

Reality Check sponsors Diehl Reading Day

by Libbie Johnson
associate editor

Reality Check, Behrend's community service organization, sponsored Diehl Reading Day on Friday, March 24. Reality Check members went to Diehl Elementary School to read such books as *Curious George*, *Amelia Bedelia*, and *Madeline* to kindergarten and second grade students.

Diehl students were divided into several groups and each group was assigned to a reader. *Curious George* and *Clifford The Big Red Dog* seemed to be favorites of many.

Afterwards, students each received a cupcake and a drink, which were donated by Reality Check.

Shawna Pelasky, coordinator of Greek life and student leadership programs, is the advisor for Reality Check. She feels that Diehl Reading Day is a wonderful opportunity for both Behrend and Diehl students.

"The Behrend students are able to go into the school, work with the children, see their needs, and contribute to their educational experience. It is wonderful for the Diehl students because they are able to interact with individuals who serve as positive role models," Pelasky commented.

Cindy Bohan, who teaches kindergarten at Diehl, said, "[The students] are very appreciative." Denzel Keith, a kindergarten student, showed his appreciation by giving one of the readers a hug.

Erin McCarty, a Behrend first year student, enjoyed reading to the students. "It's incredible how something as simple as a couple of stories can put smiles on twenty faces."

Casie Kunkle, a Behrend sophomore, agreed. "I enjoyed seeing how excited the kids were about [being] read to. [This] shows how important books still are even when we now live in a time dominated by computers and video games."

Brendon Raraigh, a sophomore, read to the second grade students. "It was cool to see the kids so excited about reading. At one point they asked if I would let them read the book instead of me reading it to them. It was a lot of fun to listen to them stumble and say the wrong words."

Raraigh said the children he read to seemed to favor *Clifford The Big Red Dog*. "A couple of them had read the book before and they would try to tell me what was going to happen next..."

McCarty also benefited from the event: "... I was fretting about a speech I had to give in the afternoon, and by the time I left Diehl, I had calmed down considerably." McCarty plans to participate in future Reality Check activities. "It's fantastic that there is an organization on campus devoted solely to helping people."

Reality Check members will be involved in several activities for Penn State Behrend Service Week. Upcoming events include Easter egg coloring at a local nursing home, serving lunch at the City Mission, and volunteering at Presque Isle. Transportation is available.

On Friday, April 14, Reality Check and Alpha Phi Omega, Behrend's service fraternity, are cosponsoring a barbecue. The barbecue will take place in the basketball courts by Perry Hall. The price is \$1 or a canned good, which will be donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Sign up sheets will be available at the RUB Desk.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Shawna Pelasky in the Office of Student Activities, or Nicole Cipriani at nmc142@psu.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! TO THE FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING FRESHMEN SELECTED FOR MEMBERSHIP INTO THE LAMBDA SIGMA HONOR SOCIETY. Thank you to everyone who applied and went through the selection process.

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The *Beacon* is currently accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2000-2001 academic year.

Interested students should submit a letter stating their interest and qualifications to Ken Miller, Dean of Students, in the Office of Student Affairs in the Reed Union Building by Monday, April 10.

The *Beacon* is also looking to fill the following positions for next year:

Managing Editor
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Some of these positions offer academic credit. Others pay stipends. To express interest in any of these positions or in joining the *Beacon* staff next year, contact Jason Snyder, editor-in-chief, at behrcoll5@aol.com by Monday, April 10.



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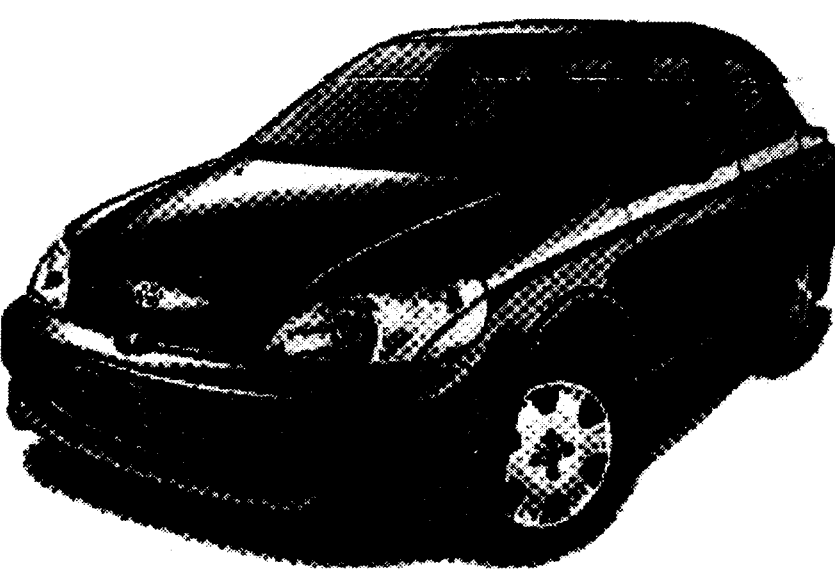
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