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For every demonstration that took place, Baxter incorporated the scientific or industrial relevance. Using sand in a bag, Baxter showed that by tilting the bag the sand will only tilt

so far, and once it exceeds its critical angle it will begin to flow over itself. Studies like this have led scientists to a greater understanding about the properties of granular materials, but Baxter pointed out that there is still much to be learned. Another demonstration utilizing mixed salt and pep-

per showed that when two granular materials are sent down a narrow grade or opening, they will begin to divide themselves, and separate back into bands of salt and pepper. This is an industrial problem that corporations have had to battle to ensure that the proper percentages of materials

reach their containers. For example, if too much or too little heart medication separates out of a mixture, the results could be deadly. Baxter pointed that, "granular materials are easy to play with, but hard to understand. These materials are very important in industry, and much of the physics is poorly understood, but this is an exciting time to be a physicist with a sandbox."

Not only at its conclusion, but also throughout the entire lecture, Baxter fielded a generous amount of questions, with many coming from the children in the audience. Unfortunately the outdoor astronomy show could not take place after the lecture due to a densely overcast sky. The department hopes the skies will be clear for their next demonstration on February 26 entitled "Clouds of Jupiter."

So why are the bigger nuts always at the top of the can? Just like in any mixer that uses an up and down motion, the bigger components rise to the top because of a convection roll. Also the bigger nuts come to the top of the mix, but can't go back down because of sidewall friction. In the slapping process with all the bouncing, and shaking, the big nuts rise to the top of the can, which excites the consumer making them believe that they bought a can full of big nuts. So the next time you pop the top on that can of mixed nuts, you'll know why the big nuts are only on the top, and not scattered throughout like they should be.



photo by Erin Costello

Dr. Baxter entertains the audience with a demonstration at last Thursday night's "Sand Box Physics"

## Police And Safety REPORT:

- 01/28/98** Complainant reported an individual was kicked in the stomach. Incident is under investigation.
- 01/29/98** Complainant fell down stairs heading toward Academic from Niagara Hall.
- 01/29/98** Complainant reported student parking on his lawn.
- 01/30/98** Complainant reported faculty member had locked himself out of his office. Door was opened for him.
- 01/30/98** Discovered two vehicles in parking lot S which had been coated with shaving cream and what appeared to be chocolate syrup. Contacted owner who did not wish to take any action against those responsible.
- 01/30/98** Complainant reported loud music in the 500 apartment area.
- 01/31/98** Complainant plugged in a space heater and blew out a fuse.
- 01/31/98** Gunshots of 20-30 rounds fired in rapid succession were heard on two occasions within minutes of each other coming from the area of 4 Mile Creek to Shannon Road.
- 02/02/98** Complainant reported that one student threatened another student while in his class.

## Students spend Spring Break helping others



photo by Jason Blake

Protestant Campus Ministries coordinator Kelly Shrout

Ayodele Jones  
staff writer

This March, during spring break, when most Behrend students will be heading home or to warmer climates, some students will be giving their vacation to a good cause.

Alternative Spring Break is a four day program which enables Behrend students to volunteer their services to soup kitchens and shelters. This year students are going to Wichita, Kansas, and Baltimore, Maryland. Students will be working in a soup kitchen that serves between 750-1000 people in a two hour period, and shelters that house men, women and children.

Phatsala Saysana, 05 Psychology, has been a participant of Alternative Spring Break for the last three years. She says the experience allowed her to see homeless people in a new perspective. "The people I met and became acquainted with brought out another side of me, that I didn't know existed."

Many participants of Alternative Spring Break echo the same words of praise. Protestant Campus Ministries coordinator Kelly Shrout defines it as a "life changing experience. It changed mine the first time I did it." Student response has been overwhelming. The Kansas trip is filled to capacity, but there are still seats remaining for Baltimore, Maryland, if students reply to Student Activities by February 13.

## 1998-99 Financial Aid Update

- If you currently receive financial aid, the 1998-99 Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been mailed to your home address. It should be completed and mailed by **April 1, 1998**. You should make every effort to use **completed 1997 tax information on your Renewal FAFSA**.
- If you do not receive any financial aid this year, but want to apply for next year, pick up the 1998-99 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at the Financial Aid Office. It should be completed and mailed by **April 1, 1998**.
- The 1998-99 Penn State - Behrend Academic Scholarship Application is available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline for applying is **February 27, 1998**.
- The 1998-99 Penn State - Behrend Leadership Scholarship Application is available in the Financial Aid Office and Student Activities Office. The deadline for applying is **February 27, 1998**.

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# Don't miss out on money for school!!

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### Question of the Week

If you could ask Dean Lilley one question, what would it be?

- "What is being done about the parking situation?"  
-Mark Lynch, 04, Accounting
- "How can book prices be lowered?"  
-Mary Johnston, 06, English
- "Why is drainage so bad around campus?"  
-Michael Darling, 06, Accounting
- "Why do I get so much junk mail?"  
-Ed Stone, 02, DUS
- "Are there any plans for new buildings on campus?"  
-Jennifer Blakely, 04, Accounting
- "Why can't I graduate on time?"  
-Brian Williamson, 08, MEBD