

"There's been a lot of vomit. There has been throw-up all over the walls."

- Kyle Lindey,
Niagara Hall Resident Assistant,
page 1

"We are a family. We stick together no matter what the situation presents."

- Nikki Kaschauer,

Behrend Lions Softball second baseman,
page 10

The Behrend Beacon



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Read up on Chris Brown's latest opinion column, "This Week in Politics," on page 4.



As the weather turns to spring, spend an afternoon playing wiffle ball, page 7.

Check out Liz Cybulski's Humor column about the boys from Lawrence Hall on page 6.



Mike Stetz is this week's Athlete of the Week. Read more about his skills on page 10.

Multi Cultural Council flyers vandalized during diversity week

By Adell Coleman
contributing writer

Signs were torn, tattered, and taken down during Diversity Week at Penn State Behrend. Diversity Week is a week of programs put on by the Multi Cultural Council where students display different cultures. There are programs every day that give insight to the many cultures Behrend has on its campus.

However, the week's events were abruptly interrupted by intentional vandalism. "Someone was going around tearing up the signs, spitting on signs, changing the words of the signs and worst of all someone changed it from saying Culture Week to Creature Week," states the MCC President Nadine Granjean. Nevertheless, this was not the only issue; the signs that were being vandalized belonged to the organizations Association of Black Collegians (ABC), Organization of African Students (OAS), and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), all of which are African American organizations. The MCC consists of 12 organizations for all types of people.

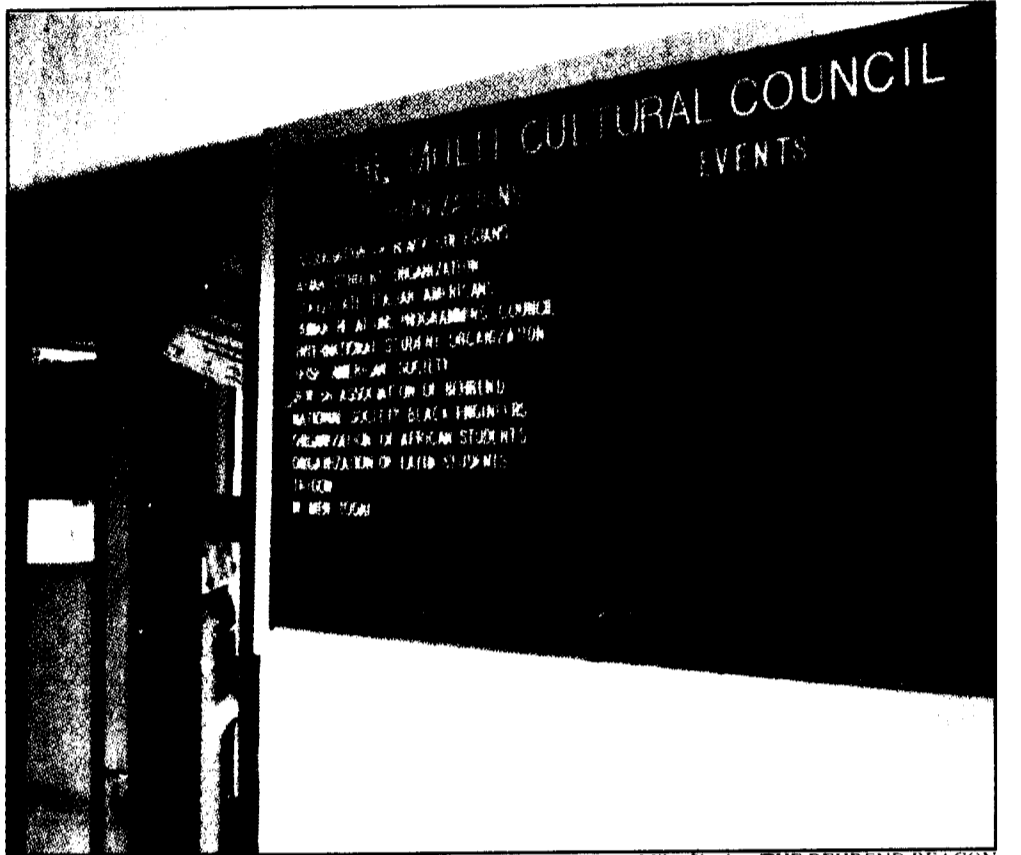
According to Granjean, the African American communities on the Behrend campus are very upset that nothing has been done. "It's as if our needs are not being met. We're not asking for upheaval and drama, but we have been blatantly disrespected and no one has come to our aid."

Other than the posters that were changed to "Creature Week," the defacement of NSBE's posters were strongly offensive and have some students claiming it may be due to racism. NSBE has a program called "Black Jeopardy" where the students ask questions on past and current figures in the African American community. According to MCC representatives someone scratched, the word black off the paper and wrote white instead. In fact, the organizations claim that all the "black organizations" had posters and fliers that

had been changed in similar ways.

"I think the students have a right to be upset," states Andres Herrera MCC Adult advisor as well as the Director of Educational Equity & Diversity Programs in the Division of Student Affairs. "I don't think it should have come down to this. The students are simply trying to give insight to who they are and where they come from." However, Herrera makes the argument

that even though this is not fair, the students may be making it into a bigger deal than it is. "I don't think that it is an attack on the African American students alone, I think it is an attack on the whole organization and this is something that diversity brings out of people." According to Herrera, the bigger problem is that most of the student body believes the MCC is only for students of color, and it is not, it is for everyone.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

The message board outside the Multi Cultural room lists organizations and their events.

Nothing has been done since the discovery of the "Creature Week" flyers; there has been talk of protests and sit-ins, but nothing final. Some students have contacted local news stations. "I don't want anything big to come from this," Granjean said. "I just want us to be heard fairly. I just want students, teachers, faculty, staff and everyone else to not just say we have a voice, but actually hear our voice."

Students workload expands beyond the classroom due to part-time jobs

By Jason Juniewicz
contributing writer

For many Penn State Behrend students the day does not end when their last class is over. Many students go back to their dorms and houses to work on their homework or just hang out with their friends. But others are on their way to their other responsibility: their job. Some of these working students are just working for extra money, but others are working to pay rent, their tuition and other living expenses.

Behrend junior Greg Rothenberg says he works 35 to 40 hours a week to pay rent and for the part of his tuition that isn't covered by financial aid. Rothenberg says that working does make going to school more difficult, but it does help him develop good time management skills. "Working while going to school has really made me learn how to better manage my time. I didn't work when I first started school, and it was hard to get used to at first." He also says that working limits the amount of time he has to work on school work. He has to fit in projects and assignments between classes and work, which can sometimes be a difficult task. While he says this is an obstacle, he does, however, manage to maintain good grades. "It would be nicer to do some work in the afternoon or evenings, but overall I still do well in school."

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Behrend Residence Halls suffer repeated damages during spring semester

By Tommy Phillips
staff writer

Niagara Hall has had problems with damages all year long. These damages have ranged from minor things such as garbage not being taken out to major things such as broken glass. It will be the residents of the hall who will end up paying for these damages.

Each damage on average gives the entire hall a \$25 charge. The cost of the damage is split up between all the residents of the hall, so one damage on its own does not cost each resident much money. However, there are so many damages that Niagara Hall residents will end up paying quite a bit at the end of the semester. As of March 6th, there was \$4,117.50 in damages, which comes out to a cost of about \$19.80 per person.

Niagara Hall second floor resident assistant Kyle Lindey says some of the damages have been bizarre. He mentioned an instance of sauerkraut being found in the sink. "Who has sauerkraut?" he said. He also mentioned some damages which he says he finds disgusting, including the "removal of puke, urine and beer from a recycling bin," which was another charge to the hall. "There's been a lot of vomit," he said. "There has been throw-up all over the walls."

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Travel delays leave some Behrend students stranded

By Lenny Smith
assistant news editor

As temperatures in Erie finally began to show signs of spring, Penn State Behrend students made their way back to campus this week after spring break. However, for some students, 'made their way back' does not begin to describe the frustrating ends to many spring break vacations. No matter where Behrend students traveled to over break, whether it was home, Mexico, or the Caribbean, it seems as if everyone has a story about their trip back to school.

Last weekend, winter struck the Northeast with another powerful storm. The storm consisted of sleet, freezing rain, and snow which ultimately froze all Northeastern travel. Airlines, such as US Airways, had as many as 100,000 stranded passengers system wide.

According to US Airways, computer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Behrend students experienced delays and waited anxiously in airports like the people above.

other problems slowed US Airways' attempts to clear the backlog. In addition, the airline's flights on Sunday were already nearly sold out with 275,000 passengers booked.

Spokeswoman for the Allegheny County Airport Authority JoAnn Jenny said, "It's just a busy time of year with spring break, and then with that storm, that really put a wrench in the works for a lot of folks"

Numerous Behrend students were among the thousands of people that were stuck on planes for up to nine-and-a-half hours or slept in terminals with disposable pillows and blankets.

Junior Danielle Brown traveled to Jamaica for an all-inclusive trip through expedia.com. Brown was scheduled to return to the states on Friday, but

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