CAMPUS NEWS

Sobel

continued from front page.

dark spots and oranges and reds, took much of the artwork's emphasis.

The planet Mercury reminded her of mythology. The planet Venus conjured up poetry.

The way Sobel presented her thoughts on the planets got positive reactions from the students in attendance.

"It was very entertaining," said Jesse Boorman-Padgett, a junior majoring in biology. "I loved the artwork, especially the moon

piece of artwork depicting a large shining moon casting glares on a stream flowing through a whiteflowered garden and a wolf howling from a stone gazebo.

She also shared a story that drew laughs from the audience. She said that the moon has always been associated with craziness. As evidence towards such thoughts, she mentioned how a friend of hers was given some moondust, crushed from rocks that came from the moon.

She says that instead of making an amulet or some other heirloom to preserve the rare treasure, her friend ate the powder.

The presentation then covered



MARCUS YEAGLEY: The Behrend Beacon

Sobel used commissioned artwork to propel her presentation.

elements of the other planets. Sobel says she thought of the planet Jupiter through astrology. Saturn through music, and Pluto through the idea of gaining entry into a world larger than itself.

way.

"Unlike my other books, this one did not have a continuous story since the planets have been known since ancient times." Sobel said. "And it also didn't have a single hero which creates a real creative problem."

about the planets in ways that are His Time, which is about John now what is traditionally thought of through astronomy.

For some, her ideas were tude and latitude.

engaging. "I thought, as a whole, the different ways she was able to por-

tray the different planets in her writing was interesting," said Craig Sanders, a freshman plan-Her book is structured the same - ning on majoring in creative writ-

Sobel is also the author of Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love, a biography about Galileo Galilei. She also wrote Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the She says she then thought Greatest Scientific Problem of Harrison, a clockmaker who established the standards of longi-



MARCUS YEAGLEY / The Behrend Beacon Dava Sobel (top) speaks about her thoughts on the planets to the packed crowd in the REDC (below).

THON

continued from front page.

around 5 a.m. and tried to sleep until noon the next day before they started dancing. "At the beginning, they were still really shaken up from the accident," said Thomas. "But they did so well."

Beck had never met the Dorer family until she reached University Park and THON kicked off. Almost immediately, there was a bond of love and support that made the entire experience worthwhile for Beck. "When the families were there, it wasn't as hard," she said. "I wanted to do it because it touches more people. It's something that's so small that I can give, but it means the world to these people."

One experience Beck recalls in particular came later in the weekend. There was a point when I actually was afraid that I wasn't going to make it." She said that a

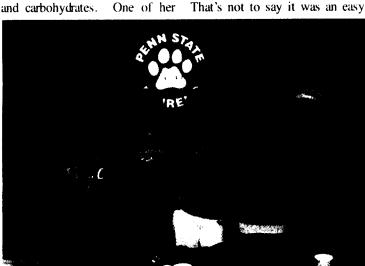
dancer she didn't know came over and physically held her up until she felt she could keep going. Mayer said that to prepare for THON, the dancers had to start cutting sugar and caffeine out of their diets weeks before. They went to the gym regularly to get in shape, and the week leading up to the event loaded up on starches

down to University Park the

most effective time to think

favorite moments was Joe Paterno's surprise visit. "No one knew about it - no one."

Shearer hadn't been aware of THON until Mayer introduced it to her last year when they were living together as roommates. However, she says that her experience this year makes her want to be involved again next year. That's not to say it was an easy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A dinner was held as a sendoff for Behrend's THON dencers.

weekend. "By Sunday morning it's really hard. There's no position you can be in that alleviates the pain.

It took Colvin four full days after the event before she started feeling fully recovered. She said that her ankles had finally reduced to their normal size after "swelling up like softballs." Colvin said that she really started struggling around four a.m. on Sunday morning. "I was reading letters from my mother, and I was really down at that point."

Colvin said that she would participate in THON again without even thinking about it. "You forget about the pain." Spending time with the THON families was the priority of the evening for her, and it gave her energy more than anything else. "I could have gone for a few more hours. It's a phenomenal cause, and it's so much fun."



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Students and the Dorers cheered on the dancers during the event.

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Chancellor

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Burke has the final say on all of the decisions affecting the Behrend campus. He, also, has organizations and/or



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jack Burke plans to step down as chancellor in 2010.

resentative of Behrend College to departments that report to him the surrounding community and every so often. As the Behrend campus is affiliated with the connection between Penn University Park, Burke must State Erie and its sponsors. report to University Park every Another duty Burke has here at Saturday. He finds the drive

Behrend is to raise an estimated \$11,000 daily through fundraising efforts. Burke does have help from a collaboration of individuals on a team so raising this high sum of money is a more attainable goal. Burke helps raise money to fund scholarships for students attending Behrend. Currently, Behrend is running a capitol campaign that brings in a large amount of money for the college. The final sum collected from the fundraiser often exceeds the initial target because of the various methods of successful fundraising.

Some of Burke's most defining moments at Behrend were not specific moments at all. Burke takes pride in the fact that he was a part of improving and expanding the Behrend campus to what it is today. Even though many predicted the downfall of the Behrend campus in the early 1980s, Burke did not give up hope on our newly developed campus.

Penn State Behrend had its ups and downs throughout the years, major issues threatening its survival. One particular period of time proved rather strenuous for the Housing and Food Department. There was a major lack of housing for students attending Behrend. Waiting lists for housing often contained 500 or more names. It has always

been a struggle to maintain an

appropriate balance between housing, parking, and academic As far as the retirement status

for Burke, he does plan to retire on June 30, 2010. Even if a chancellor is not found for Behrend campus, Burke admits that he may not have the liberty to stay another year due to personal issues. He would prefer to stay as Chancellor of Penn State Behrend, however. Burke has served Behrend for 29 years. For 20 of those years, he served as an associate dean until the chancellor (referred to as dean at the time) stepped down from the position to accept another position as president of a Nevada College. Burke did not originally apply for the position, but rather the chancellor search team asked him to take on the position. Burke declined the position initially, but kindly accepted when no other applicants were found.

The search for a new chancellor is not a complicated process; however, it sometimes requires a lot of patience in finding applicants. Ads are posted in an academic newspaper called The Chronicle of Higher Education during the beginning of the first semester. Next fall, a team will budget always being one of the be appointed to start the search for our new chancellor.

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