

THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, December 15, 2006 A Penn State Erie Student Publication **DEC 18 2006** Vol. LIII No. XIII

“The McGwire-Sosa homerun battle brought baseball back to the forefront, and nothing that happens today can erase that fact.”

- Scott Soltis

WHO'S INSIDE

John Bolton's bullying efforts have fortified the domineering American presence in international affairs.”

-Stephen Oyler, Junior

A problem with Bolton?
•Stephen Oyler writes about the problem with John Bolton as well as foreign problems.
page 4

Happy Holidays
•Ben Raymond writes about his dislike for shoppers and other people that annoy him.
Page 5



Sports photo showcase
•Dan Mitchell put together a photo showcase of the Fall Sports Season
Page 8

Women's basketball
•Find out how the Lady Lions are doing so far this season with an update.
page 7



Athlete of the Week
•David Gahan was selected as the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week.
page 8

Behrend acts upon harassment



Glenhill Farmhouse, located on campus, is the office building where students can find Associate Dean David Christiansen and other administration faculty, who assist students with harassment complaints and other matters.

By Chris LaFuria
news editor

Penn State Behrend's administration is swiftly and decisively acting upon a harassment complaint filed by a student. This week, Behrend, led by Associate Dean David Christiansen, is investigating a complaint against an ROTC instructor, which was filed by senior Communication major Roger Lafferty. According to Lafferty, an ROTC instructor used profane and harassing remarks to a student who was lifting weights nearby. He said that the comments were lewd and inappropriate. While lifting weights at the Junker Center, Lafferty overheard the remarks.

The first time the remarks were made, no action by Lafferty was taken. After he heard the same remarks the next time he was in the weight room, Lafferty went directly to Police and Safety, and then called the Office of the Dean, where Christiansen immediately took action.

Christiansen talked with Lafferty to discuss what was said to determine what action to take. After the meeting with Lafferty, Christiansen contacted ROTC program chair Major Mike Dunleavy to discuss what happened, meet with the accused instructor and review the appropriate University Policy dealing with harassment.

During the meeting with administration, the ROTC instructor came forth and admitted that he made the comments described by Lafferty. While he did not condone his actions, the instructor said that his comments were "misinterpreted" and his "intent was not recognized." The ROTC department was contacted but was not available for comment on the issue.

According to Christiansen, the instructor issued a "sincere apology" and offered to meet with Lafferty for a formal apology. Christiansen said that Lafferty declined a

meeting for the apology because he was satisfied with the outcome.

Christiansen says that it is a University Policy to meet with the students and work with the individuals so that both parties are satisfied. "Penn State is a pro-active institution with addressing these issues. We have a positive attitude toward the zero-tolerance issue," he said.

Lafferty, who says that he does not usually complain but was genuinely concerned, says that he was very impressed with the quick and decisive action of Behrend's administration. "I didn't think my complaint would be handled in the way it was," said Lafferty. "I figured it would be put on the back-burners; I was impressed with the phone call I received on the next day."

Behrend's administration would like to stress that Lafferty, or any student who files a complaint, can pursue further action, depending on the severity of the offense. They would like students to know that their complaints are handled as soon as they are issued and that they address complaints in a rapid, specific process so that each party is satisfied.

On Behrend's General University Reference Utility (GURU), website, the administration outlines such acts in Policy AD29 Statement of Intolerance. The definition of intolerance, according to the site, is "conduct that is in violation of a University policy, rule or regulation and is motivated by discriminatory bias against or hatred toward other individuals or groups based on characteristics such as age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, political belief, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status."

For more information on the University's policy and other definitions, students can visit the GURU website at <http://guru.psu.edu/policies/AD29.html>.

Behrend students rally for new club

By Kelly Houghton
contributing writer

Tree stands around Pennsylvania held more than one million hunters on November 27, some of which were Penn State Behrend students. The Monday after Thanksgiving is the opening day of deer hunting in Pennsylvania and a substantial number of hunters were once again in the fields and mountains by daybreak this year.

Hunting, in addition to fishing, are hobbies that a number of Behrend students share. Greek life, extracurricular activities, and clubs are great ways for students to enjoy hobbies within a group. Behrend has a wide variety of organizations, including three sororities, four fraternities, and recreational clubs that range from martial arts to sailing.

There is also an outdoors club that organizes activities such as snow skiing, camping, hiking, canoeing and biking. However, Behrend lacks a club for anglers and hunters, which is surprising for a community on a Great Lake that neighbors acres of barren land.

While some students said that they would like for fishing and hunting to remain a hobby aside from a club, a larger amount of those questioned expressed a strong interest.

A club would allow members to exchange essential hunting tips with each other and learn vital information about the sport, like great hunting locations and the best deals for hunting gear. Groups are also often eligible for a discount at stores specializing in hunting gear and instruments. Retail companies target organized groups of hunters for the marketing campaigns, and being a member of such a group could entitle you to perks.

Interested students excitedly gave feedback on possible club ideas. Senior Electrical Engineer major Brett Ryhal said that a major draw to a hunting club would be access to easier ways of signing up for tags, sighting rifles in meetings, or talking about the newest bullets and ammunition. Junior Plastics Engineering major Nick Toomey also brought up the idea of the club having a bi-monthly trap/skeet shooting night for fun. Toomey also commented that Behrend's 725-acre campus could possibly be utilized.

"The school has plenty of land that could be made available to monitored and controlled archery hunting. The school owns land that four mile creek runs through and also has a piece of property on Shannon road where there is a pond. This land is not utilized nearly enough," said Toomey.

Continued on Page 2.

Behrend students worried about the use of OxyContin

By Miranda Krause
copy editor

During a recent robbery of Burhenns Pharmacy, Penn State Behrend student, Timothy Blackhurst and two others admitted that they stole drugs to both sell and use. This leaves many students concerned that drugs could be sold on campus, Alaina Hart, a sophomore is very worried about this problem.

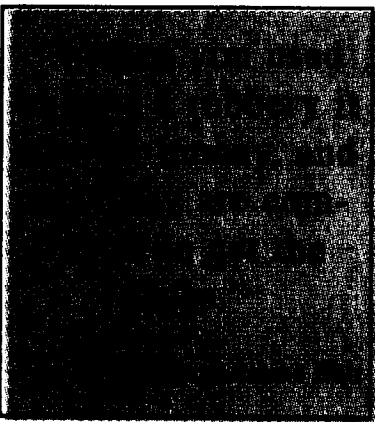
"There are so many people stressed out during finals and some may lean towards drugs for comfort. What if those OxyContin were sold here? What would that do to our campus?" she said.

Burhenns Pharmacy has not been the first pharmacy targeted for the robbery of OxyContin. Since 2002, many pharmacies have been robbed in the Erie and many of those robberies involved the theft of OxyContin. In June 2002 Mark Murrow, an Erie local, was charged by Lawrence Park Police with assault, accusing him of using a bat to beat a 50-year-old man in a dispute over OxyContin. In September of 2003, David Slyk of Oil City pleaded guilty to robbing two pharmacies in Millcreek Township and one in Corry for OxyContin and other painkillers between the months of August and December of 2002. Over the past three years, Pennsylvania State Police authorities said there has been an increase in pharmacy robberies for prescription drugs and money.

El McKnight, a pharmacist at Frontier Pharmacy located on W 8th St., feels that a rise in the demand for OxyContin could lead to another phar-

macy robbery. "Well that's kind of scary for us. The simple reason for this is when you used to have a robbery, it was for money, and now they are coming in to get the drugs. It's a little scary because those people are not rational. I feel that there is a lot more of a chance to be hurt in that situation than in a robbery for money," McKnight said.

McKnight said that people take OxyContin because "apparently they get a high of some sort out of it. They'll use it just to get high. It suppresses the pain centers in the brain."



According to Psychologist Sue Daily of Behrend's Personal Counseling Center, OxyContin has the potential to become highly addictive, as any drug could. "When you use drugs throughout your teenage years and through adulthood you are setting your brain up for an addiction," she said. Daily feels that she OxyContin wont become much of a problem here, saying, "I think it's [OxyContin usage] already here [Behrend] but I don't think college students would be the target audience with how much they cost," she says, however "it's hard to speculate. There are some figures out there to support that the use of prescription drugs are more on the rise than illegal drugs. I think it's because of access or availability when they are located in peoples medicine cabinets."

Hart believes that drugs are already a problem on the Behrend campus, saying, "I just want to feel safe at my school," She added, "And the fact that two students of Behrend have been arrested, though they are for different reasons, in the last month doesn't make me feel very safe."

Contents

News.....	1-3
Editorial.....	4
Humor.....	5
Student Life.....	6
Sports.....	7-8

Contact Us

Newsroom:
898-6488
Fax:
898-6019

E-mail: jah1005@psu.edu

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.