

NEWS

The Wright guide to lemurs

by Jerry M. Bruno
Collegian Staff

On April 13, Dr. Patricia Wright held a seminar in the Reed Lecture Hall on the little known island of Madagascar. She specifically talked about an animal that is only native to the island. That animal is the lemur.

Madagascar is located in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa. This island has only had human inhabitants for the last 12,000,000 years.

Wright has been on the island for three years learning all about this unknown animal. She received a Ph.D. from the University of New York in biology.

The lemur is a primate, or a form of a primitive monkey. It is intelligent like a primate and has the skill of a chimpanzee. It

is not an aggressive animal and will only have a confrontation under extreme circumstances.

There are numerous kinds of lemurs, and different forms are often found. It is the smallest and laziest primate (it sleeps for a total of 5-6 months). The lemur is known to many biologists as the weirdest animal. This reference is used because there is still much to be learned about this animal.

As uncommon as the lemur might be, the Erie Zoo has the most lemurs in captivity. All of the lemurs at the local zoo are male. In the wild, female lemurs are the leaders, and it is for this reason that the zoo only has males. If there were females in captivity, they would be in control of the surroundings which would take away from the natural

environment where the male could run away.

The lemurs at the zoo are white ruffled and red ruffled lemurs. They are fed primate biscuits twice a day, as well as oranges, and canned primate foods. As adults, lemurs weigh approximately five to ten pounds.

Mark Senka, a zoo keeper at the Erie Zoo, said that the most interesting aspect of the lemur in captivity is its defense alert. This "alert" is a loud, ear-piercing scream. This is to alert others of danger.

The lemur is a very interesting animal to watch. They play like children and their natural instincts are that of a spider monkey.

Not only is the lemur display at the Erie Zoo the largest number of lemurs in captivity, but it provides an interesting and educational example of wildlife.



Jen Colvin/Photo Coordinator

Lemurs and tigers and bears, oh my!: This cute little creature is one of numerous lemurs now at the Erie Zoo.

March on violence

Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

The night was taken back to protest sexual violence last Thursday in downtown Erie.

Victims of sexual assault and violence, along with numerous supporters, marched from Perry Square to Gannon University's Zurn Building starting at 7 p.m.

The march began with a rally at which five speakers talked about their experiences concerning the topic of the march.

The keynote speaker was therapist and alcohol and drug abuse counselor Pam Magerle. Magerle also works extensively with sexual assault victims.

Other speakers included Vice President of Women Today Becky Durkin, a poetry reading by Sarah Woodin, Resident Life Coordinator Chris Rizzo, and Resident Life Coordinator and head of HRPC Jacquie Wade.

During the march itself, the group made four stops to hear sexual assault victims speak, Durkin said.

"This is about people helping other people as well as themselves," Wade said.

The march portion ended at Gannon's Zurn Building where there was a Speak Out session.

In this, people from the crowd could just tell about their experiences as well as how the march affected them.

"This part is about something to share with the rest of the crowd," Durkin said.

Following was a reception in which artists who were interested in the cause of the march had their art displayed.

"The reception was also a time to talk and make so many links and connections that were made through the march," Durkin said.

Wade said her role in the event is as an educator and "to help our society because it has much catching up to do on the issue of sexual assault and violence."

The turnout was absolutely incredible according to Wade.

"Last year we had 100 people for the on-campus rally," Wade said. "I never expected the 300+ who supported us."

Wade said one of the keys was the support on campus and in surrounding communities.

Wade summed up the events with a look to the future. "To be honest, they (the supporters of the march) will keep on growing. Once we are gone, those who were there will continue it. We raised that much more awareness," she added.

Hail to the chief Epps and Sauer: That's the ticket

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

Approximately 400 Behrend students decided who will run the 1994-95 Student Government Association.

After counting all 401 ballots, co-chairpeople of the SGA election committee, Seth Bruggeman and Lourdes Tirado, discovered that the ticket of Sam Epps and Betsy Sauer won.

The two carried 228 (57%) votes to win by 56 votes, after the three day balloting.

Epps said his party's experience and mobilization of voters were the major factors.

"I think the first day was very important to us because our supporters really showed up," Epps said.

He said a heavy turnout was crucial to their victory.

"Going against two opponents in Greek organizations, it was necessary to go out and mobilize supporters and get our names out," Epps said.

Sauer agreed with the Greek factor being a big part of their victory, but in a different way.

"With me being a Greek woman, that helped split the Greek vote," Sauer said.

In the only other contested election, that being for SOC president, Paul Lorio defeated Ray Graham by an incredibly slim margin of only 3 votes (181-178).

Lorio was surprised that this election was so close.

"I expected the (SGA) presidential race would be closer (than the SOC race)," Lorio said.

Graham said the SOC campaign was run all in good fun and he plans to move on.

"I'll probably try to take one of the commuter (senator) seats in SGA," Graham said.

As for the future, Epps said he plans on coming into the SGA office about 2-3 days a week.

To follow up on one of his campaign promises, Epps plans on proposing to make the position of SOC president part of the vice presidential position.

"It's up to the Senate to pass, but I plan to present a strong argument," Epps said. "It also must be approved by the student body, so then I'll present my case to the students."

On the case of appointments, Epps plans on naming Gail Senoski secretary with her acceptance.

Treasurer is a little tougher decision, Epps said.

"I'll wait until Joe Mycka (SGA president) appoints someone to close the books for the summer," Epps said. "I've been getting a lot of suggestions from many people."

The voter turnout overall was about four percentage points ahead of last year's.

Mock court

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

Next Thursday the fate of one woman will ride on whether a jury believes she was temporarily insane.

In a mock trial organized by Dr. Eric Corty and his psychology class, a fictional character named Jane Devlin is accused of stabbing Larry Phillips (another fictional character).

The interesting twist to this trial is Devlin's defense.

She admits to stabbing him, but she claims she was insane at the time. The defense is not guilty by reasons of insanity due to premenstrual dyphoric disorder (PMDD) or commonly known as PMS, Corty said.

"She will likely claim a loss of control due to her condition," Corty said. "According to the case, she was out of control."

The defense will try to prove that PMDD does not exist or

that Devlin's case of the disorder is a very mild one, Corty said.

Corty said symptoms of PMDD include depression, mood swings, relationship problems, anger and anxiety.

No one's real names are used for any of the proceedings. However, the defense attorney is Holly Olarczuk while the prosecuting attorney is Jennifer Barnes.

There are also two expert witnesses for the defense and prosecution, Julie Robinson and James Lutton respectively.

Devlin is being played by Julie Coughenour while Shankar Santhanam is Phillips.

The judge is the honorable John Falcone for the second straight year. The jury is made up of the remaining members of Corty's psychology class.

The trial is on Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. It is open to the public.