

## New programs have great impact on incoming freshmen

by Mike Frawley  
managing editor

The start of the new school year has brought many changes to Behrend. One change, that has a great impact on the class of incoming freshmen, is the newly created Freshman Seminar program and its partner program, the First-Year Interest Groups.

The purpose of the Freshman Seminar program is to give students a chance to learn more about their chosen field, while working closely with other freshmen with the same interests. Each of the schools at Behrend have their own seminars, with educational goals that correspond to their individual fields of study. These goals include increasing skills associated with the fields of study in the seminars, exploring job opportunities within their field, and to promote a better understanding of what is involved with each field of study. It is hoped that this program will give students direction in choosing a field of study and their future careers.

The First Year Seminars that are being offer to freshmen this semester include: The Business Enterprise, Introduction to Mechanical and Plastics Engineering Technology, Introduction to Engineering Design, Applications of Psychology, Writing Behrend, Biology Interest, Science and the Successful Student, and the Health Sciences Seminar.

Along with the great education opportunities that these new seminar courses will offer to incoming freshmen, they are required for graduation and students entering the college this year.

Linked with the seminars is another new program for the fall called the First-Year Interest Groups, or FIGs for short. The FIGs, which are a completely volunteer program, are designed to bring together a group of students with similar interests in a area of academic study. These students are linked to take a group of courses together, a Freshman seminar course and a supporting course that goes along with the seminar, such as English 15 or Math 110. An upperclass Peer Mentor is assigned

to each FIG to help the members of the FIG in a wide range of subjects, such as adjusting to campus life and problems with classes.

The goal of the FIGs is to help students adjust to life at Behrend, strengthen ties among students, enhance students' interaction with faculty members both in and out of the classroom, and increase students' involvement on campus. Ken Miller, Interim Dean of Student Affairs, when asked about the new programs, said, "the main idea is to build strong relationships between freshmen in the seminars and linked courses. It is exciting that 200 students choose to participate in this program. It is a good opportunity to explore their interests together with an upperclass student." Another goal of this program is to provide another avenue for commuter students to get involved in on-campus activities.

Both of these programs were designed to help Behrend grow and expand as we enter the 21st century.

## Question *of the* Week

**What was the best or worst thing about the new school year?**

"All the nice young ladies."

Andrew Kish, freshman



"Seeing my friends again."

Stacey Erzen, junior



"Waking up for class and getting my Ethernet hooked up."

Charlie Utz, junior



"Room and suite mates are really cool."

Rachael Briggs, freshman



"All the rain."

Katie Braymer, freshman



"Parties, boys and all the nice people."

Jesse Kirkpatrick, freshman

## Police And Safety

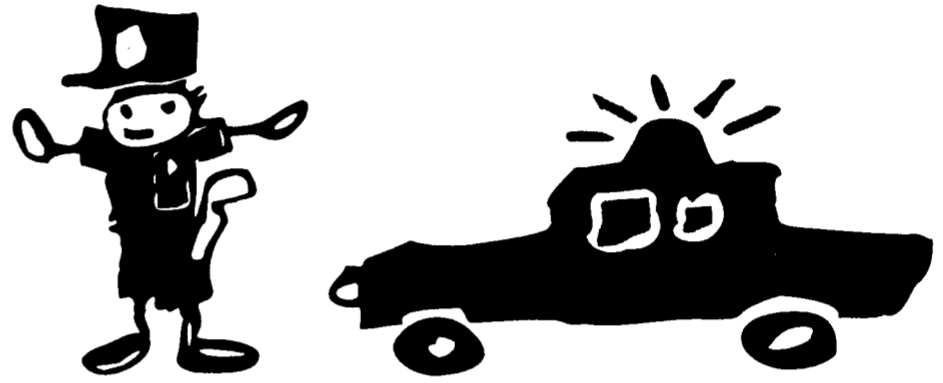
### REPORT:

**8/23/99** Report of a work study student feeling faint at Dobbins. Police and Safety responded to find student awake and alert. Police and Safety requested EMS be contacted. Brookside/Emergencycare responded and patient was transported to Hamot Medical Center for follow-up.

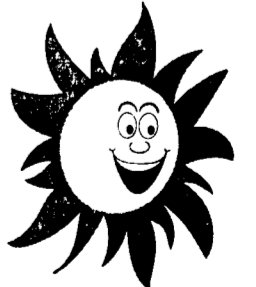
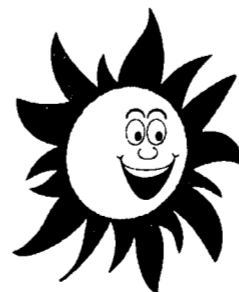
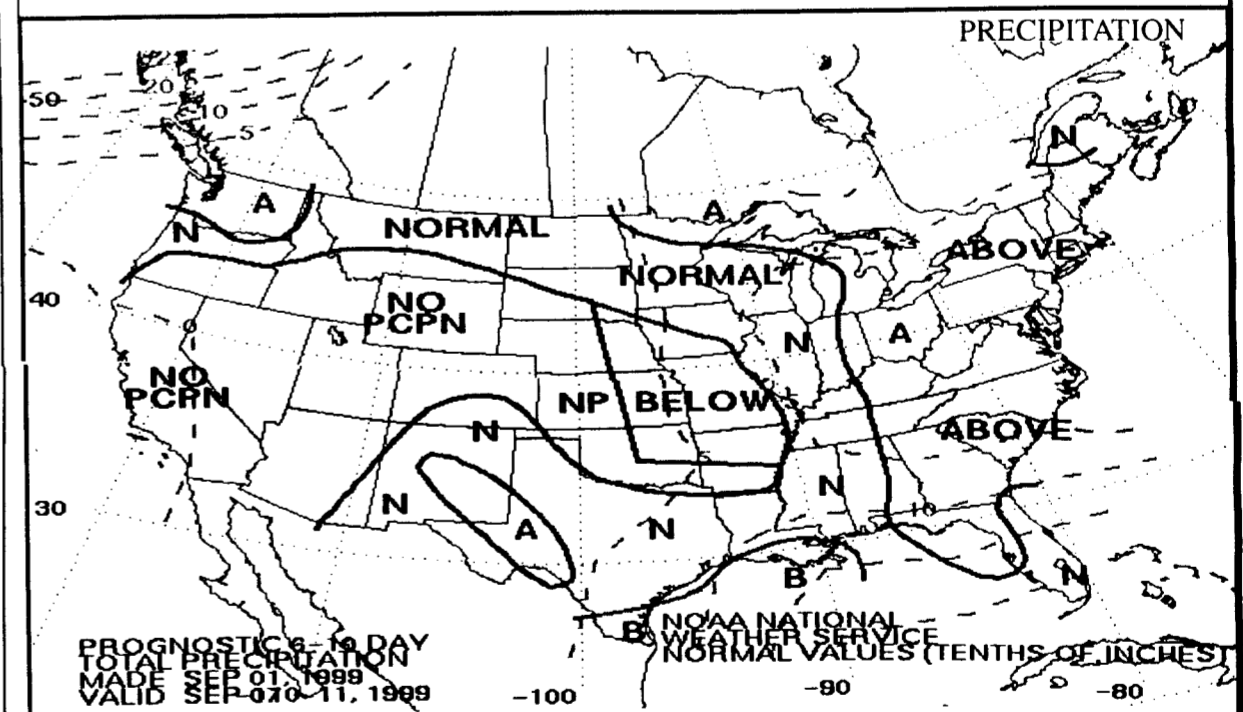
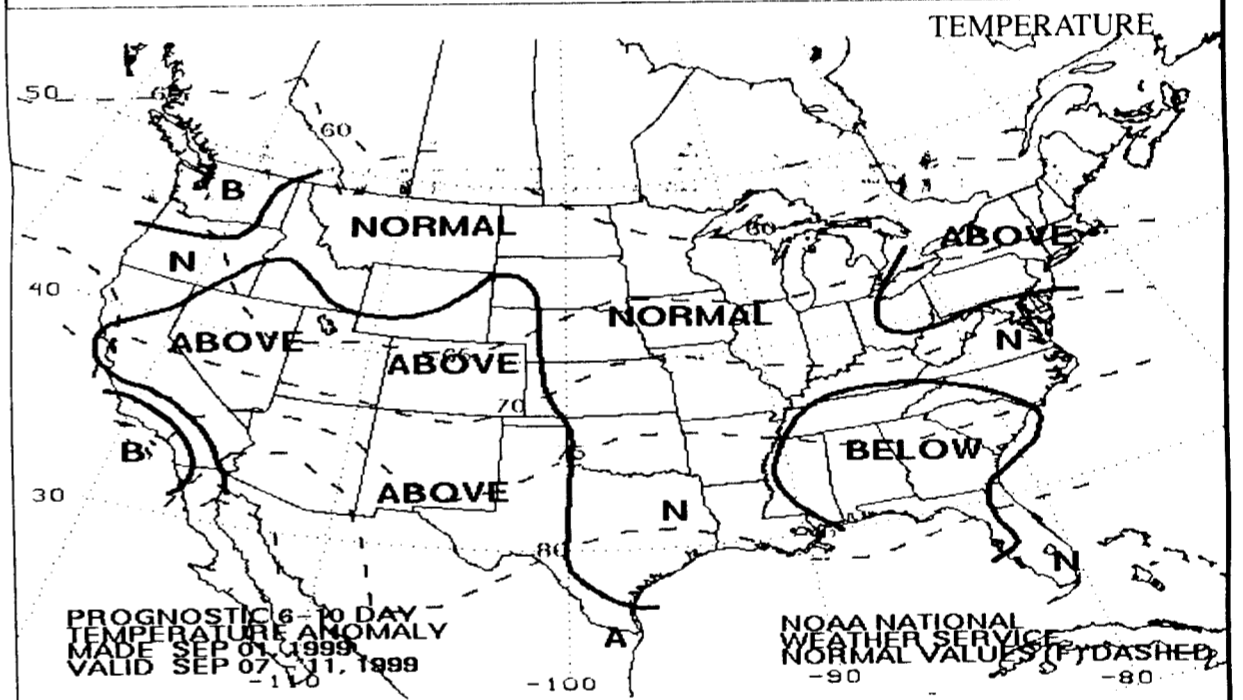
**8/25/99** Students in Almy had taken the smoke detector apart. R.A. on duty assisted. Police and Safety had students put it together and trouble cleared.

**8/29/99** Complainant reported burning food in the microwave oven in his room activating the smoke detector. The room was checked and the smoke detector reset.

**8/31/99** While on patrol coming from F-lot, Police and Safety was stopped by female student asking that they give her a "ride" to the Registrar's office because she didn't feel like walking. Student was informed that escorts are not provided for that reason.



## WEATHER



**FRIDAY...SUNNY.** HIGH 80 TO 85. LIGHT AND VARIABLE WIND BECOMING EAST LESS THAN 10 MPH.  
**FRIDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLEAR.** LOW AROUND 60.

**SATURDAY...MOSTLY SUNNY.** HIGH 80 TO 85.

**SATURDAY NIGHT...PARTLY CLOUDY.** LOW NEAR 60.

**SUNDAY...PARTLY SUNNY.** HIGH IN THE LOWER 80S.