

# STUDENT LIFE

## Greeks rush for new members

By Emily Zimmerman  
staff writer

Why is everyone rushing? It isn't to class; instead it is to join a fraternity or a sorority. There are three fraternities at Penn State Behrend: Sigma Tau Gamma, Delta Chi and Kappa Delta Rho. There are also three sororities: Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, and Theta Phi Alpha.

This past week has been Dry Rush and it's been a good week for the Greeks. Briana Theiss from Theta Phi Alpha stated, "A lot of great girls, all awesome." She was very excited about this past week and all of Theta Phi Alpha's activities which included a football luncheon, and themed parties such as Beach Friends, Penguin Party (their

mascot) and an Olympic party. Theiss went on to say that "many girls who came out were freshmen so hopefully they come back out next semester."

Sigma Tau Gamma has been actively involved with their rush plans with events such as horse shoes, and bowling. Delta Chi has had a bonfire Monday night, casino night on Thursday, and will be having a spaghetti dinner on Sunday evening. Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) has had low key gatherings. Luke Goldner of KDR stated, "We get our frat out through word of mouth and contrary to popular belief, our frat is not the soccer frat. In fact, we only have two soccer players in our frat! So any second semester and beyond student may join."

Chris Fox coordinates Greek

Life here at Penn State Behrend and walked me through the process of signing up for a Greek organization. First after deciding which fraternity or sorority you would like to become part of, you fill out a form so that Fox can see if you have earned the minimum twelve credit requirement. Also each member must have at least a 2.25 grade point average to be in a sorority or fraternity. After that, the organization decides to extend an invitation, also known as a bid, for you to join their organization. Then, it is your choice to accept or decline the invitation. Next is the New Member Education Program, better known as pledging. These regulations are decided on and voted on at the Greek Council meetings. For the fra-



Emily Zimmerman/ BEHREND BEACON

Delta Chi brothers Jim Duchnowski, Paul Nick and Charlie Morrison (shown left to right) enjoy a game of "Texas Hold 'Em"

ternities, that council is called the Inter-Fraternal Council. For the sororities the council is called the Panhellenic Council.

Fox believes that rush week "is important because it's a life-

time commitment so it is important for these organizations and prospective members to have a good relationship and really get to know each other so that it is a good experience for the organi-

zation and students."

All of the sororities, except Alpha Sigma Tau, have extended their bids so far, and the fraternities will be extending theirs in the next week.

## Tech Column: Ask ASCII

By Logan Stack  
contributing writer

Dear ASCII,

My mouse is a little unresponsive. I move it and it eventually reacts, jumping around the screen. How can I fix this?

- Jumpy

Dear Jumpy,

Your mouse woes are probably due to either a dirty mouse or a "dirty" computer. Flip over your mouse. If you see a gray ball, then you've got a ball mouse then the mouse is most likely at fault; it's dirty. If, when you pick it up, it's glowing red then you've got an Optical mouse, sometimes called an LED mouse or - incorrectly - a "laser" mouse. Then the problem is likely with your computer. If you have an Optical mouse, with a red LED in the bottom, then the most likely reason for the jumpiness is an overburdened computer. This is usually caused by spyware and adware. Spyware is software that tracks your movements online. Adware is software which gives you extra pop-ups and changes the advertisements in the banner ads at the top of pages (depriving those pages of money they need to survive.) Both are installed surreptitiously by

unscrupulous companies, mostly using bugs in Internet Explorer. Download AdAware (<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>); it will clean off most of the spyware. Next, download FireFox (<http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/>); it will help prevent you from getting reinfected.

If you have a traditional ball mouse, then it's probably literal dirt - not filth accumulating on your hard disk. There is a circular disk around the ball. Rotate the disk in the direction the arrows point. About a quarter of a turn later, you can flip the mouse over and the disk and ball will fall out. Inside your mouse you should see two rollers. The mouse ball rotates against those rollers and they measure how far you've moved your mouse. Go ahead and touch one; you'll see the cursor on your screen move. At the center of each roller is a band of crud - that's not a technical term. Use a razor or knife to scrape the crud off, making sure to rotate the roller so that you get it off of all the sides. While you've got the ball out, you may want to wipe that down too, but it's usually not as dirty unless you ran your mouse through a pile of cat hair. Now that your mouse is clean, stick the ball back in and twist the disk back on. Then go buy a mousepad so you don't have to clean it again as soon.

## ASA's sell students for a good cause

By Ashley Bressler  
staff writer

Looking for a good time Tuesday night? Having trouble finding a date? That's ok - just buy one. The Alpha Sigma Alpha (ASA) sorority is holding their annual date auction on Tuesday, September 27, in the McGarvey Commons at 8p.m. This year Courtney Straub, senior Communication and Media Studies major, holds the ASA Date Auction chair position. Straub explained that the date auction is ASA's annual charity event supporting the S. June Smith Center and the Special Olympics. The sisters have been taking volunteers all week to be auctioned off as dates for the event.

All students are invited to attend this event to enjoy the free food and music. Most importantly, all are encouraged to participate in the auction to help raise money for the S. June Smith Center and the Special

Olympics. The sisters have put a lot of time and effort into organizing this event year after year. The hard part is trying to find ways to incorporate new ideas into a long standing tradition, and this year's Date Auction will center on a tropical beach theme. The emcee for the event will be ASA's sweetheart, Justin Curry, and the DJ will be Jamall Erskine.

Date Auction is just as it sounds - students volunteer to be auctioned off and the audience places bids on them. All the proceeds will be donated to the ASA's National Philanthropy. Those who win the bidding are also given an entertaining date package. Some of the date packages may include gift certificates to local restaurants, movie rentals or bowling passes. These packages come with the purchased date, but do not guarantee an actual date with that person. Courtney Straub commented, "If the student who is auctioned off doesn't want to go on

the date, they don't have to. It's just a lot of fun and I encourage every student to attend even if they don't want to buy a date. It's always a lot of fun to watch!"

The ASA Date Auction has always been a great success for the sorority and they have been able to raise a lot of money in the past. This year should be no exception, as students at Penn State Behrend have always supported the various charity events and seem to genuinely enjoy them. Events like this are what keep our Behrend community thriving and it is the involvement and support of students that has made the ASA Date Auction such a notorious success. So anyone looking to take a break from the books Tuesday, come to the McGarvey Commons in the Reed Union Building and have fun with the sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha as they have an auction for charity.

Do you have a computer question? Then ask ASCII!  
E-mail [lws118@psu.edu](mailto:lws118@psu.edu) with "Ask ASCII" in the subject line and you may have your question answered in next week's column.

## "Pie your RA" was a smashing success

By Anthony Cianciosi  
staff writer

Members of the Lawrence Hall Council had a pie in the sky idea for students of Penn State Erie that could help raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As a way to raise money for the relief effort, Resident Assistants were clobbered with pies thrown by way too eager students who were willing to make the donation. It is a sticky situation, but somebody had to do it.

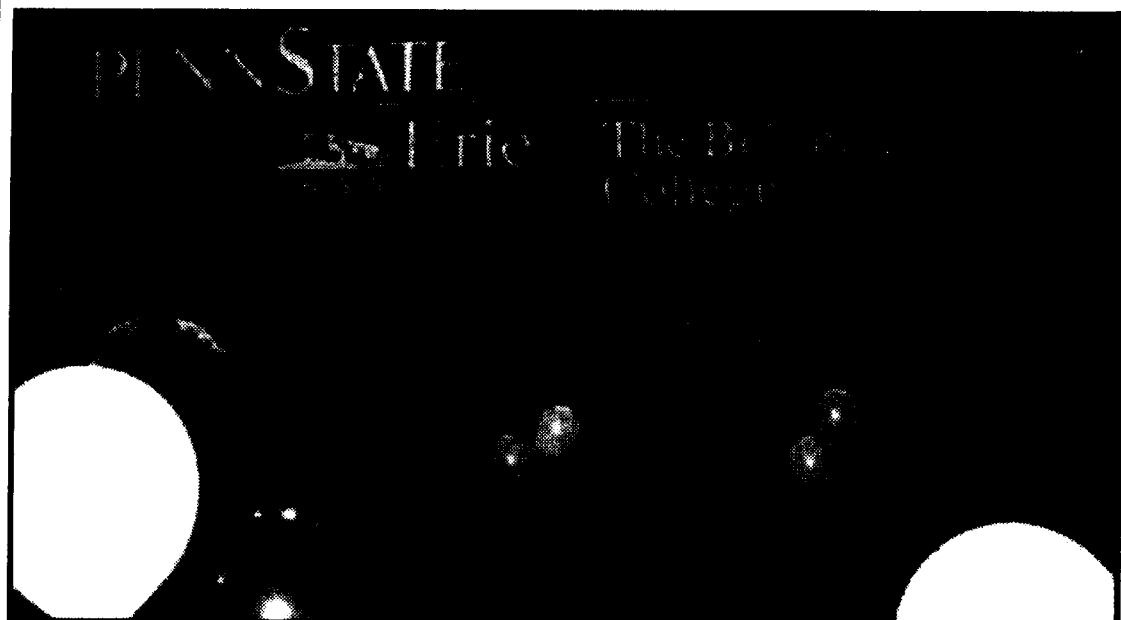
The "Pie Your RA" event was held this past Thursday at 6 p.m. on the hill in front of Dobbins Gazebo. For \$1 Behrend students had the chance to throw pies at their favorite RAs without consequence of retribution. Fundraisers of this type are an easy way to get students involved with helping others. All proceeds from the event will be given to the PSUnited Way Campaign, in cooperation with the Red Cross, which then will be disbursed to help vic-

tims of Hurricane Katrina. As the sun was setting in the background, sudden splatters of whipped cream flew off of the RAs' heads and into the air. Just a few of the brave RA's willing to put themselves on the front lines for this cause were Brian Forfa, Minisica Morris, Adam Rhodes, and Rachel Zclina. "We are only doing this for a good cause" said Morris right before being hit with one of the whipped cream pies. Rhodes kept the rest of the RAs in a playful mood by wiping the whipped cream off of his own face and sneaking up behind one of the other RAs who was just about finished cleaning themselves off, usually Rachel Zclina, and throwing it in their face. Towards the end of the event, noticing something peculiar about his skin, Rhodes said "My face is surprisingly smooth." To which Morris responded "Does [whipped cream] work well as an exfoliator?"

Lawrence Hall Council member Stef Main said, "This is the

first time Lawrence Hall has held a "Pie Your RA" fund raiser, but other resident halls have held the event before, and it always turned out to be beneficial. We wanted to come up with a fun and easy way to help the relief effort and this seemed like the way to go." Events like this are not just a way to raise money, but also create a way for students to get out and meet one another, and also get to know their RAs in a more amusing way.

This is not the only fund raiser Lawrence Hall is holding to help the hurricane relief efforts. The Lawrence Hall Council has been holding a trash pick up fund raiser not only to help keep their hall and dorms clean, but to help clean up the damage left by Katrina. Every Wednesday at 9 p.m. during the month of September, Lawrence Hall residents can have their trash picked up and taken to the dumpsters for them for \$1 per bag. And once again, all proceeds will be given to the PSU United Way Campaign.



Contributed Photo

Students walk the runway for a good cause during Alpha Sigma Alpha's annual date auction held in the McGarvey Commons



Kathryn Carstater/ BEHREND BEACON

A Resident Assistant takes a pie to the face during Lawrence Hall's "Pie your RA" fundraiser held on Thursday afternoon.

Do you have good ideas for the Student Life section?  
Send them to us, we would love to have your input!

[SLeditor@psu.edu](mailto:SLeditor@psu.edu)