

"I could not believe that class was not cancelled on the days where weather conditions were severe."

- Jessica Samol.
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"It's great to see two unique styles of teams come together for such a great cause and get the respect and appreciation these women deserve."

- Brian Streeter,
Athletic Director,
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Erie County Council delays smoking ban

By Chris Brown
copy editor

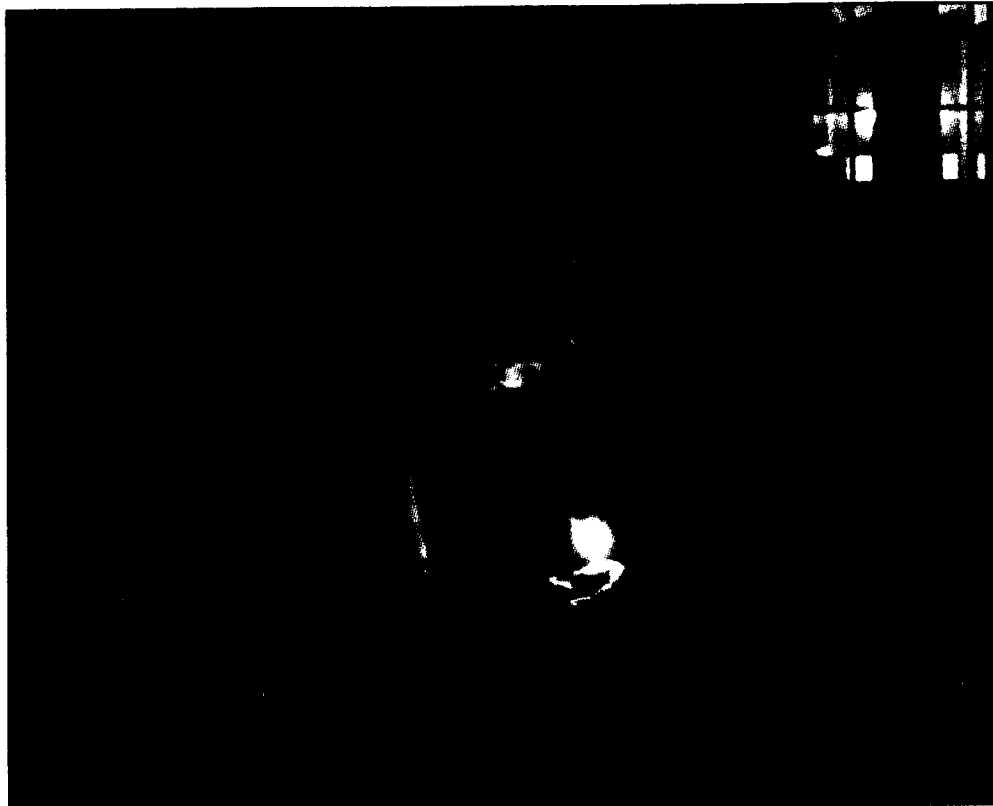
Erie county council voted 5-2 on Wednesday, Feb. 14, to delay the implementation of the county-wide smoking ban until Mar. 15. Erie County Judge John A. Bozza requested the Council push back the start date of the ban until after he ruled on the permanent injunction filed by a group of tavern owners. The date for the hearing on the permanent injunction is scheduled for Feb. 26.

The owners of the Corner Bar & Grill, 32 E. Main St. Corry, PA, and the corporation that runs Willow's, 621 W. 26th, Erie, PA, filed the injunction on Feb. 5. Bozza rejected their request for a temporary injunction because the owners failed to "Show greater injury would result from refusing the injunction than from granting it, or that the issuance of an injunction will not substantially harm other interested parties in the proceedings, namely the public at large." However, to win a permanent injunction the owners only need to prove that the council ban on smoking is in violation of other statutes.

Besides the obvious legal debate surrounding the smoking ban, it also raises questions about government interference in private matters and public enterprise. Erie County Council passed the resolution because it felt smoking in public "was a danger to health." The problem is how the government should weigh risks to public health against freedom and businesses.

Kelly Walczak, a smoker, (MRKTG 08) disagrees with the council's ban. Walczak said that she, "[doesn't] understand why the county couldn't just sell smoking licenses to bars like they sell liquor licenses and make everyone happy." Josh Corle, a smoker and employee at Jimmy Z's Time-Out Tavern, doesn't think it's going to stop people from smoking and doesn't solve the root of the problem, saying "They'll just go outside and smoke. That will just create more problems because nothing is built outside to control people; they'll be in the street, crowding the sidewalks, and creating more of a nuisance outside," said Corle. Besides the simple solution of smoking outside, there is the problem of enforcing the ban. Adam Cucitrone, (ECON 04), thinks it will be "hard to stop people smoking because of the number of bars in Erie."

Economics also plays a factor in people's feelings towards the county ban. The suit filed against the Erie County Council originated because the owners of the Corner Bar & Grill and Willow's felt it would take money away from their businesses.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

As of Mar. 15, residents of Erie will have to step outside to smoke due to the county-wide smoking ban will be in effect.

"In New York the ban had little effect because there was a lot of other places to go besides bars, but Erie just has bars."

**-Younes Renak,
Behrend Student**

Younes Renak, a smoker, (MRKTG 04) and a native of New York, thinks the ban will have a negative impact on Erie businesses. Renak said, "In New York the ban had little effect because there was a lot of other places to go besides bars, but Erie just has bars."

However there is the chance it could have a positive effect on businesses. Many non-smokers choose to go to restaurants or bars precisely because they are non-smoking. That's how J.J. Penfield, an ex-smoker (GAS 06) feels. Penfield is for the ban because she doesn't want to be forced to inhale second hand smoke just because she wants to go out. She went on to say, "My family and I go to New York because it is smoke free and we don't have to worry about second-hand smoke there. I see it as a perk." She also pointed out that many people already regulate where they smoke by themselves. "I make my husband smoke outside," added Penfield.

Whatever one's feelings on the smoking ban, it looks as though the days of the smoke filled bar and tavern are numbered. Many states and municipalities have already passed legislation on the issue and even if the Erie County ban fails, there's a good chance the State Legislature will pass a statewide ban on their own.

Students can find several ways to quit smoking

By Janet Niedenberger
opinion editor

With the Erie County smoking ban looming on the horizon, many smokers may worry about how their habit will be affected by the law. Instead of sitting in the smoking section, they'll be forced to go outside, and stand at least 10 feet from the building. During the winter in Erie, this is not exactly something that one would be inclined to do. There are two possible solutions. One, said smoker could try to fight the ban. Or, considering all of the health problems that smoking causes, one can quit smoking.

Of course, this is much easier said than done. However, there are many types of products and methods which were created to aid in quitting. The most common product used for aid in quitting is a nicotine replacement. There are several forms of this.

The nicotine patch is placed on your body, and it releases a constant supply of nicotine. It must be replaced every 24 hours and is available in varying doses. Then of course, there's the nicotine gum. The more you chew it, the more nicotine is released. It's convenient when you really have a craving for a cigarette. Next is the Commit nicotine lozenge. You simply place it in your mouth and allow it to dissolve, which takes 20-30 minutes.

If you not only have an addiction to the nicotine, but also an addiction to the act of smoking, there's something for you, too. There is a nicotine inhaler on the market. Simply puff on the device, and hold the vapor in your mouth for a few seconds. Make sure you don't inhale, however, because the nicotine

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Behrend's official name is revealed

By Jessica Carlson
staff writer

When asked where they go to college, Penn State Behrend students have a variety of answers. Penn State Erie, Penn State Behrend, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, or Penn State. Overall, Behrend prefers the title Penn State Behrend as opposed to Penn State Erie, because it separates the college from other campuses.

Penn State Behrend is not your typical Penn State branch campus. With its small campus setting, students get the feeling that they are attending a private residential college, as opposed to a two-year transfer campus. Although it may be small, students ultimately receive a large education with a Penn State degree.

Penn State Behrend's history dates back to 1946 when Penn State was looking to establish a branch in the Erie area. In 1948, Mary Behrend made the decision to donate the land in memory of her late husband, Ernst. Within the same year, 146 students were enrolled, though they were only able to complete their freshman year before being forced to transfer elsewhere. On January 20, 1973, Behrend became the first Penn State campus outside of University Park to obtain four-year college and graduate status capabilities.

Penn State Behrend has since grown into a four-year college with a population reaching a record-breaking high this year of over 4,000 students. Such a major growth may be due in part to marketing. Dewayne Wright, Director of Marketing and Communications at Behrend says,

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Contact Us

Newsroom:
898-6488
Fax:
898-6019

E-mail: csl5005@psu.edu

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

University Gate Apartments suffer damages

By Sheri Kroskie
staff writer

Going to college is something most young people dream of; the chance to live with less rules and more independence. However, along with independence comes responsibility; responsibility some students can't handle.

Recent damage reports at the newly constructed University Gate Apartments highlight the problem of student irresponsibility. Property manager Dave Hart says, "some students who live in the apartment complex are purposely being destructive." Hart says students are doing everything from punching holes in walls, to kicking in doors and doorframes, to shooting off fire extinguishers. "When damages occur, people don't realize the cost and effort it takes to fix them. We do everything we can to try and maintain these apartments for the residence, but it's hard when you have people making careless choices," Hart said.

In addition to property damage, residents at University Gate report problems dealing with irresponsible neighbors. Resident Nitasha Strait said she finds some people's behavior disgusting. "Sometimes it's so gross living here. I woke up to dead goldfish in a pool of vomit in front of my door," Strait said. "Who does that, honestly?" Shawn Goehring, another resident at University Gate, says he feels that while many of the residents do a good job cleaning up after themselves, others do not. Goehring said, "The residents who do not clean up after themselves seem to forget that they no longer have a cleaning person to follow

them around. There are often cigarette butts and beer cans lying outside of our complex," Goehring said. Dave Hart said University Gate tries to keep up with the mess by having cleaning crews come throughout the week. However, Hart said, "it becomes extremely difficult to clean everything when so much garbage and filth accumulates."

Residents say anyone who takes a walk around the complex on a Sunday morning will see the problem firsthand. What people will see, residents say, is a mosaic of nachos and cheese scattered down stairways, empty beer bottles piled at the base of stairwells, and a weird orange textured substance lining the walls.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

The irresponsibility of some Behrend Students has managers at University Gates frustrated.

According to Hart, the staff of University Gate Apartments is dealing with the problem. "We've caught on to the individuals that are responsible, so it's not everyone's fault that lives here. Certain people have been evicted however, because of the problems they have caused due to maintenance," Hart said.

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