

New Organization Seeks to Protect Rights of Women

by Janet Ocampo
Collegian Staff Writer

As controversy over abortion continues, a number of Behrend students have banded together with members of Edinboro NOW, National Organization for Women, to form a new organization.

That organization is Pro-Choice Erie, a group committed to protecting a woman's legal right to have an abortion.

The pro-choice group came into existence this school year as a response to what many have termed as an "anti-choice" trend in Erie.

Recently, a committee meeting was held to designate strategies for the protection of women's rights.

Both legislative and lobby committees were created to target specific arenas of the abortion issue.

Karol Tomczak, a Behrend student and head of the legislative group, will work with other

members in compiling data on the legislators and their records concerning woman's rights in regards to abortion and other vital issues.

Tomczak says that it is necessary to let politicians know that women who favor pro-choice want to have the freedom to make a personal choice in the matter.

Groups such as the lobby committee enforces participation in future rallies and attempts to bring forth their voice to legislature as well as the public.

The group has already begun to state their concerns in a public forum. On August 26, an abortion debate was held here that examined the issue.

Throughout the course of the debate, heated views were expressed both for and against abortion.

Behrend student Andy Festa, one of the group's founding members, was vocal in his stand on the purpose of the organization.

"I personally do not believe

in abortion," said Festa. "I believe it is wrong. But, abortion is going to happen, and it will regardless of whether it is legal or not, and it becomes a matter of choice and the protection of rights."

At present, a group of Behrend students have expressed interest in banning with NOW president, Molly Yard, to reorganize an Erie chapter of the national organization. Although it is only in the initial phases of being reformed, its development will reinforce the need to protect women's rights as a whole.

Pro-Choice members are already at work preparing for the abortion rally and lobby to be held on September 26.

The event will be held on the Capitol Rotunds lawn at Harrisburg. Students interested in participating at the rally and becoming a member of Pro-Choice may contact Andy Festa for information.

Rush Week



photo by Audrey Acosta

Behrend Fraternities Recruit New Members

August 24 marked the beginning of another rush period at Behrend. Tables were set up throughout the week to recruit pledges. Sororities and fraternities joined together to bring forth the program. Those sororities that participated included Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, and Sigma Phi Tau. The fraternities included Delta Chi, Kappa Delta Rho, Sigma Tau Gamma, Sigma Kappa Nu, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The turnout this year was two to three times higher than in recent years. Rush is set to continue till Sunday, September 11, when the bids will be sent out to the pledges.

Freshmen Senator Election Results from Yesterday's Voting

- ★★★★★ Jason J. Fitchner
- Laura Baccus
- Linda Deshea Ericson
- Stephen Scharrer
- ★★★★★ Maria Torres
- Sandra Miller

***** Signifies Winner

New Student Government Association Commuter and Resident Senators

- Michael Piotrowski
- Steve Spadicino
- Esalette Ponte
- Sandy Miller
- Brian J. Dwyer

We just thought you should know.


The Association of Black Collegians is a minority oriented group with membership open to all students and faculty members. Our purposes are to insure self-pride and self-awareness through the mechanisms of unity and multiculturalism. In our aim to be a positive force on campus, we would like to enhance minority awareness, as well as achieve harmony among people of all races and cultural backgrounds.

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