

**FOCAL POINT**

AND THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON

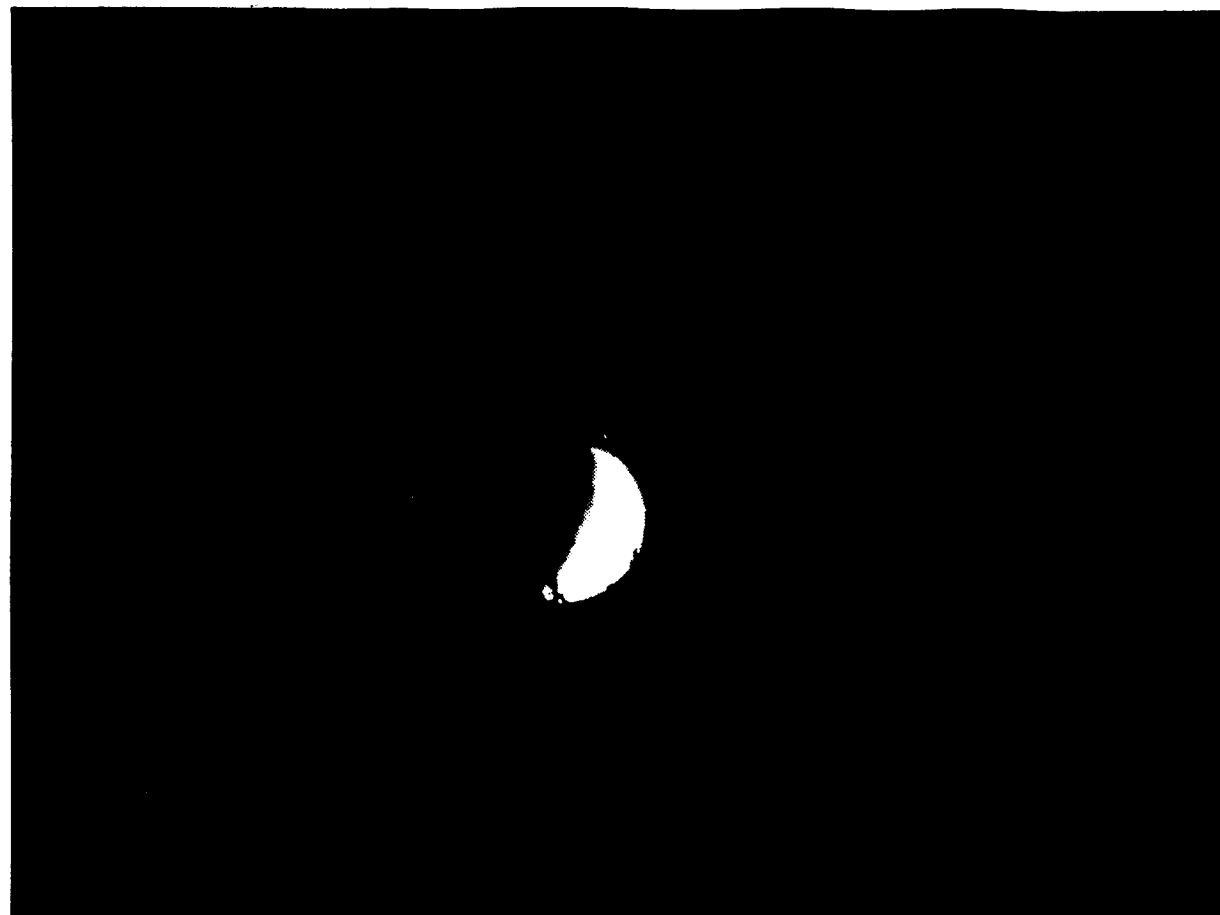


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Have you howled at the moon lately? You missed a great opportunity on Tuesday to see the Eerie moon through the many tree branches at Behrend. But it's not too late - you can still see the man in the moon before the weather gets too cold to be outside for more than three minutes at a time!

**Communications department purchases new digital equipment**

by Liz Hayes  
news editor

There were great celebrations happening in the ground floor of the Library on Tuesday, October 31, and not just to celebrate Halloween. On this day the new video equipment was installed and in operation for the Communications department. The equipment, which has been greatly anticipated all semester by students and faculty alike, is located in the former study rooms to the left of room 12 in the Library.

"It seems like the communications majors are always left out because we are the minority majors on campus. It is nice to see us getting recognized," commented Douglas Smith, a third semester DUS student. Smith and the other students in COMMU 383, the Introduction to Audio/Video Production class, were among the first to use the new equipment.

In four of these rooms, \$3,500 dollar editing/compositing machines have been added. These machines allow students to take film from a standard 1/2" VHS tape and transfer it to the hard drive of an editing machine. Students then work directly from the hard drive, eliminating the switching back and forth between two editing machines from the previous system (which essentially consisted of two VCRs). These hard drives will store at least one hour of video imaging each. When a student is finished editing his or her footage, the final version is then shifted back to a VHS tape for viewing.

These new machines are digital machines, allowing for higher resolution and faster production. Students have all the needed editing components in one machine. Text, transitions, graphics, music, voiceovers - all can now be done within one unit.

As Mr. John Kerwin, an assistant professor of communications new to Behrend this semester, stated, "The key thing about this technology is that it is what is being used in the working world." Kerwin teaches the COMMU 383 class, which is currently the primary user of this

equipment. Kerwin has also instituted similar improvements at two other schools before Behrend.

A fifth editing lab features more advanced equipment than the other four. The \$25,000 FAST system features even greater resolution and efficiency. Kerwin estimates that this is four times faster than the other editing units. The FAST unit provides users with up to four hours

actually being used and what information was needed in the working world. At that point, approximately five years ago, the 1/2" editing machines (which were replaced by the latest upgrades) were added to complement the 3/4" editing machine, which was about 20 years old. Also, additions were made to the curriculum to better enhance and broaden COMBA

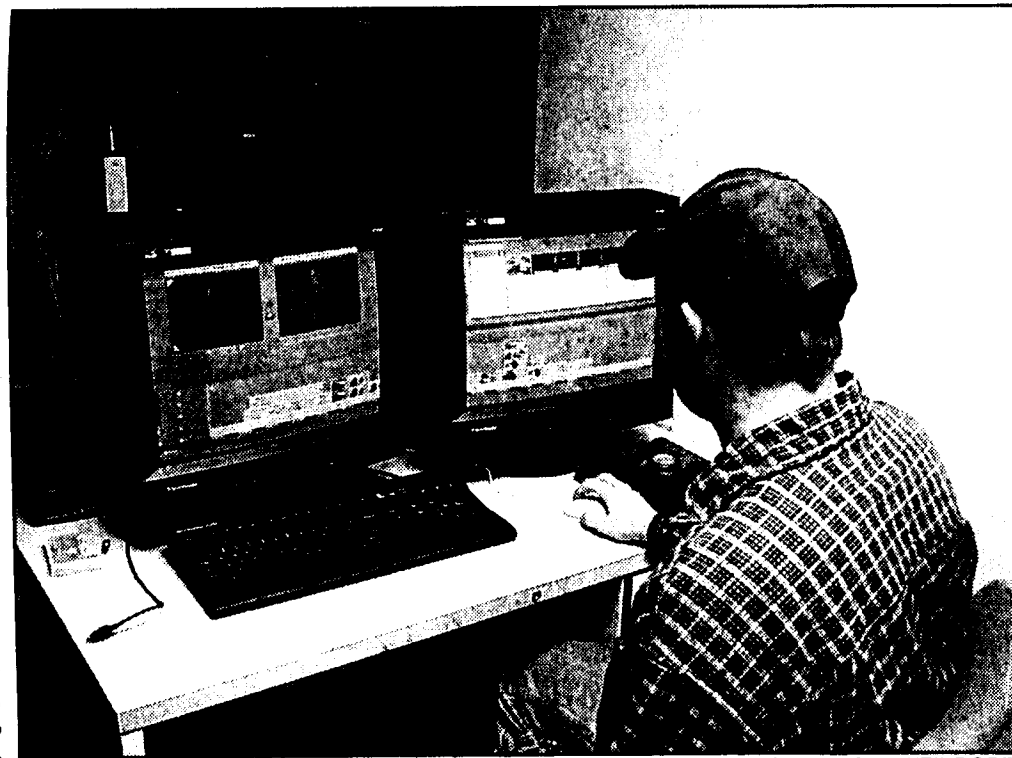


PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Leo Hanley, a student in Mr. John Kerwin's COMMU 383 class, demonstrates the new digital equipment in one of the media laboratories.

of storage time (versus the one hour from the other four). It provides over 300 transition and graphics options, whereas the other four provide about 150. Kerwin said that this system is more advanced than those used by many media outlets.

Along with the FAST equipment, a digital video camera was purchased. Kerwin hopes that in the future three more digital cameras can be added, along with two more editing units. All in all, the new improvements totaled \$60,000. Kerwin said that the department has not yet determined a user policy for the new equipment. While the equipment is designed for the students in certain classes, he would at least like to make it open to all communications students. Right now the labs will be open during Library hours, and students can check out the keys at the circulation desk.

There are other improvements and additions in the works for the Communications department. Dr. Rod Troester, associate professor of speech communication, stated that the College's ability to make the current additions was greatly enhanced by feedback from former graduates. These graduates informed the faculty of what equipment was

students' knowledge in the field.

When Dr. Mike Simmons retired last semester, the College was presented with the opportunity to gain a professor with knowledge of both journalism and film/broadcast, which it found in Mr. Kerwin. Also added to the faculty this semester was Dr. Carla Lloyd, associate professor of advertising and communications, and Dr. Miriam McMullen-Pastrick.

Within the next five years, Dr. Troester hopes that the College will be expanding the Academic Building to make room for additional classroom and laboratory space for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. However, as this money will most likely come from private donations and not from state funding, he is not sure how soon these renovations will occur. He also believes, and Mr. Kerwin agreed, that current curriculum may be expanded to better utilize the new equipment. But all agree that the new equipment will make strides for the College: "I think the new labs are going to be very helpful, and that they will make great strides for the Communications department, updating it to the 21st century," commented Sarah Orr, a fifth semester COMBA student.

**WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK**

SATURDAY



SHOWERS  
HIGH 51  
LOW 42

SUNDAY



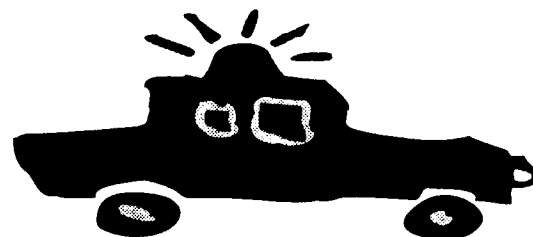
MOSTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH 46  
LOW 35

MONDAY



SHOWERS  
HIGH 53  
LOW 37

**Police And Safety**



10/24/2000	20:30	A student reported that he had received harassing phone calls.
10/24/2000	21:30	A student reported simple assault.
10/25/2000	01:00	A janitor reported a leaking container in Obb 122. They removed both containers to the sink and reported the incident to the Science department.
10/27/2000	10:12	A report of two young children who regularly play unattended in the west academic area. Caller was concerned for the safety of the children.
10/29/2000	01:02	Two students were found with a stolen Harborcreek Township STOP sign in the Ohio Hall lot. Both had been drinking and were under the age of 21.
10/30/2000	11:30	Assisted State Police with finding a student on campus.
10/30/2000	17:10	A student reported a possible stalking incident.

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