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INSIDE...

News

Prayer at graduation debated.
...page 2

Police and Safety

Bird loose in Nick Building.
...page 3

Editorial

Diehl teacher charged with harassment.
...page 4

National Campus News

Jiang jeered at Harvard.
...page 7

World and Nation

Pope condemns anti-semitism.
...page 8

Features

Film review: Boogie Nights.
...page 9

Sports

Women's volleyball wins four straight
...page 11

Students debate graduation prayer, Bruno's prices at SGA forum



photo by Jessica Trzeciakowski

STUDENTS SPEAK OUT: SGA President Mike Zampetti, left, leads discussion at last night's SGA open forum. Student Government Association representatives sit to Zampetti's left. Graduation prayer and food service prices were two of the issues discussed.

by Mike DeSantis
staff writer

Last night, a group of approximately 30-40 students came to the Reed Lecture Hall for a successful student forum sponsored by the Student Government Association. The main topics of discussion were graduation prayers and the prices and variety of food at Bruno's. Students also brought up issues such as parking rates, the lack of a Fall Break at Penn State, and the need for more businesses serving students in the campus area.

The prayer at graduation topic provided the most heated discussion

of the evening. Students on both sides of the discussion gave views about why or why there shouldn't be a prayer at graduation. Dr. Chris Reber, Dean of Students, said even though the students chosen to give the opening and closing remarks are allowed to say whatever they want, "a majority of students have chosen prayers."

A formal survey has never been done about whether students want a prayer or not, but Mike Zampetti, President of SGA, said that he did ask some students informally and he got about a half and half split for whether or not to have the prayer. The other hot topic of the night was

Food and Housing concerns. Students learned that the Bruno's renovations cost about \$1 million. According to Fred Fenstermaker, Assistant Manager of Bruno's, no tuition or university money was used for the renovations. Bruno's has a project fund that paid for the changes.

Prices were also brought up by students and defended by Fenstermaker. He said that he had actually been to other colleges in-state and out and believes that most of Bruno's prices are reasonable.

One student brought up the fact that there wasn't much to do on campus. This once again brought up the idea of the SGA's Student Life Charge #1

which is looking into how to attract private businesses to the campus area. The one thing that was holding them back was how the water was going to get to the area since there are no lines under the property.

Big news from Dr. John Lilley, Provost and Dean, is that the water lines are being put in under the land within the next year.

On the whole the forum had good discussion, but had to be let out early, because of a speaker for another program. Because of the early dismissal, some students didn't get to speak at the forum, but were invited to come and talk to

SGA when they switched locations to finish the meeting.

Zampetti said it "was a good turnout, but next time we will have to prepare better. Since this was the first time, we see where we need to make corrections. On the whole the forum was good."

The forums are not the only time students can "speak out." All SGA meetings include a student forum section where students may come and speak about their concerns. Meetings are held Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in Reed 114.

Women's soccer to play in ECAC tourney

by Sean Yarnall
staff writer

Last Monday, the Lady Lions soccer team received good news when they found out that they were invited to their first ever Eastern College Athletic Conference playoffs. This comes in only the

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-Coach Dan Perritano

program's third year at the varsity level.

"It is an unbelievable surprise and it will be a great experience to have fun and play without pressure," said Coach Dan Perritano. "It is a big surprise and an added bonus to our great season," added Cummings.

The other teams that will be competing with Behrend are SUNY-Brockport, Binghamton, Skidmore, Vassar, and SUNY-Plattsburgh. Behrend received the second seed which awards them a bye in the first round of the play-offs.

The Lady Lions will play their semi-final match against the

winner of the Binghamton-Vassar contest.

"We plan to play to win, but it will be a great challenge with all of the teams being outstanding," remarked Perritano.

The game is to be played on Saturday, November 8th, with time and place to be determined. Behrend's record is 14-6 heading into the ECAC play-offs.

The Behrend women's soccer team, last weekend won the first Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference championship in the first year of the conference's existence. The tournament took place at Behrend with the Lady Lions having the home field advantage thanks to their first place finish in the regular season.

The championship match had faced Behrend against the number two seed, Frostburg State. Frostburg advanced to the finals by defeating Pitt-Bradford.

The Lady Lions took the early lead on a goal in the third minute from senior Lara Herrmann. Freshman Katie Giles added a second goal for Behrend in the 39th minute of play to give Behrend a 2-0 advantage.

"The early goal put Frostburg on their heels, which gave us the advantage," said Coach Dan Perritano.

Frostburg mustered a late goal to make the game close as time wound down. The Lady Lions

were able to defend a corner kick with six minutes to play and fight off a late attack from Frostburg to win the championship by a 2-1 margin.

"I think we all played really well because we wanted this win so bad," said Freshman Bethany Cummings.

In advancing to the final, Behrend had to first take on the fourth seed, LaRoche. The Lady Lions were able to win by destroying the Red Hawks defense.

Behrend scored its goals by bombarding LaRoche with 27 shots. Herrmann led the way with two goals and an assist. According to Herrmann, 07, Biology, "This was an awesome way to end the season because everybody on the team participated and we really wanted to win it."

Junior Jen Bargiband, senior Shawn Morelli, freshman Terry Lampman, and junior Lisa Fox also contributed goals for the Lady Lions. Mary Ann Rupp recorded the shutout for Behrend.

"It was a good game for us to prepare for the final against Frostburg. It also gave us the opportunity to rest people," said Coach Perritano.

The Lady Lions look forward now to the ECAC tournament this weekend.



photo by John Hoderny

The Behrend Lady Lions in action against LaRoche during the AMCC tournament, which Behrend won. The women's soccer team has just been invited for the first time ever to participate in the Eastern College Athletic Conference post season tournament.

Gen Ed requirements may change

by Mike DeSantis
staff writer

As early as next year, the general education requirement for undergraduates may start to change.

The university-wide Special Committee on General Education (SCGE) would likely keep the number of general education (gen. ed.) credits essentially the same. The committee, made up of at least one representative from each campus, hopes the change in the requirement will improve the gen. ed. experience by focusing on active learning and new methods of teaching.

Overall there were 10 recommendations made in the committee's 32 page report. Some of the recommendations' effects will be more noticeable to students in certain majors.

One of the major changes will be that first year students will have to take a seminar class. These classes will have about 20 students and a full time faculty member. They will "introduce students to the expectations of the university," said Dr. Archie Loss, Professor of English and American Studies, and the first committee member from Behrend to join the SCGE.

The new changes will hopefully encourage incoming students to show proficiencies in writing, language

please see GEN ED page 2