



# THE BEHREND BEACON

DEC 01 2000

A PENN STATE ERIE STUDENT PUBLICATION

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18 pages - 2 SECTIONS

PENNSSTATE Erie

FALL 2000

### WEATHER

FRIDAY - Snow

High 35  
Low 30

Check page 2 for weekend forecast

### NEXT WEEK

Last issue of the semester. Get all your events advertised before the Holiday Break on the Calendar of Events page.

Christmas shopping tips and holiday spirit to kick off winter break 2000/2001.

Farewell to Mike Frawley



### INSIDE

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TALK TO THE BEACON

The *Beacon* and NSBE will co-sponsor an event aimed for students to share their suggestions with the *Beacon* editors. The theme of the event will be diversity, but all are welcome.

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MR. GRINCH

'Tis the season for the Grinch.

Movie and Music review

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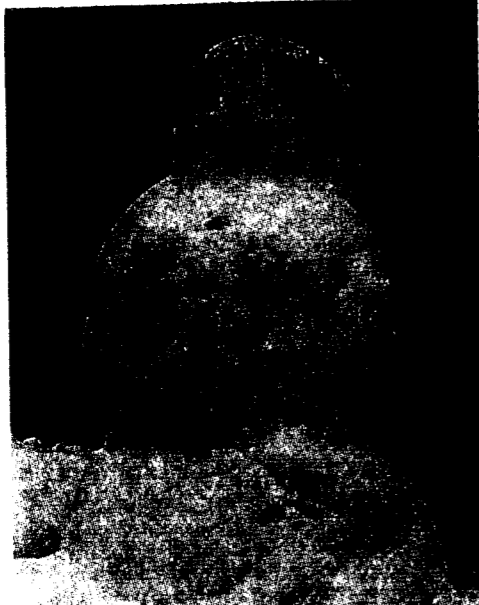
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### CONTACT US

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Offices are located downstairs in Reed Union Building

## More snow expected after week of cancellations



More snowmen expected soon.

by Mike Frawley  
managing editor

Winter weather came roaring into Erie last week with two days of blizzard like snow storms which caused a myriad of problems for Behrend students, faculty, and staff.

On Tuesday, November 21, area residents awoke to 6-12 inches of snow blanketing the ground, with reports of much more to come. With so much snow falling in so short of a period of time, local streets departments were unable to keep up with getting the roads cleared, and almost every area school was closed by 9 a.m., including Behrend, which cancelled all classes for the day. It was extremely slow going on most city streets throughout the day.

While students across the county enjoyed a day off from their studies, the area began to dig out in preparation for the surge of travelers

that was sure to come the next day as people attempted to get home for the Thanksgiving holiday. While the snow did stop by early afternoon on Tuesday and the roads were slowly opened up, Mother Nature had more in store for the Erie area on Wednesday.

Classes on Wednesday at Behrend began as usual. The roads were clear and no snow was falling, but by late morning snow was falling steadily, and road conditions were deteriorating. Local school districts began dismissing school early, and many Behrend students skipped their classes to get an early start on their drive home. Behrend officially closed the campus at 2 p.m.

Road conditions were so bad by this time that it took many Behrend students almost five hours to make the usual two-hour drive to Pittsburgh. "Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., four inches of snow fell on my car. After digging out from that, it took

me almost four hours to get to Pittsburgh. I usually make the trip there in two hours," said Behrend student Lesa Lewis Werkmeister. Both I-90 and I-79 were closed for various amounts of time over both days, as many accidents, especially ones involving tractor-trailers, occurring along both highways.

One local accident of note occurred at the Wal-Mart in Keystone Place along upper Peach Street on Tuesday evening, when the Plexiglas enclosure over the front entrance collapsed, trapping one person for a short period of time. It is believed that the collapse was due to the build up of snow on the enclosure during the storm on Tuesday.

Resident students reported that snow removal on campus was very poor during the storm, with

### SNOWFALL

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## Tensions remain high

### Time running out for Child Care Center to be saved

by Mike Frawley  
and Katie Galley  
managing editor  
and editorial page editor

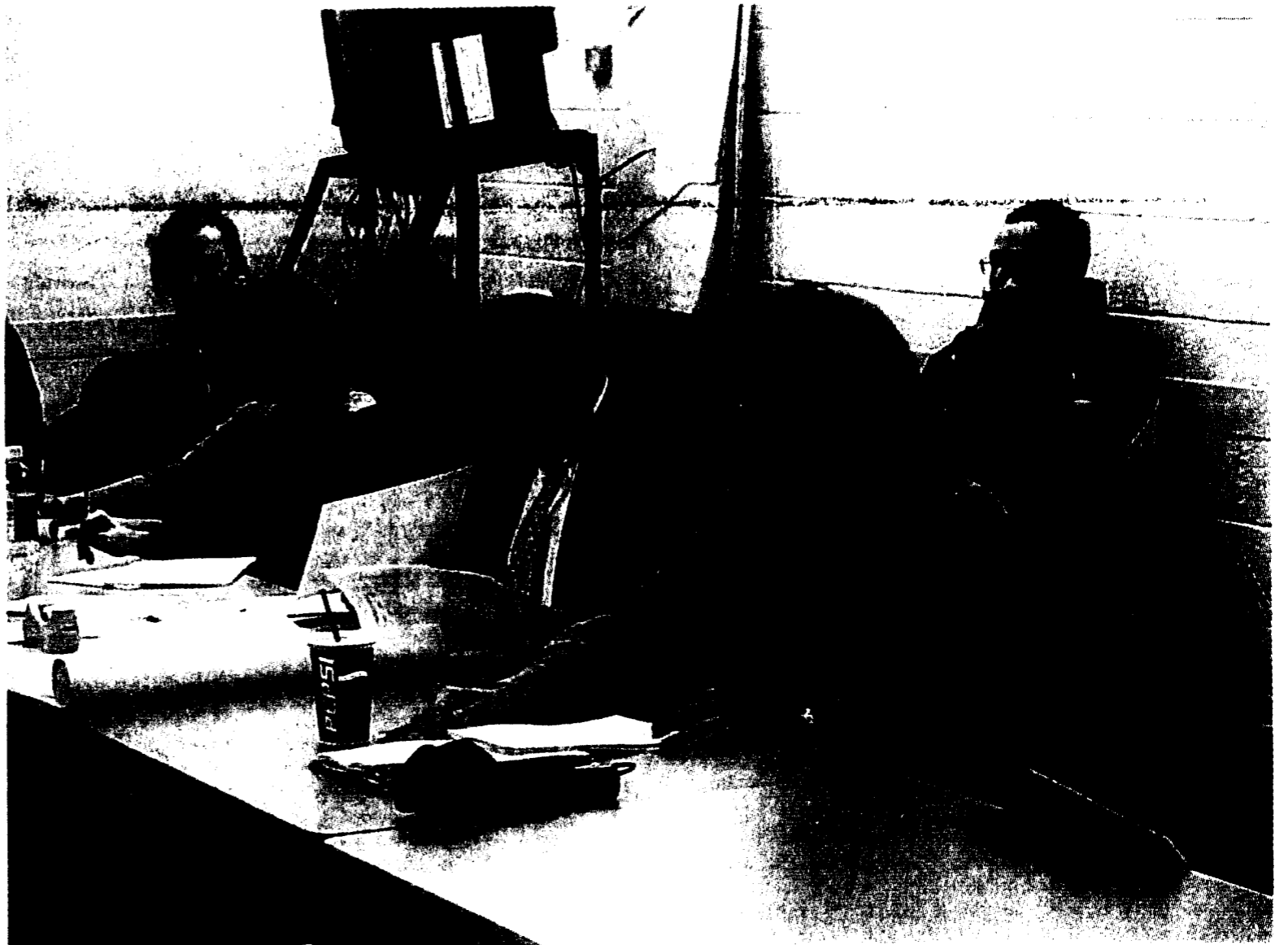
Parents with children at the Penn State Behrend Child Care Center were crestfallen after hearing the grim future of the center from school officials.

The fate of the Penn State Behrend Child Care center was discussed at length this week at two meetings. The first meeting, held on Tuesday, November 28, was sponsored by the Women's Commission, and a second meeting was held on Thursday, November 30, sponsored by the Child Care Center Parent Teacher Organization.

The first meeting held earlier in the week in Reed 114, was attended by an estimated 50 people. It gave concerned students, faculty and staff a chance to speak to many of the people on the boards that will be advising Provost and Dean John Lilley in the final decision about the Center.

### TENSIONS

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Ken Miller, center, and Dr. Peg Thoms, right, hold a meeting on Tuesday, November 28, in Reed 114. The meeting was hosted by the Women's Commission to discuss the future of the Behrend Child Care Center. Another meeting was held at the Child Care Center on Thursday.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

## Financial gifts offer opportunity for growth and scholarships

by Amy Peffer  
staff writer

Due to over \$4 million in financial gifts and campaign programs, Behrend is constructing a new chapel, completing the observatory, and awarding numerous scholarships. Those giving such generous gifts include families, corporations, Behrend alumni, community members, and Behrend faculty, all of whom are striving to see Behrend students succeed.

Penn State University believes in destiny. That belief led the University to introduce a \$1 billion campaign entitled "A Grand Destiny." Committees of students, staff, alumni, and Penn State friends had been planning the campaign for years before it was officially enacted on July 1, 1996. A Grand Destiny has four major goals that it hopes to reach and exceed before its finale on June 30, 2003. These goals include: undergraduate student

support, graduate student support, faculty support, and program and ongoing support. The main objective of the campaign is to raise \$1 billion through private pledges and funding, which will hopefully continue long after the program officially ends.

Behrend Associate Provost for Advancement Chris Reber called the plan a "perpetual investment," because as Penn State University receives donations, the money is invested and the interest is used to implement programs and scholarships. Behrend, which will likely receive \$14-15 million from A Grand Destiny, will make scholarship endowments the focus of its spending. The campaign has provided for Behrend immensely this fall, as scholarship services increased by thirty-two percent, from \$219,140 last year, to \$289,200 this year. Over 250 Behrend students have already benefited from the program, but as pledges and donations increase, many

more students will likely see their destinies through scholarship awards.

The Grand Destiny Campaign is also receiving funds from the Erie Community Foundation and General Electric. The ECF donated \$200,000 to install elevators in both the Reed Union Building and the glass-enclosed stair tower. Meanwhile, GE is involved with Behrend in a two-year \$175,000 plan. The GE Fund, known as the Learning Excellence Grant, will work with the Schools of Business and the School of Engineering. The objective is to create collaborative learning environments with students and faculty. Students will gain entrepreneurship and problem-solving skills, both of which are vital for success in today's world.

Behrend will soon be home to a multi-faith chapel and carillon, courtesy of Larry and Kathryn Smith and their \$3.1 million donation. The Smiths announced their gift at a press

conference in the spring of 1999, and more recently announced the expansion of bells in the carillon. The Smiths, who own Automation Devices, Inc. in Fairview, pledged to fund the chapel after receiving support from family, friends, and local clergy when Larry learned that he would eventually need a kidney transplant.

Kathryn Smith said about the importance of a campus chapel, "students are making lots of critical decisions in college, and many of them will benefit by having a place to receive support and guidance." The chapel is being designed by a nationally renowned architect, famous for his churches, such as the one at Camp David. The chapel will host weddings, baptisms, special religious events, and possibly even community concerts. The chapel's structure is designed to welcome students, faculty, and community members of all denominations and beliefs.

Behrend released a statement requesting that the design "inspire reverence, awe, contemplation, and peace," combining the aspects of Glenhill Farm, the Library, and the Engineering Complex. Completion of the chapel, which will be named for Larry and Kathryn Smith, is projected at July 31, 2001.

Larry Smith's parents, Juanita and the late Floyd Smith, made a \$1 million donation to Behrend in 1989 with its purpose to be determined at a later date. Since Floyd loved the idea of a bell tower, Larry said that the only sensible thing to do was designate his father's gift for the new bell tower and carillon. The bell tower and carillon, which have a complete set of forty-eight bells, should be completed in fall

### GIFTS

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