

Calendar of Events

17^{Thurs}

Soccer (W) vs. Mount Union - 4pm
SPC Movie: "Can't Hardly Wait"- 10pm
Harambee Dinner - 6pm Reed Commons

18^{Fri}

IM Deadline: Golf - 4pm
Tennis (W) vs. Pitt-Greensburg - 5pm
SPC Movie: "Can't Hardly Wait"-10pm

19^{Sat}

Bruno's: Band - "Igniters" - 8:30pm
Soccer (M&W) vs. Lake Erie - 1pm/3:30pm
Tennis (W) - Penn State Behrend Invt. - 9am
SPC Movie: "Can't Hardly Wait"- 10pm

20^{Sun}

Tennis (W) vs. Frostburg and Lake Erie - 1pm
Soccer (W) vs. Mount Union - 3pm
Catholic Mass - 8pm Reed Commons
SPC Movie: "Can't Hardly Wait" - 9pm

21^{Mon}

22^{Tues}

Lion Ambassadors Information Session - 12:30pm Reed 113.

23^{Wed}

Lion Ambassadors Information Session - 5pm. Reed 113

24^{Thurs}

Astronomy Open House - 7:30pm - Otto Behrend Science Building
SPC Movie: "The Truman Show" - 10pm

All submissions for the calendar should be made available to the Beacon by 5:00pm on the Monday before publication.

Please send via inter-office mail to the Beacon Calendar Editor, drop it off at the Beacon office, or send it to BEHRCOLL3@aol.com.

The Beacon cannot guarantee publication of events due to space constraints. The Beacon also reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication. The calendar is intended for Behrend notices and events.

Events

Behrend Astronomy Series Opens with "Oceans On Europa". The 1998-99 Open House Nights in Astronomy Series will begin Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. with an exploration of Jupiter's icy moon, Europa. Dr. Roger Knacke, professor of physics and director of the School of Science, will present a lecture summarizing the results of the NASA Galileo Europa Mission (GEM). Open House Nights in Astronomy, which takes place in the Otto Behrend Science Lecture Hall, are free and open to the public. Astronomical observing will take place following the lectures, weather permitting. For more information, contact the School of Science at 898-6105.

The Lion Ambassadors will be holding two informational sessions in

Reed 113 next week. On September 22, the first meeting will take place and begin at 12:30 p.m. The following day on September 23, a second meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. Free food and prizes are available. Anyone seeking further information regarding this organization or these meetings can contact the Lion Ambassador office at 898-7211.

The School of Science Seminar Series presents Dr. Pamela Silver Botts, Assistant Professor of Biology, on Thursday, September 17, from 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. in Reed 117. The title of Botts' talk is "Biological Patterns in Heterogeneous Landscapes: Too Much of a Good Thing Can Be Bad." Organisms living in landscapes may experience differential costs and benefits that depend upon the spatial arrangement of resource patches. Patterns of abundance of stream-dwelling invertebrates were measured in the field, and computer models were used to study possible mecha-

nisms behind the patterns. Dr. Botts uses microlandscapes in the laboratory to examine underlying biological mechanisms that determine how the spatial arrangement of resource patches influences life history traits of organisms. Chironomids often exhibit strong competition among individuals for living space and for particles to use for construction of dwelling tubes. Subdivision of resources appears to mitigate the costs of high density of larvae, thereby increasing the number of organisms that can live in a benthic landscape. Please plan on attending the first in a series of science seminars. All students, and faculty and staff are welcome.

The Office of Catholic Campus Ministry would like to invite anyone, who is interested in attending, to their weekly Catholic Mass. Mass takes place in the Reed Commons every Sunday and begins at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Why Fraternity?

Each fall season for decades, on campuses all over the country, thousands of young men, most of them fresh out of high school, have formed college fraternities. The vast majority of these new pledge members, happy with their choice of fraternity, have enjoyed their weeks or months of pledgeship and have been initiated into full active membership as a matter of course. Few of them have paused even for a moment to examine the reason, real or imagined, for adopting the badge of a particular Greek letter organization, much less to ask themselves why they pledged a fraternity at all.

The generation today is different. Many young men of this age are still joining fraternities, but they are more thoughtful, more deliberate, more inclined to reject the clichés once readily accepted as validators of fraternity membership. They are less guided by the herd instinct, less enamored of prospect of four undergraduate years of fraternal hell-raising, more anxious to "do their own thing". They are not the image of the beer-guzzling, raccoon-coated, utterly irresponsible "frat man or frat rat" of an earlier day (an image, by the way, some fraternity men richly deserved) as a pathetic character, which it is. They sense nevertheless, that the fraternity experience may be worthwhile. At least they hope so, yet they are not all sure. For many of them, joining a fraternity represents an act of faith.

Let us first define what a fraternity is. A college fraternity chapter is an organized group of undergraduate men bound together by ties of close friendship. Customarily the chapter is composed of pledges, actives, and a body of alumni. A college fraternity exists on the premise that man is by nature a social being and wants to associate with his fellow man. A fraternity provides a structure, an environment in which intimate friendships can flourish.

Fraternities are a peculiarly American institutions. While comparable student organizations exist abroad, the college fraternity in the United States and Canada has grown up as a response to real needs among students in American institutions of higher education. Students created them, and they will survive so long as the serve the needs of undergraduates.

a college fraternity, not unlike any other worthwhile human institution, encourages its members to make a commitment to something outside themselves, to something larger than themselves. In a fraternity the commitment is directed in part to the program of the organization, to the things the group does as a group, but mostly it is a commitment to people. To friends. Ritual is but one way of expressing a fraternity's ideals and aspirations. Closely associated with it is symbolism. Fraternities make possible a unique experience in corporate living.

A fraternity provides striking opportunities for self-development. Upon examination, members of the same fraternity prove to be remarkably diverse in tastes and talents, in thought and behavior. A fraternity can provide its members a means of finding a humanizing experience in the midst of the crowds and masses of modern-day institutions of higher learning.

But after all has been said and done, friendship, brotherhood in the context of a meaningful, manageable group relationship is what fraternity is all about. It should come as no surprise to anyone that a fraternity's remarkable capacity to foster the making and keeping of friends is the chief reason for its existence and the best assurance for its survival.

-Robert E. Capwell

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