hairball she was collecting during the time in the car. She plans on shellacking it, covering it with glitter, putting a hook in it and giving it to him as a Christmas ornament.

As for the future, Rupp plans on taking advantage of her trip by taking a family vacation with her two children and her parents.