



# The Behrend Beacon

December 13, 2002

DEC 16 2002

18 Pages

Vol. L

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

BEHREND COLLEGE LIBRARY

No. 7

## The bigger they are, the harder they fall

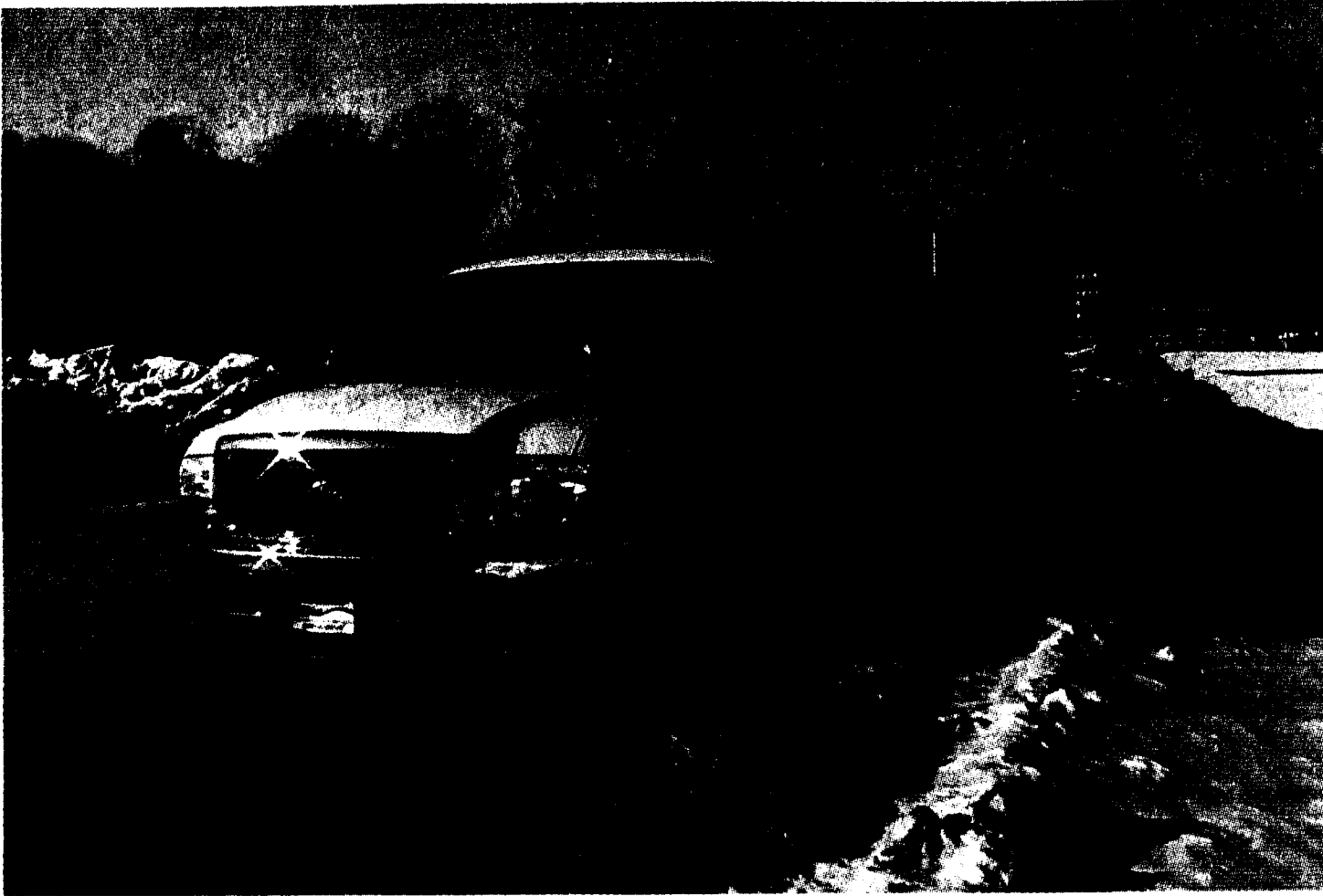


PHOTO BY ERIN McCARTY / BEHREND BEACON

It's not every day you see a car as big as this parked in the Erie Hall lot, but its great size doesn't exempt it from parking tickets.

## New Ben Franklin Center of Excellence benefits NWPA and Behrend

by Katie Hinman  
staff writer

The new Ben Franklin Center of Excellence will provide 1,500 jobs to Behrend students and the Erie area in the next 10 years.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, GE Transportation Systems (GETS), the Economic Development Corporation of Erie County and Penn State Erie are all working together to create the new Ben Franklin Center of Excellence of Northwest Pennsylvania (BFCOE), which will be located in Knowledge Park.

"The BFCOE will promote e-business and advanced information technology [IT] among business and industry in northwest Pennsylvania and throughout the Commonwealth. The ultimate goal is to create a research-based organization that accelerates economic development," said , Dr.

Robert Light, Associate Dean for Research and Outreach .

The center will help companies increase their production rates.

The center will develop information technology human resources, thereby, creating high-technology jobs for graduates from Behrend and other colleges. The new center's main goals are to expand the use of IT technologies in Pennsylvania business and industry, further advance research and development of IT, and provide education and training, using intellectuals from various places, like GETS.

The center will also focus on research related to remote monitoring and diagnostics. Along with Carnegie Mellon University, Penn State Erie's Center for Navigation, Communication and Information Systems, and other places create a many talented computer programmers, and draw skilled IT people from all over the United States.

The center will benefit Penn State in many ways. "BFCOE will help the college pursue its land-grant mission by providing additional research and technology transfer services to the community," said Light. "Among other things, it will lead to wage, intern, and full-time employment opportunities for our students; opportunities for faculty, staff, and student research projects and class projects; new material for existing courses and new courses at the college."

A website for the BFCOE will also be created. "[The center will] create a supply chain Web portal that provides information and low-cost reverse auction component," said Light. The site will contain information concerning topics such as the center's services, recommended products and services, and research project reports. Links for other websites, which pertain to the center, will also be available.

## AIDS/HIV Awareness Month aims to reduce stigma

BY ERIN McCARTY

The month of December is National AIDS/HIV Awareness Month. Dec. 1 is AIDS/HIV Day. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AIDS is the leading cause of death among young adults in the United States. The day is observed by many people, and it is a time to educate the public about the disease.

AIDS is an acronym for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is caused by the HIV virus. HIV is most commonly spread through sexual contact, but it can also be spread through blood transfusions and from mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth.

Although symptoms of AIDS are not always present, it is common for people to experience symptoms such as fever, weight loss, and swollen lymph nodes.

The virus does not have a cure, but it can be managed with medication. It is important to get tested for the virus and to practice safe sex.

For more information, visit the website at [www.aids.gov](http://www.aids.gov).

Continued on page 10

## Commencement set for Dec. 21

Behrend's fall 2002 commencement will take place on Dec. 21 at noon in the Junker Center. Dr. Peg Thoms, associate professor of management, will give the commencement address.

Faculty and staff will assemble in full academic regalia in the Junker Center Conference Room at 11:30 a.m. In the event of stormy weather, the ceremony will be held on Dec. 22.

Immediately following the program, a reception will be held in the McGarvey Commons for guests, faculty, and staff to honor graduates.



## Hume-George's last Smith reading celebrates accomplishments of former student

by Erin McCarty  
news editor

Monday's poetry reading by Dan Sargent in the Logan House marked the end not only of this semester's Smith Creative Writing Speaker Series, but also of English professor Dr. Diana Hume-George's teaching career at Behrend.

As she introduced Sargent, Hume-George explained to the audience, which was divided between the dining hall and the living room, why she had selected his reading to coincide with her departure.

"He was the only student to whom I could honestly say, 'Go West, young man,'" she said. Ever since she first met him 10 years ago, she knew that he was a poet, and after trying his hand at various jobs after college, Sargent agreed that poetry was his calling.

Hume-George went on to say how much she has learned from Sargent, whom she described as "among the most well-read people I know," and how much she appreciates the times when the monotony of the messages on her voice mail has been broken by his voice reading a newly written poem to her.

Once Sargent's reading began, his familiarity with a large variety of texts became apparent. Many incorporated Eastern tradition, from his haiku to his poem referencing the road Buddhists believe leads

from one life into another to translations of a 16th-century Indian saint who wrote love poems to the god Vishnu. Sargent told the audience that he had recently become very interested in doing translations, and others he read included a poem translated from Italian and another from Scottish Gaelic.

The bulk of Sargent's reading came from a 40-page poem detailing the Finnish myth of the god Väinämöinen (pronounced Vi - na - moy - nen) and his rival, Joukahainen (U - ka - hi - nen). Towards the end of the poem, Väinämöinen embarks on a time-traveling journey in a sleigh with Sargent, and the two eventually meet up with T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, and Jean-Paul Sartre. Meanwhile, Joukahainen pursues him in linear time, trapped in the modern day.

After the reading, Hume-George teased Sargent about the fact that he had been dining with gods and deceased poets in his poetry ever since she had known him.

"I just want to ask you," she joked, "are you all right?" But her high regard for Sargent was evident throughout the reading, and the evening stood as a testament to the influence a student and professor can have on one another and a reminder of the legacy that Hume-George leaves Behrend and the greater world of poetry.



FILE PHOTO

English professor Dr. Diana Hume-George invited former student Dan Sargent to be the final Smith Series speaker during her tenure at Behrend.

### INSIDE

NEWS 1-4  
EDITORIAL 5  
NAT'L CAMPUS NEWS 6  
ADS 7

CALENDAR 8  
HUMOR 9  
FEATURES 10  
DINING SUPPLEMENT 11

A&E 12-13  
GREEK PAGE 14  
SPORTS 1-4B

### CONTACT US

NEWSROOM: 898-6488  
FAX: 898-6019

E-MAIL:  
[behrroll5@aol.com](mailto:behrroll5@aol.com)

Offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building