

# Erie Hall on hold

*Delays continue to plague renovations*

by Mark Owens  
The Collegian

Headaches continue for the Behrend Athletic department as completion dates for Erie Hall's renovation are moved back.

Renovations to Erie Hall were originally scheduled to be finished by the start of classes this fall, but because of construction setbacks and financial delays, administrators say renovations won't be completed until next semester.

One of the major hurdles so far has been the gymnasium floor. According to Athletic Director Herb Lauffer part of the floor had to be ripped up again to correct a dip near the area where the old floor joins the new floor.

"When the floor was installed, the seam between the old floor and the new were flush. Apparently part of the old floor (near the end of the building) had settled a bit, creating a dip that has to be repaired," Lauffer said.

Repairs to floor have been estimated at around \$4500. Lauffer said the floor should "tentatively be ready by October 8."

Another problem is the delay in installing the basketball hoops and backboards. "Right now we're not sure where the hoops are," Lauffer said. "We're trying to look for alternatives to let our teams practice. We're not sure when they (the backboards) will be here," he said.

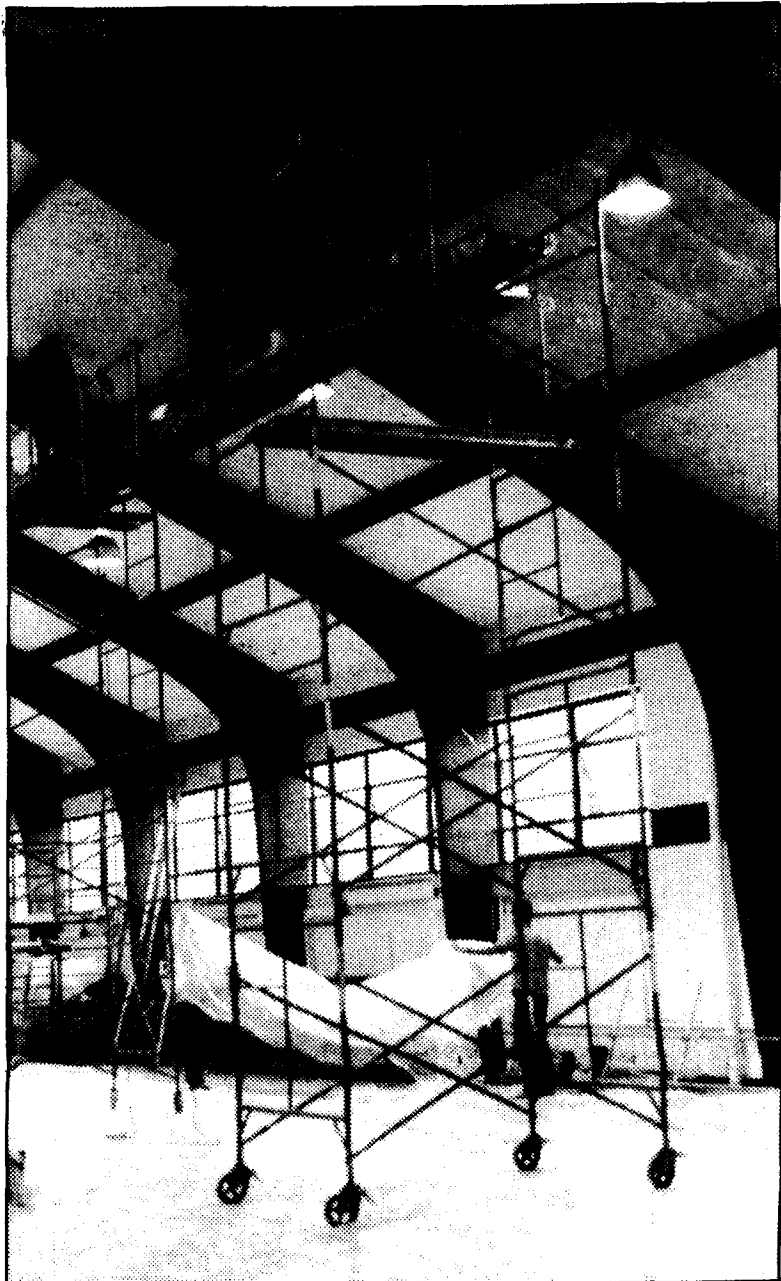
There are also doubts as to whether more bleachers will be installed in the gym. Erie Hall currently can seat around 450 people. With the extra floor space created by the renovations, the gym could possibly seat up to 1000 fans. Unfortunately, a tight budget has, for now, scratched plans for additional seating.

"Originally the budget had bleachers included in it, but we ran over hand had to make some tough decisions," said Lauffer. "In the end we opted for space now and other things later. It would cost around \$25,000 to install the bleachers the architect originally specified. That's \$25,000 we don't have," he said. Unless the university appropriates the money soon, it's unlikely additional seating will be installed.

There is some good points however. The weight room, after a few delays, is now open at its regular hours to students.

"We were a little slow in getting is done, mostly because we had to wait for locks to be installed," Lauffer said. "As long as we weren't able to secure the rest of the building we were a little leery about having the weight room open. Usually the secretary locked up at 5 pm when she left," he said.

Lauffer said he expects 12 pieces of Nautilus equipment and three Stairmaster exercisers to arrive by the first part of



Mark Owens/The Collegian

**Up in the air:** Workers continue to put finishing touches on the Erie Hall gym. The finish date for renovations has been pushed back due to problems with the gym floor.

November.

"I talked to the vendor today (Wednesday) and he said the Nautilus equipment should be installed by November. I know the purchase order has been approved, so it's on the way," he said.

*"We've tried to be optimistic about all of this... We've found ourselves in a situation where we have to explore alternatives for our teams."*

- Herb Lauffer  
Athletic Director

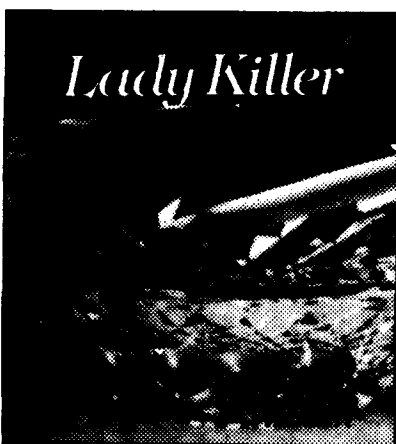
He added some of the older equipment will remain, such as the free weights and the exercise bicycles. Other equipment will be discarded after the new machines

arrive.

Lauffer said some of the delays could have been avoided, but some were unavoidable.

"We've tried to be optimistic about all of this," he said. "For one reason or another the contractor has missed dates and we've found ourselves in a situation where we have to explore alternatives for our teams."

At the moment the volleyball team has been practicing at the local YMCA or Iroquois High School. "They're not in an ideal situation," Lauffer said. "It's not what we want, but we're working on adapting to it."



## ROTC cadets canoe, support marathon

Behrend's ROTC program started off the fall semester with a canoeing lead lab on September 15.

In addition to canoeing through the Lagoons at Presque Isle State Park, cadets played volleyball and football, and cooked hot dogs and hamburgers.

"The canoeing was a blast, but I really enjoyed the picnic" said first semester Cadet Tammy Murphy.

This lead lab was not just for learning a new skill but to give the cadets a chance to get to

know one another in a social atmosphere.

That same weekend, the ROTC program participated as support in the annual ERIESISTABLE Marathon.

The cadets supported the last mile of the race along French St. and then into the Erie Veterans Memorial Stadium.

It was a cold and wet day, but the cadets didn't mind. "I love this weather and I'm glad I had this chance to help," said Cadet Andrew Zimmer.

## Library delay

(continued from page 1)  
furnishings and movable objects in the building will not be finalized until ground is broken.

"A certain percentage of the total cost of the project will be given for these items," said Burke. Another bill must be passed by the state to acquire this money, which should total about 1.3 million dollars.

A specific date for ground breaking is currently unavailable. However, Burke said, "Our hope is to be ready to go in April. We will require the state to move along...the state has agreed it is a high priority with them."

The project will take approximately two years for completion.

"This is turning out to be a minor delay. It will not be a major delay towards us getting a new library," said Ginny Rodes, acting Head Librarian and Science

Librarian.

Presently, the library carries 900 journals and 70,000 books with seating for approximately 100 people. The new library complex will include 2 1/2 floors

with seating for 900 students and room to double the number of books.

On-line circulation will also be a new addition to the library. Using this check-out method, Rodes said each book will be bar coded. When a student wants to check out a book, a laser will be used to scan the book and the student's ID card. The system, which is currently in use at University Park, will eliminate stamping and signing names.

"The best thing is you can call us up and find out what books you have out, when they're due, etc. This increases privacy because there will be no record of who took out the book," Rodes said.

Rodes says she is happy with the tentative plans for the structure. "We will definitely have a library to accommodate Behrend for the next twenty years."

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