



Summer sun safety

Page 7

Hockey playoffs begin

Page 10



THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, April 21, 2006

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

APR 21 2006

Vol. LIII No. 28

Motor malfunction creates smoke in apartment furnace

By Christopher LaFuria
sports editor
csl5005@psu.edu

A motor malfunction in an apartment heating system caused a smoke outbreak Sunday just before 9 p.m. A resident assistant and Behrend Police and Safety responded to an alarm from Packet Hall room 306 and found the complex filled with smoke, from the top ceiling down five or six feet. After the initial Police and Safety officer received word of a possible fire, the officer notified East County Communication Center who proceeded to dispatch Kuhl, Brookside and Lawrence Park fire departments.

As the fire departments arrived at the scene, workers searched for the source of a fire. When they found no source of a flame, they identified the source of the smoke as a motor malfunction in the heating system. The smoke was dispersed throughout the room by the heating vent, which continued to fill the entire room with the smoke.

Randy Geering, director of Housing and Food Services said, "With any mechanical unit, you will have an occasional malfunction. This will cause smoke to fill the area. As the smoke reaches the blowing vents, the smoke is then spread throughout the entire area."

When the alarm sounded, the surrounding apartments were evacuated until the source could be identified and, if possible, extinguished. After two hours, no damage was found and the smoke was cleared out of the room. Students were then allowed to re-enter their rooms. Police and Safety kept a vigilant eye on the apartment and the heat-

ing unit.

After the fire alarm was activated in the particular room, University Park was notified immediately. Due to the 24-hour monitoring of the alarms from various campuses, University Park officers are the first to respond to the campus fire alarms. A Behrend officer was directly informed to alert the people and determine a problem. On Sunday night, the officer noticed the smoke and alerted the dispatch center. In addition, alarms have a tendency to be activated by such things as candles and incense. University Park officials and Behrend Police and Safety can determine if the alarms are activated for serious instances.

Some Behrend students have expressed concern over the safety of the heating system. Sean Ruhlman, whose apartment endured the same problem with heating units, said, "Something needs to change with the heat system. Behrend needs to update its systems and find better units. The same thing happened in our apartment two months ago, so it may be a reoccurring issue."

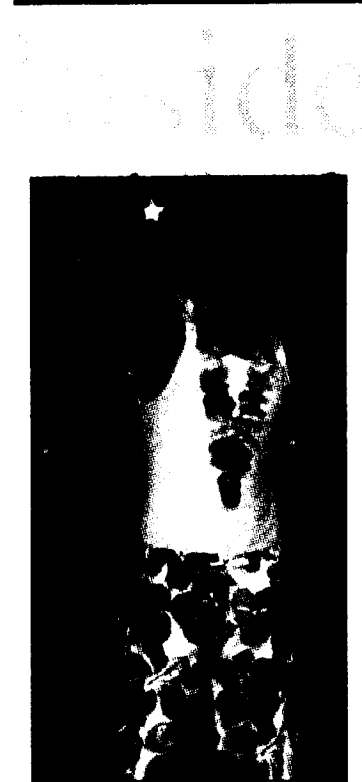
Officer Jim Amann, chief of Police and Safety, credits the precise execution of the administration for the swift and decisive actions in eliminating the problem. "If a fire alarm were to go off, under policy, the on-duty officer is dispatched to ascertain the situation. Based on what he observes, it is up to him to notify East County Community dispatch center to see if a fire department is needed."

"The smoke detectors and sprinklers worked exactly how they should. All phone calls to the administration were correctly made. Administrators made the proper decisions,"



David Greco/THE BEHREND BEACON

Local fire departments respond to a smoke outbreak at Packet Hall. No one was injured in the incident. Geering said, "Everything happened the way it was supposed to." There was no sign of faulty motors or utilities that were not inspected. Furthermore, there was no location of a fire or any evident damages to the room.



Find out who won Mr. and Ms. Penn State Behrend
-Page 8

Contents

- News.....1-3
- Editorial.....4
- Humor.....6
- Student Life.....7-8
- Sports.....9-10

Contact Us

Newsroom:
898-6488
Fax:
898-6019

E-mail:
editorinchief@psu.edu

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

Duke students accused of assault and rape

By Nick Underhill
staff writer
nru100@psu.edu

To many, the off-white house at 610 North Buchanan Boulevard in Durham, North Carolina symbolizes everything that is wrong with their community. The house is located just a few miles off of the Duke campus and is home to the captains of Duke's Lacrosse team. The school's athletic programs generally set the standards of excellence at the school, allowing them to boast about how well they compete against top-level teams and still maintain a level of academic excellence. On March 13, all that changed when a party, with alcohol present, occurred inside the walls of the house, leaving the school with a black eye that it may never recover from.

The party was attended by as many as 40 of the 47 members of the lacrosse team. Some of the upperclassmen at the party were of legal drinking age, but most in attendance were not.

There were also two exotic dancers commissioned for entertainment. One of them, a black, single mother of two and a student at nearby North Carolina Central University, claims she was held down, strangled, beaten and raped by three men after being pulled into a bathroom.

The issue has caused controversy on Duke's campus and the neighboring community of Durham, who feel that the school allows its students athletes to act as if they are above the law. In a recent TV interview, Dinushika Mohottige, a Duke student who is a member of their Progressive Alliance program, said that many of the problems plaguing the campus will now surface. "I'm sure this incident will bring to light a lot of the privilege issues that exist on this campus. This is a wake-up call for the university," Mohottige said.

Another former Duke student, Kelly Jarrett, who now works at the university, recently expressed her distaste for the University in an ESPN interview, "They tell Duke kids, 'Don't go into the big, bad Durham community.' Well now they can get violated right here on campus. The administration does well to take a position that protects the rights of the young men. They've done a poor job at articulating the rights of those who feel violated and threatened by their behavior."

In a one page public letter from the "Concerned Citizens

at Duke University" that was addressed to Duke President Richard Broodhead, the group stated, "It is our impression that the university is cultivating and sustaining a culture of privilege and silence that allows inappropriate behavior to plague the campus."

Brian Streeter, Penn State Behrend's Athletic Director, feels that Duke is doing all they can with the information that is available. Streeter said, "It's an unfortunate situation, but the athletic director and president there are doing everything they can. They canceled the season, the coach lost his job, it's a bad situation. These people need to be held accountable, and they should step forward, but everyone is being quiet, so the university did what it could." He added, "Accusations have been made and if no one steps up and points the finger, then they all have to take the fall together and that is what is happening. You have to stand behind the accusations; you can't let them go on to compete, but the facts have to be there. We would handle the situation the same way."

Critics claims were further confirmed after The Raleigh News & Observer published a story showed that a third of the Duke lacrosse team, 15 players in all, had been charged with other alcohol related crimes in the past, such as underage alcohol possession, loud noise and public urination. The story stated that most of these charges were resolved through pleas that would protect them from criminal convictions.

After the incident, the school allowed the team to carry on as if nothing had occurred. They played two games against North Carolina and Cornell and initially, only intended on forfeiting two games before putting an end to the entire season.

The season's cancellation came after a member of the team, Ryan McFayden, who is an Atlantic Coast Conference honor roll player, sent out an e-mail describing how he was going to put on an encore of the party where he would kill and skin strippers in his dorm room.

"I plan on killing [them] as soon as the[y] walk in and [proceed] to cut their skin off," he wrote before going into vulgar terms describing how he would find the act sexually satisfying. He signed the letter with only his jersey number, 41.

Lacrosse
continued onto page 2

Assault victims are supported

By Jennifer Haight
news editor
newseditor@psu.edu

Many college students are concerned with safety on their campuses in light of the alleged rape at Duke University. These students' needs are met with facilities that offer assistance such as personal counseling and on campus clinics.

Penn State Erie is prepared to face cases such as sexual assault, date rape, rape, domestic violence and other forms of abuse. The Health and Wellness Center can administer an emergency contraceptive within 120 hours of intercourse for \$40. There is a process though; a pregnancy test will be given and Director and Nurse Practitioner Patty Pasky McMahon is available for consultations.

If a rape occurs, it is important that the victim immediately get to a safe place and keep all physical evidence and do not bathe. Contact the Health and Wellness Center or Police and Safety, get medical attention and contact a close friend or relative who can provide a safe environment.

There are also personal counseling services offered at Behrend. The counselors offer support groups, individual counseling and confidential and free services among others for Penn State Erie students. The counselors are Sue Daley, staff psychologist; Nicole Kirkpatrick, personal counselor and Dr. Ullus, consulting psychiatrist.

The staff can help if anyone feelings a variety of strong emotions like fear, anxiety, depression, guilt, disorientation, powerlessness, shame, shock, disbelief, embarrassment, denial and/or anger. They can also help if physical problems such as sleep disturbances, nausea, stomach problems, change in eating habits and nightmares are experienced. Personal Counseling can also help with confusion and loneliness.

The office hours for personal counseling are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and appointments are preferred. Crisis services are available twenty-four hours a day, every day at 456-2014, or by calling Police and Safety at 898-6101. For those who live off campus, the Crime Victim Center is available at 455-9414 twenty-four hours a day.