

# Behrend Collegian

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## WINTER



## Frat fights for campus space

The national fraternity, Alpha Phi Delta, is looking for ten men to start the Gamma Beta chapter here at Behrend. They have full administration support, and are now recruiting for their pledge program. "All we need here are ten good men," said Spinner Johnson, one of four men from the Gannon Beta Rho chapter of APD.

The student turnout for the numerous Alpha Phi Delta meetings has been poor. At one meeting, a total of two people showed up—one of them a Collegian reporter. Lewis Biacchi, an APD alumnus and member of the Erie Alumni Club (also supporting the fraternity drive) suggested that the current apathy is due to the old image of frat houses in people's minds. "There was a bad image created in the social-conscious sixties, involving strange initiation rites, paddle beatings, and monstrous beer gluttons. This leads to a bad stereotype," he said.

"However," he went on, "students are turning inwards now in the late seventies. The fraternity system is revitalizing... making a comeback. Right now our national organization is on three other campuses." Expressing optimism when asked if fraternities could survive at Behrend College, he replied "We won't be the only fraternity; we'll be the first."

Alpha Phi Delta was established in 1914. For 51 years it had an Italian-American background. Then in 1965 it opened its doors to other ethnic groups. It has always been characterized by small chapters—approximately 16 brothers in contrast to 30 or 40 brothers in other fraternities. According to Spinner Johnson, this leads to greater brotherhood bonds. "You develop a closeness that continues all through life," he said. "Social life was such that there was always something to do; I never wanted to leave."

There may be no chance to

develop that comradeship if the fraternity cannot get off the ground here at Behrend. The only obstacle to Alpha Phi Delta getting established is lack of student support. The national office of APD is pushing for it, the administration is in favor, and some faculty members, like Dr. Sweeting, Athletic Director of Behrend College, support it with enthusiasm.

Sweeting addressed the housing problem as being of no major concern. It is possible that a section of one dorm could be assigned to the fraternity brothers—if there are any. Against the argument that the fraternity would be no different than the floors themselves, both Johnson and Biacchi wanted to stress the differences between a fraternity and a group of dorm students. Whereas floors were formed at random, and have no official program for activities, the fraternity is built on a system. Alpha Phi Delta is an established organization having a national charter. With alumni guidance, it will have a specific direction, offering activities other school groups cannot.

Why haven't fraternities tried Behrend before? Biacchi gave this reason: "You've only recently become a four-year school. Before, there was too much transition." Two other efforts for fraternities on other branch campuses have failed—because of the "two-year" problem.

Of interest to all at the first meeting was what APD could offer the social life at Behrend. The Gannon chapter of APD sponsors projects for the aged and handicapped, annual dinners, and special parties. Biacchi assured them that a Behrend chapter, if formed, would introduce variety into campus life. Anyone interested in Alpha Phi Delta should contact Mark Minnaugh at 452-2417, or Lewis Biacchi at 833-5910.



Disregarding a miserable rain, on January 20 several dozen Behrend students took to the icy slopes above campus to celebrate what has now become an official Behrend College tradition—Winter Weekend. The rain could not hamper spirits, as a frozen hillside surface made it possible for high speeds and common collisions.

As if on a hot summer day, students arrived with innertubes to challenge the slopes in raftlike formations; interlocking hands, as many as fourteen people soared down the hill—until the inevitable break-up near the bottom.

Students spilling out or tumbling head over heels were common sights—so were persons steady enough to guide their sleds to the parking lot far below. Plastic sleds and innertubes were the most popular transportation, although many people slid down the hill without anything as well. Traction was slick because of the frozen rain.

Elsewhere on campus, groups of creative students worked on snow sculptures, rarely producing an ordinary snowman. The weather conditions were very good for snow packing, the temperature being up in the 20's.



## WEEKEND



Above, "Bertram Groundhog," a wily creation by (from left) Gary Svetz, Judy DiFrank, Cliff Caldwell, and Jan Gumpf.



## Couple dances to state disco

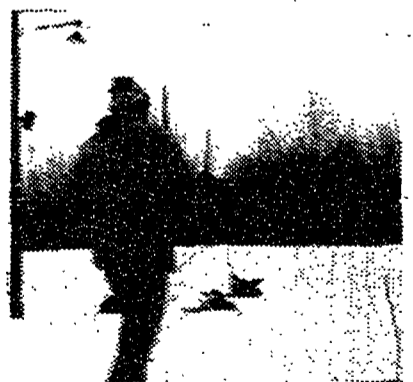
Joan Abbel and Mike Mixon, the couple who took first place at Behrend's Muscular Dystrophy Dance Marathon, will be going on to State College, where they will compete with other couples in a 48 hour marathon. One couple from every branch campus has been invited to attend, plus other couples representing State College itself. Funds from this affair go to Hershey Park Medical Foundation, and local support for Joan and Mike can go to Jay DiFrank. Donations will be accepted at the office behind the RUB desk.

## Gay day at Penn State

The Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS), a local homosexual-minority rights group, declared January 10 as 'Gay Blue Jeans Day.' Former HOPS president Jean C. Guertler said that it "will be a day when gays and supporters of gay rights can show their support by wearing blue jeans."

Psychologist Dr. Jo Ann Farr spoke that day in the HUB Assembly Room on the topic of homophobia—fear of homosexuals.

HOPS held a similar day in the previous year at State College. "It really made people think about what they could wear instead of blue jeans," said Guertler. She said it forced people to consider the issue of gay rights and sexual stereotypes. "I think it is good for people to feel—even for a moment—some of the oppression that gays feel every day," said Guertler.



## ROTC Scholarships offered

All sophomores at Behrend College are now eligible to compete for two-year Army ROTC scholarships, whether they have taken an ROTC course or not. If you are physically fit and interested in an Army officer's commission, see Captain Witherell in the basement of the Administration building, or call 899-7028.