

THE BEHREND Beacon

March 1, 2002

18 Pages, 2 sections

Vol. XLIX

No. 22

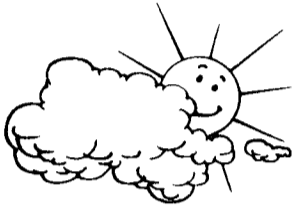
• A PENN STATE ERIE STUDENT PUBLICATION •



Spring 2002

WEATHER

Friday's forecast:



Partly Cloudy
High: 39°
Low: 21°

Check page 2 for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

NEWS

HOMOSEXUALITY FORUM

The fourth weekly Multicultural Council forum addressed issues of homosexuality and organized religion. Read about it on page 2.

CONCERT

The Behrend Concert Band performed a spring concert last night under the direction of Dr. Gary Viebranz. See page 3.

SUSTAINABILITY

Behrend is making a concentrated effort to preserve the beauty of this campus and encourage students to be environmentally conscious. Read about it on page 4.

SPORTS

MARCH MADNESS

Test your college basketball knowledge with the Behrend Beacon's March Madness contest. Predict the winners and win a prize. See page 6B.

INDEX

- Behrend News...1-4
- Editorial...5
- National News...6-7
- Calendar...8
- Humor...9
- Features...10
- A&E...11
- Health...12
- Sports...1-6B

CONTACTS

NEWSROOM: 898-6488
FAX: 898-6019

E-MAIL:
behrcol15@aol.com

Offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building

THON raises record-breaking \$3.6 million

by Jen Henderson
staff writer

Forty-eight hours of dancing, fundraising, and much-needed awareness for a worthwhile cause highlighted the Feb. 22-24 event known as THON at Penn State's University Park campus.

THON, the world's largest student-run philanthropy sponsored the event, which raised a record-breaking sum that will be used to help conquer childhood cancer.

Approximately 660 dancers took part in THON, which raised \$3,613,178.61 from their various sponsors. The money was gathered through various fundraisers that included canning efforts, businesses and other sources. The total was almost \$3,500 more than last year's event. Each year THON seems to grow in attendance and strengthen its goal of helping those with cancer.

Penn State Behrend contributed to the event in a number of ways. Sara Davis and Lauren Vaught were elected to attend this year's THON. The two showed their support for the cause through participating in the dancing, fundraising, and the fun that went on.

Behrend alone added a total of \$5,500.

Brandi Hovis, SGA President, has nothing but praise for the event.

"It was another life-touching experience," said Hovis. "Sara and Lauren did a wonderful job and their spirits were high. They did it for the kids!"

"With all your heart..." was the theme of THON this year and that idea was displayed through the caring individuals who participated, donated, and attended the affair.

Bands played continuously. Throughout the 48 hours there was no sitting or sleeping for any involved. However, time flew by due to the packed schedule that occurred and the visits and events prepared by celebrities, families, students, and children alike.

A Tommy Hilfiger Fashion Show in which both Penn State Students and Four Diamonds children modeled, took place. Also members of the hit MTV television shows, "The Road Rules" and "The Real World" attended the event to show their support.

A family hour involved children and parents sharing their own personal stories and their bouts with cancer. Line dances were taught to the crowds and

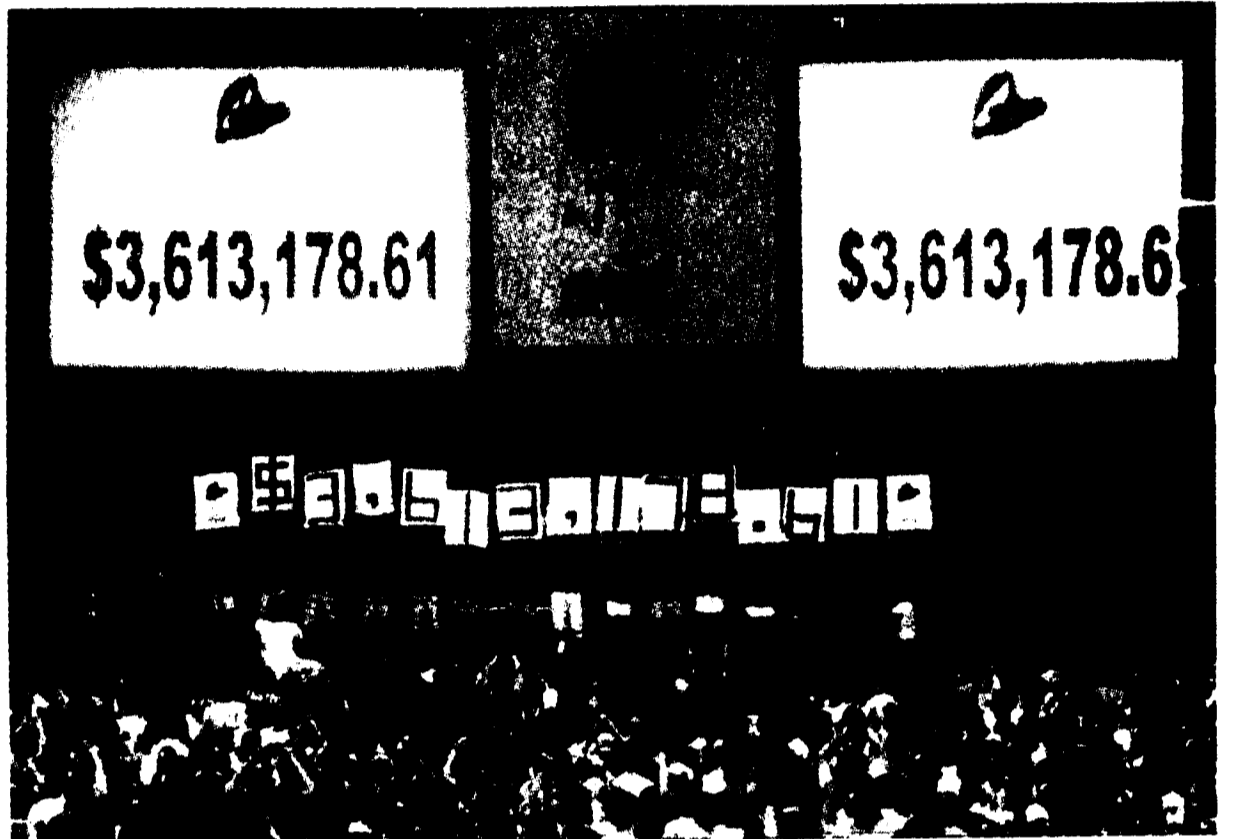


PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG GRIECO

Participants in this year's THON celebrate breaking last year's record of money earned. THON is the largest student-run philanthropic event in the world and benefits children with cancer.

repeated hourly with chants that kept them moving.

The amazing support and participation that occurred at this year's THON helps to show that despite all of the problems that society has had to face lately there are still people out there taking time out to help those around them.

The \$3.6 million raised will go towards comprehensive

care and support for pediatric cancer patients and their families. It will also enable more research at Penn State University Children's Hospital at Hershey Medical Center.

THON, in its history, has raised roughly \$20 million through the annual work of more than 4,000 collective students. The Four Diamonds Fund, another valuable organization, frequently assists

THON with its fundraising efforts.

Four Diamonds was started by the Milliard family in memory of their 14-year-old son, Christopher, who died from cancer. The organization is also a group that raises cancer awareness and is finding ways to help those in need.

This year marks 30 years of THON and Four Diamonds working together.

Birthday is a great excuse to cut loose with Dr. Seuss

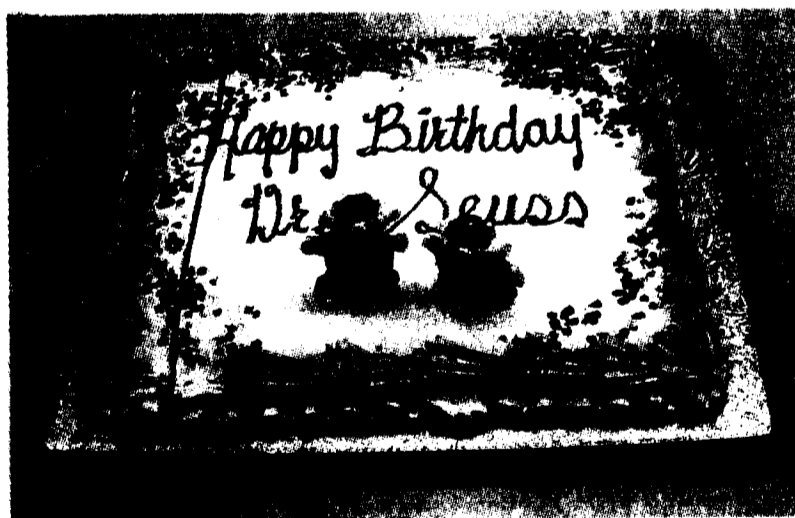


PHOTO BY REBECCA WEINDORF / BEHREND BEACON

Thursday night, the Association for Women in Communications (AWC) celebrated Dr. Seuss' 95th birthday with several appreciative youngsters.

The children shared birthday cake, made Seuss-related crafts including Cat in the Hat hats and fish mobiles, got their faces painted with Seuss characters, and, of course, listened to the reading of Seuss books.

Anyone interested in joining AWC or finding out more about future event should contact Christine Kleck at cak216@psu.edu.



PHOTO BY REBECCA WEINDORF / BEHREND BEACON



PHOTO BY REBECCA WEINDORF / BEHREND BEACON

Storytelling a life-long love for English professor Pancake

by Lori DeFabio
staff writer

Dr. Ann Pancake, Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Literature, has published many of her writings, including "Given Ground," a 2000 Bakeless Prize winner.

Pancake, who grew up in West Virginia, spent much of her childhood telling stories in her head, before she was even able to read or write.

"My father was a preacher, so I spent many hours in church, where I was usually bored," said Pancake. "To entertain myself, I told myself stories in my head."

The pastime that she enjoyed may have been the key that inspired her to become interested in writing.

Five years after getting her B.A. in English at West Virginia University, Dr. Pancake went to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to get her M.A. in English. From there, she received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Washington.

Why did Pancake choose to work in Erie after she has seen so many other schools?

"I came to Behrend because I liked the other people in the English department whom I met during my interview, and I liked the description of the student profile," said Pancake. "I also came here because it's within a day's drive of West Virginia which is where I grew up and where much of my writing is set. It's important for me to be able to get down there fairly regularly."

Pancake enjoys writing creative nonfiction the most, which is why she is lucky that she is able to teach a

PANCAKE

continued on page 2

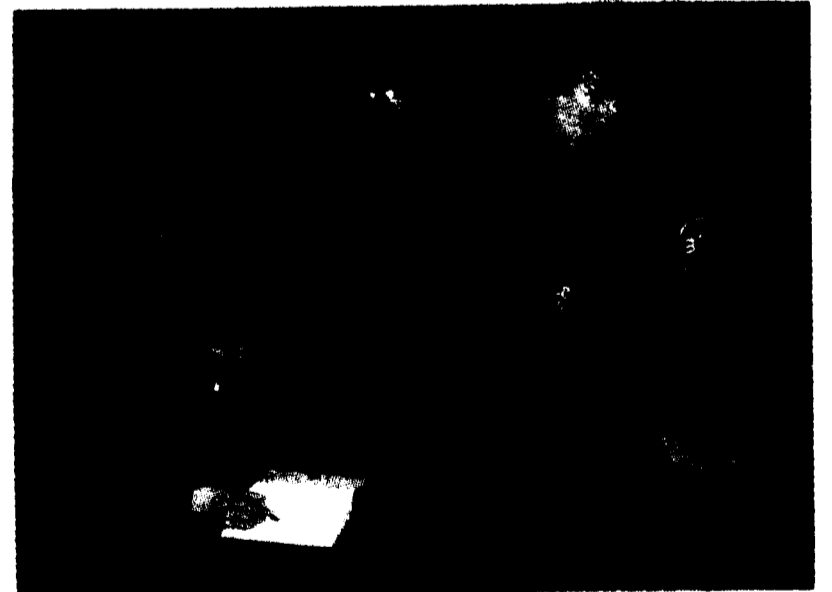


PHOTO BY REBECCA WEINDORF / BEHREND BEACON

Dr. Ann Pancake signs a copy of her book following her fiction reading Thursday night. Her most recent publication is "Given Ground."

Provost search update

Penn State President Graham Spanier and Dr. Rodney Erickson will continue the search for the new Provost and Dean of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. The extensive feedback received on the candidates did not produce a consensus choice. They therefore believe it is in the best interests of the College to extend the search. During the next several weeks, they will seek to identify additional candidates by revisiting other nominations and applications, as well as further networking activities. If other candidates are identified, they will work with the Search Committee to bring them forward.

If these efforts are not successful this spring, they will reconstitute the Search Committee in a few months, and plan to bring additional candidates to campus early in the Fall Semester. Dr. Jack Burke, Interim Provost and Dean, has very graciously agreed to continue to serve until such time as the position is filled on a permanent basis.