

# Behrend hosts daylong psychology convention

by Matthew D. Cissne  
Co-editor

Imagine meeting the author of one of your textbooks. Psychology students had that opportunity this weekend.

Dr. Robert Cialdini was the keynote speaker at the 22nd annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. This was the first time that this conference was held at Behrend.

Psi Chi President Gail Senoski said, "It was the opportunity of a lifetime. It was exciting to meet the author of one of my textbooks. He has a very good reputation and has done very relevant work."

Cialdini received undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate education in psychology at the University of Wisconsin, University of North Carolina and Columbia University, respectively.

Cialdini is most famous for his book "Influence." This book explains why people comply with requests and the methods people use to persuade others to comply.

Cialdini also covered these issues in his keynote address. Cialdini said that his work is very beneficial to college students.

"The two things that I hope people learn are to recognize and resist the deceptive methods of ads, sales or fund-raising appeals that people use to get you to do something for them, and to learn how to harness these principles ethically to increase their own effectiveness," he said.

Behrend was able to bring Cialdini to the conference because Conference coordinator and Behrend professor Dr. Carl Kallgren was one of Cialdini's graduate students at Arizona State University.

Nine other schools attended the conference: Clarion, Washington and Jefferson, Allegheny, Chatham, Carnegie Mellon, Westminster, Youngstown State, Edinboro and Mercyhurst.

The conference included paper sessions and poster sessions by undergraduate students from all 11 schools. Paper sessions are when students present their research in a professional manner. Each session was followed by a short question and answer period.

Poster sessions are similar to a science fair. Students post their research and the public is welcome to ask any questions.

Cialdini said, "I am very impressed with the high level of quality of research being presented." He continued, "I am also impressed with the confidence in which they (the

students) are speaking and presenting their research."

Senoski said, "Presenting at an undergraduate conference is one of the best experiences a psychology major could have. Many schools including University Park do not give their undergraduate students the opportunity to do research and then present it."

Senoski continued, "We are lucky to be involved with the other schools and with this conference."

The conference was sponsored by the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Mary Behrend Cultural Fund, the Office of the Provost and Dean, the Office of Research, Psi Chi, the Psychology Club and the Student Government Association.

There was a great deal of effort put into the planning of the conference.

Senoski said, "The conference never would have succeeded without the efforts of Dr. Kallgren, Dr. Marilyn Livoski, Dr. Dawn Blasko, Dr. Eric Corty, assistant Wendy Eidenmuller, Psi Chi and the Psychology Club."

She concluded, "It was a nerve-racking experience, but now that it is over I realize how great it was."



Photos by Stephanie Payne/Collegian Photographer

**BOSTON SINGERS:** Back from their trip to Boston Massachusetts, the choir practices for their upcoming concert, May 1. Visiting places such as Fenway Park and Quincy Market, the choir performed at churches and choir member Scott Moncries' high school while in Boston. The members stayed in Boston Friday night and with host families Saturday night. The choir concert will be held in the Wintergarden Sunday at 3:00pm.



## Earth Day concert held in Erie Hall

by Bridgette Jesek  
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and  
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News Editor

Earth Day was celebrated at Behrend with a four band concert in Erie Hall on Saturday, April 23.

The event, organized by Eco-Action and sponsored by many other organizations, was attended by approximately 200 people mostly from the community and Edinboro, Paul Lorio, president of Eco-Action, said.

The bands that appeared were Lucy's Dream, Mama's Garden, Wildflower, and Geometric Loafers.

Lorio said his expectations were about reached as far as attendees. Next year he hopes to expand the concert.

"Lucy's Dream will likely be next year's headliner unless we can get a major label band," Lorio said.

The event raised \$550 for the conservation of Presque Isle.

The general consensus of some Behrend students who attended the concert was mild disappointment.

"I think the best band was Wildflower," April Newell said. "I thought more people would show up."

"Nobody was there. I liked Mama's Garden and Wildflower the best. I thought Mama's Garden got the best turnout. It (Earth Day) wasn't publicized well," Mary Mazzotti said.

"The bands were okay, especially Wildflower, but I was surprised to see no turnout," Gregory Stickle said.

"Mama's Garden stole the show with their unbelievable mix of tribal percussion and melodious guitar. Who's Phish?" Ben Patterson said.

"They should have had the concerts outside. I think more people would have showed up. Wildflower was really good though," said Tiffany Rudolph.

## "Word Dances" airs on WPSE

by Julio Lergler  
Contributing Writer

"Word Dances", a show featuring poetry, essays, and reviews by area writers, is the newest addition to AM 1450 WPSE's programming.

Michael Rectenwald, director of sales for WPSE, and writer Christine Decrease are creators of the show which airs at 7 p.m. every Friday from Behrend's radio station.

"Word Dances" is a new forum to encourage people who write to write," said Decrease. "So many people are hiding under a bushel. Number one, they don't think there's any place they can get a break. For people who say there's no place to be heard, we're giving them a place to be heard."

Word Dances is a co-production of Cup-a-ccino's and WPSE. Rectenwald, a Ph.D. candidate in English at Case Western Reserve University, thought of the idea for "Word Dances" when he was approached about developing

local programming for the college station.

"They said, 'Michael, you could even do poetry.' That was their most far-flung idea, and it happened to be the most heart-felt passion of my own," said Rectenwald.

*"So many people are hiding under a bushel. For people to say there's no place to be heard, we're giving them a place to be heard."*

-Christine Decrease

The name of the show "Word Dances" is a shortened form of "Words that Dance on the Tongue," a play on Cup-a-ccino's motto, "The Coffee That Dances on the Tongue."

Cup-a-ccino's has been hosting open mic poetry nights for patrons for the last four years, as well as hanging visual work by

local artists on the walls and sponsoring readings by established poets.

Decrease calls the radio show "an extension of what we have here (at Cup-a-ccino's)." "It's the coffeehouse going electric," adds Rectenwald. "It's a marriage of the coffeehouse and the airwaves. This forum is intended to feed into that forum."

Although "Word Dances" is made for radio, the program's focus is strictly the written word. For that reason, the creators call the show "an electronic literary journal" and "a magazine for writers."

The hour long show begins with a short editorial commentary by Rectenwald on any subject from "anecdotal allusions to editorials to bizarre tie-ins with current day issues."

Decrease then, "challenges my thesis," said Rectenwald.

The evening's guests then read from their original works and the program finds its way from there Rectenwald said.

On May 6, Sonnenberg Poetry Award winners, Sarah Woodin, Heather McKissock and Dan Sargent will take part in the show's Poetry Writer's Night.

Students from Penn State-Behrend will also be sharing their writings and readings as part of the evening program.