

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## THE BEHREND BEACON

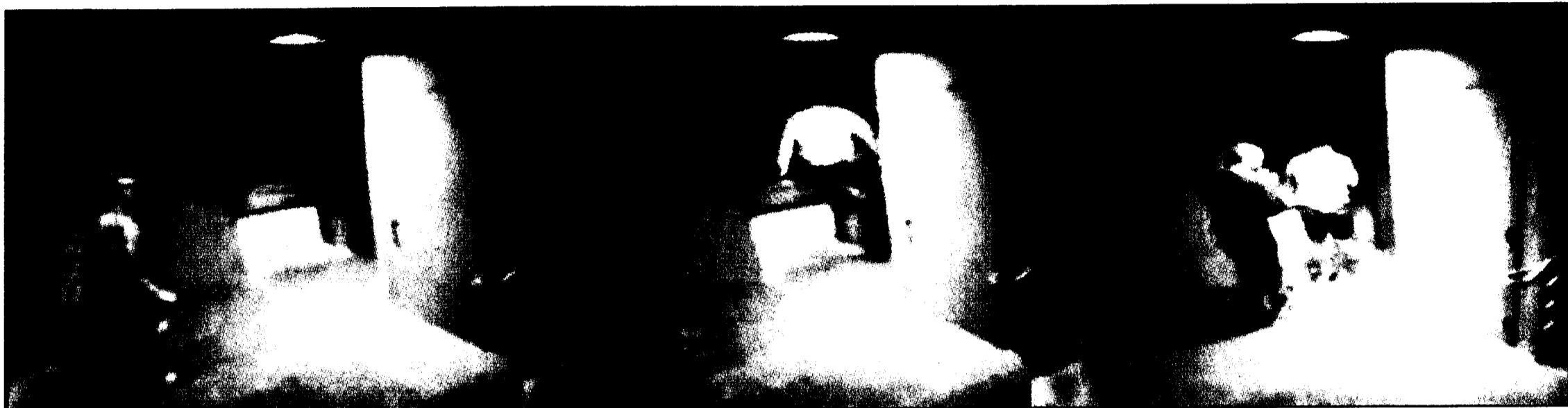
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### Student vandal caught on security camera



Police and Safety Surveillance/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above: A moment by moment account of vandalism was reportedly committed by an individual Saturday, Oct 1. Below: Vandal leaves about a three foot hole in the wall beside the campus elevator.

By Justin DeSantis  
staff writer  
October 7, 2005

Vandals have hit the Behrend Campus again. Janitorial staff reported damage done in the bottom of the stairwell. Campus police say that a large hole was punched into the wall near the elevator. Damage estimates weren't immediately available. The damage will not be attributed to any one residence hall due to the fact that the stair tower is maintained by the entire campus. In fact, the only way the campus pays for the destruction is through the inability to use the area.

There is an on-going investigation to find out which individual was responsible for the damage to the wall.

Vandalism on campus is a frustrating prospect for the Maintenance Department. They handle all forms of vandalism done to the school that is not covered by Housing and Food Services.

Although the problem is technically an issue that is handled by Police and Safety, Randy Geering,

the Director of Housing and Food Services, gave some of his own opinions on this broad issue. He thinks that the damage appears to have been done by a student who got a "little zealous" and he suspects the damage was furthered by other students.

Geering made the assumption by looking at the hole but was unable to positively determine how the damage was caused.

At this time, Police and Safety has said that a student has been apprehended in connection with the crime. There are also some suspects that have been questioned. Police and Safety speculated that there may be more students involved as well. The department wouldn't make any further comments.

The Stair Tower is a part of the academic campus, a broad term that refers it to the area of campus not monitored by Housing and Food Services. Placing security cameras seems to be an answer that always comes up as a solution, but Geering obviously wants to be able to trust the students of the resident halls. "We don't want to create a police state," said Geering.

Even in commonly targeted areas, the installation

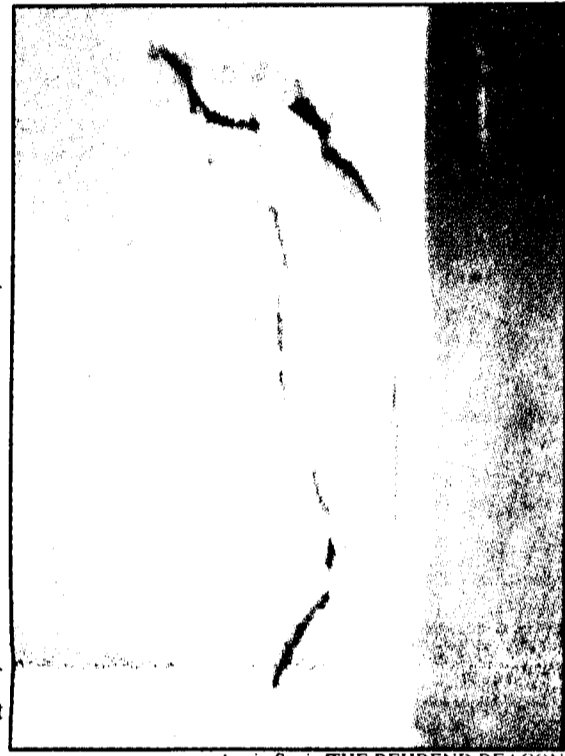
of security cameras is not an idea that Geering prefers.

Usually, the RA's are contacted and a meeting is formed. The residents are called together and are informed of the problem. "The idea is for students to understand that there are consequences to actions and you must take responsibility for those actions," said Geering.

It shouldn't be seen by students as a type of punishment or roundabout way for Penn State Erie to make students pay for the repairs. The idea is to create a community of students. This would create a community in which the students wouldn't want to destroy the campus.

"I think that education is the best way to correct the behavior," said Geering. It must be kept in mind that we need to preserve the school for the future as well as the present.

If any students have information regarding the acts of vandalism, they can call Police and Safety. The fundamental goal is to make students aware of the consequences of destroying the campus without turning Behrend into a police state.



Annie Sevin/THE BEHREND BEACON

The  
Behrend  
Beacon  
Staff  
Wishes  
Everyone at  
Behrend a  
Happy  
Summer!

### Behrend student aids with Katrina clean-up

By Ashley Bressler  
staff writer  
September 9, 2005

As the terrors of Hurricane Katrina hurtled towards New Orleans, the citizens of Louisiana were warned and given orders for immediate evacuation, but no one could have predicted the amount of damage that Katrina was about to bring. Many locals chose to ignore the suggestions to seek safety.

Today, more than a week after the horrific storm erased what was notorious to the New Orleans region, the problems of clean, drinking water, food, adequate shelter and the accountability for missing persons still continues to plague locals. Once again, Americans have underestimated the powers of foreign invaders and this time, the forces of nature reigned supreme. Will the American government be able to rebuild the New Orleans region so that the thousands of victimized individuals will be able to regain the life they once knew?

Men and women from all across the nation are being sent to Louisiana to help with clean-up efforts and their attitudes about it are nothing short of inspiring. There were a number of students from our Behrend community that were sent to join the enormous task of restoring peace to a devastated land. One student in particular, Adam Gorniak of Wattsburgh, PA, was more than willing to recall his experience in the New Orleans

area. Gorniak is a current student at Penn State Behrend and is a business management major, minoring in economics and marketing. Gorniak is also a proud member of the Army National Guard and was sent to the city of Alexandria, Louisiana on Sunday, September 4. Through a phone-interview, Adam shared his eagerness to be given this order, and was honored to help with the clean-up efforts. Gorniak said, "I am just happy to be down here, helping in any way I can."

When asked to explain the details of his orders, Gorniak revealed that the specifics were not assigned yet, but his mission could include anything from clearing buildings and searching for survivors to distributing food to the recently homeless population. Gorniak will be in the New Orleans area for approximately 30 days, in which he will be going from the hurricane sight to his post city, Alexandria, numerous times as efforts to improve the area are made.

The living conditions of the National Guard have been far better than those in the Katrina wreckage. Gorniak said, "There was no damage done to the area where we are currently located. We have clean, running water for showering, a roof over our heads and a bed to sleep in. We are very fortunate." He also said that the temperature in Louisiana is very hot and almost unbearable, reaching 90 degrees or above every day. It is certain that in the next month Adam Gorniak will be doing all that he can to fulfill his patriotic duty and will thus comfort the lives of many Americans who have lost everything.

### Faculty upset at revealed salary disparity

By Christopher LaFuria  
sports editor  
March 24, 2006

The Penn State Senate Committee on Faculty Benefits is releasing its summary on faculty salaries for the 2005-2006 academic year. With the circulation of this summary, Penn State is publicly announcing some of its external and internal reviews on salary issues for this academic year. In addition to the release of reviews, for the first time Penn State is releasing the ranks and salaries for the divisions of schools at each individual campus.

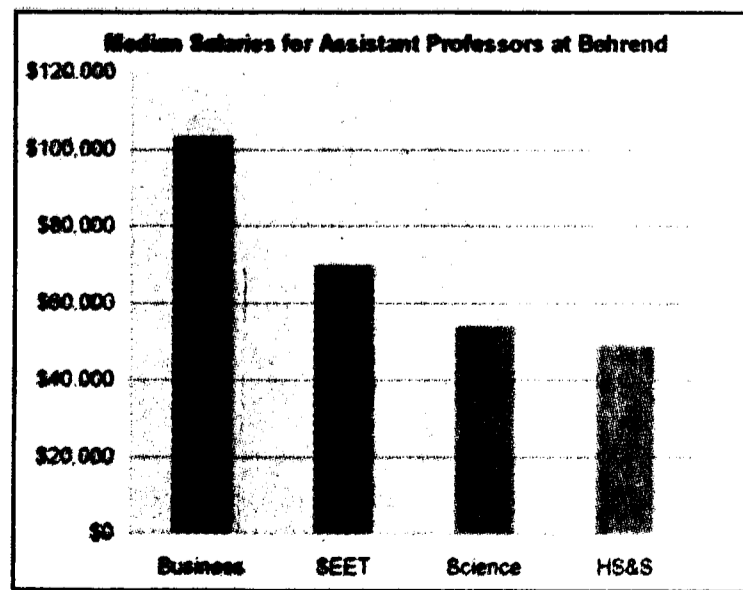
With the disclosure of the figures, many faculty members who have expressed concern over some of the salary disparity disclosed in these documents. The main area of concern is a table detailing the differences in pay from other divisions of Behrend and other campuses. The release of the salary data has left many professors in Humanities and Social Sciences wondering why they are paid so much less.

According to the chart containing the salary data, Associate Professors in Behrend's Humanities and Social Science division earn a median salary of approximately \$62,000 a year. This figure causes two areas of concern for many professors at Behrend. The first area of concern is the comparison of the Humanities division to other schools on Behrend's campus. Associate Professors in the school of Business at Behrend earn a median salary of \$108,000, which is the highest salary

for any division of any branch campus of Penn State. The second area of concern is the comparison of Humanities and Social Science professors at Behrend to those at other branch campuses is significantly different. For example, professors of Social Sciences at Penn State's Abington campus earn a median salary of approximately \$73,000, which is more than \$10,000 higher than the salaries of the same professors at Behrend.

While Penn State uses these figures to assess the range of salaries among the branch campuses, many professors at Behrend question the reasoning behind such significantly different numbers. According to a Humanities professor at Behrend who requested anonymity in fear of reprisal, "I believe in the concept of equal pay for equal work." This signifies the concern of the vast difference between the Humanities' salaries and those of Business professors.

The salary summary concludes by outlining possible reasons for the deviation in salaries for faculty. In the executive summary, it states, "The variability in faculty salaries is likely due to several interactive factors including but not limited to mean years in rank, within college discipline and departmental norms, market forces, and merit based salary increases."



Robert Frank / THE BEHREND BEACON

The Behrend faculty are irritated by salary discrepancies.

Since the release of the salary data by Penn State, many professors have voiced their concern about the obvious disparity in salaries. While many Humanities and Social Science professors are working to formulate an explanation for such inconsistency, they conclude that the most they can do is talk about the facts and make these figures known to the public. This is a possible method and vehicle for getting their concerns to be more concrete to the public.

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