



THE BEACON

April 5, 2002

16 Pages, 2 sections

Vol. XLIX

No. 26



Destruction of construction equipment no help to environment, says biology professor Silver

by Erin McCarty
news editor

"Burning cranes, spiking trees, bombing abortion clinics, flying airplanes into buildings... It's all terrorism, and it's all wrong," said Dr. Pam Silver, associate professor of biology at Behrend.

Earlier this week, the radical environmental group Earth Liberation Front (ELF) sent out a statement admitting guilt in the destruction of a \$500,000 crane that was being used to build a bridge through Wintergreen Gorge. The bridge will be a part of the eastside access highway, which will connect Interstate 90 with the Bayfront Highway.

There were five different options for the road," said Silver. "This one required destroying the fewest homes."

Only 12 houses needed to be torn down, and there was a great deal of open land to work with.

Additionally, former Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley wanted the road to take this route because it would provide a safer way for students to get to the college. PennDOT will be giving Behrend a new entrance and a bike path. It has also provided tens of thousands of dollars for research on the organisms threatened by the changes.

"PennDOT has been good at holding up their end of the bargain," said Silver, noting that the company has sought input from the community from the project's inception. It has cooperated extensively with environmentalists

to ensure that the construction has as little negative ecological impact as possible.

The most immediate concerns are the removal of trees, the potential disturbance of the water table, and the pollution of Four-mile Creek.

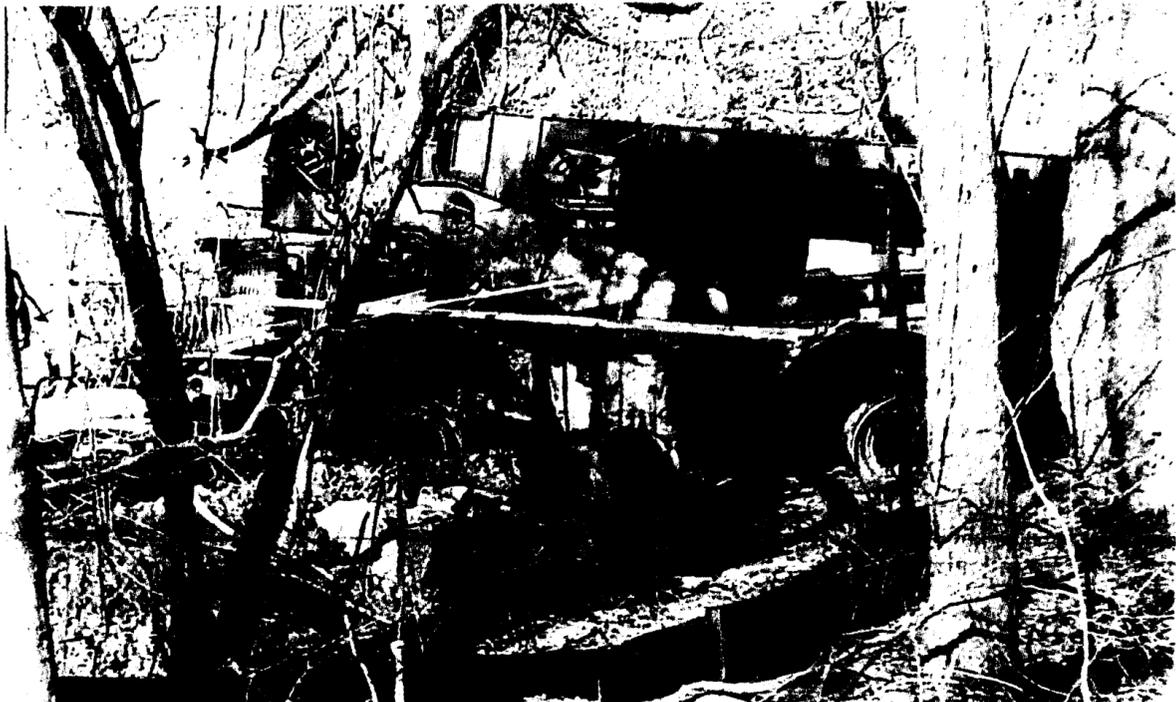
The road will also mean the destruction of three and a half acres of wetlands. However, wetlands on the Behrend campus and along Station Road are being replaced.

"This road has woken us up to what we have on campus," said

Silver. Although she would prefer that the road not be built through the gorge, she believes that it has increased awareness, allowing such

GORGE

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The crane vandalized on March 24 languishes in the woods beyond Cooper Hill. A statement released on Monday claimed that the destruction was the work of individuals affiliated with the radical environmental group Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

WEATHER

Friday's forecast:



Snow Likely
High: 39°
Low: 25°

Check page 2 for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

NEWS

The 2002 Gala, sponsored by the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), will take place Saturday. The awards dinner and following dance will last from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Read more on page 2.

The 18th annual Evening of Dubious Taste on Tuesday was a roaring success. Several Behrend students and faculty shared dubious writing and food. See page 2.

Ten representatives of Behrend visited Indianapolis two weeks ago for the annual General Meeting of the American Physics Society. Read more about it on page 3.

Dr. Daniel Barnard was the final speaker in the Soup for the Soul series, which ended last Thursday. Read about his talk on page 4.

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Music at Noon series concludes with Amherst Saxophone Quartet



PHOTO BY ERIN McCARTY / BEHREND BEACON

Susan Fancher, Russ Carere, Stephen Rosenthal, and Harry Fackelman, the members of the Amherst Saxophone Quartet, perform on Monday in the Reed Wintergarden. This concert was the final installment in this year's Music at Noon: The Logan Wintergarden Series.

by Erin McCarty
news editor

The Reed Wintergarden resounded with the smooth tones of saxophones on Monday, thanks to the presence of the Amherst Saxophone Quartet. The quartet was the final group to perform in this year's Music at Noon series.

Featuring Susan Fancher on soprano sax; Russ Carere on alto sax; Stephen Rosenthal on tenor sax; and Harry Fackelman on

baritone sax, the ensemble was created in 1978 and has performed throughout the United States, Bermuda, Japan, and the British Virgin Isles. It has also been featured on NBC's "Tonight Show" and NPR's "Performance Today" and "All Things Considered." This was the quartet's second performance at Behrend.

They started the hour with "Toccata in D Minor," a piece in four movements by Bach. Pausing before launching into the next

portion of the concert, they encouraged the audience to slow down and put the music in the foreground. Their music is complicated enough that listeners must pay rapt attention in order to fully appreciate it.

"It's like the difference between a Happy Meal and a gourmet meal," one saxophonist remarked. "But the difference is not so much in the

AMHERST

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Novelist Rosa Shand provides vision of Africa during final Creative Writer lecture



PHOTO BY ERIN McCARTY / BEHREND BEACON

On Thursday night, in the last reading of this semester's Creative Writer Speaker Series, Rosa Shand came to Behrend and read excerpts from her first novel, "The Gravity of Sunlight". The novel takes place in 1971, immediately before and after the bloody Idi Amin coup tore apart the country of Uganda. The novel approaches the experience of the novel's protagonist, Agnes, and her husband and three children through motif, strong imagery, and the exploration of the different kinds of love that Agnes encounters - from marital to friendly to maternal. Part of the novel's origins come from Shand's own visit to Africa several years ago. Many of the details, including her vivid descriptions and recurring motif of sunlight, were a part of her African experience. The reading was sponsored by the Clarence A. Smith and Eugenie Baumann Smith Fund.