

FOCAL POINT

THE TREE WITH ONE BLACK SHOE



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Missing: one black tennis shoe, size eleven, black laces. Last seen outside the Academic Building just before ten feet of snow fell. There is a possible reward for information leading to its return. Please contact us by emailing behrcoll5@aol.com.

FROM FRONT PAGE

GIFTS

2001 and will be named for Juanita and Floyd Smith.

William H. and Martha Hilbert and their sons recently gave \$300,000 to Behrend to establish two scholarship endowments. The Hilberts' sons, John, Joseph, and William Jr., play vital roles in managing Reddog Industries in Erie. They have given \$50,000 to create the Reddog Industries, Inc. Scholarship Endowment. The Bill Hilbert and Martha Hilbert Community Foundation Endowment Fund gave \$250,000 to create the PHB, Inc. and Reddog Industries, Inc. Scholarship Endowment. William Hilbert Sr. first became associated with Behrend in the 1950s while taking night classes. He got to know Dr. Lilley in the early 1980s and served on a committee which advised Behrend on how to develop a strong plastics engineering technology program. Mr. Hilbert, who is CEO of Reddog and PHB, is a member of Behrend's Council of Fellows, Entrepreneurship Advisory Board, and Industrial Machining Advisory Committee. After stating that he has been working with Behrend for years, Hilbert said, "it has played an important forward-looking role in helping our companies—and all of northwestern Pennsylvania—improve workforce training and development. We're pleased to support these scholarship endowments." The first PHB scholarship, which is for engineering students, is currently being awarded.

Former Behrend student Dr. Robert Mehalso and his wife Elizabeth have contributed \$250,000 to improve the observatory and create a scholarship endowment. Dr. Mehalso, who attended Behrend from 1960-1962, is president of MicroTec Associates in Rochester, New York. In 1989, he was named a Penn State Behrend Alumni Fellow and currently serves on the Council of Fellows. The Mehalsos have given \$107,500 to fund the new observatory and high technology telescope. The decision to fund the observatory and telescope was an easy one, as Mehalso said, "science is one of our greatest interests in life, so building a new observatory is a perfect fit. The remaining \$142,500 will be used to create a namesake scholarship. Dr. Mehalso

and his wife are still discussing the guidelines of the scholarship, which will likely be awarded in the spring. Dr. Lilley said, "this generous gift by Bob and Liz Mehalso will enhance the College's ability to recruit and assist academically talented, hard-working, and committed students. We deeply appreciate their gift."

Another one of the many gifts Behrend received was from the former director of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Dr. Richard Progelhof, and his wife Pat. They have created two trusts totaling \$30,000 to fund scholarships. In addition, the Progelhofs have also set aside a portion of their estate which will be used for scholarships and equipment. The Richard and Patricia Progelhof Scholarship will be given to those full and part-time students in SEET with strong academic records and financial need.

To honor Richard's father and late mother, the John and Madeline Progelhof Memorial Scholarship will be given to first-generation college students. Richard and his brother John are the sons of an Austrian immigrant and the first in their family to attend college. Richard created one of the scholarships in his parents' names because "blue-collar families need assistance today, just as we did growing up in New Jersey, and this scholarship will help those deserving students." Dr. Progelhof came to Behrend in 1992 and spent seven years in SEET, where he selected the faculty and developed various partnerships with local industries. The many other contributors to SEET influenced Dr. Progelhof to donate part of his estate, as he stated, "I want to model myself after them and assist the many deserving students who attend Penn State Behrend."

The Erie Plastics Corporation, founded by the late Paul C. Roche, has given a \$250,000 endowment to Behrend in honor of its deceased founder. Students are eligible for a scholarship if they have a parent employed by one of Erie Plastics' three locations, and also if they plan to pursue plastics or business studies. Paul Roche's son, Paul "Hoop" Roche, Jr., shares in his father's love of Behrend

and has been an advocate for promoting Behrend's mission of teaching, research, and community outreach. Father and son were both named to Penn State's Mount Nittany Society and have contributed to the engineering complex. Hoop Roche helped to raise funds for the state-of-the-art complex, while the glass-enclosed atrium joining the engineering complex was obtained through donations and the estate of the late Paul C. Roche Sr.

Because they believe in their students, employees of Behrend have joined together to create the Faculty/Staff Campaign. The Campaign awards scholarships to deserving students in each of Behrend's four schools. The campaign, which is under the direction of associate professor of engineering Robert Farrell, began in January 2000. Farrell and his committee of faculty and staff hoped to inspire their co-workers to raise \$150,000 to award scholarships within the four schools. With nearly 2/3 of Behrend staff contributing through payroll deduction, the \$150,000 has been surpassed and now stands at approximately \$220,000. Farrell is extremely happy with the progress and said, "this successful campaign reflects the commitment of faculty and staff to supporting our students who will benefit from our generosity."

A specific amount has not yet been determined, but another gift is courtesy of Bernice Fryer, widow of Ernest "Ernie" Fryer. Ernie was a former member of the psychology staff and was also the director of the DUS program.

The Fryer Award, as it will be known, will be an annual award given to outstanding Behrend psychology students.

Penn State Behrend continues to grow and flourish, but certainly this would not be the case if it were not for the many generous contributions from the community. As Behrend prepares to announce three more gifts, totaling \$200,000, \$300,000, and \$500,000 respectively, students can be assured that the College's quality and scholarship opportunities will only improve with time.

WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

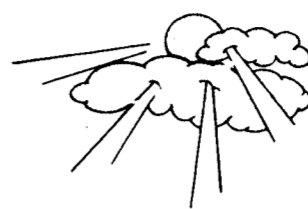
SATURDAY



SNOW

HIGH 33
LOW 25

SUNDAY

PARTLY
CLOUDY
HIGH 39
LOW 24

MONDAY

MOSTLY
CLOUDY
HIGH 41
LOW 28

Police And Safety



11/09/2000	08:05	A complainant reported that someone had tried to purchase a computer using her university purchasing card.
11/10/2000	03:02	An RA called to report that there was an unresponsive female in the Perry lobby restroom. Upon arrival, the officer found the woman responsive, but intoxicated.
11/15/2000	23:30	Two vehicles were reported vandalized in Ohio lot. Both cars were easily repaired with no permanent damage.
11/15/2000	0735	The daycare center reported that a semi-truck could not turn around in their parking lot. While the truck was maneuvering, it got stuck on the north side of the building, causing damage to the fence and yard.
11/17/2000	16:20	A student reported damage done to their vehicle overnight.
11/19/2000	00:25	An RA called to report that someone had punched out a window on a security door in Lawrence Hall.
11/21/2000	13:30	A complainant reported that someone hacked into his computer.

TENSIONS

Questions were raised as to why no one has heard about the closing until now, eight months before the demolition of the Center, to make room for the Eastside Access highway. Director of Student Affairs, Ken Miller was adamant about the fact that this has been out in the open in the Behrend community. "This has not been a secret...we knew this day was coming."

People who want the Center to remain open indefinitely asked why Behrend has not given the go ahead to use all \$900,000 they will receive from PennDot to build a new center. A memo sent out to members of the ad-hoc committee reviewing the situation reports that there are things that are higher priority on Penn State's 'to do' list than to build a new Child Care Center, and that a new center would cost 1.2 million dollars to build.

Other concerns raised were about the reaction Behrend would get from the Erie community if they shut down the center. "Don't think this hasn't been seen on the outside," Professor of French Kathryn Wolfe told the audience. She reported of an article printed in a Naples, Florida newspaper about the possible shutdown of the center. And Lecturer in Theatre Tony Elliott said, "we need a commitment to solve the problem."

On Thursday, the PTO had Miller and Dr. John Rossi, the chairman of the ad-hoc committee dealing with the child care center relocation, speak to a group of concerned parents at the center. Melanie Ford, the president of the PTO, opened the meeting with a brief introduction before turning the meeting over to Miller.

Miller began by giving parents a status report on the childcare center. The school has known for a year and a half that the new bayfront connector highway was going to be going through the area, and the child care center was going to be torn down to make way for it.

Chris Reber, Associate Provost for Advancement and University Relations, has been working to find donors to fund the construction of the new center. 22 possible donors had been found and approached, but as of now, no one has been willing to put forward the money needed to build the center.

The final decision on the fate of the center, according to Miller, rests with Provost and Dean John Lilley. Two committees have been formed to advise Lilley on the center: the Liaison Committee of the Women's Commission at Penn State Erie, chaired by Dr. Peg Thoms, and an ad-hoc faculty committee chaired by Dr. John Rossi. These committees have been meeting and gathering information to give a recommendation to Lilley in January.

Miller then talked to parents about the financial status of the center. Enrollment in the center has been increasing, and the center is coming closer to breaking even, but it still has not paid back any of the initial capital costs involved in buying and renovating the building, nor are they able to pay the property taxes on the center. These are major considerations that the school must take into account when deciding the fate of the center.

Parents then were allowed to ask Miller and Rossi questions about

what will happen to the center and what could be done to save the center. Many parents tearfully told Miller that this was the best child care center in the area and that they did not feel safe putting their children anywhere else. Other parents tried to field various ideas about how the funding could be found to save the center, including finding another area to build the center, fundraising drives, and asking the University for more money.

Rossi and Miller fielded all of the questions and informed parents that at this late date, the plan for Knowledge Park was the only practical solution. When parents asked what they could do to save the center, Miller and Rossi both stressed the importance of contacting Lilley to let their feelings be known, Miller said, "it is important to make sure the people making the decision know how you feel."

Parents were upset that the only way that seemed to be open to them to save the center was a direct appeal to Lilley, and he was not even in attendance at the meetings. The PTO asked that another meeting be held with Lilley in attendance, and Ford said that it would be looked into.

Anyone who would like to express their concern about the fate of the child care center can e-mail the following individuals: Dr. John Rossi, jpr2@psu.edu; Dr. John Lilley, jml2@psu.edu; Mr. Ken Miller, kqm3@psu.edu; and Dr. Peg Thoms, mat6@psu.edu.

The ad-hoc committee is scheduled to give its final recommendation to Lilley on January 19, 2001, with his decision to come shortly after that.

SNOWFALL

horrible conditions for students having to walk from the dorms to the Reed Building and various other parts of campus.

Many students were also upset with the fact that classes were not cancelled early on Wednesday to allow students who had to travel home to get out of Erie before the snowfall became worse than it was.

"It took me an hour to dig out my car, three hours to get to Clarion where I had to get a hotel, and

another two and a half hours to finish my trip the next day. During the trip I saw more than fifteen accidents and no salt trucks or plows," said Kim Burkley.

Some areas of Erie County received as much as 30 inches of snow during the storm, with most areas receiving 15-20 inches. There was a very small amount of snowfall just south of us in the Pittsburgh area, but Buffalo received record snowfalls, which

caused city officials to declare a state of emergency and close the city.

In the event of classes being cancelled or delayed due to bad weather, Behrend will contact area outlets with the information. Students may also call the Behrend switchboard at 898-6000 beginning at 5:30 a.m. each day to receive information on any delays, cancellations, or closings.

TALK BACK TO THE BEACON

DECEMBER 5, 2000
8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
ACADEMIC BUILDING
ROOM 69

This co-sponsorship between the Beacon and the National Society of Black Engineers invites students, faculty and staff to share their opinions about the Beacon. The theme will focus on diversity in the media, but other topics will be covered as well. All are welcome!