

MY VOICE

Plans change for convenience store

RAUL MONETJO
contributing writer

I almost fell out of my chair laughing as I was reading one of last week's front page articles. My laughter quickly turned to groans of frustration upon seeing the results of SGA's open forum held last Wednesday.

Last semester, students voted that the money generated from our student facility fee be used to build a new convenience store, to provide us with products and services not currently available on campus. I guess none of those students made it to last week's forum. Read the results and you'll quickly discover that the goods and services voted most essential to us in the proposed convenience store were those already provided by Bruno's and the bookstore. And those things we can't already get here – things we could actually use – took a distant second.

It seems "we" want the new store to stay open on week-nights to the conveniently late hour of midnight (an hour after Bruno's closing time) and consider the availability of pre-prepared foods (Bruno's most abundant product) most important. They also voted for laundry supplies such as cleaning products most necessary. The bookstore has laundry supplies.

In their infinite wisdom, voters insisted that the project shouldn't focus on providing items we could actually benefit from having on campus: household cleaning supplies, over-the-counter medications, dental care products, and shower supplies. Instead they chose snacks. Then they selected "misc. hygiene" as our personal care product of choice because condoms are more vital to us than deodorant.

Let's be realistic. We, the students, are paying good money for the privilege to improve our campus. We must create solutions that produce positive change, not waste valuable resources. I guarantee that SGA will deem the project, as it stands, infeasible. The costs outweigh the benefits by a landslide.

We can do better than this. There are many problems that a properly implemented convenience store on campus would solve and many luxuries the store would add to campus life, but we must not dismiss the option to cut costs by expanding programs and facilities already in place. Let's focus on these areas and create a solution that works. This is our opportunity to make history and create something that benefits our whole community. Let's take it.

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines the word "branch" as "a separate but dependent part of a central organization."

As Penn State Behrend students, this definition relates to us since we typically use this form of the word to describe our campus, which we all know is a "branch campus" of the Pennsylvania State University located in University Park.

MY VOICE

Behrend vs. Main

MARISSA LANICH
staff writer

location has great academics, talented faculty and a pleasant campus, it also proved that we are obviously not equal.

While all Penn State students are welcome to buy season football tickets and attend games, only one campus is chosen to house our famous team, as well as, legendary Coach Joe Paterno. Even though all Penn State campuses have their own respective academic programs, majors, and minors, University Park offers the largest variety, by far. Of course, a student can find a way to get involved on any campus, including sports, Greek life, clubs and organizations; however, University Park offers more opportunities to get involved than any other Penn State campus, with nearly 700 student clubs and organizations on record.

This isn't to say that what we do have here at Behrend doesn't compare in quality, however, we simply are not equal campuses.

It's ridiculous that many within the Penn State system haven't accepted that University Park is our main campus and I'm irritated that some feel that it's necessary to correct those who have. Whether or not it's the truth, it sounds like we are suffering from a superiority complex, which is exactly what the individuals at main campus think about those at branch campuses.

So please, stop proving them right. Let's all grow up and accept that although there is in fact a "main campus" out there, we are still just as much a part of the Penn State community as we are when we refer to it as "University Park."

Oh, please. Although my experiences at both University Park and Behrend have proved that each

Even though I am a junior this year, this is only the second semester that I've spent at Behrend. While I can't tell you much about this campus, let alone find my way around yet, I can tell you that when I let students and faculty know that I spent my first year and a half of school at Penn State main campus, I am greeted with the same response nearly every time: "Excuse me, but it's University Park, not main campus."

Oh, please. Although my experiences at both University Park and Behrend have proved that each



MY VOICE

Ohio Hall doorstep deficiency

Ohio Hall, located on the southern-most tip of campus near the Wintergreen Gorge, is a suite-style residence hall reserved for upper classmen of at least sophomore status. It has relatively modern rooms that offer a personal bathroom for every suite. Students from other colleges and campuses often comment on how nice the interior of the building looks, sometimes even going as far as to compare it with a hotel. The only negative factor is the distance from most of the academic buildings and the Junker Center.

Until recently, I thought this was the only issue I would ever encounter while living there. Another issue quickly appeared forefront during these past few weeks. The lack of communication between students in each hallway, at least within my hallway, frustrates me beyond belief. The circumstance has not improved in the least bit with the absence of doorstops for each room.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons contributing to the anti-social mentality circulating throughout each hallway. I find it rather odd not knowing a majority of the residents in my hallway, but it seems to be a repeating practice among Ohio Hall residents when compared with previous years. Ohio Hall is not completely anti-social since many of the residents requested rooms near or with friends from the previous years. As a returning sophomore, living in a new residence hall this year seemed exciting to me, especially since it most likely meant meeting new people. Most of the Ohio residents who I am familiar with, however, are those I met last year. Most of the residents in my hallway I speak to talk to are students I met from last year.

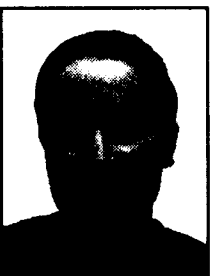
This is not to say that all upper classmen barricade themselves in their rooms and

dedicate all of their time to work on mile high stacks of class assignments on a consistent basis. Although this is a common occurrence with students partaking in advanced classes at Behrend, it is close to impossible for students to study and/or work on class work during the duration of the entire day without any breaks in between. Why not spend those ten or two minute breaks getting to know others in your hall?

The length of time spent meeting hallmates greatly depends on each student's choice of major with engineering and business students having half the available time as everyone else. However, even having a 30 second conversation with some of the residents in your hall is better than completely ignoring them altogether. Leaving the door open during

any one of these breaks or initiating a quick conversation with other residents while passing them in the hallway are two excellent ways to get to know everyone in your hallway, even if it remains on a name basis with a few of those residents. Considering how simple it is to leave the door open and extend an open invitation for other's to visit and chat every so often, why do Ohio Hall residents keep their doors closed at all times excluding the few instances that they slip in and out of the door for class?

If Penn State Behrend invested in providing doorstops to all Ohio Hall residents' rooms, it would be that much easier to get a sense of who is living in each hallway. Students might not take advantage of the opportunity to crack their door open every so often, but the opportunity to step out of personal comfort zones and meet new people on your floor would be more readily available for those living in Ohio Hall.



HEATHER MCGOVERN
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Stop fearmongering.

Over the past week, Behrend students have been bombarded with claims from local media: that they are afraid, that we are essentially a sick ward, that Swine Flu could strike at any moment.

When the *Erie Times-News* ran articles about the virus at Behrend, they used language such as "Swine Flu feared at Behrend" and "Behrend reports 2 suspected Swine Flu cases."

Are these statements true? Are we afraid? Have we reported two "suspected" Swine Flu cases?

We have not. Here's the official data - several students have tested positive for Type A influenza. A subtype of Type A, known as

H1N1, is Swine Flu. Likely, by the time this paper finishes circulating through the campus, we will know whether these students actually have that specific strain.

Those tests, as of publication time, are still out.

So, there are no cases of Swine Flu on-campus. There are only cases of the flu.

But, it remains the topic around campus. Comments such as "Did you hear we're up to seven cases of Swine Flu?" are flying around everywhere.

We find it very journalistically irresponsible to fearmonger by using large headlines to mislead readers. We understand that the *Behrend Beacon* is in very few ways similar to

the *Erie Times-News*. The *Beacon* does not operate from subscriptions and a heavy dependence on advertising, meaning we never need to shock readers.

Upon learning about the first two cases, we were bombarded with questions on our lack of "BREAKING NEWS" headlines on our website. Why weren't we scrambling to cover such important news?

The answer is, simply, we are waiting to provide our students the honest truth. We wanted to get a full view on the situation. Getting it first, we have learned, is massively less important than getting it right.

All of this coverage, not only of Behrend but of the entire

sickness itself, seems very overdrawn. Much of the panic from this disease is coming from the media, who, with flashy graphics and scary headlines, bombards readers with grim prognoses. We do not want to be a part of that. We want to be a source of responsibly reported, calm news.

We do recognize the importance of giving you quick updates as soon as we find out whether these students are positive for Swine Flu or not. Stay tuned to our website, where we will give you the straightforward news as soon as we hear it.

Connor Sattely for the Behrend Beacon editorial staff.

Letters to the Editor

Respect Behrend

The *Erie Times* has a page where readers can share a few words praising or criticizing the newspaper, local government, or other people in the community for their actions. Here, I'd like to take a moment to say a few words to the person whose been going around campus first thing in the morning and taking all the issues of the *Erie Times News*, cutting the fun money out, and returning these gouged papers to the newspaper bins for the rest of us tuition-paying students to settle with. What you are doing is

disgusting. I couldn't even get the newspaper when I wanted it this morning because you hadn't finished your business yet. If you want to cheat other people out of a whole newspaper, or out of chances in a sweepstakes, don't do it here. People like you don't belong in a civilized community like this. And to the rest of you: if you see someone doing something dishonest on your campus, persecute them.

RAUL MONETJO
Senior Mathematics Major

THE BEHREND BEACON
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
Reed Union Building
4701 College Drive, Erie PA 16563
Room 10H
Telephone: (814) 898-6488
Fax: (814) 898-6019

Executive Board
Editor-in-Chief: Connor Sattely
editor@psu.edu
Managing Editor: Christine Newby
cen5056@psu.edu
Web Editor: Marcus Yeagley
my5012@psu.edu
Business Manager: Bethany Long
bl5037@psu.edu
Faculty Advisor: Kim Young
kjy10@psu.edu

Editorial Board
News Editors: Mike O. Wehrer
mow5094@psu.edu
 Heather McGovern
ham5084@psu.edu
Culture Editor: Evan Koser
emk5110@psu.edu
Opinion Editor: Neil James
opinion@psu.edu
Sports Editors: Nick Blake
nbb5041@psu.edu
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sma5189@psu.edu
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gmc5021@psu.edu
Engineering Editors: Sid Carson
soc5077@psu.edu
Science Editor: Brian Carlson
bmc5062@psu.edu
Humanities Editor: Adam Spinelli
ais5589@psu.edu
Photo Editor: Daniel J. Smith
djs5223@psu.edu
Photographers: Jon Klein
jk5034@psu.edu
 Mike Fultz
mjf5204@psu.edu
 Sarah Baker
sb5273@psu.edu

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