

Rewriting the Constitution

by Holly Lew
Collegian News Editor

It's the 200th anniversary of our nation's Constitution and Penn State Erie, the Behrend College has got some new constitutional guidelines. Guidelines?... From Penn State Erie? These guidelines are for the updating and rewriting of the constitutions of the over 50 on-campus student run organizations.

In addition to constitutional guidelines, suggested by the Student Government Association (SGA), are guidelines for both constitutional By-Laws and Student Organization Registration and Policies.

Unlike the vague University Park guidelines previously followed, the new ones have suggestions and examples to clear up any ambiguity. With the new guidelines, an organization will be able to "better organize and find things quicker," said Carl Dabler, president of the Inter Club Council (ICC).

According to Dabler, a constitution should be the "bedrock" of an organization, defining the fundamental elements of organizational structure.

The constitutional guidelines suggest six articles for inclusion: Name of the organization, Statement of purpose, Membership, Officers (title, election and term), Meetings, and Amendments and effective date of the constitution.

The guidelines for the By-Laws suggest 11 articles for inclusion: Membership, Officers (duties,

removal, voting powers, vacancies, election procedures), Meetings, Dues & fees, Committees, Finances, Advisor, External affiliations, Major programming & services, Amendments and effective date of the By-Laws, and a miscellaneous option.

Dabler also said that because of the "open interpretation" of the guidelines, they were reviewed over five times by John Downey (Asst. Dean of Student Services and Advisor to ICC), Chris Reber (Dean of Student Services), Jamie Grimm (Asst. Dean of Student Services), Matt Farkas (SGA President), Tom Wilkinson (TOTH President) and others who were interested in getting the new guidelines affected.

The guidelines did not require University Park approval. Although UP is also working on a revision of the old guidelines, uncertainty about the approach to take prompted Behrend to go ahead and design its own set of guidelines.

Evenwhile the guidelines were pending approval by the SGA, organizations not yet chartered were already using them because, according to Dabler, "it's helping them to write their constitutions a lot faster, plus it thoroughly lets them know some of the organizational structure they need within their organization, serving a two-fold purpose."

For more information regarding the guidelines, contact Carl Dabler in the ICC office or call ext. 6452.



Students involved in murder mystery

by Steven Lee
Contributing Writer

They're one semester closer to graduating with honors, but what have our 31 first Honors Program students been doing besides earning enviable GPAs? Some of the interesting activities they've participated in are: dinner with the Voyager Crew, talking to former CIA Agent Peter James, a seminar about genetic engineering, and a trip to Buffalo.

Also notable, and unusual, was the "Murder Mystery Party." Planned as an activity for next semester as well, the Murder Mystery Party involved Jamie Grimm, Assistant Dean of Student Services, and

several Honor students who dressed in early 20th Century costume and tried to solve a murder mystery.

Next semester more co-curricular activities are planned. Besides the Murder Mystery Party, a trip to Toronto is hoped for.

The purpose of these activities is to allow the student to learn things outside the classroom while having fun, and according to Mari Trenkle, coordinator of the Honors Program, since the program is being phased in yearly, 14 freshmen have already been accepted for next year, making our total of Honors Program students 45.

"We're really pleased to see this happen because the Honors Program has been available at all

the other campuses," said Trenkle.

Every campus has a two-tier system: a 2-year Honors Program and a 4-year University Scholars Program. Unfortunately, none of our Honors students are University Scholars.

To be eligible, a high school senior must have a predicted GPA of at least 3.25 or 1300 on the SATs. An Honors student must take seven honors credits per year.

Students interested in entering the Honors Program should contact Trenkle at the Office of Continuing Education located just off Jordan Road. They should then take an Honors course to see if it is agreeable. If he or she earns a GPA of 3.5, you will be automatically in-

cluded to join the program. If you earn a 3.65, he or she will be invited to join the University Scholars Program.

There are many privileges granted to Honors Program students. They are able to register early, because according to Trenkle, "they have to be able to build a schedule around the Honors courses, and since we only offer 2 or 3 Honor courses per semester, they have to take that course." They also have special library privileges and special access to the computer facilities. Finally, they may be offered Academic Excellence Scholarships.

And the candidates are... ?? Uhh. Hmm

by Maria Plaza
Collegian Staff Writer

Are you registered to vote? If so, congratulations, you're a minority. It's a fact that less than half of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 vote, and even fewer take an active interest in decisions that shape their lives and the country's future.

Such alarming apathy was one of the reasons behind the formation of Behrend's new Political Awareness club. According to Kevin Trenney, first semester Political Science major and organizer of the club, its goals are to "promote interest in political activity" and to raise the "level of political consciousness" of students.

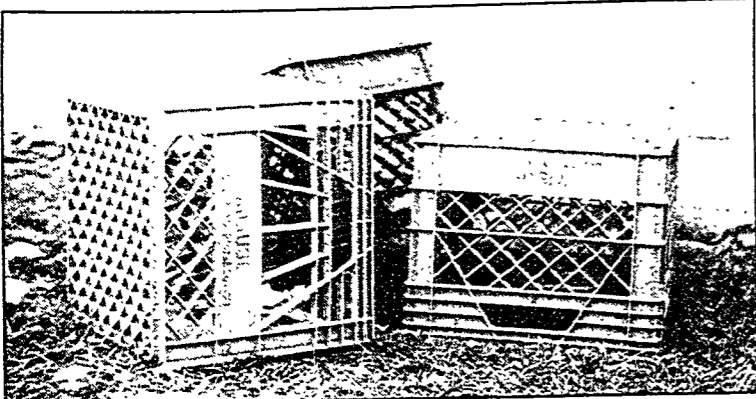
Next semester, the club will sponsor a voter registration drive, which Trenney feels is "very important." The club is also planning activities with current events, debates, guest speakers, opinion polls and small-scale political rallies featuring candidates and representatives.

The upcoming U.S. presidential election makes the goals of the club even more important. The club wants to inform students about the candidates, possibly through a prospectus sheet with each candidate's background and stand on issues.

Trenney stressed that the club will be non-partisan (not supporting a particular party or platform.) Instead it will try to "inform students about candidates and their party's platforms so they will vote as informed citizens, not simply according to family tradition. Citizens need to realize that parties change," said Trenney. He added that the club will try to "promote interest and inform rather than influence."

Involvement in politics, Trenney said, gives the power to correct injustices and change things you don't like. Don't be an armchair quarterback—Get involved.

Anyone interested in the Political Awareness Club should contact Kevin Trenney at ext. 6524.



Following the leader

by Trinette Zawadzki
Collegian Staff Writer

Are you curious about how and why people become involved, not to mention become leaders? Well, next semester, Behrend will offer S&BS 297B, a one credit course focusing on leadership skills development called Student Leadership in the Co-curriculum.

"This class is set up for any student who wants to learn about leadership skills," said John Downey, Assistant Dean of Student Services and instructor of the class.

Downey hopes that the class will teach students to get involved out-

side the classroom. "Taking this class will let you learn more about leadership, the Behrend campus itself, why people get involved..." said Downey.

Some things that can be learned through this class are: student development theory, communication skills, values clarification, multicultural-racism issues, dealing with planned changes in an organization, and the conflict resolution.

According to Downey, "this course will be effective, because of presenters such as John Lilley

(Provost and Dean), Jack Burke (Associate Provost) a United Way representative and a leader from the local community... hopefully from the Mayor's office. And it will have interaction exercises, making it active learning instead of passive learning."

You can be a leader and have fun learning to be one. This class is for everyone, and it's easy to add to your schedule. For further information regarding S&BS 297B, contact John Downey at ext. 6155, or stop up in the Office of Student Services in the Reed Union Building.

Coordinating your career

by Marjorie Surovica
Collegian Staff Writer

Tami Greig, acting Career Development and Placement Services (CDPS) Coordinator finds that her job responsibilities include planning career workshops, coordinating on-campus recruitment and counseling students to make their interviewing and job skills stronger.

Greig, who has been here for about three months, was hired as the Coordinator to replace Marybeth Peterson, who is on maternity leave. Greig moved from Boston, Massachusetts to Erie, and with that move she brought experience which includes a Masters in Education from Harvard and experience in counseling psychology. Her education and experience provide her with the necessary skills for handling her responsibilities as acting Coordinator.

Her responsibilities include a lot of "how to" work. Workshops such as "How to conduct a job search" and "How to create a resume" cover information that is extremely important for all students, not only seniors, to know.

"It is important to know that we don't hand out jobs. We lead to openings and help students to develop good working skills," said Greig. These skills, even if not used immediately, provide exposure to information which will be helpful to students in the future.

Other four-year colleges have career placement services which students really utilize. "Some students don't take advantage of our service, and that's a shame. Even though students are very busy; it would be very beneficial if they could pick up workshop brochures to use at a later date. It's hard to find a job, but if students came to the workshops now, then during the summer when they're looking for a job, they could bring these materials out and study them," said Greig.

Besides workshops being presented regularly, they often feature guest speakers who are actual employers. "What do employers

look for?" featured a representative from the Hammermill Paper Company, which Ernst Behrend helped found.

These workshops are very useful in preparing students for interviews but they are not the only preparation offered by the Career and Placement Service. Interviews can also be set up for students through interview request forms, which are sent to University park. When the student qualifies for a position, an interview date is arranged. The student then travels to UP and has his or her screening test.

These interviews begin again in late January. Students are allowed to use this interviewing process at University Park up until one semester after graduation. "It would be nice to see more involvement," said Greig, "because it's a great opportunity."

"Students who don't use this service and who don't go to the workshops are really missing out

on something good. For instance, a management student who gives us copies of his or her resume can get called to interviews if an employer wants to see all the resumes of students interested in managerial positions," said Greig. If a student doesn't have a resume on file, he won't find out about that job opening.

To keep students informed about job skills, the Career Development and Placement Services also distributes *Careers Magazine*, interview manuals, samples of resumes and cover letters, and other interviewing necessities. Even though Greig is leaving on Dec. 18, CDPS will still be on the first floor of the Reed Union Building, across from the bookstore.

If you are a student concerned about your future, check out this service so when you check out a job, you'll be more prepared than your competition.

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