

Spring Fever rocks Behrend First-year success for the Lions Dance Team

by Leanne Acklin and Douglas Smith
staff writer and features co-editor

Despite the assortment in majors, ages, and clothing, Behrend students were rocking as one in the Apartment Quad by the end of last Saturday night as Spring Fever proved successful once again. The combination of amazing bands, good food, and decent activities kept Behrend students entertained for over 7 hours.

Thanks to sponsors IFC, JRC, the Commuter Council, LEB, Panhellenic Council, and the Student Activity Fee, Spring Fever accommodated a handful of fun-filled side shows that students actually participated in. A palm reader created a line over a half hour long, the bouncy boxing ring wined some of Behrend's finest, and the Sumo wrestling attraction was an all out test of brute strength. When asked whether such a rough sport should be available to the amateurs who took part in it, Mike McElhane, 02, PL ET, stated, "I think it's good. Good safe fun," to which the Sumos added "uhgg...mm...ugh." Other activities included stations for tie-dyeing and root beer floats, which deceitfully advertised in large bold letters "FREE BEER." Tricky, tricky.

While "free beer" did not make an appearance in the Quad, free food was supplied, and Alpha Sigma Tau helped run the booth. Adding to the spring atmosphere were pick up games of beach volleyball, jump rope, and frisbee, along with a giant inflatable intoxicated moose hanging out of an apartment window, courtesy of James Sarson, 10, chemistry, and Tracie Abbott, 08, English, which left Campus Police stunned and baffled for hours. When asked why it was hanging drunk and naked out of a window so early in the evening, the moose would not comment.

Highlighting the night were 5 bands that kept the "battle of the bands" spirit alive. Organic Voodoo Machine kicked off the evening in the spirit of pure alternative. They did not pull in a great crowd, but their



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER

Organic Voodoo Machine members do their thing

time slot wasn't the best for the gathering of people. They played for about a half of an hour.

Coming off of a tour of Canada, the State College based punk rock band No On 15 graced the stage around 5:30, with a modest gathering of students who apparently enjoyed staring at the music. Stand and stare they did, until the harmonious sing-shouting worked its way into the bodies of those statues, and with a Bosstone flavor, No On 15 got the crowd to bounce. Score! By the time the band reached their upbeat, impressive cover of 99 Red Balloons (this song is making a wicked comeback), the night had begun.

The Dave Matthews cover band from here at Behrend, known as Missing Link, made their second appearance at a Behrend related function last week, playing a set at the Delta Chi house the night before Spring Fever. This band did no dishonor to DMB as the acoustics kept in tune and the rhythm kept in time with a curious Dave/Tim Reynolds acoustic version meets the all out DMB songs. The vocalist even strongly paralleled Dave's own sound in voice tone, hiccups, and inflection. The songs were wonderfully performed and the crowd, now growing in size, was definitely appreciative.

Crown Me King and Burden played

their alternative/ska/hard rock flavored shows respectively. However, the tone of the crowd was awaiting the main act. The Burden lead singer seemed to get a little frustrated with the lack of fan support. He even cheered when one fan bought a CD.

And then the Buzz Poets took control...

The area in front of the stage was packed as crowd surfing and moshing dominated (what a kickin view from up there!). The playlist included some old stuff and some new stuff off the new album, *Pretzel Sex*. "Copenhagen Girl" was a favorite of the crowd as always. "Nasty" was also a crowd favorite. However, the most entertaining part of the set was when the band took on the songs of other bands. A sublime cover of "Smoke Two Joints" led into "What I Got." A freestyle melody of "No Scrubs" and other recent top 40 hits captivated all in attendance.

The energy and intensity of this show defined the phrase "Spring Fever" in every sense of the word. Lame, but sincerely, Phil De Fabio, 08, MIS, gave the Battle "double thumbs up."

For more information on No on 15 check out www.jumpstartrecords.com/no15 and for the scoop on the Buzz Poets check out www.buzzpoets.com.

by Valerie Hammond
staff writer

Combining school spirit with energy, enthusiasm, and lots of fun is possible, and the women of the Behrend Lions Dance Team know just how to do it.

The dance team made its debut this year, and it sounds like they had a pretty awesome time. "I personally had a lot of fun. I loved it because I like to dance and we got a lot of appreciation from the school," said team member Katie Przepyszny.

Becca Sheaffer also commented, "I think for just starting off we had a great year. We got a great response from the fans and a lot of girls came out."

The dance team performed during halftime at all regular home season basketball games, playoff games, and one away game at Pitt-Bradford. Their spirit and enthusiasm rocked the court while the b-ball players were taking a break in the locker room. The dancers kept the energy up while the players were out.

Along with coach Becky Decker, this year's captains Becca Sheaffer and Leah DeFazio helped lead the dancers through a memorable season. The decision to have the dance team came in the first few weeks of the fall semester. "It came from an idea of one of the girls," said Sheaffer. The initial idea was put past a few dancers and then taken to a higher authority. "We talked to Athletic Director Brian Streeter and had a meeting to see what the interest was. About forty people attended the meeting," Sheaffer said. "Exactly," said DeFazio, "Brian responded to everything we said. Then he found coach Becky (Decker) and we just clicked. She had our same taste in uniforms, music, and dance style.

Everything just fell into place." Since the interest was there, and they had found a coach, the team was able to go ahead with tryouts. They didn't have much time to get this organization up and running so the tryouts were a little rushed. "One day, and it was all day, four hours of practice, a one hour break, and then the girls tried out," Sheaffer said. The grueling six-hour day was worth it. Not only did these ladies get to have a good time on the court, but they were also asked to participate in a spirit station, the National Society of Black Engineers fashion show, and the faculty/student basketball game on Unity Day. The dancers also had an appearance on a local TV station. "They taped us live at a basketball game and they taped the whole dance," said DeFazio.

The ladies danced to a variety of music, including hip-hop, country, and mixes. If you never got to see them in action, you missed the dancers performing mostly original dances that were made up by members of the team. These members would come to practice with a dance in mind and teach it to the whole team. Adjustments were made, formations were decided, and then it was brought to the floor.

DeFazio said her favorite memory of the season came from the first game they danced at. "The first weekend that we performed in front of everyone it was a thrill. Everyone just exploded. They were impressed that we had come together so quickly and pulled it off."

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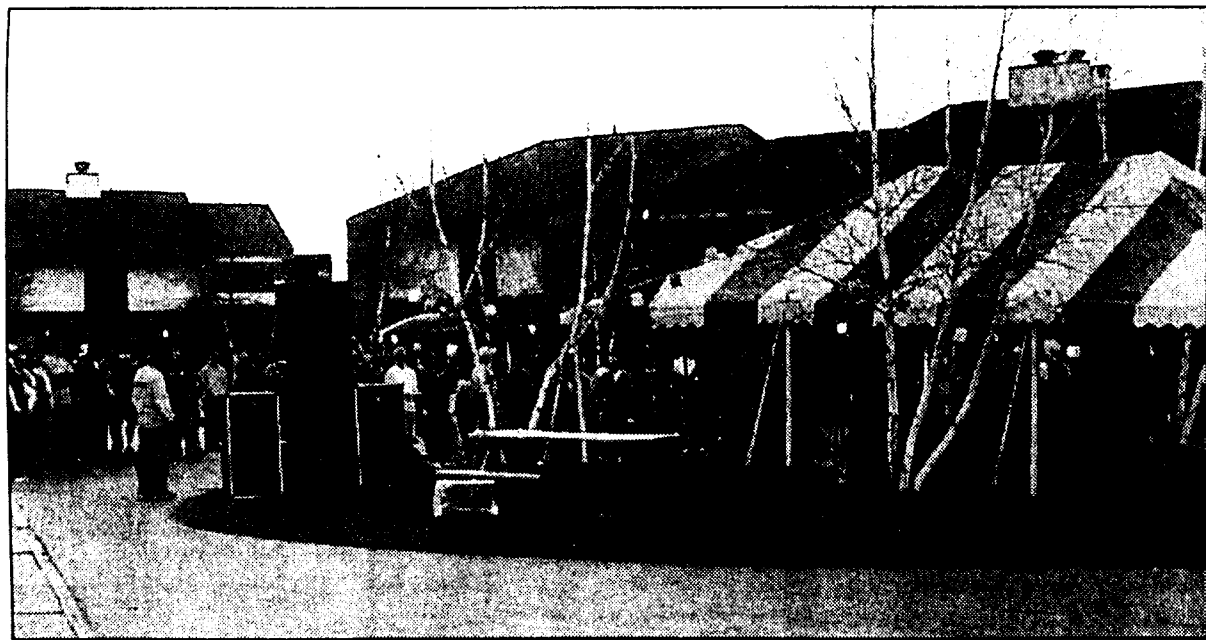
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were held in Erie Hall. The rest took place in the Reed Commons or the basement of Niagara Hall. "We practiced anywhere we could," said DeFazio.

Next season, the ladies will have a set practice schedule, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5 to 7 p.m. The dance room in the new sports complex will be the place. This room will be equipped with mirrors, bars, and hopefully a sound system. "Since we just decided to start this club this year, we had to compete for time in the gym. The bigger facility will make things a lot better, and a lot more predictable," commented Przepyszny, who along with Katie Miller and Sheaffer are next year's captains.

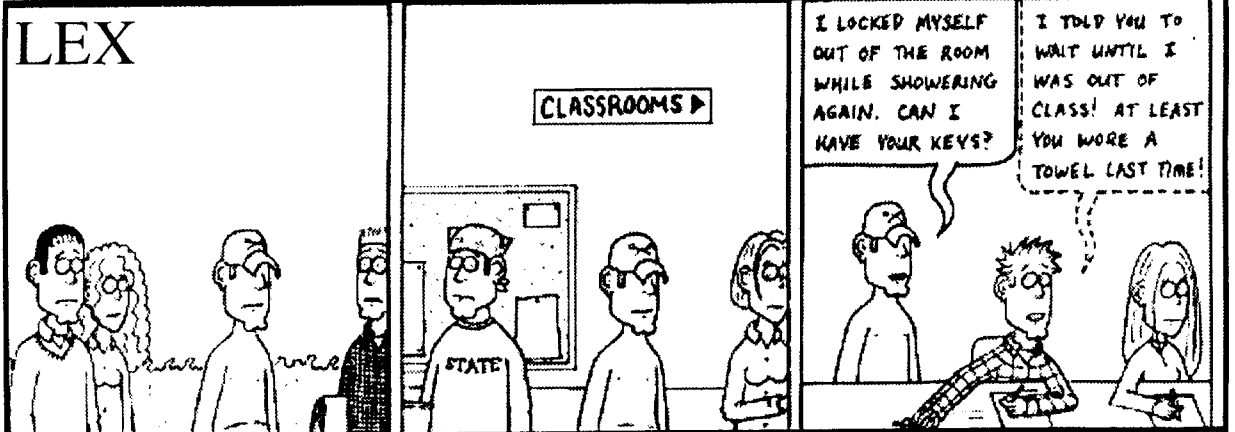
Seeing as it was such a successful year for the dance team, tryouts are already scheduled for next season's ladies. Since they have a little more time to work with this year, tryouts will be held a little differently. They will be two days long, one day for practice where the participants will have one hour to learn the dance, and one day to tryout. This way the people have time to go home and work on the dance themselves. Captain Sheaffer added some helpful advice saying, "basically you need a positive attitude, don't get discouraged if you mess up. Stage performance and the ability to get the crowd excited. That is what we are looking for." DeFazio also said, "make sure you are dedicated. It takes a lot of work, but it pays off in the end. It is a lot of fun!" Tryouts are scheduled for April 16-17, 2000. Incoming freshmen will get a chance to tryout in the fall.

Check the Beacon Calendar page for more tryout information.



The Quad, busy with Spring Fever activities

PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUNER



H	Aries (March 21-April 19). Just think, it's April.	♈	♄
T	Taurus (April 20-May 20). A routine is best for this week.	♉	♅
G	Gemini (May 21-June 21). Explore something new this week.	♊	♆
R	Cancer (June 22-July 22). Don't overdo it.	♋	♇
L	Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You made it through. Go out and celebrate.	♌	♈
V	Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). That special someone will come your way soon.	♍	♁
S	Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A Road trip sounds good.	♎	♂
C	Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pupaya. It is always worth reporting.	♏	♃
S	Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Everything that happens will make you want to stay.	♐	♄
C	Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). At this point it's just hopeless.	♑	♅
P	Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Study, study, Study!!	♒	♆
E	Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20). Deep thought — What exactly is the Rock cooking?	♓	♇
S	by Bongo the three legged monkey	♈	♁



Criminal Hearts

Remaining shows:
April 7, 8 at 8:00 p.m.
April 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the RUB Desk