

141 pints donated in blood drive

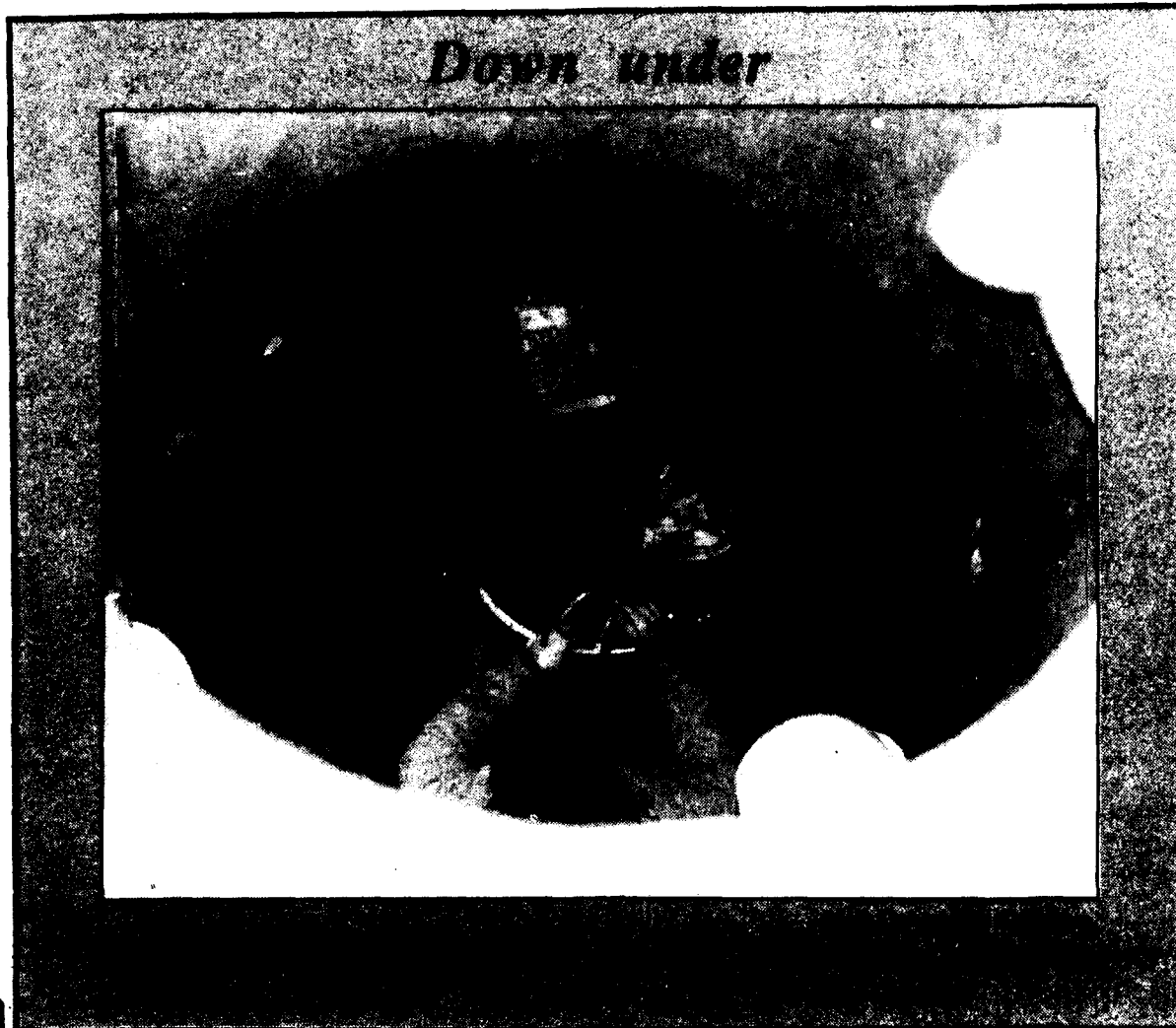
*Sigma Theta Chi
takes first in
competition*

by Lea Gotch
The Collegian

"The Greater Erie Blood Drive Competition was a huge success with 141 pints of blood being donated," said Patty McMahon, Nurse Practitioner and Chairperson of the Health Advisory Board.

Sigma Theta Chi won top honors, including a pizza party, for the organization with the most individuals donating in their name.

The winner was determined by the percentage of donors from
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Lambda Pi Eta honors students

*Speakers, seminars
ready students for
careers in field*

by Bill Goodman
The Collegian

The national communication honor society at Behrend, Lambda Pi Eta, has many plans in store for the upcoming year. Many of the activities they sponsor reflect their dedication to promoting communication skills.

At the end of this semester, Lambda Pi Eta will hold a winter banquet, and next semester they intend to bring debates to local high schools and Behrend, as well as a series of speakers presenting views and opportunities in the communication industry. The series will include Marjorie
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Zebra mussels tackled by Mastellar

Behrend professor works with students to research solutions to the problem

by Floyd J. Csir
The Collegian

Zebra mussels are becoming the latest threat for many Lake Erie ports, including Erie, says Dr. Edwin Mastellar, a biology professor who is studying the molluscs.

These freshwater menaces, originating in Europe, were transported to America by way of attaching themselves to the ballasts of ships in freshwater ports overseas. The mussels were then discharged into freshwater ports in the United States.

Zebra mussels have been reproducing rapidly in the Great Lakes since 1986 and first appeared in Lake Erie in July 1988. Zebra Mussels have been found throughout the Great Lakes and threaten an already delicate ecosystem.

Twelve endangered species of clams around Presque Isle State Park have been marked by Mastellar and his student researchers. "The clams' food supply is restricted by the invading mussels, which causes problems for other organisms in the food chain as well."

"Once they fasten on to something, zebra mussels will cling to each other in large clumps," said Mastellar.

Zebra mussels also extract

calcium carbonate from the water, which acts as a buffer against acid rain. As more mussels grow, so too will the acidity level, which could also adversely affect the lake's environment, said Mastellar.

Because European waters have become cleaner in recent years, zebra mussels have been able to adapt and to grow more rapidly in the bays where ship's water is taken. "They have been so abundant that navigation buoys have actually sunk," said Mastellar.

Zebra mussels also clog intake pipes for water treatment facilities, which caused the city of Monroe, Michigan to close schools and businesses because the molluscs encrusted the city's water intake pipes in January of 1989.

In fact, the City Erie recently sent divers down to examine the intake pipes of Erie's Sommerheim Pumping Station. There they found the start of a colony of Zebra mussels, which city officials fear will turn into a huge headache in the next few years.

Lake Erie fisheries and spawning beds, which breed walleye and trout, could be greatly diminished in population because the mussels consume
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Menacing mollusc: This photograph of byssal threads, an extension of the zebra mussel, was taken by Dr. Larry Ekroat, associate professor of biology at Behrend.