

"Starting off a new semester 3-0 is a pretty big deal. We came back to school knowing what we had to accomplish to earn a playoff spot. Now we have to work hard to bring back the league championship."

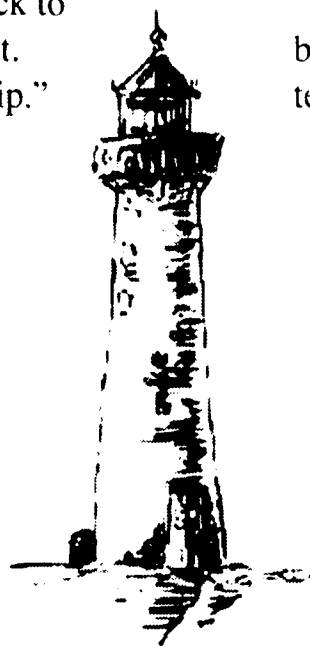
-Brysten Jones,  
Men's Hockey Team  
page 9

"With only ten minutes left in class, I began to feel a slight rumbling in my stomach, and I immediately realized that some unholy terrors were beginning to ferment."

-Mike Sharkey,  
Photo Editor  
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# Behrend



# Beacon

Friday, February 2, 2007

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## Code Blue telephones offer students security

By Scott Muska  
assistant news editor

A college can be a dangerous place at times. There are the expected dangers, like rapes and muggings (though these are not extremely prevalent on the suburban Behrend campus), but there are the other subtler dangers that creep into students' consciousness far less frequently. A friend could slip on ice and land on

their head, or someone could get drilled in the eye with a snowball, making them momentarily (or permanently) blind, scared and helpless. There are many reasons that a student or visitor on Behrend's campus would immediately need the aid of a campus police officer.

This is why the police and public safety department at Penn State Behrend has employed the use of the emergency telephones that can be found sporadically throughout the campus. The telephones have been cleverly named the "Code Blue" telephones, because of the blue light that they give off, and there are 13 of them located next to buildings and along the sidewalks of the campus.

Two are located near Almy Hall, two by the Behrend Athletic Fields, three in the Ohio Hall parking lot, one in the Science Hall/Ohio Hall walkway, two in the Erie Hall parking lot, two inside of Erie Hall, two in the Junker Center parking lot and two inside of the Junker Center, one in the Apartment Lot South, and one on the Smith Chapel Walkway.

The use of these emergency telephones is very elementary and basically self-explanatory, which is good, since in the case of an emergency it might become

rather difficult if it was a complex task. Luckily, all that is required is the pushing of the red button that is located on all of the telephones and is labeled with the word "Emergency." This will connect you to an emergency dispatcher that will promptly send the police.

The purpose of these emergency

telephone is not only to help students of the Behrend campus, but to give them peace of mind. Knowing that there are emergency telephones around campus helps the student body to feel a certain amount of security; especially the females on campus, since the telephones are most often referred to as the "rape bells." With

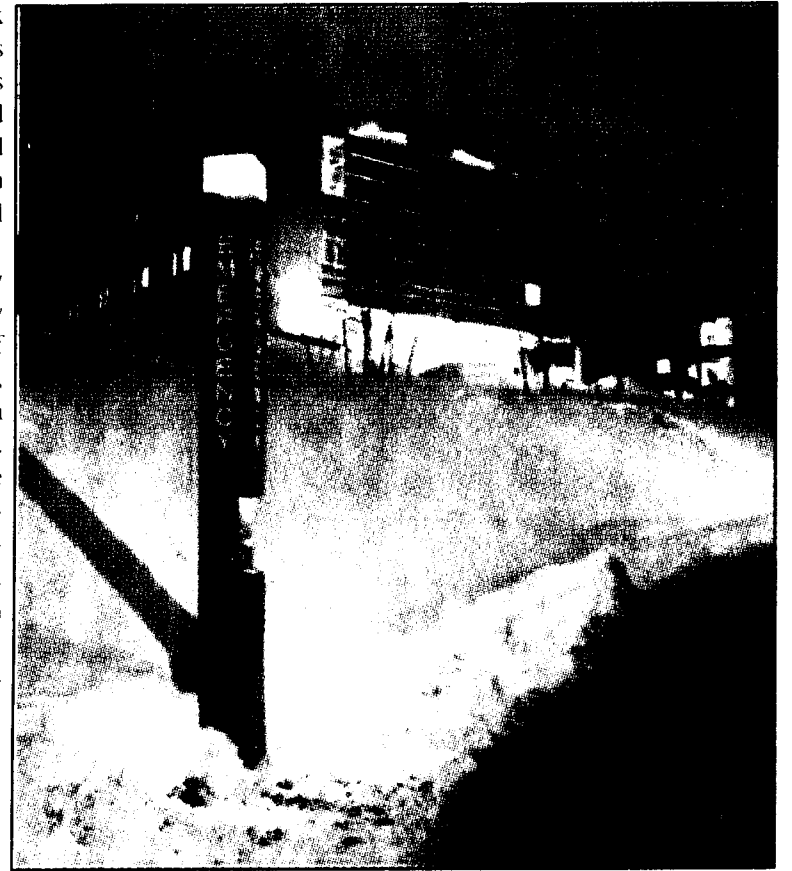
so many emergency posts, it would make an assailant less likely to prowl the Behrend campus.

Some students, however, feel that Behrend is a safe enough campus as is, and feel no need to be insecure. "I don't think that there is much to be afraid of here, really. I feel pretty secure," said freshman Frank Nagy. "I do think they're a good idea, but I'm not sure how fast the police could react to one of these emergency calls. I guess it depends on the situation."

Even some females are not extremely afraid of being accosted on campus. When asked if she felt

"I do think they're a good idea, but I'm not sure how fast the police could react to one of these emergency calls."

-Frank Nagy



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Students can be reassured as rumors about the Emergency Code Blue telephones on campus are now operating properly.

more secure with the emergency telephones on campus, freshman Jenny LaFuria said that "I don't really feel more secure with the telephones, but maybe that's because I was never really that scared of being raped here anyway."

The telephones are operable, and can be used in the case of any emergency. They will undoubtedly be quickly responded to.

## Groundhog Day brings crowds, celebrations

By Ashley Bressler  
news editor

Its 4 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 2, 2007. The sun hasn't come up yet, and it is freezing outside, but, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, crowds of people from across the country gather to get a glimpse of the most beloved groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil. The allure of Groundhog Day is one that started in anticipation for winter's end. In Punxsutawney, the locals have embraced this tradition of pulling a groundhog out of its hole to see if it will see its shadow. If the groundhog sees its shadow, then there will be six more weeks of winter. If by chance, he does not see his shadow, then the crowd will cheer declaring the end

of winter and the start of spring.

Of course, this tradition doesn't actually have any real fact to it, but for hundreds of years, the public has relied on Phil to bring them news of spring. The ritual began in 1887, but it was not until 1966 that the public was able to take part in the annual events. Since then, Phil has been making his annual February debut from Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney in front of thousands of people.

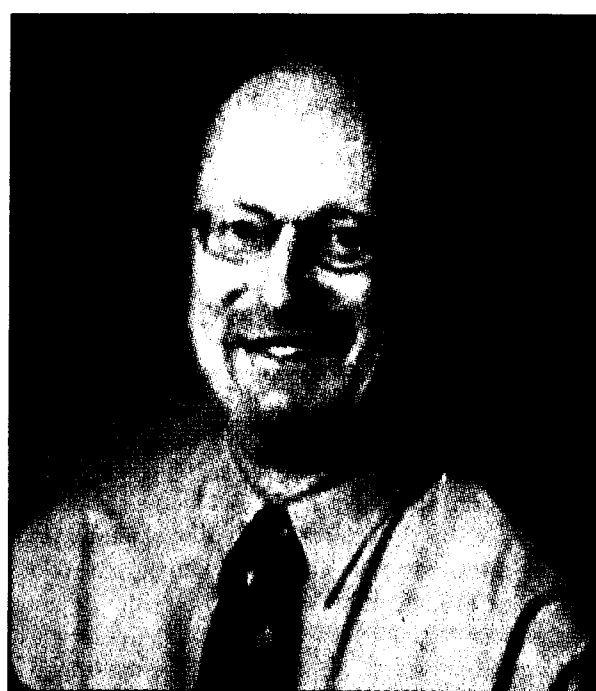
The popularity of this one day in February has grown so large that the town has embraced the groundhog as its official mascot. There are 32 fiberglass statues of the famous groundhog Punxsy Phil scattered through the town. Each statue of Phil was created from drawings done by local artist Victoria

Dicken, and they each show him in a different costume, matching the location of the statue. The community of Punxsutawney takes great pride in the unique statues which decorate their town.

While Punxsutawney locals enjoy taking part in the week long festivities, many outsiders travel to celebrate as well. In fact, if you are traveling a long distance, arriving a day early is necessary as all of the lodging fills very quickly in this small town. The official festivities on Groundhog Day begin at 3 a.m. when the shuttle buses start transporting people from the town to Gobbler's Knob. The buses are constantly running from 3 a.m. - 8 a.m.

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## Professor receives university-wide award



Dr. John Fizel of Behrend is honored for his Leadership.

By Lenny Smith  
assistant news editor

A Penn State Erie, The Behrend College economics professor has been awarded a top university-wide

award. Dr. John Fizel has been awarded the University's 2007 Graduate Program Chair Leadership Award.

The award, which started in 2003, is meant to recognize faculty members for exemplary leadership benefiting graduate students and faculty in an existing graduate degree program at Penn State. According to Penn State's Graduate School website, "Such leadership includes, but is not limited to: enhancement of student recruitment; professional development and placement; mentoring and promotion of faculty and students in the program; enhancement of program diversity, educational quality,

resources, and national visibility; promotion of professional ethics and its integration into all elements of graduate programming (academic, research, professional conduct, etc.); and other efforts that enhance the stature of the graduate program both internally and externally."

In order to win the award, a professor must be nominated by a fellow faculty member or a graduate student. The professor must be an approved member of the graduate faculty at Penn State, a current or recent chair of an existing graduate degree program, and

demonstrate excellence in leadership of graduate education.

Fizel will be presented with a plaque and \$1,000 cash award at the Faculty and Staff Recognition Luncheon later this spring.

iMBA Program chair and Professor of Economics, Fizel graduated from Michigan State University in 1981 and has been a professor at Behrend since 1985. He is an active researcher involved in a wide variety of business-related areas, including a number of recent books covering sports economics. In the past, he has also been a consultant for agents of major league baseball players as well as for the Attorney General's Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Penn State's iMBA program is part of Penn State World Campus and is an online program designed to help working professionals develop cross-functional expertise for organizational strategy development and problem solving. The program is ideal for working professionals with a business or non-business undergraduate degree. The Behrend program is located at Penn State's Knowledge Park innovation center and currently enrolls 160 students. Students accepted to the program represent 42 states and 18 countries.

For more information on Penn State's iMBA program, visit [www.worldcampus.psu.edu/iMBA.shtml](http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/iMBA.shtml).

Dr. Fizel is being honored for exemplary leadership benefiting graduate students.