

Freshman Corner

by Orlando Cruz

Christmas is a worldwide holiday, celebrated throughout the nations in a varied multitude of traditions. Every country has its own unique way of celebrating this festive holiday.

In France, families prepare for Christmas Eve with the "Creche," or miniature nativity scene. It is a custom that originated in the Middle Ages when "miracle plays" were enacted on small stages set up in the street or market place. In Provence, France, the Creche is characterized by little vibrantly colored figurines called *santons*. These small figures represent not only the Holy Family but also all sorts of familiar village characters such as butchers, bakers, spinners and flute players, who all came to adore the infant Jesus. On Christmas Eve, at midnight the church bells ring gloriously, announcing the arrival of Christmas day and the beginning of Christmas mass. In Paris, the cathedral service is magnificent while in the rural districts, the ceremony is observed more simply. After attending the Mass, families throw parties, at which the *reveillon*, or late supper, is served. Traditional foods vary from city to city, but the most common examples are: oysters, *pate de foie gras*, sausages, pancakes, and many varieties of sweet and white wines.

On Christmas Eve, children set out their shoes near the fireplace, so that Pere Noel, Father Christmas, will put candy and toys in them. Christmas Day is celebrated with more feasting and partying.

In Spain, like France, the festivities begin on Christmas Eve, or Noche Buena. Markets get crowded with shoppers for the big dinner. Children run from booth to booth looking at the *nacimantos*, nativity scenes which are a symbol of honor in Spanish homes.

At Midnight, church bells sound out the birth of Christ, and the townspeople hurry to Midnight Mass. After Mass, they have a traditional dinner consisting of turkey, cakes, farm products in season, and Turon.

On Christmas Day, the customary exchanging of gifts takes place. Gifts are given to everyday workers such as the elevator boy, bakers, and garbage collectors. Children usually do not receive gifts until Jan. 6, *Dia de los Reyes Magos* (Day of the Kings or the Epiphany.) They anxiously await this day when the Magi take the place of Santa Claus. They also place their shoes near the fireplace so that they may be filled with toys and candy by the Kings on their way to Bethlehem.

These are just two of the many Christmas traditions around the world.

Good luck on Finals, and a very merry Christmas, however you celebrate it, and a happy New Year, too.

Yearbook

by Holly Lew
Yearbook Editor

The Lion's Pride recently mailed brochures to the parents of all seniors offering them the opportunity to purchase a Yearbook as a gift and response has been favorable. Several orders have been placed, but we also just got our first bill from Jostens, our publisher.

We're still having trouble with film availability, but if only students would help us out, everything would be taken care of. Give us your time and effort. Our next deadline is Dec. 14 and we really need your photos!

Club Reports

Rangers

by Michelle Grasmick
ROTC Staff

The night was cold and the night was dark; this, however, did not prevent the dedicated Rangers from assembling to perform a number of patrols, attacks and raids on the weekend of Nov. 20 - 21. The purpose of Operation "True Grit" was to give Rangers the opportunity to become familiar with tactics frequently practiced by infantry and ranger battalions.

The Rangers' mission called for establishing a patrol base in West Germany and reacting to attacks made by the enemy aggressors. The exercise also required the Rangers to patrol, conduct reconnaissance missions and raid an enemy camp.

After an initial information briefing where ammunition was dispersed, faces were camouflaged and squads were inspected. The Rangers took to the woods in search of a suitable patrol base.

Upon the establishment of the patrol base, the Rangers began their preparations for security and the raid on the enemy base camp. The Rangers were at all times expectant of unannounced attacks made by the enemy aggressors and dealt with them accordingly.

The real test of the Rangers' knowledge, skill and endurance in 19-degree temperatures began on Saturday morning as the squads broke down into specialized fire teams in order to conduct the raid on the enemy patrol base. The Rangers then attacked and destroyed the base, thus completing the mission.

The most valuable aspect of this exercise was the learning experience involved. After each phase of the mission, the Rangers stopped to evaluate the situation and determine what had to be done and what could have been conducted by more efficient means. As said by Ranger Commander Brian Anderson, "the Rangers displayed a high determination and internal drive equalled only by the difficulty of the environment and the mission given

Psych

Several of the Psychology Club members recently took a tour of the Gertrude Barber Facilities. Karen Dipko, Julie Carrick, Greg Durcak and April Wu were joined by advisor Carl Kalgren, Thurs. Nov. 16, to receive an overview of activities done through the Gertrude Barber Center.

We began at 9 a.m. and were met by Tom Ryan, who gave a slide presentation along with a short talk on how the Center originated and where it is today.

Dr. Zack, a psychologist working at the Center, was also with us for most of the tour. She addressed her area of work with the Center and also answered many of our questions.

The tour concluded at 11 a.m., proving to be a very rewarding experience for all who attended.

The Club had a table at the Christmas Bazaar, selling pop along with a variety of holiday cookies and baked goods. Hope you were able to stop by our table & take a free chance on the Christmas Stocking Holder.

A graduate school seminar is presently being organized. Plans for its presentation before the close of the Fall semester to benefit any

ROTC

by Michelle Grasmick
ROTC Staff

What would you do if someone offered to pay for your tuition, books, activities and supplies required for your major, and give you \$1,000 to boot? You'd probably think he was joking. Well, in actuality, the army does award scholarships that provide all this. And more. All you have to do is apply.

If you're thinking it's too late for you to win a scholarship, then you should know a few things. First of all, it isn't too late for freshmen and sophomores not enrolled on ROTC. There is a special advanced ROTC basic program for those non-ROTC students who win scholarships. To apply, you must have at least two academic years remaining in your college career. You must also be enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Your GPA need not be astronomical; you must, however, have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 to be eligible. Respectively, the higher your GPA, the better your chances for winning a scholarship.

There are more advantages to being a scholarship recipient than no longer having to worry about how you're going to pay next semester's tuition. You also get to participate in numerous ROTC related activities, interact with other ROTC cadets, and learn valuable leadership skills.

ROTC is a valuable opportunity of which every eligible person should take advantage. In order to apply and get more information, see Captain Donahue in the ROTC office as soon as possible in order to meet all the deadlines.

senior considering graduate studies are underway. If you are one of those students, watch for more details.

Our thanks to all psychology students who participated in the survey of guest speaker interests, which were distributed earlier this semester. The results of the surveys are being tabulated and will be used to determine which speakers

and activities we will arrange to bring here during the Spring semester. Again, our thanks for your participation.

We invite anyone interested in attending our weekly meetings to do so. We meet every Tues. in S118 at 12:15 p.m. You are welcome to bring your lunch along also.

We wish everyone a Happy, Safe and Blessed Holiday Season!

the Penn State-Behrend Collegian

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By writing for the Collegian, you can gain insight into campus political and social forces here at Behrend. Meet the administrators and faculty who make decisions that affect you. Learn how Behrend operates, and why.

If any of this sounds interesting, contact the editors Lisa Hahn, Jim Martin, or Steve Aller in the Collegian office, Ext. 6221.

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