

## PSB to complete convenience store Spring '11

JENNA ABATE  
news editor

Every year the Penn State Behrend Student Facilities Fee Committee (SFF) recommends a number of renovations that would improve the overall appearance and functionality of the campus.

### Convenience Store: Quick Hits

**Who:** SFF Committee - six students, six staff members and administrators.

**What:** On-campus convenience store that will sell items to make students' lives a bit easier.

**When:** School officials hope to have the construction completed sometime in Spring semester this academic year.

**Where:** Just outside of Reed, joined with Bruno's Cafe.

**Why should anyone care:** It's students' money that is creating it, and it will cut down on those frantic Wal-Mart runs.

The college's Student Facilities Fee funds such projects and this year was no different. Soon, students will expect to see a convenience store attached to the Reed Building.

In 2008, Penn State Behrend students voted in favor of a \$100 per student per semester fee, which is used solely for improvements to student facilities.

Future construction and renovation projects such as the new convenience store are determined based on recommendations from the SFF Committee.

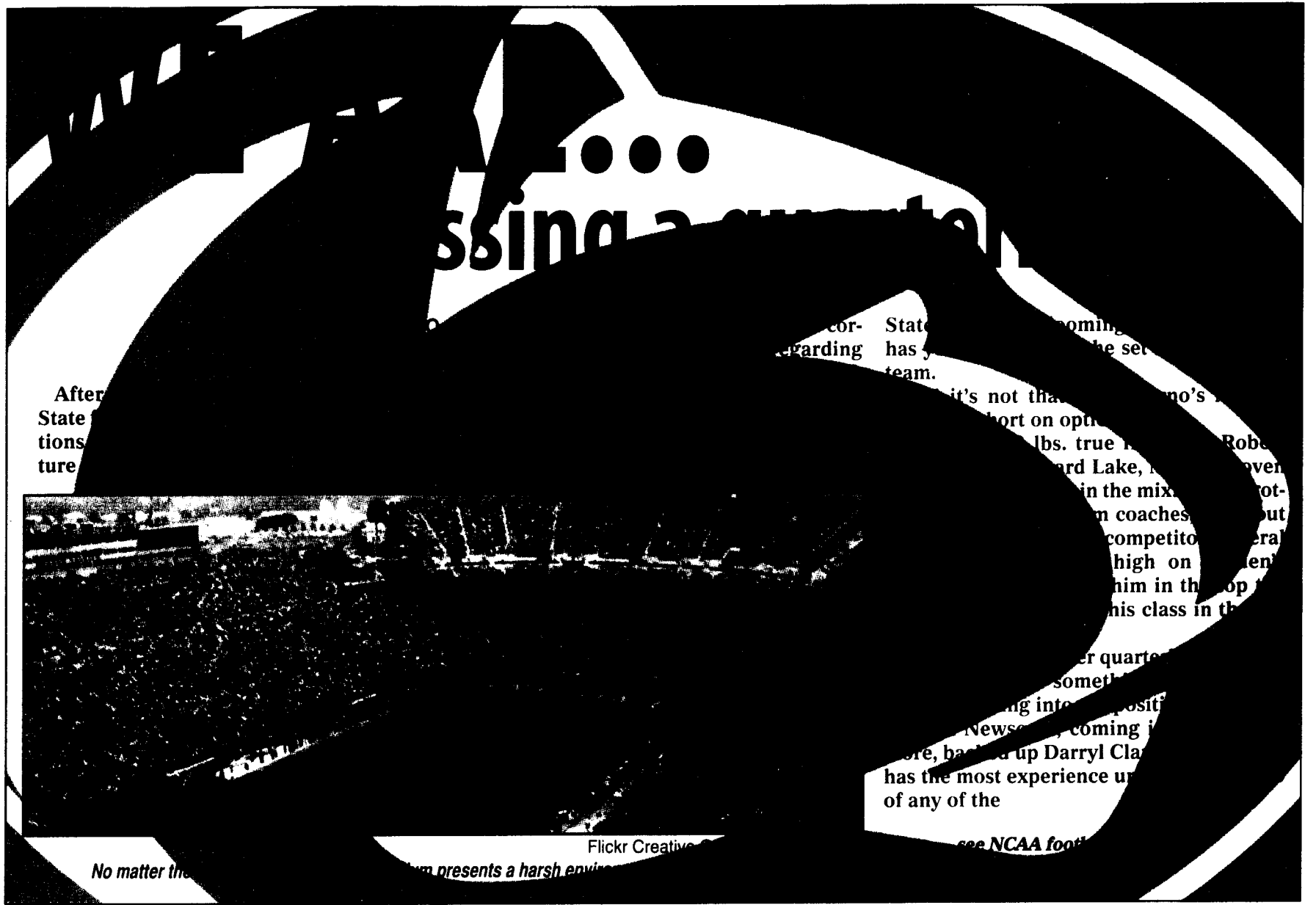
The committee includes six students plus six staff members and administrators, and recommends

how SFF funds are used.

Student Government Assistant President, as well as SFF co-chair, Stephen Burger are excited about the new addition.

"Typically the committee does not work on a proposal basis but on surveys," said Burger. "A convenience store was ranked as the second most vital thing students would value most and we can finally give it to them."

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## Behrend singer auditions for American Idol

SHANNON EHRIN  
culture editor

To win *American Idol*, one must survive several weeks of live audience performances, some not-so-pleasant critiques by judges and always a final reveal of who's made it through to the next week and who has not.

First, though, one must audition. Just the word "audition" can make the stomach vibrate with nerve induced butterflies, very similar to how most react upon hearing that they have to give a speech or presentation. Unlike giving a speech or presentation, which normally involves standing behind a podium for support, those auditioning have nothing to hide behind and no music to guide them along. Contestants are putting themselves out there, saying "I have talent,

I can sing," and they have to really back that up.

Out of the thousands that audition in the first round, only 100-200 people are chosen to go through to the next preliminary auditions. The tryouts seen on TV are nothing compared to what actually happens at the large venues holding them. Behrend senior Earl Bass experienced that first hand this summer.

"I knew I had to nail it immediately after 15 seconds. I thought they would've cut me off, but they didn't."

Earl Bass, senior

Bass auditioned for the next season of *American Idol* on Aug 3 at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, New Jersey. After driving seven hours to get to the audition, Bass had to wait another 12 hours to actually sing.

One of the last hundred people to go out of almost 10,000 people, Bass had to audition on the arena floor, where there were still many contestants waiting.

"Totally not private," was how Bass described it, which could make any singer slightly more nervous.

Auditioning in front of two producers, Bass first sang "Get It Together" by India.Arie, but not one song or even two or three were enough. The judges wanted to hear more and Bass obliged them with performances of "Ordinary People" by John Legend and back-to-back renditions of "Halo" by Beyoncé. These songs were not chosen by random, either, especially "Get It Together."

"I like to sing songs that have meaning to me," said Bass. "Get It Together" is my motivational song. It keeps me focused and positive, plus I sang it for my cousin who was killed in May.

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## Brazil plays host to basketball and soccer teams

Chance of a lifetime for soccer team as they tour the countryside playing against locals

Basketball athletes go head to head against Brazilian teams, help teach natives English

ELESE MERKOVSKY  
sports editor

This summer Behrend's Men Soccer team got the chance of a lifetime, a trip to Brazil where they would get a chance to play against local Brazilian teams. The country has always been known for its major impact on soccer back in the early days of Pele (the godfather of soccer) to the beautiful samba like play of the recent Brazilian teams as led by Kaka and Ronaldino.

The Lions went on a nine day trip from May 17-26 and were able to vista the cities of Sao Bento do Sapucaí, Rio de Janeiro, and Paraty. The team played three games against local Brazilian teams, along with coaching clinics for the local children. Coach Dan Perritano took 31 players, coaches and parents on the trip to Brazil.

"This trip is a great opportunity for our players, who are excited about the adventure and chance to compete internationally," Perritano said on psblions.com. "Soccer is a significant part of the trip, but sharing in the cultural experience with their teammates will be of even greater value."

One thing the men quickly found out was how different the countries were. Aside from Raphael Bretz who was born in Brazil no one had been there, so to discover the major difference in culture was a shock for some. Seeing slums and dogs roaming the street was evidence of this.

"I learned how good we have it in Amer-

ica," said senior Zach Herd. "Brazil is an extremely poor country; definitely more of an appreciation for the life we have here in America. This was a pretty shocking to see. Even though it could tell it was a poor country, dogs wandered around everywhere, buildings were old, and the technology was as it is in America."

While the country faced the beauty of the country. While the team was not playing soccer, they were able to see the Brazilian culture. The team saw coffee being produced, horse riding, and a boat trip around Paraty.

"We got to go on a schooner and see all around the different islands around Paraty. The scenery was magnificent and breath taking," said Brian Bodnar on psblions.com.

The team was there to play soccer and did very well with a 2-1 record against the Brazilian teams. One thing the team had to adapt to was the fact that the team could not communicate easily with the rest of the other team, and fans. Through soccer a common bond was formed. The team often traded jerseys, a sign of respect seen in professional soccer, and the kids followed the team as if the men were gods.

"I definitely feel like we had a positive impact on the kids," Herd said. "Its weird to think, but they don't see Americans

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KAELA BISHOP  
senior reporter

The Lions kicked off their season in Brazil. During August, the team played against local teams in Sapucaí and Paraty. The team also played two basketball games against local teams.

The team will be entering the city of Paraty. The team has been named the "Lions" for seven times, has won several winning seasons, and has been a champion of the league.

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since they've been here. They really did a nice job throughout the whole trip."

The Lions took away much more than basketball skills and a good time from this trip. The team was welcomed everywhere they went. The players were able to see and experience the different landscapes and cultures.

"The educational, cultural experience that our guys were able to take away from it is hard to measure," Niland said, "We were able to do and see some things that not only opened our eyes but also, hopefully for our players, gives them a perspective on the world and how people live."

The team played a game in the city of Paraty. The game was advertised with a banner on the building which was rewarding for the players to see. They won the game and after, interacted with the other team players and the audience, which consisted of many children.

The team also traveled to the city of Sao Bento de Sapucaí. This city is home to a mountainous region. From their bus, everyone was able to experience the view as it drove by. Also, in this city the players taught English to the local children.

"When you put all that together the kids really gain an appreciation for the beauty of Brazil and the different cultures," said Niland. "Also, you gain a tremendous appreciation of what a great country we live in and we can come back and realize that the United States is a

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