

## New website designed to create unity among local colleges

by Michael Frawley  
managing editor

A new resource is now available to students who want to know more about what is happening on other college campuses in the Erie area. The Beet is a new website that is designed to allow students to log in and see what is going on at one of the four local college campuses. The goal of the site is to provide students with helpful and entertaining information about college life in northwestern Pennsylvania by combining information from campus correspondents, articles from the various college newspapers, and the *Erie Daily Times*.

This site, which is currently being advertised on campus by numerous

purple flyers posted all over campus, contains information that is written by correspondents from each college campus. These correspondents write articles that highlight information that is important to the student body of the school that they are covering: Behrend, Mercyhurst, Gannon, or Edinboro. The site also reprints articles that appear in the campus print newspapers, such as Shannon Weber's "Are You at Risk?" article which appeared in the *Beacon* on 5 November 1999.

News is not the only thing that is offered at the site. A Friend Finder page will allow students to find friends on the other campuses, and a message board is available for students to post to. The site also contains news about local Erie events,

college campus events, entertainment information, and special offers from local businesses that students will be able to take advantage of. The Lifestyles section contains information about fashion, money, and jobs relating to student life. The site will also be accepting submission from students.

The editor of the website is Dr. Jim O'Loughlin, lecturer in English at Behrend and also an advisor for the *Beacon*. The site currently has a campus correspondent from each campus. Anne Rajotte, the former editor of chief of the *Beacon*, is Behrend's correspondent for the Beet. The site is produced by GoErie.com and Cyberlink and the WB Television Network is the site's sponsor. The site is located at [www.thebeet.com](http://www.thebeet.com).

**The Beacon is currently looking for editorial columnists for next semester.**

**Any interested students can mail sample columns to [behrcoll5@aol.com](mailto:behrcoll5@aol.com) by December 10, 1999**

### Stuff from front page

of Nick do not have air-conditioning. According to Mr. John Ream, Director of Operations for Penn-State Behrend, that is the main reason for stuffiness in those buildings, the lack of air-conditioning. He also said that Turnbull has no ventilation ducts or fans, as do modern buildings.

The age of the buildings may explain why they are lacking more modern systems. Turnbull dates back to 1901; it was originally a barn when the land was given to the University, and since then it has been used as the Library, a cafeteria, and a computer center. There are presently classrooms in there.

The ventilation system, the use of

windows, has not changed in the last 99 years. The Nick building was built in 1969, and since then it has had numerous improvements. Many of the labs have been updated and air-conditioning has been installed on the basement floor. The Otto Behrend Science building has pretty much stayed the same since it was erected in 1961.

So, how much longer will the stuffiness last? Dr. Jack Burke, the Senior Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean, says hopefully not for long. He explained that the University has placed a request to the state of Pennsylvania for \$3.2 million. This money would be put towards "massive renovations" of the Science building during the summer of 2000,

which would include an air-conditioning system. Also, an architect has been hired to plan air-conditioning for the first floor of Nick, and there is a project underway to install a ventilation system in Turnbull.

Dr. Burke, as well as Mr. Ream, explained that funding is the major issue though. All renovations depend upon how much money is in the Behrend budget, and how much the state helps out. "We have solutions, we're just waiting for funding," stated Mr. Ream. As it appears now, all three buildings have a much brighter future, and not so much a hotter one.

### Concert from front page

*in the Mirror* was premiered last November by the Kansas University Symphony Orchestra.

After a short intermission, the Behrend Concert Band performed for the first time under the direction of Dr. Gary A. Viebranz, who is the newly-appointed Director of Instrumental Ensembles at Behrend.

"Amazing Grace" was among the numerous songs that they performed. Each song had a special arrangement of instruments and was played with skill.

In addition to conducting the Concert Band, Dr. Viebranz directs Behrend's Jazz Ensemble and Pep Band. He is a graduate from The Ohio State University with the Bachelor of Music Education degree, cum laude.

He holds Master of Music degrees in tuba performance and conducting, as well as the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

The audience received both musical groups well and enjoyed hearing the new addition to the Behrend College Music Department.



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