



"Belle Epoque" In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Behrend is hosting an International Film Series, featuring four films from Spain, Cuba, and Brazil. The films will be shown Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning October 16 in the Reed Lecture Hall. The festival begins with "Belle Epoque," the story of a handsome young army deserter who finds himself in love with the beautiful daughter of an aged artist. The film was released in Spain in 1992.

Cutbacks threaten financial aid

by Sean Siekkinen
Collegian Staff

Republican proposed cuts to the Federal Family Education Loan Program are threatening to make the task of paying for higher education increasingly difficult for college students and their families. For some members of Congress, these cuts in federal student aid are believed to be necessary as a part of the efforts to balance the huge budget deficit.

Student aid funding is an extremely controversial issue facing lawmakers in Washington, whose national constituencies include 14 million college students.

Although opponents of cuts in student aid say that the money eventually pays itself back in the form of better educated, more productive members of the work force, some Republicans feel that no federal program should be left untouched in the quest to curb government spending and reduce annual addition to the national debt.

According to Jane Brady, Assistant Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, the primary target of these proposed budget cuts is the federal loan program, the largest and costliest student aid program.

Under current federal guidelines, billions of dollars a year are spent on student loans. In 1993, 6.1 million college

students received \$18 billion dollars in federal student loans. At Behrend, over 73 percent of enrolled graduate and undergraduate students are receiving some sort of financial aid. Of that 73 percent, 81 percent are receiving student loans.

Brady says that Congress is considering:

- Eliminating or reducing the six month grace period for all borrowers. This grace period gives new graduates time to search for a job and secure their finances before beginning loan payments.

- Cutting the interest subsidy program, under which the government pays loan interest while the student is in school.

- Decreasing the number of Pell Grants awarded yearly by 250,000 (The minimum dollar amount of grants, however, will increase).

These cuts could prove to be an almost insurmountable obstacle between many students and a college education.

"If families can't access the funds they need, it is going to make [attending school] tougher," Brady said.

But Brady does not believe that the Republican budget, if passed, will necessarily cause a significant drop in Behrend enrollment.

"At Behrend, we're assisting families in searching for aid...students should be taking advantage of all financial aid

opportunities available."

Those opportunities include the \$200,000 in University Scholarships and \$300,000 in work study as part of the total \$12 million awarded to Behrend students (1993-94 figures).

Brady points to the work of the Alliance to Save Student Aid, a group organizing students nationwide to protest aid reductions, as an important factor in curbing initially proposed cuts amounting to two-thirds of all federal student aid funding. Reductions currently under consideration are aimed at cutting one third of all student aid funding, amounting to \$10.4 billion by 2002.

Dean and Provost, Dr. John Lilley is not able to speak on behalf of the university, but sees the ongoing controversy as part of a transition period for educational infrastructure.

"I think it's a very interesting time and a time for concern. Any time you have change is a time to be cautious," he said.

Lilley sees that the dark cloud hovering over student aid has a silver lining. In a small part of offsetting whatever federal aid cuts are passed into law, state funding for student aid will be on the rise. Lilley is not sure how Behrend enrollment will be effected.

"Our experience this year is that enrollment is larger, with more full time students and less part time students," said Lilley.

Bread Box Awards... Alternatives for volunteering

by Ericha Hagenbuch
Collegian Staff

Each fall the Second Harvest Food Bank recognizes those who exhibit an outstanding interest in public awareness for hunger by presenting The Bread Box Award.

College students are encouraged to actively participate in the program.

By raising money and donating food items to give to the Food Bank, groups and individuals may win the award.

According to Liz Becker of the Second Harvest Food Bank, "The latest studies show that 111,400 area residents rely on the food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and other programs served by the Second Harvest Food Bank."

A surprising 49.6 percent of those receiving food from the

Food Bank have high school diplomas or degrees in higher education but have had trouble finding work.

"The good news is that for every \$1 that is donated, the Food Bank can receive \$17 worth of food," Becker said. "We've got a good program that can provide food at a very low cost."

Direct food costs are not the main expenditure for the Food Bank. Most items are donated by local and national food companies. "The Bread Box Award encourages monetary donations to cover annual shipping costs, and food donations to increase our service," Becker said.

Liz Becker has project forms for any group or individual who wants to participate in the race for The Bread Box Award.

Center offers help in learning

by R. Carl Campbell
Opinion Editor

The Learning Assistance Center (L.A.C.), located in 203 Library (2nd floor), is still in the process of organizing a variety of new resources, but it is open for business. The center is geared towards helping students with study skills, as well as developing skills in areas such as math and writing.

Under a shared Perkins Grant with Edinboro University, the center has acquired three new IBM PCs, computer software, videos, and printer materials that can be used by students.

"We never had extra money to spend," said the Director of the L.A.C., Bob Patterson. "It was shocking to actually spend money."

The center is offering a new program called Supplemental In-

struction (SI). SI is a group study session. The student tutor in the group serves as a director to get the students working with each other. These groups are offered to all students enrolled in traditionally difficult freshman and sophomore-level courses.

"Sometimes," Patterson said. "Students who used the center become tutors because they're typically the people who understands how it (L.A.C.) works the most."

"taxation without representation."

Dr. Reber feels the opposition is focused at UP because perhaps there is less of a need for the fee there. "Most people at Behrend who have an opinion see the value of [the fee] for Behrend." Reber also points out that the fee concept was born outside of UP.

University President Graham Spanier tried to appease student opposition and protect student interest by working in specific guarantees.

"The fee will not replace University allocations for student programs and activities and will remain separate from tuition. The fees raised at each campus will stay at each campus."

(Note: Some information and quotations contained in this news article were obtained from "The Daily Collegian" at University Park campus of the Penn State University)

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Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, feels faculty/staff guidance is essential to long term success of the fee.

"A student doesn't always see what the long term effects of funding or not funding a program will be," Rizzo said. "A staff member who has been here and will be here has seen the results of not funding some things, and making those same mistakes again can be avoided."

The activities fee proposal was not without opposition. While the BOT was meeting inside Eisenhower Auditorium at UP, student protestors organized by the Penn State Young Americans for Freedom and the Veteran's Organization held a "tea party" and raised signs protesting

Feminist Scholars...

Award-winning author to speak

BEHREND-Emily Arnold McCully, nationally acclaimed writer and illustrator of children's books, will speak in the Reed Lecture Hall on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. Her presentation, "Life on the Page: Creating Children's Literature," is brought to Behrend for the Feminist Scholars Speakers Series.

In 1993, McCully won the coveted Randolph Caldecott Medal for her book, "Mirette on the High Wire", which was also named on the *New York Times* Ten Best Illustrated Books of 1992. She has also won an American Book award nominee for her novel "A Craving" (1982), and her short stories appear in the O'Henry Collection of Best Short Stories of 1977.

McCully has performed as an actress and singer and in 1991 appeared in an off-Broadway production of "Nightingale." She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Award for fiction writing and the Brooklyn Museum Award for Graphic Excellence.

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