

THE BEACON

April 19, 2002

16 Pages, 2 sections

Vol. XLIX

No. 28

A PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION



SGA elections draw record numbers

Students choose 10 new senators; Anderson receives most senate votes

by Kevin Fallon and Rob Wynne
assistant news editor and editor-in-chief

Behrend students showed up at the polls in record numbers this week, giving this year's Student Government elections the highest turnout ever. Official results showed that 556 students voted, 15.9 percent of all Behrend students.

Eleven of the 22 senate candidates were elected, including five of the nine Multi-Cultural Council candidates. Victoria Anderson received the most senate votes with 250.

Kristin Grudowski was the only current senator re-elected to the SGA senate.

Also elected were Joe Bianco, Natasha Gale, Tom Medovitch, Nate Snyder, Erin Strayer, Jennifer Sutter, Tameka Tilliman, Sun Tsui, and Alex Wu.

Brandi Hovis and Katie Leary won an uncontested race with 330 votes, and will be the president and vice-president. Brandi Hovis will become the first president to serve two consecutive terms.

"I'm very happy with the results," said Hovis. "I look forward to working with the new senate."

"It's great to see so many people caring about our school."

Tara Pavan was elected to be the new secretary in an uncontested election, receiving 315 votes.

Some of the new senators expressed their emotions after the results were announced.

"These elections were pretty intense," said Tsui. "We put so much work into this."

"We tried to get as many people as we could to go out and vote," said Nate Snyder. "It's great to get the support of the students. Next year I want to see what the students have to say and try to better the campus."

"I definitely want to have a radio station," said Bianco.

"I'm happy," said Sutter. "I would like to make as many changes as we can."

Organizers said they were pleased with this year's election.

"I think the turnout was very positive for SGA," said Jason Snyder, member of the SGA Election Committee. "It shows the student interest from both candidates and voters."

"I think the elections were run fairly with a lot of help from students. The bottom line is this election was a success."

Students elected will begin their terms at the beginning of the fall 2002 semester.



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE/BEHREND BEACON
SGA had an outstanding voter turnout this year with a total of 556 students participating, a number up significantly from last year's turnout of 316.

2002 SGA election results by the numbers

President/Vice President	Nate Snyder	206
Brandi Hovis/Katie Leary	Tameka Tilliman	206
	Natasha Gayle	204
	Tom Medovitch	203
	Nana Osei-Bonsu	202
	Marvin Teip	196
	Joe Greer	186
	Guinevere Habersham	184
	Latashia Marie Smith	182
	Rob Lewis	175
	Scott Soltis	172
	Natalie Lytle	160
	Keenan Hansen	154
	Jonathan D. Fisher	99
	Lori DeFabio	75
Secretary		
Tara Pavan	315	
Senate*		
Victoria Anderson	250	
Joe Bianco	242	
Alex Wu	234	
Kristin Grudowski	233	
Sun Tsui	232	
Erin Strayer	221	
Jennifer Sutter	215	

*senate winners in bold

MCC presidential election results in 'no vote'

Edalia George elected vice-president

by Rob Wynne
editor-in-chief

Just minutes after the cheering and congratulations that followed the Student Government Association elections on Thursday, Behrend's Multi-cultural Council encountered a controversy with its own election results.

A last-minute meeting that involved Mila Cooper, Behrend's coordinator of minority programs and MCC e-board members, declared Ramina Ramirez ineligible to run in the presidential race. The result of that late Thursday meeting left Khalif Rhodes, the current MCC president, as the sole contender for the MCC presidential election.

Rhodes, however, was not re-elected president. When Ramirez was disqualified, the 5-6 vote was not in favor of Rhodes and therefore left that seat as a "no vote."

"The SGA representative was elected, the MCC vice-president Edalia George was elected, and then the president, Khalif Rhodes, had a no-vote," said Clint Lewis, the vice-president of SGA. "The 11 representatives could vote 'yes' or 'no,' and he was voted 'not elected.'"

Lewis said that this situation leaves a couple matters unresolved.

"So then the problem occurs, what do you do with a no-vote?" said Lewis. He said that Ramirez could file an appeal through SGA to see if the election process was fair or unfair. He also stated that the most obvious problem is the absence of the president.

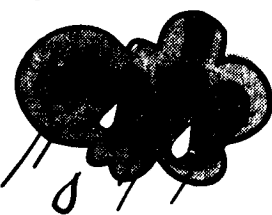
"They [MCC] have to determine whether or not they want another election, but as far as I can see, it's over," said Lewis.

According to Jacqueline Jackson, the former president of the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), there are options as to which way the MCC and its related organizations will handle the matter.

"There were suggestions of an emergency meeting, or they can wait until the Fall semester to plan it all out," said Jackson. "Edalia George, who was elected vice-president, will act as president in the fall when the elected officers assume their positions."

Also during the MCC elections, Olga Nacabalan was elected at the MCC representative to SGA.

Friday's forecast:



Thunderstorms Likely
High: 75°
Low: 48°

Check page 2 for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE NEWS

Thursday night in the McGarvey Commons, the Behrend Concert Band and the Behrend Jazz Band, conducted by Dr. Gary Viebranz, and the Behrend College Choir and the Behrend Studio Singers, conducted by Dr. Daniel Barnard, presented "A Musical Collage." Read about the program on page 2.

Astronomy Day is on Saturday. The Behrend observatories will be open to the public so it can view the alignment of the planets. See page 3.

Students interested in Spanish can now immerse themselves in the language and culture in the newly formed Spanish Club. See page 3.

INDEX

- Behrend News...1-3
- Advertisement...4
- Editorial...5
- Nat'l Campus News...6-7
- Calendar...8
- Humor...9
- Features...10
- A&E...11
- Health...12
- Sports...1-4B

CONTACT US

NEWSROOM: 898-6488
FAX: 898-6019

E-MAIL:
behrco15@aol.com

Offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building

'Join together, free our lives, we will not be victimized!'



PHOTO BY LIBBIE JOHNSON / BEHREND BEACON

(Back, from left) Jackie Cavicchio, an unidentified student, Jen Town, and Miles Dinnen stand firm with their message at Wednesday night's Take Back the Night in Perry Square. Linda Mientkiewicz of SafeNet speaks in the foreground. Amid the chanting of such slogans as "Everyone unite, take back the night," "We have the power, we have the right, the streets are ours, take back the night," and "No means no," roughly 200 marchers traversed the route from Perry Square to Gannon University.

The program featured speeches from representatives of Behrend's Women Today, Gannon's Center for Social Concerns, the Rape Crisis Center, SafeNet, and the Health and Wellness Center. After marching, participants received candles for the Speak Out, a media-free event during which they had the opportunity to share their experiences with rape and other violence. The evening ended with a reception in Gannon's Yeh! Room, where food and information were free for the taking.

Take Back the Night originated in England as a rally against rape and domestic violence. Although the protest was initially open to women only, it soon expanded to include everyone who wanted to support the right of women to feel safe. Take Back the Night is now in its 25th year.

Soaking up the sun as summer approaches



PHOTO BY KELLY WALSH / BEHREND BEACON

With less than two weeks of classes left, Behrend students have summer on the brain. When record-breaking temperatures hit Erie this week, everyone was eager to take advantage of the weather.

Some students, like Lasette Miskis, left, broke out their bikes or scooters to enjoy the outdoors. Others, like Jeanine Noce and Lauren Weider, bottom, chose a more leisurely approach, absorbing the rays for an early start on summer tanning. Other students studied outside, and some professors treated their students to lectures on the lawn.

After a typically extended Erie winter, this dose of summer was warmly received. To see whether the weekend will be as cooperative, check out the weather on page 2.



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE / BEHREND BEACON