

# End of an era: extinction of Blue Bus

by Kristin Wasilewski  
Collegian Staff

The campus Blue Bus, which Behrend ran to and from the Millcreek Mall and Buffalo Road, has been discontinued this year.

Behrend's decision to eliminate the bus came after the retirement of Bob Smith, the Blue Bus driver.

With budget cuts to deal with, the school was forced to evaluate some of the services provided for students and to eliminate one of them.

At first, it was considered to reduce the amount of time the bus ran in order to cut back on costs. The school did not want to do away with the bus entirely. This way students would still have some means of transportation.

That's where the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA) stepped in. They offered to work out a schedule with Behrend so that students would still be

able to make direct trips to the mall and Buffalo Road, even without the blue bus being in operation.

David Shields, Director of Student Activities, said, "We would not have eliminated the bus if we could not work out a deal with EMTA."

A ride on an EMTA bus does cost more money than the Blue Bus cost. Riding EMTA costs \$1 one way to both destinations, whereas the blue bus charged 60 cents one way for a ride to the mall and 35 cents one way to Buffalo Rd.

The RUB desk in the lobby of the Reed Building sells bus passes for EMTA. Passes give students 20 rides for \$15.

EMTA does provide more times per day when the bus runs, which gives students more flexibility in deciding when to take the bus.

EMTA runs to Buffalo Road seven days a week and to the mall on Tues., Fri. and

Sat. These were peak days for the Blue Bus.

Bus schedules are posted all around campus.

Shields said he wants students to be comfortable with the service so he's trying to make it all as simple as possible. "It's new more than it's an inconvenience."

Colleen Gritzen, sophomore, said she misses the Blue Bus service. "I really wish we had the Blue Bus again."

Mike Will, Superintendent of Transportation at EMTA, believes the new service is operating well. "The service seems to be doing okay so far."

Will said they were sending out a 20-seat trolley at first as a test. "The trolley was full the first day it ran."

If the new bus system works well, Behrend may be given the opportunity to open the service up for seven days a week. "I'm confident it will work," Shields said.

*Which is better?  
EMTA  
or  
Blue Bus*

**Eckert  
publishes  
book**

by Terry Rucker  
Collegian Staff

In late September, a significant volume chronicling the life of John Brown Gordon, a Southern Civil War general, will be published.

The book, *John Brown Gordon: Soldier, Southerner, American*, was written by Dr. Ralph Robert, a history professor at Eckert.

Robert believes the book will cause more interest in the Civil War years.

"It will expose a larger audience to one of the Civil War's best citizen soldiers who also became one of the most prominent economic and political figures in the post-war period," Robert said.

The subject of the book, John Brown Gordon, commanded half of Robert E. Lee's army at Appomattox and went on to become Georgia's governor for two terms and a U. S. Senator for three terms.

Eckert's next book, *Impact of the Civil War on the Shenandoah Valley*, is in its early stages of writing, now that the research has been completed.

"Even though military activities in the Shenandoah have been well chronicled, almost nothing has been done with the impact the war had upon the civilian population of the Valley," Robert said.

During his research, Robert discovered "a veritable treasure trove of letters, letters, and newspaper accounts by Union and Confederate soldiers."

## Knights of Columbus seek recognition

by Paul M. Marini  
Collegian Staff

The Knights of Columbus, a Roman Catholic-exclusive organization, is attempting to be officially recognized on campus.

Less than a year ago, the campus branch of the Knights of Columbus was organized by Behrend's Catholic Chaplain Father Larry Richards.

Because the Knights are a relatively new organization, they have not been officially recognized.

The Student Government Association will review the Knights' constitution and vote on whether or not the organization will be recognized.

According to SGA President Joe Mycka, the Knights have yet to submit their constitution to SGA. Even though they are not an official student organization, membership is between 40 and 50 men, said Grand Knight (president) Markus Rodriguez.

Fr. Richards, who is also Parochial Vicar of St. Luke Church on E. 38th Street, hopes that the Knights will be recognized by SGA.

"The Knights of Columbus is a group of Catholic men getting together to support each other

and give service to the community," Fr. Larry said.

He also said that if the Knights are in fact recognized, "Behrend will become the first secular (non-religious) college in the country with a Knights of Columbus on campus."

**Presently there is no organization in which Catholic men can get together in a fraternal spirit and practice Catholicism**

Rodriguez believes the Knights offer something special to Catholic men at Behrend.

"Presently there is no organization in which Catholic men can get together in a fraternal spirit and practice Catholicism," Rodriguez said. "Knights of Columbus is

exactly what I and 45 other men are looking for."

Earlier this month, Rodriguez and Chris Niklaus joined the

ranks of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, which is the highest established rank of Knights.

Niklaus said the Knights are a way for him to practice his faith more deeply.

"The Knights are a way for me to help other people through a fraternal organization and have a deeper understanding of my religion while keeping in touch with myself," he said.

The Knights of Columbus is a society of Roman Catholic lay men, or non-clergy, whose membership is open to all practicing Catholic men age 18 and older.

The organization was founded by the Rev. Michael J. McGivney when it was chartered by the state of Connecticut on March 29, 1882.

The Knights' philosophy is founded on community service, fraternity and acts of patriotism. Their national headquarters is based in New Haven, CT.

The Knights also pledge themselves to education, giving a variety of scholarships every year.