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The Behrend

Beacon

Erie, PA 16563

December 3, 1998 Volume XLVII No. 14

NAACP Chairman expresses views on race

By Ayodele Jones and Will Jordan
Managing Editor and News Editor

Julian Bond has been the current chairperson of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since February of this year. He

came to Behrend last night to discuss the current state of racial affairs in America. The audience was full of people from the community and Behrend students and faculty. Bond discussed his days as a civil rights activist and he emphasized the importance of the young people in the movement and the importance of non-violent protest

Bond declared that race is still a matter which needs to be seriously addressed by the people of this nation.

I thought that Julian Bond was a very enlightening and inspirational man. He made me wish I could have experienced the movement in the sixties.

Shimira Williams, 05, Business Economics

He urges all people to become involved in the increasing equality of all people, no matter what their race, gender or sexual preference.

Bond informed the audience, that people of color still experience inequality in

regards to low birth weights, median family incomes and educational levels. Once the American public can recognize the everyday obstacles that people of color face, America

would be one step closer to achieving equality for all.

In a final note, Bond urged the audience to become involved and aware of the racial situation in society today. See Bond page 2



Photo courtesy of Public Relations

Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP

Health and Wellness center offers Meningitis vaccination

By Kristie Vitron
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Health and Wellness Center is taking measures to prevent a meningitis outbreak.

Meningococcal meningitis infects about 2,600 and kills more than 300 Americans each year. There were two cases, one resulting in death, during the 1997-1998 school year at the Penn State University Park campus. Meningitis is a very serious and contagious bacterial infection that causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, which can result in death.

The disease is transmitted through air, and outbreaks usually occur in late winter or early spring. People can contract the virus through sneezing or coughing and direct contact with people already infected with meningitis. Because meningococcal meningitis outbreaks occur in isolated or confined environments, it is especially dangerous to college students. Living in highly populated close quarters such as on-campus housing, apartment buildings, or fraternity/sorority houses, increases contact with one another which increases chances

of contracting the disease.

Other studies have also suggested that the lifestyles of many college students lead to the increased risk of contraction of meningococcal disease. Some of these unhealthy habits include poor nutrition, cigarette smoking, excessive drinking, and bar patronage.

To combat the spread of this disease among college campuses, the American College Health Association has issued a recommendation that students consider getting vaccinated. The vaccination provides protection against the four most common strains of the disease. This includes serotype C, the strain most frequently involved in college outbreaks during recent years.

A vaccine will be available to Penn State students throughout the month of December, but it is up to students to take advantage of the opportunity. Interested students should call 898-6217 to schedule an appointment. The shot, which is effective for three to five years and has few side effects, costs \$58.00 and can be billed to the student account.

Also, flu shots are being offered for \$10.00 and can be done at the same time as the meningitis shot.

What's Inside

Page 2

Police and Safety: Mountain Bike Robbery

Page 3

SPC Movie: Studio 54 Calendar of Events

Page 4

Editorial: College Sex

Page 5

Campus News: Ple Protests

Page 6

World and Nation: Six Weeks in Arctic Hut

Page 7

Auditions for Spring Play The Visit

Page 8

Review: Enemy of the State

Page 10

Men's and Women's basketball

Trilogy Entertainment throws Pajama Party

By Danielle Marshall
staff writer

Behrend's first annual Pajama Party was held on Saturday, November 21st, 1998 in the Reed Commons. This event was sponsored by MCC and Trilogy Entertainment, a group made up of three Behrend students, Harrison Dixon, Gyasi Stewart, and Damion Miller.

From 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., DJ Rizzo spun tunes from the latest Master P hit to favorites by the Bad Boy himself, The Notorious B.I.G. This idea of a pajama party came from the

McKeesport campus, where pajama parties occur just as often as regular parties. The people that came out were mostly from different campuses in the area. For example, Edinboro, Gannon, Penn State University Park, and Mercyhurst universities were represented there.

Behrend students, on and off-campus, made their appearances also. "It was fun. I'm glad that they got the party approved in the first place because we don't have many, especially parties for people of multi-cultures. It joined schools together and promoted a comfortable environ-

ment. We weren't worried about anybody shooting," said Erica Cobb, 01 DUS.

In order for the students to further enjoy themselves, Trilogy Entertainment held a "Most Sexiest Dressed Male and Female" contest, where both categories were won by Behrend students. They also had a video game set up on big screen "to break the ice." "It gave students the opportunity to mingle with other people if they felt uncomfortable dancing with them," stated Damion Miller, 05, MIS. It was made by Erie's sound technician Tom Lee. Miller also stated, "The pajama party was good, but the turnout wasn't what we expected it to be. The Spring Fling, which is our next event, will hopefully attract a better turnout. This was our first experience throwing together a party. Now we have some experience under our belts."

Students give thanks at Dinner for Six Strangers

By Sarah Edwards
staff writer

On November 19th 200 strangers composed of Behrend faculty and staff broke bread and talked about life. This occasion marked the 11th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Six Strangers. After a delicious meal with all the fixings Behrend students and faculty leisurely chatted over pumpkin pie and coffee. Jay Baughman, 01 DUS, said "The meal was excellent, I can't think of a better way to spend and evening here at good ol' Behrend."

The speaker for the evening was Jake Rouch, who runs a non-profit organization in Erie. His organization has created a partnership between area business CEOs and the community. His message to the large dinner party was to volunteer for the community because the affect of one's

person's contribution can be amazing. He said it is especially important to reach out to the community during the holiday season. His comments made 200 strangers realize how privileged they were too be sitting at Penn State Behrend sharing a Thanksgiving meal together. At the same time his words inspired people at the dinner to give to the less fortunate in their community weather it be in the form of time or money.

John Piasecki, 01 Biology, said "The speaker was very interesting. The subject on which he talked made me think of how lucky I am to be in the position I am in today and also for the opportunities I have had. The dinner became a chance not only to meet new people from Behrend but a challenge to touch other strangers lives in the community."

SGA passes resolution to lower copy costs

By Rose Forrest
Layout Editor

At last night's SGA meeting, former president Mike Zampetti brought his concern over the price and availability of the Venda Cards for the photocopy machines to the student forum. SGA decided to write a resolution to the library outlining student concerns.

Currently the Venda Cards are sold only at the RUB desk and MISC. There is a fifty cent charge to purchase

a card and copies still cost 10 cents each, the same as paying cash. The resolution that passed unanimously basically stated that the library, MISC, and the student body would benefit if students were more aware of the Venda Cards and they were more available and less expensive.

SGA president Buck Goedicke ex-

See SGA page 2



Photo by Mike Coursey

Last weekend members of the Ku Klux Klan rallied on the Erie County Courthouse. Gathering brought mixed reception and controversy from the public. See editorial on page 4.