

## Question of the Week

by Jen Henderson, associate editor

*"Who is your favorite female rock star?"*



*"Michelle Branch, she writes her own music. That is important to me."*

**Jennifer Braithwaite**  
Psychology, 03



*"Pink. Because she puts more of it into a more versatile manner. She keeps it under rock n roll roots."*

**Tanieka Robinson and Ricardo Powell, 03**



*"Joan Jett. She almost had a mullet!"*

**Josh Jackson**  
E.R.M., 03



*"Pat Benatar."*

**Mike Heath**  
M.I.S., 05



*"Shakira, because she is hot and hasn't changed her appearance to please the record execs."*

**Dominic Gaitano**  
Meteorology, 03

## Forum encourages student involvement

by Kevin Fallon  
assistant managing editor

In an effort to inform students and increase younger voter turnout, representatives from four PA governor candidates will attend a forum this Wednesday at Behrend in Reed 117 at 6 p.m.

A need for the forum was conceived after Penn State's increased its tuition due to low state funding.

"Our tuition went up 7.76% and is now 49.2% higher than the average cost of other Big 10 schools," said Kelly Walsh, a Behrend student who is helping to organize the event. "The students didn't have a say in that. They are not going to do anything about the cost of higher

education unless we make noise."

Organizers said the reason many candidates are not concerned with college students is because younger people have a low voter turnout. The facts support the claim. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 32% of people ages 18-24 voted in 2000, the lowest percentage for any age group. Voters age 18-24 made up 7 percent of the total vote in 2000, even though they represent 13 percent of the population over age 18.

"Our age group is not a big factor in deciding the campaign because not enough of us vote," said Walsh. "Students need to get involved to show that we care. We think that a lot of college students don't vote because they are uninformed. We hope this debate will inform them."

Representatives will speak about their candidate platform and answer questions. Either Ron Dinicola or Neil Mangold will represent Ed Rendell and the Democratic Party. John Mizner will represent Republican, Mike Fisher. Tom Giles will speak on behalf of the Libertarian Party. Robert Cogan will represent the Green Party candidate.

Organizers hope the event, which is free and open to the public, will promote political activism and voter turnout among college students.

"The candidates need to know that we are listening and they are going to be held accountable for their decisions," said Walsh.



**The Behrend Beacon and the Office of Student Affairs will be accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the remainder of the Fall semester and Spring semester 2003. Interested individuals should submit a letter of intent and resume to Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs; Reed Union Bldg. Application deadline is October 25, 2002.**

## Hospice workers bring comfort to the dying

by Courtney Straub  
staff writer

On Thursday, Sister Mary Ellen Dwyer and Gina McCauley discussed the Hospice program at Soup for the Soul. They are part of Hospice in Crawford County. Sister Dwyer has been involved in Hospice for 14 years and McCauley has been a social worker in Hospice for eight years.

Sister Dwyer started the Hospice program in Crawford County. "It is the best move in nursing I ever made," said Sister Dwyer.

Hospice is a concept, not a location. Fourteen Hospices are located in northwestern Pennsylvania. Lots of networking goes on between them. They all share ideas to give their patients the best possible care.

Once a person comes into the Hospice program, their medical needs are paid for. In the Medicare program there is a Hospice benefit. Hospice works hard at making their patients feel comfortable in their residence.

Most patients have only about six months left to live, however they do not focus on death or dying. Instead, Hospice works on fixing broken spirits and making their patients feel loved.

"[There is] definitely growth at the end of life. Hospice is all about love," said Sister Dwyer.

Hospice can not take away the patient's physical pain or symptoms, but the program does help the patients heal emotionally. Sister Dwyer thinks that patients in Hospice seem to do better because they are loved.

Hospice is one of the only programs under Medicare to have a Chaplain involved.

"I think it's important for people not to negate the importance of spirituality," said McCauley.

In Hospice, the patients are preparing for the next step of their journey. The Hospice workers walk beside their patients by being with them every step of the way. They cannot change how a person's life has been, however they can help patients learn to cope with reality.

"Hospice is a good option for care," said Sister Dwyer.

Hospice also helps families deal with grief. They follow up with families after a loved one has died.

"[Hospice is] not just the patient, also the family," said McCauley.

Recently McCauley was treating a patient whose daughter had been very dependent on her. Now the daughter is the mother's caregiver and she's not used to the reverse roles. The daughter prepared herself for her mother's death. Slowly, her condition improved. However, the mother got very sick again. The daughter could not take it anymore and she crashed. She wanted to commit suicide. McCauley stepped in to help the daughter. They have been meeting once a week for the past five weeks and the daughter has made huge improvements.

"[Hospice] is probably the most rewarding work there is," said McCauley.



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON  
Hospice representatives discuss care for the dying during Thursday's Soup for the Soul.

## Schaffer sheds light on Erie City Mission

by Courtney Straub  
staff writer

On Oct. 17, Thomas Schaffer, executive director of the Erie City Mission, addressed the benefits of the mission during the semester's third Soup for the Soul luncheon.

The Erie City Mission can also be called a Gospel Rescue Mission. It is faith based but not church related.

"It is the only mission in the country that has a priest as a program director," said Schaffer.

Founded in 1911, the mission wanted to provide care for elderly white men. At the time, Erie was a large freshwater fishing port. It was a rough and tough life for many men. As the men grew older, they became weaker and could no longer work at a fishing port. They had no money and no place to go.

"[The mission is] Erie's faith based alternative," said Schaffer.

Many men turned to the mission because they needed somewhere to go. Today, the mission helps 400-500 men a year. The mission also provides groceries and clothing to about 2,000 families and help 60 new families every month.

"The mission has made a lot of improvement. We're growing," said Schaffer.

The mission has a 30-day shelter and a New Life Program. Men must make a commitment to enter the New Life Program and be willing to change. The men are coming from a dark place so the program helps them find courage, faith, and trust.

"We try to get them to recognize their problem and take care of it," said Schaffer.

Schaffer has been involved with missions for 30 years.

"I can't think of anything, certainly at this stage of my life, that I'd rather be doing," said Schaffer.

Every day at the mission is an adventure for Schaffer. At lunchtime, the Erie City Mission feeds the public. One day during lunch, Schaffer heard a lot of swearing. He went to investigate and found a man yelling at one of the staff members. The man said that the staff member had been eyeballing him. The staff member had been doing his job by watching everyone in the room. Schaffer told the guy to stop swearing and to go eat some food.

"It's fun and crazy," said Schaffer.

On Nov. 11, 2001 the mission celebrated

Veteran's Day. There were 14 guys who had been in the service and three guys who thought they had been in the service. Even though the three men were not sure if they had served, the other 14 invited them to celebrate Veteran's Day. Since Veteran's Day was so important to the men, they all tried to get along.

"I think it's an excellent program because it makes you aware of all of the resources in Erie and people in need that you never see," said Maria Madigan.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON  
Thomas Schaffer discusses his experiences as director of the Erie City Mission.