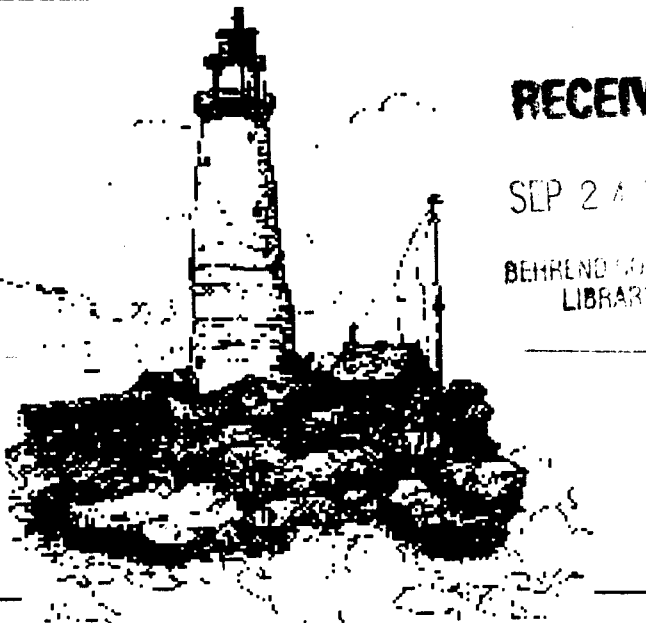




Blue Streak reviewed

PAGE 9



RECEIVED

SEP 24 1999

BEHREND COLLEGE LIBRARY

Tennis excels at Invitational

PAGE 11



BEHREND

BEACON

Vol. XLVIII No. 5

14 pages

Friday, September 24, 1999

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

Fall Festival features family and fun

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Penn State Behrend has invited the parents and families of Behrend students to join in a three-day celebration of the past, present and future of the College. This weekend, September 24-26, the campus will host Fall Festival / Parents and Families Weekend, including a variety of different events representing all areas of life at Behrend.

The weekend celebration was previously called Homecoming / Parents and Families Weekend, but has taken on a new name in 1999 to go along with the many new events planned for all who attend. Director of Students Activities Chris Rizzo said of the change, "this year we are calling it Fall Festival / Parents and Families Weekend to reflect the new theme of the weekend as a celebration for students."

The Homecoming portion of the

event has been removed from the list of activities for the weekend and replaced with Fall Festival. The majority of activities that took place during Homecoming weekend involved Behrend alumni. This enabled the Office of Students Activities and Associate Director of Development Mary Negri to move the alumni gathering to the Annual Alumni Weekend, held in June.

The Office of Student Activities, with some help from various College offices and student organizations, have planned the events for the weekend.

The weekend celebration will kick-off on Friday night with many activities planned. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Ski Slope (foul weather - Reed Commons) and is available to all students. The meals can be purchased through students' meal plans, dining cards or cash.

Following the dinner, at 7:30 p.m., Behrend will welcome Gathering

Field, a popular band from the Pittsburgh area. Gathering Field will perform music from their new, best-selling (Pittsburgh) CD, Reliance. Admission is free with free food and beverages. Activities will continue until 10:00 p.m. and will consist of roasting hotdogs and marshmallows on a bonfire at the Ski Slope.

Erie radio station, 102.3 The Point, will help kick-off the events on Friday, conducting a live remote in front of the Reed Union Building.

Saturday's events will begin at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast in Bruno's Cafe. Breakfast will run until 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by campus walking tours to the library/Academic Building, complex of engineering buildings and other areas of interest. The tours will depart every half hour from the Reed Wintergarden until 2:30 p.m.

Also scheduled to take place in the early afternoon will be the Admissions Open House, giving students an opportunity to meet faculty and staff

and learn about majors and career opportunities. The Open House will run from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Lunch will be available from 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. at both Bruno's and Dobbins.

Students and their families are encouraged to attend the Carnival, beginning at 12:30 p.m. on the Reed Front Lawn (rain - Erie Hall). Carnival foods and activities will be available. Student Club and Organization-sponsored games and contests will also highlight the day. Games such as a bungee run, rock wall climbing and the gladiator joust will give students and their families a chance to engage in some athletic activity. The carnival will run until 3:30 p.m. "The carnival should be a great deal of fun with student organizations donating fundraising proceeds to the United Way," said Rizzo.

Festival continued on page 2

Humanities & Social Sciences hosts picnic for major-hungry students



PHOTO BY MIKE FRAWLEY

Students and faculty enjoy the food at the H&SS picnic

by Becky Weindorf
staff writer

This past Wednesday, September 15, faculty and students in the Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS), gathered for a picnic at the Wilson Picnic Grove, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for those interested in majors in the school, meeting faculty, or getting more information about the different programs.

A complimentary dinner for everyone present was offered, and students were able to have the chance to meet faculty currently teaching in the program, students who were majoring in the school and others who were simply curious about the different programs and opportunities offered.

Several freshmen that were hesitant with getting involved with Psychology or English majors attended the picnic and enjoyed the opportunity for some social time with fellow students and finding out more about the school. Dr. Clare Porac, Director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, was at the picnic and enjoyed meeting new students.

"This is a great way to get together with other new students and introduce it [the school] to them, so they know what's available to them," Dr. Porac said, "more and more students are staying at Behrend to complete their majors instead of transferring down to University Park."

"We're also looking at improving

some programs, too. We are thinking of having some new minors in foreign languages," Dr. Porac said. "The website of H & SS may be revised, and we're looking at starting more computer-intensive courses so our students are more computer literate after they graduate and look for a job."

Lisa Henry, a Psychology major and senior at Behrend, is studying the effectiveness of the Freshman Seminars and First Year Interest Groups (FIGs) as her senior thesis. "For the thesis, we're using surveys on freshmen involved in the seminars," she said, before getting up to get a hotdog, some pasta salad, and a handful of chips. "The class I scheduled currently is Advanced Psych Research, which is generally scheduled for me to do the research needed for the major."

The picnic also brought about a smorgasbord of information, an opportunity to be known by professors, and some advice for choosing majors. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences offers several degree programs, including Psychology, English and Communications. As an alternative, the school has various other programs, such as International Studies, Studying Abroad (a program for those who would like to study outside the U.S.), and a 5th year Teaching Certification Program.

H&SS continued on page 2

Harambee Dinner pulls together a diverse community

Speaker captivates audience

by Chantel Gray
staff writer

On September 15, 1999 at 6:00 p.m., the Harambee Dinner was held in Reed Union Commons. Harambee is a Swahili word meaning "pull together," which was the theme for this event. The Harambee dinner has been held for about 5 years. Many students attended this celebration.

"I felt the dinner was a big success. We had 220 people this year, usually we only have about 100 people who attend," said Shamira Williams, president of the Multi-Cultural Council, who helped sponsor this event. Williams feels that the Behrend community as a whole pulls together because of events such as these. She especially appreciates the fact that the keynote speaker came to speak under stressful circumstances and on short notice.

"I'm pleased with the turnout...people were more focused on the dinner rather than socializing," said Student Government Association representative Michael Ross.

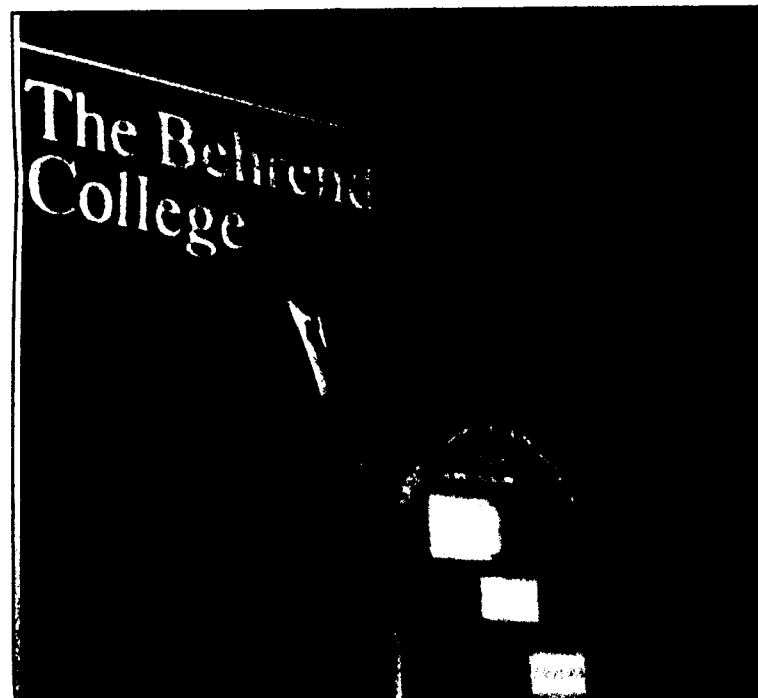
"I think that the Harambee dinner went very well and the cake was good!" says Cheon Graham. Several changes were made to this year's menu due to costs.

"This was the first Harambee dinner I have ever been to... it was nice, and the speaker was interesting and informative," said Greg Loyd.

Before the speech, Ultimate Praise danced to a song entitled "Melodies From Heaven" by Kirk Franklin.

The keynote speaker was Paul Hill Jr., author of the book *Coming Of Age*. Mr. Hill spoke on his job as a social worker. He works at a center with special needs children who are psychologically, physically, and parentally neglected. Senior citizens who were abandoned by their families also get services from the center, such as Wheels On Meals. As part of his research, he has spent time in Eastern and Southern Africa.

In his speech, Mr. Hill also stressed the importance of unity, community, and spirituality. "We are not born male or female," he said, "but we are socially developed into men and women."



ABOVE: Paul Hill Jr. speaks to students at the Harambee Dinner on September 15. RIGHT: Ultimate Praise danced to a song entitled "Melodies From Heaven."

PHOTOS BY JEFFREY MILLER

Bench war breaks out in dorms as Perry and Niagara battle it out

by Angela Majoris
staff writer

Niagara Hall's porch filled with 60 to 70 angered and determined students at 9:45 last Sunday night. The group assembled and marched toward Perry Hall in an effort to retrieve two of the porch's benches, which had been taken by residents of Perry.

Expecting the benches to be on one of the porches of Perry Hall, the Niagara residents found that they were going to have to go farther than they expected to get their benches back. When they found that the benches were not outside, Niagara students got into a pushing battle with

Perry students to get through the doors and into the lobby.

"I saw a whole bunch of people coming down from Niagara. Niagara came over here and there was a long pushing battle as they tried to get in. They couldn't get in the door so they came around from the other side. When they came in, Niagara threatened to take all the furniture if we didn't give them their benches back," said Jason Tomcho, 03 ME, and also a resident of Perry Hall.

Arguing between Perry and Niagara students continued as Perry Resident Assistants contemplated what to do about the uproar. Brad Wathan, 04 DUS, and also a Perry RA

announced that Police and Safety had been called to assist in the matter. Niagara students refused to leave until their benches were returned.

"I feel that I want what's ours," said Christian Darling, 03 Education, and also a resident of Niagara Hall.

Two officers came in and spoke with members of both parties. The benches were finally brought out of a bathroom where they were hidden and returned to the Niagara residents. Both officers refused to comment on the event.

"A minuscule occurrence turned dramatic," said Wathan, "I don't see how else it could have been handled. Everyone got their benches back."

After Niagara residents returned back to their hall they had a meeting in the lobby about what had happened and how to prevent such a situation in the future. The students that had gone to Perry had chipped in early that afternoon before they retrieved the benches in order to buy a chain so that the bench could be secured to the railing and would not be stolen. They proceeded to chain the benches when they returned to Niagara.

"The biggest thing is that we can't have this happen again," said Brandon Dineff, 06, RA for Niagara.

Bench continued on page 3



Niagara bench home at last!

PHOTO BY JEFFREY MILLER

WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK



See page 2 for full weekend forecast.

THE BEHREND BEACON INDEX

NEWS..... PAGE 1
POLICE AND SAFETY..... PAGE 2
QUESTION OF THE WEEK.. PAGE 3
EDITORIAL..... PAGE 4

CALENDAR..... PAGE 5
WIRE SERVICE..... PAGE 7
FEATURES..... PAGE 9
SPORTS..... PAGE 11

