

BEACON OPEN HOUSE & CHARITY EVENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 3 - OUTSIDE BRUNO'S - 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

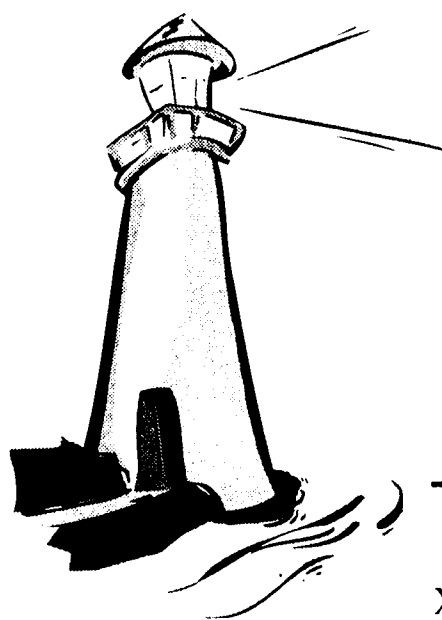
THE BEHREND BEACON

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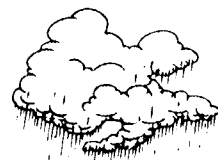
18 pages - 2 SECTIONS



SPRING 2001

WEATHER

FRIDAY - Rain



High - 48
Low - 35

Check page 2A for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

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Photos and statements of the candidates running to represent you in Behrend's student government.

PAGE 13A

It was perfect timing for Vince McMahon's WWF to buy out its competition last week. The combination of wrestling's elite organizations gives new hope to what was a bleak future.

PLUS...

The Beacon's monthly installment of *Healthy living* on 14A.



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PHOTO BY JASON SNYDER

Katie Koestner's soft-spoken demeanor didn't take away from her powerful message.

Koestner captures audience with life-altering story

by Liz Hayes
news editor

She may have had a quiet and unassuming presence, but for all her soft-spoken appeal, Katie Koestner got her point across loud and clear. There is more to rape than a woman getting attacked by a stranger in a dark, deserted alley. Date and acquaintance rape do occur, and they occur more frequently than many seem to think.

Koestner, who has shared her story of rape and the derision that followed with a national audience, came to Behrend on Wednesday to further advance her tale and to get the word out on this often underestimated social problem.

Koestner began her presentation by commenting on the odd turns a person's life can make. She wondered aloud what careers the students in the audience thought they would enter upon graduation. She took a look back at her

own past career goals, humorously noting on the drastic changes in her goals: in kindergarten it was a ballerina; in ninth grade, a minister; in tenth grade she planned to enter the Air Force; and finally, in her senior year of high school, she planned on double majoring in chemistry and Japanese. However, the degree she finally received was in public policy and women's studies.

Then the story of the turning point in her life began. Koestner explained to the audience how she was from a small town in southeastern Pennsylvania, where there were cow pastures around her high school. She painted the picture of a shy, naive girl in her first weeks away from home at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. A picture of a girl who met a nice guy in her chemistry class and began to study with him. A girl who, after

KOESTNER

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'RAPE IS
WRONG,
IT'S NOT
A JOKE'

SGA elections hold only two contested positions

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Behrend's student government has cooled off going into next week's mostly uncontested election.

Only two positions, president/vice president and secretary, will be contested spots on Behrend's student government. That's a far cry from last year, which featured a heavily contested senatorial race and a heated presidential battle.

The presidential/vice presidential election will have Keenan Hansen running for president with Traci Hamm running for vice president on the same ticket. Their opponents are Brandi Hovis and Clint Lewis. All four candidates are current members of SGA.

SGA ELECTIONS

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Behrend reaches out during Service Week

by Hillary Hawranko
staff writer

Feeding the hungry, collecting clothes for the needy, and cleaning the campus are just a few highlights of community service from this semester's Student Service Week, which concludes today. For the fourth time since the fall of 1999, the Student Service Week, sponsored by the Student Activities Office, has



PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

Behrend student Josh Hilewick paints eggs with the elderly at Breவில் Village.

brought Behrend organizations together in a collaborative effort to serve various aspects of the Erie community. Each day during the week a different activity was sponsored by student organizations such as Lambda Sigma Honor Society, Reality Check, Women Today, Multi-Cultural Council, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Lion Ambassadors, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Student Government Association, and Joint Residence Council.

Not only are numerous efforts made during Student Service Week, but also in the planning of it. About a month ago, Katie Leary and "Melky" Ayala Forero began the planning for this rigorous week. Both Behrend students volunteered their time to

STUDENT SERVICE WEEK

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Republican candidates for Erie County Executive debate at Behrend

by Liz Hayes
news editor

On Monday, Behrend's College Republicans and the *Beacon* co-sponsored a debate between the three candidates running for the Republican primary nomination for Erie County Executive. Those candidates, Rick Schenker, Denise Robison, and Joy Greco, answered three questions directed by a moderator from a local radio station and two more questions from the audience.

Each debater was permitted a five-minute introductory speech. Schenker won the toss and went first, followed by Robison and then Greco. All three candidates spoke of their qualifying experiences that had prepared them for the job of Erie County Executive. Then they indicated the goals they would try to achieve if elected. All cited similar goals - retaining and expanding business and industry, retaining young college students about to enter the economy, and improving tourism.

The candidates also made more specific pledges in their opening

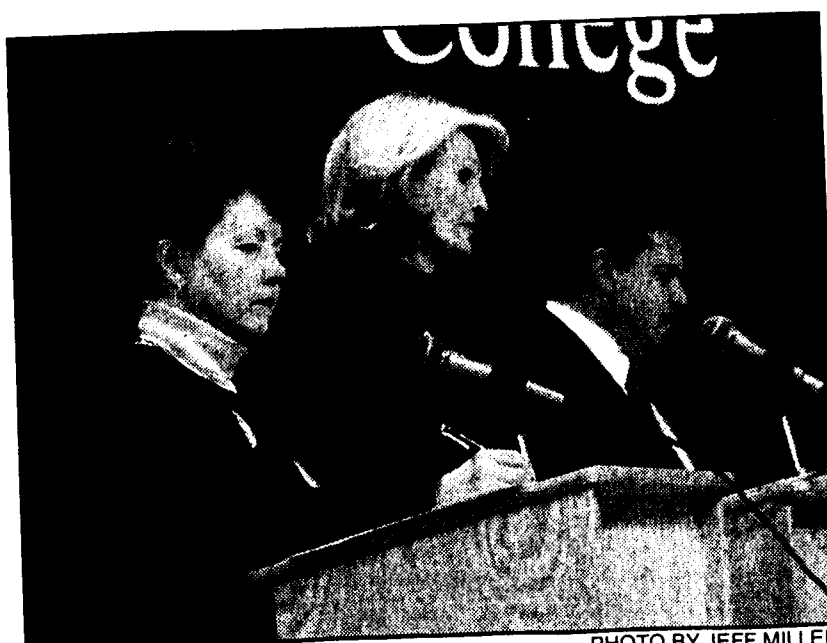


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

From left: Joy Greco, Denise Robison and Rick Schenker debate in the Reed Commons.

speeches. Schenker promised to be Erie County's chief salesman and to create an Erie County Impact Commission, similar to commissions Governor Ridge and former President Ronald Reagan have formed. This commission would search for meth-

ods to make business more efficient and to get the youth more involved.

Robison declared that she wanted to create "a county where no one wants to leave and where everyone wants to come." She indicated that she would try to improve how well

Erie gets the word out about its resources so as to draw in tourism.

Greco also discussed improving the local business climate and improving industry retention. She looked to her current experience on Erie County Council and various other involvements.

After the opening statements, the moderator asked a series of questions, and each candidate had two minutes to respond. Candidates could rebut another's argument during those two minutes, but there was no extra time allotted just for rebuttal.

The first question was how the candidates would ensure that well-paying jobs remain in Erie County for graduating college students. Greco was first and said that she would pass legislation to improve the climate for businesses that are dealing with burdensome taxes. Robison answered that high-tech companies should be the main focus of area leaders and that she would work to ensure the coordination and integration of this sector. Schenker said that he would approach college students and find out what would convince them to stay and

work in Erie.

The second question asked whether or not child poverty was a major issue, and, if so, how the candidates would deal with the poverty levels. Robison called child poverty the "most dubious distinction this county has," saying that she would approach the recipients of local welfare aid and ask them how the system could be improved. She also said she would look into comparing Erie with other counties to see if Erie could find alternative solutions. Schenker indicated that he would re-enforce the discussion of abstinence and look into having faith-based organizations help out. Greco also agreed with Schenker's idea of enlisting faith-based organizations, as well as working toward boosting self-esteem.

At this point two questions from the audience were taken. One student asked how the candidates would keep manufacturing jobs in Erie, to which the candidates reiterated, for the most

DEBATE

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