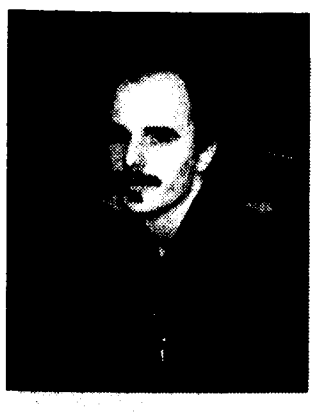
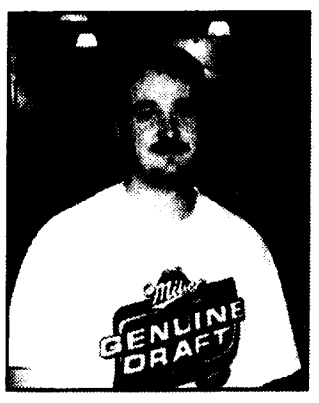
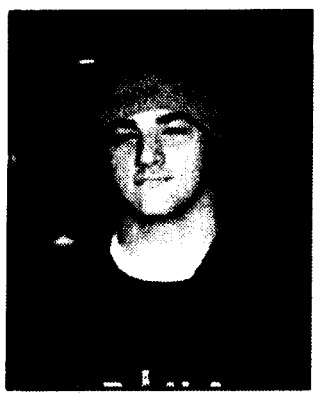
Is the new lion statue in a good location?



"What new lion statue?"
Daniel Midberry, PHYBD 11



"I think they should put it in the center of the campus."
Stephen Smith, EE BD 07

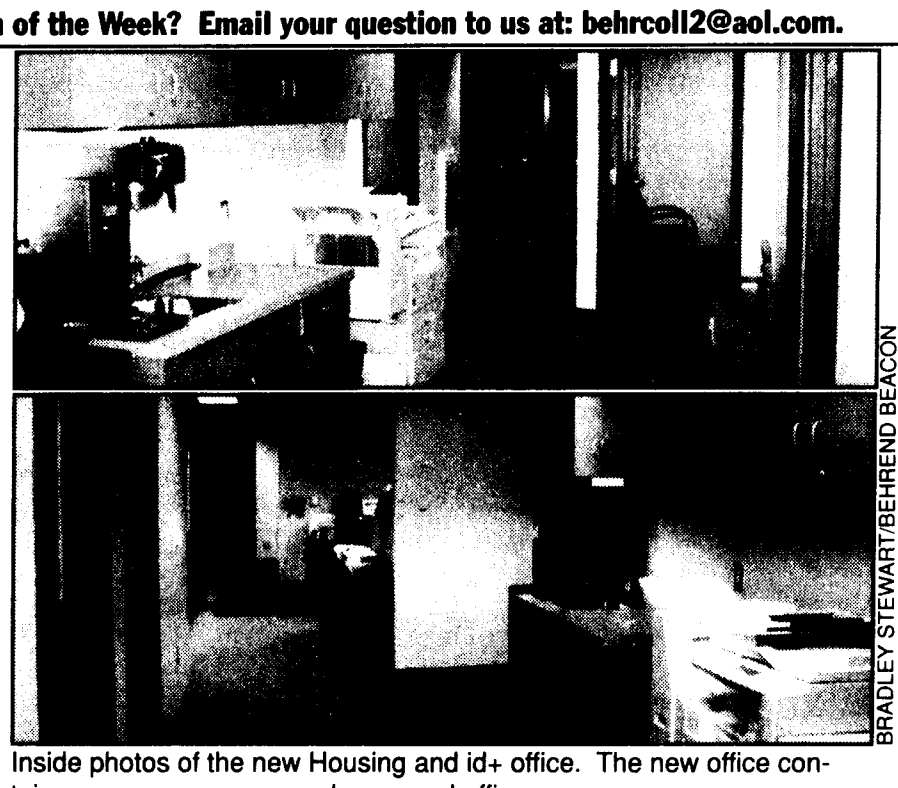


"I think it could use a better location, maybe out in front of Reed where visitors would see it."
Matt Davidson, DUS 01

"I think it's stupid! It's a ridiculous place to have the statue."
Josh Hannold, PSHBA 03

"It should be moved because it's too hard to take pictures with it by the garbage cans."
Zoe Rose, POLSC 08

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



BRADLEY STEWART/BEHREND BEACON

Inside photos of the new Housing and id+ office. The new office contains seven new rooms and a general office area.

OFFICE, from Page 1

Geering said, "We are planning a $5 million renovation to Dobbin's Hall which will begin sometime next year."

Behrend is planning on expanding Dobbin's Hall and adding a sit-in café, a-la cart style with a different menu offering similar to the restaurant Panera Bread, hopefully by next year.

This will be due in part to the new engineering building opening up. Behrend hopes to make it convenient for these students to have a place to sit and relax just as they would at Bruno's café instead of having to walk down to the Reed Building. This renovation plans to be well-located for lots of students on campus.

The Housing and Food Services office is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NSF grant to enhance solar project

By Tiffany Mak
staff writer

The National Science Foundation just allocated a three-year grant of $179,468 to Professor Bruce Wittmershaus, the associate professor of Physics at Penn State Behrend. The grant he received will be used for continuing his solar power project in making cheaper solar collection devices to contribute to society and our students.

Wittmershaus claimed it was competitive in getting this grant. Writing a 15-page proposal and an oral presentation describing the research he has done before and what research he will be doing are the elements deciding which school would get the grant.

Creating an inexpensive solar collection devise is what Wittmershaus always wanted to do. "The nature of the research is on the practical side which perhaps could benefit the mankind quite a bit which will hopefully someday be cheap enough that you can buy and put them on your roof," said Wittmershaus. "It works because we try to make something inexpensive and lower the cost."

Semiconductor solar cells, the solar panels on our calculators for example, are very expensive. He created a squared and colored plastic that was made by a fluorescent dye to absorb more electricity and reflect the light inside to create heat to generate maximum use of energy.

The concept of total internal reflection that supports the whole project. The fluorescent light, formed by the luminescent solar concentrators and fiber optics, acts like curves within the plastic itself. It is responsible for concentrating and absorbing the sunlight. So when the light enters the plastic and reaches the edge, it does not just come out into the air.

"What happens in the interface between the plastic and the air is some of the light comes straightly out. But a large amount, about 75 percent of the fluorescent gets trapped and will not come out and hits the edge and bounces back down again," said Wittmershaus.

Although neither the semiconductor solar cells nor this plastic cardboard can do better job than another in terms of efficiencies, definitely the plastic is a lot cheaper and can last longer.

As a physicist, Wittmershaus' other motivation is to get opportunities that students to get involved in research. This grant provides sufficient money for students to work with him during the school year and summer. "I have money for three years right now for three students. They work ten to thirteen hours a week," said Wittmershaus. During the 13 weeks in summer, they have to work for 14 hours.

"The grant gets them a chance to do real research, gets their work and journals published and gets the chance to present their research in some professional scientific meetings," said Wittmershaus.

The student co-workers doing this project with Wittmershaus three years ago were chosen by him. They are the ones who are much responsibility for the research than Wittmershaus. Wittmershaus acts only as a mentor by monitoring and assisting them.