

Y2K On-Campus: How to prepare LionCash comes to Behrend

by Juliana Harper
staff writer

Computers in student labs at Behrend were made compliant for Y2K over the summer, but how prepared is your PC for the Year 2000? "Students must check their own systems for Y2K compliance," says Ronald Hoffman, Y2K Officer and Computer Center Manager.

Penn State's goal is to preserve desktop computers wherever possible rather than replace them. "We are working closely with the University's Y2K taskforce to make sure all recommendations applicable to our computing environment are being implemented. We also established a local Y2K taskforce at the College last Spring. The local task force was charged with checking all College computers for Y2K compliance and making recommendations to either replace those which aren't compliant or develop procedures for fixing older systems. This work is about 90 per cent complete," says Hoffman.

Although work is almost finished on all the college computers, students must prepare their personal computers for the 'millennium bug'. Every PC has at least one problem related to BIOS (Basic Input/Output System). "Students must check their BIOS and make sure it will do

leap years," says Wendy Kallgren, staff assistant, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students also must make sure that the regional setting is set for four-digit years instead of two. Systems may need to be upgraded to do this.

The University suggests pretesting PCs. This will help determine whether or not the PC hardware can support and maintain dates into the next century. The University will also provide start-up disks or documentation on how a student can create his or her own start-up disk that they may use when starting their computer for the first time in the year 2000.

Students who own Apple and UNIX operating systems do not have to worry about their systems being Y2K ready because they are already compliant. But people with these computers still must make sure that their software is Y2K-ready, or they could still have problems that they may not be anticipating.

Software will need to be upgraded to Y2K compliance for PC users as well. Microsoft Office 97 is one program that will require updates to be Y2K-ready. "We do not expect any major College computer related Y2K problems. The only problem students may experience is gaining access to locations outside the University that are not Y2K compliant, but there should not be too many of these," says

Hoffman.

If students do not prepare for the Y2K bug, potential consequences include: complete system breakdown (inability to use laser printer, start up computer, or receive e-mail), or partial-system breakdown (at first computer seems to work, then the user slowly loses files).

There are four different levels of Y2K readiness. The most desirable is Year 2000 ready. If a computer is Year 2000 ready with some issues, there are issues that will not stop the computer, but may cause occasional difficulties (incorrect date calculations, invalid date comparisons). A Year 2000 functional computer is problematic, but it will work. The user of one of these computers must take pre-emptive measures for the computer to work well. The final stage is Year 2000 defective. This computer will be a nuisance and will have incorrect information, and it must be replaced.

"I don't think there will be a problem as long as students prepare their own computers," says Kallgren. "Students should refer to the University's homepage regarding preparation for PC's for Y2K at <http://www.psu.edu/Year2000/action/intro.html>," says Hoffman. For extra help, the Computer Center should be able to answer students' questions and concerns.

by Karl Benacci
staff writer

Over the summer the id+ Office improved the id+ cards by putting LionCash chips on the front of the cards.

LionCash can be used in the laundry machines, some vending machines, copiers, the color printers, and in Bruno's. Money can be put on the id+card in two ways. A student can go to the id+ Office in the Reed Building (payment by check can be done there) or they can go to a LionCash machine (a.k.a. Card Value Center) and feed money into the machine.

LionCash machines are located in the Reed Building (by the vending

machines), the Academic Building (also by the vending machines), and in Yarnell Hall (in the laundry room).

The money on the LionCash chip cannot be replaced if an id+ card is lost because the chip on the card holds the money information.

"I dislike if I lose it, it costs more to replace and it's inconvenient to put more money on it," said Derrick Hennebicque, 07 PET. Andy Markle, 06 EET, remarked, "It's a pain. You have to put the card in two machines instead of just putting money in one machine."

There may even be more uses for LionCash in the future. If restaurants ever decide to buy the machines that can read the LionCash chip, then Be-

hrend students will be able to purchase food by using LionCash at those restaurants.

Students commented on what changes could be made to improve the use of LionCash. Troy Grossi, 03 Marketing, said, "Have a record, have how much is on the card, and how much is used, in case the card is lost." Hennebicque also remarked, "If everything used it, it wouldn't be so annoying."

If you have any problems or questions about LionCash call the id+ Office at 898-6035 or stop in the id+ Office which is located in the Reed Union Building.

H&SS continued from front page

Dr. Dean Baldwin, Assistant Director of the School of H & SS, is involved in the Study Abroad program for students who are interested in leaving the U.S. for a semester and earning credits in the process. He recently returned from a five-week trip to England with several students in the program.

"Currently, we offer three, six, or nine-credit study programs in the Study Abroad program," he said, before offering more potato chips to the students around him. "The students [on the trip] were able to study for about two weeks at one of the local colleges [in England], and explore some of the historical sites of England. They were able to earn credits for their education while exploring new places."

The broad ranges of opportunity inside the school are just the beginning, as many students found out during the

picnic. Jessica Mann, a History major, decided on her major after a World History Class she took in high school.

"It was so fascinating, the way the teacher taught it, that I knew I wanted to take it up during college," Mann said, laughing after she was asked what her thesis was on. "It's a really complicated story, but I finally claimed my major in History, and decided that my focus for my thesis would be in ancient history."

Ron Vandenberg, a junior, chose to be an English major, which has two options: creative writing or literature.

"Usually, the senior thesis for getting the major culminates in a portfolio of your past writing," Vandenberg said, sitting back on the picnic table bench. "You're taking 300-400 level English courses, meeting with your adviser, working on your portfolio. But you probably

wouldn't take something you wrote from English 15, because it probably wouldn't be good enough."

There are plenty of opportunities in the school, especially for those who are thinking about majors in a handful of particular fields. Many of the advisors are available for questions or concerns you may have about the majors, and they are all readily available through email or phone. The school is also offering several activities this year for students to attend, including speakers, film series, readings, and theatre & music performances.

If you would like more information on the school of Humanities and Social Sciences, upcoming events, advisors or majors, you can go to their website (www.pserie.psu.edu) and click on Academic Programs, then School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Festival continued from front page

Dr. John Lilley, Provost and Dean, with Mrs. Gerrie Lilley, will host the Provost's Reception in the Reed Wintergarden at 5:30 p.m.

The Matchbox Players cast is returning to the Studio Theater and will perform three shows over the course of Saturday and Sunday. The first show will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, followed by a 9:00 p.m. show and a 2:30 p.m. show on Sunday.

Saturday night will also hold the Athletic Hall of Fame Reception and Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Five Behrend alumni will be inducted into the Ath-

letic Hall of Fame. The inductions will take place in the Reed Union Building Commons.

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday night, the entertainment will "swing" into Erie Hall as Frankie Maintain and 10 pieces will perform for Behrend students and families. Dinner has been cancelled for the event, but the Swing lessons and dance will remain as scheduled. The event is free and will conclude the events for the night.

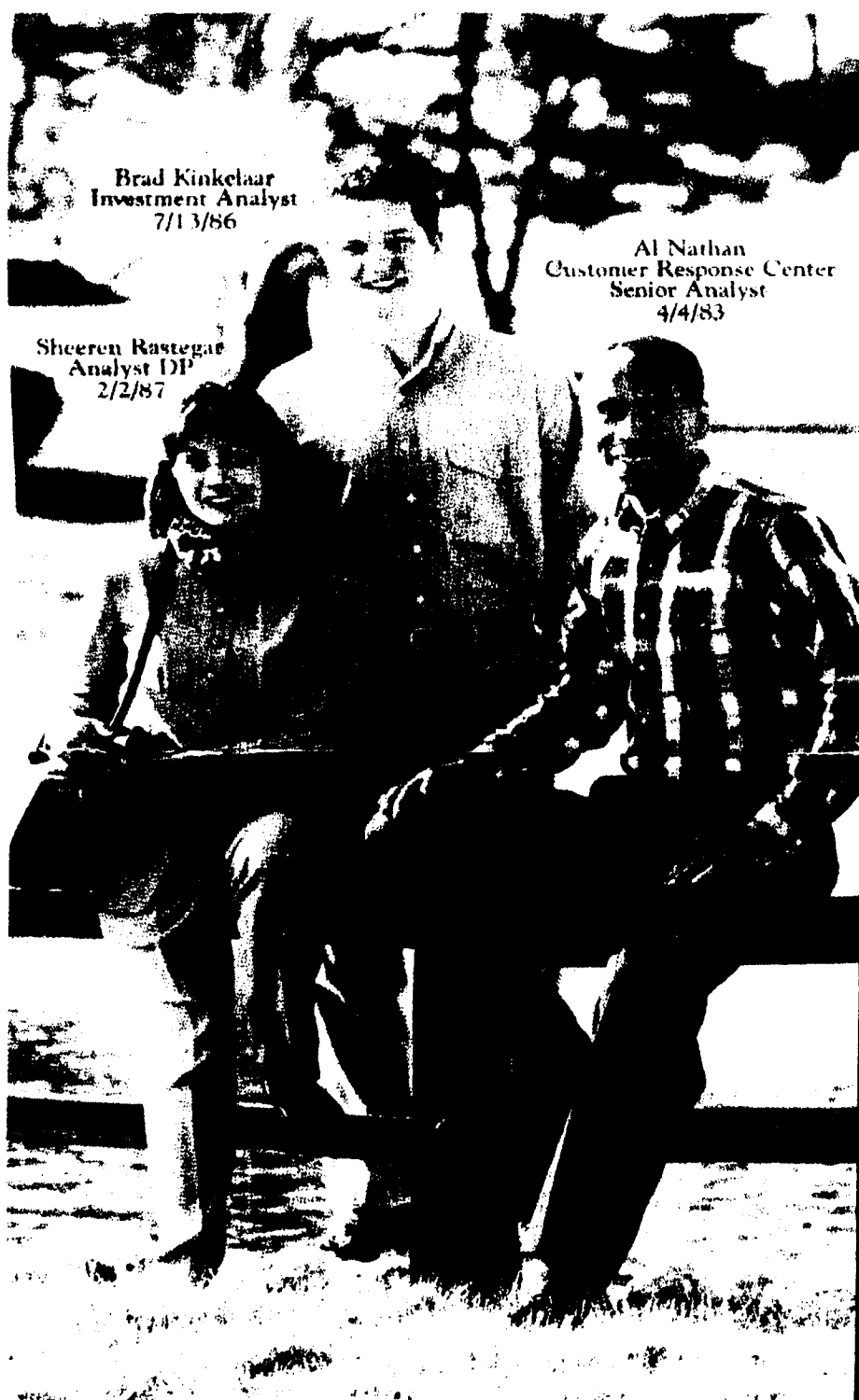
Rizzo commented, "The Gathering Field and Frankie Maintain are two great parts of the weekend students

should not miss."

Sunday will give students and their families a chance to wrap-up their weekend with brunch being held at Dobbins from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Students and their families are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. "I think it is a great opportunity for students, families, faculty and staff to come together and celebrate the season and community of Penn State Behrend," said Rizzo. "This is a great weekend full of major entertainment."

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Police And Safety REPORT:

9/17/99 An officer caught a student pulling wooden construction stakes from the ground in the S Lot and throwing them into the woods. As a result, the student was cited for disorderly conduct.

9/17/99 A complainant reported finding numerous signs stapled to trees between Reed and Glenhill Farmhouse with a questionable message written on them.

9/19/99 A complainant wanted to advise this office of the on-going dispute between Perry and Niagara Hall regarding the benches and other complaints with Niagara.

9/20/99 Complainant reported some problems with some of her "friends."

9/21/99 Complainant reported obscene messages being left on her dry erase board since the beginning of the semester.



WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 1999



Friday

INCREASING CLOUDINESS. 30% CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS. HIGHS IN MID-60'S.



Saturday

PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOW 70'S.



Sunday

PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE MID-70'S.