



Local...

Pre-trial motions for infant murder

Erie--The fate of an accused infant killer is in its pre-trial motions phase. An Erie County judge will decide if Jennifer L. Shaffer, 18, will be tried in adult court or the juvenile justice system. If the case is heard in adult court, the judge must also decide whether to grant separate trials for Shaffer and codefendant Edwin Brown Jr., 21, of Corry.

President Judge John Bozza heard defense attorney Tim Lucas' request for a move to juvenile court Tuesday. Judge Bozza also heard opposing arguments on the defense's request for separate trials. He is expected to rule soon on these issues.

A March 3 trial date has been tentatively scheduled for Shaffer and Brown's capital homicide trial. They are charged with the murder of Schaffer's 3-month-old son, Christopher Cody Shaffer.

Christopher died last July 3 from blunt force trauma to the skull. According to investigators, the baby showed signs of continuous abuse. Shaffer, of Union City, was 17 at the time.

State...

Ridge calls for tax cuts

Harrisburg--Gov. Tom Ridge presented legislators with a state budget Tuesday that would cut taxes by \$67 million while still allowing a modest spending increase to keep pace with inflation.

The budget includes more generous school subsidies, extra money for college scholarships, an expansion of the state prison system and stepped-up efforts to stimulate economic development all would be financed with out tax or fee increases.

According to Ridge, "This budget invests in community-based, community-driven solutions to our most vexing challenges. It's a budget that builds communities."

The \$16.9 billion package, is Ridge's third annual budget.

Teen threatens family

Coatesville, PA--The rocks broke windows and carried racial slurs that threatened to burn their house down if the black family didn't move. Alarmed, the police considered posting a guard. But they've charged someone: the family's 14-year-old son.

According to police, the teenager was trying to frighten his mother into moving out of East Fallowfield Township in eastern Pennsylvania.

The teenager wanted to move because his mother had punished him for fighting with neighborhood children, curtailing his play time outside. He also wanted to ride his bike more often, police said.

He was arrested Monday and charged with making false reports to police. Authorities did not plan to push for detention, only to make sure that he gets counseling.

National...

Education a priority for Clinton

Washington--Education is the priority of the new term, President Bill Clinton declared Tuesday in his fifth State of the Union address. Clinton called up Congress to give the nation's schools a big spending while balancing the budget by 2002.

Clinton drew upon ideas from his campaign and said that Americans should have "the best education in the world." He challenged communities to raise achievement levels in math and science by measuring students against national standards.

Clinton's proposals would boost education spending by 20 percent, to \$51 billion for fiscal 1998. This increase--including tax breaks for college students--would total 40 percent by 2002.

Simpson liable in civil trial

Santa Monica, CA--A civil jury found O.J. Simpson liable Tuesday for the slaying murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. The decision marks a moral victory for grieving relatives who felt Simpson got away with murder.

Simpson was ordered to pay \$8.5 million in compensatory damages, but the jury will return today to hear arguments on whether to award millions more in punitive damages.

Simpson remained seated and stoic as the verdict was read. Across the courtroom, cries of joy erupted from the relatives of Nicole and Goldman.

"The Fugitive" is vindicated

Cleveland, OH--The man who inspired the television show and feature film *The Fugitive* may be cleared of murder charges. DNA tests support Dr. Sam Sheppard's alibi that a man broke into his home and beat his pregnant wife to death.

Sheppard, now deceased, spent 10 years in prison before his first trial was declared flawed. Dr. Sheppard's son, Sam Reese Sheppard, said "My family has regained its honor. ... It is an example of how the justice system can err, and how it also can be corrected."

International...

Israeli helicopters collide

Shaar Yeshuv, Israel--In the country's worst military air disaster, two Israeli helicopters transporting elite troops to Lebanon collided in foggy and rainy skies, killing all 73 soldiers on board. The communal settlement of Shaar Yeshuv was damaged, but there were no reports of injuries on the ground.

The accident is likely to raise questions about Israel's involvement in Lebanon, where a "security zone" was established in 1985 to protect towns from guerrilla attack. President Clinton extended his condolences to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called the accident a "grave disaster."

Need a Reality Check?

by Ben Hager
Collegian Staff

Is the typical one week splurge at the beach not cutting it this spring break?

Well, Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, would like to give students at Behrend the opportunity to do something completely different this semester.

The program called Reality Check, allows students to work with the homeless in three Eastern cities. Students can choose to travel to Baltimore, Erie, or central Alabama. Those who chose to go to Alabama or Erie will work in men's homeless shelters, while those who travel to Baltimore will be helping out in local soup kitchens. Volunteers will live in

the shelters as well as work there for a week.

Last year, the group took 15 students, and there are still openings for this year's trip. Over the next few weeks, students involved in "Reality Check" will be selling candy bars and asking for donations to compensate for travel and food expenses.

So if Southern sand isn't on this year's menu, the organizers of this giving cause would be very appreciative if any interested students would be willing to take time out of their breaks to help others. There will be informational meetings every Thursday night from 6:30 - 7:30 in Reed 112. All students interested are encouraged to attend.

POLICE LOG

- 22 January**
A student reported receiving harassing telephone calls at her room in Niagara Hall.
- 25 January**
Criminal charges of Harassment have been filed against two students as the result of a dispute which occurred in Perry Hall.
- 28 January**
A student reported receiving harassing e-mail.
- 29 January**
Police and Safety officers are conducting an investigation in to the reported theft of items from the engineering building.
- 4 February**
A student reported that someone had broke into his vehicle which was parked in the South Apt. Parking Lot.
- 4 February**
Police and Safety officers are conducting an investigation into the report of someone using marijuana in one of the Suites.

*Question of the week:
If you could be any cartoon character,
who would you be and why?*

"I would be Tigger from Winnie the Pooh, because he is always so happy and bouncy."
--Emillie Straub, 08, Management

"I would be the Road Runner because he gets away with everything. He never gets caught."
--Sean Oros, 02, Business

I would have to say Smurfette. She was always surrounded by all those hot smurf guys."
--Diara Bond, 08, MIS

I would be the Tick, because reality doesn't affect him."
--Ed Wittman, 08, MIS

I would be Ariel from "The Little Mermaid" because that is my favorite movie."
--Katie Ryan, 04, Nutrition

"I would be the Yellow M&M. He gets all the love."
--Jason Reese, 08, PLET

"I would be Bugs Bunny because of all his knowledge, not just about carrots."
--Ryan Thompson, 02, Marketing

"I would be Tinkerbell. Then I could make everyone's dreams come true."
--Amanda Horner, 04, Chemistry

"I would definitely be Fred from Scooby Doo. I always wondered what he was doing with Daphne in the Mystery Machine."
--Chris Williams, 08, ME

"I would be Taz. He can be so bad and everyone still loves him in the end."
--Christa Buchholz, 06, Communication

SGA Report

by Sara Prosser
News Editor

Yesterday's SGA meeting seemed like Super Tuesday with all of the elections that took place. The meeting started off with a vote to elect a new faculty senator and an alternate. Six candidates were asked to give a short speech on their qualifications, and why they wanted the position. From the six candidates that spoke, Julie Cain was elected senator, and Nikki Gennusso was appointed as the alternate.

As faculty senator, Julie is required to go to University Park several times each semester and attend the committee and senate meetings. She is asked to speak at these meetings and represent the Behrend student body and any problems the campus may be having.

SGA also had their secretary position open, along with a senate position opening. Chris Benacquista was elected as the new secretary, and Timothy Smith was elected as a new SGA

senator. The CCSG is discussing having an allocations committee

SGA MEETING
Wednesdays
5:15 p.m.
Reed 112

for the computer fee, in order to let students know where their

money is going. The Career Development Center announced that they are holding a Women's Seminar Monday, February 10.

It was also mentioned the Traffic Appeals Board meets Monday at 5:30 p.m. Students are also invited to attend SGA meetings to voice their opinions and complaints during the Student Forum. The meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in Reed 114 or 112.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
STUDENT GOVERNMENT TREASURER

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Student Government Treasurer is responsible for:

- Maintaining accurate financial records for all organizations who are recognized by the Student Government.
- Submitting monthly financial reports for all organizations and some departments to the SGA.
- Presenting a weekly SGA meeting to state the balances of certain accounts.
- Maintaining the books for the fiscal year.
- Reporting on the semester, acting as the Student Government Association's treasurer who is in charge of the SGA club account, student tickets, purchase orders, etc. during the semester.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The position of Student Government Treasurer receives a \$400 stipend per semester along with an additional stipend for limited summer duties. The preferred applicant will be an upper division student who may wish to obtain academic credit for work during his/her seventh and eighth semesters. (Three accounting internship credits may be acquired).

All interested students should contact either Chris Rizzo, Director of Student Activities, at 898-6171 or Kim Epps, SGA President, at 898-6220.

The 2nd Annual

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

is coming soon...

Call 898-6488

to register your band today!