

# Tobacco bill could affect students

by Jon Tatolovic  
staff writer

A new bill being considered in Congress could have a strong effect on Behrend students as well as countless others. Much to the tobacco industry's dismay, attempts to form a national tobacco policy are being made, though the industry is supporting some parts of the proposed bill. Though the proposal has lost some of its initial momentum, negotiators are still hoping to push it through in time for a vote by the full Senate before June 1, the deadline set by the Republican party.

A draft summary of the tobacco bill showed that the bill would have several main effects. First, the industry would be forced to pay \$12 billion annually into a trust fund for Medicare, which would total \$506 billion over twenty-five years. The price of cigarettes would increase \$1.10 per pack by the year 2003. Programs would be made available for tobacco

education and cessation. The states and local governments would be allowed to impose other measures to control tobacco. Also under this bill, tobacco companies' punitive damages in lawsuits against them would be limited to \$6.5 billion a year. Finally, advertising restrictions like no use of cartoons or human characters, and no billboards or magazine ads would be permitted. In addition, tobacco companies would pay for a large scale, anti-smoking campaign.

As is the case with many college campuses, many of the students at Behrend use tobacco. When asked if he thought the bill would pass in a form unacceptable to the tobacco industry, Jamie Goodrich, 04 Chemistry, said, "No, tobacco companies have too much pull." But he did seem to think that if the bill were passed, it would have an effect. "It would affect things maybe fifty years down the road, but adults would still buy it," says Goodrich. When asked the same question, Eric McMasters, 02 Art,

# Friday Fiesta a successful night of food, music and dancing

by Will Jordan  
staff writer

Last Friday the Organization of Latin American Students, OLAS, held Friday Fiesta in Dobbins Hall. Friday Fiesta was a chance for the community both on and off campus to get involved with an event. There was home cooked food, a band, and a DJ. This Friday Fiesta had a much better turnout than its predecessor last semester. Everyone that was there at one point or another danced to the music of the band and the DJ. There were even members of the fac-

ulty who came to eat and dance the night away.

The band played a mixture of Spanish, Reggae, Calypso, Salsa, and Merengue music. The food that was prepared consisted of rice and beans, rice and chicken (arroz con pollo), rice and pigeon peas (arroz con guandule), pernil, enchiladas, empanadas, fried chicken, plantanos, and potato, macaroni, and tossed salad.

Niza Disla, 02 International Business, Secretary of OLAS said, "I would hope that the upperclassmen

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"I would hope that the upperclassmen that were there will encourage the incoming freshmen to go to Friday Fiesta so that they can see that it's not just for the Latin community but for everyone."

Niza Disla  
Secretary of OLAS

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Melina Fernandez, 02 Psychology,

Vice President of OLAS, said, "They need more events like this instead of people feeling that they have to go

to parties where there is nothing to do but drink and smoke."

Shannon D. Jones, President of the

## Police And Safety REPORT:

03/31/98 Reported a minor traffic accident at the main entrance to campus.

04/01/98 Loud party in apartments 903 and 905. Asked them to quiet down and they did.

04/01/98 Professor reported an odor of fumes throughout the lower level of the Academic Building.

04/02/98 Found vehicle parked in S-lot with obscene comments painted on it with blue paint. Owner of vehicle was contacted and knew about it and didn't seem concerned. No further action was taken.

04/04/98 Officers stopped person in S-lot who was carrying a beer can. When told to stop, the person took off running toward the suites. Officer caught him in the woods between Almy and Tiffany. He was cited for underage.

04/04/98 Discovered cruiser had been vandalized.

said, "Yes, it probably will be." He on the other hand did not feel that the bill would reduce tobacco use. "It's what, \$3.00 a pack. I don't think that this will do very much. People will still smoke no matter what," said McMasters.

Smokers can only wait and watch for the results, but it is possible something will be done after Congress returns from its current break. As far as the contents of the bill, nothing has been definitely set and anything could still happen.

## Question of the Week

How should the 11 and 13 year old alleged murderers in Arkansas be punished?

"They should be drawn and quartered."  
-Todd Dapound, 02, Accounting

"They should be in jail for the rest of their lives."  
-Ted Belfoure, 06, MEBD

"Death penalty."  
-Mike Osgood, 04, Psychology

"They need a good spanking."  
-L.P. Gilchrist, 06, English

"They should be put away for awhile."  
-Jamie Hogsten, 02, DUS

"They need to stay in jail."  
-Amy Howser, 04, Business

"I don't know. It's a tough decision"  
-Melissa Reid, 04, Business

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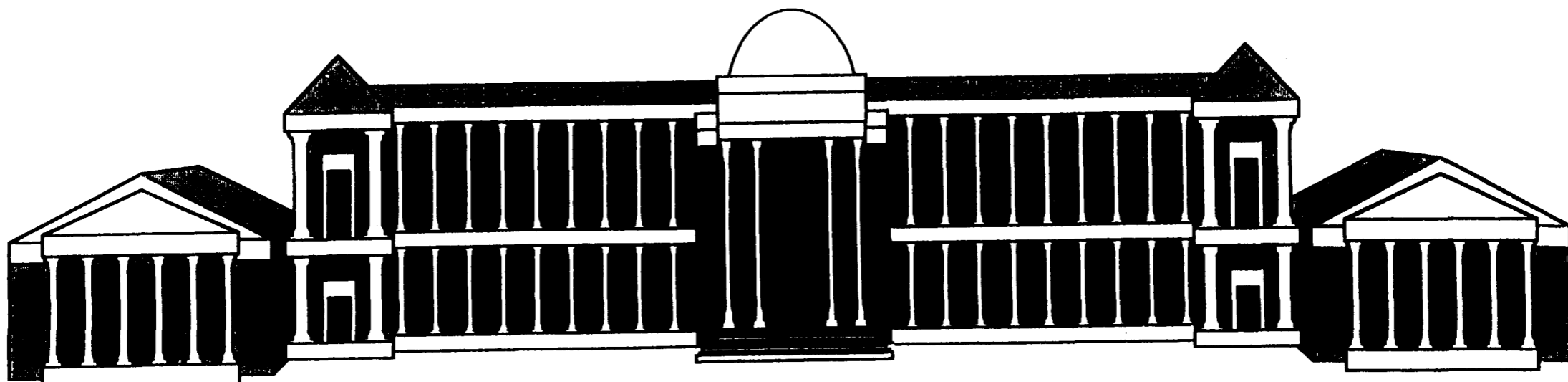
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Multi Cultural Council, said, "It was the best Friday Fiesta I've been to in the four years that I have been here. I was very proud of the members of OLAS. I feel that the members of OLAS did a great job representing OLAS and MCC. It made me proud to be president of MCC seeing an organization under MCC being so successful."

# DEEC

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