

Beacon

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Black History Month: a chance to celebrate Vandalism incidents rise in South Lot

by Danielle Marshall
staff writer

February is a month that brings not only the day to celebrate our loved ones, but also an opportunity to reflect on Black history and its meaning in our society today. Behrend will have a chance to focus on issues from racial discrimination to the appreciation of African-American culture, such as music. Music will be the aspect of the African-American culture that will kick off our events.

On February 12th, The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Educational Equity Programs are sponsoring a Jazz Cafe at 7:30 p.m. in Bruno's. There will be a variation of jazz music, along with free food and an opportunity for students to cite their own poetry or poetry of other people.

On February 19th, Student Activities is sponsoring the play "The Meeting" performed by three actors from Pinpoint Theater. The play consists of

a fictional meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. This event will be held in Reed 117 at 8:30 p.m. "It's really good. It's a fantastic program," stated Janique Caffie, Director of Educational Equity Programs.

The Association of Black Collegians (ABC) is planning to have some cultural movies shown in the MCC Resource Center. On February 11th at 7:00 p.m., the movie "Glory" will be shown. On February

25th, the movie "The Diary of Miss Jane Pittman" will be shown at 7:00 p.m.

Along with this, there will be a chance for students on and off-campus to dine together at Damon's at 7:00 p.m. on February 19th. After which on February 20th, there will be a night of skating at Skate Way Rollerink.



Janique Caffie and Jennifer Fontecchio in the MCC office.

Photo by Jason Blake

For these activities, please sign up in the MCC Resource Center. ABC will

also be sponsoring their annual Kuumba night in Reed 117 on a date to be announced later. This night features the crafts and talents of many Behrend students who are not ashamed to show off a little bit of what they've got. These talents range from poetry reading, acting, singing, or playing instruments. All are welcome to attend. Keep a lookout in the Behrend Beacon for a writing contest ABC is sponsoring, where you can win a \$10 gift certificate to Behrend's bookstore.

The Multi-Cultural Council will be teaming up with some of its organizations to bring to Behrend a month full of entertainment, guest speakers, and association among our own. "The times and dates of events will be posted around campus and in the Resource Center," stated MCC President, Jennifer Fontecchio, '07, history. This month will supply an atmosphere where memories are visualized, history is reflected, and fellowship is required.

We can reflect this month on these

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by Will Jordan and Rose Forrest
editor in chief and copy editor

In recent weeks, students have reported an increasing number of break-ins and incidents of vandalism in the South Parking Lot. Roughly ten cars a week have been defaced. Incidents include keying, broken antennai and stolen stereos. More serious acts involve broken windshields and fog lights. These acts have been sporadic, with weeks of no reports followed by an abundance of incidents. Students in the Behrend apartments are concerned for their cars. Jonna Zizak, '06 Psych explained, "It's not fair that I'm paying this much for parking and I'm not getting adequate security for my car."

Continued talks at Joint Residence Council meetings have revolved around the need for special funding. Joint Residence Council President, Doug Watkins, is sending letters to Behrend administrators as well as Graham Spanier, President of Penn

State University. The letters ask for \$3,000 in additional funding to incorporate a surveillance system into the patrol of the upper lots. He also hopes that by explaining these issues to the officials that officer patrols will be increased. Watkins reports, "...no one ever sees what happens or what is going on. That is where the surveillance will come in handy...even though the surveillance will not stop the attacks, hopefully they will be able to find characteristics of the vandals." Police and Safety would then be able to use the tapes to be able to chart the specific times the crimes are occurring and boost patrols.

Police and Safety has declined to comment on the rise in vandalism until the return of Police and Safety Director, Bill Donahue, in two weeks. JRC urges students to keep an eye out for suspicious people and report all incidences of vandalism to Police and Safety.

Philadelphia Flyer's sports psychologist speaks to Behrend athletes

by Rose Forrest
copy editor

Tuesday night the Behrend athletics program brought in Dr. Joel Fish, a renowned sports psychologist, to talk to students about mental preparedness. The 44-year-old sports psychologist for the Philadelphia Flyers has given over 200 presentations throughout the country, teaching students how to improve the mental part of their game. Fish played baseball at Clark University and runs a center for sports psychology in Philadelphia. Brian Streeter, the Athletic Director here at Behrend, hoped this program would, "benefit student athletes."

Fish, who is partially funded by the NCAA, explained that "sports psychology is about the mental."

Fish feels that mental preparedness can help students in realms in and outside of athletics. One of the goals of his program was to bring Behrend students "up to date in the field of sports psychology." This field includes topics such as mental preparedness, mental toughness, positive attitude, goal setting, clutch performance, communication, team work, focusing, relaxation, visualization, leadership, and motivation. He reports, "if we can relax we can perform better on the field, in class, or in social situations...you can't enjoy an athletic experience

when your stomach is in knots."

One aspect Fish emphasized throughout his talk was the idea that improving just 3, 5, or 7 % is important. He described how these small improvements can be applied to his "big five mental skills": "confidence, composure, concentration, communication, cohesion."

Fish interacted with the audience to exemplify these topics. He showed ink blots and asked the audience what they saw. This illustrated a point he made about individual differences which tied into finding your own way to improve confidence. His discussion went on from mental blocks to self confidence and the development

of a "mental game plan". The plan included positive self talk and courage. He suggested athletes, "leave the critical voice in the locker room." Another suggestion he made was to "think of three things you did good that day." Fish encouraged the athletes stating, "nobody in this room is a chocker; you can't convince me otherwise."

To help Behrend athletes cope in pressure situations, Fish took a volunteer from the audience. He instructed a track and field member to rapidly, and unsuccessfully, throw a

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Freshmen seminar offered for credit

by Nicole McGee
staff writer

On a recent Wednesday, while most high school students were eating lunch, a concerned group of Behrend faculty and administrators were questioning them. The students under analysis were Behrend's upcoming freshmen. The season of the Freshman Seminars is upon the administration, and planning is underway.

Freshman Seminars will be one credit classes that upcoming freshmen must take to fill a graduation requirements. All four college divisions of Behrend College will be responsible for the coordination and style of their own seminar classes. There will be around fifty seminar opportunities per year; but it's recommended that freshmen schedule the seminar of their choice in the fall, when options will

be greatest.

The seminar itself will serve to prepare freshmen for the academic aspect of college and familiarize them with their chosen major. Other benefits will include familiarity with other students and with faculty in their academic program.

The issue of freshmen undecided on their major was brought up at Wednesday's meeting. It seems reasonable for these freshmen to use a given seminar as an information source. It may help them to decide on a major.

Megan Sweeney, '02 Comm, agrees with this concept, "I think the seminar class is a good idea because it allows freshmen to see what their major is going to be like. If they are undecided, it gives insight also."

While the seminars must have academic content; a variety of resources,

like guest speakers, may be used to add diversity to the classes. Senior Associate Provost and Dean, Jack Burke, informed faculty that despite the confusion, implications, and concerns of planning the seminars, research from other institutions show that freshman seminars like these turn out to be what students like most about their first year college academic experience.

Behrend freshman John Piasecki, '02 Bio, agrees, "I took a class last semester that was about studying strategies; it gave you tips on studying and time management and things that freshmen need to know. I loved it. It was awesome."

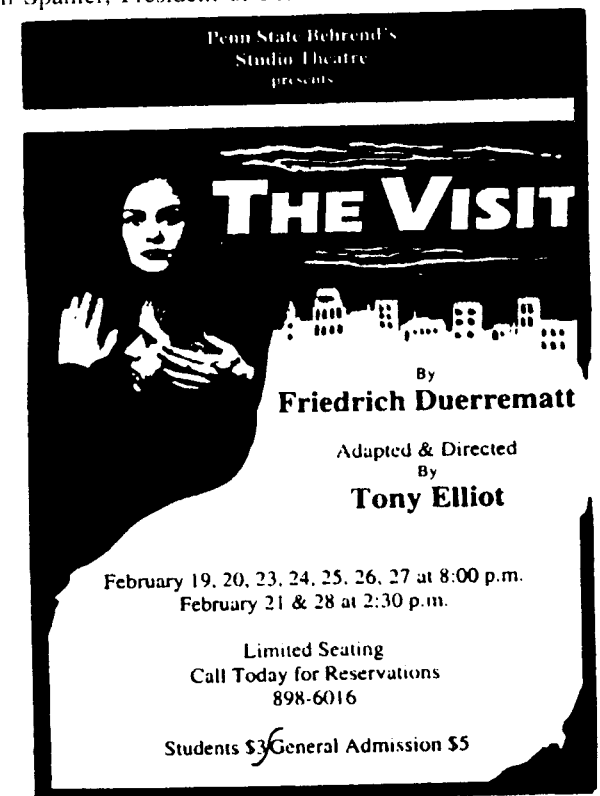
Some people are questioning the need of these seminars at a college the size of Behrend. The idea was originally a solution to the large class size of University Park. While Burke

agrees, "Our class size is no where near their class size," he also adds that "smaller seminars will have a lot more benefits than those larger ones...they will help students sort out career choices, major choices early on."

Courtney Vetter, '02 Comm, supports the idea. "I think the seminar is a really good idea because it gives you an inside on your major before you start taking classes and start into it."

One issue brought up at Wednesday's meeting was conflicting interest of students. Suppose a student athlete wanted to schedule both an athlete seminar and a seminar appropriate to his/her major. Faculty can only advise, not mandate,

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Penn State Behrend's studio theatre presents The Visit. Story page 8

Behrend students have edge on research

by Elizabeth Guelcher
layout editor

When it comes to research, Behrend students have an advantage that often goes unnoticed. Within 12 miles of campus are two major college libraries: Hammermill library at Mercyhurst College, and Nash library at Gannon University. Both libraries extend borrowing privileges to Behrend students and both are accessible by public transportation. The Hammermill library allows Behrend borrowers to take out 2 books at a time for up to 28 days, with the option to renew each book twice. Mary McGrath, circulation librarian at

Hammermill library told the Beacon that since she has been there in June of 1998, they have had no problems with Behrend students returning books. The library is open until 2 am Sunday through Thursday and has modified hours on the weekend.

The Nash library at Gannon has similar stipulations. Students can borrow 2 books for up to 2 weeks, and are able to renew them twice. Bob Dobiesz, circulation librarian at the Nash library said that in order to keep an effective line of communication open, he tries to maintain a rapport with librarians at other college libraries. The Gannon library is open until midnight Sunday through Thursday.

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