

NEWS

Alcohol awareness week WQLN membership renewal drive

By Maggie Causgrove
staff writer

Next week will be the 21st annual National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, or NCAAW. The week long program will begin this Sunday and run until Oct. 23. The coordinator for the week's event is the Partnership for Prevention Committee.

During Alcohol Awareness Week, a variety of events that try to increase awareness of alcohol use and abuse goes on. Monday evening there will be a speaker, Wednesday evening Rhythms of Life will have a NCAAW component, Mocktails and Daiquiri Deals "Sober Promise Cards" and on Thursday Personal Counseling will be sponsoring a table.

Throughout the entire week, the Health and Wellness Center will sponsor a table outside of Bruno's giving students the opportunity to learn more about the dangers of underage drinking and tips for staying sober while being pressured to drink.

Monday's speaker is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Reed Commons. The guest of honor will be Mr. Jim Matthews. Matthews was the Special Assistant to the vice president for alcohol and other

drug programs at Keene State College in New Hampshire for thirteen years. Currently he is a faculty member at Ursinus College where he teaches alcohol courses in the sports sciences program.

He received his bachelor of science degree from Manhattan College and his masters in education from Queens College in New York City. Matthews is a certified trainer for the Prevention Research Institute, has a certificate in chemical dependency therapy, and was a participant in the Professional in Residence Program at the Betty Ford Center.

Matthews is also the author of the book, "Beer, Booze and Books: a sober look at higher education." He has been recognized by the New Hampshire Legislature for his work in alcohol and other drug education and abuse prevention. He has appeared on ABC-TV, WOR-TV, CNN, NBC Radio and New Hampshire Public Radio and has been featured in numerous magazine and newspaper articles.

According to Jamie Russell, Behrend's coordinator of residence life, "Jim has spoken to over 190,000 students on more than 190 campuses throughout the country."

"This is a very successful program at Penn State Behrend in that it brings together people from all over campus for an important cause. Collaboration is taking place with faculty, staff and student leaders," said Russell.

"No alcohol offense will be treated differently this coming week, but that we treat them all in a consistent manner throughout the year," said Russell "Just because it is NCAAW, does not mean punishment for underage drinking is harsher."

Russell feels that it is important to spread the same message throughout the year, not only during alcohol awareness week. She said that the NCAAW is "a tool for educating students."

"Encouraging responsible decision making when it comes to alcohol use is the primary goal of our weeklong event," said Russell.

The coordinators are hoping for a full house on Monday evening for Matthews's presentation. They hope that through active student participation in the programs all students on campus, as well as faculty and staff, will be well informed about the dangers of underage drinking and the effects and consequences involved in such activities.

By Brian Mitchell
staff writer

On Oct. 21, WQLN will be hosting the third annual Collegiate Challenge. The purpose of this event in the past was to see which college could donate the most money to WQLN. However, this year, the challenge is for each of the local colleges and universities to raise more money than last year instead of competing with each other. Every college and university will earn a trophy for different events.

"This event is a lot of fun and a way for local colleges and universities to fundraise for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting," said Tom New, internship director for WQLN. "This particular event helps the Corporation for Public Broadcasting get closer to schools and understand the mission of schools in Northwestern Pennsylvania."

On Oct. 18, the president of Penn

State, deans, professors and other faculty members will be speaking on WQLN from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. during the NPR program "Morning Edition" to persuade staff workers, the student body and the alumni to donate to Public Broadcasting.

"This program also lets local colleges and universities know what the WQLN mission is all about," said New.

Speakers during the fundraisers will be talking about different ways to get tickets to Capitol Steps, which is held on Jan. 7 at the Warner Theatre. This show puts comedy in America's government with songs like "Unzippin' My Doo-Dah" and "Between Iraq and a Hard Place." Tickets will start selling on Nov. 1.

This annual event started as an independent fundraiser where WQLN asked for donations from local colleges and universities. It grew to having schools put on their own events to help WQLN.

THON events help kids with cancer

By Alicia Raffensberger
staff writer

Just about everyone has heard the word "Thon" around campus as they walk to class or eat lunch in Bruno's. Though many have heard about it, many still may not know what Thon is and how involved some students at Behrend are for such a worthy cause.

Thon is a shortened term for marathon, or more appropriately dance marathon. Every year for the last 31 years, a 48-hour dance marathon is held at University Park to help children with cancer. University Park's Panhellenic Council

and Interfraternity Council sponsor this event. Thon, however, is an event that all Penn State campuses participate in.

You may be wondering how does a two-day dance marathon help kids that have cancer? The truth is that Thon is a year-round project that allows all campuses to raise funds for this great cause. Sara Grant, INTBS 07, assistant director of Thon at Behrend, said that last year Behrend raised over \$15,000, placing third among branch campuses.

This money helps out in more ways than one, going to the Four Diamonds Fund to help families with not only fi-

nancial support but providing the emotional and physical support they need as well. The funds go to Hershey, Pa. to a medical center where children are treated for this disease.

"After getting involved with Thon last year and going down to see the dance marathon and all the children we helped, I knew I had to get more involved this year," Grant said.

Every student at Behrend is eligible to help out with Thon and may even receive the opportunity to go to the dance marathon at University Park this February.

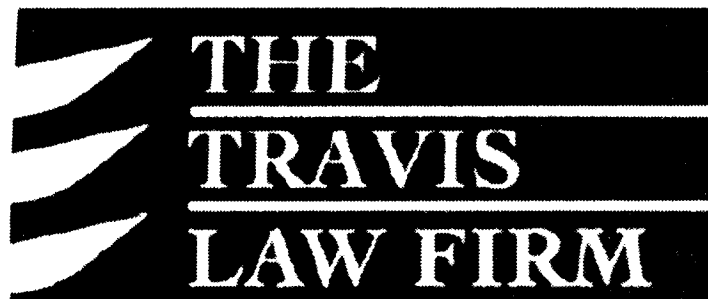
Winners will be determined by a point system where the top four organizations and/or individuals at Behrend will be sending their representative of choice to be a dancer.

Thon is already in full swing with events planned for later this month. On Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., jello wrestling will be held in the quad to raise money for Thon.

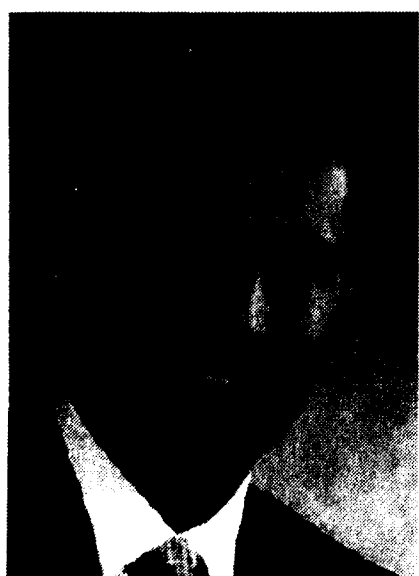
Another fundraising event for Thon is canning, where Behrend students stand along streets or near commercial plazas or shopping centers and ask people to donate money for this worthy cause. This will begin the weekend of Oct 30.

Points are given out for any and all participation in events and meetings. Anyone interested in helping with Thon should come to meetings that are held every Friday at noon in the SGA office in lower Reed.

"What I love about Thon is that you're helping out so many families, and so many people get touched by this event and it astounds me," said Grant. "You have an opportunity to meet families, to help out at the center where they get treatment, and to know that you made a difference in their lives. What's better than that?" Grant said.



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