



THE BEHREND BEACON

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Read the first installment of the faculty forum series on page 4.



Kid Nation goes a little too far.

Read about it on page 6.

Things are changing on campus. See what new improvements are coming to Dobbins on page 8.

The National Hockey League season starts soon.

Read the pre-view on page 9.

Behrend drivers worried after round of on-campus vandalism



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

People who park cars on campus think their vehicles will be safe. However, vandalism seems to be on the rise.

By Kayla Wright
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Most students assume that cars parked on campus will be left alone and remain safe. However, recent events have led to a contrary view. On a number of occasions, students' cars have been vandalized, leading some to question campus security. Students believe this wouldn't be an issue had it been put to a stop after the first time, but this vandalism has continually happened on consecutive weekends.

There are several proposed solutions. Some believe that cameras should be installed, while others believe there should be more officers patrolling the campus.

The most recent case of vandalism occurred in the parking lot in front of Almy Hall Sept. 22, where more than a dozen cars were reported vandalized. The sides of cars were keyed, side-view mirrors were completely ripped off, convertibles tops were punched in and there was other damage to the bodies of cars, such as dents.

Freshman Bridget Gutting was one victim. "My tail lights were kicked in and my side-view mirrors were torn off," Gutting said. This was one of the less severe cases but still it caused a great amount of problems for students whose had their cars damaged.

"I was mad because it cost a lot to repair the damages and it took a while to get it repaired so I couldn't just leave when I wanted to because my car was in the shop," Gutting said. Vandalism causes a lot of damage and for those that don't have complete insur-

ance coverage, it may cause some problems.

Currently, there is only one officer that patrols the campus at night over the weekends when most of the vandalism occurs. Students say that doesn't seem to leave the environment entirely secure.

"I think the school should take more measures to increase security especially on the weekends because a lot more is going on," Gutting said.

Director of the Division of Student Affairs, Kenneth Miller, believes that the solution is to have

more people patrolling the parking lots. He says he doesn't believe cameras should be installed because the details of the people, especially in the dark, would be too vague to determine who is committing the crime.

For example, if one was to watch a tape from a camera placed in the parking lot, he may capture someone committing a crime in a Penn State baseball cap in sweat-shirt. Given that the image will only be captured from above, the chances of being able to identify the perpetrator are pretty slim; most people on campus wear clothing with the Penn State logo.

Others still believe that cameras are the only way to

reduce the amount of vandalism occurring on campus. "Cameras will discourage students from vandalizing cars. If they know that they are being watched, they are less likely to commit the crime," said Freshman Susan Sherman.

Regardless of the stance one takes over whether cameras or more officers are required to reduce damage, students say that some kind of action needs to be taken to avoid future vandalism of cars.

"My tail lights were kicked in and my side-view mirrors were torn off."

**-Bridget Gutting
Freshman**

Behrend student organizations look to raise money for the United Way Foundation

By Rachel Reeves
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Penn State Behrend has kicked off its annual United Way campaign with the goal to raise \$50,000 from faculty, students, and staff.

United Way may be a massive national organization with 1,350 branches spread all over the country, but 98 percent of the money raised by Behrend remains in Erie County to benefit 34 local agencies. Some of the names on the list may sound familiar. Erie girl and boy scouts, the Salvation Army, and the YMCA. Others are organizations like the Crime Victim Center or the local hospice also benefit. Either way, all of these agencies are an important part of the local community, and Behrend takes supporting them very seriously.

The students raise \$2,000 of the total amount. Dr Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs, says that most of the student money



Keegan McGregor/THE BEHREND BEACON

A sign keeps track of how much money students on campus have raised. The students raise \$2,000 of the total amount. Dr Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs, says that most of the student money comes out of the residence halls. Each year the halls host various fundraisers, making it a competition to see which hall turns in the most money. Popular activities

include a t-shirt sale with shirts custom printed for each hall, penny wars in the lobbies, and tuck-in services where residents can receive freshly grilled sandwiches and a bedtime story.

The rest of the \$50,000 comes from faculty and staff, either in one-time gifts or directly out of paychecks. Each person can opt for an automatic deduction each time they are paid, with an earmark specifying which agency they want their money to go to.

It can prove a bit of a challenge to muster support for the United Way, since it is so big and supports so many different agencies. "Sometimes it's hard for faculty, students, and staff to wrap their heads around this. There's nothing physical; there's no telethon, no dance marathon, there's no big event," explains Miller. He tries to encourage people to look into the United Way website so they can get a better feel for where the money is going, and see some of the more concrete changes the organization has made.

No one has to look further than Erie to

Speaker Series brings lively poet to campus

By Liz Carey
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Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Beckian Fritz Goldberg speaks to students in the Smith Chapel on Sept. 27 about her poetry.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27th the distinguished poet, Beckian Fritz Goldberg grabbed Penn State Behrend students' attention as she read segments of poems and prose from her published work. The reading was preceded by a reception where the students were given the opportunity to sit down and talk to Goldberg.

Goldberg opened with a piece of prose about when she was a child. This caught the attention of the listeners and she continued to enthrall them with her poems about Torture Boy and Wolf Boy, who were reoccurring characters throughout all of *The Book of Accident*, which she primarily read from. All of the characters were children who Goldberg explained were a mix between the child she was and the children she would have had.

Although there was mandatory attendance for some English classes and all creative writing students, the room was packed with people who flocked in simply to hear her read her poetry. With a quick wit and great sense of humor she captivated the audience. Goldberg's main topics were death and sex, but she elegantly presented them in a way that was not crude or gruesome. In an interview when Goldberg was asked why she writes about death, she said, "Death is the eternal problem. I can't write without that awareness—to me it's constant.... How can you love something and not mourn the fact that it's going to disappear?" This grave outlook on life is apparent in almost all her literature, but most credit the death of her father which began her questioning physical life.

"I really enjoyed the reading," says Carly Smith, a freshman Communications major. "Some parts were difficult to understand but all-in-all it was intriguing," Smith said.

This seemed to be the consensus of all the students as they left Smith Chapel where the reading was held. Murmurs of her unique but intriguing style were heard throughout the foyer as students exited. On display outside of the chapel where copies of her books of poetry that were being sold to anyone who wanted them.

Goldberg received her MFA from Vermont College and her MA from Arizona State University where she was mentored by Norman Dubie. She is currently directing the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State as well as continuing to publish poetry and prose.

Goldberg's first book of poetry was published in 1991 and was entitled *Body Betrayal*, shortly after *In the Badlands of Desire* was published. In 1999 her second and third books, entitled *Never Be the Horse* and *Twentieth Century Children*, were published. In 2005 *Lie Awake Lake* was published and most recently in 2006 *The Book of Accident* was published.

Goldberg has been honored with many awards such as The Gettysburg Review Annual Poetry Award, The Field Poetry Prize, The University of Akron Press Poetry Prize and A Pushcart Prize. She has also been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry* series.

George Looney, series director and an associate professor of English and creative writing here at Penn State Behrend said, "Beckian Fritz Goldberg is a poet who uses her language as a light on both landscapes and the bodies walking and loving and suffering and rejoicing through those landscapes."

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