

**Rush Week**

**Some fraternities making pledging a thing of the past**

by Lea Gotch  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Behrend Greeks held their Rush activities just last week but already some fraternities are ready to induct new members.

The addition of Zeta Beta Tau, a pledge-free fraternity, and the elimination of pledging in Sigma Kappa Nu, Behrend's oldest fraternity, may redirect the future of Greek life at Behrend.

"Once they accept a bid, they're a brother in 72 hours. You learn about the fraternity as a brother. We still have big brothers; it just takes away the urge to haze," said Michael Ondish, vice-president of ZBT.

The number of people that rush during the spring semester is always lower than the fall. Still, ZBT had 16 people rush their present 21 member fraternity.

"I'm happy with (that number) since we're so new," said Ondish.

Zeta Beta Tau was the first national fraternity to eliminate pledging.

Sigma Kappa Nu, a local fraternity, has also abolished pledging beginning this semester.

"Sigma Kappa Nu has taken a leadership role by eliminating pledging and hazing," said Dave Shields, Assistant Dean of

Student Services.

Pledging is often associated with hazing, which is any practice that is physically, mentally, or morally harmful to an individual. Every national fraternity has an anti-hazing policy said Shields.

The absence of pledging will help discourage hazing even more because, "It eliminates the double-standard that exists between pledges and brothers," said Shields.

Does this indicate a trend among fraternities to do away with the pledging process? Yes, says Dave Johnson, President of the Inter-Greek Council.

"All national fraternities sooner or later are going to abolish pledging," said Johnson.

"Tau Kappa Epsilon's national headquarters have mandated that they go to a non-pledging program within two years," said Johnson.

Tim Hoffman, leadership consultant for Kappa Delta Rho, is also developing an alternative program to pledging that would be similar to process now used by ZBT.

Hoffman said that changing the pledging process is necessary because of liability concerns, administration pressure, and protection of the chapters.

according to Sister Anna Mae Kuzma, the sponsor of Behrend's Newman Association.

Kuzma is not exactly sure what direction the group will take. Several other colleges including Slippery Rock and University Park have Newman Associations. Kuzma has been speaking with them for input.

Students Michael Camit and Michael Bucheit were elected group coordinators. They will soon put the constitution before SGA.

The Newman Association has over a hundred years of experience behind it. It originated at the University of Wisconsin in 1883 as the Melvin Club.

The Newman Association held a meeting last night in the conference room downstairs in the Reed Building. Meetings are open to all students.

**King speaks at Behrend**  
*Says that drugs plague our society*

(continued from page 1)

have been told we are the greatest nation in the world. This is a shame, a disgrace, and it is wrong," King said.

He noted that 40 million people live under the poverty level and 60 million are illiterate.

King also said the United States needs to become more diverse. "It [American society] has told you all you have to do is learn English and every other country must speak English," said King.

Learning other languages, according to King, helps one appreciate other cultures, and it enables information to be shared more completely.

As for the progress in achieving equality, King noted that there are areas in which little success has occurred. Most notably, King stated that blacks lack top positions in Fortune 500 companies. However, he also mentioned the achievements by blacks in gaining public office: mayor of New York City, governor of Virginia, and many other state and local officials.



photo by Dave Conti

**Giving gifts:** Erie Mayor Joyce Savocchio presents King with mementoes from the city

King's speech came a day after his father's birthday. Campuses in the Penn State system were closed from 4 to 5 pm on the

holiday in order to celebrate. Events at Behrend included readings from King's speeches and musical performances.

**Spring Graduation solutions**

(continued from page 1)

best choice.

A memo from Mari Trenkle concerning the tentative schedule said, "If inclement weather should force us indoors it will be necessary to hold two graduations and to limit the number of guests per student. The actual ceremony would be held in the Wintergreen Cafe, with overflow viewing in the Reed Lecture Hall."

The memo went on to say that students would be given six ticket, with four for the ceremony in the Wintergreen Cafe and two in the Reed Lecture Hall.

"I was really surprised about the outcome because I didn't expect any decision change to happen in just one meeting. I'm also really happy that we got to sit down and discuss the problem and I appreciate the cooperation and concern that Dean Burke and Mari Trenkle demonstrated," remarked senior Nan Quatchak

A letter to graduating seniors will be sent out in February with the latest information and plans.

The students at the meeting all agreed that after being at Behrend for 4 years (or more), the Warner Theater had no sentimental meaning.

In addition, those students who have family coming from out of town want to show their relatives and friends where they went to school.

**Religion-based Newman Association starts up at Behrend**

by Monica Michel  
Collegian Staff Writer

A branch of the Newman Association, a religion-based support group, has recently formed on campus.

Because of students' requests for a group other than Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Kuzma and Dean of Student Services Chris Reber are strongly supporting the start of this organization.

The group, who held their first organizational meeting last week, aims to enrich members' lives during their academic tenure. By promoting religious education and society involvement, the association hopes to elevate student values.

Ultimately, the intent is that members strive for a holistic approach to growth development,

**Career Development and Placement Services**

**-THIS WEEK-**

- Jan. 25 4:00pm Workshop: How to Create a Resume  
Reed Conference Room
- Jan. 25 8:00pm Plastics Career Night  
Wintergreen Cafe
- Jan. 26 5:00pm Deadline for Engineer request forms for Consair on-campus interview
- Jan. 26 5:00pm Deadline for request forms for U.S. Air Force on-campus interview

FUTONS ARE HERE!

*kiku*

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OPEN:  
Tues. - Fri. 10:30-6:00  
Saturday 10:30-3:30

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