

BEHREND

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Interview process for Dean of Students begins

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

For the past one and a half years the Office of Student Affairs has been run by Interim Dean of Students Ken Miller. The search committee to find a new dean has conducted a national search to fill the position left empty in 1998.

The committee has the candidates narrowed down to two choices: John Harp and the Interim Dean Ken Miller. Over the next two weeks, in depth interviews will be conducted with each finalist for the position in the hopes of filling this position on a more permanent basis within the near future.

On Thursday, January 27th, John Harp did a question and answer session with a group of students in the Reed Commons. Harp is currently the Associate Dean of Students for Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. He has also held various positions at the University of Memphis, Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, and Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. The positions that he held at these schools included Assistant Director of Student Life and Fraternities Advisor.

He is currently working on his dissertation for his doctorate in education at the University of Memphis. His doctorate is a study of work-study students and their overall impression of college life. Harp believes that college students that work on campus get much more out of their college experience.

Mr. Harp held his interview ses-



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Mr. John Harp sits with students on Thursday during his interview process. Harp is the first of two applicants for the position of Dean of Students. The second interview will be with the current Interim Dean of Students Mr. Ken Miller this coming Thursday. Student leaders of many organizations will have a say in the decision to name Behrend's new Dean of Students.

sion with a group of 10 students. He spent the 45 minutes session in discussion with the students, finding out about what the students were involved with, and what their concerns were about how things on campus could be improved. He encouraged students to work toward their goals and make use of all of the facilities available on campus to meet their

goals. Harp told the students to, "Go out and test the waters."

The students in attendance then asked Mr. Harp questions about his background and qualifications for the position. He stressed how much he enjoyed working with students and how important that he felt that this was. Harp said, "You have to be student centered." At the end of

the discussion, when asked what he liked about Behrend, Harp said, "I haven't seen anything I don't, unless it snows like this all year round."

On next Thursday, February 3rd, another interview session will be held for students to talk with Ken Miller about his qualifications and ideas for the position of Dean of Students.

SGA to hold elections for Senate and UFS seats

by Karl Benacci
assistant news editor

Due to a number of new openings in SGA senate seats, an election will be held February 2nd and 3rd to fill the empty seats. Senate seats open up for various reasons. Last semester one senator transferred and a few senators knew that they couldn't dedicate the time that was needed for SGA.

SGA elections occur during the spring semester to elect a whole new senate or when there are open seats that need to be filled.

In the past, the whole college would vote in the April elections, while senate seats that opened during the school year were filled by elections within SGA. However, because of the large number of empty seats that need to be filled this semester, SGA felt that the whole college should be included in the decision.

To be eligible to run, a candidate must be a full time Behrend student

and collect fifty signatures to be put on ballot.

When asked what SGA looks for in a senator, SGA President Andrea DiPlacido responded, "SGA looks for members who are willing to dedicate a few hours of their time each week to the betterment of the Behrend community."

The SGA senate is made up of eleven senator seats, two freshmen seats, six council seats, and four executive board seats.

This semester, five students will be trying to win one of three open positions. The candidates for the election are Matt Grimmke, Jason Nachman, Matt Wiertel, Brandi Hovis, and Kim Moses (for more information about the candidates please turn to page four).

When asked how she felt about the election, DiPlacido stated "I am very positive about this election. We received five submission forms to run for three open senate seats, which

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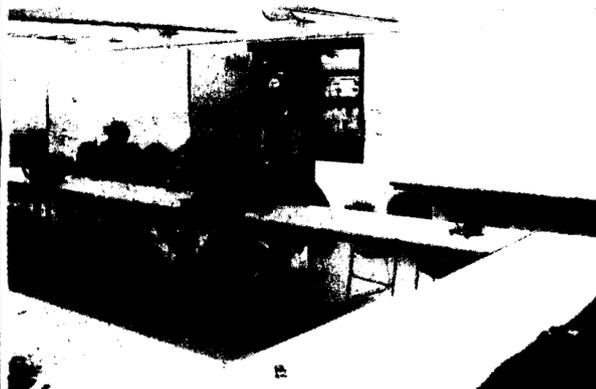


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The SGA elections will fill up some of the empty seats at their Wednesday night meetings.

Presidential primaries a chance for students to speak out

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

The Presidential primary season has begun. This past week Iowa held its caucus, which is the first event in the primary season, and one contestant for the Republican presidential nomination has already decided to drop out of the race. Orrin Hatch, a Republican Senator from Utah, after having a very dismal showing in Iowa, felt his campaign to be a lost cause and dropped out, throwing his meager support to Republican frontrunner George W Bush, the governor of Texas, and son of former President George Bush. Of interest to college students is Bill Bradley's showing among college students. Bradley pulled in more votes in that group than any of his competitors.

All of these events do have an effect on the lives of the average college student. For many students this will be their first chance to participate in a presidential election, and to be able to vote intelligently students need to be informed about the issues that each candidate stands for. Behrend student Meggan Allen said, "I have the right to vote, so I feel that I should. I watch the debates and read up on the issues so I can make an informed choice."

Pennsylvania does not hold its primary until April 4th, which many people consider to be useless because many times the primary contest is over with weaker candidates dropping out of the nomination race well before this. But with the strong cam-

"I watch the debates and read up on the issues so I can make an informed choice."

- Meggan Allen, Behrend student

paigns of Democrat Bill Bradley and Republican John McCain, the race could still be up for grabs in early April.

To be able to vote in Pennsylvania, you must be registered to vote by one month before the election. You can pick up a voter registration form at the Post Office, the local Republican and Democratic Headquarters, and at various other sites. College students have one of the lowest voter turnouts among any age group. Many students cite a lack of time and being away from home as the main reason why

they do not participate in elections.

There are many different ways for students to become more informed about the candidates, and for those who have a more political taste can even find various ways to become involved in the campaigning process.

With the onset of primary season, the election has become a lead news story almost everyday. A quick look at a newspaper or watching the national nightly news can greatly inform you about what important topics that the candidates are debating. There are also a wide variety of websites available that spell out the views of each candidate, but because these sites can be put up by anyone it is important that you make sure that the provider of the site is credible before making any decisions based on the information that you find there.

Students who want to become more involved in the political process can go and become a campaign volunteer in your local area for the candidate that you support. Campaign offices are always looking for volunteers to stuff envelopes and answer phones, while giving students a chance to see the interworkings of a campaign.

Students who live outside of Pennsylvania and are registered to vote, but are away from home when voting takes place in your area can request and fill out absentee ballots. This way you can still participate in the election even without being able to actually get to the voting booth. Students are also able to register to vote at their Behrend campus address and vote locally.

There are a variety of ways for students to become more involved in the political process and a presidential election is a memorable way to begin your political involvement.

Bill Bradley, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, proved to be popular among college students in the Iowa Caucus. Here, he is speaking at Cornell College in Iowa.



TMS PHOTO

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