

Behrend beefs up book collection

by Rob Wynne
staff writer

An agreement made last January between the administrations of Behrend College and Penn State University resulted in a half-million dollar library improvement project. Nancy Eaton, the Dean of University Libraries for Penn State, and Behrend's Provost and Dean, Dr. John Lilley, both agreed that Behrend's library book collection was not up to par, so they split the bill. The Behrend library will receive \$100,000 a year for five years. Of the sum, \$50,000 will be taken from Behrend's annual budget, and \$50,000 will be supplied by Penn State's University Libraries account.

So why does the library need more books? The explanation requires a small Behrend history lesson. The current library and the Academic Building were both built in 1993. Before that, the library was housed in the Reed Union Building, which limited the number of new materials coming in due to lack of space. Behrend needed books, but there was no place to put them. Then, after the new library was opened, room was no longer a concern. It was now time to catch up for those years of limited ordering.

Under the direction of Dr. Richard Hart, the library director, books are

being carefully ordered with this new money. Hart, who has been with the library since 1994, said there are different ways in which they purchase books. The usual way is for librarians and faculty to read numerous index cards that contain book summaries and scholarly reviews. After sifting through a pile of cards pertaining to their department, a few make it to the librarian's desk to be ordered. Another new way that books are being ordered is through a nationwide computer database search. The way this works, a college library service is sent an inventory of all of our books. They then match our list with a list that describes all of the books that are "core" for any college library. Dr. Hart and his librarians review the list, and give the O.K. The goal is to fill in the cracks where basic and essential materials are needed.

The library project is only in year two, and so far many new items have been added. The list is many pages long, but a few examples include a set of Shakespearean videos, course materials for the new jazz program at Behrend, and many multivolume packages. A popular set entitled "Library of America," contains works from many famous authors, and another, "Foreign Relations of the United States," is expected to be popular among the Political Science majors. Computers have been left out

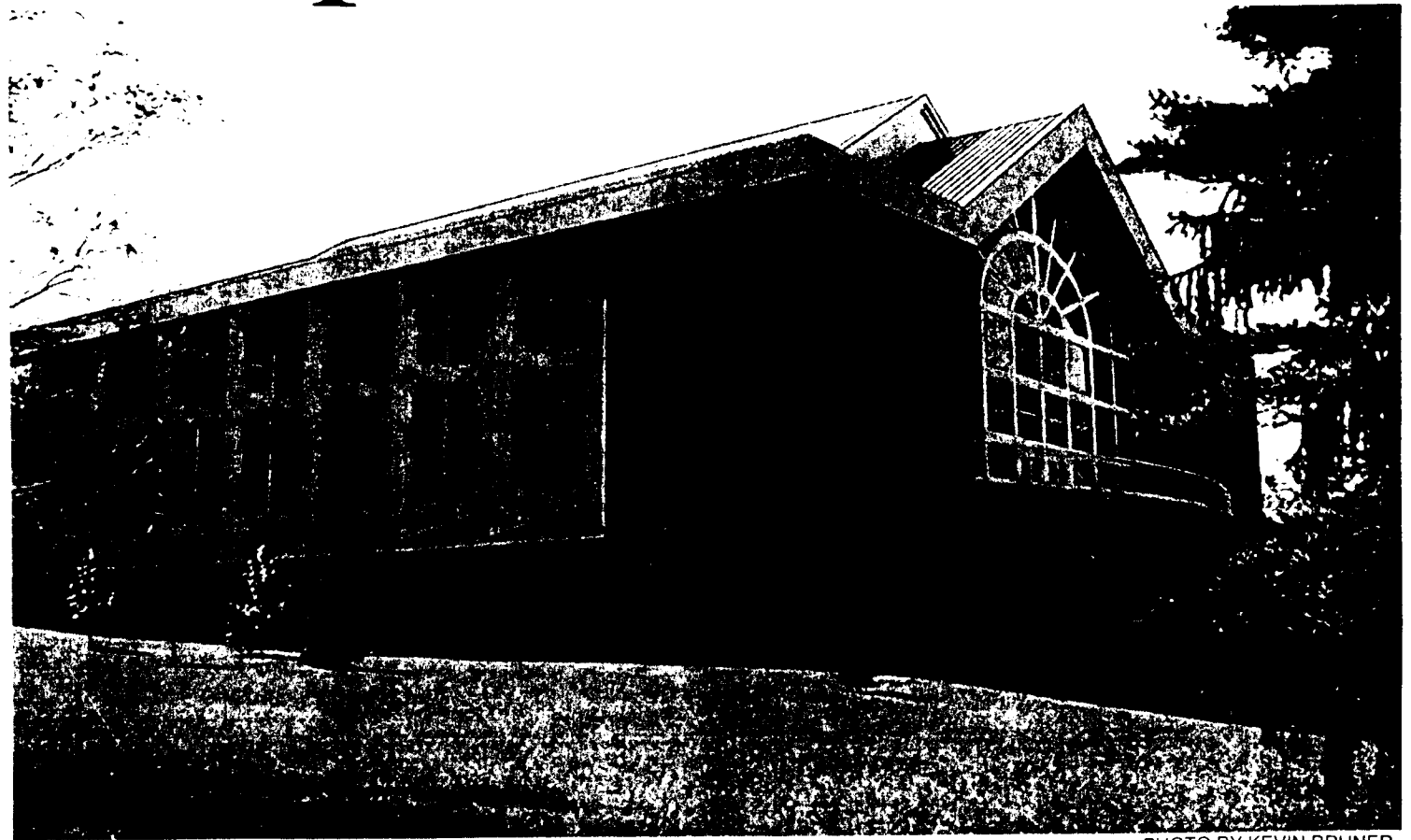


PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER

The Behrend Library and the Academic Building are known for their classic outside view. The addition of more books to the library should make the inside of the library just as spectacular.

of this project, though. When asked how much of the money will be spent upgrading computers, Dr. Hart replied, "Not a nickel." The money is strictly for books and videos.

Staff and student input is necessary for

the success of this major library project. Dr. Hart pointed out students are encouraged to make comments in the library suggestion box. These suggestions are carefully reviewed. For example,

a student brought to the library's attention that the Irish history section was weak. After the notice, about a dozen Irish history titles were purchased. Dr. Hart explained that the goal of this ongoing project is "to

provide materials to support the curriculum in coursework." Much more is expected to come.

Question *of the* Week

HOW TOLERANT DO YOU THINK BEHREND STUDENTS ARE?



"I think Behrend students are very closed-minded. You don't really see people mixing with others outside of their group of friends."
-Megan Horanic, 07, CHEM



"To me, it seems like everybody gets along with everybody."
-Adrienne Janiuk, 04, BECON



"I'd say pretty tolerant. Everyone's pretty cool with everyone else for the most part."
-Tom Dorich, 01 EET



"I think they're pretty tolerant here. You don't see anything extreme like hate crimes."
-Chris Moffett, 01, EET



"People tend to stick to their own cliques, but, overall, they are pretty accepting."
-Angela Burdick, Bruno's cashier

Police And Safety REPORT:

9/29/99 18:05 - 22:00 P&S received reports on various weather-related problems: trouble alarms, flooding reports, fire alarm activations, etc. They had Housing and Food Services take care of Residence Life problems, and P&S handled the remainder.

9/30/99 00:05 A complainant reported a snake problem in the Nick Building. P&S took care of it.

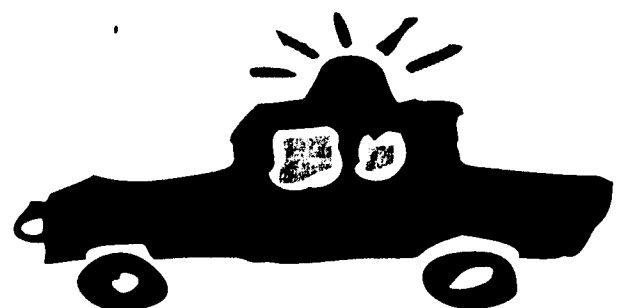
9/30/99 08:50 A complainant reported that a fire alarm was going off in Ohio Hall. Upon the arrival of Police and Safety, Housing and Food Services had reset the alarm system. The alarm was set off in Apt. 328 due to burnt toast.

9/30/99 12:59 A complainant requested assistance with a criminal history check on a former student. No record was found.

10/01/99 15:10 A complainant reported that a white vehicle was leaving the campus with a stolen tree from the Upper Lots. P&S talked with the landscapers and found that the vehicle was one of theirs. They were transporting the tree back to their lot.

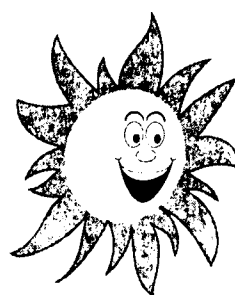
10/04/99 12:20 A complainant reported an unknown person shoveling dirt into their vehicle. Upon the arrival of P&S, it was discovered that the person was a landscaper.

10/05/99 20:50 P&S was dispatched to the south side of Lawrence Hall for a possible ankle injury. The ankle was dislocated and the victim was in much pain. Brookside was dispatched and he was transported to St. Vincent's.



WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 8-10, 1999



Friday

MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGH NEAR 70.



Saturday

CHANCE OF SHOWERS. HIGH IN UPPER 60'S.



Sunday

CHANCE OF SHOWERS. LOW OF 50, HIGH IN MID-60'S.