

IBM Mainframe added to computer center

University Relations--Penn State-Behrend became the first college in the country to receive an IBM 4381 mainframe through a computer loan program from the IBM corporation when the system, one of the most modern in a line of high-tech hardware, was installed this month.

The IBM 4381 came to Behrend through an agreement between the IBM corporation's ACIS (Academic Information Systems) computer loan program (a program which markets computer systems to colleges and Universities by offering "rent to own" packages) and Penn State University. The 4381, which is the most advanced system in IBM's 4300 line, had not been previously offered through the ACIS program.

According to Dr. Jack Burke, associate provost and associate dean of Penn State-Behrend, the computer, which is located in the Penn State-Behrend's General Electric Foundation Computer Center, will provide the college's faculty and students with hands-on experience on one of the most up-to-date and widely used mainframe systems in the country.

"We're gaining an incredible amount of experience for our faculty and our students through the loan of the IBM 4381," ex-

plained Burke. "Right now, this is a minimal investment for Behrend. And it's one that I'm sure will pay off."

In addition to the computer-friendly experience the mainframe provides, there are financial benefits to the loan program, added Burke. "This way, the university can determine whether or not a mainframe fits our needs at Behrend without making a blind investment," he said.

As one of its on-going goals, Penn State University plans to install centrally-managed computing facilities in areas where they are needed. Behrend's loan of the IBM 4381 is the first step toward this goal, which was the first revealed in the university's Strategic Plan for Academic Computing, published earlier this year.

If the computer, which will become central to the college's own computer system while it provides even greater access to the University-wide computer network, proves its worth, the university may purchase the mainframe. And that would mean a million-dollar price tag on both the mainframe's hardware and software.

But considering the benefits the computer brings to the Erie college and to the Penn State System, the cost may be justified. According to

the college's plan for the computer, students and faculty in Penn State-Behrend's Science, Engineering and Technology division will be using the computer in computer aided design and computer graphics courses.

To further the college's research goals, engineering faculty will be using the mainframe for research in computational mechanics and the college will experiment with the instructional uses for the computer by linking a local area network in

the computer center mainframe.

For the computer-literate at both Behrend and University Park, the mainframe provides a double bonus: access to both facilities at any time.

But the main impact of the IBM 4381 on Penn State-Behrend comes from local business' and industry's use of similar mainframes, as well as their need for an education resource center in the Erie area.

Of Penn State's 22 campuses, the Behrend College was selected for

the installation of the 4381 system because of the range of degree programs it offers and its emphasis on engineering, technology, science, business and research.

Considering the college's current T-1 Carrier two-way teleconferencing capabilities and the new mainframe, Penn State-Behrend has the potential of becoming a major high-tech training source for Erie-area business and industry. In addition to providing students with the training they need to land positions

in top corporation, the college is focusing on the continuing education needs of individuals who are already employed by these firms.

"Our faculty wanted to give our students hands-on experience to take to their careers in business and industry," explained Burke. "So in addition to meeting our own research and educational needs, the IBM 4381 is allowing us to better meet the needs of Erie's business community."

Graduate Research Center possible

by Craig Altire
Collegian Staff Writer

Erie's corporate leaders are hoping to see a world-class graduate research center at Penn State-Behrend within four years.

The Erie Conference on Community Development, an organization consisting of over 100 Chief Executive Officers from the Erie area, believes that development of such an institution at Behrend would aid in the revitalization of northwestern Pennsylvania's economy. According to the Conference, the center would create new products and jobs as well as bring new firms to the area.

Penn State's strategic plan for Behrend included the development of a graduate research center but the original plans called for a completion date in the year 2000.

The University is now hoping to "fast track" the plan. The "fast track" program calls for a completion date in 1991, nine years earlier than originally planned.

If this target date is to be met, newly inaugurated Gov. Casey must pledge the state's financial support of the program within his first 100 days in office.

As one of Casey's major campaign promises was the creation of new jobs in Pennsylvania, many supporters of the proposed Behrend facility are optimistic.

According to Larry Klima, president of the Erie Conference on Community Development, the con-

ference has long supported the presence of a major research center in this region and members are urging Gov. Casey to support the plan.

Behrend was chosen as the institution capable of developing the nationally recognized research and graduate programs needed to stimulate economic growth in the area because of its technologies programs and its link with Penn State. "Behrend has access to national technologies that our industries need," said Klima.

The graduate research center would afford Behrend students many advantages. The center would expand Behrend's graduate programs, allowing undergraduate students more exposure to research and education they may want to pursue after graduation.

Behrend's reputation for quality education would be enhanced through the research and the faculty conducting this research. The program would involve the recruitment of world-class researchers.

No specific areas of research have been identified, but the center's work will capitalize on current research strengths of Penn State and will support the needs of northwestern Pennsylvania.

Possible areas of research include: hardwood forest products and polymers; advanced manufacturing methods; water chemistry; salt-related chemistry, and petrochemicals and glass technology.



These men stand in the shadow of injustice . . .

photo by Rick Brooks

See "Bury the Dead" page 5

ABC program schedules celebrity author

by Michele Miller
Collegian Staff Writer

"Early in the spring of 1750, in the village of Juffure, four days upriver from the coast of The Gambia, West Africa, a manchild was born to Omoro and Binta Kinte...the two wrinkled midwives, old Nyo Boto and the baby's grandmother, Yaisa, saw that it was a boy and laughed with joy. According to the forefathers, a boy firstborn presaged the special blessings of Allah not only upon the parents but also upon the parents' families; and there was the proud knowledge that the name Kinte would thus be both distinguished and perpetuated." And so begins *Roots*, a saga of Afro-American heritage as experienced by on family. Twelve years were spent writing and researching its almost 600

pages. Its author, Alex Haley, will visit Behrend March 28 as part of a week-long cultural event.

Sponsored by the Association of Black Collegians, the program, "Afro-American Culture: Here and Now," will consist of lectures, *Roots* television series. Said ABC student director Greg Goldsmith, workshops and a viewing of the this is the second in a series of black cultural events that began last year with Maya Angelu and the symposium on women and blacks. "A lot of people are ignorant about black culture and we hope this program will make people more aware... We want to enlighten and educate (the public)."

Dr. Pearl Primus, internationally recognized scholar, dancer and anthropologist, will begin the week with a press conference March 22. The foremost authority on African dance, she will lecture on the

heritage of African culture in America after conducting a workshop that afternoon.

Roots will be shown March 23-27 at 9:00 pm. Behrend professors (soon to be named) are scheduled to lead a discussion on the series Wednesday, March 25 from 7:30-9:30 pm. Haley's visit March 28 will cap what Goldsmith hopes to be a successful week.

The author will discuss the role of blacks in America--the past as compared to the future and how much progress has been made. An emphasis on occurrences since his best-selling book was written is expected to be included.

Goldsmith explained the reasoning behind this massive project. "ABC felt we needed something like this because Behrend doesn't have black cultural events." What began as a vague idea (screening the *Roots* series) gained definition as club members brainstormed toward their goal: a clearer, more

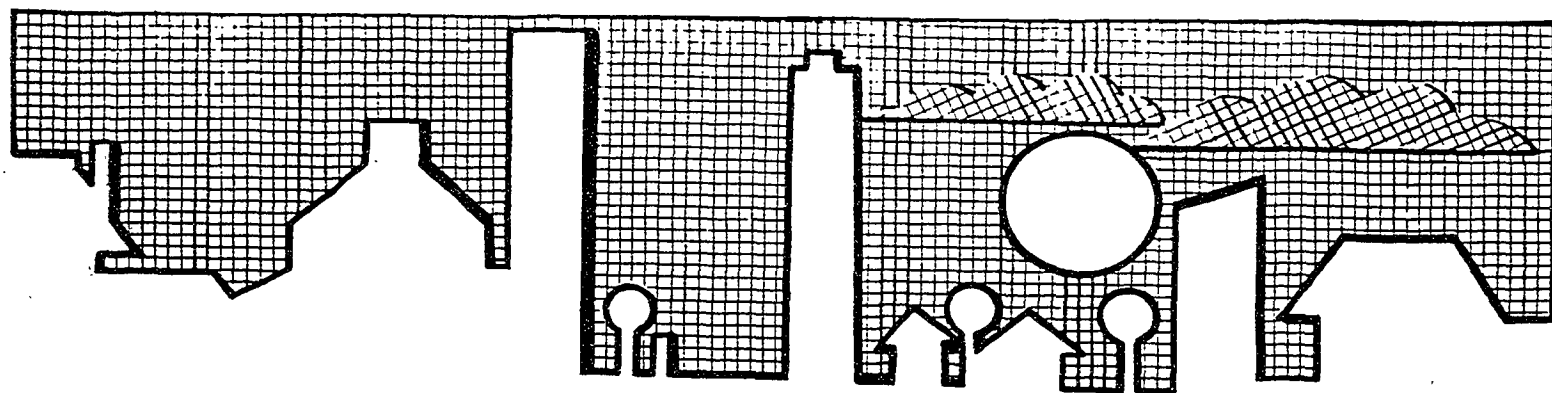
precise understanding of black heritage and its place in today's society.

Although ABC is the sponsoring club, additional funding was supplied by the Minority Retention Fund. Haley and Primus' visits were arranged through Lordly and Dame, an agency which handles speakers and entertainers. The two were selected because they best represented the ideals club members wanted to stress and would lend a certain amount of authority to ABC's black awareness effort.

"Since we had originally wanted to show *Roots*, Alex Haley was obviously the best choice to explain what he was trying to communicate (through his book)," Goldsmith stated. As for Primus, they felt she would introduce new ideas and topics for thought which could, perhaps, broaden limited perceptions.

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Finding a home at University Park



The 1987 Housing Fair

University Park--The Housing Fair '87 is scheduled Feb. 6 and 7, 1987. This special weekend provides an opportunity for students and their families to explore housing opportunities on the University Park campus of the Pennsylvania State University and in the adjacent State College community. The Fair will be held in the Hetzel Union Building (HUB) Ballroom on campus from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm both days.

Rental agency representations will be available to discuss housing both on the University Park Campus and in the State College area. In addition, exhibitors from local transportations, utility, code and safety enforcement agencies, and commercial enterprises will complete an overall view of the living environment in this Centre region of Pennsylvania.

Saturday will be a special day,

with walking tours of University residence halls and bus tours through a variety of State College area rental complexes at 10:00 am, noon, and 1:30 pm. WRSC will broadcast live from the HUB Ballroom 11:00 am to 1:00 pm with prizes being awarded during the show.

Housing Fair '87 is sponsored by the Student Services Division of Campus Life's Off Campus Pro-

grams, with OTIS (Organization for Town Independent Students), ARHS (Association of Residence Hall Students), CCSG (Commonwealth Campus Student Government) and the Center for Assistance and Information Student Counselors.

For further information, See P.J. Brown in the Student Affairs or your Student Government Association Representative.

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