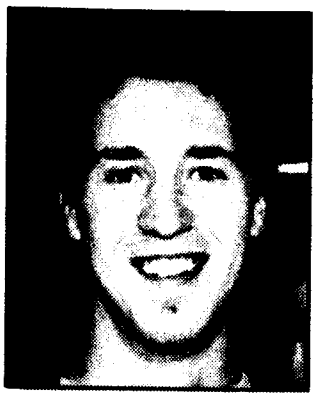


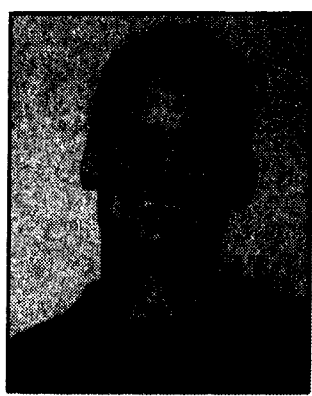
NEWS

Should P&S officers carry firearms?



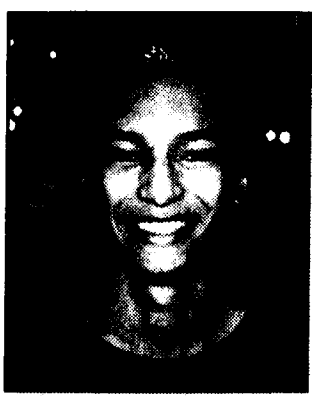
"Yes. I think it's ok in case they need protection from others with firearms when they are trying to stop crime."

Dustin Nowoczynski,
EK ED 01



"Yes. I think they should be allowed to carry them as long as they know what they are doing. It's fine if they are using it to protect the students."

Dave Jackson,
DUS 01



"Yes. Let's say someone else, not from campus, came here to steal stuff and the only way to stop them would be to use force."

Jairo Carrasquero,
ME BD 01



"Yeah, I think it's appropriate, in case there was an emergency or just to be used as intimidation."

Janet Niedenberger,
COMBA 03



"Yes, because if something bad happens then they will be able to protect the students."

Sara Kamber,
COMBA 07

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

Poverty, philanthropy collide during hunger awareness week

By Tim Mak
staff writer

Next Monday will begin the 5th Annual Hunger Awareness Week, which will run from Nov. 15 - 21. It aims to raise the awareness of the care for the homeless people and the community.

If you are interested in the plight of homeless people, you may attend the Empty Soup Bowl Dinner on Nov. 15, in the McGarvey Commons. A guest speaker from Mercy Center in Erie will be invited to talk about what is happening to homeless people. Free soup and bread will be served.

The second event, Cardboard City, from Nov. 16 - 17 may give you a taste of being homeless. Clubs and organizations are encouraged to use cardboard to build their own houses and stay inside for a whole day while asking for donations.

"I need the Behrend students to understand them and to go through what the homeless had gone through," claimed Kelly Shroud, co-

ordinator of Hunger Awareness Week. "College students are unlikely to have the opportunity to get hungry or without a home."

Not only can college students learn what it is like to live with the stigma of being homeless, but they also can raise money for any charitable organization they want.

One of the clubs involved is the Asian Student Organization (ASO). "Other than for charity, we want to do something good for the world," said Johnny Tseng, ME 03, President of ASO. However, he expressed his pessimism towards this program.

"I think not that much can be raised since nobody will be willing to give out their money."

The free Thanksgiving dinner, Dinner for Six Strangers, is regarded as the climax of Hunger Awareness week will be held Thursday night. Students will have the chance to meet students, faculty and staff they do not know from all over the campus. Shroud hopes all students will be able to learn more about the community and the people around them.

"We expect the students can at least think of the homelessness and can figure out one way that can help them," stated Shroud. One of the practical ways is to participate in the Community Service Opportunity next Sunday at the Faith Lutheran Church. Participants have to make Thanksgiving gift baskets and deliver them to needy families. "By doing so, we can show our acceptance to them."

Targeting hunger and homelessness has not been changed for the past four years because they found that the situation of homelessness is getting worse and worse.

"The homeless number increases each year and I think they really need our help," confirmed Shroud. "They are a huge population."

Finally Shroud would like the students to realize that small things can in fact make a big difference.

"As long as they can experience and understand their circumstances, they have already helped the homelessness in one way," said Shroud.

eight-term incumbent Scrimenti by less than 200 votes. With 25 to 30 people heading to the polls for 10 hours, students could have turned the Scrimenti/Sonney election one way or another.

Miller even estimated that the campus population had enough registered voters to turn the tide in the last Harborcreek supervisor election. Improving Jordan Road and the various zoning issues that the township faces are just two of the local issues on which students may be able to make an impact.

Miller mentioned the possible expansion of the EMTA bus line to the new Buffalo Road developments, noting that it too was "a political decision."

With much of the focus on youth voter turnout, it is easy to forget that 48.4 percent of registered voters from 18 to 30 years of age didn't vote.

One of those non-voters was Jerome B. Pohl, III, a communications major whose Election Day attire included a shirt that said, "Voting is for old

people."

From Pohl's perspective, young voters will never be a demographic that either party will easily court. He doesn't see one issue that can unify the entire 18 to 30 age group.

When confronted with the topic of tuition as the unifying issue for college age students, Pohl said, "It would be if they could get over their problems with everything else."

"We are not paying our tuition bills in October and November," he added.

A skeptical Pohl said it would take "a candidate who is not a hypocrite, which I think we've never had" to get him to the polls.

Miller, however, took a quite different stance. He noted that nationally and locally youth voter participation in on the upswing.

"Student's I think underestimate the amount of influence they have," said Miller. "As long as students vote, people will listen, the politicians will listen."

Minority representation on the rise

By Bradley Stewart
news editor

Recently, University Park released student enrollment data for the 2004-05 academic year. In total, there are 81,664 students enrolled at 24 campus locations. Among these figures was the recognition that since last year, the percentage of minority students had risen by two percent to 9,827 students or 12 percent of the university-wide student population. At such a low percentage of the student population, is this rise in minority numbers a significant increase, or simply bringing attention to a lack of diversity?

Behrend itself has a lower percentage of "under-represented" groups than the university average. Native American, Alaskan Native, African American, Latino, Hispanic, Puerto Rican and international students are considered part of the minority.

Enrolled at Behrend are 3,593 students. 256 of them are minority students and 53 are international students, making up 8.52 percent of the student population. This is an increase in four students from fall 2003.

"We try to be very pro-active in recruitment, to make sure that students who are from under-represented groups are very aware of the opportunities here," said Mary-Ellen Madigan, director of admissions. "But the numbers aren't where we'd like them to be."

Recruitment of diverse groups is not easy. Behrend is permitted to actively recruit in only three local counties: Erie, Warren and Crawford. Each respective Penn State campus location is limited in active recruitment for their satellite campus.

Another factor in the lack of diversity is Behrend's high standards. Many qualified individuals choose to attend universities that are closer to large urban areas or have nationally recognized programs and degrees. Also, students accepted to Behrend often desire to attend campuses away from their homes in an attempt to encounter new people and places. Therefore, since the surrounding Erie area has lower numbers of qualified minority groups and many qualified students choose non-Erie universities,

the lack of diversity is reflected in Behrend's population.

Behrend combats the small pool of qualified students by employing recruiting programs that focus on under-represented groups.

Penn State has what we call community recruitment centers in areas within Pa. that have a higher minority population," said Madigan. "We work real closely with the community recruitment centers, particularly with the recruitment center in Pittsburgh, to make sure that students there are aware that they can still go to a small campus at Penn State and be away from home."

Penn State also has several out-of-state recruiters who work in areas that have higher minority or under-represented populations. These recruiters ensure that there is a personal connection between prospective students and Penn State.

Why such a push for diversity on campus? Affirmative action no longer exists. No minority quotas or student slots are set aside for under-represented groups.

"Getting people associated with more ethnicities gets them ready for the real world, the business world and college is the best place for it," said Donte Hart, MKTG 03, explaining the importance of diversity in the university setting.

"Diversity will help [Behrend] grow," said Tranette Scott, Crime, Law, Justice and Psych 03, agreeing with Hart. "The best everything is where there's diversity."

Dr. Gregory Fowler, professor of English, when questioned about the importance of diversity on campus said, "I think it's extremely important. Diversity allows an engagement of a different series of ideas and theories, otherwise learning just becomes a reinforcement of ideas and there is little critical thinking or rationalization."

Behrend's low minority numbers might be disconcerting for some but according to Fowler and Madigan, the low numbers are not from a lack of recruitment efforts on Behrend's part, but are the result of a number of factors.

"It's getting better," said Hayolom Tadesse, FNC 06, providing an optimistic outlook on Penn State's minority situation.



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