

The Behrend Beacon

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Palin holds invite-only event in REDC

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The Pat Black Conference Center in the REDC filled to maximum capacity as Behrend students, faculty, staff, and various McCain – Palin supporters from the Erie area congregated to hear Governor Sarah Palin speak on National Security issues Thursday afternoon.

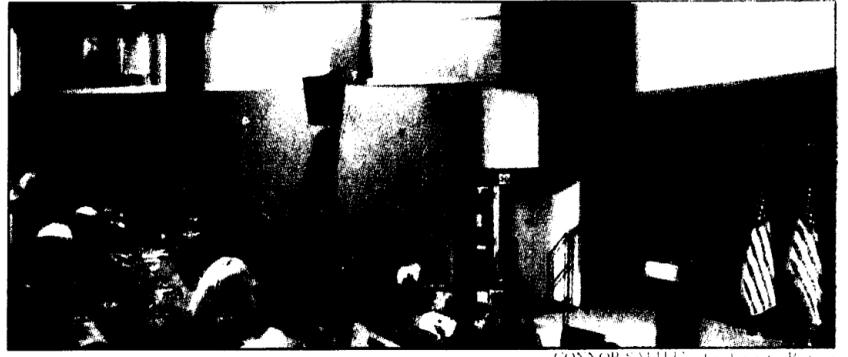
The appearance, referred to as the National Security Roundtable, featured Palin briefly hitting on topics of energy security, the economy, domestic and foreign policies, health benefits, job loss, and

other various issues to a group of around 200 invited supporters.

Strangely enough, Palin was the only person to speak, confusing some as to why it was termed a round table event. In addition, many students admitted to having no knowledge that she was coming to campus until asked of their reaction to the event. Ryan Westwood, a senior at Behrend, said he didn't find out until Thursday evening. "I had no idea she was even on our campus," he said. "I actually found out through an e-mail afterwards which the college Republicans sent me."

The lack of publicity remains baffling to students and even to staff.

See **PALIN** on page 2



The Pat Black conference center in the REDC, moments before Palin takes the stage.

Behrend student charged with six felonies

By **Matthew Schwabenbauer**
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A Penn State Behrend sophomore has been charged with three felonies and two misdemeanors after a string of bizarre crimes on Friday night. The charges against Vincent Citriniti, 19, include Burglary, Criminal Trespass, Criminal Mischief, Property Damage, Indecent Exposure and Resisting Arrest.

The incident began at about 12 a.m. when Citriniti drove his Subaru Forester into a Pontiac Firebird that was backing out of a parking space in the lot of the 300 building at University Gate Apartments.

"Once the collision happened, the back end of the Pontiac flew in the air and debris was all over the asphalt," said Behrend Sophomore Chris Chovan, who witnessed the crash. "The Forester looked like it was totaled."

Nick Kniseley, a sophomore at Behrend, was the one who made the 9-1-1 call.

"I was just walking from the one hundreds to the four hundreds. We couldn't see it at first, but we heard a loud crash and saw a car's tail lights shine into the air like its back end went up," said Kniseley. "A bunch of people came outside to see what was going on. As I was walking up to the crash, I called 9-1-1."

After the accident, Citriniti entered an apartment in the 300 building of the complex. The residents of the apartment had witnessed the crash.

"At about midnight we heard this loud crash and thought it was thunder," said a resident who wished to remain anonymous. "Literally twenty seconds later this guy comes in our place and puts his hands down the back of my friend's pants."

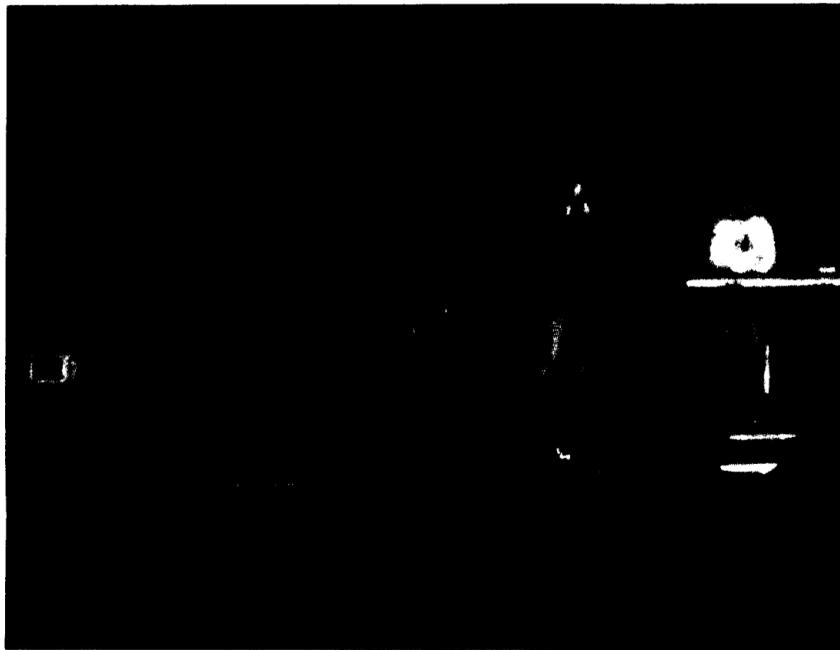
None of the residents of the apartment were familiar with Citriniti. "We told him to leave, but he wouldn't," said the resident. "He went and sort of rested his head on our island and my roommate went to get a security guard since they were all down by the crash."

When security arrived, they told Citriniti to leave or they would contact authorities, but Citriniti "wasn't phased." At that point, security notified the State Police of the situation.

"Finally, he just ended up leaving," said the resident. "We went back to watching the crash, and we noticed the same kid down there and he was trying to get into this car that was locked, threw something on the ground, and then I noticed him coming back to our building. So I flew off the couch to make sure our door was locked."

See **STUDENT** on page 3.

Students celebrate 60 years of Behrend



MARCUS YEAGLEY/The Behrend Beacon

Bon Journey performed in McGarvey Commons on Thursday.

By **Marcus Yaegley**
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Penn State Behrend observed its 60th anniversary with music, inflatables, and free t-shirts Thursday.

Every year, the Lion Ambassadors have commemorated the event with a birthday cake. But for the 60th anniversary, a special celebration was planned.

From noon to 4 p.m., students crowded the

McGarvey Commons and Wintergreen Garden, where there were giant inflatables, a caricature artist, a digital photo booth, and a birthday cake.

ELF Entertainment was hired and brought four activities. The wrecking ball apparatus let groups of four students lob a large ball at each other in a battle to be the last one standing.

See **STUDENTS** on page 4

Ghosts abound at Gudgeonville Bridge



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gudgeonville Bridge in Girard, Pennsylvania is a spot often visited by paranormal investigators.

Story on page 4

Chancellor Burke postpones retirement

By **Matthew Schwabenbauer**
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Penn State Behrend Chancellor Jack Burke has postponed his retirement, pushing it from June 30, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Burke, who has worked at Behrend for 28 years, cites unfinished projects as reason for the postponement.

"I had announced my retirement back in the summer with the idea I'd get all this stuff done and it's not happening," said Burke. "It's a rough time to transition, given what's coming in terms of budgets and budget cuts and what's going to be coming down the pike. I've got drawers full of stuff that I've got to reduce to a 5 page document."

Burke may only have one year left at Behrend, but it promises to be a busy one. Along with the budget, Burke plans to reorganize Behrend's administrative office and is throwing around the possibility of adding up to five new buildings on campus.

"We have several building projects in the works, but I'm not sure about the university bonding authority, which determines whether or not the university has the authority to borrow to build," said Burke. "Discretion is the better part of valor here. I can wait another twelve months and hopefully things will clear up by then."

Among some of the building projects that Burke hopes to complete by 2010 are the new Admissions and Alumni center, and the renovation of Dobbins.

See **BEHREND** on page 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John D. "Jack" Burke will retire in 2010.

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Our offices are located downstairs
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Visit us on the web
at www.thebehrendbeacon.com

Weather Report

Source: Weather.com

Friday: Sunny. High 62 F. Winds SW 15 to 25 mph.
Saturday: Cloudy early, Sunny afternoon. High 51 F.
Sunday: Partly cloudy. High 58 F.

News.....1-4
Perspectives.....5
Arts.....6
Sports.....7-9
Local Dining.....10