MEWS

Weather Forecast

Saturday

HIGH: 60 LOW: 39 Sunny and clear.



Sunday

HIGH: 64 LOW: 48 Breezy with sun and clouds.

HIGH: 67

Partly sunny.

Monday

HIGH: 66 LOW: 49 Cloudy and sunny.

Tuesday

LOW: 48

Wednesday

HIGH: 62 LOW: 45 Sun and clouds with possible rain.

Thursday



HIGH: 55 LOW: 36

Rainy.



HIGH: 51 LOW: 31 Cloudy with possible rain.



Behrend Briefs

Whitewater rafting in New River

SGA and the Behrend Outdoors Club is sponsoring a whitewater rafting excursion and trip to a high ropes course in Nemacolin from April 22-24. The cost is \$15 per person. Sign up at the RUB desk

Police Reports

3/31/2005

Officers were informed that an intoxicated female was found at the Junker Center. She was cited for underage drinking. The matter was also referred to Student Affairs.

Complainant believed she was struck in the head while dancing at the concert. Complainant was treated and transported to Hamot Medical Center via ambu-

3/31/2005

Complainant was seriously injured while dancing at concert in Junker Center.

3/31/2005

Complainant reported being struck in the head while working at concert. Transported to Hamot by ambulance.

4/1/2005

Complainant received an eye injury from another person at concert in Junker Center. Injury was treated and complainant was transported to St. Vincent's Hospital via ambulance.

4/1/2005

While on previous call, crusier was struck by another vehicle. No damage to cruiser, light damage to other vehicle. No injuries. Information report to follow.

4/2/2005

Student observed driving at an unreasonable speed and running a stop sign was charged with the violation as well as with underage drinking.

4/3/2005

Complainant reported that a housing van was struck by a hit and run driver while it was parked along the curb between Dobbins and Lawrence Halls.

4/5/2005

Complainant reported something was thrown at his bedroom window breaking the outer pane of glass.

4/5/2005 Staff member reported that a dry erase board was taken from the Kochel Center this past weekend. Further information will be obtained in next couple of days.

lassifieds

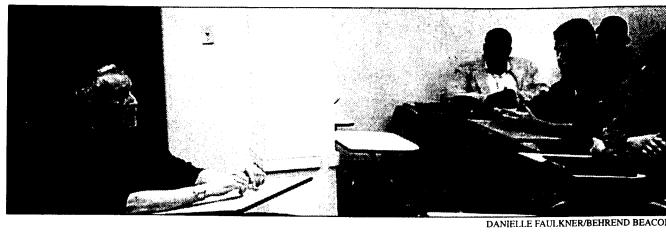
"We are all angels with only one wing. We can only fly while embracing each other."

— Luciano de Crescenzo, Italian writer (b. 1928)

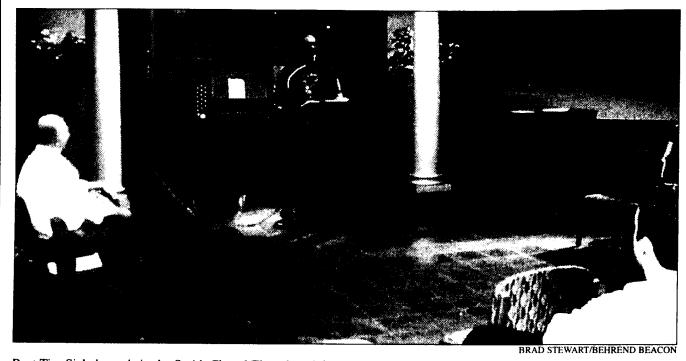




FOCAL POINTS



French artist Pascal Loubet speaking to students Thursday night in Turnbull 205. Pascal was on campus the week of April 10 imparting his knowledge of communications and literature.



Poet Tim Siebels reads in the Smith Chapel Thursday night as part of the Creative Writer Speaker series. Siebel's poetry touches on a variety of subjects, including the mating habits of bonobo apes, and he received a standing ovation at the completion of his reading.

Lack of track restrains success

By Leah Frame contributing writer

Anyone on this campus who is familiar with the Junker Center knows that it's a place for sports, swimming, weightlifting and sometimes even concerts. What people may not know is that the facility was supposed to be nearly twice as large as it is now.

The state began the process for funding the Junker Center in 1988. The initial planning included an Olympic sized pool (50 meters long), four basketball courts and a competitive 220 yard track.

This would have ideally benefited everyone; however, the funds were not issued until 1997. By that time, the cost of building the facility rose sharply and most of the projects were affected.

One cutback resulted in today's small three lane track that sits behind the basketball courts. This tiny track is not large enough to accommodate the needs for Behrend's track and field team.

When the funding for the Junker was originally cut, the track was almost eliminated completely. The staff pushed for the three lane one to be built, which does serve the jogging classes as well as walkers in the community.

Track and field Coach Dave Cooper is adamant about the need for a better facility as Behrend has a growing program with over 45 members.

"Our program is now getting athletes with provisional qualifying times to NCAA's, yet they miss the National Championships by narrow margins," said Cooper. Some athletes, like Jessica Knapp and Isiah Meek missed

qualifying for these events by less then seconds.

Unlike other school sponsored sports, such as basketball and baseball, it seems that track members are not given the opportunity meet their full potential, because they do not have a place to properly train.

"The failure of the university to provide the track team with adequate training facilities not only puts us at a disadvantage to the schools we compete against, but hinders our ability to qualify for post-season meets," said freshman Rick Holzworth.

Track members protest about their unfair training conditions, with good reason. The current program requires athletes to train outside, regardless of the weather. In Erie, the runners must endure particularly hazardous conditions, while running through snow and on iced-over parking lots. Obviously, this results in injuries and difficulties.

Exceptionally dangerous winter weather forced the team to cancel four outdoor practices during the winter of 2003-

"At the end of that season, Jessica Knapp missed Nationals by less then two seconds in a 17.8 minute race," Cooper said. "Could she have made it if we hadn't cancelled those four

One might wonder why, during the winter, these athletes don't modify their practices by running indoors on the three lane track. Besides the fact that 45 runners on the tiny track would be challenging to say the least, a major reason is that the sharp, almost 90 degree turns would initiate knee injuries. These turns would also slow the sprinters and cause them to cut into another lane.

Runners are not the only members affected by this dispo-

"Throwers do not have a place to practice at this moment. We have to borrow Harborcreek's track after they are through practicing," said senior Claire Manelick

A better facility would also benefit the members of the community, particularly student athletes. It could help to attract high school athletes to Behrend's program.

"If we had a track, we could host meets that could possibly bring money into the program and give our families a chance to watch us at home without traveling all over," said freshman Chad Cochran.

If the original plan for a 220 yard track was built, then athletes from Erie's middle and high schools would have a place to practice and compete. As of right now, the nearest indoor track facility in western Pennsylvania is at Slippery Rock University.

