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THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, September 30, 2005

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

SEP 30 2005

Vol. LIII No. 6

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Minor acts of vandalism cause major headaches

By Justin DeSantis
staff writer

When students deface or destroy parts of Penn State Erie, it doesn't just ruin how the campus looks.

It costs money. Sometimes a lot of money. And if that damage was caused at the resident halls, all the students living there will be charged.

The policy, as related by James Bowen, manager of Housing and Food Services, states that any damage that is caused on the floor of a resident hall has the price for repairs evenly divided by the number of students living in that hall. The bill is

assessed to students via their school accounts.

The agreement is reviewed by the RAs for the incoming freshman. Also, the contract that students sign acknowledges that they are aware of this.

Already this year, the room numbers outside of doors through Lawrence Hall have been stolen. This, while a seemingly minor event, has cost \$6,000. A bill that will be equally sent to all those living there.

Last year, harm done to Senat Hall cost about \$3,000, due to siding that was damaged. The entire wall had to be repaired.

"If glass is broken from inside the building, the residents of that hall will be charged," says Bowen.

The very nature of the crimes are difficult to pinpoint, and the people are harder to identify.

Jim Amann, Chief of Police for Penn State Behrend, says, "There are people who know things on this campus."

"The problem", says Amann, "is that people can't provide accounts without being identified."

The students may need to testify to incriminate people. Although the information can be provided anonymously, that rarely leads to an arrest, which is exactly what

Amann says will happen to offending students if they are caught.

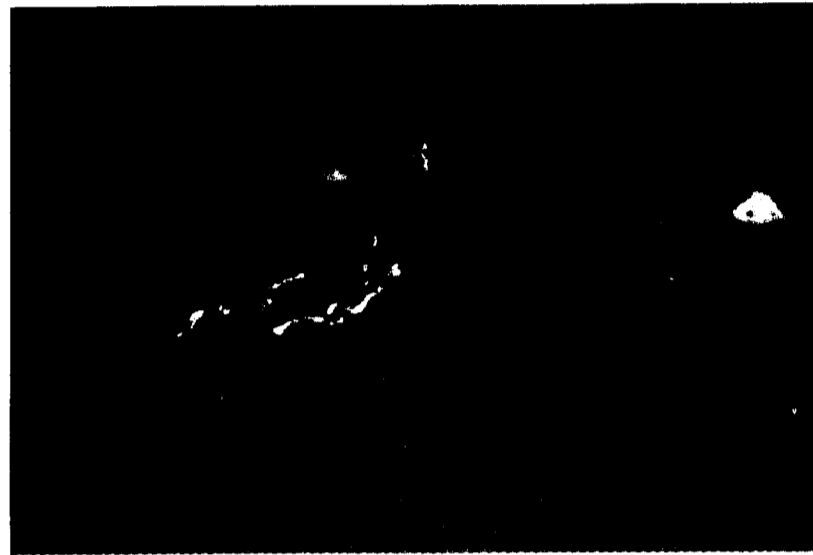
"It only takes one second to cause damage," remarks Amann.

It is not from a lack of trying, though. The crimes aren't very easy to witness. Damage could be done right after a police officer passes by. And for the most part, Amann's six police officers don't patrol the residential areas. That is monitored by the RAs and the Housing department.

"Minor stuff, we may not even be informed [about]," says Amann.

Mostly, Amann and his officers handle things like vandalized vehicles in the commuter or even residential lots. Also, personal damage, damage done to buildings, and either university property or private property gets reported. The police reports are written so the insurance companies can see that the incidents were reported to the police.

"Most of the vandalism done is usually done Friday and Saturday night," says Amann. Two days associated with going out, and for the most part, to drink. Some may think this is just caused by students going out to drink at bars. But Penn State Erie is not a "dry campus," as anyone at age 21 can have alcohol on campus. Provided, that is, that it stay in the dorm room that they are in. Students, no matter if they are legally allowed to purchase alcohol, are not allowed to have open containers on the campus.



Annie Sevin/THE BEHREND BEACON
Acts of vandalism are commonplace on the campus apartment quad.

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PSUnited Way fundraises for hurricane victims Mardi Gras beads: now used for more than flashing

By Raechul Bowser
staff writer

Amidst the destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the desire to reach out to broken lives in need is spawning a whirlwind of community service and volunteer work. The PSUnited Way Student Days Campaign kick-off, on Tuesday, September 27, reportedly was a stimulating success as students and faculty donated to the Hurricane Katrina Response Fund, and learned more about the volunteer and internship services sponsored by the United Way.

These events lasted from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.. Behrend students collected money in cans in the parking lots starting bright and early on Tuesday. In addition to collecting cash, other students sold Mardi Gras beads.

Volunteers were canning and selling blue and silver Mardi Gras beads for three days, Tuesday to Thursday, September 29.

Perhaps the most remembered event was the Mardi Gras party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The sound of upbeat Mardi Gras themed music in the Reed Wintergarden grabbed some interest and led to the purchase of more beads. The remainder of PSUnited Way Student Days fundraising will last until Welcome Weekend, in hopes that the student team will meet their goal of raising \$3,500.

Kelly ShROUT, the Coordinator of Community Service, and the Smith Chapel helped the PSUnited Way Student Team coordinate the events planned for the kick-off. She hopes that the events will "bring awareness to what the United Way is, what it does, and how many organizations it helps." The PSUnited Way Student Team includes five students who volunteer their

time to help out the United Way. These students include Dave Daquale, Jenna Dominick, Mark

Hull, Jenny Kaleta and Laura Plocido. However, the help doesn't end there. Student organizations also signed up to help with canning and bead selling.

The Mardi Gras Party included more bead selling, king cake selling, mask designing and music. Towards the end of the party, senior team member, Jenny Kaleta, estimated the sale of about sixty beads. She added the fact that many faculty members enjoyed the beads as well as the students. Sophomore team member, Mark Hull, had been maintaining the tables the entire time and was pleased that almost all of the king cakes were sold. The king cakes were cupcakes iced blue and white, some with stickers on the bottom indicating a prize. Team members estimated that nearly six dozen of the cupcakes were bought in support of the Response Fund. Students could also create masks at the party for free.

The music was provided by a deejay, Jamal. Even the Behrend Lion came to the party. Freshman volunteer, Selina Chavez, was ecstatic of the day's events. She said, "The beads went well, the music was awesome, and the cupcakes were amazing." Another freshman volunteer, Emily Zimmerman, said, "This

was a really fun event... but I was surprised about how little people donate." Kaleta estimated that about \$160 was raised throughout the day, not including the money raised from canning.

year. This is the only organization in Erie County that provides this service for children, and can be reached at 814-459-2755, for all those interested in volunteering. Community Resources for Independence helps



Matthew Zimmerman/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, one of the hardest hitting natural disasters in U.S. history.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, organizations sponsored by the United Way set up tables outside Bruno's to inform students of internship and job opportunities with their organization. On Tuesday, the Booker T. Washington Center, SafeNet, Achievement Center and Community Resources for Independence were among those organizations that held information booths. The Booker T. Washington Center is a community center that includes such programs as violence prevention and drug and alcohol use prevention, and is in need of interns and volunteers. If anyone is interested, contact Shantel Hilliard or Kathy Bernik at 814-453-5744, extension 228. SafeNet is the domestic violence safety network and helps young homeless mothers. If anyone is interested in volunteering, call 814-455-1776. The Achievement Center's physical rehabilitation program is sponsored by the United Way and helps about 100 children with disabilities, 21-years of age or younger per

people with disabilities in 42 counties and is in need of personal care attendants and interns. For more information, call 814-838-7222. ShROUT hopes that with the increased awareness of what services for volunteer work or internships are out there, "[Behrend] will have more student volunteers."

Overall, the day's events were successful, but the team members were hoping for more of a turnout. Hull said, "We wish more people came, a better location may have worked, but we needed to get it out there more." The team is not yet discouraged, however, as the campaign will last throughout the rest of the week. Kaleta said, "We hope that everyone will commit to donating because of Hurricane Katrina, and now Rita." ShROUT explained, "What people need to realize is that we are not asking much of them. If every student on campus donated \$1, we would reach our goal. All we are asking for is \$1."

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-Kelly ShROUT