

Famine raises hunger awareness

30 Hour Famine participation doubles

by Danielle M. Murphy
Editor in Chief

Every night, millions of children go to bed hungry; their gnawing bellies reminders of the poverty that surrounds them.

For these children, famine is not a choice. But for 43 Behrend students, it was.

In efforts to increase awareness of world hunger and raise funds for combating famine, students participated in the 30 Hour Famine.

The event, held Feb. 28 and March 1, was in conjunction with international efforts lead by World Vision, a Christian relief and

problem of hunger around the world," said Kladny. "Sometimes when we see people starving, we feel there's nothing we can do, but this is a way that we really can make a difference in people's lives."

During the fast, students participated in a variety of service projects. Students volunteered at HealthSouth Great Lakes, HealthSouth LEIR, Shriner's Children Hospital, the Mercy Center for Women and the Penn State-Behrend Child Care Center.

Other activities included a scavenger hunt and a role-playing "game." Students were grouped



Entertaining: The children at Shriner's Hospital in Erie were entertained by participants in the 30 Hour Famine. Justin Crawne, IVCF member, helped make buttons and doctor bags for the Children and Healthcare Week. Volunteers also played games with the children.

This is a great way for all of us to do something about the problem of hunger around the world.

--Michelle Kladny

development organization.

The second 30 Hour Famine at Behrend, participation nearly doubled that of last year. This was due in part to the co-sponsorship by three student groups--the Newman Association, the Knights of Columbus and the Interscholastic Christian Fellowship.

According to Michelle Kladny, (06 History) vice-president of the Newman Association, nearly \$2,000 was raised. Last year, students raised \$1,500.

"This is a great way for all of us to actually do something about the

into countries and given a scenario. In one scenario, as head of the family, the students had to decide to either remain in the village or move into town for work.

Deciding to move, the students were faced with living in a poverty-stricken "tent city." The children are then forced to scavenge for metal (to exchange for food), until one is struck blind at the age of five and becomes a panhandler. The "game" turned out to be reality, with the child benefiting from World Vision.

To raise money, participants

recruited sponsors and donors

According to Sandra Honick, graduate intern for Campus Ministry, the money is dispersed to World Vision's six targeted countries. The United States is among those countries targeted for hunger-related needs and illness, medical treatment and education. Of the money raised, nearly 75 percent goes directly to feed the hungry. Through World Vision, every 50 cents raised could feed a

child for one day.

Participating in the famine proved a worthwhile learning experience for some.

"It's a time that we get to step out of our culture and society and see things that we take for granted," said Richard Hollerman, (07 EE) IVCF president.

"It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, the hunger wasn't unbearable," said Heather Lippencott (08 BIO). "I learned about starving

people in the United States, it heightened our awareness about how bad it really is. Your really can make a difference."

"It was a great experience," said Michelle Gruendl (08 BIO). "I realized that my hunger wasn't as important."

"I think it's important that we remember that there are people less fortunate than us," said Dan Murray (07 BIO), who sponsored Lippencott. "They were poor for

30 hours. I think it represents how fortunate we are in the United States compared to others."

The 30 Hour Famine will return to Behrend next year, possibly involving more students.

"We'd like it to become a larger Behrend event, sponsored by Campus Ministry," said Honick.

Kladny agreed, "We're hoping to make it a campus-wide event."

"I definitely urge people to do it," said Jen Sloka (02 DUS).

Anything but brief

By DARREN ROBERTSON
Collegian Staff Writer
University Park, PA

A University student has created a stir on the floor of the state legislature over a piece of artwork that hangs in the University's Zoller Gallery. At least one state representative has threatened to withhold the University's \$281 million state subsidy if the artwork remains on display.

A Christine Eney (senior-visual arts) has found herself in the center of controversy once again, as complaints arise about her project featured in a student exposition. The artwork in question, entitled 25 Years of Virginit: A Self-Portrait, is a quilt covered with 25 pairs of women's underwear, each with a cross stitched onto the crotch.

Eney is familiar with controversy - she removed a sculpture from an outdoor display earlier this semester when a campus priest received complaints that the sculpture was anti-Catholic. That sculpture was described as a grotto with a statue of the Virgin Mary emerging from a bloody vagina.

State Rep. John Lawless, R-Montgomery, demanded yesterday something be done about the display. State Rep. Lynn Herman, R-Centre, responded to Lawless, saying the University was changing its policy regarding student art display. Herman also said he was told the art would be removed in the near future.

The exposition was scheduled to end Saturday and University officials gave no indications the artwork was going to be removed ahead of schedule.

The policy on student art has

been slightly amended recently, Sallie McCorkle, associate professor of art, said. She said the new language was only an attempt to foster discussion on sensitive issues, and was not meant to censor students in any way.

The new paragraph added to the School of Visual Art's guidelines encourages students and faculty to be aware of cultural differences when displaying art outside of the classroom, McCorkle said.

Herman had not seen the artwork, he said, but he had seen pictures of it on television and in the Centre Daily Times.

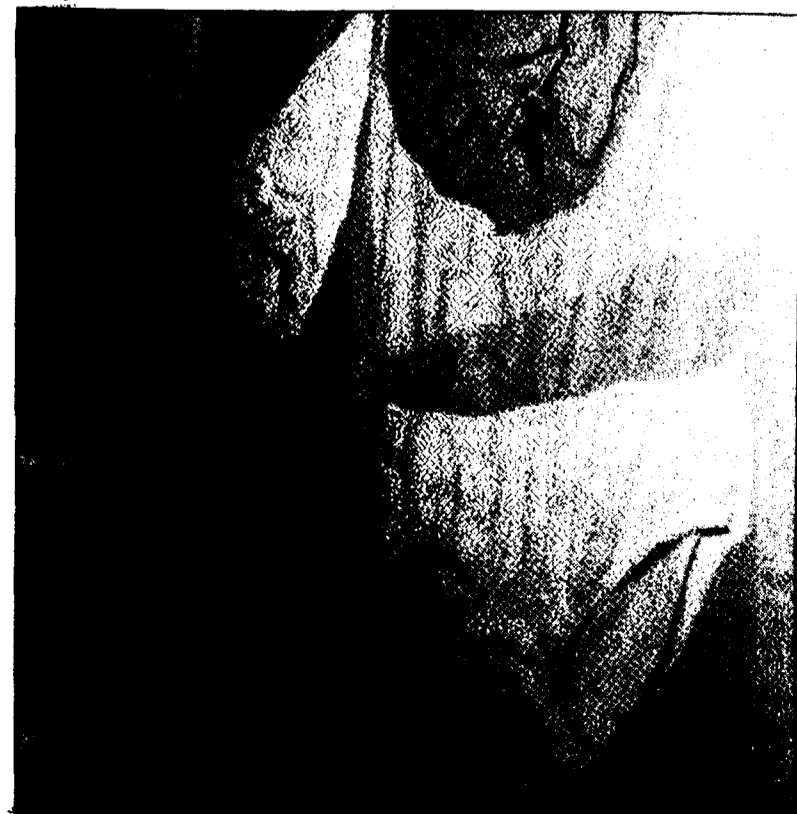


Photo courtesy David S. Spence/The Digital Collegian

This quilt, titled 25 Years of Virginit: A Self-Portrait, hangs in Zoller Gallery at Penn State, University Park, PA. Representative John Lawless, who disapproves of the art, threatened to withhold University funding if the quilt remains.

"I thought it was terribly offensive and it does not fit mine or the public's description of artwork," Herman said.

During appropriations hearings last month before the state legislature, University President Graham Spanier was repeatedly questioned about the issue by Lawless. Lawless demanded the artwork be removed, threatening the University's vital \$281 million state appropriation if the art was not taken down.

Spanier said the University does not condone censorship, and the art would remain.

Spanier was disappointed that Lawless detracted from the real issues at an appropriations hearing, said Steve MacCarthy, executive director of University relations.

"It's an unfortunate distraction from the real issues," MacCarthy said. "A serious question is why Penn State tuition has to be what it is. That is because the level of funding is so low. That's an issue to be concerned about, not whether

a student is making a statement with a piece of artwork."

University administrators do not seem overly concerned about Lawless' threats, however. "There is always the hope that there are enough level-headed people in the capital to not let someone with an extreme agenda sideline the real issues," MacCarthy said. The University felt it was important not to give in to this attempt at

Speaker for the evening will be Dr. Stuart Ewen, professor of media studies and chair of the Department of Communication at Hunter College, City University of New York.

Ewen has published widely on mass media and consumer society, advertising, and the shaping of American consciousness.

His 1988 book, *All Consuming Images: The Politics of Style in Contemporary Culture*, provided the foundation for Bill Moyers' 4-part Peabody and NEA award-winning series, "The Public Mind: Image and Reality in America."

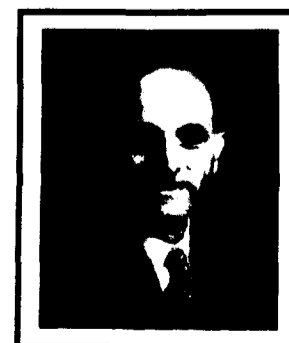
Visual Perception to be discussed

Ewen's recent presentations include "Photjournalism and the Eloquence of Images" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

He is the author of numerous articles and is currently at work on a book entitled *Consuming Culture: Mass Media and*

Consumer Society. A *Documentary History*, to be published by Westview Press. Ewen's presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact the Penn State-Behrend Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at 898-6108.



Penn State Erie
The Behrend College
will celebrate the life
of longtime Athletics Director

Herb Lauffer
1941-1997

in a service on Sunday, April 13, 1997
2:00 p.m.

Reed Union Building Commons

Following the service, the family will greet
students, colleagues, and friends