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## Deadline for meningitis vaccine draws near

by Caley Doran  
staff writer

In June, Governor Mark Schweiker and the Pennsylvania Legislature signed the College and University Student Vaccination Act. In accordance with the act, all students residing in University owned housing must provide proof that they have received the meningococcal vaccination or sign a waiver exempting them from receiving the vaccination.

The waiver verifies that the student has made an enlightened decision not to receive the meningococcal vaccination. Students who have not completed and turned in the certification form or an exemption waiver by Jan. 9 will not be permitted to live on campus next semester.

At the beginning of the semester, some students submitted a University Health History record. That is a record of other specific vaccinations that the University requires prior to attendance. It does

not meet the requirements of the law.

Even if your meningococcal vaccination was included on your health history record or you received it from University Health Services, you must still submit a completed certification form so that the file can be retrieved from Health Services and put on file in the Housing department.

It is important that students receive the vaccination because the symptoms of meningitis can be misleading.

"Meningitis initially appears like a bad case of the flu and can move very quickly to becoming life threatening," said Patty McMahon, director of the Health and Wellness Center. "The vaccine offers varying percentages of protection from the four main types of bacterial meningitis and is a relatively safe vaccine. We urge those living on and off campus to consider being immunized."

According to the Meningitis Research Foundation, when a person has developed meningitis, bacteria from the blood transfers into the membranes

around the brain. The bacteria cause the tissue around the brain to become inflamed and the fluid to become infected. Without treatment the person infected will go into coma, which can be deadly.

According to the Meningitis Foundation of America, symptoms of meningitis include vomiting, headache, drowsiness, seizures, high temperature, achy joints, and stiff neck. Meningitis causing bacteria can also cause septicemia (blood poisoning).

The Meningitis Foundation of America found that, once contracted, most cases of meningitis require hospital treatment. The bacteria are fought off by white blood cells in the tissue, but in the fluid there are no white blood cells so therefore there is nothing to fight the infection.

The infection can spread very rapidly to all areas of the body. Large amounts of brain damage can be caused in just a few hours. The infection can prove deadly in only 24 hours.

"The meningitis vaccine is available at the Health and Wellness Center for \$85 that can be billed to the student account or paid for at the time of the visit," said McMahon. "A coded receipt to turn into the student's insurance is given to the student for any services received here."

According to the American College Health Association, 3,000 people are infected with meningitis each year, and it claims about 300 lives yearly. An estimated 100 to 125 cases of Meningitis occur on college campuses each year, five to 15 of which are fatal.

"Many students are opting to be immunized, including those who live off campus," said McMahon. "One immunization is all that is needed. No booster is recommended. We will continue to have the vaccine available for all that want it. It can be given before, with or after the flu shot, which we also encourage students to come in for."

## Greek Week encourages solidarity among brothers and sisters

by Chrissy Speranza and Adrienne Schermer  
contributing writers

The Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council sponsor Greek Week, whose purpose is to unite the Greeks on campus and to promote the Greek System. It is also an opportunity to provide an element of brother and sisterhood. Each organization shows ability to work as a team and welcomes spectators to see the closeness of the Greek community on this campus. Greek Week occurs on the Behrend campus during each fall semester.

The Greek Organizations which participated this year were social sororities and fraternities that included Alpha Sigma Alpha, Theta Phi Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, Kappa Delta Rho, Delta Chi, and Sigma Tau Gamma.

Greek Week consists of a different event for each day of the week, Monday through Friday. The events this year were the tug-of-war, relay race, reek sing, drag race and a chariot race. Every organization shows its own spirit in different ways, and encourages its participants by cheering, painting its faces, and even dressing up as their mascot. Each event is easily judged by who won, except for Greek Week.

A panel of five judges is selected and asked to judge each organization on Creativity, Originality, Appearance, Lip Sync, Prop/Stage Use and Overall Performance. Each event awards points to each organization. The winner receives the highest amount of points, in de-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Behrend's Greek community convene during Greek Week, an annual week of events promoting friendly competition among fraternities and sororities.

scending order, rewarding one point to the organization coming in last place.

This year Alpha Sigma Alpha and Kappa

Delta Rho won the tug-of-war, Theta Phi Alpha and Kappa Delta Rho won the relay race and Greek Sing, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Delta

Chi won the drag race.

**GREEK**

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## Halloween cheer abounds in Bruno's



PHOTO BY ERIN McCARTY / BEHREND BEACON

Students who enter Bruno's on Thursday are greeted by a line of carved pumpkins. They could cast votes on their favorite by placing change in the cans next to the pumpkins, which were carved the night before. Proceeds go to THON.

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