

# NEWS

## Behrend celebrates Black History Month

By Scott Muska  
assistant news editor

February is not just a cold month in the twilight of winter with a Hallmark Holiday in the middle of it; it is also Black History Month. Throughout the month of February, people remember and celebrate the many trials, tribulations, and triumphs of African Americans. Penn State Behrend keeps the importance of this history in mind, and celebrates this month with various activities.

Behrend was so anxious for Black History month that they began the festivities before the month of February even began with a school-sponsored appearance by Martin Luther King III. The son of Martin Luther King Jr., the infamous advocate of equal rights, appeared on the Behrend campus on Thursday, January 18. King III spoke to Behrend students and the general public from the stage in the McGarvey Commons about his desire to continue the work that his father had helped to start. King III talked about the dream that his father had always maintained that he had. This dream was essentially for all races and ethnicities to live in harmony and equality together, and King III expressed that his father's dream was not meant only for America,

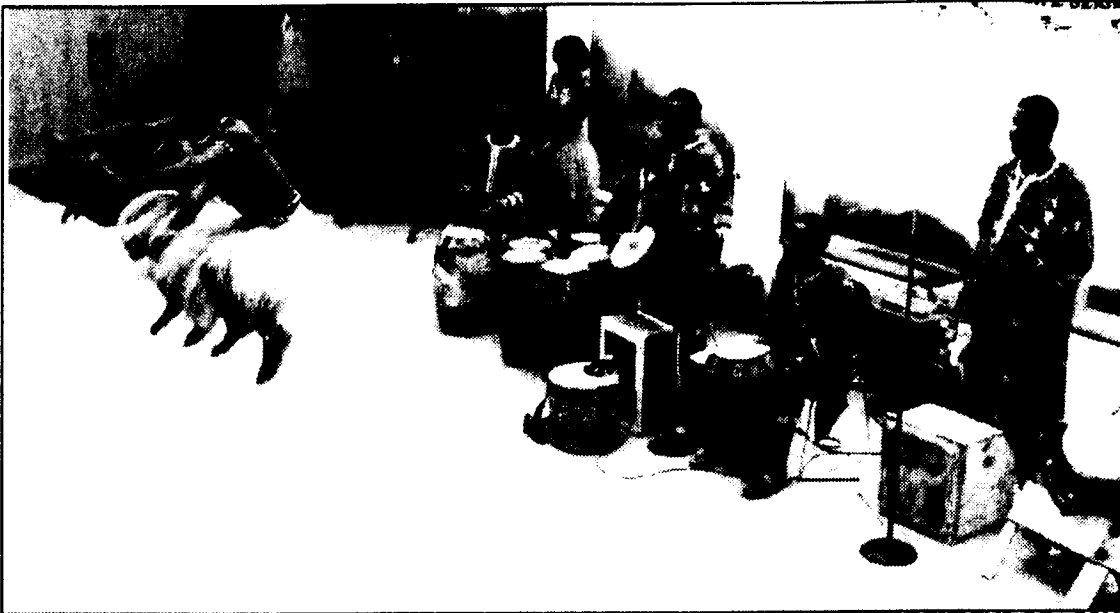
but for the entire world.

Along with King III's presentation, Behrend also hosted a multi-cultural band called One World Tribe. One World tribe is a very ethnically diverse band with members from places such as Africa, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, and their music is equally as diverse. They play a concoction of hip hop, funk, reggae, and Latin. They served not only as an entertaining band, but as a symbol of the integration of ethnicities both culturally and musically.

Another musical event that was hosted by Behrend's Rhythm of Life music and dance

series took place on Tuesday afternoon in the McGarvey Commons. They hosted a group called the Kusun Ensemble, who performed dances that originated in Ghana, West Africa.

Throughout the month of February, the African American history is celebrated throughout the United States. The deeds and victories of the African Americans are remembered and reflected on by the masses. Their perseverance and uprising towards the goal of equality and acceptance has improved and balanced the lives of all cultures, not only domestically, but in a worldwide sense.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON  
The Kusun Ensemble performed in the lobby of the Reed Union Building on February 13.

### Quit smoking, continued from page 1

is absorbed through your mouth lining.

Yet another way to quit is by using a nicotine nasal spray. It's only available by prescription, and the recommended dosage is a spray in each nostril up to five times an hour.

There are other prescriptions that can help curb your urge. Bupropion, or Zyban as it is often called, is an antidepressant that also controls cravings for nicotine. It doesn't actually contain nicotine, either.

However, from personal experience, the best way to quit is by using a very recent prescription medicine called Chantix. My dad began smoking at the age of 11. My mom, at age 14. However, about a month ago, they both quit within a week. I was personally amazed. They'd tried quitting several times before, but nothing ever worked. However, they started taking Chantix and it worked. According to a clinical trial in which participants were given Chantix, Zyban, or a sugar pill, 44% of those on Chantix quit, as opposed to only 30% of those on Zyban, and only 17% on the sugar pill.

If you're not ready to head into the arctic-like weather for your next nicotine craving, maybe it's that time to consider quitting. There are many aids out there to assist you. Some websites that offer good tips include: [www.quitnet.com](http://www.quitnet.com), [www.edc.gov/tobacco/how2quit.htm](http://www.edc.gov/tobacco/how2quit.htm), and [www.quitsmoking.com](http://www.quitsmoking.com).

### Apartment damages, continued from page 1

Hart said he is also vigilant about following up on problem tenants. Hart said in addition, all of the apartments are inspected two or three times each semester, just to make sure everything is being properly maintained.

In addition to monthly rent, residents of University Gate Apartments must also put down a \$150 security deposit for damages they cause. Officials of University Gate Apartments will determine at the end of the school year how many of the residents will forfeit a portion of their security deposit, or get a full refund.

## Behrend's name continued from page 1

Continued from page 1.

"I like marketing higher education because we are helping people, not like marketing cigarettes or food." An example of a marketing tactic is a "Brag Sheet" that is being sent out to high school students in an effort to make them consider applying.

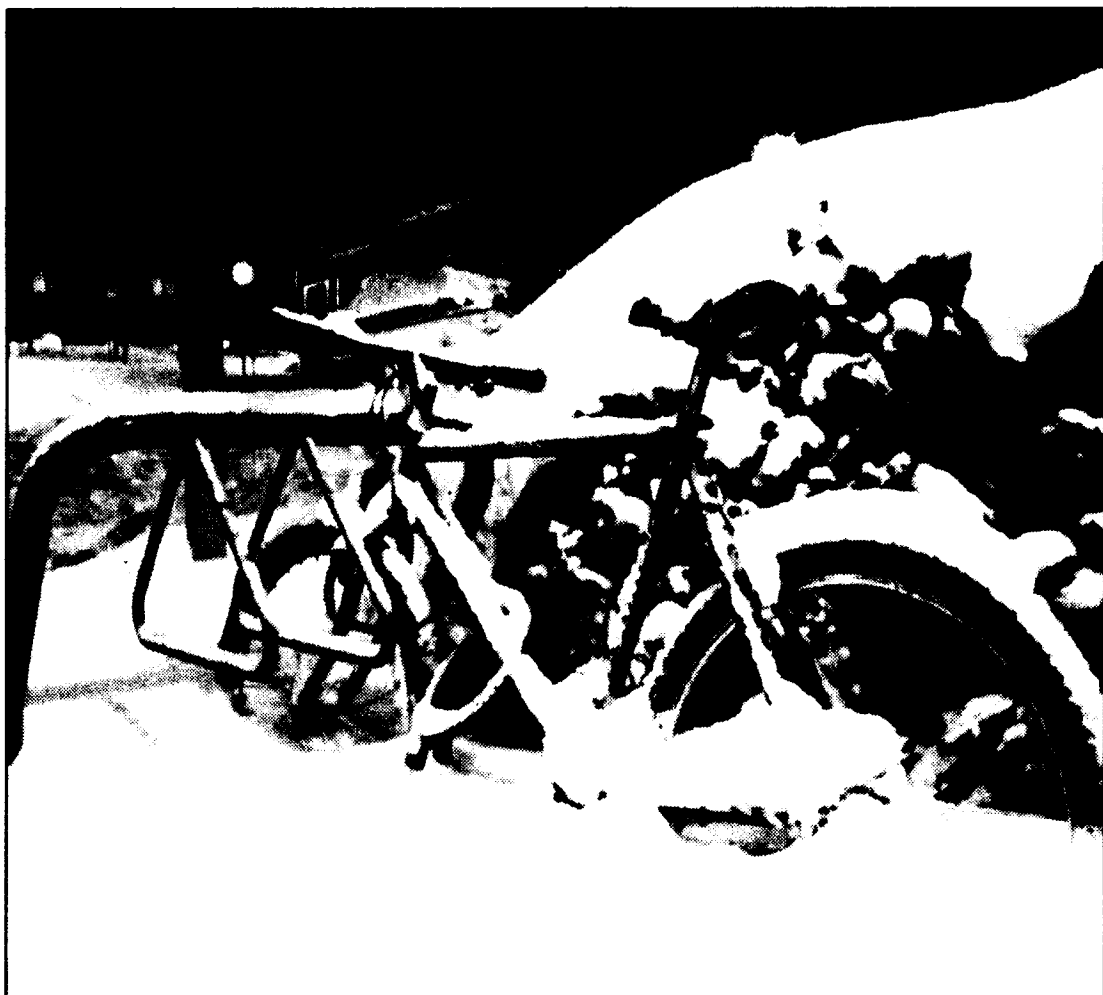
Until recently, Behrend was the only Penn State branch to have a non-location name, such as Penn State Fayette, which has just recently become Penn State Fayette, the Eberly College. Penn State Behrend takes pride in being its own college. It markets itself as its own college, as opposed to all other Penn State branch campuses who affiliate themselves with Main Campus.

Saying that Behrend stands out from all the other campuses is not

just an opinion, but also a fact. U.S. News and World Report rank the school with University Park; no other Penn State schools are ranked. Another factor separating Behrend from other branch campuses are its successful athletic programs. With more than 300 student-athletes on 21 mens and womens varsity teams competing in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC), Behrend can be recognized for more than its academics.

More information on Penn State University can be found at [www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu). Information on Penn State Behrend can be found at [www.pserie.psu.edu](http://www.pserie.psu.edu).

Interested in writing news articles for The Behrend Beacon? Stop by the Beacon office located in the Reed Union Building or send an email to [arb271@psu.edu](mailto:arb271@psu.edu)



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON  
The continued snowfall has made traveling around campus more difficult for students.

## Elevator death raises safety concerns

By Sheri Kroskie  
staff writer

With the recent death of an Ohio State University student in an over-crowded elevator, many questions about elevator safety are being brought to the attention of college campuses across the nation.

When Andrew Polakowski, an Erie resident and freshman at OSU, tried to escape an elevator that was trapped on Oct. 20, 2006, he became pinned between floors and eventually suffocated. The ultimate cause of the elevator stopping was because its 2,500 lb. weight limit was exceeded by at least 1,100 lbs. when 24 people entered the elevator.

While only 70 elevator-related deaths were reported from 2001-2006, 8,000 injuries alone were reported in 2005. Although that number may seem small compared to how often elevators are used, they could have been prevented. What is Penn State Behrend doing to prevent any such occurrences?

Melanie Smail, staff assistant to the Maintenance and Operations Department at Penn State Behrend, stated that the elevators are inspected annually. "As with all equipment, there are items that must be

**"The elevators are inspected annually."**

**- Melanie Smail**

addressed from time to time but there are no issues that would be considered a safety concern regarding the elevators," Smail said in assurance to the safety and maintenance of the elevators contained throughout residence halls and buildings throughout campus. Penn State Behrend also has a licensing agreement on their elevators that includes a monthly inspection. With the precautions Penn State Behrend and other colleges and universities are taking, a death like that of Polakowski will hopefully be prevented.



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