

ACROSS THE CITY: Food's just across the road

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

What is it with Erie and the lack of fast food on campus? The problem actually isn't one that lies in the confines of Behrend. The problem ranges to local schools such as Mercyhurst College, Gannon University and Edinboro University.

In fact, the colleges in the Erie area are quite similar to Behrend. All three schools have places to eat on campus that are funded by their Food Services.

Mercyhurst College has the Egan Cafeteria, which is open from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. for lunch. The cafeteria serves food such as spaghetti, grilled cheese, baked and mashed potatoes and an occasional steak. The most popular place to eat on the campus is the Laker Inn. The Inn is open from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. and is only other place on campus to eat. They serve pizza, chicken nuggets, and sandwiches.

The difference between these campuses lies not in the boundaries of the schools, but in the mile surrounding them. The closest that you can find a fast food restaurant to Behrend would be the stretch of restaurants on Buffalo Road. So if you don't have a car, you are forced to eat Dobbins or Bruno's.

Mercyhurst College and Gannon both have a couple of fast food places nearby. Mercyhurst students can walk across the street to eat at Arby's or just stop at the CVS. Gannon students can walk to McDonalds or any deli anytime to get away from the food on campus.

Edinboro students seem to be the best off in terms of fast food convenience. Just across the street, on a stretch of road, lies a Burger King, a Subway, a McDonalds, a Pizza Hut and several bars. There is also the Diner within walking distance where students can sit down and get served some hot meals. Pete's Arena is the most popular spot on the campus to eat. It serves subs, pizza, burgers and fries.

This competition between campus and off-campus food services can strengthen the quality of food for the students on campus. If places like Dobbins and Bruno's had to compete with Taco Bell and McDonalds, the quality of food would most likely take a turn for the better.

College food services can't just be judged with the quality of food served on campuses. The quality is really just the accessibility of good food. If good food lies just across the street, the attitude of students drastically changes. If Behrend had the choice to eat something besides the food served on campus seven days a week, there might not be such an uproar.

by Mike Frawley
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large amount of renovations in their food service areas lately. They now have an on campus food court, the HUB, with a myriad of fast food choices for the student body. They also have many cafeterias scattered across campus to deal with the tremendous amount of students

lection available. University Park still has much better food than any of the rest of the Commonwealth campuses.

But what about other schools around the country. Different schools have had to answer the problem of food service for students in different ways. Most schools have some form of fast food restaurant within walking distance

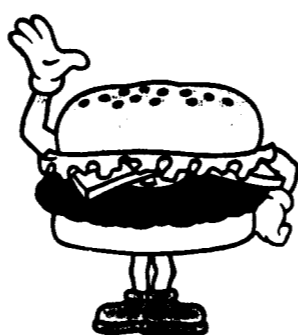
the coming years, the fast food option needs to become a reality.

Many people at Behrend also complain about the quality of food available from Dobbins and Brunos. This seems to be a universal trend among college students. All of the people who were questioned about the quality of the food offered on their respective campuses had complaints about what was offered.

While the on campus food situation might be considered grim by some, you might be wondering what is available on other campuses outside of our local area. Other schools have solved their food situation in varying means. From the traditional cafeteria style food service to bring fast food restaurants on campus and setting up food courts for students. Some schools use a combination of the two, giving students a wide variety of choices.

Penn State University Park has undergone a

Across the country...



college food choices

that are enrolled at University Park. The HUB has a wide variety of options for students to eat at, to the great benefit of students who attend UP.

Most of the Penn State commonwealth campuses have some form of cafeteria style food service, that is similar to what we have at Behrend. But because we have Bruno's, many of the smaller commonwealth campuses consider us to have better food, along with a greater se-

lectance of campus. While this is not a universal situation, it is common among many schools such as Pitt, St. Bonaventure, Case Western Reserve, and Carnegie Mellon just to name a few. While at the current time it may not be feasible for Behrend to have a fast food restaurant across Station Road, this is something that the administration needs to seriously look into. With Behrend's growing student body, and the growth that is projected in

or how well it was prepared. Most claimed, like we do, that their food service was very unresponsive to the wants of the students. But most of these students had other places that they could go to eat, so their Food Service had to adapt to the wants of students, or lose a great deal of business. While students, no matter where they go to school, will complain about the food that is available to them and dream about going home for a home cooked meal, more and more options are becoming available to them. Many companies see college campuses as a great investment, and build in areas convenient to students, giving them an option of where to spend their money. Hopefully, Behrend will soon adapt to this national trend and expand the options for students' food choices.