

BEHREND COLLEGE
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New PSU president visits Behrend

Thomas discusses views on education and diversity

by Floyd J. Csir
The Collegian

Dr. Joab L. Thomas, Penn State's new president, discussed his views on education and diversity within Penn State at a news conference Thursday afternoon during his first visit to Behrend.

Thomas has been president for nearly a month since taking over for former President Bryce Jordan. Prior to his current position, Thomas had been the President of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa for seven years.

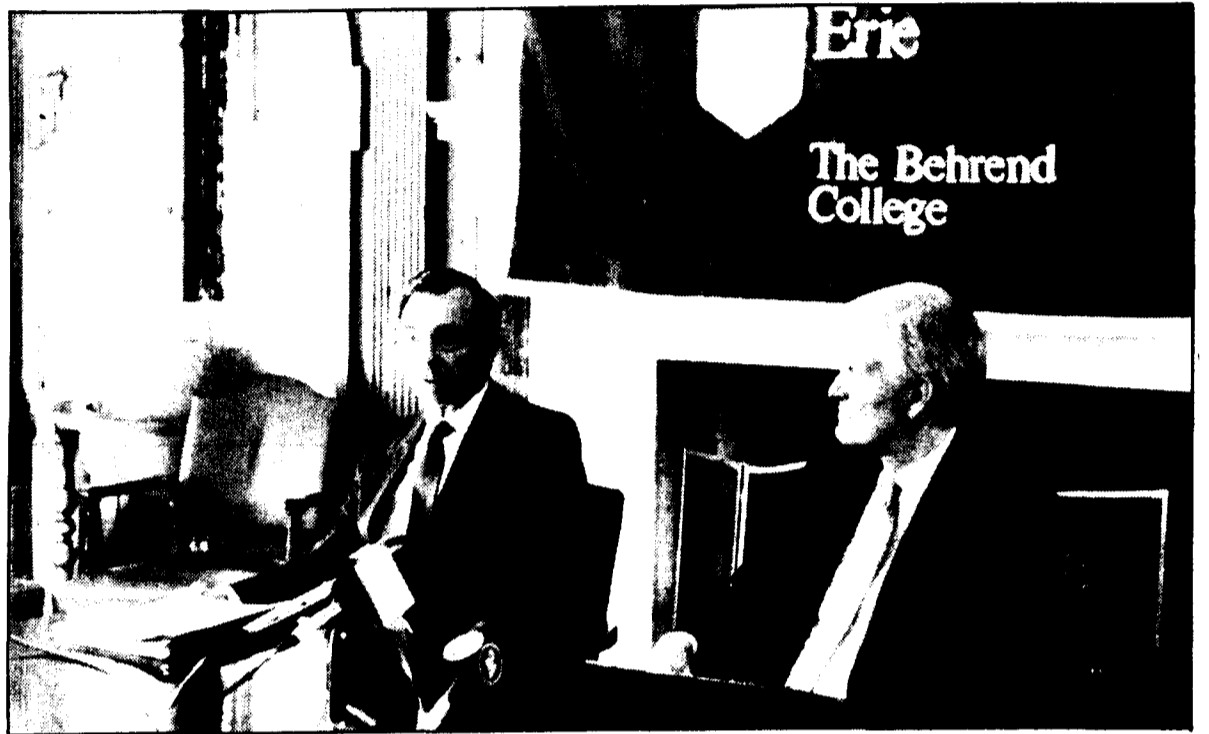
"The more I learn about the complex of Penn State, the more I am impressed by the structure and organization of Penn State . . . I am delighted to be a part of

such a special organization," said Thomas.

Thomas outlined his three major areas where he feels Penn State needs to work on: diversity, education and academic standards.

"There is a beautiful and appropriate balance between teaching and research [at Behrend]," said Thomas. Penn State will focus on this issue of undergraduate teaching and graduate research to insure both. "I feel they are very compatible and overlapping," said Thomas.

Diversity was another important topic for the President, who cited a task force currently studying the recruitment and retention of students. Additional internal funds for minority (continued on page 3)



Mike Schell/*The Collegian*

Straight from the top: Dr. Joab L. Thomas, the new president of Penn State, held a press conference with Dr. John Lilley, provost and dean, yesterday on campus.

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Behrend buys land for varsity athletics

*Purchased 86 acres
off East 38th Street*

Behrend has purchased 86 acres of the former St. John Kanty Prep property on East 38th street for use as varsity athletic fields.

The sale is conditional on rezoning of the property by Harborcreek Township officials. Behrend officials declined to estimate the final price of the sale which is still under negotiation.

According to John Ream, director of operations, the college is presently preparing to have the township rezone the property. The land needs to be rezoned from multiple-family residential use to a special category zone for college use.

North of East 38th Street, 58.3 acres of the property span in an "L" shape from the southeast section of the City of Erie east of Bird Drive to Shannon Road.

The remaining 28.3 acres are bounded by Shannon Road on the east, East 38th Street on the North and the Allegheny railroad tracks on the west and south.

The sale does not include the Kanty Village building currently owned by Kenneth L. Lochbaum. The building presently holds a physical (continued on page 2)

White-bashing forum held

by Shirl Climpson
The Collegian

"We are for difference, for respecting difference, until difference doesn't make any more difference," said Lillie Wiley, Student Services Assistant, at an open discussion on racism, diversity, and white-bashing at Behrend Monday night.

The discussion, which was presented by the Human Relations Programming Council, was coordinated by Wiley and Dr. Diana Hume George, professor of English.

According to Wiley, one of the goals of the discussion was to open people's minds with "solutions through education and awareness to understand differences." Wiley stated another

goal as "having some people reach a different level of awareness that they didn't have when they walked in the door." Above all, the discussion was held to "clear up misconceptions and let the restless express their feelings on diversity," said Wiley.

White-bashing is defined as putting the blame on white people for the problems of minorities.

(continued on page 2)



Todd J. Irwin/*The Collegian*

Speaking out: Mike Vaughn, a fifth semester plastics engineering major, voices his opinion to Lillie Wiley, Student Services Assistant, at an open discussion on white-bashing Monday night in the Reed Building.