

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What was your most memorable moment at Behrend this year?



"Knowing that I was graduating."

Beth Bernard
Math, 08



"The big snow storm, when they closed down — no classes that day."

Dan Zahn
MIS, 08



"Maybe the Shaggy concert, I guess."

Erin Ahlgren
DUS, 03



"Water Polo!"

Hollie Stash (left)
Math, 02
Lauren Packer (right)
English, 02



"When Cornel West visited Behrend."

Michael Ogbeide
MIS, 05

Behrend fraternities run into trouble

by Paige Miles
copy editor

Over the past few years, a trend seems to be developing among Greek organizations as summer approaches. Last spring, Kappa Delta Rho fell into trouble after accusations of "pledging and initiating an ineligible male student..." were made. As a result, the fraternity was punished with a one-year suspension. This spring, two other fraternities have come into trouble for different charges.

Sigma Kappa Nu has been suspended from campus recognition for the fall semester for a fight that occurred recently. A "misunderstanding between two people [occurred. It was] settled in the front yard," said SKN president Shawn Fisher.

In addition to the suspension, the fraternity is on social probation for two years, which prohibits them from serving alcohol and from having parties or mixers. They have also lost their pledging right for the fall, said Judicial Board Chair Justin Hayes.

What exactly happened is still unclear, said Hayes. The fight did involve a brother and an outsider, but it is unclear as to who started the fight. Stories weren't straight, but there was enough evidence to convict the SKNs. The police were not involved.

Linda Lombardi-Nestor, assistant director of Student Affairs, was unable to comment on the incident due to the confidentiality of the case. Nor was anyone able to comment on who reported the fight to the college, or the names of those involved in the fight.

On April 22 at approximately 3:00 a.m., the Delta Chi house was subjected to a visit by the police. According to Delta Chi President Thom Orlando, who said he was not present at the time of the event, two police officers came into the house. Orlando said that the brothers were unsure whether the officers knocked or if they came in unannounced.

Ten people were given breathalyzer exams. Orlando was unable to comment on whether or not those people passed the test. According to the Wesleyville Police Department, nine of those students failed the test and were issued citations. District Justice Mark Krahe declined to comment.

Orlando also said that three female students were escorted back to campus by Police and Safety, though the students were supposedly not under the influence.

At press time no action had been taken by Behrend.

Everyone unite, take back the night!

Behrend's Women Today lead the Erie Community in a Take Back the Night march protesting violence against women

by Andrea Bolton
staff writer

Behrend college students gathered in Perry Square at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, to "Take Back the Night." Take Back the Night is a march and rally event that protests violence against women, especially sexual assault.

The march was kicked off with speaker Jaimi Bonczar, the president of Women Today. The keynote speakers were Sue Daley from Penn State Behrend's Counseling and Advising Office, and Donna Douglas from the YWCA. They explained that the march was designed to support those who have been victimized by sexual assault, or individuals who are close to women who have been sexually

assaulted. The clan marched throughout the streets of downtown Erie, chanting: "everyone unite/take back the night," "join together/free our lives/ we will not be victimized," and "yes means yes/no means no/whatever we wear/wherever we go."

The march began in Perry Square and proceeded through the streets in the downtown area, and finally ended back at Gannon University for a Speak Out and reception.

Throughout the march, the group stopped at several places to hear a speaker discuss some of the issues that women are faced with today, including sexual assault. The speakers included Rich Digiacoia from the District Attorney's Office, Jen Redenis from the Erie County Rape Crisis Center, Pam Graham



PHOTOS BY ANN MARIE HAVEY

Members of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority took part in this year's Take Back the Night March, bearing signs and participating in a candlelight vigil.

from SafeNet, and Mary Beaumont and Yelena Kerr from the Penn State Behrend Ophelia Advisory Council. At the close of the march the group sang the song "Behind the Wall" by Tracy Chapman.

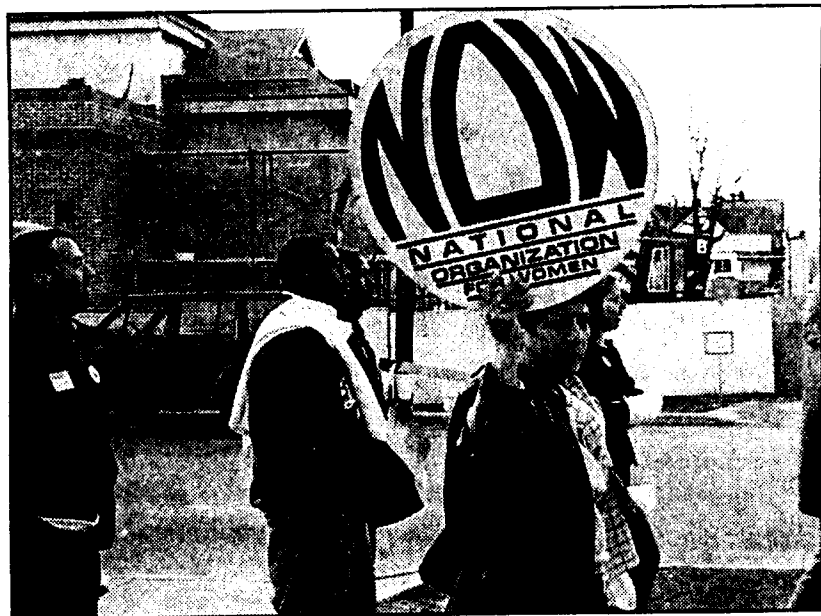
The Speak Out was a forum for sexual assault survivors to discuss their experiences. There were no cameras or media to report these individuals' personal experiences at the Speak Out. Following the Speak

Out, there was a small reception which included entertainment, the band Freudian Slip, information, and free refreshments.

Take Back the Night is an event that began in England in 1977 as a protest against violence against women as they walked the streets at night. The first Take Back the Night rally that occurred in the United States was held in San Francisco in 1978. The rally in San Francisco was

a protest of violence against women. Since this time Take Back the Night has spread across the United States.

This event was absent in the Erie area since 1996, until Women Today from Penn State Behrend decided to bring the program back to campus last year, and their ideas spread to the Erie community this year. The march was sponsored by many organizations, including Penn State Behrend and Gannon University.



Members of NOW, the National Organization for Women, also walked in protest of the fear many women feel when walking at night.

SGA 2001-2002

SGA VP-elect Lewis on same page as Hovis

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

SGA vice president-elect Clint Lewis is on the same page with president-elect Brandi Hovis as far as goals are concerned for the upcoming school year.

Lewis and Hovis have already met with Director of Student Affairs Ken Miller to work on the details of the "unfinished business" the two promised to take care of in the radio station and web page.

Upon arrival at the beginning of the fall 2001 semester, Lewis has some goals lined up. "I want to really push for student involvement and let people know what SGA does," said Lewis.

Lewis feels this can be accomplished by working on the image of SGA and the appeal of the SGA office. "We want to make the office a little more appealing so that the students feel comfortable coming in here," said Lewis.

Lewis feels many things can be accomplished if SGA presents itself well to students outside of the group. "We want to get an image established for SGA so that people want to be involved with student government."

This type of student involvement, according to Lewis, will create more contested elections. By adding incentives, student would be more apt to run for positions.

Lewis wants to continue working with student organizations on campus through the new liaison program initiated by current SGA

president Jen Miles.

"I think SGA has come a long way this year. Jen Miles really raised the bar a little bit, and we need to live up to that," said Lewis.

Lewis welcomes any students interested in joining SGA to contact Hovis or himself as early as possible.

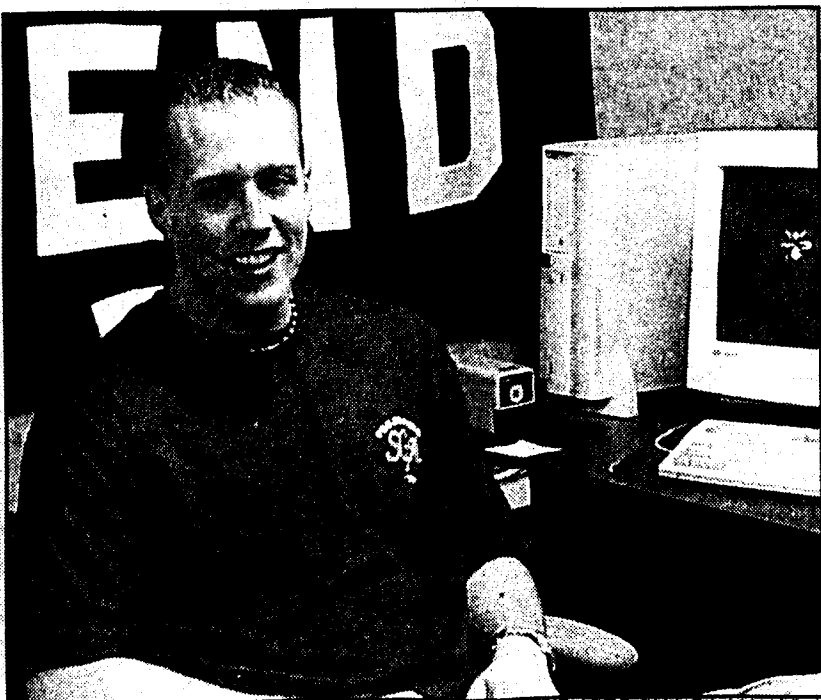


PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

Clint Lewis, the current SGA treasurer, was elected as the 2001-2002 vice president.

Behrend receives a 'taste of Africa'

by Erin McCarthy
assistant news editor

Erie's winter weather may be waning at a maddeningly slow rate, but on Saturday, April 21, members of the Behrend community were transported to the sunny continent of Africa for the evening.

African Odyssey 2001, titled "Taste of Africa," commenced at 7:30 p.m. in the Reed Commons and lasted for two hours. The Organization of African Students (OAS) presented this cultural celebration in order to bring a greater appreciation for the diverse traditions that make each African country unique and the sense of joy that unifies the continent.

The audience trickled in to the strains of traditional African music and had a chance to take a look at the diverse display of African masks before OAS advisor and Behrend's reference librarian Patience Simmonds stepped up to the microphone to thank them for coming and to introduce the Master of Ceremonies, Baena Cabiri.

Cabiri welcomed those in attendance by teaching them the word *karibu*, which is *welcome* in Swahili. He went on to bestow honorary African heritage on one and all, inviting them to experience the cheer that pervades Africa's 54

countries. After his opening speech, everyone stood for the South African National Anthem, "Nkosi Sikeleli Afrika."

The microphone was then passed to student Rehab Elzeney, who spoke as the flags of eight different countries were brought up to the front for display. She explained the symbolism of the flags of Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe and provided facts about each of the countries. Next, several students bedecked in African garb paraded through the Commons for the fashion show. Ranging from regal to everyday wear, the clothing was characterized by vibrant colors and intricate designs.

At this point, participants and observers alike were encouraged to sample the African cuisine whose aroma had filled the room. The program came to an intermission so that the people attending could sit at the tables and tickle their taste buds with boiled or fried plantains (a fruit similar to a banana), corned beef stew, chicken wings, and white or jollof rice. They washed this down with a choice of Pepsi, non-alcoholic pina colada, or non-alcoholic strawberry daiquiri punch.

The presentations continued with four cultural performances

representing Egypt, Nigeria, Barbados (located in the West Indies but rich with African culture), and Ghana. Elzeney returned to perform a sultry Egyptian veil dance. Nigeria's guitar-playing representative impressed the audience with his instrumental and vocal talents as he regaled them with a Nigerian song.

The most popular part of the show seemed to be Ali Ellis' exuberant calypso, which he performed decked out in stripes of paint and a grass skirt. His uninhibited movements earned him a standing ovation from the crowd. The performances concluded with a Ghanaian dance in which four dancers participated, two in grass skirts with white-painted faces, two in brilliantly colored dresses with beads to match. All four wore jingle-bell bracelets on their ankles, which added to the intensity of deep drums that provided the dance's beat.

The evening ended with a brief address by OAS president Curtis Williams, who is from Nigeria. Dressed in a flowing periwinkle blue robe, he thanked the participants for all their hard work and the attendees for their interest in this event that celebrated the unity and grandeur of the African continent.