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Behrend tradition continues 44th annual Hanging of the Greens

Loretta Russ
The Collegian

*Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way ...*

It's that time of year again. The Behrend community will once again celebrate the opening of the holiday season this Friday evening with the presentation of the 44th annual Hanging of the Greens.

Hanging of the Greens is Behrend's only longstanding established tradition. The ceremony is as old as the College (Behrend) itself.

The event is held annually at the Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery, in the Behrend Chapel.

The chapel itself will be illuminated by candlelight only. The candlelight creates a mood of tranquility and peace throughout the chapel.

Opening comments will be made by Benjamin Lane, associate Professor of English emeritus. This is Lane's 40th year for conducting the opening ceremony.

"The ceremony is

traditionally very well attended," said Lane. "It is always a fun time."

The event has traditionally been a combined memorial service in honor of the Behrend family and their gift of the Behrend estate to Penn State as well as the university's official inauguration of the Christmas season.

Lane said, "The ceremony has meant a great deal to me and my family."

Lane relates stories about the Behrend family and talks about Behrend in a historical context. He also discusses current issues in an effort to relate the ceremony to the present.

"It is an inspiring and moving program," said David Shields, director of Student Activities. "No student should leave Behrend College without experiencing Hanging of the Greens."

In addition to Lane's informal presentation there will be several responsive readings. Andrea Letizio, 9th semester English major, Tarsha Proctor, 1st semester film and video and Mary Zaczekiewicz, 5th semester

communication will lead the presentations.

Christmas carols are also planned throughout the ceremony. The audience is encouraged to participate in the performance.

John Lilley, provost and Dean, and Joseph Mycka, SGA President, will hang the traditional Christmas wreath (greens) midway through the ceremony.

"I look forward to officially kicking off the holiday season at Behrend," said Mycka.

The short ceremony will conclude with Lane making closing comments and the assembled audience singing "Silent Night."

Following the ceremony all guests are welcome to return to the Reed Union Building for a reception. The Office of Student Activities will provide refreshments.

Hanging of the Greens will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

The Blue Bus will depart from the Reed Parking Lot at 6:30 p.m. for those people needing a ride to the cemetery. The bus will be running free of charge.



Amel Balcita/The Collegian

Go Lions: Behrend's mascot, Lucia Michael, 7th semester communication major, rally's the crowd at home.

Trigon constitution passed

by Danette Parrett
The Collegian

At 5:46 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, a landmark decision was issued at the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting.

The constitution for Trigon, the gay, lesbian, and bisexual coalition, was passed by SGA.

Trigon is the first organization of its type to be established on Behrend's campus.

Matt, a third semester physics major and a founder of Trigon had this to say:

"I'm glad it's finally over, but actually it's just beginning."

Dan, a third semester forest science major, who is also a founder, agreed with Matt and added, "I'm pleased and happy, but I was very confident going in

that it (the constitution) would be passed."

Dan also noted that he was surprised that the constitution was passed in a unanimous decision.

Trigon worked this year with the Human Relations Programming Council to sponsor Straighttalk- an open forum on gay life. Plans for the future are to hold a rally on Behrend's campus to promote awareness of gay issues, and to hold education programs for residents.

Trigon's held their last meeting last night secure that they have established their place in the future at Behrend. The organization looks to start working toward their goals at the beginning of next semester.

\$3 Million for PET Complex

Private donations surpass University support

by Gary Johnson
The Collegian

Three million down, one to go.

Private donations for the new 58,000 square foot Plastics Engineering Technology complex now total \$3 million, adding to the \$2.5 million appropriated from University Park.

"Without private donors such as the Roches, Omni Plastics, Multi-Tool, and Multi-Plastics, there would be no new complex of lab buildings," praised Dr. John M. Lilley, provost and dean.

Lilley also remarked that he plans on a national campaign to raise \$2 million additional.

"People believe in what we're doing here. We can make a difference because we've only been a college for twenty years."

"The donors realize that we have a terrific mix of teaching and scholarship here and that we are trying to create an experience in and out of the classroom that is first rate. People don't just give their money to anyone."

"We think that the plastics industry has been very good to our family and we want to give something back."

--P.C. Roche, CEO,
Erie Plastics Corp.

The donors now released are Port Erie Plastics, Yates Company, the Roche family, Omni Plastics, Multi-Tool, Inc., Multi-Plastics, Inc., and Dick Fasenmyer, who contributed \$1 million.

There were three anonymous donors.

"We don't need polymer chemists. Our material suppliers provide that service. We need hands-on, technically trained employees. It's great to have a program like this so close to us," said James R. Johnston, vice president of Multi-Plastics, Inc.

"We think that the Plastics Industry has been very good to our family, and we want to give something back," P.C. Roche, Jr., president and CEO of Erie Plastics Corporation and chair

of complex's local fundraising campaign.

Ground for the complex was broken October 27 and it is expected to open in the fall of 1994.