

LOCAL...

Pre-teens targeted to curb violence

ERIE-Children who commit violent crimes are most likely to do so between the ages of 13 and 14, said District Attorney Joseph Conti on Tuesday.

Considering those statistics, a new program was announced Tuesday to teach violence prevention and conflict resolution to children under age 12.

The program, "Beat The Streets Program," is a collaborative effort among the District Attorney's Office, the Boys and Girls Club of Erie and Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

The one-year program, scheduled for March 1997 to March 1998, is meant to deter violence among children. It will target 500 children through education and activities, including guest speakers, club assemblies, role-playing, art activities, group games and worksheets.

STATE...

Ridge's plan may boost school standards

HARRISBURG-A \$10.4 million incentive will hopefully entice schools to improve academics, attendance, and graduation rates. Gov. Tom Ridge's overall plan is to make improvements in education standards statewide, said Education Secretary Eugene Hickok.

Ridge's proposal will give school districts either a \$100 million hike or a 3 percent increase for basic education. Each school district will receive a minimum 1 percent increase, with the less wealthy districts and those experiencing a large enrollment growth receiving supplemental funding.

Ridge has also allocated \$1.85 million to enhance Pennsylvania's System of School Assessment. Recommendations for new academic standards are expected in the next two weeks.

NATIONAL...

The Ohio River rages

OHIO-The Ohio River is flooded from West Virginia to Ohio, leaving the highest water along the river in 30 years. Thousands have been evacuated and many other residents are trying to wait it out for as long as possible.

This unexpected flooding is due to runoff and record downpours that occurred over the weekend. President Clinton has declared 14 Ohio counties and nine in Kentucky disaster areas, making them eligible for federal assistance.

A total of 50 deaths have been blamed on the flooding and tornadoes that have swept through the state.

Third grader faces felony charges

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA- A third grader was arrested, strip searched, and charged with a felony for etching his name in wet cement. Jeremy Anderson and a group of his friends were walking home from school when they passed by the newly poured cement. Jeremy says that they only played in the cement after a construction worker asked if they wanted to write in it.

After the incident, a contractor from the Plaster Development Co. called Jeremy's mother and demanded \$11,000 for a new sidewalk. She refused.

Two months later, the police took Jeremy out of school, booked and strip searched him at juvenile hall. The company is not commenting on the incident.

INTERNATIONAL...

DANNENBERG, GERMANY-Antinuclear protesters hurled rocks and fire bombs at police that were trying to seize control of a road that was used for atomic waste transport.

Hundreds of activists rushed the riot police who attempted to secure the road that links Dannenberg to the site of the nuclear waste storage facility. 250 arrests were reported, and 30,000 officers have been sent to protect the waste shipment.

Weekend weather with Joey Stevens

Thursday: Windy, cold, and cloudy with some flurries. There could be some lake effect snow showers late in the day. High 34 degrees.

Thursday night: Windy and cold with lake effect snow. Low 22 degrees.

Friday: Windy and cold with clouds and flurried. Lake effect snow should taper off. High 36 degrees.

Saturday: Mainly cloudy and cold with a chance of snow showers. High 38 degrees.

Sunday: Mainly cloudy with a chance of showers. High 44 degrees.

Human clones unethical

By SCOTT PERRY and KELLY RUOFF
Collegian Staff Writers
University Park, PA

While sending yourself out for pizza may sound appealing, some experts think using biotechnology to clone human beings may be unethical.

The recent cloning of Dolly, the sheep in Scotland, and the cloning of rhesus monkeys here in the United States has forced researchers to look at some of the ethical issues underlying the biotechnology industry.

Cloning animals is ethical as long as the animals are treated in accordance with the rules set up by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), said Dick Frisque, professor of molecular virology.

If rules regarding animal treatment and care are followed as they would be for other animal experimentation, he said, then cloning technology should not require new guidelines.

However, one concern among scientists is biodiversity in the animal population, Frisque said. If too many clones are made of a single sample the diversity of the species is reduced. This could cause the species to become susceptible to the weaknesses the original animal had, he said.

So if one prize animal were cloned a number of times by a farmer and the farmer did not know that the animal was especially vulnerable to a certain disease, Frisque said, the farmer's entire population of that animal could be wiped out.

The diversity in the population may allow some animals to survive a catastrophe that other animals would not be able to adapt to.

Experimentation on animals at universities must be approved by IACUC, Frisque said, adding that problems occur when

experimentation is moved to the private sector where there may be but instead would be for the benefit of the researcher conducting the experiment," Frisque said.

Esther Siegfried, assistant professor of biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, said there is a fine line between animal and human experiments.

"For myself, I don't think we should apply this to humans. I think I'd be prepared to say that I would support continued, monitored studies on animals," she said. "Splitting embryos is something that has already been done in animal species. But applying it to humans brings up a set of philosophical effects."

Cloning human beings would diminish the value of human life, said Ming Tien, professor of biochemistry.

Tien compares cloning humans to ant and bee colonies where many of the animals are clones.

Losing one ant or one bee out of the thousands in the hive would have little consequence because they are all essentially the same. If human beings were to be cloned en masse then it may have a similar effect, he said.

"It would change the definition of an individual human life in a negative way," he said.

If the technology were used to generate many clones it may make racist thoughts easier to propagate, Tien said. During the Vietnam War era sayings like "They all look the same" came to light, he said. These thoughts allowed people to devalue human life and justify racist thoughts. If this technology were to be used, it may make this perception even more common.

Although many people view this technology negatively when applied to humans, Tien said some people may be tempted to still make use of it. Wealthy individuals may be tempted to try to clone themselves.

If there is money to be made, there may be groups ready to cash in on it. After all, there are companies that will cryogenically freeze people in an attempt to extend life, he said.

One reason to do this would be to determine whether the embryo had any genetic defects, Frisque said. If the embryo did have any defects, then the researchers could decide not to use the embryo for implantation, he said.

Ethics of this type of experimentation must be decided upon by our society as a whole, Frisque said. But he said there are already limits on what can be done with human embryonic tissue.

The National Institutes of Health has not funded this type of experimentation with human tissue in the past. Recently though, an NIH ethics panel recommended that some embryo research be funded.

It has been proposed that at day 14 these embryonic cells must not be experimented on lists of issues to decide upon their morality.

"As a society we need to decide if we want taxpayer's money to go to this kind of research," Siegfried said. "I think it's important to have some sort of discussion. These are complicated experiments. Obviously something will go on in Congress."

The United States has not presented the greatest opposition to this technology, Frisque said. Germany and Switzerland have large "Green" movements that are opposed to any type of genetic engineering, he said. A few biotechnology companies have had to move out of those two countries because of opposition to the research.

While the opposition in these countries is strong, Frisque said he believes people in the United States would probably be just as strongly opposed to cloning people.

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Police Log

2-26-97: Two non-students were escorted from Erie Hall by Police and Safety officers.

2-27-97: A staff member reported that someone had tried to take a VCR from one of the campus classrooms.

3-03-97: A student reported receiving two obscene telephone calls from someone who said he was conducting a health survey. An investigation into this incident is being conducted.

3-04-97: Criminal charges including public drunkenness are being filed against a non-student who was found passed out at the Wilson Picnic Grove.

THERE'S NO EXCUSE

for Domestic Violence.

New Psych faculty

by Nathan Muhanna
Collegian Staff

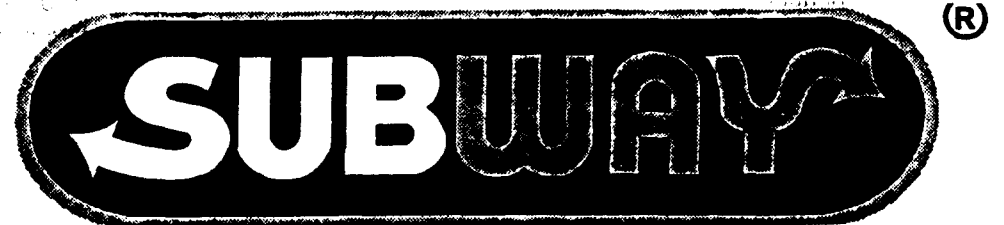
Doctor Charisse Nixon is Behrend's newest member of the psychology department. Nixon has actually been at Behrend on a part-time basis since last semester, in which she taught courses on introductory psychology. She is currently instructing courses on the psychology of women and developmental psychology.

Nixon was born in upstate New York in the town of New Hartford. She received her undergraduate degrees, a B.S. in biology and a B.A. in psychology, from Marietta College in Ohio.

She went on to attend Bowling Green State University, where she obtained her M.A. in Guidance and Counseling and her teacher's certification. She will be receiving her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from West Virginia University this May.

Dr. Charisse Nixon's husband Ed works as an administrator at Edinboro University. She also has a nine-month-old daughter named Katie.

She spends her leisure time biking and skiing, and describes her transition into her position here at Behrend as a very smooth one, attributing this to the friendly students and helpful faculty and staff here.



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Sandwich values include: 6" white or wheat bread, meat, onions, lettuce, tomatoes pickles, green peppers, olives. Sandwiches do not include cheese or condiments.

	6" Serving Size	Calories	Fat (g)	% Fat Free
Veggie Delite™	5.7oz (162g)	223	2.7	98.3
Ham	7.7oz (218.7g)	273	4.3	98.0
Turkey Breast	7.7oz (218.7g)	276	4.4	97.9
Turkey Breast & Ham	7.7oz (218.7g)	275	4.4	97.9
Roast Beef	7.7oz (218.7g)	299	5.8	97.3
Subway Club®	8.2oz (232.8g)	300	5.5	97.6

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