

NEWS

Friday, December 12, 2003

The Behrend Beacon

Food advisory board meets to address concerns

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Behrend students now have a place to voice concerns, comments and suggestions about on-campus food service thanks to a university-wide program called the Food Advisory Board (FAB).

"This program has rolled-out campus-wide as a measure, or a means of measuring student satisfaction," Al Vogan, assistant director of Housing and Food Services said. "We put their (the students) needs first and foremost in our operations, based on the feedback that we get."

The purpose of the program is to ensure an open-forum for students so that the management team of Bruno's and Dobbins can meet students' needs. Meetings are scheduled throughout the year and are in varied locations and times, said Vogan.

Vogan also went on to explain that FAB meetings for Behrend students are actually two-fold.

"We happen to be at a point where we can take double advantage of this program," Vogan said. "First is to make our offerings tailored to the needs of the students as much as we possibly can. Secondly, we are coming into the planning stages of addition and remodeling."

Dobbins Dining Hall serves approximately 800-900 students per day. Vogan estimates that breakfast serves 75-120, lunch serves 300-420, and dinner serves 400-above.

Bruno's manager Mike Linder estimates that Bruno's serves approximately 2,800 students per day at the beginning and middle of the semester, while that number drops to 2,600 at the end of a semester.

Two students made suggestions and voiced concerns in the first meeting of FAB on Nov. 24, while no students participated in the Dec. 9 meeting. Housing and Food Services has already taken action to put the students requests into reality.

A request for hummus, a vegetarian sandwich spread, to be put on the deli bars is almost a reality. Housing and Food Service officials are in the process of creating a better-tasting recipe than the current hummus recipe, Vogan said. They are currently looking into requests for couscous as well.

FAB plans to accommodate all students of Behrend, regardless of their eatery preference or living situation. "It's not just residents that we want to get feedback from," Vogan said. "It's the commuter students, anyone who eats at Bruno's or Dobbins."

Students interviewed by the Beacon while at Dobbins and Bruno's weighed in on Housing and Food Services' new program and gave their suggestions.

Loriel Herist, DUS 01, eats at Bruno's a majority of the time and goes to Dobbins only for weekend brunch.

"You can get anything you want practically (at Bruno's)," said Herist. "At Dobbins, you kind of have to have a taste for the main course, but there is a lot of desserts."

Shane Elzer, BUS ECON 03, is also a resident who chooses Bruno's more than Dobbins.

"The hours here (at Bruno's) are more convenient for more," said Elzer. "Everyone once in awhile, if I'm up early, I

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Bruno's serves approximately 2800 students a day at the beginning of a semester, and normally drops to 2600 at the end of a semester. The Food Advisory Board make suggestions regarding the food services offered on campus.

Kerwin's film to air nationally

by Ryan Kessel
staff writer

Students who claim that their first few weeks of college are the hardest weeks of their lives now have a little something to help them out, courtesy of Penn State Behrend. And it also appears that little something may be sent to colleges around the country. John Kerwin, an assistant professor of communication and media studies, and Dr. Cheryl Porec, a professor of psychology, recently combined forces to produce "The First Year Experience: Are You Ready?"

The 30 minute video centers on the trials and tribulations that many incoming college freshmen face during their first year at school. In order to produce what the first year of college is like for students, Kerwin and Porec interviewed 15 different freshmen at four separate times during the 2002-2003 academic year. The students initially shared what their expectations of freshmen year were, and also shared changes they went through during that season. The next time interviewed, they shared stories with the camera about their own all experiences, and they also shared some mistakes to be avoided. The students interviewed covered wide demographics, including commuters and students from many racial and ethnic backgrounds.

And the video will be sent to colleges around the country as well. "This tape has become a hot item among college admissions counselors," said Kerwin. "We've had requests for this video from 45 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, from UCLA to Rutgers, to

Trinity Western University in British Columbia. That's how you know you're going from anywhere at the way of Sweden and New Zealand.

Kerwin recently took the video to the Jacksonville, Fla. for the National Association of Student in Transition, where he was interviewed by faculty and students as well as when they work together. When the conference, he also presented research data compiled by Dr. Kerwin, Behrend's director of Student Services. To sum it up, Miller reported that about 90 percent of the 2003 freshmen at Behrend found the video to be helpful in adjusting to college life.

It was a total Behrend team effort. Kerwin and Porec presented, and they also were the students interviewed. The production also helped out in the study on the video about.

"I'd like to thank all the students who helped us with this video. Porec and me on the video," Kerwin said. "Our production assistants were Mitch Peckley, Amy Bannock and John Haron, all students here at Behrend, and our editors, Deborah Johnson, Christine Kitch and Ryan Kessel."

All of that hard work has paid off as well. The video has been selected for a national award competition. Kerwin and Porec were awarded a national award for their video. The video has been awarded a national award for its production. A Telly award for its production award to win and possibly a national one of the most sought-after awards in the television industry.

Behrend presents Tuba Christmas

by Justin Plansinis
staff writer

You've had a tube 'a toothpaste. You've had a tube 'a glue. But you haven't lived until you've had a Tuba Christmas.

This Saturday, at 1:30 p.m. in the Reed Wintergarden, tuba, euphonium and baritone players from around the area will play many traditional Christmas tunes. The highlight will be "Three Dances from the Nutcracker." Also included is a tuba and euphonium quartet called the Undercurrents featuring Gary Viebranz, Daniel Burdick, Lowell Hepler and Ronald Stitt.

The concert is comprised of amateur, student and professional tubists from the surrounding area.

The event is completely free to anyone. Parking will be in the lots adjacent to Erie Hall.

If you play the tuba, euphonium or baritone and you are interested in playing, there will be signups in Erie Hall on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. A rehearsal will follow from 9:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. followed by a lunch and then the performance. There is a \$15 fee for participants that includes registration, the song book *Carols for a Merry Tuba Christmas* and a commemorative button. Those who already own the book only pay \$5.

"We did our first one in Erie last year in the Wintergarden and it was successful," said Dr. Gary Viebranz, a lecturer in music here at Behrend as well as coordinator and conductor for the event. "I'm cautiously estimating that we are going to have as many as 50 tuba and baritone players here for the concert and a big audience. I think we're going to fill the Wintergarden."

Some people may be skeptical about a concert involving only tubas

and baritones; however, the instrumentation creates a mixture of baritone and bass voices that some people compare to a pipe organ. Other people liken it to a men's chorus or a barber-shop quartet.

Tuba Christmas was conceived in 1974 by Professor Harvey Phillips of Indiana University in Indiana as a tribute to the late artist/teacher William J. Bell, born on Christmas Day, 1902. The late Paul Lavalley in New York City's Rockefeller Plaza Ice Rink conducted the first Tuba Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 22, 1974. American composer Alec Wilder who ironically died on Christmas Eve, 1980, arranged traditional Christmas music performed at the first Tuba Christmas.

There are Tuba Christmas celebrations all over the United States. There are also performances all through Pennsylvania including in Clarion, Lancaster, Indiana, Lansdale, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, State College, Stroudsburg and Williamsport. It has also become an international event celebrated throughout the world.

"I have heard rumors that on Christmas Day there is going to be a Tuba Christmas on the steps of Saddam Hussein's palace in Iraq," says Viebranz.

If you would like more information on the Tuba Christmas, Viebranz invites you to visit the website at www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/g/a/gav3/TubaChristmas/.

This project was supported by Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA), the regional arts funding partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency.

Past performances have proved to be rewarding for those in attendance. Students have described it as a truly wonderful experience.

STUDENTS

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that is traced all the way back to Mary Behrend's love of Christmas and her family," said Soltis. "The ceremony shows how truly thankful we all should be for the gift of this college. It shows the true meaning of the Season, and the Behrends gave up their land so that all of us students and alumni could have limitless opportunities."

After a selection of Christmas carols, the evening came to close with the hanging of the greens by Dr. Jack Burke and Soltis. The small Behrend chapel, lit by only luminaries, was silent as the two placed the wreaths on the crypt of Warren Behrend, the Behrends' young son who was killed in a car accident.

"The part that stands out to me is when

Dr. Burke and I actually hung the greens on the crypt door," Soltis said. "That is when the tradition and significance of the evening really hit me."

"It made me appreciate our campus so much more," Troester said. "I definitely think it makes our campus unique and it gives students and faculty the opportunity to participate in one of the oldest traditions we have at Behrend."

LION'S DEN

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But athletic director and former lion Brian Streeter strictly denies any such assertions.

He said of the Lion's Den, "We want it to be enthusiastic, positive and fun, not derogatory toward the other team."

However they do it, the Lion's Den has contributed greatly to the level of en-

thusiastic school spirit at the games and at least somewhat to a slight increase in attendance at games. Stacy Pondo said that she had noticed "more students (at games) this year than in past years."

"Turnout could still be better though, especially at the women's basketball games. "There needs to be more people at the girl's games," Stephanie Covert said. "No one comes to the girls games."

Students interested in joining or learning more about the Lion's Den should contact Charity Marsh at extension 2560 or Pondo at extension 6240 for additional information.

And if you'd rather not commit to joining the Lion's Den but still want to support your classmates, try to catch a game at the Junker Center. Bring posters, signs, banners (no noisemakers please) and lots of school spirit!

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