



Behrend celebrates
Greek Week

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Governor Ridge dedicates Knowledge Center

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

On Monday, October 18, Governor Tom Ridge was at Penn State Behrend to dedicate the new section of Knowledge Park. "Knowledge Park is exactly the kind of high-tech environment we want to create in Pennsylvania," Governor Ridge said during the dedication ceremony at the Knowledge Center. Governor Ridge delivered \$2 million in capital budget redevelopment assistance funds for Phase II construction at Knowledge Park.

Knowledge Park is a 200-acre technology, research, and commercial park. It is expected to create 3000 new jobs for the Erie area when it is completed. Knowledge Park is a joint program of Penn State Behrend and the Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation.

Currently Knowledge Park is home to two businesses, Aalborg Industries and the General Electric Transportation Systems' e-business unit. These two growing companies already employ 170 people at Knowledge Park, with an average salary of \$45,000.

The concept of Knowledge Park is to create an area for university related, private, for-profit firms to achieve high growth by working with the University on research and intensive knowledge based activities. The Erie Community Coalition has ranked Knowledge Park as Erie County's top economic-development priority. "Knowledge Park means being able to keep our young people right here at home. And it means more good,

family-sustaining jobs for the people of Northwest Pennsylvania," said Ridge.

Ridge was last on campus 18 months ago as he helped to hoist the first beam in the park's first building.

"...it means more good, family-sustaining jobs for the people of Northwest Pennsylvania."

-Governor Tom Ridge

In August of 1998, Governor Ridge released \$8.5 million for Phase I of the Knowledge Park construction. This money, in combination with almost \$2.3 million in grants from the Department of Community and Economic Development, went to the construction of the main building in the park.

The Knowledge Center, which Ridge dedicated on Monday, is a shared conference facility with a large meeting room for 60 people, a board room that holds 14 people, a second meeting room designed for 30 people, and an informal greeting room with a fireplace. The new Knowledge Center has the latest in video telecommunications and audio-visual equipment. It also has a catering kitchen and a series of decks overlooking the adjacent woods. The Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation and the Harborcreek Historical Soci-

ety have also decided to house their offices in the Knowledge Center.

In addition to Governor Ridge, participants in the dedication of the Knowledge Center included: Chris Knoll, chairman of the Economic

Development Corporation of Erie County; Michael Mead, chairman of the Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation; Dr. John Lilley, provost and dean of Penn State Behrend; Robert Ploehn, president of GEIDC; and Edward Junker III, chairman of the Penn State Board of Trustees. The Penn State Behrend Pep Band, led by Dr. Gray Viebranz, the director of instrument ensembles at the College, played the Star Spangled Banner for the event, and The Reverend J. David Mumford, pastor of Luther Memorial Church, gave the invocation.

"This is an investment in Erie's Future," Governor Ridge said. "This region is full of promise. We must continue to provide the resources that will allow the talented men and women of this community to thrive in the 21st century economy."



Governor Tom Ridge speaks at the dedication of the new Knowledge Center at Knowledge Park. PHOTO BY JOHN FONTECCHIO

Behrend rocks at Cider Rock

News and
reviews of
Cider Rock '99

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

This past Friday, Behrend held a fall version of Spring Fever in the Apartment Quad, called Cider Rock. The night featured three bands and a comedian.

The Joint Residence Council and Sigma Kappa Nu came up with the idea and were joined by the Hall Council, Kris Motta from Student Activities and the Lion Entertainment Board to put the event together.

From 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., activities were planned, including clubs and organizations hosting events for those in attendance. The booths held such events as face painting, caramel apples, pinata, bobbing for apples, a climbing wall and a velcro wall.

At 4:00 p.m., the first band, Disco Dynamite, opened the event. They played until 6:00 p.m., when Jake's Blues took the stage. At 8:00 p.m., comedian Joel Zimmer entertained the Behrend students in attendance and the show ended with Key West Express at 9:00 p.m.



Disco Dynamite performs at Cider Rock this past Friday. PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Jake's Blues shocks Cider Rock

by Leanne Acklin
staff writer

President of the Joint Residence Council Sean Mascoll, 07 Comm., commented on the night saying, "I enjoyed the night and am really pleased that we had a lot of support from everyone who made Cider Rock possible." He concluded, "I would like to thank Patrick Kiely, Linda Lombardi and Kris Motta, along with LEB, Hall Council and Housing and Food Services. They were in it from the beginning, and without them, Cider Rock wouldn't have been possible."

Out of the three bands that played at Cider Rock this past weekend, none pleased more than Jake's Blues. The Erie based band drew a decent sized crowd up to the apartments Friday, and the rock fans were definitely able to appreciate the sounds of the night. Even though the rough-cut voice of lead singer Jake Banta gave their tunes the edge of the blues, the music of this band screamed rock.

Banta, a definite crowd pleaser with

his bell bottoms, cowboy hat, and "69" prominently displayed on the face of his guitar, seemed to talk to the audience through the strings of his lead electric. As the bassist and the drummer jammed in the background, Banta stepped off the stage to be closer to his listeners, probably to emerge from out of the tent, which Jason the bassist said was "too low." But whatever the reason, the crowd responded to Banta's skills with "woo"'s and "yeah"'s, and even the occasional "sweet."

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The year of the Lion

by Sarah Edwards
staff writer

"We Want You!" That's the theme of this year's athletic spirit drive and the promotions department is working on many exciting ideas and activities for Behrend Students. The goal of sport promotions this year is to create a real sense of spirit throughout campus.

Spectator Mania gives Behrend students a chance to win cash, and there is a cash drawing and sign in at every athletic event. Every Behrend student is already registered in the drawing once, but, can increase their chances by signing in at the Pepsi Bin during the first half of the athletic contests. Mania winnings never go under \$25. At this weekend's game, Spectator Mania will reach \$100. Randy

Armstrong, 06 MIS, says "I think Spectator Mania is a good idea because it increases attendance at the sporting events and everybody likes to win money...so please pick me!"

During the winter sports season, athletic promotions is organizing campus-wide spirit stations that will be open to students during the day of a game. Various offices on campus as well as student organizations will have an opportunity to run their own spirit station. The spirit station will make students more aware of the approaching game and build athletic support.

Halftime at the various athletic contests give students a chance to participate in contests that challenge them and are also fun. The contests are sponsored by local merchants and campus establishments. The halftime contests for the fall encompass a variety of skills, but the winter halftime contests will involve giving a Behrend student a chance to win \$500 if they can make a basket from halfcourt at every home athletic contest. Eric Wallo, 03 Engineering, who recently won a halftime contest feels "The halftime contests are a good way to stir up spirit on campus."

Organizations can also create their own theme night to coincide with an athletic event. They will be able to promote their group in a creative way by choosing to do a theme night and can also work with other organizations to put on a theme night jointly. This will help to break the ice between different clubs on campus and bridge co-club-involvement for future Behrend activities.



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER
Matt Plizga participates in the halftime cornerkick contest.

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WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK



See page 2 for full weekend forecast.

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