

"We definitely had a nice intensity about us and we got ourselves some nice runs."

-Dave Niland,
Men's Head Basketball Coach,
page 9

"I'm super pumped to get away from Behrend. Basically anything is better than Behrend's unbelievably freezing weather."

-Sheri Kroskie,
Sophomore,
page 1

The Behrend Beacon



RECEIVED

MAR 02 2007

LILLEY LIBRARY

Friday, March 2, 2007

A Penn State Behrend Student Publication

Vol. LIII No. XIX

Behrend students plan to travel for spring break

By Toni Charnock
staff writer

The highlight of every elementary school student's day is recess. College students hold the same mentality, but they look forward to an event that happens only once a year, spring break. Spring break is a time to relax and catch your breath. Some Penn State Behrend students will be heading home to their families, while others will be packing their bags and spending the time off relaxing at various locations around the globe. Scott Harmle, a sophomore at Penn State Behrend, said he wants to spend his week getting away from it all. "I need a break from all of the stress of school," he said. Like many other students on campus, Scott said he is looking forward to traveling home for spring break.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mexico and Canada are two of the most popular vacation spots for college students during spring break. While tickets are not cheap, both places offer one thing that the United States simply cannot. In Mexico and Canada, students can drink legally and without fear of punishment. "I chose Canada because I can experience the bar scene," said Katie Legler, a sophomore at Behrend, "For myself and most people I know, spring break is all about having fun and stepping out of your shoes for a week." College puts a lot of pressure on students. So the idea of becoming someone else for a week might just be what some Behrend students

Several Behrend students plan to relax on beaches such as this one in Jamaica. Even if students aren't traveling to Jamaica, many are traveling as far south as possible to escape the cold weather in Erie.

are really looking for in their spring break vacations. Like Legler, millions of other college students take this week to completely forget about the school loans, credit card bills, car payments and phone bills that are piling up. They save all year to have one week of complete freedom. Why not travel out of North America for spring break? Operations Management Major Rami Audeh, is doing just that. Audeh is heading to

Continued on page 2.

International Institute Project collects supplies for refugees

By Ashley Bressler
news editor

Each year hundreds of refugees and immigrants come to the city of Erie seeking new lives and better opportunities through the support of the International Institute of Erie. Penn State Behrend student Danielle Wilson has made it her personal mission to help raise money and supplies for the refugees in Erie. The International Institute of Erie is a resettlement organization for refugee families which has been helping refugee families adapt to life in America since 1919. According to Refugee Caseworker at the International Institute of Erie Kathleen Brown, they are expecting 350 refugees this year, most of which are placed in Erie by the government. "When the refugees get here they don't know how to manage their money very well because it's a different environment, and food drives and fundraisers are a good way to help," said Brown.

All of the refugees and immigrants at the International Institute of Erie are eligible for refugee medical assistance for eight months. And through the International Institute of Erie, the refugees can also receive help constructing resumes, ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, employment classes, and there is also a transportation support system where employees can drive them places if they do not have their driver's licenses. Wilson, a freshman psychology major said she is a volunteer tutor at the International Institute of Erie, where she helps the refugees learn to speak and read English.

Wilson is now heading International Institute Project fundraising effort to help the International Institute of Erie, which she said has been experiencing financial difficulties. "I am hoping the fundraising will help keep them open for a little longer," said Wilson. While volunteering, Wilson said she has had the opportunity to meet many brave individuals who are struggling every day with the social, financial and cultural problems of living in a foreign country for the first time. One refugee in particular provided Wilson with the inspiration to organize the fundraiser. "I was helping a young man from Africa with his reading, and he told me he couldn't wait to get his driver's license so he could go to the library to read more books. The International Institute doesn't have the funding to buy books for all the refugees, so I hope this will be a way to give them the tools they need to learn and live in our country," said Wilson.

As Wilson initiated International Institute Project, she is certainly not doing it alone. According to Wilson, Behrend's Cross Cultural Psychology Club, Dr. Dawn Blasko, associate professor of psychology, Jennifer Trich-Kremer, Lecturer in Psychology, and students taking ESL courses at Behrend are all helping with the execution of the International Institute Project. The fundraiser will take place from March 5 - 24 with Penn State Behrend serving as its headquarters. The International Institute Project committee will be setting up tables outside of Bruno's Café from March 5 - 10, where they will be collecting books and school supplies for all ages, and any donations of money. During the week of March 19 - 24, the main fundraising table will be located in the REDC. Through out the entire fundraising time period, there will also be collection boxes in the offices of the School of Engineering, the School of Business, the School of Science, and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Continued on page 3

Health and Wellness provides safe sex support

By Scott Muska
student life editor

The officials at Behrend's Health and Wellness Center say safe sex is an important part of the college lifestyle. It is something that is preached about constantly to students all over the country and the education that students receive about having safe sex continues to escalate every year. This has helped countless college students to practice safe sex in the best ways and Penn State Behrend is especially involved in teaching pointers to help students to stay safe.

The use of various types of contraceptives has continued to grow in popularity through the years and it is now something that people use

without so much as a second thought. The popularity of contraceptives has, however, grown because of a growth in the participation of sexual behaviors by the younger people of America.

"I think that it's great what Health and Wellness is doing, because they can help a lot of kids out."

- Frank Nagy, Freshman

Behrend and other colleges have come to grips with the fact that they are unable to keep their students from participating in these acts, so they have taken a different approach. Classes have been instituted to inform students of the correct procedures for safe sex, and various methods of birth control have been made readily available to these students, in many cases through the colleges that they attend.

Behrend's Health and Wellness center has become very helpful towards students in the battle to institute safe sex among the attendants of the campus. They provide education that deals with sexuality, and includes information on birth control and sexually transmitted diseases that is available to any Behrend student.

The Health and Wellness center also provides complete gynecological care to the women of the Behrend campus, and they also provide birth control, as well as pregnancy tests.

Along with these other services that the center offers Behrend Students can be tyested for various types of sexually transmitted diseases, including an HIV test that is administered to a student for

Continued on page 3.

Contents

- News.....1-3
- Editorial.....4
- Crossword.....5
- Humor.....6
- Student Life.....7-8
- Sports.....9-10

Contact Us

Newsroom:
898-6488
Fax:
898-6019

E-mail: csl5005@psu.edu

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

Erie opens first slots casino in Western Pennsylvania

By Lenny Smith
assistant news editor

Western Pennsylvania's first slot parlor opened its doors to the public on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Presque Isle Downs & Casino hopes to draw people to the Erie area with its 48,000 square feet of gaming floor occupied by 2,000 slot machines. A horse racing facility is set to open this coming September. About 500 anxious people were waiting for several hours outside of the casino to try and be the casino's first patron.

The state's fourth casino, which is located along Route 97, just south of Interstate 90, welcomed several thousand people on its opening day. There is no charge to enter or for parking in the casino's approximately 3,400 space parking lot. With some spots being so far away, Presque Isle offers free shuttle buses with heated wait stations from the parking lot to the main entrance. For a price of three dollars, a valet service is provided as well.

Presque Isle Downs Chief Executive Richard Knight estimates that the attendance was between 7,000 to 10,000 people on opening day. By the end of

the weekend, Knight expects the total to exceed 50,000 people. "It's all about the people. If we can attract the people, make them have a good time, they're going to come back," Knight said.

"It's all about the people. If we can attract the people, make them have a good time, they're going to come back."

-Chief Executive Richard Knight

Presque Isle Downs Owner Ted Arneault said, "It would not surprise me that by Sunday night, we have \$16 million in total gaming revenue. There's a lot of demand for the kind of entertainment we're offering."

The casino also offers a variety of food for its gamblers. Presque Isle Downs offers the Triple Crown Buffet, a sit down restaurant, Downs Clubhouse and Lounge and a fine dining restaurant, Le Bonne Vie. The casino



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Slot machines, like the ones now available at Presque Isle Downs, await Erie County gamblers.

employs a total of 650 people.

Continued on page 2.