

Behrend Briefs

Attention Seniors: Commencement for Summer and Fall 1991 graduates will be held on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 1 p.m. in Erie Hall. Student keepsake caps and gowns are \$15. Last day to order from the Penn State-Behrend Bookstore is Nov. 1.

Free Tutoring Available: All Behrend students are welcome to utilize the Learning Assistance Center's services. Student and faculty tutors are on duty daily offering help with many subjects. For more information call 898-6014 -- or drop by the Center located in the South Cottage.

Seminar on Graduate Schools: The Honors Program is sponsoring a seminar today on graduate schools. The seminar, presented by Dr. Marande, will be held in Reed 116 at noon.

Campus Ministry Board will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 4 to 5:30p.m. in Reed 116. Students, faculty and staff are cordially invited to participate.

Truman Scholarship informational meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, in Reed 116. Scholarships offered range up to \$30,000. Contact Mari Trenkle at ext. 6160 for more information.

Basic Essentials: Alpha Sigma Alpha is sponsoring a basic essentials drive for HOSPICE shelter for battered women Sept. 23-25. They need basic essentials such as toothbrushes and combs. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Penn State: Remember, Alpha Sigma Alpha is looking for contestants to be in the Mr. Penn State-Erie pageant. A sign-up table will be in front of Reed 117 from Sept. 23-25.

Pie Throw: Lambda Sigma will be sponsoring a pie throw booth on Tuesday, Sept. 24, in the Wintergarden from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come enjoy the satisfaction of throwing a pie at someone while helping Lambda Sigma raise money.

Study Skills Workshop Series: Beginning today, Student Services will offer a Study Skills Workshop Series. Sessions will be held every Thursday from 6 to 7:30 p.m., for six consecutive weeks (Sept. 19-Oct. 24) in Tigress Hall (first floor). For further information call 898-6111.

Satellite Seminar Broadcast: The Center for Academic Computing at University Park is broadcasting the satellite seminar, "Introduction to CAC," on Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. until noon in Behrend's TV Studio (B131). Reservations are not required. The seminar will be video taped for those unable to attend.

Wanna Brief? If your organization has information you would like to see run in the Behrend Briefs, write it down and bring it to *The Collegian* office.

Take Note: All Commu 001 students are reminded that *The Collegian's* weekly meetings are held Thursdays in Turnbull 203 at 6:10 p.m. Anyone interested in working for *The Collegian* is encouraged to attend.

Cross-Cultural workshop breaks down barriers

by Vicky Snyder
The Collegian

Tension between cultures and fear to speak for fear of being labeled racist or sexist are some barriers on college campus' today that get in the way of cultural pluralism. These were just a few topics which were discussed by Dr. Charles Taylor at the two Cross-Cultural Workshops held last week.

"It's important that students are at least comfortable with approaching people or situations that are alien to them and being able to assess what is going on" said Lillie Wiley, Human Relations Coordinator at Behrend. "These workshops are designed to improve communication skills between cultures".

Wiley feels that college campus' reflect society at large and therefore if changes in attitudes are to take place, individual students must accept the responsibility of educating themselves about different cultures.

"We all need to seek out different forms of information," she said. "Making an effort to leave the comforts of home that we all know and not closing our minds off to what is new has to

occur on an individual level before real change can occur".

Students who attended the workshop had high hopes for more of the same. "I enjoyed it a lot. He (Dr. Taylor) made us feel comfortable with each other and I liked seeing the new faces there"

"These workshops are designed to improve communication skills between cultures."

- Lillie Wiley
Human Relations
Coordinator

said Elizabeth Trakalo, a third semester accounting major.

Dr. Taylor, owner of Praxis Publications, which produces a wide range of literature pertaining to minority student services, asked students what changes they felt needed to take place in order to improve the cultural

environment at Behrend. According to Wiley, students said there needed to be more interaction between cultures on a social level, perhaps by different organizations getting together for activities.

Paul Weaver, a first semester engineering major, said "It was a great experience to meet a few people. It would be a real help to have more programs like this so we could get to know different cultures".

During the student cross cultural workshop students were asked to do several exercises one of which required that they stand in front of a sign which categorized them into urbanites, suburbanites or country people. Then each group had to discuss the automatic assumptions they had about the other groups and analyze why they had those suppositions. Other categories included politics, goals after college and religion.

Other cultural workshops this semester will include an exercise called Archie Bunker's Neighborhood. Scheduled to take place in the Niagara basement on Oct. 16 at 6 p.m., the program is designed to help students understand different cultural groups including the disabled.

Behrend observatory open house

Star-gazers and astronomy buffs are invited to attend Penn State - Behrend's observatory open house on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 9 p.m. in the Science Building.

Dr. Robert Mirande, associate professor of physics, will be your guide to the heavens. Dr. Mirande will begin the presentation with a brief introduction and preview of heavenly bodies such as the

globular cluster M-13, the constellation M-31 Andromeda, and Saturn. Also scheduled for viewing is the Dumbbell Nebula, a very large body of rare gases and dust which has collected in space. Using a 16-inch Newtonian telescope, He will assist participants in locating and viewing these and other galactic points of interest which are visible during the Fall Equinox.

In the event of bad weather, Dr. Mirande will turn to the clouds, cloud formations, and weather prediction as it relates to astronomy.

The event is free and open to the public, although participation is limited. For reservations and additional information, contact the College's Science, Engineering, and Technology Unit at 898-6150.

Police Report

Car windows smashed over weekend break

On Friday, September 13, two incidents of vehicle damage were reported to Police and Safety. In the first incident, a student reported that his car windshield was damaged while parked in the new Hammermill Lot. He told investigating officers that his windshield had a softball-sized break in it, along with two impact marks when he returned to his vehicle.

Also on Friday, a student reported that the left rear window of his vehicle was shattered. The student said his vehicle was parked in the new lot behind the apartment buildings when the

incident occurred.

Disturbance

On Saturday, September 14, officers received a call describing a disturbance near Lawrence Hall. Upon arrival, the officer saw seven people singing and playing music on the south side of the building. The people were asked to take the party where it would not disturb anyone in Lawrence.

Medical Transport

Also on Saturday Brookside Fire Department was called to transport a student to Saint Vincent Health Center for

difficulty breathing.

Burglary

Last Wednesday a student reported that an ex-boyfriend left her apartment with her purse following an argument. The incident is being investigated and charges are pending.

Traffic Accident

A minor accident occurred in the Apartment parking lot on Thursday, September 12. A student vehicle was struck by a van while it was backing out of a parking space. Minor damage was caused to both vehicles by the accident.