

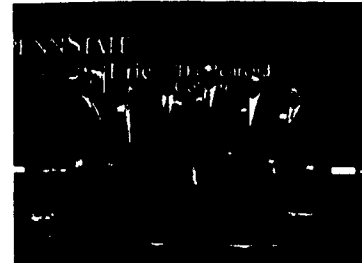
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BEHREND

BEACON

Vol. XLVIII No. 6

16 pages

Friday, October 1, 1999

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

Behrend honor society hits early setback

Lambda Sigma starts school year with no national membership and negative balance

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Entering the 1999-2000 school year at Penn State Behrend, the Lambda Sigma Honor Society encountered a major setback towards their plans for the school year. The Behrend representatives for the sophomore honor society have just received news that none of the sophomores elected into membership for the Lambda Sigma Honor Society are officially members. According to national headquarters,

This year's representatives of Lambda Sigma have been looking into the situation to find out why they were left in debt with no members actually being recognized by national headquarters.

President Lisa Lada commented on the situation saying, "Lambda Sigma is not concerned with passing the blame onto anyone. We just want to

make sure that our society is an actively functioning one. With no money for dues or activities, this is more difficult than we anticipated, but we're all willing to work, so I am sure the situation will be resolved."

Lada and Vice President Sarah Edwards, along with many of this year's members told the Beacon that the dues paid by this year's members were never sent to national headquarters, thus nullifying Behrend as an active chapter of the Lambda Sigma Honor Society.

The responsibility of sending the money to national headquarters was left in the hands of last year's officers. This group included President Rachel Hinterlang, Vice President Channasa Taylor, Treasurer Meghan Snyder and Secretary Steph Nardello.

This group of officers was also responsible for planning a banquet for all their members along with the new

members that would represent Behrend this year. This year's members were required to pay \$25 to cover the fee needed to become a member of the Lambda Sigma Honor Society and an additional \$20 to cover the charge of the banquet and a souvenir.

According to the records, 36 Behrend students have paid the fee. However, both the fees due to national headquarters and the fee for the banquet were used for only the banquet. The cost of the banquet far exceeded the expectations and the understanding of this year's chapter at Behrend.

The Beacon contacted Hinterlang and Taylor and heard two different stories. Hinterlang claimed that the planning for the banquet was the responsibility of Taylor, last year's vice-president. If all 36 of this year's members paid, which was confirmed by Lada, then that would enable Taylor to spend \$720 on the banquet and sou-

venirs. Taylor's plans, however, didn't keep within that price range. The banquet alone, cost Lambda Sigma \$1,400. In addition to the cost of the banquet, souvenir glasses were bought for all 80 past and present members. The glasses alone cost \$700.

When the glasses were being passed out, many were broken or blemished. Hinterlang claims that she told Taylor to get refunded for those glasses, but nothing was ever resolved, and no money was refunded. Hinterlang and no heard from Taylor since.

Hinterlang claims that she knew nothing of the debt that this year's chapter was left in. She commented on the event saying, "I feel so bad about the situation."

Taylor, when contacted by the Beacon about the overspending, commented, "I was told that there was

money there."

In response to that comment made by Taylor, Hinterlang stated that Taylor "should have known." She also added that Taylor failed to attend the society's meetings and failed to communicate properly with the treasurer Meghan Snyder. "She [Taylor] came to none of the meetings," Hinterlang added, "her major problem was mis-communication. She and Meghan should have been talking."

Hinterlang also stated that she can recall signing only one check involving the banquet, which was for \$400. When asked if she signed either of the remaining checks - \$995 due to the Marketplace Grill for the banquet and \$700 for souvenir glasses - she said, "I don't remember."

The Beacon tried to contact Snyder for comment, but was not able to reach her.

Because of the careless spending of

last year's officers, this year's members will start off in debt with no money able to be sent to national headquarters.

Matt Heidecker, a member of the Lambda Sigma Honor Society, commented on the events of last year saying, "there is no excuse for what has happened." He added, "Lambda Sigma was very poorly organized and run last year, but that does not actually reflect the true attitude of the members past and present. All of the current members have offered nothing but help and time."

This year's officers are President Lisa Lada, Vice-President Sarah Edwards, Secretary Jessica Turos and Treasurer Cecilia Casado. These officers have already begun planning as to how to go about fixing the problems they have been faced with.

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STUDENT FEES FOR ?

Administration explains use of fees

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

While paying their tuition for this semester, many Behrend students noticed that they were being charged additional fees to attend school. Two of these fees are the Information Technology Fee and the Transportation Fee. While the Information Technology Fee has been paid by students for the past few years, the Transportation Fee is a new fee for students this semester. These two fees are University-wide fees; all Penn State students, regardless of which campus they attend, pay these fees. Many students have been questioning what these fees are for and who decides how these fees are being spent.

The Information Technology Fee is the fee that students pay for any computer use that they, as students, have. Currently, the fee costs students \$100 per semester. Any computer on campus that is for student use is paid for by the Information Technology Fee. The fee is divided into two parts; one part of the fee stays at Behrend for our local use, while the other half goes to University Park as overhead for university-wide support services. Some items that the fee is put toward are: library computer services, the ACCESS project (servers for e-mail and student Web sites), technology classrooms, consulting services, and disabled student services.

The portion of the fee that goes to University Park supports things that are used by all students. A major part of this is the Comprehensive Academic Advising Information System, which is known as CAAIS. This system, which is very heavily used by students, has been developed using Information Technology Fee funding over the past few years. The CAAIS system allows students to review their grades, look at their transcript or degree audit, late drop a class, or



PHOTOS BY JEFFREY MILLER

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Students utilizing the Blue Bus; new equipment in Academic Advising; expanded library computer lab

do interactive advising. This portion of the fee also supports e-mail for the entire University and a new software contract with Microsoft.

The new Microsoft contract will, in theory, allow all Penn State locations to have access to Microsoft software applications. This contract allows the University to provide software, without charge to students or academic, service, and administration departments. Students will be able to get a certain amount of free Microsoft software for their personal use. Some of the programs that will be available are Windows 98 SE, Office 97, and various Microsoft word processing programs.

The portion of the Information Technology Fee that is retained for local use by Behrend is dependent on enrollment. Because semester enrollment figures will not be finalized until October 1, the amount of money Behrend will receive from the fee for this year is unknown. For fiscal year 1998, Behrend collected a total of \$555,480 from the Information Technology Fee. 44% of this amount went to University Park as overhead for all students. The remaining 56% of the fee stayed at Behrend, with an additional amount in rollover from the previous year.

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What's high-tech at Behrend this fall

by Rob Wynne
staff writer

Many technological improvements have hit the Penn State Behrend campus this fall. Much has been added in the way of new hardware, such as new computers, new monitors, and new software packages. Checking e-mail, surfing the web, typing papers, and even designing programs have all become quicker processes, thanks to the many upgrades. Some of the most notable improvements have probably been made in the library and Hammermill computer labs.

The big talk in the library is about the new high speed laser printers that were added for fall. According to Dr. Richard Hart, the library director, the two lasers replaced eleven old dot-matrix printers, providing network capabilities - many computer stations can be linked to one printer - and up to 24 pages per minute output. All of

this is at no additional cost to the students.

Five new Pentiums were also installed in the library since summer, bringing the number of LIAS terminals up from eleven to sixteen. The library system itself (LIAS - Library Information Access System) has also been upgraded. This includes the addition/expansion of the Penn State databases. Only accessible through a PBSU terminal or account, these databases contain full text magazine articles, indexes, and encyclopedias dealing with various subject matter. There are currently 130 databases on LIAS. "That's for now..." chuckled Dr. Hart. He said that there are always upgrades and enhancements going on with the system, and that Behrend has larger databases than probably any of the other area colleges.

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Student pleads for better living conditions at Pizza with the Provost

by Nicole C. Greene
staff writer

On Wednesday, September 22, Niagara Hall hosted the first Pizza with the Provost Meeting for the 1999-2000 school year. It was an event that brought Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley and the students of Behrend together to talk about issues that affect the lives of everyone here at the school.

Before beginning, Dean Lilley reassured everyone in attendance that the meeting would be beneficial to everyone present. He stated that this was "one of the major ways in which I listen to students." Several issues were raised, each dealing with a different aspect of life here at Behrend, and relating to each student in a different way.

Among the first topics to be discussed was earlier opening hours for Bruno's on Saturday and Sunday mornings during the football season. This would give interested students the opportunity to view the games on the big screen inside of Bruno's. In response, the Director of Housing and Food Services stated that if a crowd would be present that would allow Bruno's to make money at those hours, it would be possible to create earlier opening hours on football weekends.

An important issue raised was the condition of the residence halls, paying particular attention to Niagara. One student, Jeremy Abreu, a resident of Niagara, made a fervent plea to the Dean for better living conditions for the residents of Niagara. He addressed Dean Lilley in an eloquent, yet firm manner, recognizing the hall as, "the worst building." He then went on to express his concerns about the residence hall, stating that it has two broken doors and two non-working lights, each of which have been defunct for about a year. Residents of Niagara have attempted to present their problems before authorities, and as Abreu stated, "our cries are not being heard. This building is being laughed at like it's some kind of joke.

They don't care enough."

Before addressing the question, Dean Lilley commended Jeremy for presenting his case in firm manner in which he presented solid evidence to support his claims. He then went on to explain to everyone present, what to do in terms of problem solving. "In the future, when you have a problem and people are not listening to you, take it to the next level."

Also, he declared that "the University has invested about \$13 million in Housing and Food Services, and doors, lights, and windows should not be broken." As a result, he gave Abreu his card and told him to keep him posted on the changes made to the Niagara Building.

A question was also raised about adding new majors to the school. The Dean responded that several majors are being considered, and that Finance has recently been added as a major here at Behrend. Other possibilities being considered are advertising, which would be included in the Communications Major, as well as Computer Engineering.

Other issues that were discussed included installing Lion Cash machines into the residence halls, establishing reserved parking spaces, adding BET to the list of television stations currently available at the school, and adding a football team to the Behrend Athletic Program.

Dean Lilley also gave attendees a bit of "authentic biology." He explained the difference between the Behrend Lion and the Nitanny Lion. To those who are not aware, the lion roamed from Maryland to Michigan. One roamed to Mt. Nitanny, and the other roamed into the Behrend woods. Therefore, the mascot of University Park is the Nitanny Lion, and our mascot is the Behrend Lion.

The meeting between the Dean and the students appeared to be very successful. Both the Dean and the students expressed that it was helpful. The only way to judge its effectiveness is to wait to see the outcome, and the changes that take place as a result of this informative conference.

WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

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