

# BIGGER & BETTER

Behrend continued its growth and development with some new attractions opening their doors

## Athletic and Recreation Center finally opens

The Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC) is now open after continuous setbacks in construction. Now fully operational, the ARC offers students, faculty, and alumni a wide range of recreational activities.

"The ARC is an exciting new world for everyone associated with the Penn State program," stated Paul Benim, sports information coordinator.

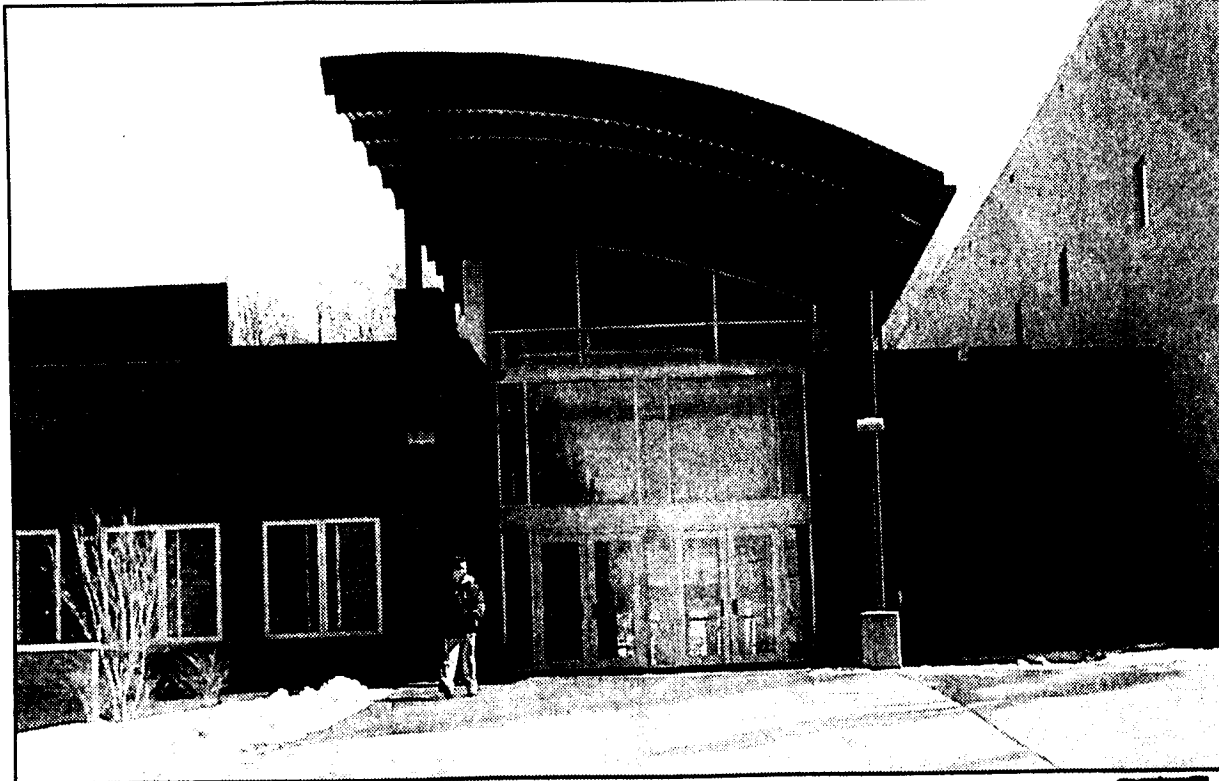
There are many new additions to the gymnasium that were not available in Erie Hall, including two batting/golf cages, long/triple jump pits, and a pole vault pit. If these facilities are too adventurous, then the three-lane walking and jogging track is available.

The ARC is the new home to all of the athletic offices as well as the exercise and sports activity classes. The pool allows for new ESACT classes like lifeguarding and SCUBA training, and both of these classes allow students to become certified. With the ARC's completion varsity sports such as water polo, indoor track, and basketball can finally play their games in the new facilities.

The ARC will be open during the summer, and even offer public swimming classes that can also be scheduled now with various coaches.

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- Paul Benim, Sports Info Dir.



## ARC dedication calls for student participation



The Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC) was dedicated on Thursday, November 9, 2000, in front of a crowd filled with students, faculty, staff, and alumni. SGA President Jen Miles, Penn State Board of Trustees Chair Edward P. "Ted" Junker, Behrend Provost and Dean John Lilley, Behrend Council of Fellows Chair P.C. "Hoop" Roche, and Penn State President Graham Spanier threw commemorative sports balls into the pool. Many officers of other organizations and members of sports teams were also on hand to proclaim their Penn State pride. SGA President Miles led the Penn State cheer. The atmosphere was even more energetic due to the pep band, cheerleaders, and dance team.

## Renovations provide proof for improving campus

Students returning to campus after a long summer away were confronted with piles of dirt, construction crews, and yards of caution tape. Also abundant, however, were signs of change and progress, demonstrating the massive amount of renovation and growth encompassing the campus. In order to keep pace with the rise in student population, the campus has been building up and building out in the past few years – a trend that will continue for some time to come.

"Our goal over the next few years is to concentrate on getting better, not bigger," stated Dr. Jack Burke, senior associate provost and senior associate dean. Enrollment is up about 150 people from last year, for a grand total of approximately 3,800 students.

Until the Research and Development Center (REDC), the next academic building in the plans, is completed, the campus would like enrollment levels to remain as they are. "When [the REDC] Building is funded by the state, the university will also begin planning additional on-campus housing," Burke said.

There are many renovations,

however, that have already been completed. These improvements are largely in the form of new air conditioning, lighting, and appearance.

An introductory biology lab was modernized with the assistance of \$50,000 grant from the University Facilities Improvement Committee, according to Burke. As in other buildings, Nick classrooms were also air-conditioned and new lighting and ceilings were installed.

In the Witkowski Building (located between the Prischak and the Fasenmyer Buildings in the Engineering Complex), classroom W110 was converted into a computer lab.

In the Hammermill Building, lab H139 was converted into a cooperative learning computer lab.

The other main additions to existing buildings students may have noticed are the new elevators in the Reed Building and in the Stairtower (located behind Perry Hall leading up to the residential area of the campus). The elevator in Reed is up and running for all to use – in fact, a person was temporarily trapped in this elevator during one of the brief brown-outs on August 30.

## East Side Access Highway to go through Behrend

Although the campus is currently bulging from the rate of growth and construction, Behrend is not nearly finished expanding. Several major projects loom on the horizon, many of which have been banded about for years but with little results. However, that is about to change, as many goals are soon to be realized.

One project that students have been hearing mention of for years is the East Side Access Highway. The East Side Access Highway, a four-lane, divided roadway, will eventually connect I-90 with the Bayfront Highway, making it easier to cross Erie without using the small, traffic-laden streets through town. Parts of the highway have already been completed, and the rest is to be done in sections. The section that most affects Behrend is slated to start in May of 2001, according to figures relayed to

Director of Operations John Ream.

When the highway is added, other area roads will need to be altered. Station Road will change course shortly after it crosses I-90: the road will shift south and flow into Knowledge Parkway. Then it will pass to the south of the Jordan Road Parking Lot, through the current Registrar's Office, and join into Campus Road. Hannon Road, which intersects the current Station Road near Country Fair, will also run into Knowledge Parkway.

As a result of the highway, several changes will also take place on campus. As mentioned earlier this semester, the new baseball/softball complex was constructed because the highway will cut right through where the current softball field is. Other buildings that will be affected include the Child Care Center, the Registrar's Office, and several residences on Jordan Road.

## ISIT.com joins Knowledge Park

More employment and research opportunities for Behrend students are set to arrive on campus in July 2001: ISIT.com, an Erie-based dot-com company, will be moving into Knowledge Park.

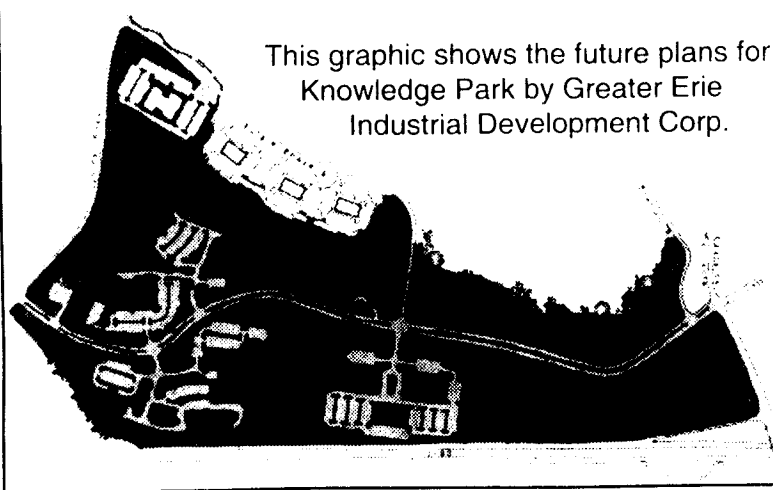
At a press conference a group of various ISIT.com, community, and Behrend officials gathered in Knowledge Center to make the announcement to the local media.

Publisher of ISIT.com Amy Baxter led the presentation of the company's services. ISIT.com, or Integrated Solutions for Information Technology, is an online resource center for other information technology (IT) companies. ISIT.com gives companies advice on how to set up and manage the IT portion of their businesses. They can then direct companies with IT needs to other resources and suppliers.

ISIT.com is involved in ten areas of technology: e-business, data collection, security, retail and hospitality, customer relationship, mass storage, manufacturing/distribution supply chain, warehouse management systems, imaging and content management, and enterprise wide solutions. They are planning on adding at least eight more technologies by the end of

### Growth at Knowledge Park

- GE Transportation Systems and Aalborg Industries - completed
- Knowledge Center - completed
- Center for Advanced Manufacturing - opening in April 2001
- Penn State Behrend Child Care Center - opening in fall 2001
- ISIT.com with business tenants - opening in summer 2001



This graphic shows the future plans for Knowledge Park by Greater Erie Industrial Development Corp.

Other opportunities for Behrend could include internships; class and senior research projects; faculty and staff consulting, research projects, and technology transfer projects.

2001.

ISIT.com will be joining Aalborg Industries and GE Transportation Systems' e-Business Division in the 200-acre park, which is a joint effort of Penn State Behrend and GEIDC. A new multi-tenant building is currently under construction in the park and ISIT.com is scheduled to lease 14,100 square feet of space on the first floor.

ISIT.com, like other Knowledge Park companies, will provide various opportunities for the Behrend community. Already the Career Development Center has been working with the company to recruit students. Baxter, in her presentation, assured the crowd that ISIT.com is not the typical dot-com where employees work on flex-time, wear ripped jeans to the office, and have various piercings. Employees work a regular schedule and are expected to dress for a business-causal setting.

## Computer upgrades made throughout campus

During the past year, many of the computer labs have been drastically altered so that they may be more accessible to the student body, as well as to faculty. Several labs have had complete makeovers, and many more have had aesthetic renovations completed. Almost every student computer terminal on the campus has had some sort of upgrade.

In the Computer Center in the Hammermill Building, the main lab (H135) has had all computers upgraded to new 650 MHz Pentium III processors. Also, larger 17" monitors have replaced the older versions.

A smaller lab off the main lab has been reborn into a Collaborative Learning Lab. Until this semester, H139 was specifically a School of Science lab. Now, while students in the School of Science are still given preference, anyone is welcome to use the new facility. Before renovations, the lab was rather traditional looking – long tables set up in rows with several cramped stations at each table. In its new form, the lab is now geared toward collaborative group work.

There are now seven large workstations that will each comfortably accommodate a small group. Large 21" monitors have been installed so that all members of a group will have maximum visibility. Several of the

workstations can also be combined to form even larger stations.

As in most of the computer labs, new ceilings and lighting have been installed. In H139 in particular, a new form of automatic lighting has been added. The lights have a sensor that recognizes when people are in the room. When someone walks in, the lights turn on automatically. After there has been no movement in the room for a short time period, the lights will turn off.

Another lab that has been renovated in the Hammermill Building is H130, just down the hall from the Computer Center. This lab is now equipped with the fastest systems on campus – 800MHz Pentium III processors.

Over the course of last summer, all Behrend stations were upgraded from the Windows 4.0 operating system to Windows 2000 – which makes Behrend the only campus in the University system to be running this new version on all public computers.

All labs and kiosks are now running on a data switch, which allows for a quicker response to the central server, providing a 10-fold increase in speed to the individual machines. The University also provided a new T3 line to University Park's server, which will also greatly increase the connection speed.

## Chapel with carillon, Observatory provide small growth with big benefits

There have been several construction projects occurring around campus that are not very obvious to students.

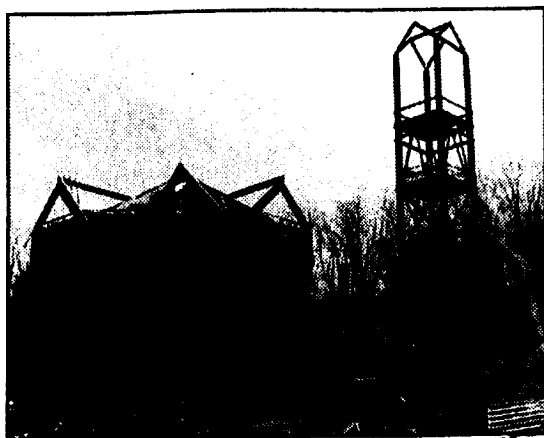
A new observatory was constructed behind the Otto Behrend Science Building. Funded by a gift from the Mehalso Family, one unusual aspect of the observatory is its handicap accessibility.

According to Dr. Roger Knacke, professor of physics and director of the School of Science, a new walkway has been constructed leading up to the new observatory that is wheelchair accessible. Also, a video monitor outside display the sights from inside.

The observatory will be used for astronomical viewing after the Open House in Astronomy Nights. It was also used in conjunction with several classes, namely ASTRO 001, 010, 011, 292, and 293.

Knacke said that the existing observatory will be kept in operation even though the new one is in use. The old observatory, whose telescope was installed in the late 1970s by the now-retired Dr. Keith Hagenbuch, will be used for student research projects.

Also under construction is the multi-faith chapel and carillon on Jordan Road, which is being funded by a donation from Larry and Kathryn Smith. The Floyd and Juanita Smith Carillon will feature a full complement of 48 bells, which will play four full octaves. Carillonneur Mr. Richard Watson of



Meeks, Watson, and Company added, "ninety-five percent of the music published for the carillon can be played on four octaves. This size permits teaching and practice of almost the entire literature of carillon music."

Knowledge Park is another area of construction. The new Center for Advanced Manufacturing will include high bay areas for large equipment, computer labs, traditional classrooms, and offices. According to Dr. Robert Light, associate dean and associate provost, "the center will benefit the college by providing opportunities for engineering and engineering technology to gain access to machining and other advanced manufacturing equipment [Behrend does] not currently have."

One final area of construction that few students were aware of was the renovation of Logan House on Station Road, which houses the Office of Development and University Relations. The formerly unused third floor of this restored house was converted into much needed office space. With the addition of Office Manager Mary Anne Geary last winter and the hiring of Kevin Moore as alumni director, the space is in dire need. Loretta Brandon, public information assistant, explained,

This new space provides office area for the manager of university relations, the public information assistant, a staff assistant, and several work study students.