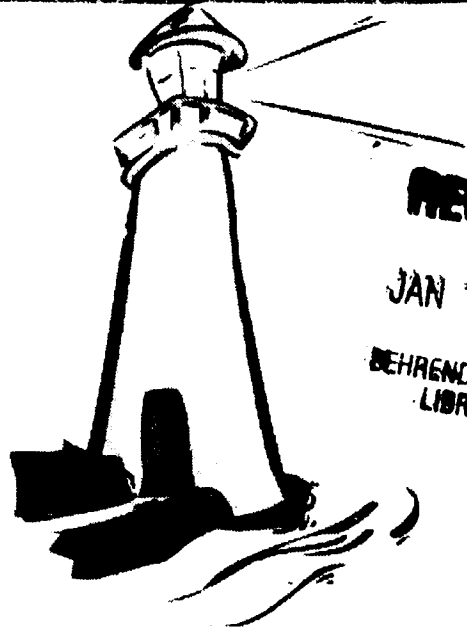




Any Given Sunday: Football at its best

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BEHREND

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A Penn State Erie Student Publication

193 degrees awarded at Behrend Fall Commencement

by Mike Frawley managing editor

Behrend handed out diplomas to numerous graduating students at the Fall 1999 Commencement Ceremony that was held on Saturday, December 18, 1999. The ceremony was held in Erie Hall at noon, with 193 people receiving their diplomas for associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees. This brings the total number of degrees that were awarded by Behrend in 1999 to 479.

The class of December 1999 included seven Schreyer Scholars. Schreyer Scholars is a Penn State University-wide Honors program. Students who have completed the requirements of the program, including an Honors thesis or comprehensive examination, receive an Honors degree. Scholars graduating with an Honors degree receive a bronze medal designed by John A. Cook, professor of art at Penn State and noted medalist, in recognition of their achievements. Sharie A. Buie, Michael D. Caudill, Mary A. Kieffer, Lindsey C. Myrick, Daniel V. Roberts, Chad A. Stoltz, and Steven J. Swiderski each received Honors degrees during the ceremony.

Students were also recognized as Evan Pugh Scholars and as graduating with Scholastic Distinction. Evan Pugh Scholars are students who were in the upper 0.5 percent of their respective classes at the end of the fall semester. The award is named for Evan Pugh, Penn State's first president. Scholastic Distinction is for those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of the graduating class of their college. Scholastic Distinction is broken up into three categories: highest distinction - top 2%, high distinction - next 4%, and distinction - following 6%.



Provost and Dean John Lilley gives his opening remarks at Behrend's Fall Commencement held on December 18, 1999.

Provost and Dean John Lilley played his usual part in the ceremony by giving the opening remarks, and by handing out the degrees to the graduating students. Lindsey Myrick, who is a biology major from Lemont, PA, gave the welcoming address. The commencement address was given by Dr. Timothy R. Smaby, associate pro-

fessor of finance. Mark B. Louis, the president of the Penn State Behrend Alumni Society, welcomed all of the graduates into the Alumni Society. To end the ceremony, Benjamin Murphy, who received his degree in management information systems and is from Erie, PA, gave the farewell address at the ceremony.

A reception for the students, their families, and guests was held after commencement in the Reed Commons. A Spring Commencement Ceremony will be held for all students graduating at the end of this semester on Saturday, May 13, 2000.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Accident claims the life of a Behrend student

by Jason Snyder editor-in-chief

On December 19, 1999, a Penn State Behrend student was found dead in Decker's Creek in Morgantown, West Virginia. The body was that of Albert Richard Weizen, a Behrend student that lived in Ohio Hall this past semester. Weizen was 21 years old and lived in Bentleyville, PA.

Weizen was with three friends with whom he had spent the previous night in downtown Morgantown. The friends told police that the group had "quite a bit" to drink that night. Shortly after midnight, Weizen became separated from his group of friends and was not found until the following morning, in Decker's Creek behind the Ahadu hair styling salon.

At 2:00 a.m., the friends searched

for Weizen and found his car still parked where he left it, on the third level of the Public Safety Center. Weizen's father was then notified by the friends who all continued the search.

A resident of Morgantown did call 911 to report that a male (matching the description of Weizen) had knocked on his door, asking to use his phone.

Shortly after 10:00 a.m., Weizen's body was found face down in the creek, about two-three feet from the bank. Police said there was no sign of bruising or cuts found on the body, which led police to believe that Weizen may have slipped on the slippery rocks that the creek is known for. There was no sign of tracks that led to the creek besides Weizen's.

There was no sign of foul play by Weizen, but the death was believed to be alcohol related.

WESTERN WIND SWEEPS THROUGH WINTERGARDEN

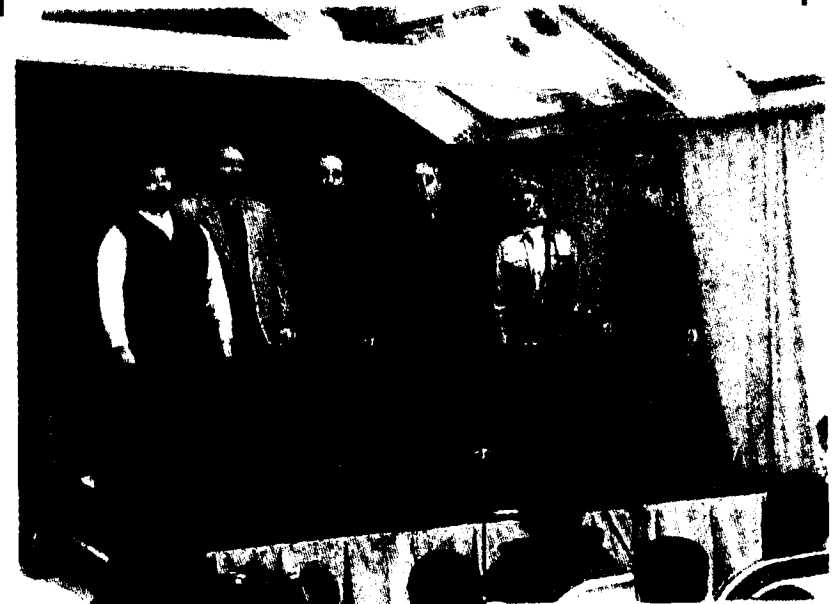


PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER

The Western Wind performed at Behrend on January 13, 2000, for the Music at Noon Series. The group has performed around the world for two decades, and shared their sounds with a full Reed Wintergarden.

SGA pleased with results of 2nd Annual Booksale

by Shannon Weber news editor

The Student Government Association is very pleased with the turn out of its second annual book sale.

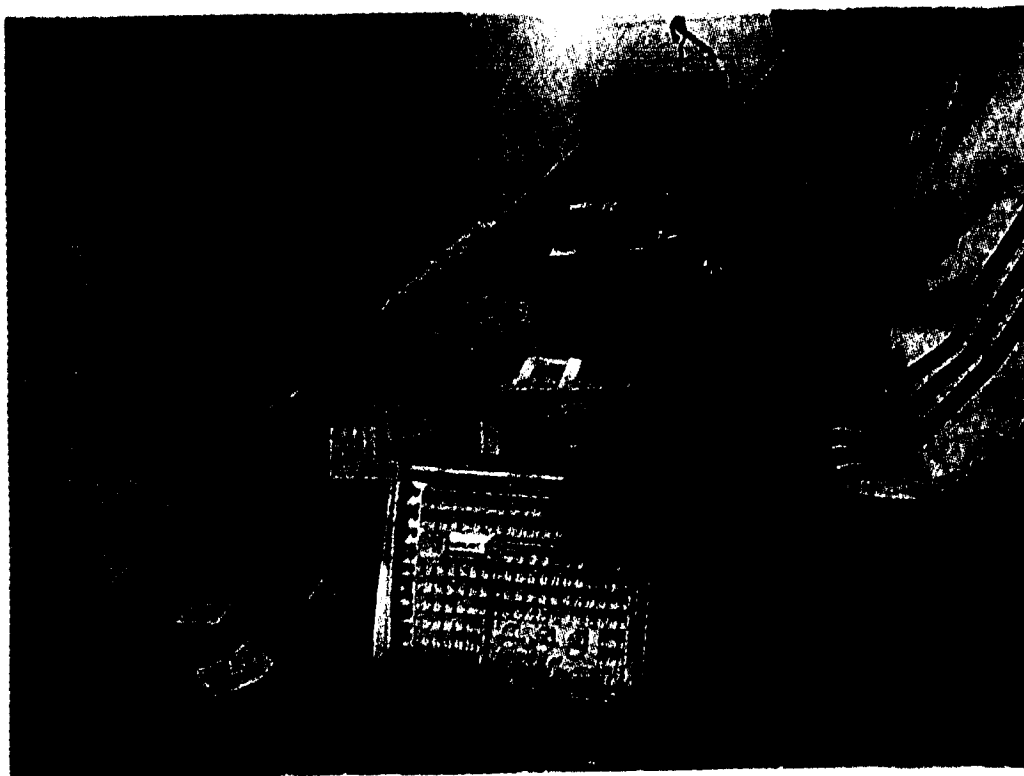
"Response from students is incredible considering we received almost five times the amount of books we had last year," said Andrea DiPlacido, SGA president.

SGA received 263 books this year and so far sold 110 books. The final number of books sold will not be determined until this Monday.

The book sale started on Monday with students dropping off their books and setting their own sales price, which continued into Tuesday.

On Wednesday and Thursday, students were able to browse the books and make their selections. On Friday students can pick up either their unsold books or their check from the University for sold books.

SGA provided this service with no charge and its members volunteered to work in shifts during the week, said George Leshnock, SGA vice presi-



dent. Students were very enthusiastic about having the SGA book sale provided to them instead of having to purchase books from the bookstore for a higher price.

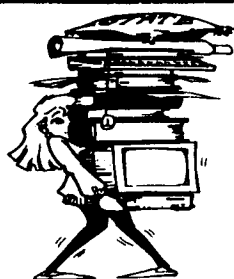
Sue Pribila, 04 Biology said, "The book store didn't have the book I needed, and I could get it here cheaper."

SGA is hoping that they have an even bigger turnout next year.

PHOTO BY MIKE FRAWLEY

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