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THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, November 18, 2005

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

Vol. LIII No. 13

Cardboard City raises money for Second Harvest Food Bank

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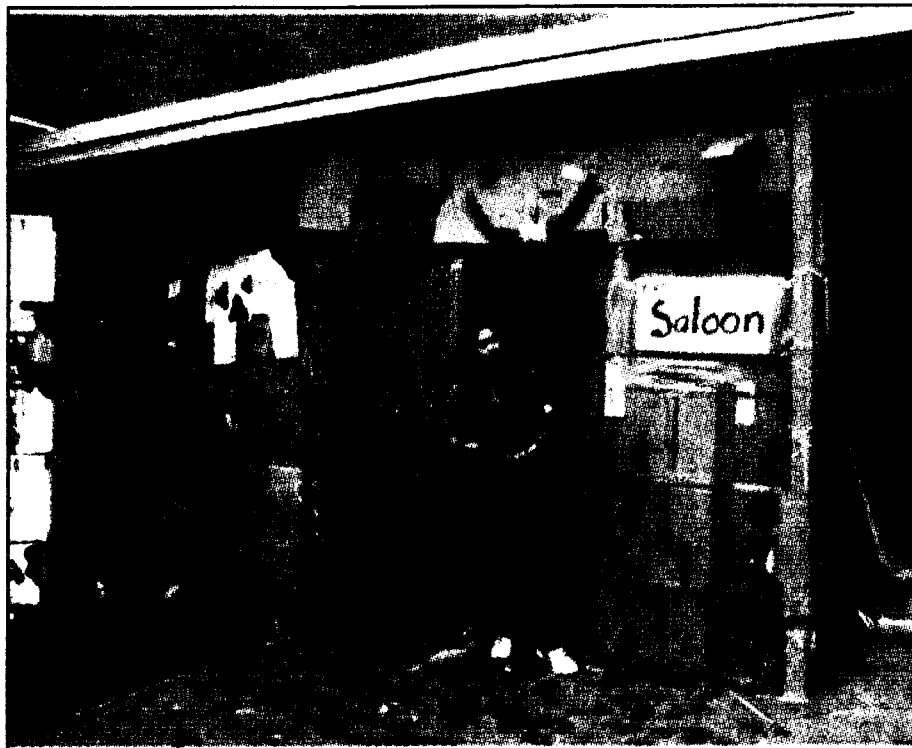
Where can you find a Ramen-noodle Ranch house? How about a Cream-of-Potato palace? Although it may sound strange, both of these and more could be found last week on display in Bruno's. The architects of these canned goods estates were competing for the best canned food sculpture in the spirit of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This was the kick-off event of several efforts made by Penn State Erie students, clubs and organizations to give to those less fortunate. All of the goods collected were donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank and will help those needy local families this holiday.

In addition to the canned goods sculpture contest, several students, clubs and organizations collaborated to create a Cardboard City all over campus.

The constructors were to spend an entire night in their creations regardless of temperature or precipitant conditions. The Alpha Phi Omega sorority box, located to the left of the Reed Union Building's entrance had collected nearly \$70 by 5 p.m. Tuesday evening but noticed the chilly climate endured in doing so. Senior member Amy Sabo said that the day moved rather slow considering she had been there since 11 a.m. Sabo stated, "A lot of people have helped, but there are still a lot of

people that turn you down," as one more "sorry, not today" walked by.

On the far right of Reed was the Matchbox Players' and the Behrend Beacon's cardboard home, appropriately named "Ye Olde Saloon." The Western-style room was complete with Wanted posters, dueling music and of course, swinging saloon doors. Passersby were asked to donate their spare money to the cardboard invention he or she deemed the most creative.



Brian Song tends bar at Ye Olde Saloon during Behrend's annual Cardbord City.

Many contributors found the Matchbox Players' and the Behrend Beacon's home just this as the group turned in \$213.75 by the end of the night. Matchbox also encountered televised interviews with CBS News and the Penn State Newswire as well. An estimated 256 man hours of labor went into the building of the saloon, which was well worth

the results according to members. The recycled creations were built from cardboard boxes that local businesses threw away. All of the money collected benefited the Second Harvest Food Bank.

THON continues its support

By Earl Gordon
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"Together We'll Prevail." This is the slogan for THON, which is a fund-raising event which benefits children with cancer. It began in 1973 and is the largest student run philanthropy in the world. THON received its name from it also being a dance marathon. "It's a dance marathon because everyone celebrates for the money that has been raised to help those in need," said Kenneth Middlemiss, who is the assistant director of THON. The marathon is 48 hours of continuous dance.

Directors of THON, Meredith Straub and Kenneth Middlemiss helped to raise well over \$2,000 last weekend for the Penn State Erie chapter. Last year, Penn State raised \$4.1 million for the event. The closest any other college came last year to matching Penn State only made about a tenth of our total. The money that was made goes to the Four Diamonds Fund, which assists the Pennsylvania State Children's Hospital in Hershey, Pa., and families with children suffering from cancer. The goal of the Four Diamonds Fund is to overcome childhood cancer. No family is ever turned down from the Four Diamonds Fund. "Every penny that is made from THON goes towards the kids," stated Middlemiss. "Because I danced last year, it has really motivated me to do it this year."

THON, which was supposed to be a Greek life event, became an individual function due to Penn State Behrend's size and the fact that there are only a handful of fraternities and sororities on campus. "Students can go canning for THON. We secured permits and went to the Millcreek Mall," said Straub.

Many other THON related events were also being held to help out, including glow bowling, raffles and bar nights (for those of legal age). "It's just a great way for students to go out and donate to a good cause," replied Straub. The Penn State Erie campus also has a Mini-thon in the works for February. The Mini-thon will be a smaller version of the dance celebration, shortening from 48 hours to 24 and still raising money for children with cancer.

Penn State Erie has done a very good job with aiding those less fortunate and responding to fund-raisers. Without everyone pulling together, nothing would be accomplished. "I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who went canning for us," Straub replied. "It means so much to see students at Behrend care. It's just amazing."

The THON meetings are held every Friday in Reed 113. Anyone interested in participating is more than welcome to drop by.

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Inside

Dobbins renovations uprooted

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"Walk the Line," previewed on page 8

Dobbins Dining Hall has hopes of continuing the exciting renovations, which will better accommodate Behrend's students. All are aware of the escalating prices of gas due to the hurricane damages in the Gulf, but these natural disasters are impacting life on Behrend's campus as well. After the hurricanes hit, construction efforts were focused on rebuilding homes, buildings and communities, meaning that other areas of the governmental funding has been temporarily cut. Putting construction projects such as this temporarily on hold is just a small price to pay in order to help improve the unfortunate situation in the Gulf area right now.

Chancellor Burke said, "The university decided to postpone the bid, we don't know for how long, for two reasons, one being, we don't know how much money we will receive from the state, and two, we can only borrow so much money at one time. We were planning on borrowing money to do the renovations at Dobbins but are currently past our bonding limit. So the bottom line is the renovations have been put on hold until the financial situation is more secure, and we are sure of how much money we will receive from the state."

The renovations were scheduled to begin in the spring of 2006 while classes were still in session, and would have been completed in the fall of 2006 when students returned from the summer. Unfortunately, these plans will have to be slightly postponed until the bid comes through, approving the \$6 million project. Penn State Erie's Housing and Food Services Department has been planning and organizing the renovations for Dobbins Dining Hall for the past two years, and the staff couldn't be more excited about the project.

Randall Geering, Director of Housing and Food Services, said, "Good things take time, but we were still devastated when we found out the renovations would be delayed. Dobbins has not been updated since 1992, so it needs to be done to fully satisfy Behrend's

larger student population."

The exciting new additions to Dobbins can be expected in the near future, and there will be a total of 5,000 square feet added to the existing hall. In the new additions there will include a "grab-n-go" station, featuring pre-made sandwiches, salads and soup, a new seating area with a fireplace and comfortable atmosphere for students to relax and a coffee/cappuccino bar to support those long study hours. Another addition that students will benefit from is a new stair/passageway connecting the upper half of campus to the lower, Dobbins being the median. This passageway will better facilitate the currently vacant office spaces, which used to be the Housing offices, by adding new

stairwell will eliminate, providing students with a safer route to classes. The main entrance to the dining hall will also be changed, and will be located in the area that connects the main room of the dining hall to the gazebo.

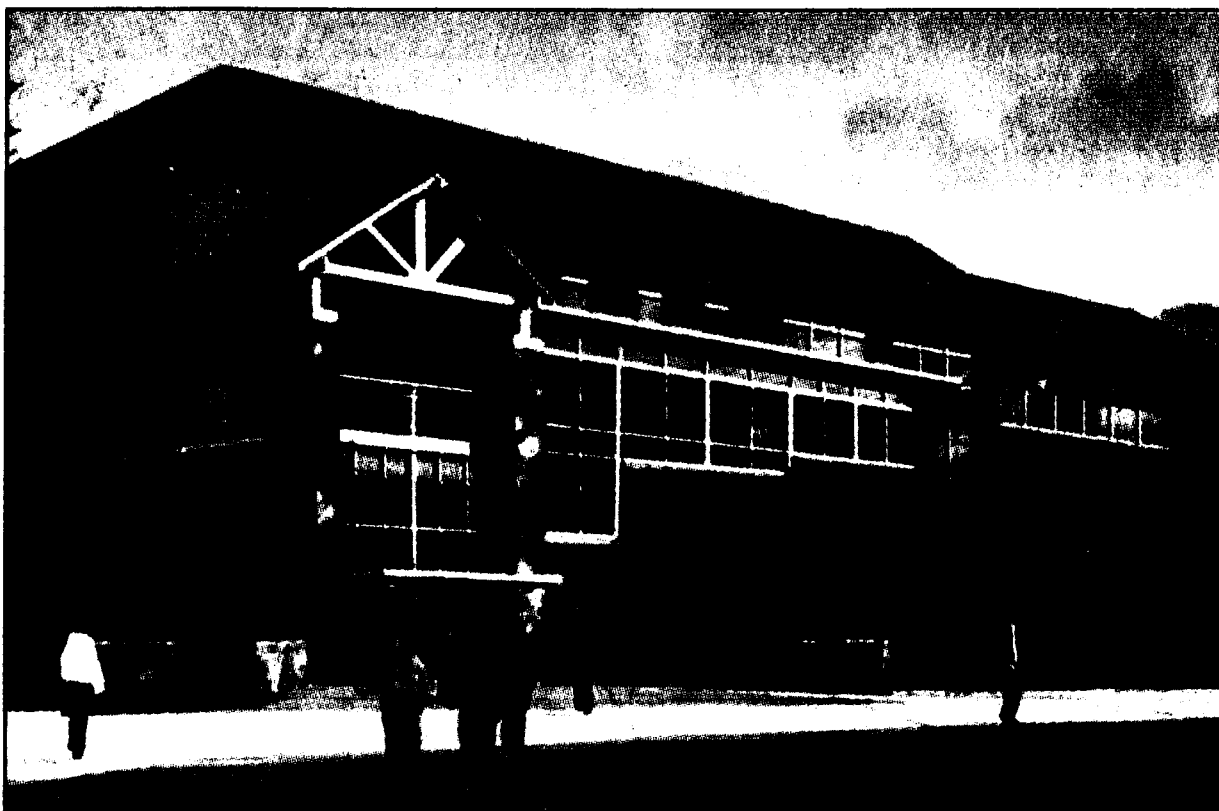
The newly improved Dobbins will feature a different approach to serving and preparing the food. Preparing each individual's food will be done on the spot and in front of the individual, rather than pre-making the dishes and using heated bins, which will ensure the freshness of each Dobbins meal. The kitchen will likewise be renovated and brought up to date with all of the newest and most appropriate machinery.

The 2-year process that took place in order to provide the students of Behrend with adequate food services was not done without actual feedback from the students themselves. There was a 4-month period in which student organizations and student employees were interviewed for their opinions on what was missing from their college dining experiences. From the labors of this period, the directors of the Housing and Food Services were able to draw a detailed layout which included the most popular student and staff ideas. Al Vogan, the assistant director of Housing and Food Services, said, "The purpose of this project is to upgrade the current facilities to where it should be for the students. We want the students to be comfortable and taken care of."

Even though the process is currently dormant, change will be happening soon. Students, faculty and staff can all look forward to a new and improved Dobbins that will provide all with the necessary accessibility and quality of food that has come to be expected from the superior Penn State standards.

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~ Chancellor Burke



A computer generated rendering of what the Dobbins Hall would have looked like upon completion.

public bathrooms, a conference room, a computer help desk and a special events dining room holding up to fifty people. The current stairway that goes from Dobbins' loading dock to the bottom of the hill has had some controversial safety concerns that the new

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