



Happy Halloween!

# The Behrend Beacon

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## Working the street corners

### SGA THON Committee raises over \$2,400

by Lauren Packer  
editor in chief

SGA members recently played in traffic on Peach Street. Dangerous, yes, but it was all for a good cause.

This past weekend, the group went canning on Peach Street to raise money and awareness for THON. THON is the shortened name for University Park's IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. It is 48 hours of no sleeping or sitting, just dancing.

"Canning is the best and quickest way for the THON committee to raise money," said Jenn Sutter, SGA vice-president. "It's fun, easy to plan and easy to execute."

The total amount raised was over \$2,400.

According to the Behrend THON registration packet, canning is described as "standing outside and collecting money from people who are on the highway, leaving malls, stores, restaurants, etc."

"It never bothers me to give up a few hours one weekend a month to go canning," said Sutter. "It's such a great cause and the results definitely make it worthwhile."

This weekend was the first in a series of four that the committee has planned for canning. The other three are in December, January and February.

The goal of the THON committee is to be the No. 1 fund-raising campus out of 19 in the Penn State system. University Park does not raise money as a campus, rather they raise money through interfraternity and panhellenic councils, along with other independent organizations.

"We are one of the largest commonwealth locations and it would be great to see all of the students at Behrend get involved with THON," said Justin Curry, THON committee co-chairperson. "THON is a type of event that once you start helping out with it, it becomes addicting."

Last year, the entire Penn State University system raised over \$3.6 million for the Four Diamonds Fund, which provides monetary support of children



THON committee member Jon Meyn, COMBA, 07, and Kim Raff, LA 03, stand at one of the corners on Peach Street last Sunday collecting money for THON and the Four Diamonds Fund. Last weekend, the Behrend THON committee raised \$2,425.27 in three days.

PHOTO BY RACHAEL YATES

with cancer and their families. All medical costs, housing, meals, and travel expenses are covered by this fund. Since its inception in the early 70's, no child has ever been denied entry into the Four Diamonds Fund.

To date, the University has raised over \$23 million for the same fund.

Penn State's partnering with the Four Diamonds Fund began in 1973, when the InterFraternity Council was trying to change its image on the University Park location. That year, 39 couples

participated in the 30-hour dance marathon and raised a little over \$3,000. Since then, the University's annual marathon has grown into a 48-hour event and has become the world's largest student-run philanthropy.

"When you walk into Rec Hall and see over 650 college students dancing and having a great time, and not sleeping for 48 hours, you're in amazement," said Curry. "The fact that they're doing it for sick children and their families makes it even more amazing. I can't talk about it without

getting goosebumps, the feelings are indescribable."

Two years ago, Curry danced in THON as a freshman. He has been involved ever since and is looking forward to being one of the chairs this year at Behrend.

"We have a lot of events planned," said Curry, "and through all of them, we hope to see the majority of the student body come to an understanding of what THON is and does."

## Court TV veteran speaks

by Dana Vaccaro  
staff writer

Journalist Catherine Crier, who has won an Emmy, duPont-Columbia, and Gracie Allen Award winning journalist along with a member of Court TV's distinguished team of news anchors, Catherine Crier, will be speaking at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College on Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the McGarvey Commons of the Reed Union Building. Crier's talk is part of the Penn State Behrend Speaker Series. The event is free and open to the public.

Crier serves as executive editor of legal news specials in addition to hosting *Catherine Crier Live*, a fast-paced daily series that addresses the legal perspective of the day's "front-page" story. On Oct. 8, 2002, Crier released a New York Times Bestseller and her first book, *The Case Against Lawyers*.

Christopher Rizzo, Student Activities Director, is excited that Crier is coming to speak at Behrend. He believes she'll bring some interesting and thought provoking cases to Behrend. Rizzo said of Crier, "she is an amazing woman and had done so much in a short period of time."

Before joining Court TV, Crier anchored *The Crier Report*, a live, hour-long interview program airing nightly on the Fox News Channel. She also worked on ABC's *World News Tonight*, serving as a correspondent and substitute anchor, along with a substitute host on *Nightline*. Crier's Emmy award was earned for her outstanding investigative journalism on 20/20, a prime time news magazine. Her television career began at CNN, where she hosted *Crier and Company*, a live, half-hour news talk show.

She has also hosted Court TV's signature prime time series *The System* and numerous other specials such as *Court TV Investigates: The Laci Peterson Murder*,

*Serial Sniper: Investigation, The Skakel Jury Speaks with Dominick Dunne and Catherine Crier, Osama Bin Laden on Trial and Safe Passage: Voices from the Middle School.*

Crier's work on *The Interrogation of Michael Crowe*, part of Court TV's *The System* series, was recognized with a duPont-Columbia Award. She also received two Gracie Allen awards from the Foundation for American Women in Radio and Television for outstanding program host and also the *Catherine Crier Live* special, *Grandmothers: Voices from Oklahoma City*.

Prior to her successful career in television journalism, Crier presided over the 162nd District Court in Dallas County, Texas, as a State District Judge. When Crier took bench in 1984, she was the youngest elected judge in Texas history.

Crier's accomplishments are recognized by many. Mrs. Cathy Mester, a professor in communications, said, "she's certainly has a fascinating background, to include journalism and law make her an uniquely accomplished woman."

Atheia Mobley, COMBA 07, is excited to hear Crier speak. Mobley feels that Crier's experience is very rewarding, and it is an honor to have such an incredible journalist come to Behrend's campus.

Crier is a native of Dallas. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and international affairs from the University of Texas. She received a Juris Doctor in two and a half years from Southern Methodist University School of Law. The Ex-Students' Association of the University of Texas at Austin awarded Crier the 1990 Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award. In the same year, she was also recognized as one TV Guide's "Dynamic Dozen," along with The American Bar Association honoring Crier as one of their "Twenty Young Lawyers Who Make a Difference."

## Lion Ambassadors begin recruiting

by Courtney Straub  
news editor

Becoming a Lion Ambassador is an opportunity that students should not be afraid to take advantage of.

The Lion Ambassadors have many roles on campus. One of the many things they are known for is giving admissions tours during open house. They give these tours three times a year.

Another way to recognize the Lion Ambassadors is at the many events on campus including The Logan Series and the Glenhill Appreciation Dinner. "We help out a lot at the events," said Deanna McCandless, president of the Lion Ambassadors.

By working closely with Student Affairs, the Lion Ambassadors make sure the functions run as smoothly as possible.

This year a new activity for the Lion Ambassadors is Spirit Days. By working with athletics, the Lion Ambassadors go to important home games and pass out Penn State freebies. At a water polo match they passed out life preservers for soda cans, at a soccer game they passed out yo-yo's and at a volleyball match they passed out spirit towels.

"It gets our name across and shows our spirit for Penn State," said Jodi Hersman, Lion Ambassador, "We enjoy promoting Penn State."

The Lion Ambassadors have six committees in their organization. These committees are very involved on campus. The first committee has been sitting on the senior class gift committee for the last three years.

Every year the Lion Ambassadors get a chance to interact with Lion Ambassadors from other Penn State campuses at the Commonwealth Network Conference (CNC). The conference is held every

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Members of the Lion Ambassadors celebrate Founder's Day on Friday in the McGarvey Commons.

PHOTO BY LAUREN PACKER/BEHREND BEACON

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