

NEWS

Behrend to support the less fortunate during Hunger and Homelessness Week

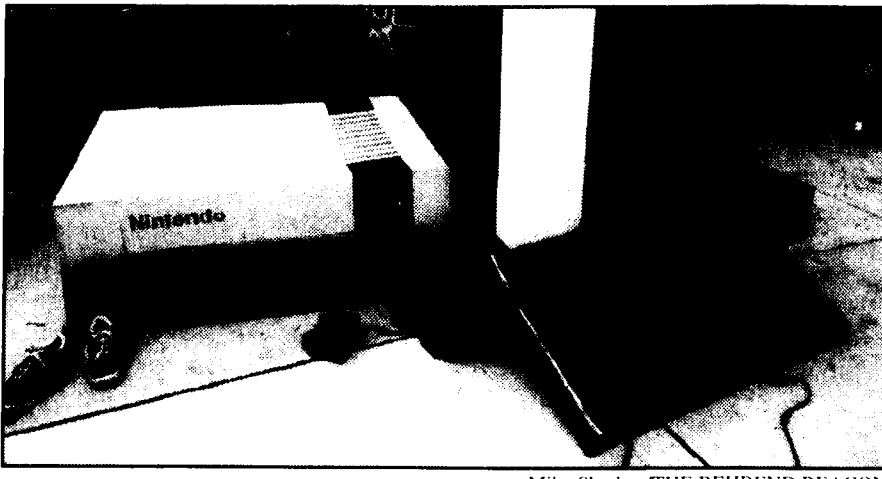
By Molly Bonivita
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Students may have noticed the increasing amounts of signs that advertise a "Cardboard City" or "Canstruction," but how does it all go together? The answer is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

This nationwide program had its beginnings in 1972 at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. The students there used the power of education of hunger and homelessness in America. Thus they began the first Hunger Week. It is designed to build campus and community awareness and more than 500 campuses take part in it each year.

Hunger and homelessness affects people from all walks of life and the statistics can be startling. Thirty-six million Americans are at risk of going hungry each year with 13 million of them being children; that's one out of every three. And out of the 36 million, 39.1 percent are male and 60 percent are female. Each year 3.5 million people experience homelessness. 35 percent of the homeless are families with children, 25 percent are U.S. military veterans, 25 percent are children under 18 years old, 30 percent have experienced domestic violence, 20-25 percent suffer from mental illness, and in urban communities, people experience homelessness for an average of eight months.

There are many factors that contribute to the statistics. The cost of living is higher than it used to be and low wage jobs do not make up for that difference of cost. Also with high unemployment rates, many Americans find themselves making a choice between paying utilities and paying for food. This is where the term "food insecurity" creeps in. Food insecurity is defined as



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Cities made out of cardboard, like this Nintendo console, are part of the activities that are scheduled for Hunger and Homelessness Week at Behrend Oct. 22-27.

a lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs due to lack of financial resources.

These problems can be faced through the Awareness Week that is held here at Behrend from Monday Oct. 22 through Saturday Oct. 27. "The two main organizations we are donating to this year are the Second Harvest Food Bank and the City Mission," says Reality Check Advisor Christa Morris. Also there will be two days to participate in Habitat for Humanity work days.

The main idea behind the Awareness Week is to, "give students the opportunity to learn about hunger and homelessness in America and how it can affect anyone," insists Morris.

The groups that are involved with the program include Reality Check, Alpha Pi Omega, Delta Sigma Pi, APO, IVCF, Matchbox, ODK, and Bio Club.

The scheduled events for the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week are as followed:

Collegiate Golden Harvest Food Drive (10/22-10/27) - Food drive benefits Second Harvest Food Bank.
Texas Hold 'Em Tournament (10/22)

-Donations of non-perishable food items are suggested as fee to play.

Cardboard City (10/23-10/24) - Groups will construct cardboard houses and stay in them for 24 hours (11 a.m.-11 a.m.) Money raised will go to the City Mission.

"Canstruction" Canned Food Sculpture+ Contest (10/26) - Groups will be asked to create structures from canned food that is collected. It will take place in the Commons from noon-3:00 p.m.

Service Roundtable (10/26) - Student organizations are invited to send representatives to the Smith Chapel to discuss any upcoming or past service projects.

Habitat for Humanity (10/20 & 10/27) - Reality Check and Delta Sigma Pi have scheduled Habitat for Humanity work days. Anyone interested can contact Megan Katic or Daniela Campana to sign up.

It is not too late to sign and if anyone is interested, they can contact Christa Morris at the Smith Chapel at 814-898-6171 or by email at cdb120@psu.edu

Nobel Prize winner speaks at Behrend

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A full McGarvey Commons marked the presence of a novelist speaker Thursday evening. John C. Mather's public talk was entitled, "From the Big Bang to the Nobel Prize and onto the James Webb Space Telescope." His talk certainly encompassed all of those subjects and included enough information to make one feel that they too could be a physicist.

On the subject of the Big Bang theory, Mather stated that, "Everything, even your chin, is made of exploded stars. I don't think people appreciate that the way they should." He then proceeded into discussing the center of the universe and theories that there really is no center of the universe. "If the tortoise and the hare were running a race with 1Km/h space between them, the center of the universe is not necessarily on them as the picture here is drawn with no grass," he joked with the audience. Mather then discussed the fact that the galaxies condensed 13.7 billion years ago and that was when the universe was created after the Big Bang. Because the Sun and the Earth were only created 4.2 billion years ago, "Our local spot in the galaxy is fairly new."

With all that talk on the Big Bang theory completed, Mather then discussed the research that he did to win him the Nobel Peace Prize. He relayed to the audience that while he was in graduate school at the

University of California, Berkeley, he noticed that the data on microwave background, in regards to study on the Big Bang, was incorrect. Thus he began studying and finding a new way to gather information about the universe and keep the Big Bang theory a valid theory. With success in 1992 and with the help of NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite team, Mather and his partner George F. Smoot announced that they had mapped the primordial hot and cold spots in the cosmic microwave background radiation. This meant that Mather and Smoot proved the idea of the Big Bang theory to be not only correct, but also proving that the universe is still expanding at a very fast rate. Mather stated that it was when one of his colleagues told him that, "this discovery is the discovery of the century if not of all time." He knew that he had made an important discovery which he can be proud of for his lifetime. This discovery is what won Mather and his partner Smoot the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics.

The big question for Mather to face would be "What's Next?" Well, in his talk he discussed his plans for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). The telescope will use infrared light to compare other planets to our own. This is the next step in finding if there is any other life out there. If there is good data supporting this theory, then this is not the last time we will hear John Mather.

Health and Wellness offers flu shots

By Michelle Quail
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A series of campus-wide immunization clinics for meningitis and flu shots are being offered by Behrend's Health and Wellness Center throughout October, and should be a "must do" activity for all students, especially those who live in the residence halls. Many wise students are already eager to line up for the annual flu shot walk-ins taking place this month. College students are at a high risk for both the influenza virus and meningitis disease because they live in such close quarters. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) recommend that all first-year students living in residence halls be vaccinated against influenza and meningococcal disease. Other college students under 25 years of age who wish to reduce their risks may choose to be vaccinated as well. Most students have already been vaccinated for meningitis, but not the flu. Those who know how miserable the flu can be welcome the opportunity at hand. Robert Beauseigneur, a sophomore at Behrend, feels it is important for students to get flu shots saying, "I'll be first one in line for a flu shot. When I get a chance to avoid something that terrible, I take it. My mom always took me to get them growing up, so

I know the procedure is pretty painless."

The flu generally lasts a few days and includes a fever, cough, headache, sore throat, chills, fatigue, and muscle aches. In other words, when you get the flu, you also go through the works when it comes to feeling under the weather. Even more unfortunate are some of the facts given by the Health and Wellness Center. They say that because the flu affects the body's ability to fight other infections, many people become sicker. Some catch pneumonia and even endure serious heart and breathing problems. An average of 226,000 people are hospitalized every year from the flu, and 36,000 die. "I even encourage my roommates to get vaccinated. It's the considerate thing to do for the people who live with you. In fact, I have a hard time understanding why anyone would resist a flu shot offered to them" adds Beauseigneur. Other illnesses with similar symptoms are mistaken for the flu, and vaccination offers people a way to acknowledge what they are protected from, and what they are not.

The staff of the Health and Wellness Center encourage every student to get a vaccinated for meningitis and the flu, and offer immunization clinics in two different locations. The cost for each student will be \$25. Health and Wellness Center in the Carriage House is offering flu shots on the remaining Mondays of the month, Oct. 22 and 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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New conference center dedicated

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On Thursday, Oct. 11, a ceremony was held to honor the opening of the new Samuel P. "Pat" Black III Conference Center. Informally it will be called the Pat Black Conference Center. The room is a large lecture and conference facility, located in the north side of Behrends Research and Economic Development Center (REDC). It will hold 201 people with power and data ports at each seating along with wireless connectivity, amplified sound, and projectors that can simultaneously broadcast three separate images to a screen covering the length of the facility. The podium has a touch screen that operates DVD and VHS players along with a computer. Pat Black the is president of Samuel P. Black & Associates insurance agency and chairman of the investment firm Erie Management Group. Black's late parents gave a gift of \$20 million to Behrend which remained anonymous until their passing. After the origins were revealed, the Penn State Board of Trustees voted to rename the conference center in honor of the Blacks. Jack Burke, Penn State's Chancellor, said, "Pat has a passion for Erie; a vision for this city's future centered on the commercialization of emerging technologies. Pat and the Black family invested in Erie and in Penn State Behrend through their transformational

gift to our School of Business. The Pat Black Conference Center is another such investment." The REDC itself just opened last August and the new Conference Center will be used primarily for regional and national conferences, and for upper-level business and engineering education. The college's undergraduate and graduate admissions, an Academic Sports League competition for high school students, the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference, the Richard J. Fassenmyer Engineering Design Conference, a workshop on globalization, and the Society of Plastics Engineers are currently scheduled to hold conferences in the new center. Also, in "The Princeton Review", the Sam and Irene Black School of Business was included once again for the fourth time as one of the 290th best business school. Currently offered at the Black School of Business are one associate degree, nine baccalaureate programs and two graduate degree programs, and two certificates in financial planning and SAP. Even further, it is the only business school in the region that has been accredited by the AACSB International, or the "Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business." AACSB is the top accrediting agency for bachelors, master's and doctoral degree programs in business administration and accounting.