

WEEKEND WEATHER

SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY



Rain/Snow Mix
High: 32°
Low: 18°



Chance Showers
High: 25°
Low: 17°



Snow Likely
High: 22°
Low: 15°

BEHREND BRIEFS

UCN deadline approaches

The deadline to sign up for the summer program at University College Northampton in England is approaching. UCN hosts a five-week program in which students can take up to nine credits in courses ranging from Art History and English to Biology and Theater. Students stay in the dormitories at the college and are given the opportunity to meet peers from a variety of countries and travel throughout Europe.

Day trips organized by the program include Oxford, Stratford-Upon-Avon, and Althorpe. Many other scenic destinations, such as Windsor Castle and Cambridge, are within an hour or two of Northampton by train and are ideal for independent day trips. In addition, students will spend a week at one of three locations -- London; Florence, Italy; or Scottish Cairngorms -- depending upon their course of study. During the three-day weekends, students can also organize their own trips to European countries.

The trip itself costs \$2,000, which includes accommodations and all program-sponsored trips and activities. Each three-credit course costs an additional \$600. Questions about any aspect of this program may be directed to Ruth Pflueger at x6140 or Dr. Dean Baldwin at x6214.

Behrend extends challenge to playwrights

Behrend's Studio Theatre will host a 10-minute playwriting competition for all those brave and daring enough to test their drama writing skills. How much can you say in 10 minutes?

This competition offers an ideal opportunity for all those who have ever considered creating for the stage. Playwriting possibilities are limitless. Earth could be destroyed or transformed in ten minutes. Aliens could invade, or a 32-year-old architect could fall in love.

The only stipulations are that the play must be complete in and of itself (not a section of a longer play). The performance time must be limited to 10 minutes. There is no submission fee, but there are cash prizes for first place and runners-up.

If interested, send a letter of intent with contact information and two copies of the completed script to Paula Barrett, Studio Theatre Director, 135 Koche Center, at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28. For more information call Barrett at 814-898-6209, or visit the Penn State Erie website: www.pserie.edu/hss/theatre/10minplaycomp.htm.

Penn State appropriation cut

For the fourth time in 16 months, Penn State's appropriation is being cut by the Commonwealth. Total cuts have amounted to \$29 million over this period. Gov. Ed Rendell announced \$120 million in spending reductions across the state on Thursday afternoon, with about \$3.2 million of those cuts coming from Penn State's appropriation. The cuts follow several earlier cuts made by his predecessors to deal with revenue shortfalls over the past year and a half. Gov. Schweiker cut Penn State's appropriation \$3.2 million in December 2002; and now Gov. Rendell has cut Penn State an additional \$3.2 million.

POLICE AND SAFETY

- 2/12/03 01:00 Complainant reported somebody hit her vehicle and took off.
- 2/14/03 13:20 Complainant wanted to make a harrasment report. Found to be out of P&S jurisdiction.
- 2/14/03 22:30 Officer was dispatched to apartment quad to speak to Duty RA regarding an illegal substance. While en route to deal with the call, officer caught a student trying to hide a bottle of beer. He was under 21.
- 2/15/03 01:40 Duty RA reported underage drinking in Perry. Officer arrived found several individuals on east side of the second floor. Two individuals were arrested for underage drinking. RA took care of referral, and notifying student affairs.

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- John Wanamaker

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FOCAL POINT



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE / BEHREND BEACON

A visiting elementary school student catches a few Zs during the performance of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra Wednesday.

Theta Phi Alpha members support THON



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Theta Phi Alpha (from left) Jen Sutter, Nichole Lemke, Michelle Rizzo, and Angie Arbuckle pause for a picture during their canning campaign on Jan. 24 and 25 to help support THON. Rizzo and Brandi Hovis will represent Behrend at the dance marathon.

Dubious Taste celebrates off color, bad writing

by Erin McCarty
news editor

Each year, Behrend brings in a variety of accomplished writers to read their best work, and offering students and faculty opportunities to read theirs. But once a year, everyone is encouraged to bring the worst writing they can find to share at the Evening of Dubious Taste.

"Dubious Taste began in the early '80s," said English professor Dean Baldwin. "We started it in part as a way of lightening up the usual poetry readings we have around here." Baldwin noted that most normal readings tend to lean just a bit toward the depressing side. Dubious Taste is a night of pure - or rather, impure - fun.

"Typically people read bad stuff," Baldwin said. "Bad" refers to both poorly written works and off-color works. Presentations lean heavily toward poetry and prose, but offerings also range from television excerpts to songs.

For instance, last year, evening highlights included a dramatic storytelling about English professor Greg Morris' secret life, a satirical play about the end of the world by then-student Andy Sydlík; a critical reading of a poem led by Baldwin; and a video of a Japanese boy band presented by Morris. Morris, incidentally, is the reader of the evening's final and most anticipated offering, a story titled "The Flash of the Knife."

"The story was bequeathed to us by Jim Davis, a former professor, who found it in a graduate writing class," said Baldwin. "He was trying to write a horror story, but it turned out to be quite the opposite. It's hilarious. I call it the worst short story ever written."

Once everyone has proven their dubiousness, they share a buffet of questionable food that has included such items as brain Jell-o (flesh-colored and placed in a brain-shaped mold), cheese from a can, and Vienna sausages.

Participants can let Baldwin know what they intend to present before the reading starts in the Studio Theatre on March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

"Dubious Taste is an evening of unwholesome entertainment and we all need that once in a while," said Karen McKim, president of Round Table, Behrend's literary club, which is sponsoring the event.

"We like to celebrate whatever is in iffy taste or kind of on the borderline," said Baldwin. "And it's a chance to see your professors make fools of themselves!"



WHAT A CHILD LEARNS ABOUT VIOLENCE & BLOOD LEARNS FOR LIFE.

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