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Where did the stop signs go?

by Ryan Russell
advertising manager

Recently, students discovered that two of the stop signs at the Jordan Road intersection have been removed. Anyone traveling on Jordan Road now has the right-of-way when it comes to entering and exiting campus.

Students pulling out of College Drive from the commuter parking lots, NIC parking or anyplace else down that road are now expected to wait until all oncoming traffic has cleared the way.

As far back as students can remember, the intersection has always had four stop signs. Then, approximately two weeks ago, they vanished. This move had been planned for quite a while, according to Dan Pelligini, who headed up the PennDOT construction efforts in and around Behrend.

"That intersection was never meant to be a permanent four-way stop," he said. "It was set up that way only during the time that PennDOT was working in the area. Since we are done, Jordan

Road reverted back to being a township road."

This means that Jordan Road is no longer a state road; it belongs to Harborcreek Township. Basically, Harborcreek Township decided to have only two stop signs.

Students seem to be embracing the new setup, which is just the latest of many changes going on around campus.

As a commuter, Tom Szymanowski, a seventh semester communication major, welcomed the change. "It seemed too congested with four stop signs," he said. "Things seem to move easier, not having to wait for two other cars to stop, not having to negotiate who got there first and whatnot. It helps keep traffic moving when all you want to do is get home."

Jason Olshefski, a senior finance major who lives on campus, also greeted the change with open arms. He sees a few drawbacks that could occur during the first few weeks as Behrend students again become accustomed to yet another new traffic pattern in what is already a rather confusing

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Parents and Families weekend planned

by Justin Plansinis
staff writer

This weekend is Penn State Erie's annual Parents and Families Weekend, and an incredible lineup of events has been organized for the occasion. The weekend starts with the Harambee dinner on Friday evening and extends through brunch on Sunday afternoon.

"It's actually an historical event that's been going on for quite a few years," said Michelle Barbich, who works for the Office of Student Activities. "Basically it brings the families onto the campus. As you know, Behrend has a very family-oriented feel anyway amongst the students, so it's a nice fit."

In the McGarvey Commons at 5:30 p.m. on Friday is the Harambee dinner, sponsored by the Multicultural Council. Harambee is Swahili for "Let us all pull together," which originated in Kenya as a slogan for national unity. Behrend uses the tradition as a way to unite the campus as a celebration of diversity.

In the Wintergarden Lobby of the Reed Union Building at 8 p.m. is casino night hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers. Attendees can come play blackjack, craps and slot machines. The prizes to be won are quite real, but the money used is not. Prizes include a DVD player, a stereo, gift certificates to restaurants and the Behrend bookstore.

In Bruno's Café at 9 p.m. on Friday is a concert featuring a group called the Berlin Project. The Lion Entertainment Board (LEB) organized this project. This band has shared the stage with such bands as Everclear and Green Day.

On Saturday, check-in for all visiting families and friends will be from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the Reed Union Building Wintergarden Lobby.

From 8:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, students and their families can have breakfast with Dr. Jack Burke, campus executive officer and dean, in the Logan House. A free continental breakfast will be served.

In Reed 114 at 10 a.m. on Saturday is an update on the state of the college. Burke will cover current issues and future plans.

"Parents can meet with Jack Burke and talk to him about the progression and growth of the campus," said Barbich.

From 10:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday is a walking history tour of the campus. The tour will cover the facilities and the histories behind many of the names. Tours will depart continuously from the Reed Union Building front entrance.

In Reed 113 from 11 a.m. until noon, the Learning Resource Center is giving a presentation on the study abroad program.

For anyone interested in astronomy, the telescopic observation of the sun may be of interest. Demonstrations run continuously from noon until 2 p.m. in the Mehals Observatory. This is your opportunity to observe the sun through a solar

telescope under the direction of Dr. Darren Williams, assistant professor of physics and astronomy.

In Erie Hall at noon, scholarship recipients will be honored with special awards and lunch. This event is by invitation only.

"We are set at 495 people and we have a waiting list of between 100 and 150 people that we just couldn't accommodate in Erie Hall," said Barbich.

For those not able to attend the scholarship luncheon, there is an old-fashioned picnic lunch in the Wilson Picnic Grove from noon until 1:30 p.m. The food is free and so are the activities.

A large portion of Saturday will be used for family fun activities. These will be held on the Reed Union Building front lawn. Student organizations can do fund-raisers here on campus during this time without the usual paperwork involved in organizing a fundraiser. Events include a caricaturist, games, a petting zoo and more. In the event of rain, the events will be held in the McGarvey Commons.

It is going to be a little chilly on Saturday, but anytime is a good time for ice cream; therefore, the Penn State Behrend Alumni Society is hosting an ice cream social from 3:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. on the Reed Front Lawn. University Creamery ice cream will be served on the front lawn. In the event of rain, ice cream will be served in the Reed Union Building Wintergarden.

In the Smith Chapel from 4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. is a free demonstration of the Smith Chapel organ.

From 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the McGarvey Commons, the Murder Mystery Dinner will be held. Tickets could have been pre-ordered, but they are also available on a first-come, first served basis. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. Ages 5 and under are free. Students with a meal plan may use their meal cards for their dinner. There is room for 250 seats and only 212 people pre-ordered so there are still spaces open if you come early.

From 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. in Bruno's Café, the LEB kicks off its fall coffeehouse series with acoustic guitarists Syd and Eric Hyman.

At 8:30 p.m. at the Behrend Intramural Fields, Penn State Behrend and Harborcreek Township Present the World-Famous Zambelli Fireworks. The fireworks were delayed from orientation weekend.

The fireworks program coincides with the Harborcreek Bicentennial homecoming parade. With funding from Harborcreek, Behrend was able to extend the fireworks by almost 12 minutes creating an impressive 17-minute fireworks show.

At 9:30 p.m. in Reed 117, the Lion Entertainment Board will show "The Hulk".

On Sunday, the Smith Chapel will hold a Protestant Interdenominational Service at 9:30 a.m. A Catholic Mass will be held at 11 a.m.

Sunday brunch will be offered in Dobbins Hall from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Meals can be purchased on a cash basis or by using meal plan cards.



PennDOT removed stop signs from Jordan Road to convert it back into a township road.

PHOTO BY COURTNEY STRAUB

End Zone Summit hosted by NSBE

by Brian Mitchell
staff writer

Last weekend, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) hosted the End Zone Summit, a conference held every year at one of the local colleges: Bucknell University, Penn State University Park, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of West Virginia. The events at the conference consisted of a service project, a job search workshop, a discussion about an upcoming conference in Alexandria, Va., and an engineering competition.

Friday night after the show in Bruno's, Behrend students met students from the University of Pittsburgh and drove to Perkins for a midnight snack. On the way to Perkins, Vernon Wharff, a student from Bucknell, said, "Out of this event, I hope to get everyone on the same goal, prepare everyone for fall regionals and give everyone a background on NSBE." This gave Behrend students a chance to get to know them and learn about their colleges and universities.

Saturday morning, the students from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and University Park and had breakfast in the Multi-Cultural Resource Center. After breakfast, members from the Erie Heights and Franklin YMCAs came to the college for some activities. After introductions, the members were broken into groups to begin the activities.

One group stayed in the Multi-Cultural Resource Center and played Taboo while the other group went to Erie Hall and played kickball. During Taboo, the group often argued with the referee about whether certain points counted or not. The attendees had a pretty good time with Taboo.

When both teams finished playing, the teams switched events. James Cochel, an eighth grade student from Erie Heights, said, "Kickball was my favorite activity this morning." On their way out, NSBE issued each of them a Penn State Behrend poster as a way to remember their visit at Behrend. Jake Hullman, a counselor at one of the YMCAs, said, "The kids had a really good time and hope to come back again."

After the children left, the members headed out to lunch. After lunch, seminars were held in Reed 114. The first workshop was a job search seminar. "How to sell yourself in three minutes". Andrew Watters taught students how to approach companies at job fairs. He gave them a presentation that taught how to approach a company: preparation,

communication and followup. Many students learned a lot from this presentation. President of NSBE Dante Spain (EEF, 07) said, "I believe it is important to know how to present yourself at a career fair, and I think Mr. Watters cleared up a lot of questions and doubts on what to do at a career fair."

Next, Gilbert Dussek spoke about the upcoming fall regional conference and a background on NSBE. The NSBE fall regional conference, held in Alexandria on Halloween weekend, consists of a masquerade dance on Halloween night, a variety of workshops, a step show and outings to famous places in the Washington, D.C., area, and other interesting events.

After the two workshops, students broke off into five groups for a bridge competition. Each team had to construct, in an hour, a sturdy bridge that was able to hold as much weight as possible. The bridges were tested by putting weight on top, pound by pound, to see whose bridge held the most weight. Team two's bridge won. This event tested the participant's knowledge of engineering.

After the bridge contest, the members went to Old Country Buffet for dinner. During dinner, many students talked about the summit and what a good experience it was.

"This summit was a good opportunity to meet other chapters of NSBE and see how other e-board members are like. It also taught me new perspectives of how to approach job fairs, and it was a chance for me to see other NSBE members and how they connect with other chapters," Wharf said.

After dinner, the other colleges drove back to campus with better knowledge of job search and NSBE. Region Two End Zone Coordinator and Carnegie Mellon student Gilbert Dussek commended the Behrend chapter of NSBE stating "Looking back, I cannot think of a more successful End Zone Summit. You are to be commended for all the hard work and planning put into this past weekend."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DANTE SPAIN
NSBE members from Behrend, University Park, Bucknell University, Carnegie Mellon University, University of West Virginia and the University of Pittsburgh take a break from their day of activities in the Reed Union Building.

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