

A celebration of Greeks

by Christine Kleck
associate editor

The Greek Organizations at Penn State Behrend celebrated unity with competitions and celebrations during their annual Greek Week. From October 15-October 21, Behrend's many fraternity brothers and sorority sisters could be found playing games and singing songs.

"This friendly competition between all social Greek organizations is mainly to enhance Greek life and promote Greek unity," said Eunice Ng, a Theta Phi Alpha sister. The competitions have three main purposes. The first is to gain the attention of all students. These events bring both Greeks and non-Greeks together to experience what Greek life is all about. Second, these events raise money. All proceeds from the week go to The House that Theta Phi Alpha Built. And of course, the events are fun for everyone!

Since Behrend is home to five fraternities and three sororities, the eight Greek chapters make up a pretty large number of Behrend students. Behrend's Greek organizations' main goal is to offer opportunities for students to participate in a variety of educational, service, and social programs. In the past, Greek organizations have sponsored orientation events, concerts, rush events and philan-

thropic events. Greek Week is another event that is sponsored and enjoyed by Behrend's many fraternities and sororities.

Events of the week included tug of war games, Greek Sings, and the Greek God and Goddess fundraiser. On Monday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. behind the Reed Building, a tug-of-war game began the festivities. Tuesday, October 17, brought the Greeks together for an obstacle course. The ever-popular Greek Sing took place on Wednesday, October 18, at 8:00 p.m. in a packed Bruno's. The Reed Commons housed the Battle of the Greeks competition at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 19. The week concluded with the Chariot Race and the crowning of the Greek God and Goddess on Friday, October 20.

The Greek God and Goddess fundraiser is a penny war to see who will be chosen as the most liked Greek. Pennies and bills that are dropped into the different contestants' designated jar are considered "votes," while any silver change is considered bad. "The sorority woman and the fraternity man with the greatest amount of money (after deducting the silver change) will be the 2000 Greek Week God and Goddess," said Ng. This year's Greek God was Mike Blichka from Sigma Tau and the Goddess was Shannon Weber from Alpha Sigma Tau.



PHOTOS BY BECKY WEINDORF

ABOVE: ZBT brothers strut their stuff during Greek Sing on Wednesday, October 18, in the crowded Bruno's. RIGHT: The Greeks tested their skills during Tuesday's Obstacle Course in the fields behind the Apartments. Here a fraternity brother attempts to navigate the tire run.



Reality Check sponsors program for needy children

by Libbie Johnson
staff writer

Reality Check, Behrend's service organization, is sponsoring the Angel Gifts program at Behrend, which benefits underprivileged children and teenagers from St. Martin's Center in Erie. The center is a local non-profit organization designed to help individuals become independent of social service assistance. Individuals, service organizations, and clubs are asked to spend \$20-\$40 on each child sponsored from the Center.

Angel Gifts for Kids is part of St. Martin Center's Shining Stars campaign. The Shining Star is a program that provides children with new toys and clothing for Christmas.

Tina Espin, director of development at the Center, remarked, "the items that these children receive from St. Martin Center are the only gifts they receive on Christmas. Their parents cannot afford to buy them gifts themselves, so they turn to a helping agency such as St. Martin Center." Espin said that they have been participating in this project since 1988. "It began with distributing gifts to 200 children with the help from the K-Mart on Buffalo Road and has grown ever since." This program provides gifts to children from birth to age 17.

This program is important because it helps so many children have a Christmas morning. The parents of these children often need to choose

between paying their rent and their utility bills. Unfortunately, they almost never have money to buy Christmas gifts for their children," Espin explained.

Nicole Cipriani, Reality Check's president, encourages students to participate in this year's Angel Gifts. "Each year, family and friends buy you multiple gifts... some of these kids ask for a turkey dinner or warm coat rather than games or toys... because their families can't afford them. It's a small thing to ask a couple individuals to pool their money to make a holiday season for a child." Cipriani said other wish list items have included a watch, a Christmas tree, hand-held computer games, and many other items.

Those interested can sign up for the names of children and teens in the Office of Student Activities. They must fill out a form and sign up by November 3. They will receive the child's name by the week of November 13. The wrapped presents with the identification tags attached must be dropped off at the Office of Student Activities in Reed by December 1 at 5:00 p.m.

In 1999, St. Martin's Center provided 1,679 children with gifts; the Behrend community bought presents for 71 children. This is the second year Behrend has participated in this project. Angel Gifts is open to the entire campus. All interested should contact Cipriani at x7190 or the Office of Student Activities at x6171.

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