

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What was your reaction to the Shaggy mascot?



"They try to be diverse. They should have found a better African American."

Kamilah Gordon
BIO 04



"I was excited until I found out that they cancelled Spring Fever."

Jackie Cavicchio
English 05



"I'm not impressed."

Jarrod Stantlin
Operations Mngt. 06



"I'm not a Shaggy fan... it didn't really matter to me."

Jason Alward
Finance 04



"I love Shaggy. We need some excitement on campus."

Julian Brown
DUS 01

FROM FRONT PAGE

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

individualized with a particular focus on the area in which it is taught.

"My ultimate goal in first year seminar is to guide students to the correct major," says Chris Coulston, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. "If I am allowed to define the purpose of the course, then certainly I achieve the goals." For his class, these goals include familiarizing the students with the College and one another, giving them the opportunity to interact closely with a faculty member in their major, and providing them with an overview of computer engineering.

"In the School of Business (SOB), all students take the same seminar regardless of their anticipated major," says Dr. Peg Thoms, associate professor of management. These students are introduced to various aspects of business and prepared for the type of work involved if they choose a major in this field.

"I believe that the SOB has been successful in achieving our objectives," Thoms said, "but we continue to try to improve our seminars."

While faculty have encountered varied complaints from students about the seminars, ranging from "pointless" to "too much work for one credit," they still appear to be doing some good. According to the preliminary results of a study of FYS effectiveness at Behrend, most freshmen during the 1999/2000 school year found that they were

better prepared for college after taking the seminar. Stress levels among students who completed an FYS were lower than those of students who hadn't.

"It's really too early to know for sure how effective these courses have been," says Tracy Halmi, a lecturer in chemistry, noting that the first students at Behrend who had to take an FYS still have two years of college left.

"I think these seminars could be very rewarding, but perhaps students would be more receptive to what they have to offer if they [the seminars] were electives and there wasn't that feeling of being forced to be in this class." The downside to this, she continues, would be that the students who would most benefit from this type of course

would probably not elect to take it.

It remains to be seen whether Behrend graduates, looking back on their education, will cite First-Year Seminars as among their most useful or memorable classes. In the meantime, Behrend faculty continue to study feedback from students in order to ensure that the seminars fulfill their purpose of easing the transition into college life.



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Dr. Peg Thoms, assistant professor of management (above) and Chris Coulston, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering (left) teach first-year seminars.



PHOTO BY JASON SNYDER

RESIDENCE RATES

of \$77 million of this money will be used for technology upgrades, roof replacements, elevator repair, heating, plumbing, and electrical repairs.

Penn State's expansion will include increased resident capacities on several campuses. The \$114 million will be divided among three campuses. University Park is constructing 1,525 new living spaces to add to their large student population. Harrisburg will create 350 additional housing spaces, and Behrend 150.

Five dining halls will be renovated along with 14 residence halls across the Penn State system. The Graduate

Circle apartment complex at University Park will also be included in this large project. These improvements alone will cost \$76 million.

When compared with other schools Penn State has a positive rating for cost of room and board. Penn State is one of the least expensive colleges: "Even with the increase Penn State still ranks in the bottom third of Big Ten schools for food and housing costs. Northwestern costs over \$7,000," Miller said. "The other Big Ten schools haven't even made their increases yet. Penn State came out with theirs early."

How Do We Compare?

ACADEMIC YEAR 2000-2001: Room & Board Rates of Big Ten & Regional Universities (standard double room & meal plan 3 equivalent)

Northwestern	\$7,913
Temple	\$6,474
Rutgers	\$6,212
Pittsburgh	\$5,936
Michigan	\$5,780
Indiana	\$5,492
Illinois	\$5,408
Ohio State	\$5,397
Purdue	\$5,170
Minnesota	\$4,914
Penn State	\$4,910
Wisconsin	\$4,514
Michigan State	\$4,472
Iowa	\$4,398

COURTESY OF HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES MARCH 2001 STALL STORIES

Erie's wooly mammoth on display

by Hillary Hawranko
staff writer

There is an interesting but little known bit of trivia surrounding Erie County: it is the home of the most complete wooly mammoth skeleton known to exist. And the Behrend community will have the opportunity to find out more interesting features about Erie County at the Harborcreek Historical Society's special presentation titled "Ecological Treasures in Northwestern Pennsylvania" on Wednesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. in Knowledge Park. The purpose of this presentation is to raise awareness of the distinct ecological features of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Scientists believe the remains of the wooly mammoth were deposited in Lake Erie during prehistoric times. Another feature of the program will be the nearly extinct clubshell and northern riffleshell. These species inhabited French Creek, where their populations still prosper. More information about these unique creatures will be available at the presentation.

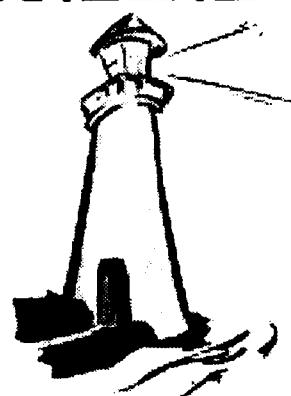
The Harborcreek Historical Society's current project is to protect the Chambers schoolhouse, located near the Rose Construction office building on Buffalo Road at the Walbridge intersection. If any construction begins there, the Chambers schoolhouse will be destroyed. The Harborcreek Historical Society is in the process of having the schoolhouse relocated, in conjunction with the Harborcreek Township Supervisors. For more information on this project or the "Ecological Treasures in Northwestern Pennsylvania" presentation, contact Louise Smerick, president of the Harborcreek Historical Society, at 899-6022, x260.

The Harborcreek Historical Society, located in the first building on the left at Knowledge Park, has made numerous efforts to educate people about the historical facts of this community, and is continuing to do so. According to the organization's mission statement, "The Harborcreek Historical Society promotes awareness of the history and heritage of the Harborcreek area and its environs and encourages the identification, collection, and preservation of materials for those purposes." Dedicated by Governor Ridge on October 18, 1999, Knowledge Park has aimed to provide many development opportunities.

Todd Sampsell, spokesperson for the "Ecological Treasures in Northwestern Pennsylvania" presentation, is the Watershed Conservationist for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Aside from introducing the audience to the Conservancy, Sampsell will also incorporate details about the French Creek Watershed Conservation Project, Glacial Lakes in Northwestern Pennsylvania, and the Northwest Field Station at Lake Pleasant, home of the wooly mammoth remains.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has worked to protect over 204,000 acres of natural land in Western Pennsylvania since its founding as the Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association in 1932. More information about this organization can be found on their website at www.paconserve.org.

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