

# Students lobby to lower tuition

by Courtney Straub  
Greek page editor

Bright and early Monday morning, approximately 30 Behrend students traveled to Harrisburg to attend the Third Annual Rally at the Rotunda. The focus of the rally was an effort to obtain a larger amount of state appropriations for all public higher education.

The rally was sponsored by the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments.

In Harrisburg, the Behrend students were met by students from all other Penn State campuses. Deepti Soni and Katie Streaker, co-chairs of the governmental affairs committee and organizers of the event for Behrend, were very happy with the turnout of Behrend students.

"Behrend had the most people there, and we were really excited because we're the farthest away," Soni said.

Before the rally, the students met with State Rep. Florindo Fabrizio and State Rep. Linda Bebeko-Jones. The representatives took the students onto the House floor and Bebeko-Jones let the students sit in her chair and get their pictures taken.

The rally began at 1 pm and the opening remarks were given by Derek Dureka, Governmental Affairs Director. The guest speakers included Rep. John T. Yudichak, Rep. Lynn B. Herman and Rep. Jeffrey W. Coy.

The speakers discussed how tuition has been on a constant rise. They also talked about how if higher education dies, then society dies. The speakers also felt that legislators should listen because students really do make a difference.

The closing remarks were given by Joseph Curigliano, CCSG President. One of Curigliano's main points was that the rally was not just for Penn State students, but for colleges all over Pennsylvania.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Governmental Affairs stop before entering the Capitol building on Monday during this year's Rally at the Rotunda. Members of the Behrend community met with state legislators and discussed state appropriations for tuition. More than 30 Behrend students attended the event.

After the rally, students were free to tour the capitol and meet with legislators. Students were also able to sit in on sessions and listen to issues being discussed and debated.

Different representatives took the students to visit various areas of the Capitol Building.

"I got to sit in Rep. Tom Scrimenti's chair," said Soni with a huge smile.

This was Behrend's first year

attending The Rally at the Rotunda. Through CCSG, Soni and Streaker first heard about the Rally. Since Soni and Streaker are the co-chairs for the Governmental Affairs committee, they thought this would be a perfect project for them.

"We were hoping that by attending the rally, legislators would listen and we would get positive feedback and support," said Soni.

For the past five to six months, Soni and Streaker have been preparing for the rally. Not only were they coordinating a way for Behrend students to get to Harrisburg, they were also meeting with legislators to build a connection between Behrend students and the legislators.

"Most legislators have been supportive," said Soni.

Fabrizio and State Sen. Jane Earl both gave money for Behrend students to

attend the rally.

The Governmental Affairs Committee will continue to meet with legislators to see how everything is going and see how they vote on issues. This will help the legislators realize that students do care about what happens in the government.

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