

Question of the Week

by Jen Henderson,
assistant news editor

"I called my mom and changed my voice to sound like someone else's. I told her that I was arrested."

Nigel Schneider
ME, 02



"My roommate set my alarm ahead and I woke up an hour early."

Jessica Dunn
English, 04



"Crushed lifesavers up and then put them in the shower head."

Greg Nardine Mangmt, 04
Chris Ober Mangmt, 04



"I never played one."

Susan Taylor
Political Science, 06



"I put sugar in my Mom and Dad's salt shakers and they put that in their coffee."

Will Sundry
Poly Sci, 06

RASO raises funds with raffle

by Erin McCarty
news editor

Anyone passing by Bruno's this week most likely noticed members of the Returning Adult Student Organization (RASO) selling raffle tickets across the hall. Those who bought tickets have a chance to win one of 16 prizes provided by local establishments.

"We want to acknowledge the generosity of our contributors," said Fred Langill, vice president of RASO. Nick Scott of Scott Enterprises donated about \$400 worth of prizes, including several overnight prize packages and tickets to Splash Lagoon. The Flagship Niagara League contributed two family memberships prize packages worth more than \$100, and Staples Office Supply and Tinseltown Theatres donated several gift certificates and movie passes.

Langill also said he appreciates for the support from RASO advisors Biddy Brooks, from the Division of Undergraduate Studies; and Ann Burbulus, who works in admissions.

RASO is a campus organization geared toward non-traditional students, adults over age 24 who are returning to college after an extended absence or starting college for the first time. Its officers include Langill; Thera Martin, president; and Karen Wilson, secretary. Some of the proceeds of the raffle will go to the American Red Cross or a veterans' service organization in order

to assist overseas soldiers.

"Regardless of why they're there or what they're doing, we want to show our support for the troops," said Langill, who is a veteran.

The remainder of the proceeds will go to fund RASO projects, such as the developing plan of mentoring incoming adult students. Langill is frustrated with the current system as students are often unprepared for the particular challenges they will face in certain courses. He said

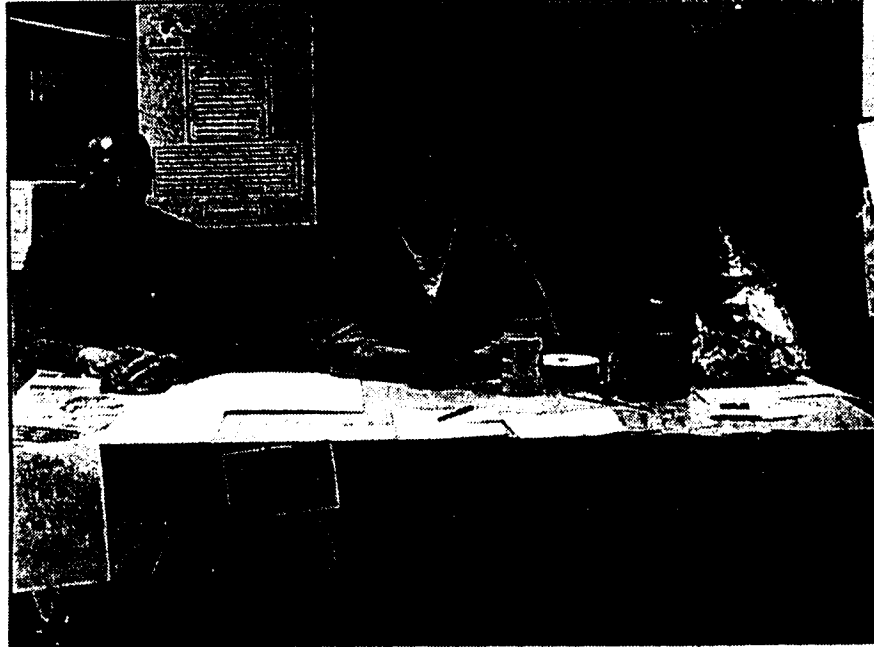


PHOTO BY ERIN McCARTY
RASO vice president Fred Langill and advisor Biddy Brooks collect raffle tickets across from Bruno's. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit RASO and overseas troops.

that with someone who has had experience at Behrend guiding them, incoming students would be able to schedule the correct courses and prepare for them more effectively.

"Adult students have many personal obligations that don't go away when they start school," Langill said. "They can help each other out as time passes."

The winners of RASO's raffle will be announced in next week's Beacon.

Rose shares expertise with Behrend engineers

by Mike Butala
associate editor

On March 27, David M. Rose spoke to Behrend students regarding "the latest innovation for cold and hot runner systems in injection molding".

The Materials Information Society hosted the student night where Rose spoke on Beaumont Runner Technology, which is "revolutionizing runner designs for injection molding."

Beaumont Runner Technology was founded in 1998 by C.E.O., President, and Penn State Behrend professor John Beaumont. The vision and mission was to bring runner technology from an art and convert it to a science.

Beaumont Runner Technology mainly focuses on the melt delivery system in injection molding and acts as a better alternative than naturally balanced runners. The melt delivery system is the series of channels that allows molten plastic to flow into the cavities to create plastic parts; however, it has been proven that if an incorrect melt delivery system is used, unacceptable plastic parts will result.

Since the melt delivery system is the largest factor in molding variation, it is important to create the most stable environment for polymer flow. In typical polymer flow, the effect of shear stress in the melt delivery system can create up to 50 percent difference in weight. Beaumont Runner Technologies patented invention, "The MeltFlipper," can lower these imbalances to a mere 10 percent with little, or miniscule, refashioning of the original melt delivery system.

The result of the "MeltFlipper" is a uniform shear balance in the melt delivery system after each branch in the melt delivery system, also known as a runner, has successfully filled and has flowed into another runner branch. This is possible because the "MeltFlipper" actually rotates the melt in the runner so that the high shear material is evenly distributed within the melt delivery system. This has been replacing traditional methods of altering part gates, modifying runner diameters, or changing temperature zones. The "MeltFlipper" is the "first truly balanced runner system" and unlike

previous methods, is the only alternative insensitive to process or material alterations; an equal plastic part with result every time.

"If you can control the melt properties you can enhance precision" and the "MeltFlipper" does control it, said Rose.

This benefits the plastic industry because it will eliminate excessive set-up times, decrease scrap rates, increase production time, decrease the probability of sticking parts, and is not, unlike other methods, a limiting factor for high cavitations. Using "MeltFlipper" technology, equivalent parts are produced from a traditional 64-cavity mold and up to 96-cavities using hot drops. Overall, Beaumont Runner Technologies creates parts with little or no variation between cycles. This saves money, time, and resources.

The future of "Beaumont Runner Technology" is focusing on creating "hot-runner" melt delivery systems, "MeltFlipper" inserts, and creating flow simulation software to graphically represent how the "MeltFlipper" technology is superior to previous methods, which is not included in traditional flowing simulation software.

The Materials Information Society also urges students to join technical societies because they are relatively inexpensive, can network you into future jobs, enhance resume building, increase accessibility to technical information, offers travel and plant tours, increases leadership capabilities, offers scholarships, and it is fun.

The Materials Information Society holds an annual Student Night to inform students in all northwestern Pennsylvania schools. They are a part of the Erie Engineering Society Council which includes the Society of Plastic Engineers, the American Chemical Society, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Construction Specification Institute and many others.

For more information on Beaumont Runner Technology and the "MeltFlipper", go to <http://www.meltflipper.com> and learn about how the *Five Step Process* clearly illustrates what the problems conventional runner systems include and how the "MeltFlipper" corrects them.

Crawford finds meaning in life

by Courtney Straub
health page editor

On Thursday, Debbie Crawford, a junior at Penn State Behrend, was the guest speaker at Soup for the Soul. She talked about how meaningful life can be when you take a step back and examine your experiences. She was enthusiastic about getting the opportunity to talk about her life.

"[Soup for the Soul] gave me a chance to challenge myself and examine my faith more closely," said Crawford.

Around age 6, Crawford was baptized Catholic. She didn't start her

spiritual journey, however, until age 11. All of the teachers at her school went on strike so she was sent to St. John's, a Catholic school. This was a major milestone in her life.

At St. John's, she began to develop her relationship with God but it wasn't until she went to Villa Maria Academy that she really connected with God. Throughout the day, the academic lessons she was learning also related to her spiritually.

"Once I got to Villa, they really nurtured you and helped you with your faith," said Crawford.

During Crawford's senior year in high school, both her parents were

hospitalized at different times. On top of that, she was dealing with the transition from high school to college. These events made her focus on the important things in life.

"It opened my eyes up to find meaning in things," said Crawford.

A couple of weeks ago, Crawford was a candle holder during a prayer service at the Smith Chapel. During the service, she caught herself on fire. The fire started on her sleeve and jumped to her back. Luckily, the Chaplain came to her rescue and patted the fire out.

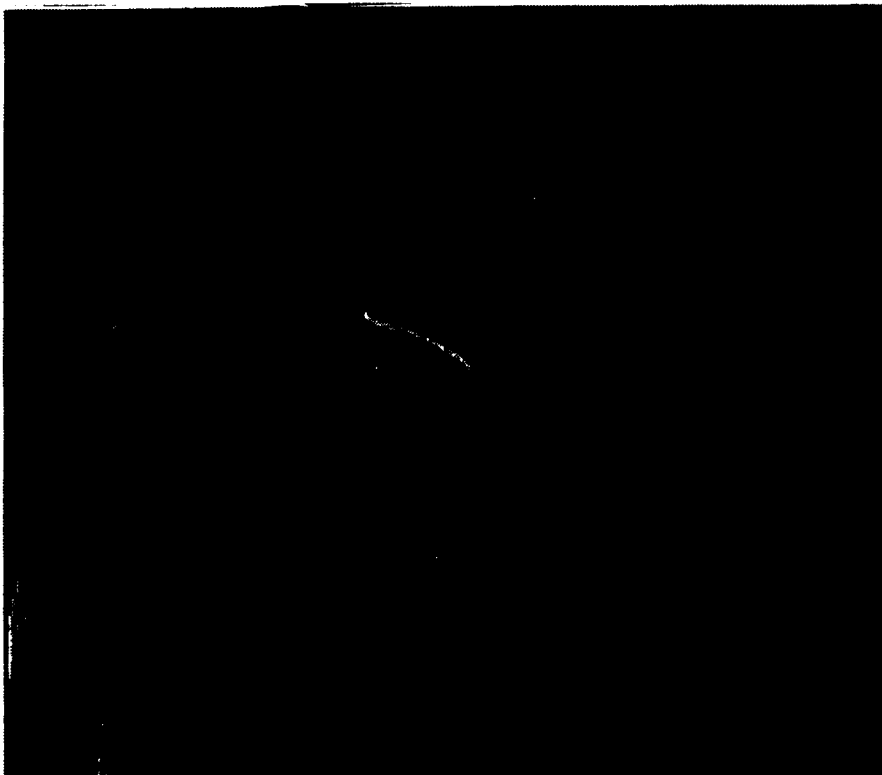
Afterwards, while thinking about the experience, she could not find a meaning in it. Crawford has noticed that sometimes it can take days, months, or years to find the meaning. She is okay with that because eventually the experience will make sense.

"Usually, everything that happens to me I can find meaning in but, I've learned to appreciate what I have now," said Crawford.

One thing that helps Crawford find the meaning in things is to see God in her experiences.

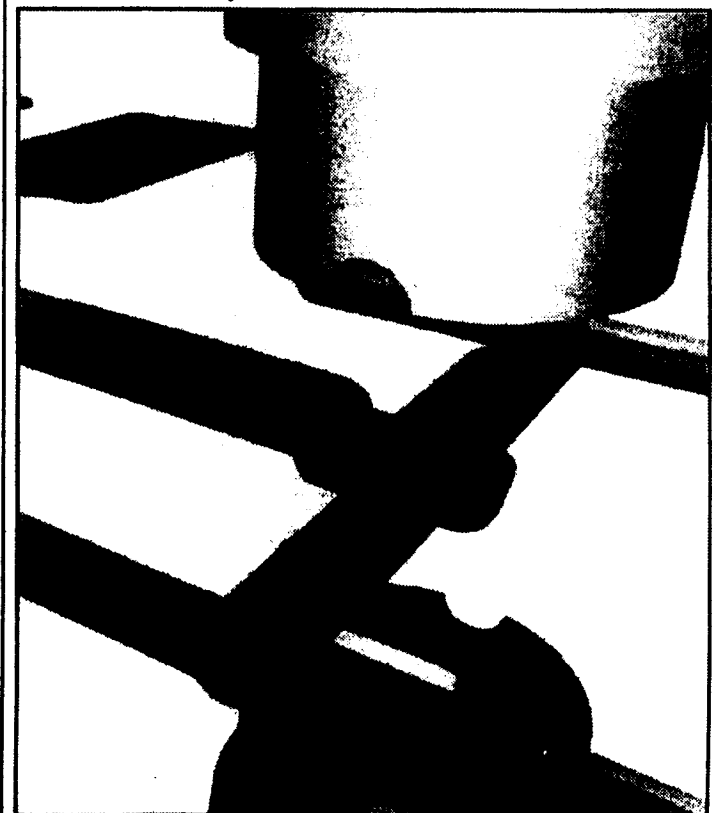
"When I look for meaning in things, I look for God's love," said Crawford.

One quote that she really believes summarizes her life is from the book, "Tuesdays with Morrie": "So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Behrend junior Debbie Crawford discusses how reflection has given her life focus.



This graphic depicts the Meltflipper, an invention of Beaumont Runner Technologies. On his visit to Behrend, David Rose discussed the invention.

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