

Cafeteria construction comes to a close



TOBY KELLER
writer

The Dobbins Dining Hall and Gazebo has undergone immense renovations in the last six months and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

The facility, which was partially destroyed in a fire in March, has been undergoing work since August of 2009. Alanson Vogan, the Assistant Director of Housing and Food Services, marveled at the near completion.

"When the fire happened, virtually none of the work that had been accomplished to that point was lost," he said, "but the scope of necessary work ballooned exponentially. This meant that the architects, contractors, and Penn State had to take unprecedented measures to not only complete the job in time for the 2010/11 academic year opening, but we had to virtually overnight come up with a plan and execute it to finish out the 2009/2010 academic year.

"Only with the unfailing support of upper level Housing and Food Service management at University Park, our HFS Purchasing department, Physical Plant, and The Behrend Campus administration were we able to meet this challenge."

Dobbins will house a variety of new attractions including multiple made-to-order venues, a greater variety of food choices including "two omelet stations operating simultaneously, a more efficient wok station with two rice options, lunch and dinner stations for both pasta and deli," said Vogan. It will also have "the proper facilities to offer a carved meat in the Home-style area for sandwiches and seating for 125 additional people," he said.

Mike Lindner, Director of Housing and Food Services, said that there was a "silver lining" to find from the March fire.

"Instead of an overhauled old dining hall, we have a brand new gazebo," he said.

It has not been easy, however. "With such a small window, those committed to the completion of the project have had to work very diligently," Vogan said. "To overcome all this was a monumental undertaking by all the parties involved and was only accomplished by very close and constant communication."

While students are now allowed access to the Dining Hall, there is still some work to be finished up in the remainder of the month.

ResLife breaks college-life stereotypes

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

An organization at Behrend, put together by Residence Life at Behrend, is seeking to fight many of the stereotypes that come along with college: partying with alcohol, binge drinking, and drug use.

PSBeSmart, organized by Minisica Morris, a graduate assistant with Residence Life, is seeking to gather students who have an alcohol-free lifestyle.

"The group is important because we want to hear what students' interests, concerns, and experiences have been," said Meeghan Hollis, Assistant Director of Residence Life. "Sometimes it's difficult to find others that share the same goals, interests, and beliefs that you do."

"We've found that students who choose not to participate in

the 'party scene' sometimes feel left out, or feel that they aren't getting the college experience they wanted."

It was for those students, said Hollis, that PSBeSMART was formed. The group provides an outlet and networking resource for students who prefer to avoid drugs and alcohol.

"It's easy for people to feel like everyone is making the choice to drink or get high, but it's not the case," said Hollis. "We want to support a group that allows students to have fun and feel comfortable knowing that their peers will respect and support their choices."

Traditionally, the group has consisted of faculty and staff with some student involvement. However, this year, Residence Life is hoping to boost student involvement in the organization. Already, 32 students have

signed up to participate in the group at Club Rush. Hollis said that this will help ensure that the group has a student voice.

PSBeSmart plans to provide information and education about alcohol and other drug use and the impact that it has on the community, Hollis said.

They will be participating in National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week during the week of Oct. 17 through 23. They will be hosting informational tables, co-sponsoring student events that week, and inviting a speaker to discuss the real-life impact that a DUI can have on an individual, their family, and their friends.

Interested students should contact Minisica Morris at mem380@psu.edu, or check out the group during one of their October functions.

Fine Arts center plans for Behrend

continued from front page...

The capital funding for such a project is required to go through University Park, who places the bonding limits upon budgets. In order to fully fund it, benefactors will most likely be needed to reach the thirty million dollar estimate.

Dr. Christianson expressed his desire to col-

laborate a student and faculty task force, which will discuss ways to diversify curriculum and leave the "disciplinary silos" (Christianity) within which educators seem to remain.

"Innovative curricular ideas that would push forward fine arts might also bring us new students and attract a benefactor (for the project)," says Christianson. "We will then build the institutions that we need to meet our mission to continue to grow."

As University Park is on a five-year budget plan, the construction of the fine-arts center will be delayed at least until then. It is to be built between the Junker Center and Jordan Road.

Corrections:

1.) A front page article titled "Ernie earns the spotlight" (9-10-10) had a mistype as the result of an editing error. Sue Daley, Director of Personal Counseling, had a quote cut off that was intended to read: "We brought them into the lab just to get some footage of what it'd look like when we do outreach activities. The professor was perfectly okay with us taking over his class for 45 minutes. Then we went to a dorm - we had an RA that brought us to a student's room and we did some filming in there."

2.) A World brief article incorrectly counted voted of a EU resolution condemning French deportation of Romas. The article "EU Condemns France deportation" (9-10-10) said that the vote was 337 for and 736 against. As there are only 736 MEPs in the European Parliament, this count is obviously wrong. The true count was 337 for, and 245 against.

Behrend students sing at Wings Over Pittsburgh

continued from front page...

Famous military crafts and demonstration teams such as F/A-18F Super Hornet, B-2 Spirit fly-by, ACC F15-E Strike Eagle, The Golden Knights, and the Thunderbirds.

The show attracted vast numbers of people on both days, not only from Pittsburgh, but from all over the nation.

"I have never been so nervous for a performance in my entire life," said Chovan. "The thrill of singing in front of 100,000 people is something that is really indescribable. All that was running through my head was 'don't mess up.' On top of the nerves, I was humbled to be able to perform at such an event."

Bilz added, "It never really hit me until the applause started. Weeks and

weeks of anticipation built up for something that lasted a minute and a half. It was especially nerve wracking knowing that we were to sing our nation's anthem on Sept. 11. We must have done something right however, as we have already been invited back for next year's show."

While attending the show the students were acquainted with such accredited figures as "The Air

Boss", who directs the operations at the air show, Colonel Elwell, the base commander, Colonel Pennington, the incoming base commander, and even "Iceberg", the Pittsburgh Penguin's mascot.

Alcohol Fact,

Did you know more money is spent promoting alcohol each year than any other product? In all of this advertizing you never see this one fact: **alcohol is a drug.**

It is the most widely used and commonly abused psychoactive drug in the world.

Even at low doses, alcohol significantly impairs the judgment and coordination required to drive a car or operate machinery safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol can also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts.

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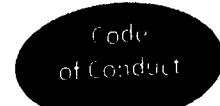
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Behrend, kind to our fine-feathered friends

CAROLYN ZAFFINO
writer

Do you want to help make Penn State more animal friendly? There is a way.

Students can sign the petition to have Housing and Food Services only buy eggs from free range chickens, as opposed to caged chickens. Over 6,000 people have backed the cause, many citing the "cruelties" behind the treatment of the flightless birds.

According to the website, the chickens live in "massive warehouses where hens are confined to cages so small they cannot spread their wings and can barely turn around." The page further explains that the farms are filthy and the cage eggs run a higher risk of salmonella contamination. There are organizations that are encouraging a ban on battery cages and promoting cage-free eggs to "protect human health."

Penn State is promoting the idea of going green when it comes to recycling paper,

plastic, and glass as well as making sure students refrain from littering. It seems like the next step should be to help the environment by ending the pollution that comes from the large amounts of caged chickens. The diseases that come from the chickens being crammed into small cages can spread into the ground and affect the well water people drink. It also can kill any plants that may be growing near or around the farm.

Hundreds of other universities have already made the switch, including Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, and various other state colleges; as well as numerous Big Ten schools. Nearly 6,000 Penn State students agree.

The petition can be seen on www.cagefreepennstate.com. It takes roughly ten seconds to type in one's information and bring PSU one step closer to being a greener and cage-free university.