

Behrend Beacon

INVISIBLE ELECTORATE



Even after fall elections,
Student Government is nearly 1/4 vacant.

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NEWS 2-4

>> How effective has OrgSync been amongst Behrend students and club leaders? Is it truly the "academic Facebook"? Get the scoop from the presidents themselves.

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LOCAL NATIONAL 5

>> Tragedy strikes at Rutgers University in New Jersey- a heartbreaking story of a youth's suicide and the surrounding circumstances.

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SCIENCE 6

>> University Park professor creates a 3-D genetic model of a nucleosome reacting with a protein- an innovative accomplishment for Penn State sciences.

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ENGINEERING 7

>> Behrend hosts its first International manufacturing conference at the Bayfront Convention Center. Over 400 C.E.O.'s from around the world will be in attendance. November 12-15.

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OPINION 8

>> A Behrend student purchases Apple's new feature item, the iPad, approved of the technology, but returns it anyway. Find out why!

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CULTURE 9

>> Eerie Horror Fest to take place next weekend at the Warner Theater on State Street- A marathon of Hollywood and Independent horror films to celebrate Halloween!

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SPORTS 10-12

>> Men's water polo wins its second game of the season against Salem University at the Behrend invitational the Junker center last weekend.

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Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	Partly Cloudy
	H 59 L 49
SATURDAY	Showers
	H 56 L 46
SUNDAY	Scattered Showers
	H 52 L 43

Homecoming Court held in jail for charity

KATIE DUFFY
news editor

Seven Penn State Behrend students were arrested and taken into custody on this Thursday, September 30. The custody: a temporary jail set up outside Bruno's. The charges: excessive vocalization of club participation, and solicitation of excessive amounts of money.

The reason: these students are nominees for the fall 2010 Homecoming Court. Those who solicit the most donations from passersby will be selected for positions on the 10-person court.

The students were made a public spectacle, forced to spend two hours in the jail outside Bruno's, solicited by the unrelenting "war-

den" - and president of the Homecoming Committee - Andrew Iams. "Jail and Bail was a huge success and a very positive event, especially for the first time," said Iams.

The event, sponsored by the breast cancer benefits group Linked by Pink, is first a way to determine which nominees for homecoming court would be in the final cut, as well as a means to collaborate as a stu-

dent body in order to raise money for an altruistic cause.

Also, as Behrend has been without a homecoming for the past two years, the fundraiser was a way to raise awareness and lighten excitement. Instead of being restricted to street fliers, posters and window paint, the Homecoming Committee was able to effectively permeate the student body through the nomi-

nees, who spread the word to friends and potential donors.

Iams added, "It was really inspiring to see how much money students were willing to donate to breast cancer research."

Just Thursday afternoon, 514 dollars was raised. Fourth year Dana Cermanara, a women's soccer player representing the Student Athletic Club, individually raised over 150 dollars in just two hours time. The final homecoming court will be announced next week.

The Jail and Bail will resume Friday, October 1 at 11 a.m. with the remainder of the nominees, and will end at 1 p.m. Be sure to contribute to the cause and witness to your fellow students' temporary incarceration.

"It was really inspiring to see how much money students were willing to donate to breast cancer research."

Andrew Iams
President of Homecoming Committee

A BEHREND POLITICAL REVIVAL

Three student organizations each refit their respective groups to increase political awareness, activism

ANDREW TARR
staff writer

Politics play a crucial part of the everyday lives of college students, from the laws that they follow, the taxes they pay, to the costs of their education.

Many, however, tend to ignore our freedom to play a role in the decisions that affect our freedom. All political scientists will agree

that political awareness is key to preserving democracy. Behrend has three student groups devoted to that awareness and to the revival of political life on campus.

Professor Robert Speel, Associate Professor of Political Science and Adviser for all three political groups on the Behrend campus, has been working with the student groups to

help them better spread political knowledge on campus.

"I have been urging the groups to obviously be visible on campus," says Speel. "I have always told student groups that the best way to make students remember that an election is coming up or to make them aware that a campaign is going on is to have tables set up on campus regularly where there are voter registration forms or political brochures."

Sal Messina, President of College Republicans, has taken the lead within his own organization.

"So far this year, College Republicans has been a work in progress, in trying to build our group basically from the ground up," he said. "I have been working with Pennsylvania candidates

Mike Kelly and Pat Toomey on their campaigns and I'm trying to bring these candidates to campus."

Adam Fracassi, has assumed the role as President of the Political Science Society at Behrend, which serves as an independent organization aimed at increasing political interest.

"The most recent thing we did was voter registration," says Fracassi. "This past week, there was a table sitting outside of Bruno's that focused on registering everyone. The movement was very successful and I'm very glad that we did it."

"We are going to be moving into the No Labels direction which is the neutral zone of politics. This attracts many students, even ones that are not political

science majors, because everyone wants their voice to be heard and they all want change."

Political Science Society, he says, isn't so much about a political group as it is about bringing awareness to the students about what is going on in the government as well as on their campus.

While it is one of the only groups on campus for the political science major, it is open to all students.

