



RECEIVED
SEP 18 2000
BEHREND COLLEGE
LIBRARY

BEACON

A PENN STATE ERIE STUDENT PUBLICATION

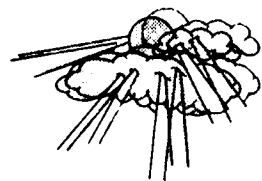
XLVIII No. 4

September 15, 2000

2 SECTIONS - 18 PAGES

FALL 2000

TODAY : Partly Cloudy



High 64
Low 54

Check page 2 for
weekend forecast

PAGE 7

KNIGHT SETUP?

Bobby Knight questioned whether or not his firing was setup by Indiana University.

PAGE 8

PLASTIC OR PAPER?

Your Money and You debuts with the always debated issue of credit cards vs. cash.

PAGE 10

JUST VOTE BEHREND

Frawley has "new look" on politics in *Pay No Attention to the Man Behind the Curtain*.

SECTION 2 - PAGE 3

CROSS COUNTRY

FESTIVAL

Behrend Lions to host third annual Penn State Behrend Cross Country Festival this Saturday.

WANNA GO TO MARS?



Donna Shirley takes questions from the audience after her lecture.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Speaker Series launched with Donna Shirley

by Liz Hayes
news editor

Wednesday, September 13, speaker Donna Shirley kicked off the "American Dream in the New Millennium" Speaker Series, which is new to Behrend this year. Shirley has been greatly involved with NASA the past 30 years, and regaled the audience assembled in the Reed Commons with stories of her experiences.

After Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley introduced her, Shirley began her speech with some background information on how she became

interested and involved in space and engineering. Growing up in rural Oklahoma, she always wanted to be a pilot, and her dream came true at the age of 15 when she began taking pilot lessons.

Several years later she enrolled in the aeronautical engineering program at the University of Oklahoma, in which she was the only woman. After the presentation, Shirley was asked to comment on the difficulty of her minority status. She almost shrugged off the difficulties she faced then, and said that even now, in managerial positions, there is a very solid glass ceiling for anyone who does not fit

the mold, not just for women.

Shirley proceeded to describe the numerous projects she worked on. It all began with the Mariner 10 project in 1970-1973. Other projects she spoke of included solar energy usage; the Mission Design project which focused on how to maneuver from one planet to another; and several different robotics projects, particularly those involving planetary rovers that gathering geological data and specimens on Mars.

Shirley continued on page 3

Area's registration office confused on voter eligibility

by Jason Snyder
and Erin McCurdy
editor-in-chief and staff writer

During this past week two Beacon reporters called the Erie County Voter Registration Office (ECVRO) on three different days in hopes of getting information on voter registration for college students. The registration office gave three different answers to the same basic question of whether or not Behrend students who live on campus during the school year can vote locally.

In the initial phone call made to the ECVRO, the goal was simply to obtain about 200 registration forms so Behrend students could register to vote. After being transferred to another person, an unidentified woman asked what will be done with the registration forms. After explaining that the forms would be given out so that Behrend students could vote, she said that this could not be done. She said, "they have to register to vote in their home district if they want to vote."

Dr. Robert Speel, associate profes-

sor of political science at Behrend was then contacted to verify the information given by the registration office. He said that according to the Pennsylvania law on the secretary of state's official website, to register in PA, voters must be 18 years of age, have lived in PA as a U.S. citizen for 30 days prior to the election, and have not been in jail for conviction of a felony in the past five years.

Nothing more is said about voter registration eligibility.

He also pointed out that while attending the University of Pennsylvania, he registered over 1000 students to vote at their on-campus addresses, including himself. University Park's College Republicans have also been known for doing the same thing.

In addition, Dr. Speel points out that "the U.S. Census just counted all students living on-campus as local residents this past April. The large student population here is counted when determining local representation in

Voting continued on page 3

Behrend athletic facilities growing rapidly

by Liz Hayes
news editor

Since school let out in May 2000, much work has been completed on the new Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC) on Jordan Road. Although most students have not had a chance to see the construction on the ARC up close, a lot has been done to the internal structure.

Over the summer the most time-intensive project was installing the walls of the building. There was a delay in the completion of the walls, which then set back the rest of the construction. At deadline, the last wall was set to be finished this Friday, according to Athletic Director Brian Streeter. After the walls are in place, the last time-consuming project will be putting in the gym floor, which

should take from six to eight weeks.

Right now, due to the wall delay, the finish date is rather tentative. The dedication ceremony for the building has been scheduled for November 9 at 2:30, though the building probably will not be quite ready for full use by students. Streeter hopes that the ARC will officially open its doors when students return from Thanksgiving Break.

ARC continued on page 3

NEXT UP...

Logan House
renovations, Chapel and
Bell Tower, Knowledge
Park

The next 5 years...

Students have problems with off-campus housing

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

As the beginning of the new school year approached this summer, many students had to go through the tribulations of trying to find off campus housing. Because Erie is a college town with 4 major colleges in the area, there is a myriad of different choices that students could make. Most students had very little problem in finding an apartment, signing the lease, and getting settled in. But some students were not as lucky in the realtor that they chose to deal with.

A combination of wanting to have a place to live away from school and a lack of available housing drove many students to look for alternative housing in the local area. One company that had a variety of rental properties in the area was Palermo Realty, whose office is located at 3435 West Lake Road in Millcreek. Palermo has apartments for rent, among other locations, at Brookwood Village at 5100 Clubhouse Drive in Belle Valley and in downtown Erie at 407 West 8th Street.

Behrend students who rented or tried to rent from Palermo have reported a great variety of problems with Palermo, from promised apartments not materializing to threats of never renting to students again for problems not caused by students. Most of the students involved declined to publicly comment on their specific problems, but from a letter that came into the Beacon's possession; Palermo seems to be biased against college students.

One Behrend student, Tracy Hamm, arranged to rent an apartment from Palermo with a group of friends over the summer. When she and her friends came into town and showed up at the Palermo office to sign their lease, the apartment that they had been promised was suddenly not available, and they were forced at the last minute to try and find other accommodations for the school year.

Two other students, who asked not to be identified, attempted to move into their apartments in early August. When they arrived at their new apartment, which Palermo said was in living condition, they found the

Housing continued on page 3



Brookwood Village in Belle Valley.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

NEWS

WEATHER.....2
WORLD & NATION.....4
NATIONAL CAMPUS.....7

EDITORIAL

STAFF EDITORIAL.....10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...9

FEATURES

ERIE HAPPENINGS.....12
A&E.....14

SPORTS

BEHREND SPORTS.....15
NATIONAL SPORTS.....18

NEWSROOM: 898-6488
FAX US: 898-6019

Offices are located downstairs in
Reed Union Building