

NEWS

New student organization arrives on campus

By Mandy Searly
contributing writer

A new student organization at Behrend has hit the campus and the Erie community to brighten the lives of people this year. The Service Learning and Leadership House is giving Behrend students the opportunity to gain new skills, including effective leadership skills, understanding the importance of community service, and developing good communication skills. The organization was started this year by Jill Foresman until she left her position. Residence Life Coordinator Craig Berger and Director of Community Service and Smith Chapel Kelly ShROUT are now organizing and perfecting the program so it can run smoothly.

The idea of the Service Learning and Leadership House is to have a group of students to live together and organize community service projects around the campus and community. "Each member of the house has to complete 10 hours of community service a month and plan a campus-wide service event at the end of the spring semester. After the student has completed all requirements, they receive a certificate of completion at the Service Leadership Recognition Dinner," said Kelly ShROUT, a supervisor of the organization. "I think the Service Leadership House is a great way to get students involved with

their community," she said. Erin Fritsch, Behrend sophomore also sees the benefits of the organization. "I first joined the Service Learning and Leadership House because it guaranteed me housing in the suites. But now that I have experienced the club, I feel that I have gotten a lot more out of it than just housing. I have made a lot of new friends and plus it really feels good to help people out," she said. Erin is currently planning an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Behrend's faculty and staff for her on-campus service project.

"I think the Service Leadership House is a great way to get students involved with their community."

-Kelly ShROUT
Director of Community Service and Smith Chapel

Kelly ShROUT and Craig Berger are still working out the kinks in the Leadership House. "It's the first year we have tried this program, so we keep taking suggestions from the members on what they think would help improve and enhance the program," said Kelly. Although there are still kinks in the program, the outlook of the program is still looking up. "I think it's great that students are able to live together and have common goals. I think with this generation, people really look at community service as a necessary thing for development. It's great that these students have the opportunity for community service to be implemented in a residence hall," said Craig Berger.

For more information on the Service Learning and Leadership House, contact Craig Berger at 898-6111.

Quotes on Civility

"To prefer evil to good is not in human nature."

-Plato

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility



Anyone interested in writing news articles for The Behrend Beacon can stop by the news office located on the first floor of the Reed Union Building or email Ashley Bressler at arb271@psu.edu.

Smith Chapel to receive senior gift

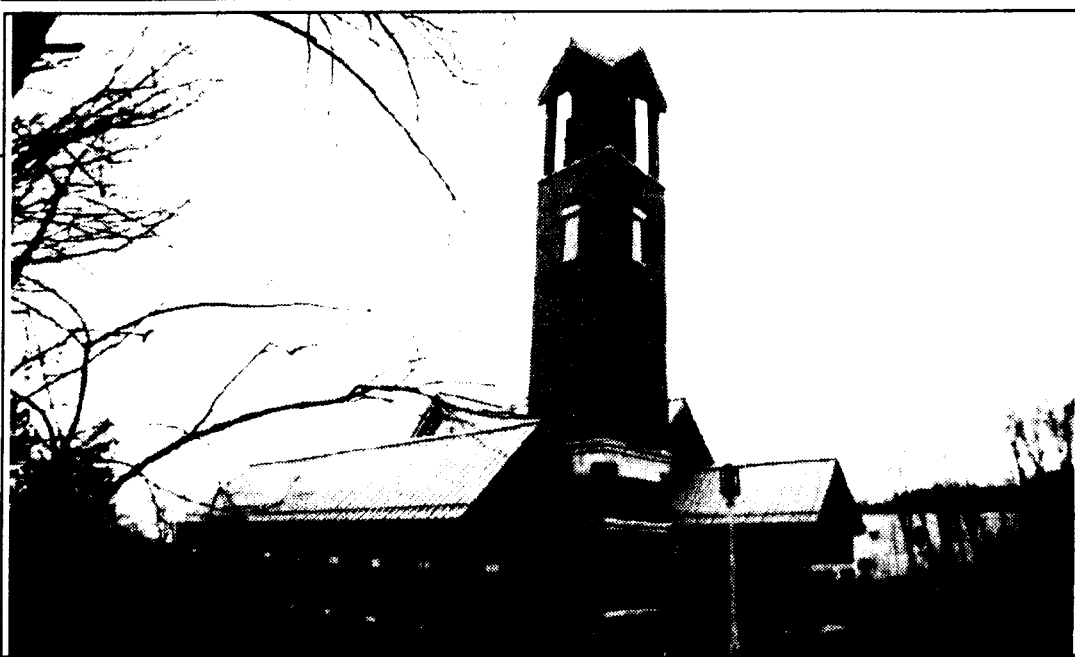
By Chris Brown
copy editor

The graduating class of 2007 at Penn State Behrend decided to finance a garden seating area to the south of Smith Chapel. The garden will be adjacent to the pathway connecting the Junker Center, Smith Chapel, and the REDC. It will give the many students who travel the path every day a chance to stop and smell the flowers and admire the colorful display. The Master Gardeners of Erie County will help with the creation and design of the garden once construction begins.

The Senior Class Gift is an opportunity for each year's graduating class to leave their mark on the Behrend Campus. Some of the past gifts given by sen-

ior classes include the crab-apple trees near the entrance of campus and the Nittany Lion statue in front of REDC, all of which complement the campus' outdoor atmosphere.

The Senior Class Gift Committee will be accepting senior pledges at an informational table at Senior Salute days April 2-3. The university creates a general deposit of \$100 for each student when they enroll that can be used for emergency purposes and whatever amount is left when the student is a senior can be donated by students for the class gift. Seniors can pledge their money at the informational table in Reed Wintergarden on April 2 and 3.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

The area between the Smith Chapel and the Junker Center will soon be the home to a flower garden, the graduating class of 2007's senior gift. The garden will hopefully add to the beauty of the campus.

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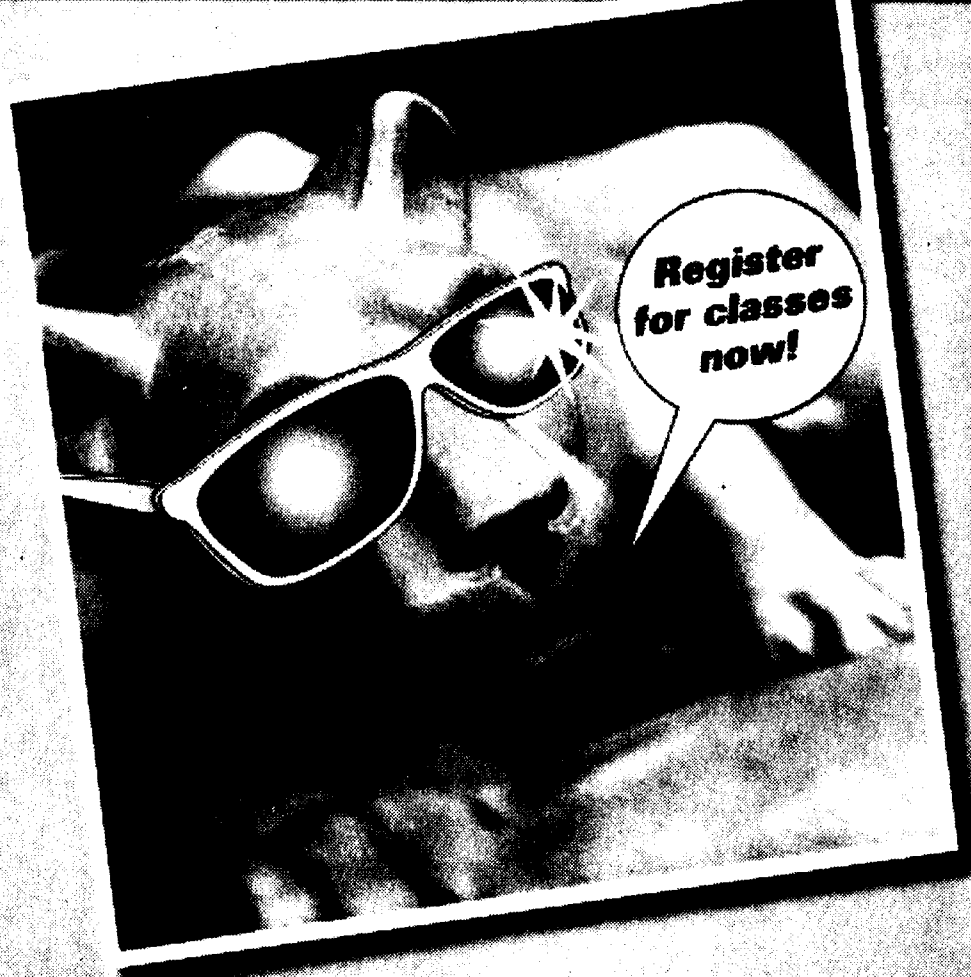
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