



# THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, March 4, 2005

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

MAR 04 2005

Vol. LII No. 23

## Proposal misses deadlines, violates policy

By Dan Snedden  
assistant news editor

Most students buying tickets would not recognize that the New Found Glory concert scheduled for March 31 had several administrative difficulties from its inception up to and including its current status. However, students who work intimately with the Student Activity Fee suggest that the aid given to a staff created proposal may have gone too far.

Kris Torok, who is both a staff member and SAF committee member, submitted the proposal for the concert. According to the SAF Handbook, the proposal violated SAF guidelines with its use of outdated quotes and exceeding the maximum allowance of \$3,000 for speakers and/or performers.

The proposal was submitted on March 18, 2004 and requested \$38,500. That amount was requested based on the cost of the 2001 Sugar Ray concert. On April 29, 2004, the Office of Student Activities was awarded \$19,250 for the concert with the completion date of Jan. 31. A memo regarding the allocation sent from the SAF committee to the Office of Student Activities stated, "The Committee funded this request provided that these funds will be released if no one is under contract by Nov. 3, 2004. If this program occurs, the Committee has agreed to pay any balance of expenses not covered by ticket sales out of JIT."

As of Thursday, the contract had yet to be signed.

The memo went on, "The award must be expended during the Fall 2004 semester according to the completion date indicated on your proposal." The application process for the concert committee began in October of 2004 with the selection of Concert Committee Chair Ross Zambanini, INBUS 04. The deadline for applying to the con-

*"I stepped down from leadership of my organization because of frustrations, not the least of which were with the Student Activity Fee."*

-Steve O'Donnell, former president of the Matchbox Players

cert committee was Jan. 21.

Despite the then still-forming concert committee and the passage of both the Nov. 3 deadline and the unspent money at the end of the Fall 2004 semester, the SAF Committee, through use of the ambiguous appeals process, awarded an additional \$15,750 for the concert and changed the conditions of the award to saying, "If no bid is received by Jan. 31, these funds will be rescinded." The notable change was from having a group "under [a legally binding] contract, on the original proposal, to a bid which is not necessarily legally binding.

"These contracts take a long time, they're large documents," said Torok. "When we have a contract over \$10,000 it has to go through University Park. I can sign contracts up to \$10,000 for our campus. Anything over \$10,000 or a contract that has a rider attached to it has to go through University Park and be signed by Risk Management."

Torok explained that the process behind getting a band under contract was a catch-22 saying, "We cannot submit a bid to a group without having a budget ready to go. Therefore, we have to have the money to back it up. There's no way I can get accurate quotes without the group's rider."



Regarding the fact that the proposal was staff initiated, Torok said, "There's no reason going through the Concert Committee interview and application process if there is not going to be any money." "The proposal was put in on behalf of the students," said Scott Soltis, SGA president and SAF committee co-chair. "If it's what the students want and what the students deserve, then the students have

CONCERT, continued on Page 2

## Orientation directors seek leaders

By Jennifer Haight  
copy editor

This year's Orientation Directors are looking for people to be orientation leaders. There are many perks to being an OL. They get to move in early, free meals for that week and it allows for extra time to explore the campus.

Orientation Leaders are also there "to help in any way" and to direct the

incoming students. OLs are there "to help them get involved" in activities on campus, said Chris Fox, coordinator, Student Organizations and Development. There is no better way for the new students to learn about the campus than from current students.

Justin Curry, 08 PSYCH, and Teri Melani, 04 Business Administration, this year's Orientation Directors, are looking for "dedicated people who show commitment" either by being active on campus or by belonging to other clubs and organizations. They would also like people who "want to be involved and who are interested in serving the incoming students," according to Chris Fox. He also said they are looking for "someone who can make a good and positive first impression."

They are also looking for more first year OLs who can relate a little better to the newcomers. The first year OLs went through the experience a year ago so who better for the new students to be greeted by?

As for the long-term affects, it is nice for the freshman to see some familiar faces around campus once they get adjusted. It would be comforting for them to see someone they recognize.

The theme this year, developed by Curry and Melani, is "Truth or Dare." The inspiration for this theme came from the idea that "college is a time you find the truth about yourself," said Curry.

There are many benefits that orientation leaders can take from this experience. Aside from the free meals and moving early, they get to meet people they might not ordinarily meet and the commitment looks great on a resume. Orientation Leaders also assist in orientation activities for the freshman. They get to "know they've made a difference" and "they get a great leadership opportunity...they're part of a team," said Fox.

"No one knows the school like the students. They wouldn't get a true sense of what the college is all about,"

said Fox when asked why orientation leaders are needed. He also said, "Without orientation leaders, [faculty and staff] would not be able to give new students the experience they get here." The connection would be lost without student OLs.

The deadline to apply is March 25. They have had a good response so far with a little over 40 applicants. This year the Orientation Directors are looking for somewhere between 50 and 55 orientation leaders. "[Being an orientation leader is] a time you can give something back to your college," said Curry, "it is also a great and fun experience."

For more information contact Chris Fox at the Office of Student Activities at 898-6171 or email him at cdf13@psu.edu. Interested applicants can stop in the Office of Student Activities or fill out the online application at <http://pennstatebehrend/student/activities/sail/index.htm>.

### CREATIVE WRITER



ANDY MCNEIL/BEHREND BEACON

Deborah Digges, the first author in the Creative Writer Speaker Series to read this Spring, presented her prose and poetry in the Smith Chapel on Thursday at 6 p.m.

## Inside



El Canelo review, STUDENT LIFE, Page 7

Tennis team winning streak, SPORTS, Page 9

Equality? OPINION, Page 4

### Contents

- News.....1-3
- Editorial.....4
- Humor.....6
- Student Life.....7-8
- Sports.....9-10

### Contact Us

Newsroom:  
898-6488  
Fax:  
898-6019

E-mail:  
BehrendBeacon@aol.com

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

## Dr. Seuss Day creates fun, learning

By Tiffany Mak  
staff writer

On Feb. 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., about 40 children attended the sixth annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration in the Smith Chapel Living Room. Families and children were invited by the Association of Women in Communications to read Dr. Seuss' books, games, prizes, birthday cake and fun.

Dr. Seuss Day is an annual event at Penn State Erie. Reading Dr. Seuss books was the highlight of the event, with AWC member Alyssa Peconi, COMBA 08, doing the Sam-I-Am honors.

The National Education Association holds this day to promote Read Across America. Although AWC's Dr. Seuss Day was just one of the thousands of events across the nation to stimulate the reading interest among children, it has been very successful.

"We want to encourage reading in children throughout the community," said Sara Kamber, COMBA 08, president of AWC.

Activity stations included a fishing game coupled with the book "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish," pinning eggs on the plate with "Green Eggs and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ham," making the children's own Dr. Seuss Hat with "The Cat in the Hat," a ball tossing game, matching game and face painting.

Other than showing the children the fun of reading, it was also a great time

for the children and the parents to take part in something together.

"Parents and kids had a great time and so did the girls in our group," said Kamber. "For three hours, kids ran around, let loose, had fun and be cre-

ative."

AWC received various donations and sponsors for the event, such as TGIFridays, Splash Lagoon, Wegmans, Target, the Communications Department and the Athletic Department. Every child was able to get candies, necklaces and at least two McDonald's free French fries cards. Member of AWC also gave door prizes to every child so that no one was left out.

"Through these wonderful donations, we were able to buy snacks, birthday cake, make goodie bags filled with puzzles, magnets, coloring books, candy, key chains, tattoos and stickers for every child," said Kamber. "We even had a few prizes for the parents."

Kamber felt they accomplished great results and received good recognition. WSEE-TV, Erie's CBS affiliate, came to the Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration and interviewed Kamber to "learn more about why the AWC student chapter holds this event each year." They also received emails from families telling them what a wonderful time they had.

"Seeing the kids having so much fun and knowing what we set out made the hard work worth it," said Kamber. "When you work so hard on an event, you hope the turn out will be good and, once again this year, we had a great turn out."