

Question of the Week

by Jen Henderson,
assistant news editor

What do you think about Michael Jackson's trial?



"The guy is nuts, but I don't think we should spend so much time in the news talking about his life when there are more important issues in the world."
A.J. Zuber
DUS, 02



"I do not think that it is necessary, because no one is perfect, including a celebrity. I am pretty sure that there are a lot more parents doing far worse things to their baby than he did, and what he did wasn't even bad, he was having fun with his child."
Cedric Pinder
Computer Engineer, 04



"Who cares? Nothing's changed."
Isaac Hagenbach
Bio, 06



"I think that they should leave him alone. Who cares what he does in his personal life, that's his business."
Jamila Sheikh
Inter. Bus/Marketing, 06



"Just leave him alone, let him live his life."
Melissa Schmidt
Psychology, 02

Concert Choir members prepare for tour of Italy

by Erinn Hansen
calendar page editor

"Arivadercci" will be the word of Behrend Concert Choir as it departs for Italy on March 8 on its first international concert tour.

"We have been practicing for this since the first week of the 2002-2003 academic year," said Dr. Daniel Barnard, Choir director and professor of music at Behrend. "We could not be more excited, and we could spend all of our rehearsals talking about it." "I love traveling overseas and this is just the icing on the cake. Italy is full of culture, music, and more. So the choir traveling there is very appropriate," said Andrea Rodriguez, the choir president. "I think this tour will bring our choir together and create a better unity."

"I am very excited!" said Katie Leary, Choir member.

"This tour will give us a chance to express our musical knowledge and experience a different heritage and culture," added Carrie Egnosak, also a choir member.

The Behrend Choir consists of 60 students from a variety of majors. The group comes together for rehearsal on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 3 p.m. because of the love for music. The choir performs both on and off campus, and tours periodically. Students who are interested may join simply by taking the class at the beginning of each semester,

with no audition necessary.

"People who have not had a lot of experience with music have even joined," said Barnard. "They have worked very hard to get to where they are now and we are proud of the effort."

Barnard, is also the director of the Music at Noon: The Logan Wintergarden Series, and conducts the Erie Philharmonic Chorus. He holds a doctorate in composition from the University of Kansas, while also having degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and West Texas State University. Barnard has completed compositions that have won him both national and international awards, and he is also a professor of the Evolution of Jazz, World Music, and Music Fundamentals courses at Behrend.

"Of the four years that I have been here, the choir sounds really good," said Barnard.

The ensemble will depart from New York's JFK on Swiss Flight #17 bound for Zurich, Switzerland on March 8. When they arrive in Zurich and split into two groups. Both groups will re-unite in Venice, Italy, where they will enjoy a two-night stay at the Hotel Venezia.

On March 11, the choir will check out of the hotel, and arrive in Florence, where they will enjoy a two-night stay at Hotel Grifone. On March 12, the choir will perform the first of two concerts at the Basilica Madonna dell'Umilita, in Pistoia, which is a small

city located outside of Florence.

During the concert, they will perform a total of 12 songs. These songs include: "Good Ale" by John Rutter; "Simple Gifts" by Joseph Brackett (arranged by Richard Iacona); "O La, O Che Bon Echo" by Orlando DiLasso; "Danny Boy" arranged by Doug Andrews; "Five American Folksongs" arranged by Daryl Runswick; "Two Japanese Proverbs" by Gary Kent Walth; "Hatikva" arranged by John Leavitt; "Crotalo" by Matthew Harris; "El Dia es Hoy" by Paul Basler; "Something I Feel" arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw; "You Can Run But You Can't Hide" by Elizabeth Campbell; and "Requiem for a Soldier," which was written by Barnard.

"I wrote this piece from a grant that I earned from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts," said Barnard.

Then on March 13, the ensemble will pack up its bags and arrive in Rome, the final destination, and will enjoy a three-night stay in Hotel Gioberti.

The group will gather for the second concert on March 14 at Trinita dei Monti School. They will perform most of the same songs as the first concert. However, a couple may need to be eliminated because the students of the Trinita Choir, who are about the same age as the Behrend Choir, will perform during the first 15 minutes.

"This concert will be really nice," said Barnard. "After the concert is finished,

the Behrend students will get together with the local students for lunch and get a chance to meet them."

The Behrend Choir also plans to enjoy Italy. In each of the cities they visit, they will take a guided tour and get to see the sites. After the tours, the students are free to see whatever they want.

"I think that it is a good balance between structured and unstructured activities," said Barnard. "I think that it is better to let the students choose what they want to see, than try to see everything at one time. In Rome, they may choose to see the Vatican City and see the St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican museums, or perhaps spend the day exploring the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain."

On March 15, their final night, the group will enjoy the last evening dinner in Rome, and return to the hotel. Then on March 16, the choir will check out of the hotel at 5 a.m., and be transported to the airport, where they will again be split up into two groups.

Group one will depart from Rome on Swiss Flight #1735 at 7 a.m., and group two will board Swiss Flight #1727 at 9:30 a.m., both bound for Zurich. The ensemble will re-unite in Zurich, and depart on Swiss Flight #16 and arrive in New York at about 3:40 p.m.

Everyone is looking forward to the trip to Italy, and they feel very confident.

"They seem to be ready," said Barnard. "They performed some of the songs last Sunday at the Blasco Library, and on February 27, 2003 at the Winter Concert at Behrend. They have also had and still have a few more days of rehearsal to get ready."

Dr. Barnard and the entire Behrend Choir would like to thank Penn State for all of their financial help and support for the arts program, and are looking forward to a good Italian time.

Members of the choir include: Kristin M. Dressner; Carrie A. Egnosak; Elischia Fludd; Maggie D. Jensen; Yelana S. Kerr; Grace Quiggle; Tammy L. Sudul; Melissa S. Feile; Lisa Y. Gemma; Melinda Hanes; Katie B. Leary; Laura R. McKelvey; Virginia L. Seats; Cristen Stephansky; Karen M. Tryon; Matthew T. Esek; Michael J. Evans; Timothy Luthringer; Rodney J. Knight; Peter N. Riefstahl; Anthony J. DiPlacido; Matthew L. Hillwig; Steven C. O'Donnell; Jeremy C. Reel; John J. Reynolds Jr.; and Michael Wiseman.

The following 10 people are also in the Behrend Studio Singers who are chosen by audition: Erika L. Dauber; Danielle L. Gardner; Maura Holmes; Andrea Rodriguez; Stephanie Bailey; Stacey R. Hampton; Robert J. Kearns Jr.; Nathan W. Sacco; Clark A. Pease; and Matthew Stanton.

FROM FRONT PAGE

WORTMAN

be like in future times once conservation grows more rapidly, as it is now. I've been involved with a lot of conservation groups, outdoor groups, environmentalist groups, and thought that this would just be one more to help."

The Behrend campus being named an arboretum benefits everyone involved.

"It gives us the opportunity to have an organized effort toward using this natural environment here, specifically our trees and our other botanical resources," said Wortman. "It also is a reach out to the community so our students can then interact with the other people and the things around them."

Earth Day is April 22 and the task force along with student activities and organizations are working towards setting up a day of events to celebrate. There will be educational activities on sustainability issues and open stage performances. Area school children will be invited to take tours of the campus to see why it has been chosen to be called an arboretum. The final details for this event will be available within the next few weeks.

Last year, Eco-mugs were introduced and this year will be no exception. Housing and Food services will bring the mugs back, but redesigned to keep the idea fresh. This program seemed to be very successful last year.

On April 23, a ceremony will be held inducting the Behrend campus as an arboretum. There are three arboretums in Erie County: the Erie Zoological Society and the Lake Erie Arboretum and Frontier Park, along with the Behrend campus. Behrend's arboretum is very large and spread out over heavily wooded areas in the gorge, managed

areas, wild areas, such as on top of the ski hill, meadow, and grassland.

Three hundred various species have been identified thus far and experts are still performing research on this project. It can prove to be difficult due to the time and knowledge needed to work on this process. The group is also looking to make a pamphlet showing where the various trees are located throughout the campus.

Other members of the task force involved in these projects include: Dr. Edwin C. Masteller, R. Thomas Guth, landscape supervisor, Dr. Zachary Irwin, associate professor of political science, Dr. Paul Barney, lecturer in biology, Dr. Roger Knacke, director of the School of Science, Dr. Michael Campbell, associate professor of biology, along with Wortman and Light. Many of the original ideas for these projects originated from Masteller, who is now retired.

The Task Force is focusing on sustainability. This entails living within means and using the resources that Earth provides. The Task Force's seven main issues include: reducing energy use, conserving water, minimizing waste, increasing the healthiness of food and reducing its waste, protecting and preserving natural areas, using "green" practices, and promoting ecological stewardship within the community.

The mission of the arboretum is to conserve and promote the legacy of the campus' unique natural botanical resources through: advancement of related education, outreach, research, and conservation efforts; documentation and enhancement of the campus' botanical diversity; and the maintenance

of the campus' inspirational woodland setting. Their vision is that it will be recognized as an important education, outreach, research, and conservation resource.

When asked if he is looking for others to aid in this project, Marvit said, "I've used publicity towards conservation, but I believe that we shouldn't try to recruit people, we aren't an army. At the same time people should want to work with us, we are only improving the area and where students live and study."

"We are trying to keep up with national standards of conservation and a lot of other universities are probably a lot better than we are, as good as it seems. But what we are doing isn't novel at all, it is like everyone else. It's in no way radical. It's just about conservation."

In response Wortman said, "The ideas are hardly radical, it's very mainstream. It's about conserving the beauty and the biodiversity, it's not about making political statements."

"Arboretum is certainly a work in progress, it's not something that comes in a box and you open it up and then you have arboretum. Arboretum requires the efforts of a whole lot of people and it changes, sometimes day to day. It's a dynamic thing, rather than a static one." Everyone on the Behrend campus should be proud of what the Greener Behrend Task Force has done for the campus.

"If we believe so strongly in our trees to become an arboretum, then students are probably the most critical part of that," said Wortman.

Snowfall racing for first place

by Katie Zellars
staff writer

The bets are on the table. Will Erie beat its record of 149.1 inches of snowfall this year? With 132.4 inches as of 11 a.m. on Tuesday and another month of snowfall still to come, most are saying yes!

Late Monday night and early Tuesday mornings 4.2 inches of snow bumped the 2002-2003 winter season into third place for the snowiest season on record. The previous third-place season 1993-1994 is just 1.1 inches below what we currently have according to the National Weather Service.

The second largest snowfall was in 1977-1998 with 142.8 inches and the record seasonal snowfall total was set just two years ago during the winter of 2000-2001 at a staggering 149.1 inches. Put that all together and you could bury a one-story house!

Most students are certain that we will break the record this year. Sophomore Tim Weindorf said, "It would be pretty neat if we got it. Then I could say I lived through the snowiest winter in Erie."

Most students predict we will pass the 149.1 inches mark by middle or late March. Hinting at the extra-long Erie winters, student Kevin Robb said, "I'm quite confident we'll have it by June 15."



PHOTO BY KEVIN FALLON / BEHREND BEACON
Behrend students struggle through the snow to get to class. Erie is poised to break the record for snowiest winter.

Though some students would like to see Erie break its record, some are getting a little tired of the snow.

"It needs to quit," sophomore Kate Overmoyer said. The extreme snow amounts have affected Overmoyer's daily routine, like walking her dog and commuting to school.

The snow has certainly taken its toll on commuters, causing them to get in accidents, be late for class, or not even make it to school. Some find the effects of the bad weather and road conditions very annoying. Commuter Jesse Anderson said he is of scraping snow and ice off his car every morning. He has also witnessed several small accidents in the parking lots and roads because of the horrible conditions.

There is some explanation for the record-making snowfall this season. Meteorologist Tom Atkins explained that a lot of low-pressure southern storms have caused the large snowfall.

"In this season's case it's happening because we've stayed cold all this winter," Atkins said, explaining that the southern storms that are normally rain have dumped snow instead.

With only 16.7 more inches to go, Erie residents will be ready with their boots and snow shovels to see if the 2002-2003 season makes the record books as the largest seasonal snowfall ever recorded.