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Behrend students celebrate Earth Day



Photo by Dave Conti

Ground breaking: Vail Weller, co-president of Today's Students for Tomorrow's Earth, Bob Hardy, and Bob Sweeny plant a seedling at Behrend in honor of Earth Day

New student organization plants trees and goes on area Earth Walk

by Daniele Sadres
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend students planted tree seedlings on campus Saturday morning, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day.

Today's Students for Tomorrow's Earth, a recently formed organization at Behrend, organized the tree planting which was followed by the group's participation in the Earth Walk in Erie.

Some students feel that in the past people were not made aware of the significance of Earth Day.

"This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day and I never heard of it before this year," stated Freshman Bridget O'Donnell.

"Maybe if it had been more publicized twenty years ago people could have become more aware of the problems and what they could do about them before things got so bad that we may not ever be able to reverse the effects of what we've done," she added.

Though awareness of environmental problems may not have been widespread in the past, Freshman Christine Kocott hopes

this year's Earth Day has raised awareness for the future.

"It's great that so many people showed an interest in this year's Earth Day, but it can't just be for a day. People have to take the time to care and do their part every day, not just once a year. People have to make an extra effort to do things like recycle every day, not just on Earth Day," said Kocott.

"Now that most people are aware of the problems, I hope that they care enough to do their part to help solve them all year," she continued.

This past weekend, people throughout Erie took part in a celebration held at Perry Square on Saturday, April 21.

A number of people turned out for the three Earth Walks, organized by the Erie County Environmental Coalition.

The earth walkers were met by a rally which featured speeches by a number of speakers, including a proclamation by the mayor.

The walks began from the south, east, and west parts of the city and came together at Perry Square.

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Murphy, Downey leave to further their educations

by Jennifer Flanagan
Collegian Staff Writer

John Downey, coordinator of student organizations and Elvage Murphy, residential life student services assistant, will not be returning next semester.

Murphy is going on to pursue a legal career at either West Virginia University Law School or Syracuse.

He has been at Behrend for two years.

In describing the experience he says, "It gave me an opportunity to meet a wide variety of people and put me in touch with a lot of different issues that I never really took into consideration. It allowed me to learn a lot about myself both personally and professionally. It's something I'll always appreciate and value."

When asked what he would consider his best accomplishment, he said, "I don't really see it in terms of accomplishment. If there is any one thing I'm glad to see that has occurred, it's nice to see students really giving [diversity] a chance and not see it as something that's being shoved down their throats. A lot of students are really beginning to see the value in it. Although the word diversity can

become an irritant at times, I think in the long run even if [the students] themselves don't see the value in it, it really prepares you for the real world, what's really out there."

As for his career, Murphy is not sure what field he is going to specialize in.

"I do know I want to be a litigant. If there is anything the students around here have helped me to become it is being much more adept at debating issues. So I do know at some particular time I'd love to be a trial lawyer; specialty--I'm just not sure yet. It will either be corporate law or criminal law."

John Downey is leaving to study Higher Education at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

He has been at Behrend for three years.

His favorite thing about Behrend is the history of it.

"I guess it's just the tradition of the Behrend family and hearing Ben Lane talk about it."

While he doesn't feel these are his own accomplishments, things that he wanted to see happen at Behrend were a weekly newspaper and a radio station.

"I guess the best thing that (continued on page 7)

Beach volleyball



Dig it: Behrend students enjoy the springtime weather with a game of volleyball

photo by Michelle Beisler