

# The Behrend Beacon

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## Club numbers drop drastically Numerous Behrend clubs become inactive

by Lauren Packer  
editor in chief

Behrend will be without 21 clubs and organizations this semester, including many that produced favorite programs of the student body.

While the majority of clubs remain in good standing, almost 20 percent of the clubs and organizations are listed as "inactive" by the Student Government Association.

To become inactive, a club or organization must fail at least one of three criteria.

At the beginning of each semester, all clubs wishing to be recognized by the college must complete a club registration/official roster form. Also, both the club's president and treasurer must attend one treasury training seminar. Lastly, a club or organization must have a positive account balance.

Midnight Bingo Board, the club

responsible for the popular once a month bingos, is among those clubs listed as not in good standing.

"We've got people interested. We're working on it. Once we have an e-board (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer), we should get ourselves going again. We're hopefully going to have a bingo this semester," said Pat Mazur, treasurer of Midnight Bingo Board.

Social fraternity Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) is also listed under the inactive list. Ohio Hall Council, Suites Hall Council and the Spanish Club are also clubs and organizations which held successful student attended events.

Now, all are listed as inactive. "As long as I have been here, this is the largest group of clubs that has been inactive that I have been aware of," said SGA Vice President Jenn Sutter.

Although this is the first semester that these clubs have been listed as inactive,

other clubs and organizations that have been inactive for several successive semesters have recently disbanded or no longer exist.

The Plastics Engineering Club, Instrumental Music Club, History Club, Campus Crusade for

Christ, Association for Computing Machinery, American Product and Inventory Control Society and Linux Users Group have all been inactive since before the Fall 2003 semester.

Other clubs listed as inactive include: Art Club, Amnesty International, Ophelia Advisory Council, Political Science Club, Roundtable, Signing Club and Yoga & Meditation.

Knights of Columbus Council and the Student Fire Safety Commission have disbanded.

At any time during the semester in which a club was declared inactive, the club does have a chance to become active in that same semester. Whichever criteria were not met at the beginning of the semester can be corrected, thus allowing the club to once again become active.

Going inactive is not a cure-all for club's and organization's problems. Becoming inactive has its share of consequences. Sutter explained that any club who goes inactive loses its funding for that semester and is not eligible to put in a proposal to receive funding for the following semester.

"The budget process always allocates money for the following semester. Right now, in the fall of 2003, we are allocating for the spring of 2004. If we were in the spring of 2004, and we allocate a club in good standing money for the fall of 2004, then they would receive the allocation. However, if they become not in good standing in the fall of 2004, their allocated money gets put back into SGA's non-allocated fund and will get rolled over into the allocated fund for the next semester," Sutter said.

Clubs and organizations lose all abilities if they become inactive.

"They can't even plan and produce programs if they are inactive," Sutter said. "They can get in trouble with Student Activities and SGA can revoke their constitution if clubs hold meetings on campus while listed as inactive."

A club or organization may only be inactive for two consecutive semesters before they are not recognized as a club or organization by SGA. This is explained in the Student Government Association constitution, Article VII, Section III. If they are inactive for longer, the road to becoming a recognized club or organization must start anew. A new constitution must be drawn and approved by SGA and then the club will begin to fill the necessary paperwork en route to becoming recognized again.

In addition to losing SGA funding as explained by Sutter, SGA Financial Supervisor Lynn Orborski added that the club can actually lose its non-allocated money.

"In addition to losing SGA funding, if a club is inactive for more than two semesters, that club can lose their non-allocated money. That would be money the group collected on its own through

FILE PHOTO  
Zeta Beta Tau brothers are no longer considered active.

fundraising, etc.," said Orborski.

Reed Union Information Desk Manager Stacey McCoy and Orborski explained that the reason behind such measures was to make the end of the year financial cleanup easier.

Both McCoy and Orborski stated that SGA used to carry clubs and organizations for long periods of time and without dropping them. It became too hard to try and close the financial books on a year when so many clubs had money, which was constantly being rerouted.

"I think that students aren't aware of the consequences of becoming inactive. They cannot get money allocated to them from SGA. They cannot program. I think that once clubs realize this they will do what they need to become active again," said Sutter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
MBB is in the process of restructuring its organization, to be recognized as an active club once more.

## Career fair helps upperclassmen take first step into future

by Dana Vaccaro  
staff writer

Finding out what the future holds does not walk up to the doorstep. The future, however, may be found by being in the right place at the right time. The future for some may possibly have been found at The Behrend Career Fair, held Tuesday from noon to 4 p.m. at the Junker Center.

The Behrend Career Fair was open to all majors. There were approximately 84 companies attending the career fair, with the majority of the companies that visited from within the tri-state region. However, there were a selected few traveling distant lands to share their information with the students.

Students gathered at various times throughout the day hoping to find an internship, co-op and part-time or full-time position in their field of study. Some students left the fair smiling with a bag full of information, while others hoped that finding a job will not be that difficult of a task in the future. There were students who did not attend the fair because they were not interested in the companies represented.

Jeff Pennypacker (07, Mechanical Engineering) thought that the career fair was informative. Pennypacker felt the career fair was an excellent opportunity to sell yourself. Many students were impressed about the information handed out at the fair, while others left the fair in disappointment.

"I think there should have been more opportunities for chemistry majors," said Jessica Sarver a fifth semester chemis-

try major. She added, there should have also been other locations other than Erie participating in the fair.

Sarver was not the only student disappointed in the fair. Erin Oberacker (07, Marketing) felt, they should have had a more diverse fair. The majority of the companies were there for engineers, not giving the opportunity for other majors to see what is open in their field.

Students had the opportunity to go online to research the companies before attending the fair. This is how many students decided whether they wanted to attend the fair or not. Justin Bootes (05, Communications and Media Studies) did not attend the career fair for one particular reason: there were not any commu-

nication job descriptions that fit his interest.

While students were complaining about lack of information in their field, others wished the fair was more organized. There were a few legitimate job opportunities. A lot of companies were looking for interns. If the companies had signs posting what position they were looking to hire, that would have made the day easier, said Casey Weed (09, Operations Management).

With the economy doing so poorly, the career fair was a good way to start the networking process and learn more about the future. Jonathan Laughlin (07, MIS) said, "It was a realization that the real world is one step away, and the job market just might be that limited."



Students pursue future career possibilities at the Behrend Career Fair on Tuesday.

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