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# Collegian

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## ABC hosts Kwanzaa Celebration

by Laura Borawski  
News Editor

The Association of Black Collegians (ABC) held the first annual Penn State-Behrend Kwanzaa celebration last evening in the Wintergreen Cafe.

Dr. Umeme Sababu, a professor from Edinboro University, spoke about the cultural holiday celebration.

Sababu said, "Kwanzaa is a non-heroic indigenous holiday. It is a time of celebrating who we (African Americans) are and what we have accomplished."

Kwanzaa, a cultural holiday focusing on the ancient customs of Africa, is celebrated by many African Americans on Dec. 26 through the first of the new year.

The holiday was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. The

name of the holiday came from "kwanza," a Swahili word for "first," by adding an "a" to the term.

Cultural Committee Chairperson Shannon Jones said, "We want to educate everyone about Kwanzaa. (It) is a celebration of unity among people."

Dia Harris, president of ABC said, "Hopefully (it) will be an annual event. This is the first event we've opened to the entire college as opposed to only ABC members."

Third semester history major Michael Maginn said, "It brings culture to the Behrend community which promotes understanding and diversity within the student body so they can better understand the differences between each other."

## Living in a free environment

by Erica Jones  
Collegian Staff

Beginning in the fall semester of 1995 there will be a new interest housing. Life House (living in a free environment) will be on the first and second floors of Lawrence Hall.

Ken Miller, associate dean of Student Affairs said, "The concept of interest housing with special living options is a great way for students to tailor their environment."

Miller said that Life House comes in response to a very strong demand. He said students are frustrated with the noise level and vandalism of fellow

residents who drink and that parents of potential students are also interested in the availability of this new housing option.

"We're advocating people's right to choose an environment in which they are most comfortable," said Miller.

Life House will accommodate students committed to not using alcohol or drugs. A house council will deal with any infractions.

"A faculty associate will organize educational programming on responsible alcohol use and drug awareness," Miller said.

Current residents of Lawrence Hall have the option to remain

in their rooms. If they express no interest in the Life House, they will be relocated.

Students will be able to sign up for the Life House through contracts which will be sent out in January.

Sam, president of the Student Government Association, is pleased with the Life House. He said, "I think the Life House idea is a continuing commitment through the administration to provide a healthy and diverse environment for the students."

Miller said that all students who wish to live under the conditions of the Life House will be accommodated regardless of number.

## 'Talking up a Storm: Voices of the New West'

by R. Carl Campbell III  
Collegian Staff

Dr. Gregory L. Morris, professor of English, has recently published a collection of interviews with 15 of the Mid-West's "new generation" of literary writers.

The collection, titled "Talking up a Storm: Voices of the New West", utilizes the interview as a

critical device to understand an author.

"The emphasis," Morris said, "is on a new generation of Western writers, which is a tremendous mix of men, women and different ethnic backgrounds. It is a complex body of work."

"Talking up a Storm" grew out of Morris' interest in the

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### Erie Panthers split weekend games

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