

# SGA battles out stipend issues

by Angela Rush  
wire service editor

Andrea DiPlacido's term as President of the Student Government Association has gotten off to a rocky start, but it seems now that the issue of her possible stipend and future outside employment are finally resolved. Over the course of the last few weeks, the Student Government Association (SGA) has been debating the issue of whether or not DiPlacido should receive a stipend of one half the tuition, roughly \$3,379 per year, for her services as SGA President.

Jen Miles, SGA Treasurer, 05 MKTG, said, "By issuing stipends it will raise the expectations of the executive board, which will improve the quality of SGA and overall campus life." Miles, as well as Vice President George Leshnok, will also receive stipends of \$2,249 and \$1,687, respectively.

SGA member Karl Gressley, 06 BLASC, added, "Stipends will help increase student participation in SGA and it shows more responsibility on SGA's part."

SGA members have also been debating the issue of whether or not DiPlacido should be able to hold a

separate job while she is SGA President. Many believe that if she held another job it would interfere with her position as President by taking away time that could be used to serve SGA. A committee discussed this issue and came to the conclusion that she could hold a job while in office, but she could only work up to ten hours a week--seeing as she is obligated to work at least 20 hours a week for SGA. However, when the issue was brought to the members, they voted yes to everything but the ten hour work limit, allowing DiPlacido to work as many hours as she chooses as long as it does not

affect her work for the SGA.

The committee also brought forth the argument that anyone on the executive board that is receiving a stipend should maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and can not be the president of another organization while on SGA. One final requirement for DiPlacido is that she must attend all meetings, and that her 20 hours are not just served in office hours, but also in meetings and anything else that is SGA related.

The funds to support these stipends come from student government funds. Seeing as how other colleges are giving their student gov-

ernment officers money, Acting Director of Student Affairs Ken Miller thought that Penn State Behrend should consider allocating the money since it is now available. Stipends for the executive board--with the exception of the treasurer--were eliminated in 1993 due to budget constraints. Funding for SGA has changed dramatically since the advent of the Student Activity Fee, and Ken Miller believes reviving stipends for the President and Vice President recognizes the amount of time spent by the officers on SGA matters and their responsibility for advocating the needs of students at

Behrend.

The stipends allocated to student government officials at other colleges vary greatly. The Student Government President at Gannon University receives \$13,000, while Duquesne University's President receives 21 credits of tuition remission, approximately \$6,000. Mercyhurst College grants its SGA President \$5,000. SUNY Fredonia's presidential stipend is \$2,400. Finally, Edinboro's President receives \$750.

SGA meetings are held every Wednesday at 5:20 p.m. in Reed 114. They are open to the public.

# The new names of SGA Fall Break comes to Behrend

by Kim Zuck  
calendar page editor

The Student Government Association (SGA), held their fall Senate elections on Wednesday, September 22nd, and Thursday, September 23rd, outside of Bruno's. Five open Senate seats were available, including two Freshman seats. The three SGA Senator winners are Demian Blair, Kolby Baker, and Jennie Ellison. The two Freshman Senator winners are Jenny Zhang and Keenan Hansen.

SGA is the legislative organization on campus made of, and more importantly, for the students of Penn State Behrend. These newly elected Senators will assist SGA in overseeing all legitimately registered organizations on campus and administering their

funding. The Senators will also act as mediators between the student body and the administration and faculty, working to keep both units in tune with one another. SGA President Andrea DiPlacido, states, "I hope these Senators take these positions seriously so the whole Behrend community can benefit from their personal insights."

The newly elected Senators plan on benefiting Behrend students by implementing various personal ideas to represent student interests and concerns. Demian Blair's main concern is the technology fee. Blair is currently on the Technology Fee Committee and is investigating where exactly the technology fee money goes. Blair says, "my secret agenda for the Behrend campus is to get a T3 for the

campus this year."

Another new SGA Senator, Kolby Baker, is extremely interested in getting more students involved in campus organizations. Baker comments, "one project that I plan to be highly involved with is instituting a student run radio station on campus. I feel that a student radio station would benefit every member of the student body. I also will be helping with the SGA Book Sale."

SGA Senator Jennie Ellison is concerned with seeing that Behrend organizations get the financial backing they need. "I plan on seeing that campus organizations, clubs, and students get the money they need. Also, I plan on making sure events are more publicized, so [that] students are more informed," Ellison commented.

Newly elected Freshman Senators Jenny Zhang and Keenan Hansen also have the concerns and needs of Behrend students on their agendas. Zhang states, "Many thanks to the student body for choosing me as your Freshman Senator. I feel very encouraged and trusted by your votes. I am available to hear your concerns and needs and I'm here to serve and work with you for a more diverse, friendly, and entertaining student life at Behrend." Freshman Senator Keenan Hansen comments, "I'd like to thank everyone that voted, and I'm looking forward to a great year in SGA. Really, my only goals are to make sure everyone is satisfied with the work SGA does and to get more people involved."

by Karen McKim  
staff writer

Comments I heard last year were positive."

For the first time ever at Penn State University, students will have a Fall Break this year from Saturday, October 9th through Tuesday, October 12th. Ken Miller, Acting Dean of Student Affairs, said, "the break was created in response to student interest." Mary Beth Peterson, Director of the Career Development Center, said, "I am very happy that we are doing a Fall Break at Penn State this year. I think that students, faculty and staff will find the two days as very helpful mid-semester. As a staff member, I will be on campus and will use the time to catch up and get ready for the rest of the semester."

Assistant Professor of Physics, Dr. Darren Williams, commented, "The Fall Break will be welcomed by students and faculty alike. It is a great time to enjoy family and the natural beauty of autumn, as well as to rekindle early-semester aspirations."

Dr. John Lilley, Provost and Dean, replied, "Based on the information available to the university, students at all locations wanted the break, and the university responded favorably."

High-tech continued from p. 1

Requesting books not available at Behrend has become a more simplified process as well. Instead of sending a hand-written slip to another Penn State campus, students can electronically find and request any of over 4 million books from libraries throughout the Penn State system.

Big changes have also taken place in the Hammermill computer labs. It was here that five brand new high speed laser printers kicked out the dot-matrix clan. Also, unknown to many students, a color laser printer has been added in the Hammermill labs. At a cost of 10 cents per sheet (Lion Cash), why not spruce up that term paper or special project?

As far as computers themselves go, seventy-five new ones have been added or have replaced the old. Mr. Ron Hoffman, director of five of the Hammermill labs (including labs 130, 135, 137, and 138), said that the new systems are Pentium 450's, some replacing the old 166 systems. Mr. Hoffman was also proud to announce that 24 of the new systems were installed in room 4 in the library.

So, what does an average Behrend computer terminal have? The new 17" surround sound monitors complement the CD-ROM and new removable SuperDrive (120 MB), making all of the machines full multimedia. 64 MB of memory has also been added to all of the computers, bringing the RAM total up to 128 MB, enough to support Windows NT 2000 next year.

Also just arrived is the new "Enterprise" server (a server is similar to a "mother" computer which houses many software packages and databases). This massive system is expected to go on-line this fall or early this spring, and it is essential that the current Alpha 4100 system be running 100+ software packages (plus some of the engineering programs), said Mr. Larry Kosin, the senior systems analyst for student labs. However, when the Enterprise system goes on-line, the old 4100 system will be working alongside its new counterpart, providing true redundancy in the event of any glitches or crashes.

Servers, printers, databases... the list goes on. Keep your eyes open for the latest technology in a Behrend building near you!

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Residence Life is headed by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs; the Assistant Director of Residence Life; three professional, live-in Coordinators; and the forty-two student Resident Assistants.

If you are interested in becoming an R.A., you will need to attend the mandatory informational meeting that will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 1999, at 8:00 p.m. in the Reed Commons. You will also need to fill

out an application, which is available in the Office of Student Affairs or in front of Bruno's. All applications must be returned to the Office of Student Affairs by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 14, 1999.

If you have any questions, please contact the Residence Life staff at x6111, or visit the Office of Student Affairs, which is located on the second floor of the Reed Union Building.

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With the help of some members, the officers have come up with a series of community service projects open to all Behrend students, entitled Community Outreach. Lambda Sigma has asked the Student Government Association (SGA) for an allocation of money to pay for these service projects. "The focus of Lambda Sigma is service," said Edwards. If the allocation is passed, the officers and members will have the money to achieve their goal of service. The money that would be allocated would, in a way, represent the money lost by overspending last year. Heidecker stated, "I feel that all four officers and their advisor [Dr. Timothy Friche, who no longer teaches at Behrend] should somehow reimburse whoever covers our dues."

The Administration and SGA have both agreed to help Lambda Sigma resolve their financial situation. The national headquarters is looking into possibly exempting the dues for Behrend's Lambda Sigma due to the situation that has occurred.

In the meantime, they are planning fund-raisers to help raise money to pay off their dues, granted the national headquarters doesn't exempt them from paying.

Lada has been actively pursuing a solution to this problem in hopes of moving Lambda Sigma positively into the future.

Edwards concluded, "this year's Lambda Sigma Chapter is not lingering in the past, but looking toward the coming year with an optimistic attitude."

## CORRECTIONS

The picture run in the intramural box last week wasn't an intramural event. It was the THETA PHI ALPHA ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE. All proceeds went to the 'House that Theta Phi Built,' a national organization to help the homeless.

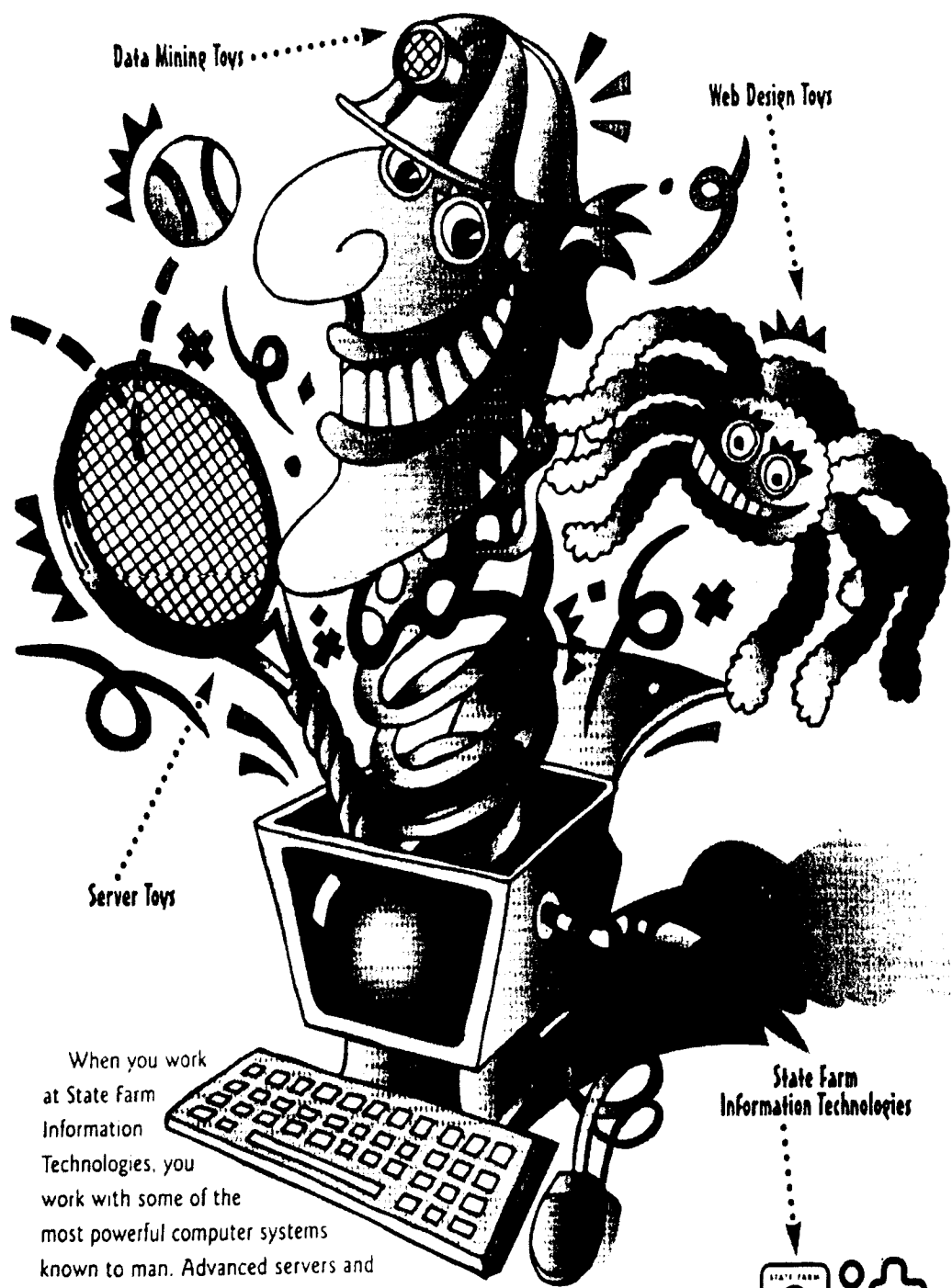
This year's Harambee Dinner was the 13th annual dinner rather than the fifth as reported last week.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Beacon will not publish a newspaper on October 15, 1999, due to Fall Break.

All Calendar notices, advertisements and classifieds that you wish to appear before then should be submitted by next week's deadlines for the October 8th issue.

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