

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

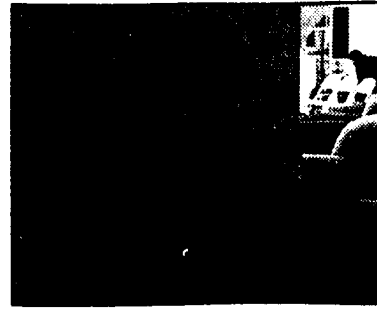
What is the purpose of Valentine's Day?



"To show the special someone in your life that you care . . . on that one special day of the year, and it's another excuse to get candy, besides Halloween."
Lynsey Cogswell
Education 02



"It forces some of us guys that don't normally buy flowers to give them to our girls on one day of the year."
Mark Nipper
Finance, 04



"The purpose is to show the people in your life how much you love them . . . it's a love day."
Vielka Wilkinson
Political Science, 04



"I think it's a reason to make time for whoever you are dating."
Brian Forsman
MET, 04



"Celebrate togetherness."
Mike Pusateri
PLET, 04

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FM radio station in Behrend's future

by Rehab Elzeney
staff writer

A couple of years from now, Behrend students may be able to turn on the FM dial and listen to their own campus music and variety shows. As a result of many years of complaints, discussions, and suggestions, the Student Government Association (SGA) has decided to help coordinate the creation of a new FM radio station on campus.

Presently, WPSE AM 1450 is without a doubt a highly reputable radio station. This commercially licensed station is owned by the Board of Trustees of Penn State University. Although the station is located right at the core of Penn State Behrend, it is not targeted towards students. On the contrary, WPSE is a business-oriented radio station whose listeners are generally business owners, young executives, affluent senior citizens, and investors. The station does provide practical experience for many business and communications students.

However, it seems bizarre to many students that a campus radio station is not run by students or for a student audience. Tim Eckel, MEBD 06, says he is "disappointed that there is no chance for students to play their choice music or listen to music from fellow students." The major criticism seems to be the lack of music in WPSE's rigid schedule.

Eileen Kang, Graphic Design 04, jokes that very few people

listen to WPSE, "unless they're put on hold during call waiting." Many wonder why WPSE won't play any music whatsoever. The major reason for this is that this AM station depends on its ad revenue to generate necessary funds. Playing music would result in a decline in the advertising income, which could be detrimental to the station.

The new station that SGA has taken upon its shoulders would be musically-inclined. A low-power FM station would mostly be run by Behrend students. The idea of another campus station has been tossed around for about ten years. Finally, in the spring of 1999, the Federal Communications Commission released new guidelines concerning the effect of new stations on existing stations. This is making the licensing process much smoother.

With this new development at hand, SGA became dedicated to creating a new radio station. A Radio Station Committee was started, and the application for a radio station license was received during the fall of 2000.

In the meantime, there are two major hurdles that SGA has been faced with in the creation of the new station. The first and most crucial is the financial source. About \$40,000 would be needed to start up a 100-watt station, with second-hand equipment. The second difficulty is getting help and support from volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping the Radio Station Committee, the meetings are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the SGA office. Jen Miles,



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

WPSE is Behrend's only radio station at this time. Students would like to add a FM radio station that would play music.

president of SGA, commented that the new FM station "is going to be a great enhancement to the Behrend community, but a lot of work has to be done in the meantime."

At the moment, the Radio Station Committee is trying to put together the best possible application to attain a license for a new station. The application will be sent out in May 2001, and the licenses will be granted during August 2001. Other than this, a list of equipment is being made. Dr. Rod Troester, associate professor of speech communication and head of the Communication and Media Studies Major on campus, has been very helpful by incorporating the radio project in his Communications classes. His students have offered many useful suggestions about what

equipment is needed.

The latest development of the new FM station is that the Student Activity Fee set aside \$1500. In the future, this money will be used for a consultant and an engineer. This is a substantial advance for the long-awaited music station.

The station will probably be placed in the Reed Union Building. It is intended to reach all Behrend students within a 10-mile range of campus. One of the strengths of this station would be its vast range of musical tastes. Other than music, it would be an excellent opportunity to communicate campus events and student concerns.

If the radio station license is granted in August of this year, the station probably will be up and running within three months.

Behrend students to participate in fasting

by Andrea Bolton
staff writer

Enthusiastic students will be "starving themselves" for 30 hours on February 23 and 24 in order to raise money for less fortunate individuals around the globe. Starting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 23, Penn State Behrend students will be fasting until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, as part of the World Vision 30-Hour Famine.

Celene Yanosko, an intern with the campus ministries and a student leader for the famine, has been working diligently coordinating the event with three other students.

Participants will meet at the R.U.B. Desk at 5:00 p.m. Friday with Sister Mary Drexler, advisor for the Catholic Campus Ministry, and Kelly Shroot, advisor for the Protestant Campus Ministry. Then they will proceed to the Mary Vale house, home of Drexler.

Drexler said that this is a way to "get students out of the campus setting." She stated that the goal is to encourage students to focus on their community, and work on building their faith.

Friday night the participants will learn the importance of fasting, while learning about missionary work that has gone on in the United States, along with other nations around the globe. Also, there will be Behrend students that have participated in service trips in the past explaining their experiences and what they have learned. There will be games and activities. An open gym will be available for those students interested in playing volleyball or basketball. They will have board games throughout the evening, and hope to have a video that will educate the students about the importance of community building.

Saturday is the opportunity for the students to participate in community service. There are many options that will be offered. Some things that students have done in the past include helping the elderly with physical labor like painting or shoveling, and visiting patients at HealthSouth, a local trauma hospital.

Drexler said that the goal here is for

students to become more community-minded and to understand the theme of this year's famine, "Change Your World!!"

Drexler said they would like to have the participants raise a minimum of \$50 in donations to support World Vision in their humanitarian efforts. However, students are welcome to participate in the famine, even if they have not raised the \$50. The campus ministries will be asking for sponsors from local business. They are also looking for support from fellow students, faculty and staff here at Behrend.

The 30-hour famine is a campaign sponsored by World Vision, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of people around the globe. World Vision is a nonprofit Christian organization supplying disaster relief around the world, "dedicated to meeting the needs of children, families, and communities regardless of race color or creed." World Vision is dedicated to helping "the poorest of poor in 88 countries, assisting nearly 85 million people." They are currently raising money to help alleviate food and water shortages caused by the earthquake that struck El Salvador on January 13. They are also involved in the disaster relief of the quake that occurred in India on January 26 of this year.

The theme for this year's famine is "Change Your World!!" Famine donations go toward some of World Vision's humanitarian efforts around the world. According to World Vision, "\$3 can help provide a school meal to a student in Kenya, \$10 will help provide a Bible to a Christian in Mozambique, \$24 can provide an education for three children in Mongolia for one month, \$50 can help provide a dairy goat for a child-headed household in Rwanda, Burundi, or Uganda, and \$80 will provide school materials for 5 students in Peru."

Anyone interested in donating to Behrend's chapter of the 30-Hour Famine can leave their donation at the Office of Student Activities. Individuals interested in participating in the famine can find all the information they will need with campus ministries, which is in the Student Activities Office.

Behrend students to participate in THON

by Libbie Johnson
staff writer

Two Behrend students have been chosen to represent Behrend on the dance floor. On February 16, 17, and 18, Behrend students Brandi Hovis and Danielle Scherer will participate in the IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more popularly known as THON, from 7:00 p.m. Friday until 7:00 p.m. Sunday.

THON, Penn State's 48-hour dance marathon and the largest student run philanthropic drive in the world, raises money for the Four Diamonds Fund. This fund helps pay expenses for children treated at the Pennsylvania State University Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, the first research cancer center for children.

To raise money for THON, students have participated in a variety of activities, including "canning." Students will collect money in cans at Summit Township on February 9, 10, and 11. Behrend has raised \$2500 so far.

For another fundraiser ending February 15, the THON committee and SGA are selling stars. For a \$1 donation, a student's name will be written on a star and hung up on the window in the fishbowl in Bruno's.

Hovis, who is dancing in THON, is also overseeing Behrend's

participation in the project. She said she participates "because the idea of it . . . inspired me . . . the idea of helping children who are going through so much pain."

Hovis has mixed feelings about the upcoming dance. "[I am] nervous of staying awake for 48 hours and for standing on my feet for 48 hours, but excited because it's for a great cause."

Hovis first became interested in THON after attending a retreat this summer. According to Hovis, each campus is supposed to participate in THON every year. However, Behrend was not involved last year. Hovis said, "Behrend . . . is not a big participater compared to other campuses. I felt it was time we did something."

Sara Davis, co-chair for THON, heard about the 48-hour dance marathon from a friend. "I just think that it's a great opportunity to put a lot back in a community that has done a lot for me . . . I wanted to get involved because I think it's so amazing that students can do so much. They raised over \$3,000,000 last year through THON." Davis will be attending to show her support for the dancers.

Those who want to encourage the dancers can send cards and letters to the dancers if the dance number is known. Those interested can write to

Hovis and Scherer, dance number 287, Penn State Dance Marathon, 218 Hetzel Union Building, University Park, PA 16802. Those interested in going to THON or interested in collecting money should contact Hovis blh161@psu.edu or x6863.

Davis and Hovis would like more student involvement. Hovis said,

"It'd be nice to see our campus get more people involved by going to the Council of Commonwealth Student Government meetings. Campuses a quarter of our size have five times more involvement. We'd like as much support as possible — like 100% student support."



FILE PHOTO

Danielle Scherer and Brandi Hovis will be traveling to University Park to represent Behrend at THON.

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