

NEWS

Friday, January 16, 2004

The Behrend Beacon

Question of the Week

by Angela Szesciorka, staff writer

What did you do over winter break?



"We toured all of Italy."
Melissa Sollon and
Bethanie Falleta
GAS 07; GAS 08



"A whole lot of nothing."
Chris Gleditsch
HIST 03



"I was single..."
Jarrod Gathers
COMM 06



"I turned 21 and got
drunk."
Joe Marsteller
HIST 04



"I did a lot of shopping."
Michelle McGregor
BIO 02

Have a suggestion for Question of the Week? Email your question to us at: behrcoll2@aol.com.

Students share in King's dream

by Justin Curry
news editor

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, the Penn State Erie Office of Educational Equity Programs, in conjunction with the Student Activity Fee, has planned a weeklong celebration to commemorate King's legacy and lifetime. This year's celebration is titled "To see a change, be a change," and will feature performances, lectures, movies and service projects throughout the week.

Beginning Sunday at 7 p.m. in Reed 117, there will be a showing of "Remember the Titans." The movie, starring Denzel Washington highlights the perils of integration in a southern Virginia high school in the early 1970s.

Monday's festivities will begin with a family breakfast held from 7 to 8 a.m. in Bruno's. This meal is held to honor one of Dr. King, Jr's. traditions, which was celebrating his birthday with his family and friends at breakfast. The guest speaker will be Penn State alum Jeanine M. McCreary, who currently serves as an Erie School Board director.

Later on in the afternoon, the play "The Meeting" will be performed in the McGarvey Commons. "The Meetings" is playwright Jeff Stetson's image of a meeting between King and Malcolm X. The setting for the meeting is Harlem in February of 1965, only a week before Malcolm X's death and three years before King's.

Immediately following the play will be a candlelight vigil beginning at the Reed Union Building and ending at the Smith Chapel. Refreshments will be served in the Chapel.

The final part of Monday's celebration will be a presentation King's legacy by Dr. Leswim Laubscher of Duquesne University. Laubscher's area of study is the differences in culture, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation and their correlation to psychology.

On Tuesday, students have the opportunity to participate in a service project to the Child Care Center preschool. Planned for the children are discussions on King, coloring pictures regarding his legacy and listening to stories about his life.

"It went very well last year, and the kids really enjoyed it," said Olga Nacalaban, POLSC 08. "We hope it will go even better this year."

On Thursday, the movie "Higher Learning" will be shown in Reed 117. The movie, released in 1995 and starring Ice Cube, is set at a fictional college, Columbus University. "Higher Learning" focuses on the lives of several students as they deal with diversity, racism, sexism and self-identity.

Ending the week will be a Diversity Summit on Friday, hosted by MCC. Reps from other colleges and universities will be on campus to discuss issues plaguing multi-cultural groups as well as participate in activities provided by Leadership Unlimited.

Throughout the course of the week, a civil rights timeline will be placed throughout the Reed Union Building, as well as events being coordinated by the residence halls.

"We should celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day to remember that he ended hate and segregation and gave up his life in order for all minorities and unprivileged citizens to have equalities," said Twynell Kimble, ENG 08.

Thirty years ago, King, a legendary civil-rights leader, gave one of the most influential speeches in American history. On Aug. 28, 1963, in front of the Lincoln Memorial during a civil rights march on Washington, King addressed countless Americans and shared his view for a more civil and tolerant nation. "And when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children - black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants - will be able to join hands and to sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, free at last; thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

With those words, King inspired people to rise up against civil unrest in a nation that preached equality towards all men.

"Dr. King was one of few who made a difference in America," said Julie Lafferty, HIS 09.

Brian Mitchell contributed to this report.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRTCAMPUS.COM

Democratic Presidential candidate hopefuls Dick Gephardt, left, and Howard Dean share a smirk in between a recent debate. The democratic candidates have been campaigning heavily in Iowa recently, with the upcoming Iowa caucuses, the first of many preliminary votes to ultimately determine who gets the party's nomination for the presidency.

CURRENT

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... "I don't sometimes in trying to improve his game. That's also a sign of a great player too in that he's never satisfied."

Now that Curren has set the scoring mark and has achieved practically every individual goal he has set, he is still pushing hard on the one achievement that has eluded him so far: a conference championship. "We're a veteran group so anything less than a championship this season is disappointing. It's definitely our main goal," said Curren.

Though basketball obviously takes up a huge chunk of time for Curren, especially in season, he is still able to maintain a typical student's life. "I play basketball, hang out with my friends and goof around with the rest of other students," said Curren.

After the season has concluded this year, graduation will be looming

WEB SITE

...FROM PAGE ONE

... The site allows access to course information as well as professors. The main goal of the site is for incoming students to use, almost as a reference, to help other students prepare for classes or avoid a professor based on comments of previous students.

... The site's founder John Dobbins states on his site, "Every semester, thousands of students use the site to help plan their class schedules and improve the quality of their education."

... The Web site gets its popularity from the information. "The ratings grow and students really benefit from the information," said Curren.

Now with the Web site has 215 users, Curren listed for Penn State records he's accumulated. "I will surely be remembered as someone who worked as hard as I could to be a good teammate."

Winter ushers in new students

by Keith Doak
staff writer

It was at best a cold reception for the students who moved onto campus last Thursday for the start of spring semester. To sum it up Behrend was, well, barren. A total of 50 students are new this semester. Counting those who are upperclassmen, living off campus, etc., the number of genuine new students is under 20. These students found themselves with more time than activities. The weather itself was frigid with snow and temperatures in the single digits.

There were four planned activities for the three days the freshmen had the campus to themselves. On Thursday there was a get-together with billiards and pizza at the Niagara Hall lobby. However, the

8 p.m. episode of "JAG" stole the show. Friday afternoon was consumed with the actual orientation and registration. In the evening there was a mandatory residence hall meeting in Niagara, after which there was a party at Bruno's.

On Saturday any student who awoke early was surprised to find that neither Bruno's or Dobbins Dining Hall was open for breakfast. In the afternoon following the eagerly anticipated lunch, there was a NFL playoff party at Bruno's. When asked to sum up the weekend activities Charles Williams, ENG.02, said, "there wasn't many new people, but it was good." Williams, from Scranton, transferred to Behrend for the "good four year engineering degrees."

It was rare to see a person walking

the paths around campus, and extraordinary to see a group of people. Residence halls were predominately empty and only the occupied rooms were heated, which made showering a risky business with the floor halls only a few degrees warmer than a refrigerator. Dobbins Dining Hall appeared more closed than opened at the peak of lunch and dinner as the number of students could be counted on one hand.

The orientation was a shadow of the larger one enjoyed by incoming students of last fall. Last semester's orientation "was a weekend worth of events and (spring) is not such a big thing," said Christian O' Connor. She also said the most important thing for the new students is to "get involved."

Candidates try to gain support from undecided voters

by James Kuhnhehn and
Matt Stearns
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Undecided voters, the last hard sell in politics, are tuning to Iowa four days before the presidential caucuses and opinion polls suggest that they may be giving Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry a lift and scrambling the Democratic field.

Kerry, whose campaign has never gotten much traction in the polls, much to the surprise of many party professionals, is back to basics. Kerry is seeking support by stressing his seasoning as a gunboat skipper in the Vietnam War and as a 19-year veteran of the U.S. Senate.

An overnight tracking poll Thursday commissioned by Reuters and MSNBC had him leading for the first time in Iowa, in a virtual tie with former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and Rep. Dick Gephardt

of neighboring Missouri, with N.C. Sen. John Edwards closing in fast.

Polls, however, are notoriously uncertain in a caucus state such as Iowa, where participants must devote their entire evening Monday to selecting delegates for the candidates. The outcome has more to do with the organizing skills of the various camps on caucus night than it does with the current sentiments of the electorate. But the polls suggest Kerry and Edwards may be gaining, while Dean and Gephardt appear to be static or in a decline.

For the past year, candidates have worked to solidify their bases of support men and women motivated more by a visceral feeling than by careful study of character and issues. Dean benefited early. But undecided voters evaluate late. They probe. They question. They demand attention.

Voters who say they're giving Kerry a second look cite his experience and grasp of foreign affairs. Nonetheless, many voters here still harbor doubts about his energy and his ability to connect with the public.

Kerry may have lost Virginia Dress, a 53-year old patent agent at an event for undecided voters Wednesday night in Des Moines. She bristled when Kerry interrupted an answer to her question to greet Christie Vilsack, Iowa's first lady and a Kerry backer.

"What it says to me is that her being here is more important than me being here," she said. "He's got her vote. He didn't have mine, yet. I'm not sure that he does."

Iowans are known for being hard to poll and late to decide, giving campaign strategists fits. All a candidate can do at this point is beg and hope the message gets through.