

# NEWS

## Amethyst

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Behrend Freshman Jessica Krugger said that she does support the initiative because "no matter what the age is, people will still make bad, unintelligent decisions," and "changing an age isn't going to stop binge drinking."

On their website [www.amethystinitiative.org](http://www.amethystinitiative.org), the group claims that "21 is not working." Amethyst points to a "culture of dangerous, clandestine 'binge-drinking'—often conducted off-campus," and says alcohol education has not been effective in bringing about "significant constructive behavioral change among our students."

The Amethyst Initiative sees hypocrisy in letting adults under 21 fight in wars, elect leaders, enter into binding contracts and decide the fate of their fellow citizens by serving on juries, and yet not allowing them to consume alcohol.

The signatories pledge themselves and their institutions to playing a vigorous and constructive role as discussions on the drinking age unfold.

Dr. Richard H. Brodhead, of Duke University, says that "This not a college vs. university issue ... It affects any school with an undergraduate population."

Other notable signatories include: James Wright, president of Dartmouth College, E. Gordon Gee of Ohio State University, and Chancellor Nancy Cantor, of Syracuse University.

These college heads, along with 126 others, have signed a petition to the effect that the 21 year old drinking age, in place for 24 years, needs to be re-examined for fairness and effectiveness.

## Days Inn: The alternative dormitory- two years and counting

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Tony Bruno, the Sales and Catering Manager at Scott Enterprises, Days Inn's parent company, explains to some students, the benefit outweighs the cost. "Free housekeeping, bathroom cleaning, breakfast every morning," he listed in an interview with the Beacon last fall. "It really does provide a unique experience."

Bruno said last year that he was tipped off about the opportunity to provide housing to students when he received angry calls from parents who couldn't get their students on-campus. "This year, they called Scott Enterprises to see if we wanted to remain on the off-campus housing list," he says. "We had a great experience with it last year, so we decided to continue offering the housing."

The students, according to Bruno, have become a type of "family," working with carpooling trips in the middle of the day. The hotel provides a shuttle service to the campus at 7 a.m. and back at 7 p.m., a service that students take advantage of. Barker, who claims that he simply didn't want to spend that much time on campus,

brought his car to school from his home north of Pittsburgh.

Though the number of students currently living in the hotel is constantly shifting due to students finding housing, Barker is on his way out. "I found housing over on 11th Street," Barker says. "It was a group of guys who had an opening because one roommate got called to an RA position on-campus. One of them lived in the hotel last year, so he knew where to call for a roommate."

Perhaps for Barker, the "family" can at least partially continue in his new housing location.

For Geering, the Behrend "family" of students needs to keep growing or remain the same for the school to be able to build new housing. Though there are plans which were set up years ago to build Tripp, a residence hall about the size of Almy and Ohio, the school cannot build it without permission from University Park. That, Geering says, is a factor of the need of housing.

"The great thing for us is that other branch campuses are filling up as well," he says. "If they have open spots at another branch campus, University Park is less likely

to build a residence hall here. They'll say, 'why don't those students go to where there are empty beds?'"

Geering, like many at Behrend, has faith in the product that Behrend provides, and takes pride in why students often stay here for all four years. With University Gates unveiling several new buildings of apartments this fall, it partially relieved the stress on Geering and his office. More apartments are slated to arrive over the next few years as University Gates proceeds with its phased plan to introduce several new buildings.

Geering estimates the time required to build Tripp as anywhere from two to five years. That estimate must account for approving the plans, the construction, safety measures, inspections, and several other time-consuming building tasks.

Whether Tripp will be built or not, students and faculty alike realize that this seems to be a good problem to have. For Barker, he's simply glad that it worked out in his favor in allowing him to attend the school that he wanted. Hopefully, students in the future will be able to agree.

The Behrend Beacon is constantly searching for innovative writers. If you have any interest, contact Rachel Reeves at [rcr5057@psu.edu](mailto:rcr5057@psu.edu).

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## Burke: 28 years of dedication

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After retirement, Burke plans to move with his wife to the Thousand Islands in Canada. "I'll be working with my hands instead of my head," Burke says. "Although you should use your head when working with your hands." His accomplishments while at Behrend include the increase in enrollment, opening of the REDC, construction of Senat Hall and the expansion of Knowledge Park.

Burke received his bachelor's degree from the State University College at Oswego, New York, and his master's and Ph.D. from State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1986, five years after he began working at Behrend, he received a certificate from Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management. He worked as the Associate Dean at State University of New York Empire

College for three years and after that, he came to Behrend and was awarded the SUNY Chancellors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Burke enjoys reading authors like Hemmingway and Richard Russo. He says he relates to Russo's writing because the author writes about various places that Burke has lived in throughout his life, including Penn State Behrend.

A Buffalo Bills fan, Burke calls the Presidents Cup (an award given to the school with the best sports record) 'his cup' because "every year we bring it and then they hand it right back to us." Penn State Behrend has received the cup six times out of seven, an impressive feat.

Burke's wife, Candy, also works around campus but their two daughters are spread out

on different ends of the country. One works in California with a Ph.D. in Clinical Health while the other is located in Washington D.C., where she is a part of the "Explorer" series on the National Geographic Channel. When Dr. Burke first began his work at Behrend, his hours did not include nights and weekends, so he made sure that he attended all of his daughters' events.

After becoming Chancellor, his hours took a dramatic shift. He works seven days a week, sometimes arriving at 7:30 a.m. and not leaving until 9:00 p.m. Today, his daughters are grown up and his wife works with him, so he does not have to dedicate as much time as he used to.

His office can be found inside the Glenhill Farmhouse. He can be reached by e-mail at [jdb1@psu.edu](mailto:jdb1@psu.edu).

*If you see anything on campus that strikes you as "newsworthy", e-mail [rpg5004@psu.edu](mailto:rpg5004@psu.edu). You are a part of our team just as much as we are. Thank you.*

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