

Behrend dance team adds excitement to basketball halftime shows

by Keenan Hansen
staff writer

The half-time bell rings and everyone knows what is about to happen on the court: the Behrend Lions' Dance Team is one of the highlights of basketball at Behrend. These talented ladies perform at every home basketball game during half-time. Led by their captains Leah Desazio, Becca Scheaffer, and Michele Seisek, the team provides their audience with much entertainment in their dancing and choreography.

This is the first year the Dance Team has been present at Behrend. They started last October, and captain Michele Seisek, 03 Bio, commented on its formation; "I thought it would promote school spirit and draw a lot of people to campus and the basketball games. It also gives people a new way to get involved in spirit at Behrend." The team also performs at the Spirit Stations on game days. They are also planning on competing in future dance competitions.

There are seventeen members of the



The Behrend dance team performs in the Reed Commons during the activities of spirit stations this past Friday.

PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER

dance team, and one choreographer. The roster includes: Kindra Beck, Marta Gonzalez, Melinda Hanes, Katie Miller, Jill Page, Mirna Panic, Angie Parasocitch, Kasey Petersen, Katie Przepyszny, Jill Sorsman, Suzie Stewart, Zakahra White, Jenn Zajac, and Megan Zuschlag. Becky Hubler is their choreographer.

Athletic Director Brian Streeter is also involved with the team. Seisek

attributes much of the dance team's formation to Streeter.

All of the dance team members seem to have a positive attitude about it. "It's been a lot of fun so far," said Katie Przepyszny, 01 DUS. These dedicated girls practice two to three times a week, and it shows off in their dance routines.

Most of the spectators at the games are very enthusiastic about the team;

when the girls enter the court they are greeted with a respectable applause. "I was impressed, they appear to have been dancing together a lot longer than they actually have," declared Doug Peters, 08 EE.

These ladies are working hard to add a little pizzazz to the Behrend Lions' basketball games. So come down and show your spirit and support for the Lion athletic clubs.

ABC sponsors successful Kwanzaa Dinner

Speaker considered 'inspirational' by Behrend students

by Chantel Gray
and Rehab Elzeney
staff writer

On December 5, 1999, the sixth annual Kwanzaa Dinner was held in the Dobbins Gazebo at 7 p.m. The Association of Black Collegians sponsored the event. This year's keynote speaker was Ivan Pretlow, a minister, who focused on the importance of this holiday and what it means to today's African American family.

Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest," is celebrated from December 26 through January 1. The holiday was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, and symbolizes unity to the African American people. Thirteen million people worldwide celebrate this event. The holiday is based on seven

principles, which are creativity, cooperative economics, self-determination, unity, collective work and responsibility, purpose, and faith.

About forty people attended this year's event. In addition to the speaker and the recitation of the Kwanzaa pledge, the dance group Ultimate Praise performed two selections, several skits representing the seven principles were performed, and a gospel choir sang two Christmas songs.

"The keynote speaker was dynamic, and helped the students [who attended] understand the importance of the celebration," said Kim Moses. "It was an experience that brought the minorities of Behrend together. It was very educational and inspirational," said first year student Nicole Greene.

Hanging of the Greens opens Christmas season at Behrend

by Erin McCarty
staff writer

Friday, December 3, marked the traditional ringing in of the Christmas season at Penn State Behrend with the Hanging of the Greens ceremony. Though the weather was so warm that it felt more like summer than winter, the engulfing Christmas spirit was felt as surely as if there had been snow upon the ground.

The Hanging of the Greens has been a tradition at Penn State Behrend for many years. This year, as always, it took place in the heart of the Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery. The tiny

chapel next to the memorial stone for Warren, the son of the Behrend benefactors Ernst and Mary Behrend, seemed like something out of another world, a simpler time. It was within these rustic walls that the service was held at 7:00 p.m. Friday evening.

Cars lined the paths of the cemetery as the beginning of the ceremony drew near, and participants made their way toward the chapel in the darkness, aided by a pathway of milk jug luminaries. Soon the chapel was packed with people, and the service began.

"It's a sort of combination of things," explained Ben Lane, Dean of Students Emeritus. "A Christmas service, a me-

morial service, a celebration of the beginning of winter...but most of all, I think, it's a Thanksgiving service in recognition of the incredible gift Mary Behrend gave to us. This year was really special because, for the first time, the ceremony was attended by members of the Behrend family."

The Hanging of the Greens itself is an old European custom. When Warren was killed in a car accident on the way home for Christmas several decades ago, Mary Behrend erected the memorial chapel to honor his memory. Each Christmas, she gathered pine branches and decorated the chapel and the vault with them. When she gave

the school her estate, Reid Ferguson, the school's first dean, wanted to continue her tradition. So Mary sent huge wreaths to the school every year to be hung in the chapel, but never attended a ceremony herself.

Dr. Lane became involved in 1953, and he helped to establish the structure of the ceremony that exists today. Each year, students are involved in the planning of the event, and some participate by reading scripture or playing a musical instrument. The wreath is always hung on the door inside the chapel that leads to the vault, in which not only Warren, but also his parents are buried. Someone always gives an address

about the Behrends when the wreath is hung, usually Dr. Lane.

"It's a very simple service," Lane admitted, "but very beautiful. When we first started doing this, there was no light or heat in the chapel so we had to conduct the service by candlelight. It is still conducted by candlelight today simply because it is so beautiful that way."

The Hanging of the Greens is Behrend's oldest tradition. In the past, it was sometimes followed by tree trimming in Reed or sleigh riding. It stands on its own now and is still very well attended.

Occasionally, inclement weather -

generally snow - forced the ceremony to be canceled. But for this last Hanging of the Greens of the millennium, the weather was perfect. Any chill felt when emerging after half an hour in the chapel was soon dissipated with a piping hot cup of cider. Here's to the next 51 years!



Question of the Week

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN AT MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 31, 1999?

"All the cows' spots will change from black to white. That's cool... I live in farm country, so..."

-Steve Chapel, 03 CE

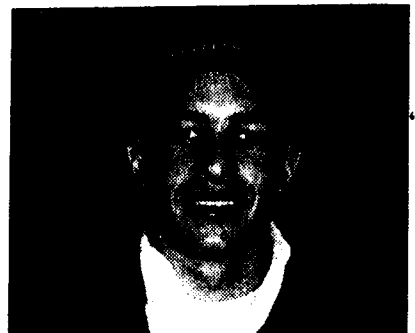


"Well I definitely wouldn't want to be in New York. A lot of religious cults will engage in violent acts."

-Ramon Enriquez, 03 Int'l Mngt

"Not a thing. I think we're making a big hype over nothing. It's just a new year with more zeros."

-Sean Mascoll, 07 COMBA



"The world's going to end... so you better be partying pretty hard!"

-Andres Castillo, 05 Bus Econ

"I don't think anything will happen... my dad said so!"

-Colleen O'Neil, 03 COMBA



Police And Safety REPORT:

- 12/1/99 20:00 A complainant reported that a chair had been thrown over an unspecified balcony.
- 12/3/99 19:10 A complainant reported a minor vehicle/pedestrian accident.
- 12/3/99 21:40 P&S detected the smell of marijuana.
- 12/4/99 00:32 P&S received a report of a hit and run in the Ohio Circle.
- 12/5/99 12:20 A complainant reported having received hang up phone calls.
- 12/7/99 00:10 A complainant reported vandalism to the Engineering Complex.
- 12/7/99 18:30 A complainant reported having received an email with an implied threat.



WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 10-12, 1999



FRIDAY

CLOUDY; 40% CHANCE OF MORNING RAIN; HIGH AROUND 40



SATURDAY

PARTLY CLOUDY; HIGH AROUND 40



SUNDAY

PARTLY CLOUDY; LOW OF 30; HIGH OF 40-45