



*Behrend Women's Volleyball team hosts opening weekend invitational. Find out how they did on page 8.*

## Weekend Weather

**Friday:** Showers and T-storms likely. High 75 F. Winds SSW @ 10-20 mph. Chance of precipitation 60%.

**Saturday:** Cloudy w/ showers and T-storms. High 72 F. Chance of precipitation 40%.

**Sunday:** Few showers. High 71 F. chance of precipitation 30%

# The Behrend Beacon

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

*Days Inn houses students two years in a row*

**On-campus housing remains problematic for new students, hotel happy to help**

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For the second year in a row, students are turning to the Days Inn several miles away from campus to solve their housing dilemma at Penn State Behrend. The Days Inn, which offered almost a full floor dedicated to college students last year, has once again opened their doors as a type of alternative off-campus housing.

Penn State Behrend, currently holding the largest and second-largest classes ever to enter the campus, found itself with a waitlist for on-campus housing as early as last spring. Randy Geering, the Director of Housing and Food Services at Behrend, explains that anyone who asked for housing at the right time got it.

"For people who missed deadlines, or applied late, they may have been put on the wait list," Geering said. "But everyone who wanted housing and applied on-time got it."

That list would not include freshman Brian Barker, who applied later than most due to his indecision over which college he wanted to attend. "I was at the FTCAAP seminars," Barker recalls, "when I found out that I was on the waitlist, which was supposedly around four pages long at that point."

His next option became University Gate Apartments, where he put his name on their wait list as well. "I asked them to call me if a spot opened up for a roommate, but I didn't really think it would happen," he says.

See **DAYS INN** on page 2.

## Only one way out



KELGAN MCGREGGOR / THE BEHREND BEACON

Every day commuter students sit in a traffic jam on College Drive as they head to their after school activities. On an average day, the line of cars can be seen from the intersection of Jordan Road and College Drive, stretching clear past the Police and Safety Office. Many commuters find it difficult to leave the lower Reed parking lot. Concerns about the ability of emergency vehicles to easily pass through also have students worried. Look for the complete story in next week's issue of The Behrend Beacon.

## Chancellor Burke to retire after spring semester:

*A look over the last couple decades*

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Dr. Jack Burke has enjoyed his years as chancellor, however, the time for a change is upon him.

Chancellor since 2001, Burke has shown his passion for Behrend through his consistent attendance at campus activities, such as musical groups, theater departments, and sporting events, while overseeing dramatic additions to the campus.

Burke has said that he enjoys attending the Undergraduate Research Conferences, held every spring, because the complexity of them never ceases to amaze him. "Undergraduates are now doing things that students from the master degree level were doing years ago

and it's because of the technology," says Burke. "It allows you to do more."

One of Burke's most treasured memories was at a graduation ceremony. A young Bosnian transfer student had lived in Erie for five years and was graduating from Behrend. She wanted to return home to her family, but her foreign-exchange parents decided it would be best for her to stay because of war. Little did she know that her family had secretly been flown into America and was hiding behind the curtains during the ceremony. While she was on stage receiving her diploma, Burke made the announcement. "We have a special surprise..." he said, voice cracking. The girl's family then came out from behind curtains and everyone in the crowd celebrated with the student.

See **BURKE** on page 2.



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Shown above: Chancellor Burke sits in Brunos Café. He will be retiring at the end of this spring semester.

## Amethyst Initiative does not have everyone convinced

*"When I was in college in New York, the drinking age at the time was 18 and that certainly did not stop binge drinking. However, it did make it easier for those under 18 to binge -- they had easier access."*

-Chancellor Burke

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Penn State Behrend Chancellor Jack Burke said Tuesday that he would not support the Amethyst Initiative, even if it were his decision to make. "We make such decisions as a University," he said via e-mail.

Penn State President Graham Spanier declined to sign the initiative when it was offered to him in August, saying he was unsure of the right thing to do.

Spanier is still open to discussion on the subject, according to University spokeswoman, Lisa Powers.

The initiative is, according to its website, a program that supports "informed and unimpeded debate on the 21 year-old drinking age." As of Wednesday, 130 college presidents and chancellors have signed on to the initiative.

Dr. Burke is not convinced that changing the drinking age would reduce alcohol-related incidents, citing a 13 percent drop in DWI deaths among 18-21 year olds.

Burke also pointed out that lowering the drinking age would send already high auto insurance rates even higher for teens. Also the 130 signatory Presidents and Chancellors represent a very small percentage of the nation's 4,500 institutions.

Burke adds "When I was in college in New York, the drinking age at the time was 18 and that certainly did not stop binge drinking. However, it did make it easier for those under 18 to binge -- they had easier access."

See **AMETHYST** on page 2.

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## What's Inside?

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- Read this edition's "Whiskey Chronicles on page 6
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