

HEALTHFEST '99 A SUCCESS

by Jennifer Hemme
staff writer

Behrend's Health and Wellness Center and the Health Advisory Board held Healthfest '99 on April 7. Behrend has held health fairs like Healthfest since 1987. During the fair, Patty Pasky McMahon, director of the Health and Wellness Center said, "The main goal [of Healthfest] was to expose students to all different types of ...health and wellness...from everything to exercise, to aromatherapies, to highway safety". She also said, "I think this has been one of the most successful health fairs we've ever had here at Behrend. It's [the crowd] just been continuous, students have been coming in from the time it started at 11:00, to now, 1:30."

Healthfest '99 had a wide variety of vendors. The Mind-Body Wellness Center of Meadville, Wegmans, the Erie County Rape Crisis Center, the Community Blood Bank, Eckerd Drugs, Northwest Regional Highway Safety and even Buddha's Body Art participated in it. Some of the vendors gave free product samples, free food,



The Healthfest in Reed Commons

photo by Mike Frawley

and free promotional items as well as pamphlets and other literature. Many massage and chiropractic therapists had booths and gave free massages to students as well.

The Buddha's Body Art booth, which seemed an unusual vendor for a health fair, was very popular with students, who leafed through sample books of tattoos. Pasky-McMahon,

when asked why Buddha's Body Art was included in Healthfest '99 said, "One of the reasons was because they are very dedicated to educating students about safe body art..." She believes that if students learn about sterile tattooing techniques it will prevent transmission of diseases like HIV or Hepatitis through unhygienic needles.

The Northwest Highway Safety booth was also very popular with students. Many tried on the Fatal Vision Goggles, which simulate the impairment of someone with .10 or .17 blood alcohol levels. Students then walked along a line (or failed to walk it) simulating a very familiar sobriety test.

Healthfest '99 also had many booths dedicated to the subject of healthy eating, herbal and nutritional supplements, and eastern therapeutic techniques (otherwise known as holistic medicine). Pasky-McMahon says, "It's my dream to offer therapeutic massage, aromatherapy and different things of this nature [at the Health and Wellness Center] as soon as we are able to get more space."

ASEE 1999 North Central Section Conference held at Behrend

by Roger Burlingame
staff writer

The north central section of the ASEE (American Society of Engineering Education) held its annual conference at Behrend recently. In the Reed Building last Friday, 81 representatives from 34 universities across 14 states as far away as Tennessee were in attendance. The conference began with breakfast at 7:30 am and lasted until 8 pm.

Out of the 81 professors at the conference 59 were speakers and new innovative software programs were on display. The slogan of the ASEE was "Reshaping Electrical Engineering and Engineering Technology Education". There were many conferences being held simultaneously on topics ranging from Freshman seminars to the most new

high-tech engineering technology. Many of the professors from other schools liked the idea of Knowledge Park.

Dr. Hemminger, Professor of electrical engineering and a speaker at one of the conferences, said that the project was a year in the planning, and everything went extremely well. He gave much of the credit to the Electrical Engineering faculty and staff, Ken Fisher, Kathy Holliday-Darr, John Grode who headed up the planning and execution of the conference.

This Saturday, during the open house another engineering project is to be held in Roach Hall. It will be the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE) Robot Competition. It will feature some of the most high-tech, innovative robots today. For more information contact psu.edu/ieee/contest.htm.

Dance-A-Thon held at Behrend

by Rose Forrest
copy editor

This weekend, the Commuter Council and Student Activities cosponsored a 12 hour dance-a-thon to benefit the Make A Wish foundation. The event lasted from 10pm to 10 am and over 60 students showed up to dance. The final amount that was given to the Foundation was \$1,528.08 and over \$2,000 was raised before expenses.

The money will go to benefit Megan, a five year old girl with

cerebral palsy. The Make A Wish foundation is hoping to send her to Walt Disney World in the fall. Megan attended the closing of the dance to see the winner of the \$450 grand prize which was rewarded to Holly Copen who raised over \$350 by herself. The winner had to raise the most money and dance all night. The grand prize, as well as the rest of the prizes were donated by local businesses.

The prizes were awarded for a lip sync contest, limbo contest, twister, trivia, and other activities that dancers participated in to break up the night. The dancers were encouraged to spend the whole night, but not

required to. Five dancers managed to keep on their feet all night. Copen, Lisa Henry (07 psych), Eric Moore (04 PLET), Theresa Crawford (02 Bio), and Mike DiSantis (08 MIS).

The two groups were pleased with the turnout and are hoping for continued success next year. Commuter Council President Karl Gressley explained, "We were so excited at the turnout this weekend. I'm so glad we were able to support the Make A Wish foundation. Next year we are hoping to tie this in with a car raffle. For an experimental event though this couldn't have gone better."



The Dance-a-thon which was held in Reed Commons

photo by Andrea Zaffino

Friday Fiesta, fun fun fun

by Danielle Marshall
staff writer

The Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) sponsored their annual Friday Fiesta last Friday in Dobbins Gazebo. The program consisted of a live band called The Merenge Boys, a DJ by the name of DJ Salsa Boy, and a delicious cuisine, which included chicken, porkchops, beans, Spanish and white rice, and fruit.

The Merenge Boys consists of 4 men singing and dancing, one of which is the bandleader, Manuel A. Santiago. The instruments that the band used included two horns, drums,

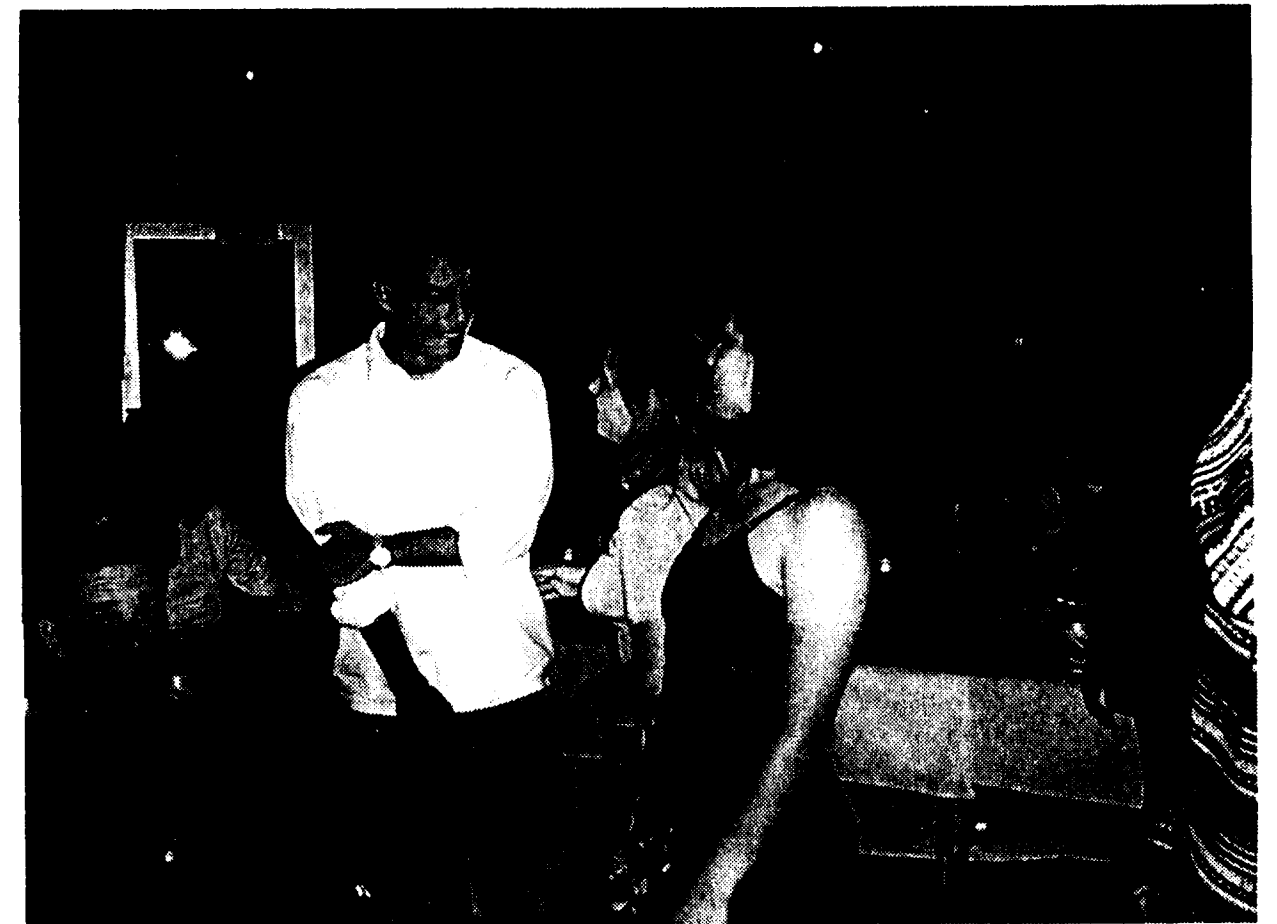
a washboard, and the natural instruments of hand and feet.

DJ Salsa Boy, Ricky Montero, intermixed the sounds of Spanish music and Hip Hop to satisfy all who were in attendance. The audience got an opportunity to not only enjoy the cultural atmosphere, but also to mingle with each other. Shimira Williams, 06 ECON, stated, "I thought that Friday Fiesta was nice and cultural. And I'm looking forward to next year's. Everyone came together while watching the different moves of certain individuals who weren't ashamed to be in the spotlight."

Alejandro Perez, 08 MIS and

president of OLAS, stated, "I would first like to apologize for starting late. Thanks to all those who came to Friday Fiesta. It was our biggest turnout yet. However, there is still room for improvement."

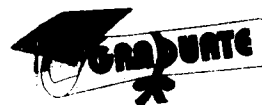
The event lasted from 9:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Many students from both on and off-campus came out to support OLAS and this fun-filled, cultural event. "It was fun, exciting, and an experience of a different culture. I enjoyed myself," stated Tijerno Diallo, 05 MIS. Niza Disoa, 04 IB Marketing, stated, "I hope that more people continue to come next year. Help us support OLAS."



Friday Fiesta in the Dobbins Gazebo

photo by Andrea Zaffino

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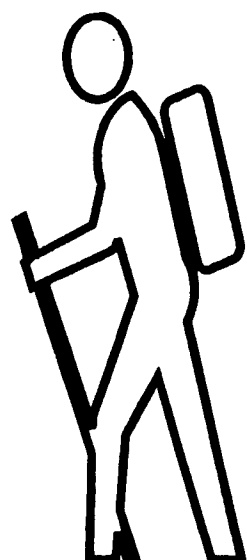


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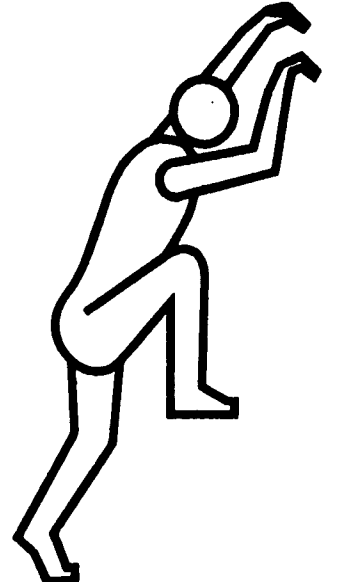
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