



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE BEHREND BEACON

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FALL 2000

WEATHER

FRIDAY - Snow

High 30
Low 18

Check page 2 for weekend forecast

INSIDE

PAGE 6A

Behrend students offer their service throughout the community by sharing their time and holiday cheer for those who need it. A look at the season of giving through pictures.

PAGE 12A

Mike Frawley shares his final thoughts about Behrend life in his final editorial for the Beacon. We say goodbye to the man behind the bitchin'.



PAGE 16A

Credit card use and budgeting for holiday shopping

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Offices are located downstairs in Reed Union Building

season, celebrations

BY ABIGAIL LONG / ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR



It is possible to be seeing yule logs, rabbit hunts, fasting, a menorah, and a Christmas tree, and other traditions, among the many diverse groups on campus to celebrate this holiday season. Behrend has many different cultures, religions, and ethnicities represented on campus. Therefore, it is fitting that this diverse population approaches the holiday season with different stories, experiences, and expectations.

If the time is taken, one can learn a vast amount about the different traditions that people follow. Yule, also known as Yuletide or Alban Arthan Winter Solstice, is a Wiccan holiday. This is held in order to celebrate the longest night of the year, for it brings increasing daylight. This increasing daylight is viewed as renewal and the chance to see the world as a child once again. One of their primary traditions is the burning of the Yule log. This log is always oak, and is saved from year to year. It signifies that there will be a great source of fuel for the duration of the winter.

Some Native Americans, primarily the

Hopi tribe, celebrate Soyolangwu or Soyol for short. This lasts for 16 days and is held around the Winter Solstice. During this period of time, the tribe makes "prayer sticks," and carries out purification rituals and a rabbit hunt. After the hunt concludes, a feast is held. This holiday is a good time to teach children respect, for there is no loud noise or running. They believe loud behavior is self-centered; therefore it is prohibited during the 16-day celebration. Other tribes also observe both the summer and winter solstices, including the Pueblo tribe.

The idea that suffering is universal, the belief that the cause of suffering is ignorance, that ignorance can be overcome, and one can only overcome ignorance by use of the Eight-fold Path are the governing ideas over the celebration of Bodhi Day. Bodhi Day is observed on December 8, or the Sunday immediately preceding. This holiday is observed in order to remember the enlightenment of Buddha in the Buddhist religion.

Nkiru Chukwumah, a Behrend student from Nigeria, celebrates not only Christmas Day,

but also Boxing Day. On Christmas in Nigeria, the women gather and cook dishes. Then, they take these dishes to share with the community. Chukwumah says, "it is a very family-oriented event." That night there is a lot of dancing, and everything is very colorful. Then, on December 26, Boxing Day, the gifts are given. Most important though is family.

Many African-Americans use a holiday, Kwanzaa, as a time to celebrate family. They consider Kwanzaa not only a holiday, but also a way of life. It is a time to relate to their past, understand the present, and deal with the future. Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga initiated it on December 26, 1966. The idea behind Kwanzaa is referred to as the Kawaida theory. This theory proclaims that social change can occur through the realization and celebration of their cultural heritage.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim

CELEBRATIONS

continued on page 3A

Diversity spreads at forum

Students share concerns at 'Talk Back to the Beacon'

by Paige Miles
copy editor

Nearly 20 Behrend students sat in front of a panel of *Beacon* editors in the MISC studio Tuesday night, December 5. The purpose of the forum was to "Talk Back to the *Beacon*," concerning issues of diversity in the newspaper and at Behrend.

Jermaine Hardy, programs chairman of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and features co-editor of the *Beacon*, began the night by asking, "how can a more diverse reflection be represented in our newspaper?" Hardy came up with the idea for the forum after controversy between the *Beacon* and different organizations occurred.

The moderator for the forum, Gary N. Horton, executive director of the Urban Area Community Development Corporation, called on those attending to voice their opinions. Some suggested that the "Question of the Week" in the *Beacon* should be emailed to students for response to gain a more diverse reflection. Also, it was brought up that the photographer and journalist should travel to the engineering buildings rather than staying in Reed to ask the questions.

Representatives from Women Today, National Society of Black Engineers, Association of Black Collegians, College Democrats, Gospel Choir, Student Government Association, and Student Activities commented on the lack of diversity of coverage in the *Beacon*. They suggested reporters from the newspaper should attend more diverse events in order to write more multicultural oriented articles. It was asked if the newspaper would allow different organizations to write their own articles for publication in order to raise awareness of various events and happenings around campus.

Some felt that the *Beacon* tends to ignore minority groups and events in the weekly paper and should put more articles concerning these organizations. A few

TALK BACK TO THE BEACON

continued on page 3A

Behrend's financial future calls for controlled growth

by Mike Frawley
managing editor

Growth at Behrend is to be very controlled for the next few years. Because of the severe space constraints on campus, there is no room to take on new students. The budget growth model takes this into account, and Behrend will have no problems coping with these growth constraints for the next few years.

Behrend operates on a budget growth model which began in 1997. This system, called the enrollment growth model, has been used for quite some time by various commonwealth campuses, and according to Jack Burke, Senior Associate Dean and Provost, it is serving us very well compared to the old model.

Many faculty, staff, and students have lately expressed concern over the growth budget model, saying that Behrend's current facilities cannot support any more growth and that the schools' funding will suffer because we cannot grow any more with our

facilities.

Burke said that this was not true, and that there was nothing to worry about. The Behrend budget model works as follows. Each year Behrend receives a base amount of money based on the previous year's enrollment. If enrollment goes up, then Behrend receives the money from the extra students as part of a temporary fund. At the end of the school year Behrend can decide to have University Park up the base amount by however many extra students that they had. This would then become the base amount for the next school year. There is risk involved in this model, because if enrollment does drop below the base level then Behrend does lose money. Behrend compensates for this by always leaving a cushion in the temporary fund. But in the four years Behrend has been using this model enrollment has not dropped.

Behrend also receives budget money from the annual tuition increase. The money gained from

this goes for faculty salary increases and upkeep for new buildings such as the new Athletic and Recreation Center.

Under Behrend's old budget system all of the money that was collected at Behrend was sent to University Park. Then, Behrend would have to ask the University for the money back. Behrend was last in line behind all of the other colleges at University Park, so getting any money back was difficult for Behrend to do. Under this new system, Behrend gets to keep and use much more money.

Both Burke and Dean of Student Affairs Ken Miller have stated that enrollment will not be increasing until new facilities go online. Miller said, "next year's freshman class will be the same size or smaller than this year's class." Class sizes at Behrend are some of the lowest in the Penn State system, with an average of 27 students per class, and only 5% of classes at Behrend have over 50 students.

Miller said that Behrend is raising admission requirements to keep enrollment from increasing. Besides helping to keep enrollment under control, raising admission standards will help to increase the quality of students that come to Behrend.

Miller explained that a great deal of growth is planned for the school so that more students can be accommodated. Enrollment will be able to increase as soon as the new Research and Economic Development Center opens. It is tentatively scheduled to open in January 2004, and will hold its first classes fall semester of 2004. The Engineering and Business Schools will move into the REDC, allowing the School of Science to take over the old Engineering and Business areas in the Hammermill building. This will greatly increase the classroom space for all three schools and allow more students to attend Behrend. Also, it will allow the college to move most faculty members out of trailers and into proper offices in the new

complex.

Also, an enlargement is planned for the Academic Building to increase classroom space for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. There is no room for H&SS to increase the number of classes that they offer, so after the REDC complex is complete, new space will be added on to the Academic Building.

Housing is also a problem on campus, with no room to accommodate any more students. A full renovation and addition is planned for Perry Hall over the summer of 2002. This addition will add 150 additional beds to the building, and the renovation will update all of the network connections and install a new sprinkler system.

While Behrend might be done growing for the time being, a great number of improvements are being planned to allow Behrend a great deal of future growth, and compared to the old budget system, the growth enrollment model is light years ahead.