

The Behrend Beacon

# Managing the unmanageable snow

by Kristin Schrum  
staff writer

This winter, "Mr. Snow" has decided to grace Erie with his presence. But it seems as though he is overstaying his welcome. With this being the third snowiest winter on record, it is very difficult to keep up with the maintenance of the snow on campus.

Housing and Food Services is responsible for clearing entrances to the dorms, and apartment residents are responsible for their walkways out to the sidewalk.

Many students have trouble getting up the treacherous Jordan Road hill. Contrary to popular belief, Harborcreek Township is responsible for Jordan Road, not Behrend. This is why it seems like it is never plowed. Harborcreek Township's plows are assigned a certain amount of territory, and they plow this as often as possible. But on a snowy day, that may not be enough, which is why students often find themselves "spinning tire" on this hill.

Maintenance and Operations is in charge of dealing with the rest of the snow at Behrend. Employees are out there shoveling and plowing the "white stuff" every day. They plow the parking lots, clear the sidewalks, and shovel the steps by hand. "Ice melter", a cleaner form of salt, is laid down afterwards.

Mike Pontzer, a junior, said that he still worries about "biffing it" on the sidewalk. "They are pretty good about plowing, but they need more salt," said Pontzer.

According to Tom Guth, assistant supervisor of Landscape and Buildings, the Maintenance staff is on duty from 5:30 in the morning and until 8 p.m., some nights.

After 2 P.M., there is a limited staff.

"It takes each person on average about three hours to do everything they are responsible for. On a snowy day, they have to go back and do it all over again," said Guth.

Two to three people worked on Saturday and Sunday for weekend ice storms. Guth said that when staff is limited, "Police and Safety have instructions to call us if we need to come in."

It is difficult to keep up with all of this snow, especially when the equipment breaks. There is no back up for those kinds of setbacks. "A person's three hour job becomes several people's four-hour job," said Guth.

So even though it seems like the snow will never stop, Maintenance and Operations is out there trying its best to get rid of it. To be cautious, students should watch where they are walking and go slow. Two minutes late to class is better than "biffing it" on the sidewalk in front of all of your peers.



PHOTO BY KEVIN FALLON

The road that runs near the apartments...land of the potholes.

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**Garlic Spinach:** spinach, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes, feta cheese, with garlic butter sauce  
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Garden Salad ..... \$2.99

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**Side Orders**

Breadsticks with pizza dipping sauce ..... \$2.99

Pepperoni Sticks with pizza dipping sauce ..... \$4.99

Additional pizza dipping sauce and salad dressing extra

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20 oz. Bottles Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Iced Tea, Pink Lemonade ..... \$1.25

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## Through the looking glass

by Mike Pingree, KRT Campus

**COMMUNITY PROPERTY**  
After his wife filed for divorce, a heartbroken Swede converted all their assets to cash and then burned it. It came to \$81,000.

**WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

City officials in Edinburgh, Scotland, have reopened an area of streets that was closed temporarily because of a public health problem: The Black Death.

The labyrinth of medieval streets was closed off 400 years ago, leaving sufferers of the plague inside to die in an effort to keep the disease from spreading.

**PLUS, IT WILL HELP THEIR SELF-ESTEEM**

At the suggestion of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, officials in Thailand have solved the problem of controlling the rapidly increasing population of stray dogs by giving them jobs sniffing out illicit drugs.

They will be deployed at airports and train stations.