

# THE BEACON

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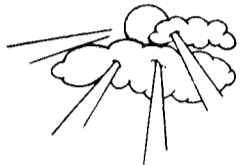
12 pages



FALL 2000

### WEATHER

TODAY : Partly Sunny



High - 86  
Low - 68

Check page 2 for weekend forecast

### INSIDE

#### PAGE 7

**Who's not parking?**  
With the small growth in enrollment, Behrend hasn't accounted for the parking that commuters and residents must struggle to find before class begins.

#### PAGE 8

**Enter the Beacon's road trip contest** where you can win \$250 for simply cruisin' the country.



#### PAGE 9

**Fall Preview of upcoming movies**  
We break down the top movies expected to hit the box office this fall. Check to see which is the one to see.  
ALSO...enter the Beacon's weekly poll about entertainment in our society.

#### PAGE 10

**Fall Sports Preview: Soccer**

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Offices are located downstairs in Reed Union Building

## Getting Better : Enrollment takes back seat to renovations

*"Our goal over the next few years is to concentrate on getting better, not bigger."*

Dr. Jack Burke, Senior Associate Provost and Dean

by Liz Hayes  
news editor

Students returning to campus after a long summer away were confronted with piles of dirt, construction crews, and yards of caution tape. Also abundant, however, were signs of change and progress, demonstrating the massive amount of renovation and growth encompassing the campus. In order to keep pace with the rise in student population, the campus has been building up and building out in the past few years – a trend that will continue for some time to come.

In the next few issues, the *Beacon* will be further exploring the developments, renovations, and construction happening around the little world called Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. This week, the focus will be on student enrollment and the more immediate renovations students will be encountering in their day-by-day academic routines.

"Our goal over the next few years is to concentrate on getting better, not bigger," stated Dr. Jack Burke, senior associate provost and senior associate dean. Many students have been commenting on the seeming explosion of people on campus this semester: "I can't believe how many new people there are around here – lining up in Bruno's, clogging the hallways in Academic. Where did they come from?" asks Gretchen Lokey, a Behrend student. Actually, according to Burke, enrollment is only up about 150 people from last year, for a grand total of approximately 3,800 students. An official university number will not be available until early in October as late add-drop is still occurring, Burke adds. There are about 870 first year students here this for the fall semester, and approximately 1,500 students are living on campus.

Until the Research and Development Center (REDC), the next academic building in the plans, is completed, the campus would like enrollment levels to remain as they are. "When [the REDC] Building is funded by the state, the university will also begin planning additional on-campus housing," Burke said.

There are many renovations, however, that have already been completed, and several more that should be completed within the next few weeks. Many of the renovations that have been completed are of the type that affect students on a daily basis, but may easily be overlooked and taken for granted. These improvements are largely in the form of new air conditioning, lighting, and appearance.

Air conditioning was installed in all of the classrooms, laboratories, and offices of the Otto Behrend Science Building. Also, the ceilings and lights were replaced throughout the building.

In Turnbull, air conditioning should be up and running by the end of this week in all of the classrooms, according to Mr. John Ream, director of operations. Also, lighting in the classrooms has been replaced.

In the Nick Building, Phase III of an intensive modernization project was completed this summer. These renovations are courtesy of a National Science Foundation Academic Research Infrastructure grant totaling \$211,000 – a grant that the University matched, said Dr. Larry Eckroat, associate professor of biology. Phase I occurred in 1995, including renovations of the south side of lower Nick, and Phase II was completed last year, during which a lab at the east end of the building was divided into two advanced biology labs. Phase III was

Growth continued on page 2

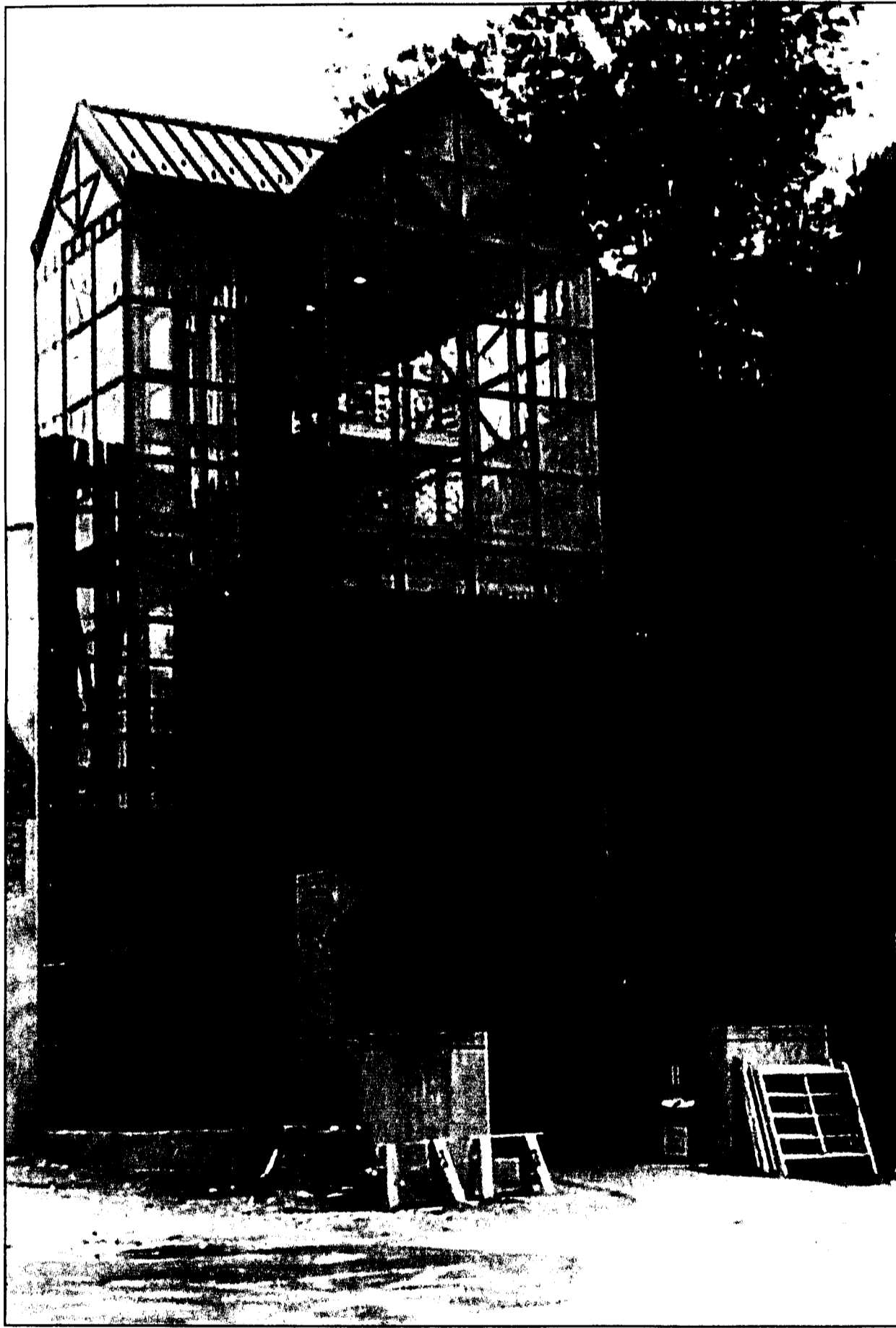


PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

The elevator in the Stairtower is set to be completed by the end of September.

### In the coming weeks...

Technology Upgrades

New baseball and softball fields / The ARC

Logan House renovations, Chapel and Bell Tower, Knowledge Park

The next 5 years...

## Bush, Nader and Gore's daughter speak to Erie community

by Mike Frawley  
and Erin McCurdy  
managing editor and staff writer

With a Presidential election occurring in less than 3 months, campaigning is now in full swing. With a good possibility that this could be a very close election, both Vice President Gore and Governor Bush are trying to gain every vote possible. Many political analysts are saying that Pennsylvania could fall in either camp this time around, so both candidates will be campaigning hard in this area. In the past week, three different parties have made stops in Erie.

George W. Bush

After originally planning only to come to town for a closed speech at

the Blasco Memorial Library, George W. Bush changed his plans and held a public rally at the Erie National Airport on Wednesday, August 30. After being delayed almost an hour, a cheering crowd greeted Governor Bush and Erie native Governor Tom Ridge as they descended from the Bush/Cheney 2000 campaign jet to give a few remarks to the crowd. After a warm introduction by Governor Ridge, who welcomed his friend of twenty years to his hometown, Bush took centerstage to talk to his gathered supporters. Bush talked about his plans to cut taxes, increase military spending, and return control of people's social security money to them for their own investment. He also made a few thinly veiled jabs to President Clinton, promising to return integrity and



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER  
Presidential candidate George W. Bush and Governor Tom Ridge are welcomed at the Erie Airport.

honor to the office of President if he is elected.

Karenn Gore

On Thursday, August 23, Vice President Gore's daughter, Karenn Gore, held a rally in Erie at East High School. Originally Tipper Gore, the wife of the Vice President, was scheduled to come to Erie, but a bout with the flu sent his daughter to Erie in her place. Pro-Life protesters were out in force during the rally, but an enthusiastic crowd greeted Karenn and all of the major Democratic officials in Erie, led by Mayor Joyce Savoccio as they took the stage. Chanting of "More with Gore" greeted the opening remarks of the Mayor,

Campaign continued on pg. 2