

# A personal plea

by Jennifer V. Colvin  
Editor in Chief

I've spent a lot of time thinking about how to write this story. I've decided that the only way to do it right is to tug on a few heart strings.

This is a plea. I'm not asking for money. I'm not asking for your firstborn. I'm asking for help.

Outside the context of a normal news story, I feel that the best way to reach a lot of people quickly is to open myself to the readers.

I am the type of person who doesn't share easily, so listen up.

Many people have A Cause. Some want to save the whales; others fight for human rights. Me, I fight for a cure - for cancer.

This cause has developed deep inside of me for many years, beginning with the death of my grandfather after a long, hard battle with cancer.

But it goes deeper than that. Not too many years ago, my family pulled together to help my father fight leukemia.

One of the best known cures for bone cancers such as leukemia is to replace the bone marrow with a transplant.

Bone marrow is what I like to call Life. It courses through our bones and supplies our bodies with what they need.

As it was once described to me as a child, deep inside of our bodies and

horrendous amounts of pills and steroids everyday, we were overcome with emotion when the doctors told us that his body was leukemia free.

Please don't be lulled into thinking this had a sweet ending. Recovery from a bone marrow transplant does not end there.

Transplants cost thousands of dollars and even more in emotions. Months after a transplant, recipients continue to fight for recovery.

Imagine your body literally without an immune system. It would be difficult to live a normal day to day life.

Transplant patients cannot eat food that is not well done; the spice pepper, among other things, is excluded from the diet. When in public, recipients must wear a mask to help filter out particles in the air.

And still things can go wrong. In August of 1989, my father got an infection in his lungs and later died.

We buried him with his bag that had once contained Life.

To this day, I am still proud of my father because he won in the end. He beat the disease. My father died without the horrible monster leukemia coursing through his veins. Instead my father died with that sweet taste of victory on his tongue; he had won and leukemia had lost.

After my father's death, I decided that I could not stand by and watch crippling diseases like cancer continue to claim so many lives. It was at that moment I decided many things: Who would walk me down the aisle; where I would go to college; and most of all, that I would devote my life to cancer research.

A year later in 1990, I was devastated to find out that my friend was diagnosed with another type of bone cancer.

Michelle was a stronghold in my life that had held fast when I needed firm ground the most.

Similar to leukemia, her particular bone cancer could be treated with a bone marrow transplant. Patiently, Michelle waited for a transplant.

Not so patient, the cancer took over her body -- piece by piece, day by day. Although she had a possible match, Michelle never found a compatible donor and died shortly afterwards in June.

And I could do nothing about it - but you can.

This Tuesday, March 4 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Villa Maria Center Dining Room, there will be a free bone marrow donor screening.

I urge, plea, and even beg everyone to overcome their personal boundaries and join me and the HLA Foundation to help patients waiting for a donor.

If you know someone with cancer, please get a screening. If you've lost someone you love to cancer, please honor their memory by having your marrow tested. Even if you have never met anyone who suffered from a terminal illness, please stop by and be screened. Doing so gives you an opportunity to do something so very few people ever have a chance to do -- save a life.

Donors are very special people. Do you think you can be one?

If you are between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health, you can participate in a free bone marrow donor screening.

Tuesday, March 4  
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

at  
Villa Maria Center Dining Room  
2551 West 8th Street

Call the HLA Foundation at 800-336-3363 or Saint Vincent Ask-A-Nurse at 452-5500 for more information about screening. You can pre-register for the screening by calling 838-0431.

bones horrible disease can grow, altering the functions and capabilities of our bodies.

To rid our bodies of diseases such as bone cancer, doctors kill the marrow with chemotherapy and intense radiation, then replace the marrow with new, purified bone marrow.

Patients can either use their own marrow which has been treated to be disease free, or they can receive marrow from a donor.

In the fall of 1988, I was tested, along with the rest of my family, for HLA compatibility with my father.

God was on our side, and my grandfather was a match. In the spring of 1989, my father underwent intense treatments of deadly radiation to kill basically everything in his body. After two weeks of torture, doctors filled his empty bones with life from a small bag containing what looked more like squashed tomatoes.

During his slow recovery, my father fought every moment of the way. After

# Black History Month...



Project Concern: An urban dance troupe performed at Behrend last week in celebration of Black History Month. Ashley Newhouse/Collegian Photographer

## Cheney to speak... Telling the Truth

Behrend-Lynne V. Cheney, former chairman for the National Endowment of the Humanities and outspoken advocate for improving education in America, will present a lecture, "Telling the Truth: Why Our Culture and Country Have Stopped Making Sense," at Behrend on Thurs., Mar. 6 at 7:30 p.m. The talk, part of the College's Speaker Series, will be held in the Reed Union Building Commons. It is free and open to the public.

Firm in her conviction that we must improve our schools, Cheney has championed school choice for parents, alternative certification for teachers, and national standards to measure student achievement. She also emphasizes values as a necessary foundation for learning. "If we want our children to think that honesty and hard work matter, we must tell them why these ideas are important," she says. "Now, in many cases, we're giving them the opposite message -- and, unfortunately, they are listening."

The wife of former U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney speaks out forcefully against political correctness in academic settings, seeing it as a threat to free speech and intellectual life. She believes that colleges and universities should pursue truth, not political agendas.

Cheney particularly stresses the need to reaffirm that there are values we all share, regardless of race or gender. "We are a country built on creed," she pointed out in a recent speech. "Many countries define themselves ethnically, but we have historically defined ourselves by a common set of common ideas and ideals."



The Washington Times wrote that "In a time of cultural insanity, Brady Jr. Distinguished Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. The 1997 Speaker Series, "Approaching 2000: Uniting Science, Technology, and Humanity," is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs.

### EARN MONEY TUTORING!

The Penn State Educational Partnership Program needs tutors. They are seeking college students to tutor middle school and high school students any day of the week. Please call Kathy at 871-6689 for information! Don't wait!! Call now!!

### EDUCATION LOAN FUND FOR WOMEN

The PEO Education Loan Fund makes loans to qualifying women who desire higher education and are in need of financial assistance. Maximum amount available: \$5200. Each applicant will be evaluated by PEO trustees who will determine exact amount to be awarded. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 898-6162.

Dr. Roger Knacke, will present his lecture *The Galileo Mission to Jupiter* Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in Science 101.

This lecture is part of Penn State-Behrend's Open House Nights in Astronomy.

Nomination forms are now available for the following awards:

- The Guy W. Wilson Award for Excellence in Academic Advising
- Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award
- The Benjamin A. Lane Outstanding Service Award

Students, groups, faculty and staff may submit nominations to the Provost's Office by March 14, 1997. Nomination forms are available in the Library, at the RUB Desk, the Computer Center, Academic Unit Offices, and the Provost's Office.

### LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER SERVICES 203 Library

Monday 12 - 4  
Tuesday 10 - 2, 6 - 8  
Wednesday 12 - 4, 6 - 8  
Thursday 10 - 1, 6 - 8  
Sunday 4 - 7

\*\*Math assistance also available in the LAC during the evening and Sunday hours and Tues. & Thur. 12 - 1

## The Behrend College Collegian wants YOU!

YOUR

### SO, YOU LIKE TO DANCE?

JOIN STAR 104 AND AΣT FOR THE  
FIRST ANNUAL DANCE-A-THON

THIS YEAR'S CONTEST WILL BE HELD IN THE REED COMMONS FROM 7:00 P.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 1 UNTIL 7:00 A.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 2.

CONTESTANTS CAN JOIN THE DANCE FOR \$6 A PERSON, \$50 FOR 10 OR MORE PEOPLE. IF YOU ARE A WIMP AND JUST WANNA WATCH, IT'S \$2.

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE RUB DESK TODAY!

TO PUT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT OR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN THE CALENDAR, IT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGIAN THE MONDAY PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. SUBMISSIONS AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL RUN THE FOLLOWING WEEK. CALL THE OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS: 898-6488

### 2 - SUNDAY

STUDIO THEATER:  
BRILLIANT TRACES  
2:30 PM

MOVIE - 10:00 PM  
RANSOM

### 27 - THURSDAY

REALITY CHECK  
5:30 PM REED 112  
NEWMAN  
8:00 PM REED 3

MOVIE - 10:00 PM  
RANSOM

### 28 - FRIDAY

IVCF  
2:00 PM REED 113

STUDIO THEATER:  
BRILLIANT TRACES  
8:00 PM

MOVIE - 10:00 PM  
RANSOM

### 1 - SATURDAY

MARTIAL ARTS  
10:00 AM  
NIAGARA BASEMENT  
STUDIO THEATER:  
BRILLIANT TRACES  
8:00 PM

MOVIE - 10:00 PM  
RANSOM

### 3 - MONDAY

### 4 - TUESDAY

PERSONAL GROWTH GROUP  
FOR WOMEN  
6:00 PM  
COUNSELING CENTER

### 5 - WEDNESDAY

COMMUTER COUNCIL  
1:00 PM REED 112

SGA MEETING  
5:15 PM REED 114