

DEEC: Addressing minority issues on campus

By Ayodele Jones
managing editor

The Diversity and Educational Equity Committee (DEEC) was formed in the Spring of 1995 to address diversity issues. On September 10, 1998, DEEC held its first meeting of the year. DEEC is comprised of students, staff and faculty from each of the academic units. The purpose of DEEC is to "involve staff, faculty, students in discussions that regard issues of diversity on campus," said Ken Miller, Acting Dean of Student Affairs.

DEEC is divided into three sub-committees, each of which addresses a certain aspect of campus life; the Campus Climate Committee chaired

by Biddy Brooks; the Recruitment Committee chaired by Melissa Grimm; and the Retention Committee chaired by Janique Caffie. The topic of last Thursday's meeting was to discuss the "Report on Recruitment of Students from Underrepresented Groups and Improving Practices for Students of Color and International Students."

Miller noted significant changes that DEEC has undergone to enable it to become more efficient and beneficial to the Penn State Behrend community. "We are trying to make DEEC more attractive to students, by having one specific topic at each meeting, and by advertising these topics broadly to faculty, staff and students we hope to increase participation."

The Campus Climate Committee is a portion of DEEC that takes a look at how diversity issues affect students on campus. Last Spring, students were given a survey discussing climate on campus and their relation to sensitive subjects such as race, sexual orientation and sexual harassment. Brooks, Assistant Head of the Division of Undergraduate Studies, said that Behrend "plans to have a lot of focus groups and programming addressing the issues that came up in the responses."

The Recruitment Committee develops strategies to increase the minority population at Behrend. By having innovative programs such as "Buddy Weekend" and "Sleeping Bag Weekend" students are given the

opportunity to experience college life first hand. "These programs are more inclusive, and they allow students to have more time on campus while being academically focused," noted Admissions Officer Grimm. The Retention Committee collects and analyzes data while attempting to identify trends.

The next meeting will be in October and the topic will be in regards to the results of the climate survey given last spring. The Diversity and Educational Equity Committee has been unsuccessful in obtaining student involvement, yet the committee urges all who are interested to attend these meetings.

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aware of what is going on around you."

Studies have found that lifelong patterns of coping with stress are developed during childhood. Evidence suggests that people who do not learn to cope with stress in a positive way grow up to become adults that deal poorly with stress. Those who learn to cope with stress effectively seem to be more stress-resistant as adults.

Some teens and adults function well under stress. Psychologists call this resilience, and the study of resiliency has provided many clues as to why some deal with stress better than others. Studies are trying to find protective factors that enable some to handle stress while others do not.

Doctors now believe that the more mastery a person had over circumstances, the less stressed the person feels. The answer would be to train the mind to absorb stress, discover ways to take one's mind off work and express one's individuality. More importantly, psychiatrists stress that one should have self-understanding and set realistic goals. For many it could be coming to terms with ambition itself. A compatible life-style can be achieved by getting balance in your life.

Many people are willing to help if you feel stressed out. Note that as the stress you are under increases, your ability to recognize it often decreases. Signs around campus, contain the school counselor's names and email addresses. Be advised that the counseling services at Behrend and confidential. The counselors are available to talk to students or refer them to somebody else. As Parr-Plasma says, "Everyone who seeks help will receive benefits."



photo by Andrea Zaffino

New carpeting is laid in the bookstore as part of the campus store's major renovations in recent weeks.

Police And Safety REPORT

09/10/98 Smoke alarm in Almy. No fire. Student burned object in microwave.

09/11/98 Call received about bike injury outside of Bruno's. Officer dispatched.

09/12/98 Someone tampered with the fire extinguisher in Erie Hall.

09/12/98 Caught four students removing a traffic cone near M&O lot.

09/12/98 Requested access into C+DE so an exterminator could come in and get rid of bees. Access was granted.

09/13/98 It was reported that complainant was in an argument with another individual which got out of hand.

09/13/98 Received two reports of strange people in Dobbins stairwell and as a precaution doors to resident halls were being locked early. Checked and found four older males waiting to purchase Neil Diamond tickets in the morning.

What is your opinion of the Ken Starr report?

"I didn't read it, but I bet it sucked!"
-Beth Shaffer, 01 Communications Disorders

"I don't care, I'm just trying to graduate."
-Jaime Clarke 07 Plastics

"Who cares?"
-Jen Shaffer, 08 Biology

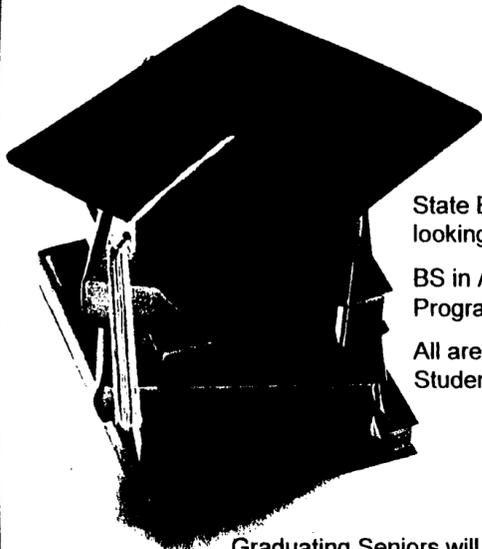
"He's just getting paid to do his job. He's getting paid the big bucks."
-Wendy Holtry, 07 Biology

"I think the report is disgusting. It doesn't matter who he screws, but how he runs the country."
-Marlene Micco, 07 Biology

"I don't care, and no one else seems to care either."
-Brian Bransen, 01 DUS

Question of the Week

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