

Spring Service Week wraps up at Behrend Behrend community 'takes back the night'

by Daryl Ploss
staff writer

During the week of April 10-15, Behrend held Spring Service Week, during which a different activity was held for students to lend a hand in the community. Students didn't have to volunteer for each activity — they could sign up for as many or as few activities as they desired.

On Monday, April 10, volunteers held Easter egg coloring at Breiviller Village for children of all ages.

On April 11, 20 volunteers served lunch at the City Mission. Anybody who was unable to help serve lunch, but still wanted to help the City Mission was able to make a dessert to be served at the dinner.

During Wednesday, April 12, from 2:30-6:00 p.m., volunteers took charge of activities at KidsCafe.

From 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, volunteers traveled to Presque Isle to help clean up various areas of the park.

Dancers were found for the dance marathon which was to be held from Friday, April 14, starting at 8:00 p.m., and continuing through Saturday, April 15 to 8:00 a.m. However, due to the lack of turnout, the event ended early at about 2:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. It was held in the Reed Commons. The dance marathon benefited the Make A Wish Foundation, which assisted in making the dreams of a critically ill child come true. Several students committed themselves to the effort. It was not necessary to dance to support the cause.

Saturday, April 15, was United Way's Day of Caring. Volunteers were cleaning up public areas in



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Father John Santor of the Catholic Campus Ministry and several students distribute food to children on Wednesday, April 12, at the Lutheran Memorial Church in Erie as part of Spring Service Week.

Wesleyville, including parks, cemeteries and other areas in need.

Overall, there were 60 volunteers that participated in some aspect of Spring Service Week.

Service Week has strong roots at Behrend. The Coordinator of Greek Life and Student Leadership Programs, Shawna Pelasky, commented on the origins of Service Week: "When I began at Behrend I saw a large commitment to serving our community; that is where the

vision for a campus-wide service week started. The vision of Service Week is to have a time of each semester where the Behrend community collectively focuses on service and helping our community. Many students, faculty, and staff are doing incredible acts of service on a continual basis, but Service Week gives us a chance to come together and celebrate our commitment to service."

This year's Service Week was

planned by a committee of students and staff. The Service Week committee members were Mandy Gay, Brian Hill, Pam Lefebvre, Kelly ShROUT, Sr. Mary Drexler, Marcus Kalivoda, Celene Yanosko, Nicole Cipriani, and Shawna Pelasky.

The students on this committee were the driving force behind the activities that were planned for this week. They created the schedule of events and contacted local agencies for times and specific projects.



by Libbie Johnson
associate editor

According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, 22% of rape victims are between 18 and 24 years old and an estimated two-thirds of all rapes are not reported. To increase awareness of sexual violence, Women Today, Behrend's organization for women, and the Women's Studies Program at Penn State Behrend, are cosponsoring "Take Back The Night 2000" (TBTN 2000).

Melissa Bender, Coordinator of Women's Studies, says that TBTN is a yearly event which occurs in cities and on college campuses throughout the U.S., Canada, and in Europe. "Participants march together to show solidarity in their demand for safety from violence . . . this march is intended as a protest against the violence that has been historically directed toward women and as a promotion of awareness concerning rape and sexual assault."

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, marchers are invited to meet in the Reed Wintergarden (or on the lawn outside Reed, weather permitting). A guest lecturer will deliver a short speech about violence against women. The crowd will then march through campus, carrying signs and chanting. Several organizations will set up stations to pass out information about counseling options and medical care after assault and the legalities of pressing charges for rape. Other events include a candlelight vigil and a "speak out," during which survivors of rape or assault will be invited to share their experiences.

Bender said, "the 'speak out' can be a very dramatic, emotional event, but it has also come to be seen as a moment of renewal for those who have grappled with the aftermath of violence."

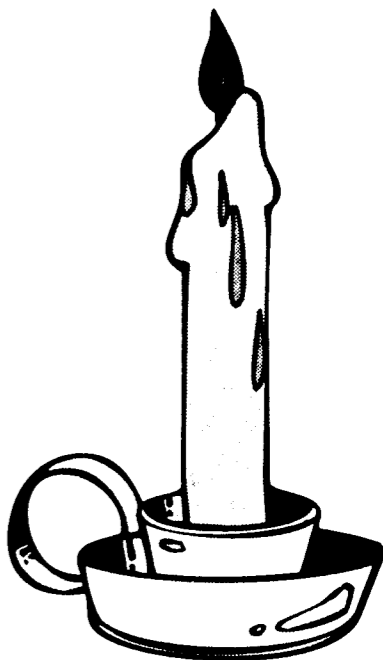
According to Bender, TBTN has taken place yearly in Erie since 1991.

"The first TBTN was hosted by Penn State Behrend and in succeeding years it was moved to downtown Erie. However, for various reasons, the event has not happened since 1997. Students in Women Today were very interested in reviving this event and worked to once again sponsor the event at Behrend. They hope that this event will once again become an annual event."

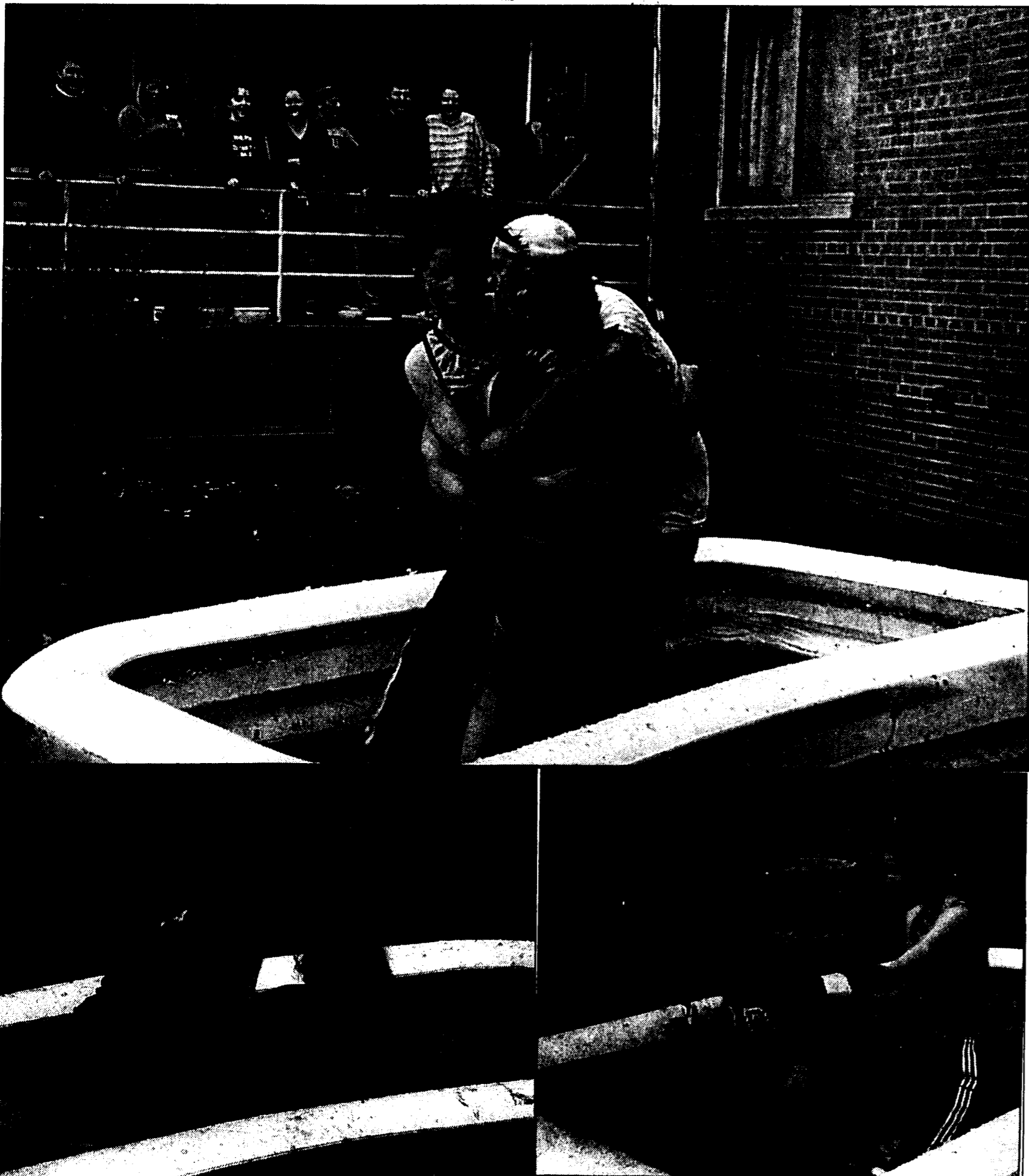
Elly Vahey, a Behrend student, is marching in TBTN because she feels people should feel safe walking at night. Vahey believes that this march is not just for women. "This march is for all people — women, men, and children. All people should participate because safety is a concern for everyone."

Bender requests all those who are interested to participate in TBTN 2000. "All students, faculty and staff of Penn State Behrend as well as members of the community and those associated with other local colleges are invited to participate in the event. Anyone who is concerned about curbing violence against women is welcome."

The activities will end with a reception to be held in the Reed Wintergarden. All involved in TBTN 2000 activities are invited.



JAGGIN' AROUND IN JELLO



PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRUNER

Behrend students enjoy some Jello wrestling outside of Niagara Hall on Thursday, April 20. The rain didn't stop students from turning out, as many watched from the Niagara Hall porch.

Stipends continued from front page

For the SGA meeting on April 5, secretary Camillo found the minutes from the September meeting that stated that the resolution for stipend requirements was passed. Because the election had already started, SGA voted to allow Skillen to run for the vice president position and that the stipend issue would be voted on at a later date. Miles and Skillen won the election, which put SGA in the position to decide what to do with the supposed requirements.

Since there was no official document that stated exactly what the requirements were and because there were mixed views between SGA members, the Stipend Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 19. The goal of the meeting was to come up with a proposed by-law for the second time that would state the official requirements for eligibility to run for president and vice-president of SGA.

The requirements proposed to SGA read:

- To be eligible to run for the Student Government Association president or vice president, both candidates must hold at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. This stipulation must be upheld for the duration of the school-year term.
- Presidential candidates may not be the president of any other Penn State Behrend club or organization during their term as SGA president. This does not include brief transition

periods at the beginning and end of the term. This requirement does not apply to the vice president.

When proposed at Wednesday's SGA meeting, senators found minor problems with the requirements. The vote on the eligibility requirements was held over to next week's meeting. Anyone is available to meet with Sherosky to give their ideas for the proposal.

With the passage of the resolution, Skillen along with Miles would both be checked at the beginning of the fall semester to see that they both meet the newly passed requirements. If not, they will be forced to give up their seat in SGA.

Dealing with Skillen's eligibility questions, Miles assured the Stipend Committee that "it won't be a problem." Skillen also assured the *Beacon* that based on the proposal that the Stipend Committee brought to the SGA meeting, there will not be a problem with his eligibility.

Ken Miller, now Director of Student Affairs, will be responsible for checking to see if the GPA requirement is met or not at the beginning of each semester, which was one suggestion made at the SGA meeting this past Wednesday to add to the proposal.

Once the fixed proposal is passed, Sherosky assured that she will take it upon herself to attach the by-law to the SGA Constitution.

The *Beacon* will print the SGA Budget Allocations in next week's paper.