

## Students get a 'reality check'

by Libbie Johnson  
associate editor

Reality Check is Behrend's service organization sponsored by the Center for Service Leadership and the Office of Student Activities. Reality Check's mission is to provide service opportunities for the entire Penn State Behrend community to participate in.

Reality Check was organized in 1996 after students participated in the first Alternative Spring Break. Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, founded Reality Check. "The core focus of the group really deals with helping those people on the 'margins of society.' The students who participated in the first Alternative Break trip decided to found the organization and create the name. The first break experience working in Baltimore had such a profound impact upon all the participants... [that] they termed the trip a 'reality check.' [The trip] challenged preconceived beliefs about homelessness, race, poverty, and their ability to make a difference as individuals." This group agreed that more students needed to participate in community service projects.

Shawna Pelasky, coordinator of Greek Life and Student Leadership Programs, is Reality Check's advisor. Her goals for this year are to expand

types of programs being offered and increase membership. Reality Check has about 15 active members. Nicole Cipriani, Reality Check's president, agrees. "Anybody can join Reality Check. There are many projects we do and we are always looking for new members."

Once students become involved in a Reality Check-sponsored activity, they are considered members. There are no minimum requirements. Students participate in activities that interest them. Sarah Orr, Reality Check's secretary, encourages interested students to participate. "Reality Check is the kind of organization to join if you want to make a difference in the world, even a small one. You meet new people and have lots of fun just by helping out."

Dionne Blanchard, a Behrend senior, recently participated in a Valentine's Day project co-sponsored by Reality Check and Lambda Sigma, Behrend's sophomore honor society. She found the experience rewarding. "I like to help people. Behrend is part of the community and the community helps the school, so why shouldn't we help the community?"

On March 18, Reality Check is going to the Humane Society to help with the animals. Reality Check is

also sponsoring Diehl Reading Day the week of March 27. All students interested in becoming involved should

contact Shawna Pelasky in the Office of Student Activities or Nicole Cipriani at [nmc142@psu.edu](mailto:nmc142@psu.edu).

## Lambda Sigma and Reality Check brighten seniors' Valentine's Day

by Libbie Johnson  
associate editor

Lambda Sigma, Behrend's sophomore honor society, and Reality Check, Behrend's community service organization, co-sponsored a service project to deliver Valentine's Day cards to the elderly.

On February 12, ten members from Lambda Sigma and Reality Check, passed out about 125 Valentine's Day cards to residents at Brevillier Village, a Harborcreek Township nursing home.

Noed Santana, a Lambda Sigma member, said, "I went into one of the

resident's room, and I read the card to her. She liked it so much she started to cry."

Jan LaRiccía, a registered nurse at Brevillier Village, appreciated the students' kindness. "I think it's really great. We always like to have people come in on special holidays. You are giving your time. It's special because you are giving something money can't buy."

Nicole Cipriani, president of Reality Check, felt that the visit to Brevillier Village was a success. "It was fun to see how happy the residents were. We will definitely make this an annual tradition."

Miller continued from front page

commuter students. By getting them involved in activities including First Year Seminar Programs, he hopes these commuters will participate more.

Great physical changes will also be coming to Behrend, changes that Miller feels will have a large effect on the student body. The Athletics and Recreation Center will be opening this fall, the new Chapel and Bell Tower projects are currently underway, the new Research and Educational Development Center (REDC) building is being planned, and additions to the residence halls (in the form of either additions to Perry Hall or the building of Trippe Hall) are in the works. The Eastside Connector Highway is slated to be finished in 2003, which will cut through the middle of the current campus. Miller feels that all of these things will help to make the campus more "real" and make the school more attractive to prospective students while also providing a great deal of

opportunities for current students. "All of the other campuses are gunning for us. I constantly hear them say that they want to be like Behrend," Miller stated.

Miller feels that Behrend is one of the best campuses in the Penn State system, and that we will only keep getting better. When Miller first came to Behrend in 1988, 75% of students moved to University Park to complete their degrees. Now, 75% of students stay at Behrend to finish their degrees, and many of the students who do go to University Park have no choice because it is the only place that they can finish their given degree.

Miller stresses the importance of working closely with the students to help the school expand and grow, and he plans on running his department with that goal in mind.

"We shouldn't be doing things for the students, we should be doing things with the students," Miller stated.

Lions continued from front page

The Behrend women's only loss in the conference this season came against Frostburg this past Saturday. Both games against Frostburg this season have gone down to the wire, including the Lions' overtime win earlier this season.

Coach Roz Fornari and her Lions hope to repeat as they enter the AMCC Tournament as the favorites, having lost only one player from last season's AMCC championship team. The Behrend women have proved their capability of winning at home, going 9-3

overall this year in Eric Hall and 18-7 in their last 25 home contests.

The AMCC Tournament will tip-off on Friday, February 25, at 2:00 p.m. with the first round of the women's games. The other first round women's game will start at 4:00 p.m., followed by the men's games at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The championship games are to be played on Saturday, February 26, at 2:00 p.m. for the women and 4:00 p.m. for the men. Fans are encouraged to cheer the Lions on in their final games at Eric Hall.

## Question of the Week

WHAT WAS YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY EXPERIENCE?

"I really didn't do anything - my girlfriend got real sick and I didn't get to see her."

Mike Regan, 04, EE



"My significant other went to the bar with his friends, and he bought me Chicken McNuggets from McDonalds."

Heidi Tuttle, 02, Business

"My friend called me and left a message on my answering machine that said, 'Will you be my Valentine? I have a song to play for you.' And he played 'Pretty Woman' for me on the answering machine."

Sarah Edwards, 04, COMM



"My friend and I gave our mutual female friend a sensual massage while we were packed on my dorm room bed like sardines, with beautiful MP3 music playing."

Jesse Colaizzi, 02, COMM/PHOTO

"As I walked into my house, I saw on the floor a huge heart made out of pink and yellow roses. There was one yellow rose (they're my favorite) with a note letting me know how much he loves me."

Elly Vahey, 06, COMM



## Police And Safety

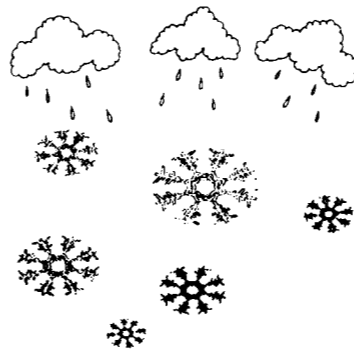
### REPORT:

- 2/9/00 5:00 A complainant reported that one of the student organization tables in the upper level of Reed was stolen.
- 2/9/00 13:19 A complainant reported the theft of a door poster from the IFC office in Reed.
- 2/10/00 01:00 A complainant requested assistance with an incident.
- 2/10/00 17:03 A complainant reported that someone had hit his vehicle and left the scene without supplying any information.
- 2/10/00 17:48 A complainant reported possible harrassment from a suitemate.
- 2/10/00 20:00 A complainant reported that an individual left a very disturbing note at Room 110 and left the building.
- 2/12/00 00:15 Officers observed a motorist driving in reverse on Jordan Road to Aquarius Drive. The driver was cited for careless driving.
- 2/15/00 01:30 A complainant reported that they had received a harrassing phone call.



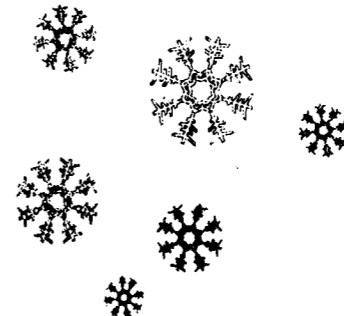
## WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2000



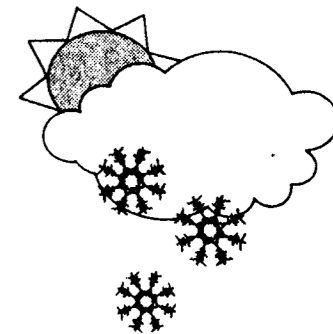
FRIDAY

A MIX OF SNOW, ICE AND RAIN; HIGH 36, LOW 24.



SATURDAY

SNOW FLURRIES; HIGH 32, LOW 20.



SUNDAY

PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS; HIGH 30, LOW 22.