

NEWS

Traffic

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lower parking cost also bothers many students. Edinboro University is a much bigger school that offers more parking, but they only charge their students \$15 for the whole year to park. Mercyhurst College charges \$25 per year.

Many students say they want a change. More available parking and lower prices is what they aim for. Police and Safety officials have stated that 'Behrend has enough parking.' It may be because certain people do not park in the right areas that are assigned to their specific parking permit that parking as a whole seems crowded and accessibility is scarce. However, because of the debt service on 75 percent of parking spaces built at Behrend, the prices are not guaranteed to go down for parking permits. It will be an undisclosed amount of time before the permit prices will stop increasing each year.

Until the day parking costs are lowered, as many Penn State Behrend students and staff members hope for, the questions and concerns will remain.

In addition to high prices, the other major concern is the daily traffic backup, which occurs frequently throughout the day. Students sometimes wait longer than 20 minutes to depart campus each day. For some students, this does not act as a concern, however others have after-class priorities to attend. Sam DelVerne, a senior at Behrend, feels that the parking situation is more than out of hand. "It's getting totally ridiculous, I'll wait at least 20 minutes to leave campus on a typical day, and that's only from the lot by the Police and Safety offices. I have to work after my classes almost everyday, the chaos has prevented me from getting to work on time on more than one occasion."

"It's getting totally ridiculous. I'll wait at least 20 minutes to leave campus on a typical day, and that's only from the lot by the Police and Safety offices."
- Commuter student
Sam DelVerne

Mike Wachter, a senior at Behrend, is experiencing his first year as a commuter student and couldn't be more upset. "Initially, I was amazed at the high cost of the parking pass, but I got over that. But when I experienced the traffic jam on College Drive for the first time, I couldn't believe it. I sit in the traffic everyday. You would think they would put in a traffic light, or traffic cop or something- anything would help."

Numerous problems plague the parking crisis that has become increasingly problematic every year for commuter students. As the enrollment on campus annually grows larger, the problem will inevitably follow.

Political discussion in McGarvey Commons

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One issue that dynamically split the two participants was the next president's cabinet. Brazile felt that President Barack Obama, who she supports, will form a non-partisan cabinet made up of members from both parties. Frum, who supports McCain, felt quite differently - he said that mixed party cabinets should be loyal to the president in order to exercise the president's principals. He went on to explain that the process to confirm members of the cabinet is far too drawn out and wishes for reforms.

The choice of Alaskan governor Sarah Palin by Republican presidential candidate John McCain as his vice president elicited a negative response from both Brazile and Frum. The conservative columnist expressed disappointment in Governor Palin's low level of experience. He also found it baffling that the Republican senator would choose an "unproven" candidate, stating that vice presidential candidates usually have survived a re-election before being picked for a Presidential ticket. Palin is still serving her first term as governor.

The participants approached the discussion with different tones as Brazile took a more emotional approach with her answers while Frum was more descriptive and methodical with his responses.

It was clear that the audience members also took different approaches to the discussion - after many of Brazile's responses, there was applause; when Frum completed an answer, there was no direct applause but sounds of contemplation.

Speel feels that it was due to Brazile's higher public recognition. Her television appearances attracted a more loyal crowd. Frum, who works mostly in print, was lesser known to the public, although well-known in conservative circles.

Brazile is the chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute. She appears on CNN as a correspondent and was the campaign manager for Al Gore's presidential campaign in 2000.

Frum is a columnist Canada's National Post and writes occasionally for *The New York Times*, *Italy's Il Foglio*, and *The Daily Telegraph*. Books from both of the participants were available for purchase outside of the event.

World news in brief

Tainted Milk Ravages China

Beijing, China- Pandemonium grips the People's Republic of China, where tainted milk has taken the lives of four infant children. The poisoned formula has sickened more than 6200 infants, of those, 1,300 have been hospitalized with kidney stones, urinary track ulcers, and acute retinal failure. Struggling to contain the threat, the Chinese government deployed inspectors to all of the countries 175 milk powder production plants. 66 of these companies have since stopped production altogether.

Found in the milk was tripolycyanamide, a chemical commonly known as melamine. The chemical is typically used in coatings and laminates, fabric coatings, ceiling tiles, fire retardants, and wood adhesives.

Thousands of tons of milk have been recalled and authorities have found melamine in almost 70 different products from over 20 various companies.

Since the first death, police have arrested 18 people suspected to be involved the contaminated formula case. Of those detained, two brothers have confessed to diluting raw milk and adding melamine. If convicted the brothers will face the death penalty.

When asked their motivation to commit the crime, the brothers said it was to recover their suffered losses when their factory rejected prior milk shipments.

The most disturbing fact about the event is that this is not the first time such a tragedy has happened. At least three babies died in 2004 of malnutrition after drinking powdered milk that was too watered down. It has been confirmed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, that none of the contaminated formula has made it to American shores. Most of the tainted was sent to the Middle East.

Prisoners riot in Mexico City

Mexico City, Mexico - A daylong prison riot outside of Mexico City left 19 inmates dead and 58 injured. The uprising began last Wednesday afternoon and lasted until Thursday morning. The revolt followed several less severe conflicts that transpired last Saturday, in the same prison.

Holding over 8,000 inmates, the prison has done its best to break up the detainees into smaller groups in other facilities for easier control. Basic utilities, such as water and electricity have been restored to the prison, though the progress has been delayed by prisoner hostilities.

Source: CNN.com

Quote of the week:

"If the people cannot trust their government to do the job for which it exists - to protect them and to promote their common welfare - all else is lost."

- Senator Barack Obama

Behrend Trivia:

Approximately how many acres make up Behrend's campus?

- A. 500
- B. 60
- C. 375
- D. 725

Answer in next week's edition.

Election: A time for students to speak

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of College Democrats, our group supports all of the Democratic candidates in this year's election. Senator Obama is our choice for President. He represents the ideals that this country needs; he brings a change from the last eight years of the Bush administration. This country need a change in direction and a refocus on the issues of our time. Obama, as well as the Democratic candidates running for state and local office, will focus on resolving the problems left over from the past eight years. Obama, Kathy Dahlkemper, Cindy Purvis, and Rick Mitchell are all great candidates that the College Democrats fully support."

Smith naturally has a different perspective. "My candidate of choice is John McCain. McCain has spent his life serving our country and will continue to work with anyone who really wants to get this country moving into the right direction. McCain will end the war in Iraq with victory and bring our troops home with honor and valor. John McCain does not love war; he hates war. And he knows very personally how terrible its costs are. McCain also knows that the course of immediate withdrawal from Iraq could draw us into a larger scale of war with even greater sacrifices; putting peace further out of reach, and Americans back in harm's way. Barack Obama, is a good speaker, not a good leader. A way a person speaks does not determine their leadership skills. Obama is more socialistic than liberal. His ideologies will lead us to a lesser democracy."

Both Republicans and Democrats are looking for change as Smith and Snyder share their hopes for

the future.

"Some major changes I would like to see from this election is a Democrat in the White House and a stronger Democratic majority in both houses of Congress," says Snyder. "but also, I would really like to see a substantial increase in the percent of young adults who vote this election."

Sophomore Chris Gebbens knows who he is going to vote for, but is not certain. "I have more faith in what McCain will do for the nation. I don't agree with Obama, so I don't vote Obama, which leaves McCain."

However, on the subject of Sarah Palin as McCain's Vice President, Gebbens doesn't fully agree. "Palin was not picked for the right reasons, he picked her for a presidential vote, because it would get the women who would have voted for Clinton."

Many other students simply just don't keep up with the election. Sophomore Vinnie Turturice shares her views, "I'm not registered to vote because I haven't had time and I'm registered in my home state, but if I was to pick a candidate it would be Obama because he really is a good speaker, but I just don't know too much about the election."

Students like senior Glenn Davis are even more indecisive. "I am registered Democrat but I don't like Obama's gun policy, I like Obama but I'll most likely vote for Ron Paul."

Penn State Erie, the Behrend College is hosting debate watches leading up to the election. Debates are scheduled for Friday Sept. 26, Tuesday Oct. 7, and Wednesday Oct. 15, in Bruno's Café at 9 p.m.

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