

Question of the Week

by Dana Vaccaro, features editor

Should we have had class Tuesday?



"I am a commuter. It was slippery and the bus is always late, and to stand outside for 20 minutes it was hard. You couldn't even see in front of you."

Chan Duop
DUS, 02



"It shouldn't have been canceled. I think it was unnecessary for Edinboro to be canceled too. I drove from there to be here on Tuesday for one class my professor didn't show up for."

Jim Cole
BLASC, 08



"I was disturbed about the lack of responsibility pertaining to the cancellation efforts. Many lives, like mine, were in jeopardy of driving here because of the slippery road conditions."

Ryan Deimel
MATH, 06



"I think it definitely should have been. The two-hour delay did not help me at all, I still had to shovel the mounds of snow off my car. The roads were icy to the point I had to make the decision to come to class. It wasn't worth the risk coming here."

Katie Morris
DUS, 02



"I thought it was ridiculous. I drive an hour and a half to get here and it took me two and a half because of the snow. This place should take into consideration not every-one lives on campus."

Christine Logan
METBD, 08

Have a suggestion for Question of the Week? E-mail your question to us at: behrcoll2@aol.com.

Governmental Affairs recruiting students

by Brad Stewart
staff writer

Your tuition is rising. Last year it rose by 7 percent, and it is expected to increase by another 10 percent for 2004-2005. Where does that money go?

According to the Governmental Affairs Committee, the state of Pennsylvania spends \$3,460 on each Penn State student per semester. Sound good? \$6,230 is spent per Temple student and \$5,030 for each Pitt undergraduate. And here is the kicker—Penn State students pay more in tuition than Pitt or Temple.

So why are Penn Staters getting less from the government when they are paying more?

Since 1975, PSU has held rallies on the steps of the state capitol in an attempt to attract legislative attention to the topic of tuition. This year the rally will be held on March 22—and just like every other year, students from all 19 of Penn State's campuses will gather to protest the rise

in tuition and unfair tuition distribution. In the past, thousands of students came. In Harrisburg, students will have the opportunity to speak with state representatives and senators. President George W. Bush has been invited as well as the five leading democratic presidential candidates.

SGA senators Deepti Soni and Kathleen Streaker are leading the Behrend campaign to "Rally in the Rotunda" (the Rotunda is the steps of the Pennsylvania Capitol building that lead into the legislative chambers).

With the help of their politically aware volunteers, the SGA senators hope to bring to students' attention that they can make a difference.

"Politics affect everyday life," said Streaker. "The government runs everything. You have to play a part in it." What part can a student play? Help is needed to construct posters, send out fliers, decorate hallways and eventually to protest on the steps of the capitol building in Harrisburg.

"It is important to get the word out," said Soni. The goal of the rally is to gather enough support to press representatives to notice that students are a vital part of society. That is why the SGA senators are also pushing voter registration.

Currently, only a small percentage of students vote. Streaker and Soni hope to increase student involvement. If we could get all of Behrend to vote we could overpower the voters of Harborcreek Township. We could elect who we wanted. We could control Harborcreek politically and force our representatives to recognize students," Streaker said.

The SGA senators and their volunteers plan to make voter registration forms easily accessible and to set up drop boxes in every dormitory.

If you would like to help in the campaign to fight tuition increases you can attend weekly meetings on Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Reed 3. For more information, e-mail Deepti Soni and Kathleen Streaker at dus143@psu.edu or kes282@psu.edu.

Cavaliers tickets sell out

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Students hoping to see the Cleveland Cavaliers take on the Atlanta Hawks on March 3 will have to wait another year, or find their own way to Cleveland.

All 28 of the student tickets offered by Behrend and the SAF fund have been sold out, and it took just three hours. Tickets went on sale Monday, Jan. 26 at 8 a.m. and by 11 a.m., the RUB desk's supply had been exhausted.

The total cost of the trip is \$10 and includes a ticket to the game and free transportation. Students will have the chance to tour Gund arena, the merchandise shop and receive a free LeBron James bobblehead doll.

Michelle Barbich, coordinator of student organizations and programs at Behrend, was contacted by the Cavaliers to take part in the group event.

"I talked to some students and staff and asked them what they thought," Barbich said. "The response was pretty positive so I thought, OK, I'll put in an SAF proposal."

An oversight on Barbich's proposal left the transportation funds short. Barbich originally thought SAF would fund all of the transportation cost. When the proposal returned from SAF, Barbich was funded for the cost of tickets and one-half bus transportation.

"I was happy with the students overwhelming response to the tickets," Barbich said. "But at the same time, I was upset with myself and hadn't done more research on the proposal and had

the opportunity to offer it to a bus load of students."

To remedy the money dilemma, Barbich decided to offer fewer tickets and take school vans so that students would not have to pay for transportation. Thirty tickets were originally available for students, but two tickets must go to the drivers of the vans.

"The word was already out that tickets were going to be \$10, even with transportation," said Barbich. "I didn't think feel that it would be ethically responsible to go and then put those tickets on sale for a higher price."

Barbich felt relatively confident when the Cavaliers contacted her that students would respond to this chance to see a professional basketball game. "A lot of students go to the basketball games here, so why wouldn't they want to see a professional game?"

Giving students a chance to get out of Erie also weighed in Barbich's decision to apply for SAF money.

"It's an opportunity for them to see a different city and get off-campus," Barbich said. "It's also a time for them to spend with their friends, or people they don't know and maybe make new friends."

Barbich said that this is the first time that Behrend has offered students the chance to see a professional team in another major-city since she has been at Behrend. And because of the overwhelming demand and success of these tickets, there is likely to be more of the same events in neighboring cities with professional sports teams.

"We may not offer a chance to go to Cleveland next year," said Barbich. "If Pittsburgh gets a new, hot recruit, we might go to a hockey game. It's just a chance to offer students additional opportunities to get off-campus."

Barbich's contact with the Cavs also spurred students to have another opportunity to see the Cavs. Shortly after Barbich confirmed the ticket sales with the Cavaliers, she was again contacted by the team. On Feb. 18, Cleveland is hosting a sports career fair with numerous professional teams looking to fill internship, part-time and full-time positions. One fee allows Behrend students access to both the career fair and a ticket to the Cavs game that night. However transportation is on your own.



Students will get the chance to watch LeBron James play March 3.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NBA.COM

THON committee hosts comedy night

by Justin Bootes
staff writer

Students at Penn State Behrend were treated to a night of comedy and laughter last Thursday evening at Jr.'s Laugh Comedy Club on State Street.

The event raised money for the Penn Diamonds Fund. The Behrend chapter raised approximately \$1,500, according to Justin Curry, committee co-chairperson.

The Thon committee began coordinating this event with the staff of Jr.'s in late December. Committee member and Thon dancer Jenn Sutter made the first initial contact with the establishment.

"The staff of Jr.'s was very willing to help us out in any way that they could," said Sutter, MKRTG 08. "And given the excellent turnout we had Thursday night, I think the event was a total success."

The committee was informed that it could make 150 reservations. It would split all of the ticket sales for the evening. The committee was also granted permission to sell raffle tickets for baskets and 50/50 chances.

Committee members Sutter and Nicole Steetle, as well as co-chairperson Rachael Yates, collected raffle donations from businesses in the community for raffle baskets.

There were four baskets: one for women's, a men's, a date and a family basket. Tickets were sold for \$20 a piece and \$10 for an arm's length.

The committee didn't know if they were going to be able to hit their mark of 150 reservations in the days preceding the event. With winter break week in the middle of their "selling season," committee members were not able to make any reservations.

It wasn't until 5 p.m. on Wednesday that the committee members were informed by Sutter that they had more than 150 reservations.

"We really let out a sigh of relief when that happened," said Curry, MKRTG 08. "We were counting on making many reservations, and the committee promised Jr.'s we could do so."

The comedians of the night were Jason Douglas, Michael Sussler and Reed Rankin. The show started around 7:30 p.m. and ended around 9:30 p.m. The whole evening was filled with comedians picking on anyone and everyone.

Rankin was the headliner. Rankin's comic style, mixed jokes and riddles were enjoyed by the audience.

Rankin hopes one day that he will get to sing Canada's and the United States' national anthems at the same time. The words from both anthems being sung almost simultaneously, entertaining

was in the air. "I thought it was wonderful," said Bethanie Palleta, GAS 07. "It was nice to have everyone here."

Rankin, the evening comedian said he was very excited to be in Erie. "Here I am in Erie. I think my career has hit its peak here."

"It was a great opportunity to take a night off of class. It was a good stress relief," said Mandy Soltis, GAS 08.

Behrend is a 48-hour Dance Marathon held at University Park every February. Money raised from the event benefits the Penn Diamonds Fund.

The Penn Diamonds Fund was started in 1973, and all of the money raised for the fund benefits children with cancer and their families.

To date, Thon has contributed over \$20 million to the charity, and makes up almost 90 percent of its total funding.

Behrend's Thon Committee has been working on various programs this year to be recognized as one of the top three cancer-relating campuses at Thon.

(Penn State) Fayette has always a really high total, but rumor has it that they have a member of the community that donates \$25,000 annually," said Curry.

According to Curry, at the beginning, the committee sat down as a whole and laid out some goals for the semester. The four main goals were to work with the student Greeks on campus and gain their support; to look for charity events on campus at Edinboro, Gannon and other areas; raise awareness on campus as to what Thon is and does; and finally, to work with community members to plan events that the entire city could attend.

"Overall, we have reached the majority of our goals," said Curry.

The school's SGAs have both went to work on advertising our events on their campuses, and a lot more students are talking about Thon this year."

The committee has another canning event planned for Feb. 13-15. To date, the amount raised has risen over \$10,000.

"I was really encouraged to see so much support for this first time event," said SGA President Scott Soltis, GAS 08. "It's success is a testament to the Thon Committee's tireless efforts for the kids. It was a good time for a great cause and I can't wait to do it again."

"I think that given all of our successes this year, we are setting ourselves up for an even better and more exciting year next year," said Curry. "We have very dedicated committee members, none of which are complaining as the only way to go from here is up."