



The Behrend Beacon

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TKE brothers take plunge for charity

by Guy Reschenthaler
staff writer

When TKE national called on all chapters to raise money for the Alzheimers Association Ronald Reagan Research Initiative, the Sigma-Delta chapter at Penn State- Erie, decided to jump right in and make a difference.

Literally. Ryan Sunseri, chapter president, decided that the brothers of the Sigma-Delta chapter would jump into the freezing waters of Lake Erie to raise money.

Brothers showed their support by raising money during a six-week period, receiving donations of sponsorship from fellow students, members of the community and local businesses. The brothers raised more than \$2,000.00 by the date of the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Tau Kappa Epsilon dove into ice cold Lake Erie on Sunday. The event earned more than \$2,000 for Alzheimer's Association Ronald Reagan Research Initiative.

event.

On Sunday the brothers of the Sigma-Delta chapter plunged into a 30 degree Lake Erie with friends, family, and a local news organization there to cheer them on.

"We wanted to do something that people would want to see, something people would talk about, and say, 'I can't believe you guys are going to do that! That's crazy! I'll definitely donate,'" said Sunseri. "People loved the idea, and it was a good enough to get us a spot on WJET Channel 24 News. I am extremely proud of our chapter and hope this idea will fuel the fire for more events like it in years to come."

The brothers of Sigma-Delta now plan to make this an annual event. Next year the frat plans to make it an all-day affair, complete with a cook-out, festivities, and local media coverage.

The chapter said it took great pride in its contribution to the Alzheimers Association Ronald Reagan Research Initiative.

Calls for peace

Students speak out against the war with Iraq

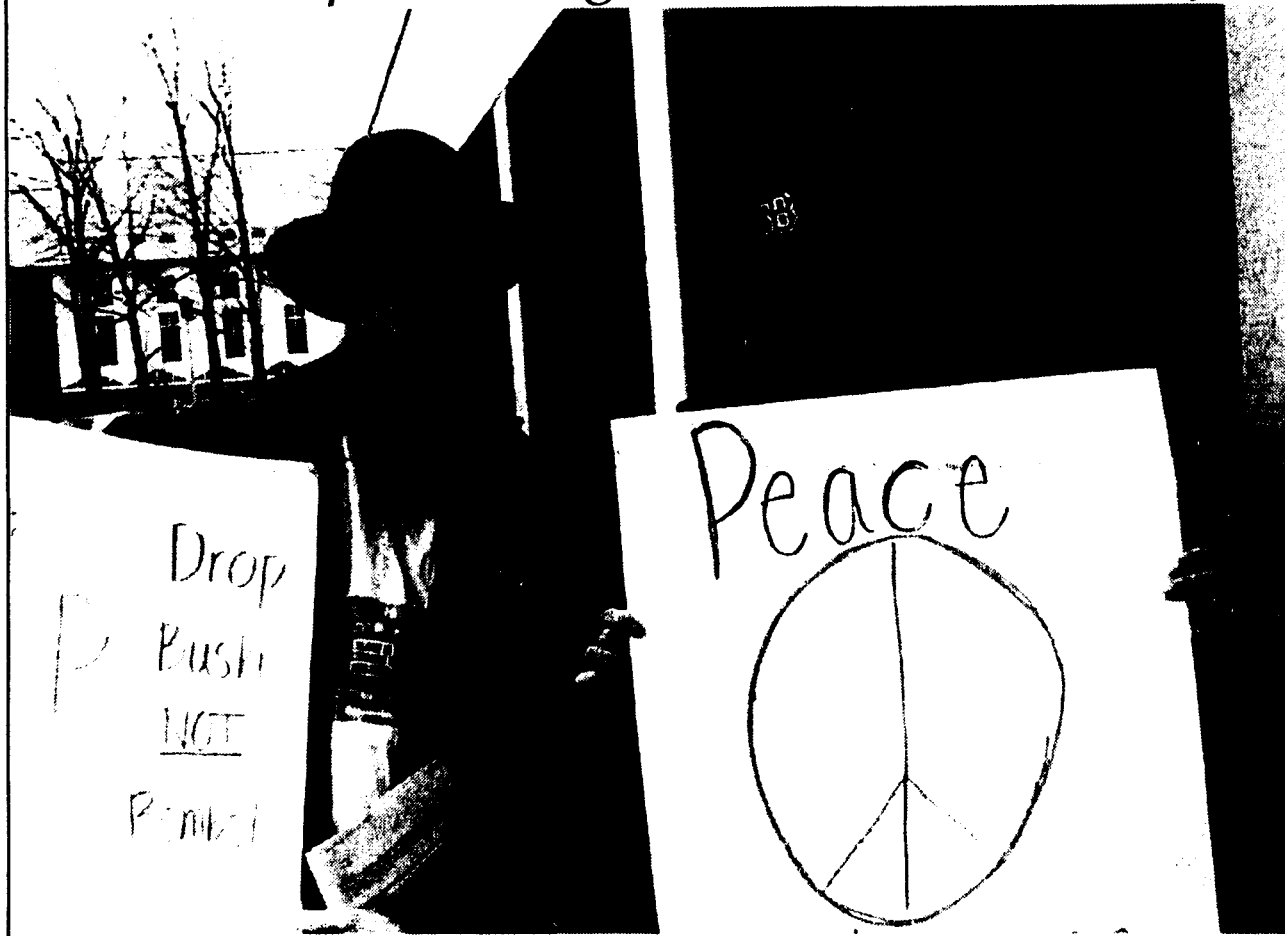


PHOTO: KEVIN FALLON/BEHREND BEACON

Chris Strayer (Left) and Louis Marte protest the war outside the Reed Building Wednesday morning. About 10 students took part in the rally.

"Peace is always an option. We don't see the need for this war."

-Chris Strayer, English, O2

Fourth-graders encounter the college experience

by Christine Kleck
advertising manager

Diehl Elementary fourth graders got a glimpse into the future Tuesday, when they participated in Omicron Delta Kappa's College for Kids Day.

Beginning at 9 a.m., the children were able to participate in work stations focusing on everything from Diversity to Media Production. Students also played games outside in the sun at the sports station and were able to build sculptures out of marshmallows and toothpicks.

Dr. John Gamble, in full and appropriate commencement ceremony attire, explained the significance of the

dress to the wide-eyed youth and later presented each child with an honorary certificate of completion of the College for Kids Day activities. One fourth grader even commented, "I just graduated college in one day!"

Around noon everyone in attendance was invited to enjoy pizza, pop and cookies, provided by Penn State Behrend's Housing and Food Services program. By the end of the event, the fourth graders were smiling as they asked Behrend students questions like, "How hard is your homework?" and "What do you like best about college?"

The smiles on the students' faces as they left proved that the event was a success.



PHOTO BY HEATHER WITERS/BEHREND BEACON

Fourth-grade students from Diehl make some tasty models on Tuesday's College for Kids Day.

'We are Penn State, and we plan on making it a better place'

SGA candidates Soltis and Sutter outline platform at Q&A

by Rob Wynne
managing editor

Scott Soltis and Jenn Sutter have a clear vision for next year – to make SGA an amazing governing body.

On Wednesday, Soltis and Sutter outlined their SGA platform for 2003-2004 at an open Q&A session hosted by SGA. Running unopposed for president and vice-president respectively, the duo highlighted four major topics for SGA next year – tuition, diversity, THON, and "bridging the gap" between Behrend and University Park.

They also discussed the structural changes that will take place within SGA itself to make the group more accessible to student organizations and the student body, as well as the public community.

And they've already begun. With an ever-shrinking state budget and ever-increasing tuition cost for Penn State stu-

dents, Soltis has taken the first steps in raising awareness about the issue by meeting with numerous state legislators like Tom Scrimenti and Linda Bebk-Jones to discuss Penn State's tuition hikes.

"I took the initial steps in building a bridge between our school and Harrisburg," said Soltis.

The second goal on their agenda had to deal with diversity at Behrend. Soltis said that things are improving, although a bit slowly. Some members of SGA speculated that Soltis placed diversity on his list of goals because "he had to," but Soltis has already begun work in this area, too. This year, he founded and became the first president of the Irish American Society, an organization under the Multi-Cultural Council umbrella.

THON is number three on the agenda. Each year, Behrend raises money and sends students to the Interfraternity



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE/BEHREND BEACON

SGA president and vice-president candidates Scott Soltis and Jenn Sutter answer questions during a SGA meeting on Wednesday. Their platform consists of issues about tuition, diversity, THON, and bridging the gap between Behrend campus and University Park.

Council/Panhellenic dance-marathon held at University Park. This past February, THON more than \$3.6 million for children with cancer. Soltis and Sutter would like to see Behrend become the number one supporting commonwealth campus next year. Sutter also represented Behrend at this year's THON.

Bridging the gap between Behrend and University Park is also a major goal for the candidates. They hope to accomplish this by closer communication with CCSG (Council of Commonwealth Student Governments) and the new caucus director. Soltis said he is especially interested in talking to University Park officials about the non-repeatable varsity sports credit for athletes.

"It's an issue that's very dear to me, and I believe that if athletes are putting

SGA

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