

THE BEHREND Beacon

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16 Pages

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Fall 2002

WEATHER

Friday's forecast:



T-storms
High: 82°
Low: 65°

Check page 2 for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

**NEWS
SAFMOD**

SubAtomic Frequency Modulation Overdose, a Cleveland-based group whose performances creatively combine movement and music, performed at Behrend Monday as part of the Rhythms of Life series. Read more on page 2.

UNITED WAY

United Way has started its annual fundraising drive at Behrend. This year's goal is \$40,000. Read more on page 3.

MATT ECKL

Behrend student Matt Eckl has received the prestigious Top Teke award. Read more about it on page 4.

NEW LIBRARY LAPTOPS

Students can learn how to navigate the Lilley Library's resources using new laptop computers. Read more about it on page 4.

INDEX

- Behrend News...1-4
- National Campus News...5-6
- Editorial...7
- Humor...8
- Features...9
- Calendar...10
- A & E...11
- Ads...12
- Sports...13-16

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Rev. Bernice King speaks at Behrend

by Kassi Hindman
staff writer



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON
Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., discusses the decline of civility during the first lecture in the Behrend Speaker Series.

The Rev. Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., used her father's famous motivational speaking style for a crowd at the McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend on Tuesday. This first lecture in the Behrend Speaker Series also marked the official opening of the Janet Neff Sample Center for Manners and Civility.

King, a minister in Atlanta and author of "Hard Questions, Heart Answers: Sermons and Speeches," started the evening by trying to lighten the mood with a joke. She knew that some of the audience members may have had a stressful day and her philosophy was, "Laughing is jogging on the inside."

At the end of the speech there were many words that came to audience members' minds; some described her as kind, encouraging, caring, and motivational. However, at the very beginning of the speech, the first impression she gave was humility.

"I am not going to speak to your head. There are many more intelligent people

than me here," said King "I do not want to compete with your intelligence. I am going to try to bypass intelligence and move into the heart."

The first part of her speech told how there must be something wrong with this world. She said that if kids are being abducted, the divorce rate is climbing, and road rage is a growing problem, then something is wrong.

"People are in a rush to go nowhere," she said. She believes that these problems are a result of the world being spiritually dead. To cure these problems, then, we need to bring the spirit of kindness into our lives, she said.

The second, and main, point of her speech was that there are three causes of incivility and those are arrogance, selfishness, and materialism. These are "the cause of man's inhumanity to man," she said.

King said arrogance is the cause of racial and class tensions and also the cause of our war with Iraq.

"We are all intertwined and what happens to you ultimately happens to me," King said.

The second cause she spoke of was selfishness.

"Selfishness is the reason rap artists can put out the lyrics they do and not worry about the effects on the public," said King. "I would refuse to put anything out if it would have a negative effect on even a single child."

King said that materialism, the third cause, could be why people are spiritually dead.

"We are in a society where money is first and God last," said King.

Members of the audience said that they walked away with at least something to think about.

"I think the speech was worthwhile," said audience member Megan Loncaric. "She brought up a lot of good points and it really made me think." King said that there are many things that college students can do if they want to put her words into action.

"It all starts here. Begin to be a little more conscious in your daily dealings then maybe you will realize how your actions are affecting other people," said King.

King's appearance, which was free and open to the public, was sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs in conjunction with the Sample Center. The Speaker Series continues on Nov. 26 with Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams, founder of the Gesundheit! Institute.

Behrend students travel to South Africa for UN Summit

by Kevin Fallon
assistant managing editor

While most students were relaxing on summer vacation and getting ready for classes to start, two Behrend students were getting a lesson in human rights.

In August, Banchi Dessoalegn and Tracie Morell traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa for the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development. There, students observed the tragedy of poverty.

The experience gave the students an up-close view of the poverty that many South Africans face everyday. In places the air was so toxic that some students said it was almost impossible to breathe. It was the same place where children played and starving people searched for food.

Part of the trip included traveling through the city with The Environmental Justice Networking Forum. It brought students to a waste dumpsite.

"It was horrific," said Dessoalegn.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Banchi Dessoalegn poses with a statue and tour guide in South Africa. She was one of 14 students who traveled to Africa for the United Nations World Summit.

"There is smoke coming out of this waste dump site and then there are people there looking for food in the waste."

SUMMIT

continued on page 2

La Peña celebrates Spanish culture

by Erin McCarty
news editor

Students who enjoy Spanish language and culture now have the chance to share their love with other students on campus. Last spring, students felt a need for those with no access to Spanish away from class formed the Spanish Club, La Peña. At the head of this group was Jackie Cavicchio, English 08.

"La Peña" translates into 'the rock,' or 'the foundation,'" said Cavicchio, who is president of the club. "We hope that La Peña, Club de Español, can provide a strong foundation for those who are interested in deepening the knowledge they learn in Spanish language and history classes and sharing it with the student body."

Since last semester, club members have participated in special events including a Spanish Mass at St. Steven's Church and the end-of-the-year fiesta, complete with tacos and Latin music. This semester kicked off with a Freshman Fiesta, where new members mingled in Bruno's while enjoying Spanish food and music.

"[The party] was off to a slow start [but] ended up being a success," said Cavicchio. "We listened to music in Spanish and enjoyed punch and tacos that were made possible through SGA's generous funding. The Fiesta was a chance for new members to get acquainted with the existing members and officers in an informal

setting. Many new smiling faces showed up at the party, which we hope to see more of."

On Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the club will present Encounter of Cultures, which is being held in honor of Hispanic Heritage Awareness Month and Columbus Day, outside Bruno's.

"We hope it will promote awareness of Spanish heritage by depicting the historical representation of the encounter between Spain and (New World) South America," said Cavicchio. "On a lighter note, the club will also be serving hot chocolate, a result of the merging cultures, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Awareness month."

While La Peña is intended for students of all backgrounds and at all levels of Spanish skill, another club, the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), caters more specifically to students with Hispanic heritage. The two clubs are working together on Tropical Temptations, an event that will occur Oct. 19, a Saturday evening. Tropical Temptations will provide information on the cultures of such spring break destinations as Spain, Mexico, and several South American countries.

"I feel that working side by side with OLAS will provide both clubs with a rewarding experience as well as... [be] beneficial to the student body," said Cavicchio. La Peña will also present a Spanish reading on Nov. 19 during which

students will read various selections in Spanish and share Spanish food.

Cavicchio is especially excited about presenting El Carnaval, the Spanish version of Mardi Gras that is characterized by elaborate costumes, in February. The festival will feature Spanish and South American food and entertainment typical of the festival.

"La Peña asks that other clubs and organizations help make this event a success by dressing up in costume as one would actually wear if they were participating in El Carnaval," said Cavicchio. "Ideas for costumes are

Photos/Img014.htm."

Not only can students speak with one another, experts are on hand to ensure they are speaking correctly. Club members include native speakers, and students can also seek guidance from advisor Guadalupe Alvear-Madrid, Dr. Juan Fernandez-Jiminez, or Dr. Soledad Traverso.

Spanish speakers of all skill levels are invited to attend meetings, which are in Reed 113 on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. For more information on the club, contact Cavicchio at jmc407@psu.edu.

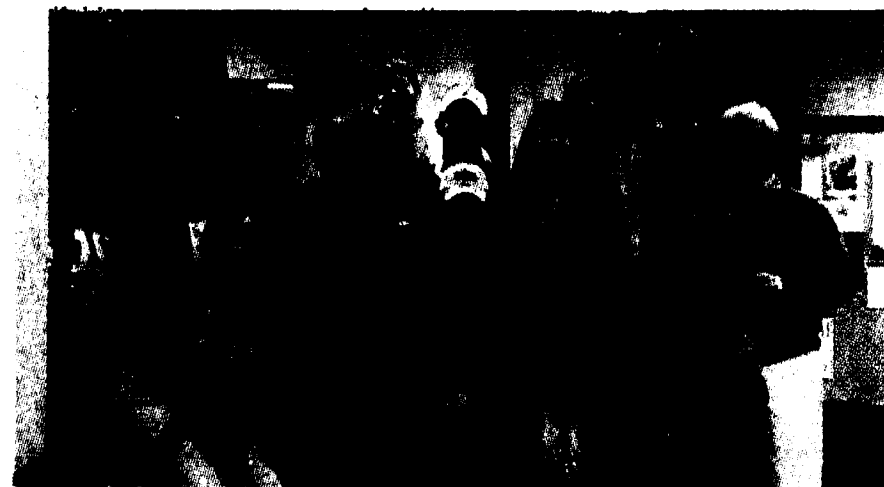


PHOTO BY ERIN MCCARTY / BEHREND BEACON
Spanish enthusiasts gather in Bruno's last Thursday during La Peña's Freshman Fiesta. The fiesta was just the first of many events sponsored by the Spanish Club.