



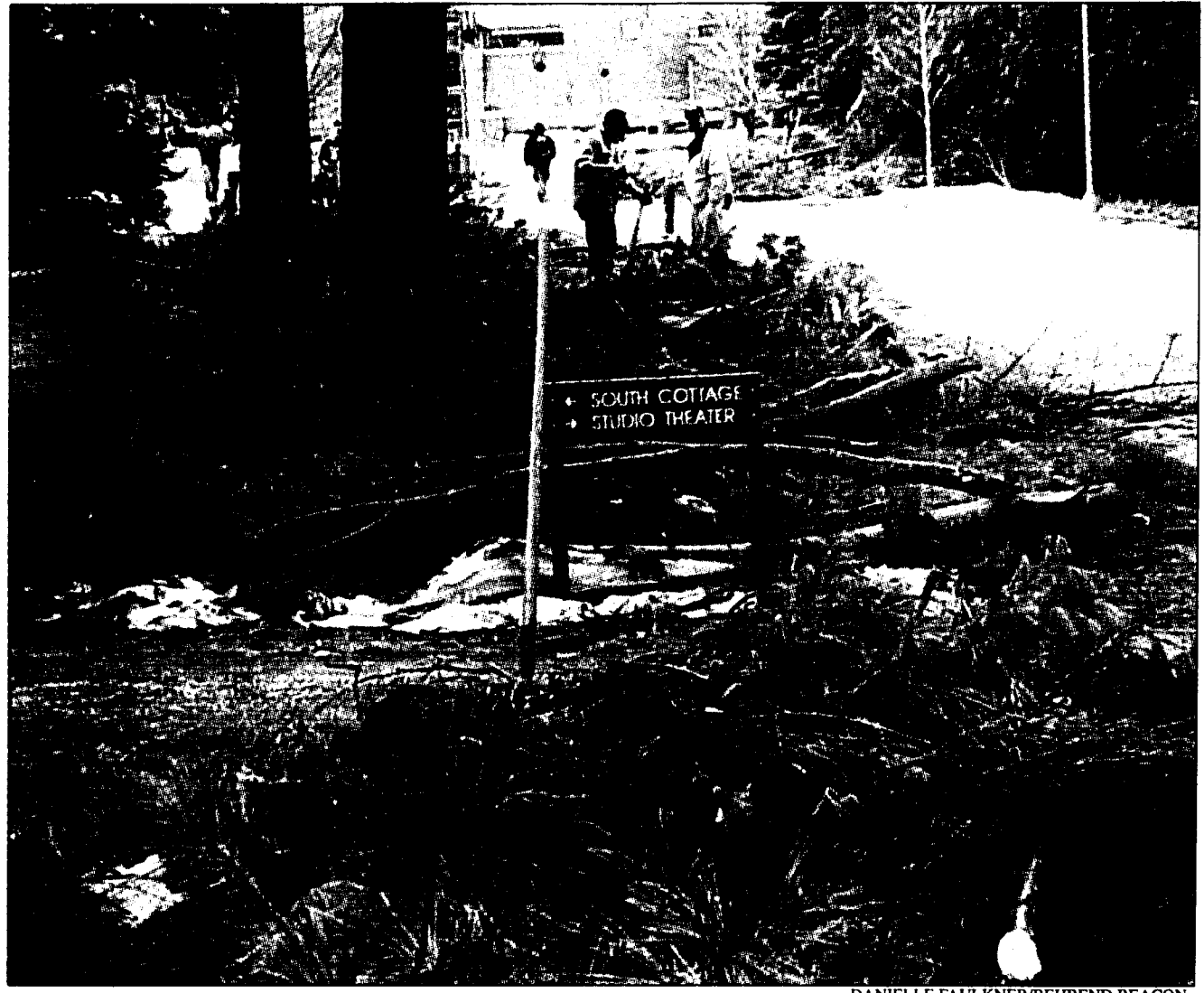
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THE BEHREND BEACON

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April snow leaves campus in ruins



DANIELLE FAULKNER/BEHREND BEACON

Maintenance workers begin the process of cleaning up downed tree branches on Thursday after the spring snow last weekend wreaked havoc on campus trees and foliage.

Reorganization creates controversy PSU prepares for administrative changes

By Tiffany Mak
staff writer

In an effort to improve administrative efficiencies within Penn State's network of campuses, University Park released a comprehensive plan of structural reorganization of the university. Although it has not yet been confirmed, the entire plan aroused anxiety in Behrend faculty.

The emphasis of the plan is the new alignment of campuses, title changes for the campus executives and deans and policy and structural changes to enhance the co-operation between campuses and campuses to reduce administrative redundancy.

The biggest change for all 19 campuses, except University Park, is that they will be part of a new Commonwealth Campuses organization, reporting to John Romano and Janis Jacobs, the new vice presidents for Commonwealth Campuses, according to Dr. Jack Burke, CEO and Dean at Penn State Erie. Romano serves as the vice provost and dean for enrollment management and administration while Jacobs serves as the vice provost for Undergraduate Education and International Programs.

Its aim is to eliminate much administrative overlap, reduce cost and improve operational efficiency in the areas of outreach, university libraries, student affairs, Development and University Relations since the resources can be moved from one campus to another to help balance the budget model of Penn State.

"How this model will work in practice is not yet clear, but it does represent a threat, at least on the surface," said Burke. "So does our new status as just one of 19 non-University Park locations. But many of which are of much lesser stature."

Burke also claimed there will be millions of details to work out for the centralisation. One of the challenges includes the independence of Behrend. Since the library faculty and staff and their budgets will be transferred to the University Libraries, Behrend will

have a dotted line relationship to the college.

"It appears that all of our curricular proposals will need to go through another level of approval. There will be a big push to increase online offerings, and the World Campus will become known eventually as Penn State Online," said Burke.

Although there seems to be more questions than answers, Burke thought there might be some positives for Behrend.

Burke believed that we can still maintain our qualitative academic status under the "central bureaucracy" system because we have a voice at President's Council as well.

"Among the potential opportunities I see is a chance to modify the service-area concept in admissions as well as an opportunity to create win-win partnerships with the other campuses," said Burke.

Other additional opportunities, like delivering our graduate programs to other sister campuses rather than to University Park, will help retain "loss of status associated with being aligned with units of lesser academic maturity."

Rodney Erickson, executive vice president and provost at Penn State, summarized the plan as "cost savings" which will result in redirection of budget and "greater support for the commonwealth campuses."

Graham Spanier, Penn State president felt that the streamlining will ensure "greater attention and visibility" to undergraduate education and to the campuses.

"The restructuring also will permit the executive vice president and provost to assume a greater sense of operational responsibilities and, in turn, will release time for me to engage in additional activities including fundraising and external relations," said Spanier.

More informational meetings are scheduled and the board of trustees will present a formal reorganization plan.

Senatorial candidate on campus

By Sarah Weber
staff writer

Pennsylvania senatorial candidate Chuck Pennacchio got a jump-start on his 2006 election campaign April 2. The meet and greet in McGarvey Commons was Pennacchio's first in his race to take Senator Rick Santorum's

(R-PA) seat on Capitol Hill.

About 30 students and community members braved Saturday's snowstorm to meet Pennacchio and hear his take on the issues. The event was sponsored by the Political Science Society, Behrend Beacon and Young Democrats.

Pennacchio is an American history professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He was born in Darby, Pa. and now lives in Bucks County with his wife Nancy and two young children.

So far it seems Pennacchio's primary opposition in the democratic primary will be Bob Casey, a successful career politician from the Scranton area.

After Pennacchio introduced himself, he moved into a lively speech about how things need to change in the senate and in the White House. He said that because he is not a career politician, he will vote with a conscious and will put more weight on the interests of his constituents instead of lobbyists and corporations.

"I don't need a pollster or a consultant to tell me where I stand on an issue," said Pennacchio.

Running as the pro-choice, gay rights alternative to Casey, Pennacchio may find his strongest support on college campuses and among other more liberal groups. He hopes that starting a grass roots program early will help him against strong conservative opposition.

"I believe in a woman's reproductive freedom," said Pennacchio. "I don't think anyone in this room wants to see

another abortion. But if we criminalize women, we go back to the alley. Bring on the coat hangers."

Pennacchio, said he also supports stem cell research, fiscal responsibility, affordable healthcare, investing in education and bringing home troops from Iraq safely and quickly. Pennacchio's website, www.chuck2006.com further outlines his stance on the issues and promotes getting support for his campaign through blogs.

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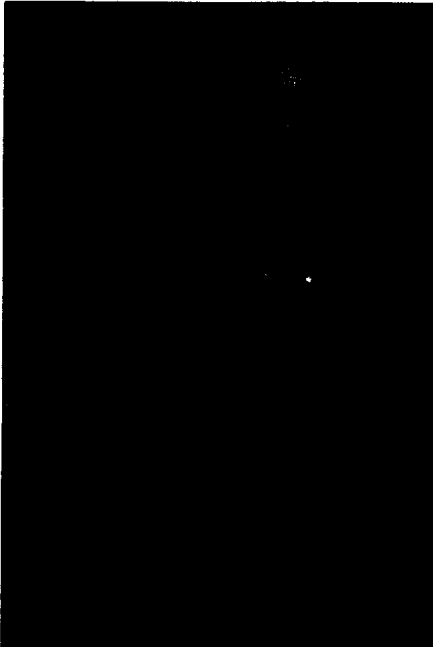
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CHRIS HVIZDAK/BEHREND BEACON

Pennacchio presents his political agenda to students in McGarvey Commons on Sunday.

ABC Fashion Show



DAN STASIEWSKI/BEHREND BEACON

George Morgan III poses for fashion enthusiasts at Thursday's ABC fashion show where students strutted their stuff on the runway.

Housing fair includes off-campus housing

By Courtney Straub
contributing writer

From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on April 13 students will have the chance to experience an on- and off-campus housing fair. The fair will be held in McGarvey Commons and is open to all students.

Ken Middlemiss, SGA Student Affairs committee director, and Meredith Straub, SGA Student Affairs committee assistant director, took on this project because students told the SGA they were interested in better understanding their housing options.

"We are having this event [because] we feel it is in the best interest of the student body," said Scott Soltis, SGA president.

Middlemiss and Straub have been working for the past couple of months with local realtors and on-campus housing to hold this event.

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First they contacted Student Activities because Student Activities has a binder of local off-campus housing. Any student is able to go to the Student Activities office and look at the binder.

"It's kind of boring just looking through the binder," said Straub, "So we thought that we could help them out and contact the local realtors for them." Middlemiss and Straub then sent out a letter to all of the local landlords and on-campus housing. The response has been good.

"We are expecting about 30 landlords," said Straub. According to Randy Geering, on-campus housing will definitely be in attendance. They will be showcasing all of the different on-campus living areas.

According to Straub, the set up in McGarvey will make it easy for students to walk around and look at the different houses and apartments.

"The landlords will have displays set-up of the property and housing," said Straub. "Students will be able to walk around and talk to different landlords about their options."

This event is the first of its kind and the Student Affairs committee hopes to make it an annual thing.

"We're hoping that a lot of students attend," said Straub. "This event has the potential to be huge."

"I am very happy to see the Student Affairs committee working on a project of this magnitude," said Soltis.

Middlemiss and Straub became the director and assistant director (respectively) of Student Affairs at the beginning of the Spring 2005 semester.

"Meredith and Ken have really amazed me," said Soltis. "The fact that they were able to pull the Housing Fair together in under half a year speaks to how hard they have been working."