

Amnesty International holds human rights forum

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

Chayanant Hongfa for Thailand, Rehab Elzeney for Egypt, and Moya-

answer period for listeners to address questions to any of the speakers being.

included the use of the death penalty in the United States, the 1992 military coup and prostitution in Thailand, women's rights in Egypt, and the after effects of apartheid and the AIDS epidemic in South Africa.

Amnesty International is an organization that is involved with many issues around the world, including such topics as human rights abuses, freeing political prisoners, and increasing awareness of these and other problems. The Amnesty International organization is relatively new on campus. It holds meetings on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in Reed 112. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Additional information about Amnesty International is available from their website www.amnesty.com.



Student speakers at human rights forum.

PHOTO BY MIKE FRAWLEY

"Human rights is something we all need to be concerned about, and do something about," stated Ray Morelli, the co-president of Amnesty International. Morelli's comments kicked off a discussion of human rights by a group of international students.

This forum was held on Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall and lasted a little over an hour. Nearly 40 students and faculty attended the forum. The goal of this forum was to, "allow Behrend students and faculty to appreciate the cultural backgrounds of Behrend students and how their lives have been affected by human rights violations," according to Morelli.

Four students spoke and answered questions about human rights: Ron Hayes for the United States,

Mouline Odendaal for South Africa. Each student discussed the dilemmas of human rights in his or her country, with a following question and

Each student touched on the major human rights issues that are currently affecting his or her respective country. Some of the topics that were discussed

Try to make a difference: run for an SGA office

by Tracy Jones
staff writer

It's time for change again at Penn State Berks. The Behrend College: SGA elections for the 2000-2001 school year are quickly approaching. There are eleven senate positions available, as well as the officer positions of president, vice president, and secretary. Responsibilities for senators include serving two office hours a week, attending SGA meetings, and becoming involved with at least one committee. The president, vice president, and secretary have numerous responsibilities. In order to run for one of these positions, one must have served as a senator or officer on SGA for at least one year.

Anyone who wants to run for one of these positions must pick up a petition at the RUB Desk and get the required number of signatures by Friday, March 24. To run as a senator one needs to get 50 signatures; to run for president or vice president one needs to get 200 signatures.

Members of the SGA represent the student body in many ways. They make decisions on important programming issues and organizational funding. SGA also

works on issues to improve life for students on campus. Some of the things that have been accomplished by SGA this year include making the Blue Bus free and investigating how our Technology Fee is spent.

It was announced at the March 15 SGA meeting that the election for president will most likely be a contested election. If that is the case, a debate between the candidates is being planned for the night of April 3. This will be the first contested election for SGA president in three years.

If a student has questions about the duties of SGA members or would like more information about running for a senate seat, he or she now has the opportunity to contact SGA and learn more. As Dean of Student Affairs Ken Miller said, "It's a tremendous opportunity for students to change things at the college."

SGA meetings are held every Wednesday night in Reed 114 at 5:20 p.m. Anyone interested in finding out more about what SGA does and what one would have to do to run for a position can attend one of these meetings to find out more.

Petitions can be picked up at the RUB Desk now and are due March 24 by 5 p.m. For more information, students can call x6220.

Question of the Week

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

"To celebrate different cultural backgrounds."

-John Williams, 06, Computer Engineering



"It gives you a good reason to wear green and celebrate four-leaf clovers."

-Jen Kuntz, 02, DUS



"To celebrate St. Patrick and his accomplishments."

-Jon Beckman, 04, DUS



"Because it was when St. Patrick drove out all the snakes in Ireland."

-Robin Dayley, 04, Film and Video



"My husband's family is Irish, so we really don't have much of a choice!"

-Bev Coleman, Penn State Bookstore



Police And Safety REPORT:

- 3/2/00 19:50 A complainant reported witnessing vandalism in the Stair Tower.
- 3/3/00 07:50 A complainant asked an officer to meet him at the Perry Hall Lobby. The complainant reported more vandalism in Perry Hall.
- 3/3/00 20:30 Someone found that the wooden barricade at the end of Overlook Drive had the top two sections of wood broken in half again. M&O will be notified.
- 3/4/00 15:33 A complainant reported being harrassed by his roommate.
- 3/5/00 11:31 A duty officer was dispatched to the area near Engineering for a "Man with a Gun" call.
- 3/9/00 16:40 A faculty member reported cleaning up a small mercury spill in one of the fume hoods in H40D. The faculty member stated there was no pending hazard, but was concerned about the circumstances involving the spill.
- 3/12/00 15:00 A student asked if he could legally stage a protest against a staff member. An officer contacted the Chief of Police and the Director of Student Affairs.
- 3/13/00 09:50 A suspended student vehicle was parked in the S Lot. It was towed by TM and issued state citation A5295077-4.
- 3/14/00 11:00 An officer discovered a misuses of a permit.
- 3/14/00 17:20 A staff member called Police and Safety to report more vandalism in the Perry Hall Lobby.
- 3/15/00 16:40 A staff member reported that the Lion Cash machine in the Reed Building was hit by a student. The student reportedly hit the machine with a fist and caused damage to the LCD Read Out.



WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

MARCH 17-19, 2000



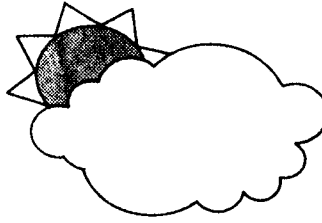
FRIDAY

PARTLY SUNNY; HIGH OF 28, LOW 20.



SATURDAY

PARTLY TO MOSTLY SUNNY; HIGH 34, LOW 24.



SUNDAY

CLOUDS AND SUN; HIGH 42, LOW 32.