

Beacon

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Spring Fever causes controversy on campus

by Ayodele Jones
managing editor

Spring Fever! Spring Fever! Spring Fever is not only a craze that many experience with the onset of nice weather and the ending of classes, but it is also an annual event held here at Behrend. With growing anticipation, students look forward to this end of the year celebration, because it is a time to release: a time to release the culmination of anxiety and stress brought on by the semester and approaching finals. Spring Fever is set for Friday, April 23 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Performing live at this event will be the Pillers, Push, and Brownie Mary. Unfortunately this year's celebration has been the subject of complaints, particularly from students.



The apartment quad

photo by Jason Blake

Spring Fever gradually evolved from Battle of the Bands. It is an evening of music, food, and fun sponsored by many of Behrend's student organizations including Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, Commuter Council, Lion Ambassadors, Student Programming Council, Residence Life, Joint Residence Council, The Office of Student Ac-

ivities and the Student Activity Fee. The only thing lacking from this fun-filled evening is a location, and it is the location of Spring Fever which has sparked numerous debates among students and staff. The reason for this debate is alcohol consumption and the safety of students. The apartment quad has the highest concentration of twenty-one year olds, thus increasing the presence of alcohol. In the past, while partici-

pating in Spring Fever, students would go from door to door, obtaining drinks from the various apartments in the quad. This presented a problem because underage students were drinking alcoholic beverages and the alcohol levels of some of the students in attendance raised several questions of safety. Ken Miller, acting Dean of Student Affairs, justifies moving the site of Spring Fever because the apartment quads are in a less controllable envi-

ronment and it is easier to enforce rules of safety in areas such as the Reed Back Patio, the lawn between Reed and Perry, and the Perry Basketball courts. "If alcohol use is more important than the music or event, then we have a major alcohol problem, one that I never suspected. It is no secret that undergrads go to the apartments on the weekends to drink. If you asked me, if there is drinking in the residence halls and the suites, I would say yes. Yet it is in these alternative areas where we can minimize and reduce the impact of alcohol." Spring Fever is billed as a great campus wide event, and it is because of this that Miller and many others state they want to maintain an environment of fun without sacrificing safety concerns.

On Thursday, April 8, the Student Government Association held an open forum. Students spoke of their anger and frustration in regards to the location of Spring Fever. One student claimed that, "Student activity is at an all-time low, and this is the one time that student involvement is high. Moving the location will just lower participation."

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Benacci family contributes \$500,000 for scholarship

by Mike Frawley
assistant editor

Our family has been so blessed. We're at a point where it's time to give back to the community, and I've



The Benacci family

photo courtesy of the Penn State

Recently a \$500,000 donation was made by Joseph Benacci to create a new scholarship for Behrend students. This scholarship will be called the Joseph A. and Berit I. Benacci Family Scholarship.

Benacci, who owns Dosworth Trucking, Transportation Services and Lake Erie Warehouse and Distribution Center, created the scholarship for the employees of these businesses, and any money not used by them will be made available to others planning on attending Behrend. Benacci is also very active with Behrend as a member of the Behrend Alumni Society Board, the board of directors of the Behrend Council of Fellows, and Behrend's 50th anniversary committee. He is also a member of the Erie Conference on Community Development.

The decision to create this scholarship was made by the entire Benacci family. They felt it was a good way to give something back to the Erie community, where they have done business in the Erie area for the past 45 years. "We made the decision when everyone was gathered around the table last Thanksgiving,

always had a soft spot in my heart for Behrend," Benacci said.

Raymond Benacci, who is currently the president of the family corporation, announced the creation of the scholarship to his employees this past Friday, and a reception was hosted at Logan House by Dean and Provost Dr. John Lilley on Saturday to announce the gift to the general public.

Raymond Benacci graduated from Penn State University Park campus, with a degree in business, in 1987, and Joseph Benacci attended Behrend in the 1950's, but had to cut short his college education because of the untimely death of his father.

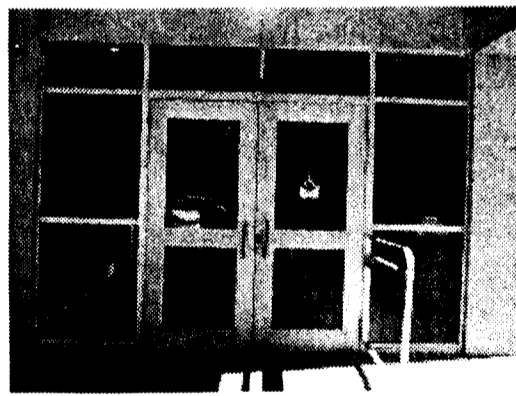
Dr. Christopher Reber, associate provost for Advancement and University Relations said, "Many of our students work between twenty and forty hours a week to support their education. The Benacci's gift will make a real difference in students' lives..." The college will administer the scholarship on behalf of the family. The guidelines for applying for the scholarship will announced at a later date.

Work needed to make Behrend more handicap accessible

by Danielle Marshall
staff writer

Behrend is considered to be a campus accessible to all students, whether they're in a minority group or have a disability. All of the buildings on campus are accessible to disabled students. Janique Caffie, Director of Educational Equity Programs, stated, "The Reed Building is accessible from both grounds- the first and second floors. We realize

ings that lead to the parking spaces for the disabled. On the other hand, one student feels differently about the issue. "The automatic door openings are useful when they work. They work most of the time, but sometimes they don't and that can be inconvenient," stated Mike Nadolny, 03 EE. The following buildings have elevators: Hammill, Zurn, Erie Hall, Turnbull, Academic (Library), Engineering complex, and Amy Hall. Nadolny stated,



Handicap accessible doors in front of the Reed Union Building

photo by Jason Blake

that it is hard for those with disabilities; however, it is accessible. We did a feasibility study. For example, the disabled students can go out of the first floor of Reed and go up and around to the second floor. Based on the financial end and the question of the appropriate location for an elevator, the placement of an elevator in the Reed building is now up for question."

The following buildings have automatic door openings: Dobbins, Reed, Otto Behrend, Nick, Academic, Engineering, Erie Hall, Hammill/Zurn, and Turnbull buildings. The Science building is on one level and the back doors have automatic open-

"They need to put an elevator in the Stair Tower and in Reed. Apparently, they don't want to spend money on it." All the residence halls are accessible to students with disabilities because the back entrances do not have stairs. Most of the buildings are supplied with ramps for those in wheelchairs or mechanical chairs.

"For the most part, our campus is accessible. However, there is a major separation between the dorms and the main buildings. I can't get to Reed from Lawrence Hall without getting on Jordan Road. I'm supposed to get a ride to classes every day, but that can be inconvenient also

disability cont. pg. 2

CORE offers many opportunities for students

by Nicole McGee
staff writer

A new organization has been introduced to Erie County, and its home base is right here on campus. The Center for Organizational Research and Evaluation (CORE) has been established with the help of an endowment from Mrs. Susan Hagen. Her generous \$430,000 gift will be utilized by CORE to aid specifically in research and evaluation services for teen pregnancy prevention agencies.

But that's not all CORE will do. CORE can provide services like data analysis, benchmarking, surveying, grant writing, or other research and evaluation methods for any agency. Because agencies do not always have the means or the funding to do this type of research on their own, CORE may become a valuable asset for not only pregnancy prevention agencies, but for Erie County in general.

The newly established Erie County Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (ECNAPP) will serve as headquarters for the 37 teen pregnancy prevention providers in Erie County. CORE will work through ECNAPP in providing research services for all these providers. Thanks to Susan Hagen, the services for pregnancy prevention providers will be free of charge.

Dr. Carl Kallgren, Associate Professor of Psychology, is the Acting Director of CORE. He and Susan Hagen are both devoted to the cause of teen pregnancy prevention, and therefore have established CORE as a vehicle to further those efforts.

The services of CORE will not be

limited to teen pregnancy prevention, however. Newly-hired Associate Director of CORE, Dr. Kimberly Skarupski claims, "CORE will be spearheading teen pregnancy prevention efforts in the community, but it was developed to offer research skills and evaluative services to local service agencies and industries."

Agencies and industries may be calling on CORE for a variety of reasons. Skarupski adds, "Some agencies may want information provided by CORE for their own good, [for example] Why aren't consumers buying this product? Are my employees happy working here? Sometimes consumer evaluation is required by corporate offices. Or if an agency needs funding, we can help them try to find it."

The CORE staff is presently made up of Dr. Kallgren, Dr. Skarupski, and Senior Research Technologist Jennifer Pelkowski. Because CORE is a brand new center, the staff is small, but they plan to do more hiring in the near future. Four students are also currently working with CORE, and there is room for more.

Skarupski elaborates that "there are tremendous opportunities for students interested in working for us." Pelkowski adds, "We have opportunities for internships, work study, wage/payroll, or independent study."

Through working with CORE, students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience that may be helpful with their future career.

C.O.R.E cont. pg. 2

Next weeks issue: full coverage of Patricia Schroeder's speech



photo by Mike Frawley

Patricia Schroeder holds meeting with students in the MCC lounge

What's Inside?

Male passed out in Porcupine

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Pro wrestling getting RAW deal

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Men's track team nationally ranked

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What's Inside?