

Rockin' the Vote Behrend style

by Erika Jarvis
features editor

Election Day may have passed, but the students in the Commu 405 class don't believe that's a good excuse to not register to vote. As a class project the students have been working hard with the film and video students of Commu 383 to rock Behrend and get students to register to vote during lunch Nov. 12 and 13.

Formally called "Rock the Vote," students' goal is to get at least 50 people to register to vote.

"Other classes have tried to do Rock the Vote in the past and they fell short of their goal. We don't for see that happening this year," said Carrie Rodgers, COMBA 09.

Bruno's will be taken over by these students working hard to get unregistered students to register. DJs from Forward Hall will also be attending, supplying music to get students excited and involved in the registering process.

"We're not encouraging people to go out and vote-that'd be great-we're just trying to get students to register. That way in the future if they want to vote, they can because they're already registered," said Lauren Packer, COMBA 07, and a student in the Commu 405 class.

The students worked hard to also get the community involved to help Behrend students register to vote. Sponsorship letters were sent out to companies in the area and students even made the effort to talk with store managers. All this was done in an effort to get the community involved in raising registration among college students.

"We have roughly 11 companies who are sponsoring the event and donating prizes for us to give to the winners of Rock the Vote," said Rodgers.

While students are registering to vote, their name will be collected and thrown in to a raffle. Prizes mainly consist of gift certificates to such places as The Olive Garden, American Eagle, Best Buy, Cornerstone and even Penguin Hockey tickets.

The Commu 405 class will be working the registration table and raffle while encouraging Behrend students to register. Students will find that registering to vote is quite easy to do. The Commu 405 students already obtained the voter registration papers from the Erie County Courthouse and all Behrend students have to do is fill it out and choose a voter party.

"We're really hoping that all of our hard work pays off. We sent out an e-mail over list serve and are trying to get students as excited as possible about the event," said Packer.

With the 2000 elections being so crazy, the students in Commu 405 want college students to be able to vote in the 2004 election and have some say in their government.

"I think that we can do it, I have a lot of faith in our program. Registration is quick and easy. More importantly it's free and it's our right to vote, so why not do so?" said Packer.

Rock the vote stats

In 2002 only 32.3 percent of 18-to-24 year-olds voted.

There are 28 million 18-to-24 year olds and of that, only a third vote. That leaves about 18 million 18-to-24 year olds who don't vote. **Our votes could change the outcome of an election.**

In the 2000 election, the 18-to-24 year olds age group accounted for roughly 4% of the votes.

by Eileen Jensen
staff writer

The final Soup for the Soul session was held on Thursday in the Smith Chapel. Following lunch, Dr. Zach Irwin provided inspirational words. Irwin is the assistant professor of political science.

Along with teaching, he provides his services by being an assistant minister at the Episcopal Service, offered by Protestant Campus Ministries.

Irwin was asked to speak about the best advice he ever received.

"The best advice I ever got was, 'It's not about you,' he said. He went on to talk about his experiences in life and how it pertained to the advice he received two years ago.

"We are the author of our deeds," Irwin said. "Through Christ, we collectively come together. Life is not about ourselves, but of serving others and joining together with one another."

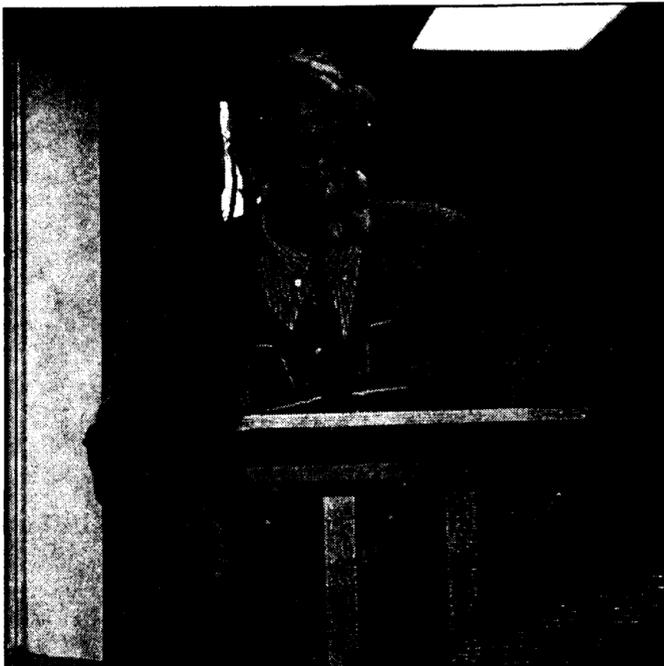
Irwin compared the advice he received to "The Lord's Prayer." Though not everyone believes in the same faith, nor practices the same religion in the Christian faith, "The Lord's Prayer" begins with the phrase, "Our Father."

"It may not always be about us, and (The Lord's Prayer) certainly proves that to be true, stating 'Our Father,' rather than 'MY Father'. That simple phrase allows the readers, and believers, to know and think that life is about others, and how we serve the people around us," Irwin said.

"You've made a step towards that rather challenging Christian virtue, forgiveness," said Irwin in response to the advice he received of how things aren't always about him.

Irwin said, "forgiveness is a difficult thing." He said this is because "forgiveness is all about you. You want to make yourself happier, and feel better for the pain that was caused by someone or something."

"A remark, an action or gift is received as a judgment about us, but its intention



Dr. Zach Irwin concludes the Soup for the Soul series with his best advice.

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is completely different," Irwin said. By judging others, we are comparing them to ourselves. By comparing others to ourselves, we believe that life is all about us.

Life is more about others than about ourselves.

"It's about something larger, and stronger," Irwin said.

Since life isn't about ourselves, Irwin believes that the question, the challenge, we need to ask ourselves is, "What difference does it make in my interpersonal life?"

By looking at the relations we have with one another, we realize that it's not about us, but rather it's about society, and how you react with each other, and respond to each other.

Irwin said the challenge everyone has is to ask themselves is "What am I becoming in my relations with other people?"

People need to look at their

interpersonal relationships with others and not just look at themselves.

A discussion followed Irwin's inspirational words, which included a question aimed towards Irwin. The question was referring to whether or not he believes that political decisions in this country are based on the advice, "It's all about me."

Irwin believes that there is no doubt that politically, decisions are made based on that particular advice, that it truly is all about that one person. Running for office, or any other political campaign allows the person running to compare themselves to the voters in society. As it was discussed earlier, comparing yourself to others will make the voters believe just what is expected, and as Irwin said, the person running for office has the idea of, "You should vote for me, for those reasons - that it's all about me."

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