

Max and Erma's:
good food, nice
atmosphere

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The Behrend
Lion roams
around campus

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BEHREND

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AMCC Tournament invades Erie Hall

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Erie Hall, one of Behrend's longest standing traditions for athletics at Penn State Erie, will be the host for this weekend's Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Tournament for the last time. Both the Behrend men's and women's basketball teams have earned the right to host the conference tournament due to their success in the conference this season.

Behrend Athletic Director Brian Streeter realizes the importance of playing host. "The opportunity to have our fans support both teams at the end of a successful season is going to be key to the success in the AMCC Tournament." He added, "Our Behrend Lions fans have assisted in other victories throughout the season. Hosting the tournament gives us the sixth man advantage, having the fans cheering our athletes on."

"Attendance this weekend should be at full capacity on both days in Erie Hall. I would expect students and fans to attend from all the campuses involved this weekend," said Streeter.

Both the men and women hosted the tournament last season as well, with the women's team taking the conference crown with a win over Pitt-Bradford. Home-court is a definite advantage for the Lions, as evident with the men's 8-1 home record this season and the women's 18-7 record over the past two seasons in Behrend's "comfy" Erie Hall.

Streeter knows "success this week-



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER
The Behrend women prepare for the AMCC Tournament earlier this week. The women hope to repeat as conference champions this weekend.

end depends on many factors. I know our athletes and their respective coaches will have prepared themselves well for the tournament."

The women's tournament will tip off at 2:00 on Friday as #3 Penn State Altoona will face #2 Frostburg State. The Behrend women will follow as they host #4 La Roche, a team they narrowly defeated earlier this season, at 4:00.

The Behrend women are coached by Rosalyn Fornari and are led by seniors Carrie Nestor and Tiffany Buck, whose careers were celebrated on Senior Night on Wednesday, February 16. Probable starters for the

Lions include Nestor, Buck, Lisa Sanders, Erin Phillips and Jen O'Lare. Jacqueline Jackson and Kate Costanzo provide a spark off the bench. All but one player from last year's championship team returns for this year's championships.

The men's team hopes to avenge their disappointing first round loss in last year's AMCC tournament. #4 La Roche, who defeated Behrend in last season's tourney, will challenge the Behrend men on Friday at 8:00. The game will be preceded by #2 Pitt-Greensburg vs. #3 Pitt-Bradford at 6:00.

The Lions finished the regular sea-

son with a perfect 12-0 conference record, despite some close games against the teams competing in this weekend's tournament. The Lions are coached by Dave Niland and feed off the leadership of seniors Chris Hughes, Andy Lawrence John Park and Nate Willson. Probable starters for the Lions are Hughes, Lawrence, Park, Matt Keith and Ashley Orris.

Willson and Andy Berchtold give the Lions some depth off the bench.

The men are riding a 13-game win streak, allowing them to break last season's school record of 21 wins, winning their 22nd game against Lake Erie last week.

Streeter commented, "I expect to see well played games in all contests this weekend." The competition of

these teams throughout the season prove that the weekend will be intense, with eight teams vying for AMCC glory. Only two will win.

"Streeter concluded, "I hope our fans here realize how important they are to our teams and come out to Erie Hall to support the women's and men's teams as they play for the AMCC Basketball Championship."



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER
The Behrend men do defensive drills in preparation for this weekend's conference tournament.

GE extends partnership with Behrend Blue Bus is free

by Kevin Bruner and Liz Hayes
assistant photo editor
and news co-editor

General Electric and the School of Engineering and Engineering

technology students as a test laboratory. Also, two senior projects in advanced communication systems for remote monitoring and diagnostics of locomotives will use the cab. "This

labs in Erie (where GETS is headquartered).

The cab had to go through much rehabilitation before it could be used by Behrend students. Originally the cab was painted bright yellow for the Santa Fe Railroad and had to be repainted. As Gray put it, "blue and white was a natural choice" of paint color for the cab. The GE and Penn State logos were also added.

Other improvements included the addition of a floor and stairs that had to be welded onto the cab.

Once it was refurbished, several people at Behrend worked to move the cab into place. John Ream, director of

operations at Behrend, approved the location, and Tom Guttes of the grounds crew assisted in preparing the foundation for the cab.

As far as Gray can determine, the cab will be staying at Behrend for at least one to two years: "It will stay until we have completed all research work and senior projects, or until it is needed to support a special mission for GE."

The cab was brought to Behrend via a tractor-trailer and had to be lifted into place by a 20-ton crane. According to Gray, all funding provided for the cab's rehabilitation and transportation came from GE. The cab's estimated worth is \$100 thousand.

"The locomotive cab will help me provide a realistic and fun laboratory..."

- Dr. Robert Gray, an assistant professor of Engineering

Technology at Penn State Behrend have come together to give Behrend students a chance to learn in a fun and realistic environment: on Wednesday, February 16, GE moved a locomotive cab to the side of the Hammill Building so that students may participate in hands-on research.

Dr. Robert Gray, an assistant professor of Engineering at Behrend, headed the pursuit in getting the locomotive moved to Behrend. Gray was the first to notice the unused cab and started negotiating with GE to have it moved to Behrend. The six-ton cab, which was built in 1995 and used as the operator's compartment for an AC 6000 horsepower locomotive, was initially used for the GE Transportation System (GETS). GETS designs global transformation systems for locomotives, off-highway vehicles, and rapid transit cars.

The cab will be used by electrical

locomotive cab is just one of many ways that GE is helping Behrend's School of Engineering and Engineering Technology prepare engineering student to enter the workforce," stated Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley. Glenn Shaffer, manager of Service Development for Locomotive Remote Monitoring and Diagnostics and the GETS program manager for this project, said, "this a great opportunity for students to apply their textbook theory to the real world."

Gray will also be utilizing the cab. "The locomotive cab will help me provide a realistic and fun laboratory for teaching the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system and fleet management and geographical information systems (GIS)." As well as working in the cab, engineering and engineering technology students will receive hands-on experience at the GE Learning Center and other GE testing



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER
Dr. Robert Gray stands in front of the locomotive cab.



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER
Ken Miller and SGA give students free access to the Blue Bus.

by Nicole Greene
calendar page editor

Due to a recent act by the Student Government Association and with the help of their advisor, the newly appointed Dean of Students, Ken Miller, the Blue Bus is now free for all students.

Beginning this month, anyone riding the Penn State Behrend Blue Bus will no longer be required to pay the one dollar fee that was previously charged.

SGA has taken action to ensure a free ride for all passengers. The concept of making the ride free came directly from those who ride the bus. Miller, who also promoted several ideas on revamping the process, then brought the notion to SGA and they

worked on putting the plan into action.

The idea was formulated after a transportation fee was put into practice at University Park. "The fee was designed to fund The Loop at University Park," stated Miller. The Loop, which is also used at Behrend, was implemented as a convenient way for passengers to load the bus in close proximity to their residence halls, thereby eliminating long walks to the bus stops.

When Behrend began charging the transportation fee, however, students were still being charged for each ride. "SGA then advocated to Dean Lilley to use the transportation fee to offset the income," as Miller explained. "The balance pays for other

Blue Bus continued on page 2

NEXT WEEK

The Beacon will have a special four-page issue next week to cover the AMCC Tournament.



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