

FROM FRONT PAGE

**HOVIS' GOALS**

that she will bring to Behrend's student government.

"We're hoping to improve advising because that's something that a lot of students have problems with," said Hovis. "We want to find out why students are told different things by different advisors."

Hovis also plans to work on commuter concerns. "Commuters are not represented well," said Hovis. She hopes to work with Commuter Council to find ways to get commuters involved in campus life and claims she will support Commuter Council in their efforts to open a commuter lounge.

Other efforts Hovis plans to take part in include aiding the Multi-Cultural Council (MCC) with programming and improving the image of Greek organizations on campus. Hovis thinks that Greek involvement in Thon at University Park could do a lot to boost their image at the college.

"I think that a lot of people don't look at the good that they [Greek organizations] do. I think this is because Greeks don't make things open enough for other students outside of the Greek system," said Hovis. She hopes to work with Greek leaders to make students outside of the Greek system feel welcome.

Within SGA, Hovis hopes to work on getting SGA's name out to students. "I don't think that the people on SGA realize how important they

are," said Hovis. Once students begin to understand the importance of student government, Hovis thinks a lot more can be accomplished. "I think that the senators should take pride in what they're doing for the school."

Hovis realizes the importance of having a qualified vice president to work with. She feels Clint Lewis was most qualified out of the students that she spoke to prior to her decision.

"I know his work ethic and I know he's a hard worker. I feel confident



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Brandi Hovis, the SGA president-elect, enumerated some of her goals for the upcoming school year.

having him as my vice president," said Hovis.

Next week, the *Beacon* will speak to Clint Lewis about his goals and expectations for SGA in his role as vice president.

**PHIL ENGLISH**

to our trade policy." His statement was met with an approving crowd.

After speaking for 20 minutes on issues that concerned him, Representative English opened the floor to the people in the audience, along with anyone else in Bruno's who had a concern or a question to share. A half a dozen students and faculty took advantage of the time English was offering and asked him questions ranging from the opening of oil reserves in Alaska to his impression of President Bush.

One student asked Representative English if he felt that the way that President Bush has been portrayed by the media is accurate. He answered that he feels the coverage has been inaccurate and that the President has "articulated his platform well." Another student asked if English was happy with Bush's tax cut. English feels that "the long term impact will be better than the immediate impact, especially in places like Erie County."

English answered each person's question as thoroughly as possible, following up with the question, "what was your opinion about that?" He listened to each response with a great amount of attention and then followed up each comment with his own feelings, and at times offered a solution to the problem brought to his attention.

English's staff also handed out surveys that asked about issues facing Congress, and issues that concerned the students.

Although he had to contend with a loud crowd on the right side of Bruno's that was obviously not interested in his platform or appearance on campus, the students that were there to see English felt that he had a positive message and impact. "I think the visit was an excellent experience for those who participated because it let both supporters and opponents of English let their voices be heard," said Behrend student Ryan Bard.

**State Rep. Scrimenti encourages student involvement**

by Jason Snyder  
editor-in-chief

Pennsylvania State Representative Tom Scrimenti came to Behrend on Thursday with a message for the 20 students that gathered in Reed 114: "We want you." Scrimenti encouraged students to get involved in government in whatever capacity they could, including local, state, or even federal governmental positions.

Scrimenti stressed that it's not too early to get involved with politics. "You are never too young to get involved in government," said Scrimenti, who first took on politics at the age of 19.

"There are a plethora of job opportunities in Erie," said Scrimenti. He pointed out the number of state offices that are based in Erie that offer internships and jobs for students. By getting involved in these positions, Scrimenti thinks that job opportunities will open up in the future, including jobs as attorneys and legislative assistants.

When starting out, Scrimenti suggests following certain candidates that are personally appealing. "You should then get involved by working in candidates' offices and campaigns," said Scrimenti.

The problem with decreased inter-

**"You are never too young to get involved in government."**

-Tom Scrimenti,  
Pa. State Representative

est in government among college students, according to Scrimenti, comes from the idea that students have "tunnel vision." "People only get involved if issues affect them," said Scrimenti. This is a problem because most of the decisions made in government do affect people in some capacity.

To avoid this, Scrimenti encouraged students to read newspapers to keep up with governmental decisions. He pushed for students to speak up by writing letters to the editor to local and college newspapers.

Scrimenti touched on some issues of concern in his district such as the lack of clout for the city of Corry in the State Senate. He also recognized the importance for Erie County to take a regional approach to government, which he thinks will aid in building up the area.

Scrimenti also spoke about his support for funding at Behrend.

"I support Behrend College in their funding," said Scrimenti. He commended the efforts to build up Knowledge Park and claimed he will continue to support growth in that area.

However, Scrimenti took a different approach to growth and expansion outside of campus grounds. "I support growth and expansion where it's permitted," said Scrimenti. He didn't, however, support the plan

proposed to build the new Walmart in Harborcreek, or the proposed racetrack nearby.

Scrimenti questioned this type of expansion because the growth would upset residents in the area who had no intentions of moving into a neighborhood with a future that involves commercial expansion.

Scrimenti had mixed views towards the Eastside Connector that will be going through Behrend and parts of his district.

"The impact is going to be dramatic," said Scrimenti. "We need to make sure that we are remaining people-sensitive and environmentally responsible."

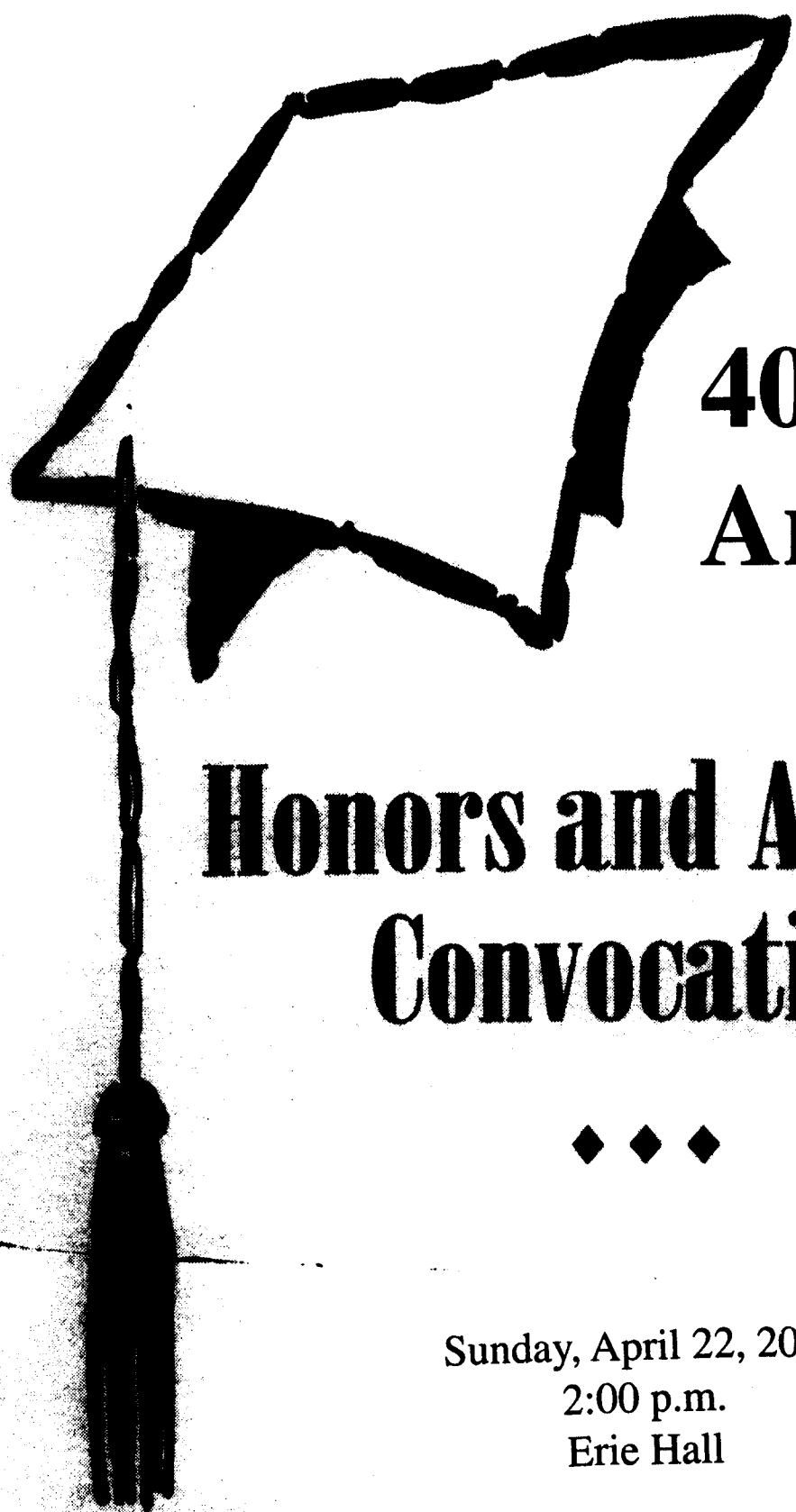
Scrimenti was invited by Behrend's College Democrats, a group reformed last fall to rival the newly formed College Republicans. College Democrats' president-elect Steve Webb invited Scrimenti to return next year to speak again.

"I'll come back next week if you want," responded Scrimenti.

PENNSSTATE



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