

NEWS

Will you use the new bike racks?



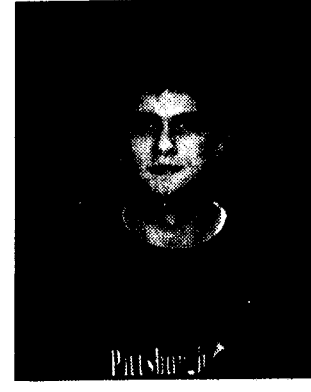
"No, because if you have a bike you're used to locking it up so you don't need a new bike rack."
Coriano Rocchio,
 ME BD 03



"No, because they pose no real function because common sense is lacking on this campus!"
Chrissey Lambert,
 ASTRO 03



"No, because I don't own a bike on campus and I don't think anyone else will use them because only two guys have bikes."
Aaron Sanner,
 ELISH 03



"No. They should put in scooter racks for my Razor."
Zack Eriksen,
 HISTBA 07



"No. We don't need them because we have trees."
Paige Payer,
 COMBA 03

Have a suggestion for Question of the Week? Email your question to us at: behrcoll2@aol.com.

Res Life arms troops with chips, candy

By Meghan Bool
 staff writer

Penn State Behrend's Residence Life Team pulled together on Thursday, Nov. 11, to package all of the collected food and necessity items that will be sent to our Troops over seas for the holiday season.

A "Packing Party" took place in Reed 114 at 5 p.m. to not only package the items, but to celebrate a job well done with cider and doughnuts. Jaime Russell, coordinator for Residence Life, has headed up this project. She has been working on the publicity for this program since September and has been collecting donations throughout October and the early part of November. Russell along with 21 student volunteers had about four tables full of items and had raised over \$200 to help pay for the shipping costs. They received enough letters, from some residents as well as cards from a second grade class at Irving Elementary, for each box to have either a letter or a card placed inside.

"We divided all of the donations ac-

ording to type, such as granola bars, candy, cards, batteries, toiletries, socks, etc.," said Russell. "They lined up a bunch of shoe boxes on an empty table and tossed 1-3 of the same items in each box. Each box got a variety of items and one large item, such as a can of Pringles, a can of coffee, etc. " All the boxes were filled with loose candy to the brim, and topped off with a letter, a card, and a slip of paper that said 'Packaged with care from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.' Then they taped each box and then wrapped it with brown paper."

"I am an RA, so when I was told about this I handed out letters to the girls on my floor," stated Katelyn Clark. "They were happy to take part in the event, and some of them even gave left over Halloween candy for the care packages. I was overwhelmed with the happiness by the generosity of the students and organizations around Erie who gave items to others."

"We felt that it was appropriate that we hold the program on Veterans Day, since it is a day for us to support and remember those people who are brave enough

to give their time and their lives in order to preserve the freedom of this country," said Russell. "Seeing the number of students who volunteered to help package the boxes, as well as the number of generous donations that we received, made me proud to be a part of the Behrend community. I was overwhelmed by the support and generosity of those around me."

"This is the first time the Residence Life Team put together this type of project. It has been done before by other organizations on campus. This is an excellent project for our campus to get involved in," said Deepti Soni, resident assistant. This is a great way to show gratitude toward our troops especially around the holiday season."

The boxes have not been sent yet and Russell would be happy to mail the boxes to friends and family members of Behrend students and staff who are serving. Please submit names and addresses to Jaime Russell at jlr31@psu.edu. The rest of the boxes will be sent to a Unit from the Erie area. They are being deployed this month, and should arrive in Iraq by Christmas.

CAMERAS, from on Page 3

very advanced. In addition to multiple displays, the command center would need to have dispatch capabilities which would increase the price dramatically.

"[Cameras] are far too big of a ticket item for Police Services," said Amann. "They would have to be purchased through the university itself."

The cameras now in use are monitored by Housing and Food Services. The footage from the cameras is fed into a digital database that is accessed from a web-based program. Upon the report of criminal activity, camera footage can be reviewed for the presence of criminal activity.

Cameras in the Lawrence Hall lobby were recently instrumental in catching a vandal. A vending machine in the hall lobby was damaged along with a chair. Housing provided Police and Safety with the footage of the incident and Police and Safety was able to use the footage to find the suspect.

"I don't want to catch people and prosecute them; my goal isn't to play police officer," said Randal Geering, director of Housing and Food Services. "The cameras are a deterrent."

Housing bought its cameras from Best Access along with seven digital video recorders (approximately \$800 each) with website access. With the amount and size of the parking lots, cameras to monitor them would be more expensive. Parking lots, however, are not under Housing's jurisdiction. Both Amann and Geering agree that placing cameras in the lots would be an all-or-nothing task which would cost upwards in the thousands of dollars.

Surveillance Facts
• There are 40 cameras with the ability to hold 10 days worth of footage.
• 25 percent of Housing's cameras are in Bruno's.
• Cameras were installed in Almy when it was built in 1997.
• Ohio's cameras were included with it's construction in 1999.
• All other residence halls were provided with cameras over the summer.
• On-campus apartments do not have surveillance cameras.

Survey says: Freshman parking a good idea

By Alicia Raffensberger
 staff writer

To every student who drives on campus, whether you are a commuter or a resident, trying to find a parking spot near the building you reside or have class in can be a challenging task at certain times of the day. Everyone feels the frustration of this with the high price of permits and the unpredictable Erie weather which makes walking that extra distance even more of an inconvenience.

In a recent survey conducted on campus, students were asked their opinions on whether or not freshman who reside

on campus should be allowed to have their vehicles.

According to Scott Soltis, President of Student Government Association, "The major issue regarding freshman parking goes to the overall issue of availability of parking. Currently parking in residence hall lots is first come, first serve. This often results in little availability of parking near students' resident hall. One contributing factor to this is that Lawrence, Niagara, Perry and Senat do not have any parking lots associated with them. So when the residents of these halls park in the banana lot or apartment lot, it causes everyone in the suites and apartments to shift." SGA is looking to make the recom-

mendation of a designated "freshman lot."

"We feel there is a need for freshman to be able to park on campus, and our survey overwhelmingly proved this. However, restricting where they park is an option," said Soltis.

According to Chief James Amann, Manager of Police Services, freshman parking has never really been an issue and there is plenty of parking for residents, therefore the administration has never implemented a policy regulating freshman parking.

"Until demand exceeds supply it is not an issue," said Amann.

Many commuters feel that parking on campus is an inconvenience as well.

"The first few weeks of the semester I had to park at the Junker Center when my classes were in Hammermill," said Chris Hollern, Accounting and Finance 05.

Chief James Amann, Manager of Police Services explained the reason for this.

"The first four weeks of the fall semester are the worst. After classes students go to the bookstore, meet with their advisers, are visiting with people and they are not turning over like they normally do," said Amann.

"Parking is not very accommodating for students," said an anonymous student. "The lots near the buildings you have class in are full and you have to

park further away. It's an inconvenience."

"There is ample parking for commuters on campus when taking the Junker Center lot into consideration. It may not be as convenient as students would like but no one will come to class and not have a parking space," said Amann.

"Area colleges (cost of parking permits) aren't even close to ours," said the anonymous student.

"Cost is definitely a major concern that we all share. The parking fee is not likely to go away anytime soon, but with careful planning for the addition of lots, the length of time the fee must be instituted and the amount charged can be impacted," said Soltis.



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