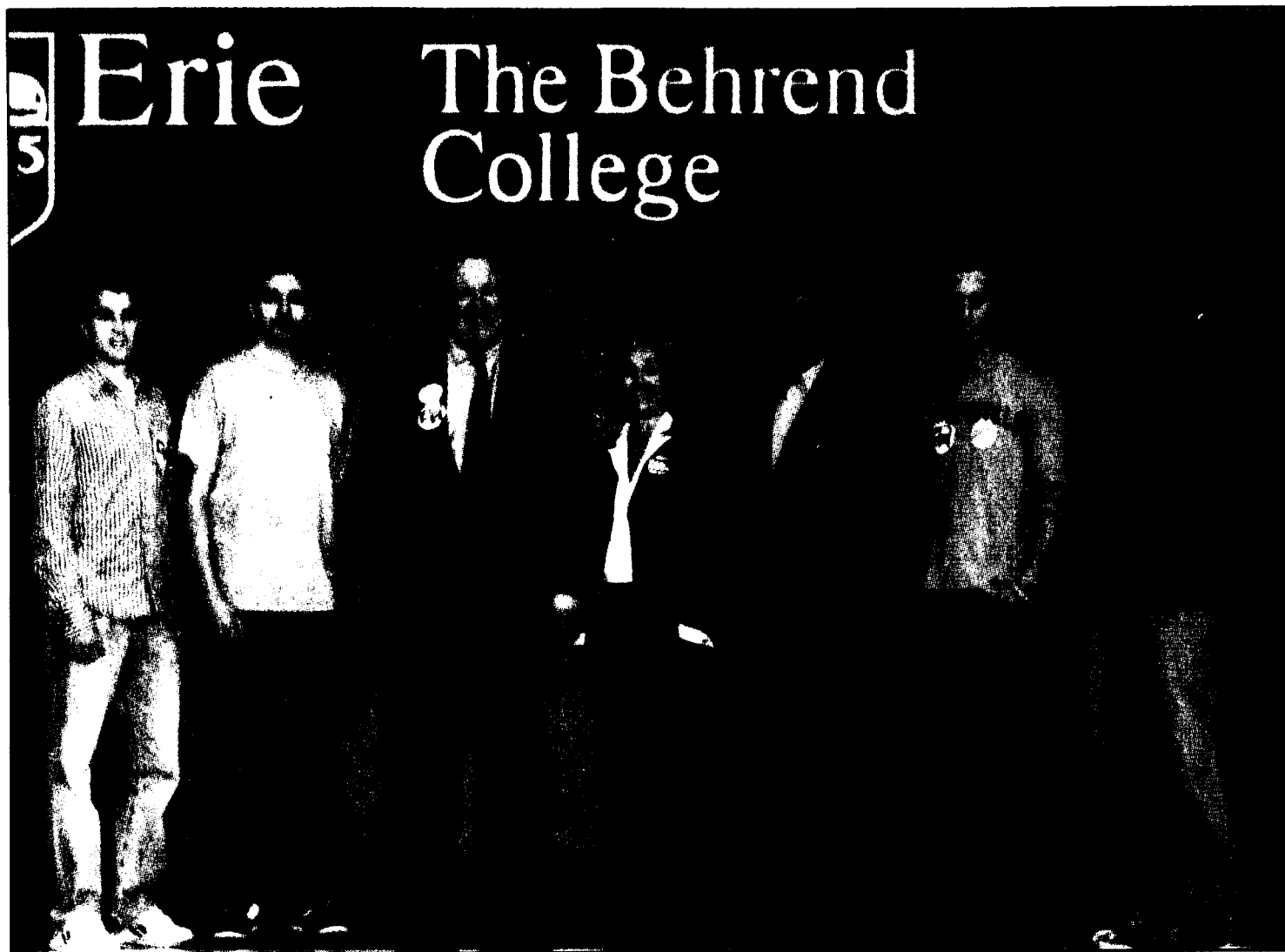


# CAMPUS NEWS



BRENDA SNYDER / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left to Right: President Nate Boring of the College Republicans, Vice President Ryan Snyder of the College Republicans, U.S. Congressman Phil English, Pa. State Senator Jane Earll (R-49), Pa. State Representative Curt Sonney, College Republicans' Secretary Brett Miller, and Republican Committeeman Daniel J. Smith

## Pa. candidates meet with students in McGarvey Commons

By Connor Sattely  
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Local Pennsylvania representatives met in McGarvey Commons on Thursday to talk with students and introduce themselves to first-time voters.

Pennsylvania State Senate candidate Cindy Purvis, State Representative candidate Rick Mitchell, State Representative Curt Sonney, Congressman Phil English, State Representative candidate Kathy Dahlkemper, State Senator Jane Earll, and representatives from both the

Obama-Biden and McCain-Palin campaign came in the early afternoon. Each were given their own table, and handed out information sheets to students that wandered in to check it out.

Education and the economy were the main topics students were worried about at the event. Both the candidates and current office holders discussed with students their views on how to solve the problems of the nation. The speakers wandered around the room, greeting students and getting to know them.

Sonney, who describes himself as a lifelong Harborcreek

Township resident, loves the Behrend campus. He thinks that a main priority needs to be getting students into college. "Of course, a priority is getting students in school. Beyond that, though, students have to look at what they want to do with their lives. If you want to stay in Erie, take a look around and look at what's in demand here; just look very closely at what you want to do, and where you want to live." He also realizes that paying for education is a difficult problem that students face.

"The government is giving increases in funding to universities," he says, "about three percent per year. But these universities are raising tuitions by six, seven percent per year. The costs that students face are being driven up by universities, and that's what we need to stop."

Sonney is a Republican first-term state representative who also feels that in order to create jobs in places like Erie, the government needs to entice businesses to come and stay. "The government doesn't create jobs," Sonney says, "companies do. We have to make this a friendly area for companies by reducing taxes, and a friendly area for college students to stay after their education."

Mitchell, who graduated from Behrend with a bachelor's degree in business administration,

knows the area well. A candidate for Pennsylvania's fourth legislative district, he still feels close to students.

"Students who graduate with mountains of debt are at a huge disadvantage," Mitchell says. "It also seriously hurts the economy." The Democratic candidate says that even with the economy in a downturn, helping students get into and graduate from college must remain a priority. Funding, he says, can come from the system that's already in place.

"There's a lot of waste to be identified in the system," he says. "It won't be easy; especially with the way the economy is, it will be a challenge. But we have to help students pay for college and graduate. Education must remain a priority."

Congressman Phil English also attended after speaking on a Questions on Religion in the 2008 American Election panel in the REDC, hosted by the Religion and Democracy program at Behrend.

Representatives from the Obama and McCain campaigns greeted the entering students. Jon Hopcroft, Northwest Regional Director of the McCain-Palin campaign, and Cathi Zelazny, the Chairwoman of the Erie County Democratic Party were each present to speak to students, along with staffers for each campaign.



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon

Pennsylvania State Senator Jane Earll (R-49) challenges her Democratic opponent Cindy Purvis to a debate.

## Credit crash affects loans

continued from front page.

Further complicating matters is traveling far past Penn State registration deadlines.

With students finding their normal avenues for loans blocked, the remaining student loan companies are desperately trying to keep up with increased demand.

As Jane Brady, an assistant financial aid officer at Behrend, puts it: there is a "backlog for those [loan companies] still standing."

Cook says that without the bailout passed by Congress earlier this month, students would be in much more trouble than they are now.

"The bailout was good because without it, credit would completely dry up," says Cook.

Another possible effect of the financial crisis: higher tuition rates.

Cook says that Penn State has a stronger immunity against rising costs than other schools such as Edinboro University.

He says this is because Penn State has high-drawing football games and donations from alumni. When the state declares that it needs more money, Penn State is able to meet those requirements through those incomes. Other schools are often only left with the option to raise tuition.

"PSU would be affected," says Cook. "...But it would just take longer."

## What is DebateWatch?

*DebateWatch is a voter education program of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD). DebateWatch brings citizens like you together to watch the televised debates, talk about what you learned, and, if you choose to, share your reactions with the CPD.*

**\* Anyone can host a DebateWatch! Just pick a place with a television, pick a group of people, and pick a discussion leader.**

**\* Organize a DebateWatch by yourself or in conjunction with your civic group, school, job, or neighbors.**

**\* If you can't hold a DebateWatch when a debate is aired, simply record it and hold the discussion the next day.**

**\* Leading a DebateWatch does not require any special skills or expertise. Your main role is to pose discussion questions to the group members after they watch the debate. In the process you will make sure everyone gets a chance to speak and you will settle any disagreements among participants.**

**\* Be sure to consider what to do before the debate and the night of the debate.**

Source: <http://debates.org/index.html>

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Greek week kicks off on campus

With one event planned every night, ending with Friday night's annual chariot race, the Behrend Greek Week is an honored tradition in which fraternities and sororities meet to compete and have fun.

PAGE 3

### Pop-punk group Punchline play CD release show in Edinboro

Last Saturday, Pittsburgh pop-punk band Punchline returned to the Edinboro Hangout to play a record release show for their newest full length album, *Just Say Yes*. The album hit stores on Sept 16, and is the follow up to their 2006 album, *37 Everywhere*. The building was nearly full and many fans came out in support of the band.

PAGE 7

### Three out of Penguins last five games decided in overtime

The Pittsburgh Penguins have kept fans on the edge of their seats at the start of the new season as three out of their five games have been decided with less than a minute to go in overtime.

PAGE 8

