

World of Change

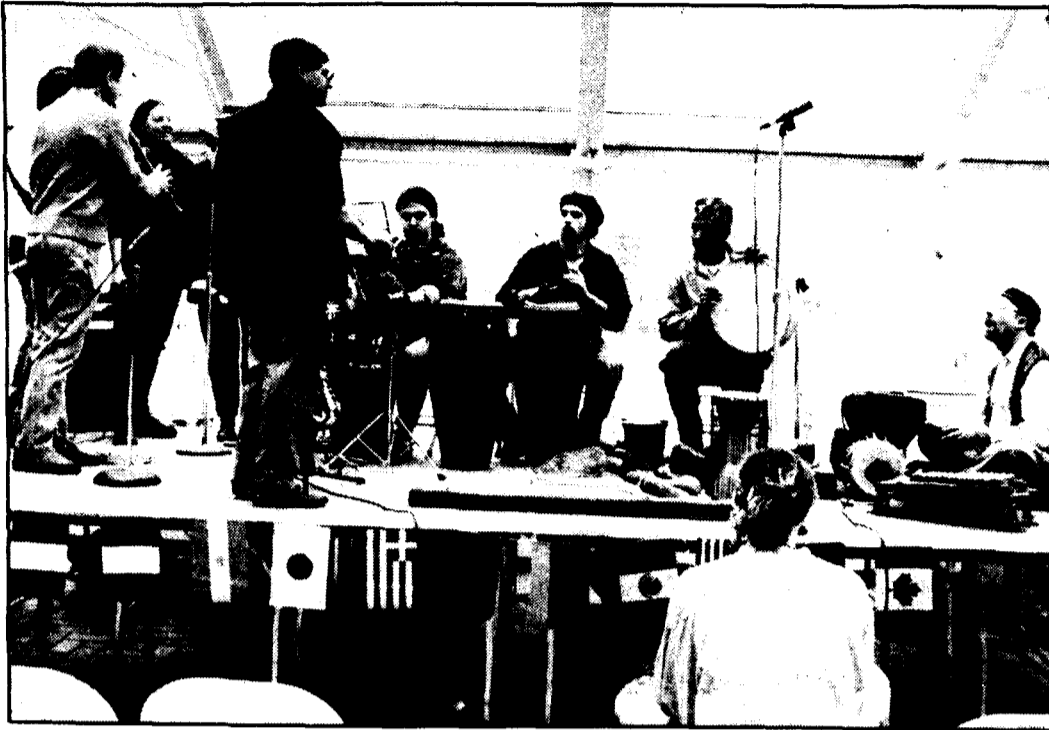


Photo by Bob Misulich/Collegian Photographer

Fiesta!!! Behrend College celebrated its annual Cultural Fiesta on Tuesday. The event was filled with ethnic traditions, customs, dishes and entertainment. One of the biggest attractions was the ethnic food. The international improvisational band, Sangeta, performed for an enthusiastic audience.

Italian Oven CEO to speak

BEHREND-Mr. Jim Frye, founder, chairman, and CEO of The Italian Oven, Inc., will address the College's International Management 480 class and taking his company public on Thursday, April 18 at 6:15 p.m., in the Reed Union Building.

Frye attended Penn State-Behrend from 1968 to 1970, receiving his degree in political science at University Park in 1973. The former owner of Gullifty's Restaurant in Pittsburgh, Frye and his wife, Janice, decided to create a new family restaurant combining a casual atmosphere with a serious approach to food. In 1989, after a few years of research including time spent in Italy, they opened the first Italian Oven in Somerset, Pa.

Today, the Italian Oven chain features 95 restaurants operating in 17 states and Australia. The company has signed or reached

agreements in principle to develop nearly 400 additional restaurants. Last November, the company stock went public.

Dr. John Magenau, head of the Penn State-Behrend School of Business, invited the speaker as part of an ongoing effort to enrich the educational process. "We're always pleased to bring distinguished executives on campus," he said. Magenau commented on the importance of students hearing first-hand about the experiences of an entrepreneur.

Earlier this year, the School of Business hosted a talk by Mark Loevner, chairman of the board of Trau & Loevner, Inc., the nation's fifth largest specialty imprinting firm.

A limited amount of seating is available to the public. For more information about the speaker's presentation, contact the Penn State-Behrend School of Business at 898-6107.

Banquet planned

BEHREND-Protestant Campus Ministry at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will sponsor its Second Annual Protestant Campus Ministry Banquet on Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m. The banquet will be held in the College's Reed Union Building Commons.

Mrs. Cathy Moser, senior lecturer in speech communication at Penn State-Behrend, will be the guest speaker. Ms. Julie Cain, a sophomore majoring in math, vice president of the Lion Ambassadors, and a member of Lambda Sigma Honor Society, will provide the music. Students

who participated in the "Alternative Spring Break" event in Baltimore, Maryland, will present a slide show about their volunteer work in an inner city soup kitchen.

Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$10 for students. Proceeds benefit the Penn State-Behrend Protestant Campus Ministry, a non-profit program governed by a board of volunteer ministers and lay persons and funded by private donations. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Kelly Shroat at 898-7139.

Ms. Penn State-Behrend

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According to Rodriguez, the show is more of a fashion show but with the added twist of a contest.

Categories for judging include poise, stage presence and contestants' responses to predetermined questions. Judging the contest will be Behrend College faculty and administrators.

Contestants will also perform dance routines as well as modeling fashions provided by local merchants.

In addition to the fashion show and pageant, live entertainment will feature Behrend band *My Olde Habit*, acappella group Harmony, Pianist Crazy Jay Simmons and a light show. There will also be prize giveaways and, added Rodriguez, "A

lot of fun."

Pageant coordinators are Earla Simpson, responsible for choreography, Calandra Matthews and Cari Massey.

Contestants for Ms. Penn State-Behrend are: Shanna Cotti, Carmen Evans, Rachel Grine, Tamiko Harvey, Erica Hayden, Kelly Herbert, Jill Hinkel, Rhea Husbands, Renee Meyer, Kimberly McIlwain, Jeannine Ouillette, Kelly Pahel, Stephanie Roberts, Annette St. George and Catrina Tisdell-Johnson.

Letters to the Editor

Keep your mind open

Dear Editor,

Where have we gone, as a society? To answer this important question, we must first answer, "Where have we come from?"

No, not the ideology that you assume is true (either from fictional sources, blurbs of what you've seen on TV or taught in class), but really study our past.

Not just your past or my past, but our past as Americans. This includes the African Americans, the European Americans, the Hispanics, the Asians, the Latinos, and everyone in between who stands there with their hand over their heart and says, "I pledge allegiance to the flag . . ."

We all need to help bridge this gap . . . but now we separate it.

I know that I have my own prejudices

and stereotypes, but everyday I meet a new person and an old stereotype or prejudice is removed.

This is how we bridge this gap - not by pointing fingers or twisting a situation to fit our argument; but instead, we can solve these "touchy" problems by learning about someone else, their experiences, and their dreams. Trust me, you'll find more people with the same dreams and aspirations that you have - then this dark nightmare that we say haunts our future.

"If you run blindly through the tunnels of our past you'll always hit a wall."

PEACE

Jotham Austin
08 Biology

Should view all as human beings

Dear Editor,

In response to the prayer controversy involving graduation and convocation article, I'd like to play devil's advocate for a moment and ask this about religion and diversity: What about people who take advantage of days when their place of business or school offers a day off due to a religious holiday, like Easter or Christmas Day? I don't hear many people crying, "Oh please, let me go to work. We should not have that day off because it offends me." I would view that having to be forced to take the day off for a holiday I do not observe, whether paid or not, would be equally offense to me as having to sit and listen to a religious prayer, which I may not worship, during my graduation. So what's the difference? There should be none. Either instance is offense to a person who takes religion seriously, but not offense to someone who takes advantage of what religion has to offer. We take advantage of religion when it suits our need and benefits, like a day off from work or school, but cry for diversity when it's not in our favor. This does not seem fair.

As for whether we should have prayer

during the graduation ceremony is a difficult question to address. If there is a mention of, for example, "God is great. God is good. Let us thank him for all he has offered us" by the clergy speaker, although I am Roman Catholic and believe in God, this may be offense to others who may not worship or believe in "God" and may also be a violation of the First Amendment Religious Establishment Clause.

And finally, in response to John Rossomando's "Racial Roots" article, yes, we must all identify with our cultural ancestry, but what John and a lot of other people seem to forget is that we are all human beings. Stop seeing things as black or white. Hate and racial violence exists not because we are a massively diverse campus, but we see each other as African American or Caucasian, Latino or Native American, Asian or Hispanic, Jewish or Roman Catholic, Buddhist or Hindu. We must all be proud of our heritage and ourselves, but we must also view each other as human beings, not just a racial or religious group.

Holly M. Olarczuk
08 Political Science

The Collegian encourages Letters to the Editor on news coverage, editorial content and University affairs. Letters must be signed and include the address and phone number of the author. Letters may be edited for length; The Collegian reserves the right to reject letters.