

Commuter Council in need of dancers

by Becky Weindorf
associate editor

On April 14, the Commuter Council wants all of Behrend to pitch in and "Be a star on the floor as your feet open the door." They are sponsoring a 12-hour dance-a-thon to raise money for a young boy.

In conjunction with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Commuter Council and several other organizations are sponsoring this event to send a seven-year-old boy on a four-day cruise to the Bahamas on the Big Red Boat, and then a three day stay at Disney World in Florida. This is the second year for the Wish-A-Thon.

"[The little boy] has a brain tumor and wanted to go on a cruise because he was too sick to go with his parents on their last cruise," said Meggan Allen, vice president of Commuter Council. "The total cost of the trip is \$3,400. We need to raise \$2,400 in order for him to go. Make-A-Wish has already raised \$1,000 over winter break for him."

So far, thirty-six people have signed up for the event, but Allen clearly stated that the Council needs more people to raise money and to dance. "We need as many people as possible to sign up and dance for him," Allen said.

The dance will be held in the Reed Commons on April 14, starting at 8 p.m. and ending on April 15, at 8 a.m. "We're going to have a DJ, and we're trying to find a live band to play for the first hour or so," said Allen. "There's going to be lots of refreshments - pizza, meat and veggie trays, chips, cookies, candy, and plenty of pop and water."

Not sure if you can plan ahead that far? There is an alternative to that: walk-ins are cordially welcome, too. "If you're not sure you're going to go, but you'd still like to dance, you can still come and dance if you pay \$3 at the door when you arrive," Allen said.

The whole night is devoted to granting this boy's last wish, and dancing isn't the only thing to do. Games and prizes will be given out through the night from local sponsors, including 2 tickets to the Erie Playhouse.

The Commuter Council stresses that the Wish-A-Thon needs as many dancers as possible. Even if money is raised over the goal of \$2,400, all proceeds benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation.

The deadline for signing up for the event is March 27, where students can get pledge sheets and all the rules and regulations for the Wish-A-Thon. The deadline to turn in money for the Wish-A-Thon is April 3. You can drop off the money at the RUB desk in an envelope with your name and "Wish-A-Thon" written on the front, with your pledge sheet.

If there are any further questions, interested students should visit the RUB Desk or call the Commuter Council office at x6452.

ALL ABOUT BATS

Clearing up misconceptions about bats

by Ryan Flaherty
staff writer

During his seminar on Friday, Feb 11, Dr. Michael R. Gannon cleared up some of the misconceptions about bats as well as inform a Behrend audience about their day-to-day behavior as well.

Dr. Gannon is an associate professor in the department of biology at Penn State Altoona. He has studied bats in the tropics and in the Temperate Zone. His studies of bats also range from many states in the U.S.

About one fourth of all mammals are bats, which number to about 850 to 900 different species. Besides making up a large part of the mammalian population, they are the only true

flying mammals. Contrary to belief bats are not blind, however they are mainly nocturnal which is why they might have trouble seeing with their eyes. To compensate they emit sound waves, which hit an object and bounce back giving them a mental picture of what might be there.

Despite old wives' tales, bats will not get caught in your hair. A human body will attract a lot of bugs, especially the head that gives off the most heat. The bats will then swoop down and eat these bugs, coming somewhat close to the head. This is probably why many think that the bats are trying to get in their hair.

Another misconception is that bugs are vicious carriers of disease. While a small per-

centage of bats carry any kind of disease, they are not an animal to fear. The number of reported rabies cases by bats is far less than those of skunks and raccoons, and rabies cases in Pennsylvania from bats are very low. Some important things to remember next time you see a bat: Do not try to pick up a bat if it is acting oddly or crawling on the ground. This is how people will receive rabies from a bat. A sick or injured bat might bite if touched.

Dr. Gannon's presentation was a somewhat general forum, the facts were easily understood and the speech was comprehensible. "It's neat to learn about these things and it educates those who don't know that much about bats," said Kristy Netkovic (8. Biology).



The Raiders Club aimed towards 'action-seeking' students

by Erin McCurdy
staff writer

The Raiders, one of Penn State Behrend's newest clubs, was created with "the action seeking" student in mind. The purpose of the Raiders Club is to provide students with mentally and physically challenging outdoor recreational activities. With about sixty founding members, the Raiders Club is off and running.

The club's goal is to increase self-confidence and leadership potential while also increasing total fitness and enjoyment of these outdoor experiences in a social setting.

Captain Scott Gillespie, the club's advisor, stated, "this student group organizes unique and challenging outings. It gives students a nice outlet for stress; it is nice to have something exciting to look forward to on the weekends"

While the Raider's constitution states that the group only needs to meet twice a semester, in reality the group meets about once a month. Captain Gillespie said that with all of the

different outings being planned and scheduled, it makes it easier to meet more often. The meetings are usually held on Friday afternoons around four o'clock. The exact meeting times are listed periodically on the group's Web page: www.personal.psu.edu/urbk.115.

Those interested in joining need only to attend a meeting. The other way to join is log onto the Web site and read about the club. If one is still interested, one can join from there. This club is open to any Behrend College student, and membership is free. However, while membership is free, each outing often has costs associated with it that members must pay in order to participate.

Captain Gillespie says that he shops around for group rates on rental equipment, which lowers the cost to the students. Also to cut costs, he sometimes drives the students in a large van to save on transportation fees.

Some of the activities that the Raiders have planned include: rappelling, orienteering and map reading, white water rafting, wall climbing, paintball, skydiving, skiing, and camping. Exact times, dates, and costs are

listed on the Web site.

Once one becomes a member, one can choose which activities to go on; members are not required to participate in any events.

Within the Raiders club are two smaller clubs. Once a member of the Raiders, one has the opportunity to try out for the Color Guard or the Ranger Challenge Team.

The Behrend Color Guard consists of a five-member team, including a color sergeant, two flag bearers, and two riflemen. This team presents the "National Colors" at various University Events, including convocations and graduation ceremonies. The Color Guard also competes against other college Color Guard teams at the national level.

The Ranger Challenge Team is a military skills competition team. It is comprised of nine athletes who compete against 21 other teams throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. Some of the competition events are physical fitness, rifle marksmanship, a 10-km march, and a one-rope bridge race.

Campus Ministry to put on 30-hour famine

by Kristen Sedlak
staff writer

Nearly 30 Penn State Behrend students will participate in a nationwide fast to benefit the poor and hungry this weekend, which is nationally known as "Hunger Fast." Participants will begin fasting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, and conclude at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 26.

World Vision is the national sponsor of this event, which has participants in parishes and other organizations throughout the world. The purpose of the fast is to raise both money for and awareness of hunger in the United States and in Third World Countries.

During the fast, students will participate in several community service activities. They will visit various nursing homes, the Neighborhood Art House, and the newly created Kids Café, which serves lunch to underprivileged children. This Hunger Fast will not only raise the students' awareness of world hunger, but it will give them a limited understanding of what it is like to be hungry themselves.

A choral group from University Park, Grace Notes, will be venturing up to Erie for the Hunger Fast to provide entertainment. Grace Notes will be performing at the Villa Auditorium at 10:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25.

Later on Friday evening, students will stay overnight at a convent and have discussions about hunger and poverty. There will also be several activities, such as volleyball and other games, to keep those fasting occupied throughout the night.

World Vision not only accepts monetary donations to the program, but they also accept other means of charity, such as grocery and other gift certificates. World Vision also collects medical supplies for their recipients, as many poor have no other means of getting medical attention.

Last year World Vision raised over eight million dollars from the Hunger Fast, which was distributed in countries such as Kenya, Mexico, Romania, Sudan, North Korea, and the United States. About two thousand dollars of that total came from right here at Behrend. This year, however, the Hunger Fast and its 600,000 participants nationwide are determined to raise at least \$9 million.

Though there are specific dates associated with the Hunger Fast, people can help to raise money and awareness the hungry at any time. In some areas, it takes as little as fifteen dollars to feed a hungry child for a month. This program teaches that everyone can do something to help, even within one's own community.

Anyone interested in more information on World Vision or Hunger Fast can contact the Campus Ministry or look on the web at www.worldvision.org or www.30hourfamine.org.

Perry, Niagara, and Lawrence Hall Councils

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