

THE BEHREND BEACON

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“This is the weirdest case I’ve seen in 18 years.”

- Susan Quayle
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WHO’S INSIDE

“They get it. They get that it takes everybody and not just one star or one person.”

- Roz Fornari, Head Coach of the Women’s Basketball Team
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Check out the Billboard Top 10 Singles and the rest of the music inspired article on page 7.



To read about the latest on the Lady Lions Basketball team, turn to page 10 for Kara Struski’s article, “Lady Lions know there’s no ‘I’ in team.”

Catch up on this week’s politics and check out Chris Brown’s opinion article, “This Week in Politics,” on page 4, and Scott Muska’s coverage of the presiden-

Classes are canceled as Behrend is buried in snow

By Ashley Bressler/Contributing Writers
news editor/COMM 260W
(see page 3 for list of names)

A massive snowstorm hit the campus of Penn State Behrend Thursday, forcing the cancellation of classes. Not many employees of Behrend can specifically recall the last time classes were cancelled because of snow. Patti McClellan, staff assistant in the Registrar’s Office, said as best she can remember it has been quite some time. “It’s been a long time,” said McClellan. Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Mary Ellen Madigan, racked her brain trying to remember Behrend’s last major storm. “Off the top of my head I can’t remember, but there hasn’t been many,” said Madigan. She went on to say that she recalled a time when she first started working at Behrend in the late 1980s, and another time in the mid 1990s when she was taking an MBA class that the campus was closed because of snow.

According to Associate Dean, David Christiansen, Behrend has a policy which top administrators gathered to discuss on Thursday. The policy involves top administrators meeting in severe weather situations to determine whether or not classes should be cancelled. “The primary individuals involved were Bob Light, John Ream, and myself,” said Christiansen.

He went on to explain that after the group met, they called Chancellor Jack Burke, who was off-campus, to approve the committee’s recommendation to cancel classes. In reaching their decision, Christiansen said many factors aside from weather went into the decision. “Because of snow and road conditions and the closing of the interstate, we decided in was in the best interest of students, including commuter students, to cancel classes.”

The Behrend maintenance crew was hard at work all day Thursday to keep the parking lots, roads, and sidewalks clear and safe for all students. A Behrend maintenance crewmember was frazzled in the Erie snowstorm. A plow truck driver, who was too busy to give his name as he was trying to keep up with his extensive schedule commented on how overwhelming the snowstorm was for him and his fellow crewmembers, as they were working non-stop since 5:30 Thursday morning. He briefly said that all the drivers have a specific route to follow. “I’m afraid I just don’t have the time to answer any more questions,” he said.

While many Behrend students took cover from the harsh winter weather, others took advantage of the cancelled classes to play in the snow. Three avid outdoorsmen hit the slopes to sledride on the hill behind



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Behrend’s campus was nearly deserted Thursday afternoon due to classes being canceled.

the science complex. All three students were thrilled with the recent snowfall, and were excited to find out that classes after 5:00 p.m. were cancelled. “I absolutely love this weather,” said Albert Tackie, a freshman mechanical engineering major. Tackie, who is from the Murrysville area, said he is used to snowfall, but not on these levels. Tackie is an avid snowboarder, who said he was ready to take advantage of this recent snowfall.

Also taking part in the fresh powder were Mandy Daniels and John Hallagan, both sophomore biology majors. When asked how Daniels would feel if classes were also cancelled tomorrow, she said, “That would be amazing! No 8 a.m. classes would be so exciting.” On another note, Hallagan was indifferent to the cancellation of classes saying, “I want classes because I want to learn, but no 8 a.m.’s would be nice.” The students then resumed their play by jumping on their innertubes and sleds, and headed down the hill to continue enjoying the snow.

Not all students were excited about the snowfall, and some were even concerned about the conditions of the roads more than the excitement of classes being cancelled. When asked about the sudden turn of events, Dave, a second semester student said, “I think this is great news! I’m a commuter, so I want to be able to get home safely.”

As he spoke, campus maintenance workers suffered the frosty weather to keep the college grounds safe. John, a sixth semester student, expressed concern for the state of the campus since it is unclear if the cancellation will be extended into the next day. “I think everyone’s doing the best they can,” John said.

For any future weather emergencies, delays, or cancellations, students can visit the Penn State Behrend website, www.pennstatebehrend.psu.edu, and look for announcements in the upper right hand corner of the webpage.

Martin Luther King III speaks to students about his father’s dream

By Lenny Smith
assistant news editor

The Penn State Behrend campus honored slain civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a week of activities that included films, music and speeches. The highlight of the week-long celebration of King’s life was a passionate speech by King’s son, Martin Luther King III.

Approximately 500 people packed McGarvey Commons on Thursday, January 18 to hear King’s speech, “My Father’s Teaching and Our Challenge.” Met with a standing ovation, King asked community members to engage themselves in service and to take part in local activities to help create a better America.

King spoke of how his father’s hopes and dreams were intended for much more than American soil, he wanted it to reach around the world. Many current events such as the ongoing war in Iraq were discussed in his speech. King also explained the “triple evils” of racism, poverty and violence.

This would have been his father’s 78th birthday and it is the first one King has to celebrate since his mother, Coretta Scott King, passed away on January 30, 2006.

King, who can be called a humanitarian, community activist, and political leader, has recently taken on a new venture. According to <http://realizingthedream.org>, Realizing the Dream Inc. promotes and embodies justice, equality, and the ‘beloved’ community through specific sustainable initiatives in economic development, non-violence and conflict resolution training, and targeted leadership

development for youth.

Students had the opportunity to attend other events on campus during the week as well. A special documentary series that Time Magazine called, “indispensable” was shown daily in the Lilley Library from Jan. 16-19. The award-winning video entitled “Eyes on the Prize,” documents the American Civil Rights movement with the help of contemporary interviews and historical footage between the years of 1954-1985.

Behrend hosted a ‘Campus Family Brunch’ on Jan. 17. From 11:00a.m. to 1:30p.m., students were invited to eat in McGarvey Commons as a form of campus unity. The brunch had its own entertainment as well. The band One World Tribe performed during the



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Martin Luther King III is presented with a commendation on behalf of Erie City Council.

brunch. One World Tribe is a hip hop, reggae, funk, Latin, and world music ensemble with its members originating from places such as Africa, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. On Jan. 18, a video presentation of King’s biography was shown throughout the day in Bruno’s.

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