

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would be your solution to school theft?



"More metal detectors."

Antheim Thomas
Civil Engineering 04



"Start with better education - better counseling - better security in the high schools."

Erika Weissenfluh
Biology 06



"Clear bookbags - smaller schools - more counselors - more extracurricular activities."

Jill Fuller
Nursing 07



"If it wasn't in the media it wouldn't happen as much."

Ken Hess
Biology 08

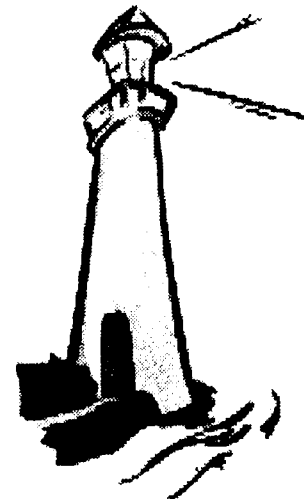


"Be kinder to people - stop picking on kids."

Kenton White
Mech. Engineering 08

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FROM FRONT PAGE

ARC OPENS

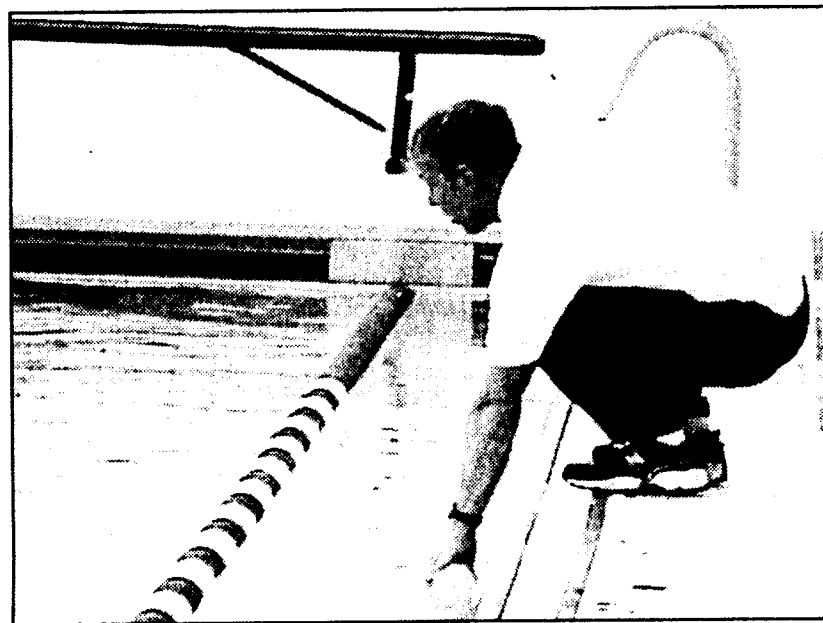
comfortable and provide a social aspect. The times are during the day or evening so that they may exercise at their convenience. There is also an alumni night on Fridays and family time each Sunday. The ARC will be open during the summer, and even offer public swimming classes that can also be scheduled now with various coaches.

Sports are not the only thing the ARC will be home to. *Babes in Arms*, a Behrend musical production, will be performed on court one of the gym on March 21 through March 25. "*Babes in Arms* is one of the first events to be held in the ARC," said Benim. There will be a kick-off to the ARC sponsored by the Office of Student Activities on April 19 with the performing artist Shaggy.

To enter the ARC, students must have their student identification with them, otherwise they will not be admitted. ARC hours will vary slightly due to practices and special events, but here is the run-down on the time students can utilize the ARC. The aerobic room, weight

room, indoor track, and gymnasium hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to midnight, Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 8:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00 p.m. to

midnight. The pool is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.



Coach Josh Heynes coaches the women's and men's water polo and swimming teams in the ARC.

SHAGGY



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Angela Majoris, the head of the Concert Committee, made the announcement on the stage at Bruno's during lunchtime on Tuesday.

Marie Havey commented, "when choosing a concert, we reviewed student surveys completed in Fall 2000, where Shaggy had many votes."

The committee received word on Wednesday that Shaggy accepted their bid and made their announcement early on Thursday.

Student reaction was mixed after the announcement.

Student Gretchen Lokey was pleased with the news saying, "that's so cool. I love 'It Wasn't Me' (Shaggy's first hit single off his new record *Hotshot*)."

Other students weren't as excited, including Brian Rose, who said, "I'm not paying \$15.00 to see him."

Shaggy will be the third big performer to play at Behrend since the Student Activity Fee has begun funding the concerts. The Goo Goo Dolls performed in 1999 and Train rolled in last year.

Tickets for Shaggy will be going on sale soon. Student tickets will cost \$15.00 and tickets for the public will be available for \$19.00.

The concert will take place in the ARC on April 19, 2001.

First American Dream conference held at Behrend before Spring Break

Community members come out to lead conference workshops

CORNEL WEST

by Amy Peffer and Liz Hayes
contributing writer and news editor

As students were getting ready to hit the beaches and bum around the house the week before Spring Break, the first-ever American Dream conference was occupying the Behrend community. Hosted by Penn State Behrend's Institute on the American Dream, the conference took place from Tuesday, February 27, through Thursday, March 1 at Behrend and other community locations.

The conference boasted six 90-minute workshops, all led by area business leaders and Behrend faculty. Tuesday's lectures included "Business and the American Dream," which was led by William Morgenstern, co-founder and CEO of Rent-Way, Inc.; "Local Unions and the American Dream," led by Dave Adams, president of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers 506; and "I Dream America," led by Michael Murdock, director of the International Institute in Erie.

Wednesday's workshops included Dr. Carl Kallgren and Dr. Kimberly Skarupski, associate professors of psychology and directors of the Center for Organizational Research and Evaluation (CORE), leading "Social Intervention and the Future of Erie;" and "Building a Healthy Community" with Dr. Mark Levine, a family physician at Hamot Medical Center. Also present at Dr. Levine's lecture were Dr. Tony Suchman of Rochester, N.Y., and Dr. Cornel West of Harvard University, who would speak later that evening.

Dr. Levine began the program by asking audience members if they believed that Erie is a healthy community. People responded with mixed opinions; one elderly gentleman commented that Erie is a healthy place that is full of concerned, caring citizens. However, other audience members disagreed with him, stating that far too many families are "locked in poverty." The crowd was able to come to the

decision that Erie has two sides — the wealthy and the struggling.

Believing that a lack of communication between community members is a primary cause of unhealthy communities, Dr. Levine told the crowd that they must take part in a "journey of dialogue," in order to "focus on health." The audience then divided into groups of two or three people to answer the "Living Dialogue Questions." Each member of the group was to spend approximately 20 minutes telling of a time in which he/she felt truly alive and healthy, or relay an experience in which he/she witnessed incredible care being given to a human being. Finally, all group members were asked to share their wishes for the future generations of Erie.

Once the dialogue session had ended, audience members were asked to share some of the ideas they had learned while speaking with their partners. Some of their thoughts on building a better community included: better healthcare for all children, giving women more empowerment, and taking a more spiritual approach to helping people, rather than just medicating all problems.

Next, Peggy Popeski, MPA, gave a brief overview of the Health Status Indicator Project of Erie County. Established in 1993, the Project was designed to improve health data access and to dispense health care information to the community. Dr. Suchman also spoke, stating that dialogue is part of the national process of building better communities. He said that people need to realize the power of our world and can only reconstruct it by action. According to Suchman, community members have the power to shape their own lives.

One of the highlights of the event was a brief speech by Dr. West. Declaring that as part of a community, "everybody has something to offer," Dr. West stated the living dialogue involves taking risks, participating, and being an open agent in making history. He also stated "we

cannot overlook how very crucial dialogue is." Following his brief statement, Dr. West received applause for his short, but poignant remarks.

Dr. Levine, who became involved with the American Dream Institute through the efforts of Dr. Brock, ended the program by telling the audience of the importance of focusing on relationships with ourselves and others, as well as with the environment. Even though information is readily available for the community, Dr. Levine noted, "without dialogue, nothing will happen," because people may never know just who, exactly, has the answer to the next question. He stated that dialogue is the first step in the process of building a healthy community, but advised that "a healthy community is a cohesive community."

Thanking the group for their participation, Dr. Levine added, "I think we've made connections here today," and urged the group to continuously share their ideas, because that is one of the most crucial steps to "building a healthy community."

The final workshop on Thursday was led by Charles Kennedy, Jr., a board member of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, who lectured that "No Challenge is too Great: Rethinking Challenged Students."

Also included in the conference were lectures by Dr. Cornel West and Dr. Annette Levitt. West is a university professor of Afro-American studies and philosophy of religion at Harvard. His lecture was titled "Restoring Hope." Dr. Levitt is a professor of English at Drexel University. "The American Dream in Today's Theatre" was the topic of her lecture.

The conference concluded Thursday night with a one-time staged reading of an excerpt from Studs Terkel's book *Working*. Tony Elliot, lecturer in theatre at Behrend, directed the play, which was performed in the Hirt Auditorium on Front Street. Afterward, Dr. Levitt led a discussion.



Dr. Cornel West joined Behrend's "Working for What: Winners and Losers in the American Dream" Conference, speaking on the decline of democracy in America and the need for all citizens to have a voice, no matter how small.

PHOTO BY LIZ HAYES

contemporary discourse. He believes that economic gain has come to replace real democracy in our country.

"Democracy is not a horse race that Bill Gates happens to be winning at the moment. Democracy is about humanity. It is about children. It is about looking out for one another."

West pointed to a society that forces children to raise themselves because there are no parents, no love, and no neighborhood to raise them. "There are no neighborhoods anymore - just a hood where you are on your own." As a result, America has seen a decrease in humanity, religion, and democracy, while suicide and homicide are on the rise.

West defined democracy as the method used to affirm the capacity of everyday people to govern themselves. He indicated that the spiritual "Lift Every Voice and Sing" represents this basic principle.

However, people need a voice in order to do so, and West doesn't believe that the majority of Americans really have a voice, especially those who are in the minority. He pointed out several instances in which the only voice heard is the white population. The minority voice is often left out. For instance, he pointed to the fact that while 60% of the overall population believes Bush was elected fairly, only 7% of blacks agree. However, when this minority vote tries to speak out now, they are hushed because Bush is in office and it is deemed disrespectful. West stated that while it is okay to accept the fact that he is the President of the United States and to respect him, the fact that he may have landed in the Oval Office unfairly should not be overlooked.

"Americans vacillate between sentimentalism and cynicism," West stated when reaffirming the lack of

meaningful discourse. Americans tend to be sentimental and nationalistic when discussing our country. However, when the less-than-pleasant truth becomes undeniable, Americans adopt a cynical mentality and refuse to deal with those truths. And while the sentimentality may not encourage discourse and democracy, neither does cynicism.

West doesn't think that America will be able to survive much longer with our democracy shaped and guided by wealth. However, he does have hope for younger generations. "Young people may be able to cut across the grain of sentiment and cowardice." He says that we need every citizen to speak out; "we don't need cynical spectators. It is a small seed to be a citizen, but it is what is needed for democracy to survive."