

# BEACON

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18 pages - 2 SECTIONS



FALL 2000

WINTER

TODAY: Mostly Cloudy



High 66  
Low 44

Check page 2 for weekend forecast

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UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

Behrend tries to reach campus goal of \$33,000 for the charity. Ice cream social kicks off the campaign

PAGE 5A

ELECTION 2000

The three debates are over between Al Gore and George W. Bush, but the campaign really starts now.

PAGE 12A

TEN LITTLE INDIANS OPENS THIS WEEKEND

After months of preparation, the Studio Theatre will perform Agatha Christie's murder mystery. Who done it? Watch and find out!



PAGE 2B

MARY'S GOOD

Mary Good takes full advantage of her senior experience as Behrend volleyball continues to improve.

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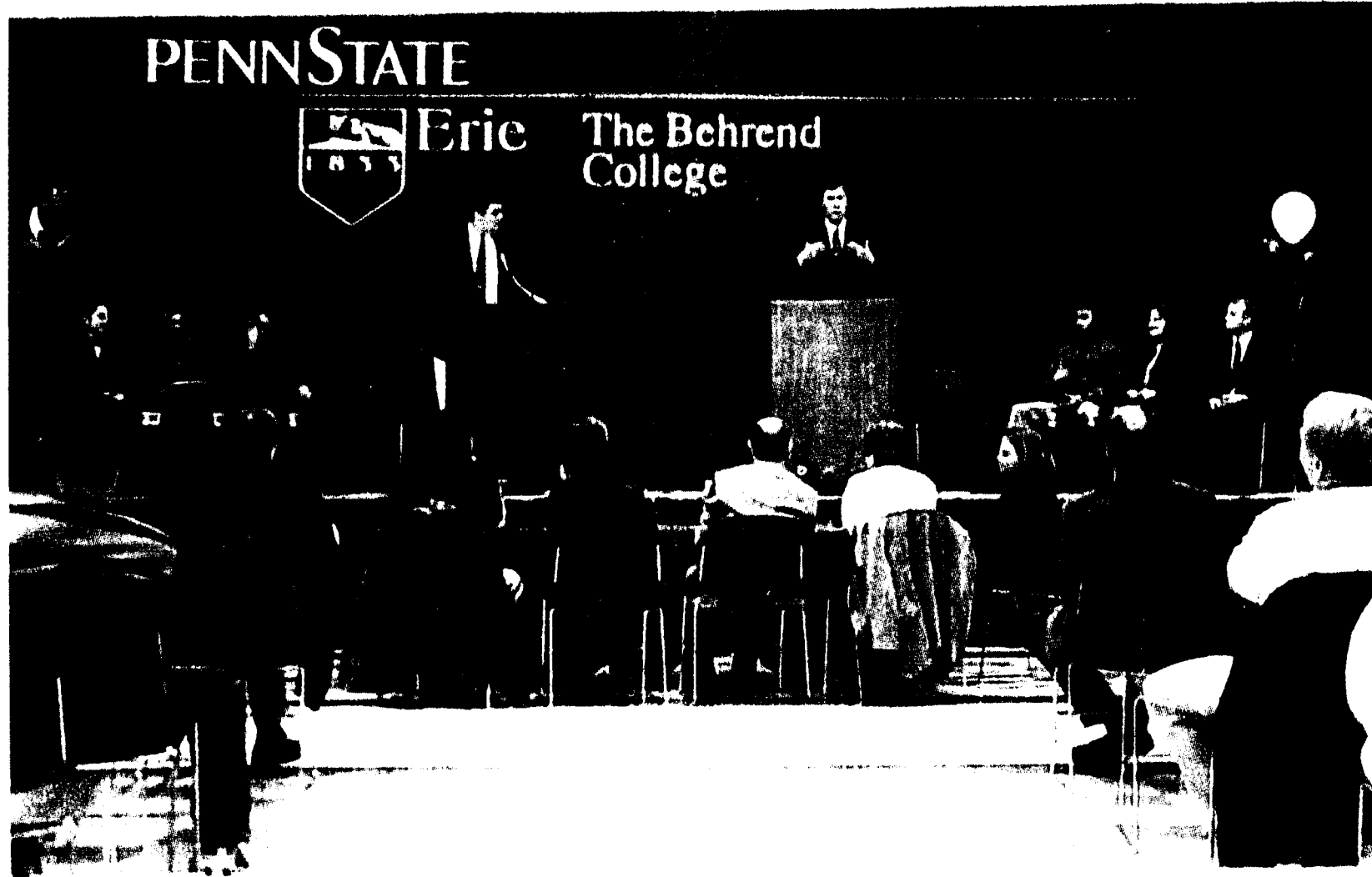
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Offices are located downstairs in Reed Union Building

Campaign 2000



College Democrats and College Republicans duel in "A Look at the Issues: A Simulated Presidential Debate."

PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

## A 'real' look at the issues Bush and Gore imitated in debate by students

by Jason Snyder  
editor-in-chief

One night after presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush completed their third of three debates, Behrend's College Democrats and College Republicans duelled in "A Look at the Issues: A Simulated Presidential Debate." The event took place in the Reed Commons this past Wednesday, October 18, 2000, in front of 80 students, faculty, staff and Erie citizens. State Senator Jane Earl was also in attendance for the debate.

The event was sponsored by the Behrend Beacon and the Behrend Honors Program, headed by coordinator Dr. John Gamble. Gamble advertised the event as, "the

most realistic presidential debate in Pennsylvania."

Representatives from the College Democrats and College Republicans, two newly reformed groups on campus, took on the task of acting out the parts of Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush. Al Gore was played by Steve Webb and George W. Bush was played by Dave Sandy.

The simulated debate began with the candidates sharing their sympathies to the families of the victims of the terrorist act on the U.S.S. Cole and Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan, who died in a plane crash earlier this week.

Opening statements made by the candidates captured the main platforms of the two presidential

candidates, with Webb stressing Gore's concern for working, middle-class families in the United States. Sandy followed with Bush's tax plan and his trust for the American people to make their own decisions.

A panelist of three Behrend faculty members and a Behrend student asked questions to the debaters for the first half of the debate. Panelists included Dr. Colleen Kelley, Dr. John Rossi, Dr. Matt Davies and Mike Frawley, managing editor of the Beacon.

Throughout the debate, Webb blasted Bush's plans and policies on his tax plan and social security. On questions involving his personality and relationship with Bill Clinton, he responded, "I am my own man. I am Al Gore."

Sandy stressed the need for a

smaller government that relies on local control, putting trust back in the American people.

A humorous exchange occurred toward the beginning of the debate with moderator Dr. Robert Speel attempting to hold the candidates to the rules. Like Gore's performances in the real presidential debates, Webb played the part accurately. Speel insisted, "we have to move on now," before Webb continued to share his views about Bush's idea of government. Sandy later challenged Webb to follow the rules, which offered much amusement to everyone in attendance. It added to what Dr. Kelley called a "fun time."

MOCK DEBATE

continued on page 6A

## Tennis serving up championship run

by Kate Leviansky Petrikis  
staff writer



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The Penn State women's tennis team has been occupied the past few weeks completing an extremely successful season. Preparing for the playoffs, Behrend has played teams that Coach Jeff Barger calls "non-conference foes." This is also in preparation for the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championships.

On October 7, Penn State Behrend played Pitt-Greensburg, whose team had the most recent AMCC Women's tennis athlete of the week, Lori Johnston. However, Pitt-Greensburg as a team was not tough to beat. Penn State Behrend aced the match by winning 9-0, therefore increasing their record to 14-2. On October 10, the Behrend Lions played Westminster, winning the match 7-2, making their record 15-2. After such a great win against Westminster, Behrend played the following day, once again acing the match 9-0 versus Thiel, improving their record to 16-2. Behrend then

got a 7 day break before travelling to John Carroll.

Jen Morton is in the spotlight, being classified as one of the AMCC's "best of the rest," winning a pair of singles and doubles matches for the Behrend Lions.

Penn State Behrend is continuing to strive toward their ultimate goal, winning the playoffs. While dominating the conference, the questions remain — can Behrend repeat the amazing performance they made last year at the playoffs and will Julie Leininger be the AMCC's "Most Valuable Player of the Year," along with Jeff Barger receiving the "Coach of the Year" award? The Penn State Behrend Lions plan on repeating history by winning these awards and most importantly winning the AMCC tournament for the fourth consecutive year. Conference play started in 1997 and the blue, white, and red are expecting to maintain their tight hold on their conference crowns.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

continued on page 3A

## Engineering program added this semester

by Steve Marroni  
staff writer

The Master of Engineering and Manufacturing Systems in Engineering program was added to the Behrend curriculum this semester. According to Dr. Robert J. Simoneau, director of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, the new degree is a practice oriented masters degree.

The degree is primarily in engineering, however, students must take some business courses to learn more about their field of study.

"It's directed at practicing professionals who've been (working in this field)," Simoneau said. "We're really looking for a fairly stable cohort of students who bring their experience to the classroom and interact with each other. Unlike an undergraduate program, the people in this masters program bring in a knowledge base as well as take something away."

The program is part-time in the evenings right now, but Simoneau pointed out it may be full-time eventually. A total of 30 credits are required for the degree. The curriculum includes a project or thesis, two manufacturing systems courses, two business courses and a series of electives.

"I'm happy with my job, but I want to further my career," said Dan McCullough, a student in the program who works as a plastics engineer at Matrix Tools. "I'm looking to give myself the background in manufacturing and diversify my interests."

McCullough is one of 26 students taking the major this semester. Dr. Ken Saunders, who is a professor of mechanical engineering and teaches the Manufacturing Systems Engineering course in this major, said the wide variety of experienced students brings a lot into the classroom.

"They can take (this information) and immediately apply it to what they're doing on their jobs," Saunders said. "Everyone in here is a graduate who has been out working for awhile. They bring (into the class discussions) what they're dealing with at work and we talk about how we're doing it as far as theoretical development and how that applies to what they're seeing (at their jobs)."

Saunders said there was a need in the industry for a degree, which mixes engineering and the applied business practices. "It's based on a real strong need in the community," Saunders said.

This is the first masters program in the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Simoneau said he is excited about this new, practice-oriented program. "This program shows how Behrend is growing and maturing into a full program school."

For more information on the Master of Engineering and Manufacturing Systems in Engineering degree, contact the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology at 898-6153.