

"We finally have the talent to do some damage, but it will come down to the young pitching."

- Ryan Gallagher,
Junior,
page 10

"Rest, rest, rest! A virus that wouldn't have bothered you a month ago, could now affect you if you haven't gotten enough rest."

- Patty Pasky McMahon,
Health and Wellness Center Director,
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Students assist with TOPS

By Jess Carlson
contributing writer

The Junker Center at Penn State Behrend has been full of activity recently. Although the weather is finally beginning to look and feel like spring, training for baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, track, as well as the many intramural sports are mostly taking place inside. One more activity to squeeze into the busy schedule of the Junker Center gym is The Outreach Program for Soccer, (TOPS), which began Wed. March 21.

TOPS is a program that reaches out to disabled children and gives them the opportunity to participate in a recreational activity. U.S. Youth Soccer, whose mission statement is "to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition," designed the nationwide program. The program is geared more towards the development of a child as opposed to the actual competition of the game.

Dan Perritano, head coach of the men's soccer team, brought the program to Behrend in 2000. The first year started off with 12 children and has since grown close to 60. The point of the program is for the child to have fun and be active. "The program is about fun and getting kids to work towards their physical potential, whatever that is," said Perritano, who has a daughter, Emma, that participates in the program each year.

The program is comprised of children with varying disabilities and range from age three to young adult. Disabilities amongst the participants may include autism, down syndrome, muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy. The program takes place once a week on Wednesday evenings in the Junker Center gym.

Children are paired with a Behrend student volunteer who becomes their "buddy" for the entire eight-week program. Volunteers for the program vary from student-athletes (not just soccer players), to non-athletic students. "The volunteers are what make this go and they have always committed and done a great job connecting with the player they are working with," said Perritano.

The objective of the program is not necessarily to teach the child how to play soccer, but to give them the opportunity to be active. Each child receives a t-shirt and their own soccer ball the first day, but more importantly, there is hope that each child will form a close bond with the student volunteer they are paired with. Tim Campbell, a junior management major, is volunteering for the first time this year with a child named Brian. "I saw and knew a few people doing (TOPS) last year but I wasn't able

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Niagara fire wakes students and sparks investigation

By Lenny Smith
assistant news editor

Niagara Hall residents were rudely awakened last Thursday night when a fire alarm blared throughout the residence hall. According to Police and Safety Services, someone lit a small cardboard box on fire on the second floor of the building.

Officer Charles Geer arrived on the scene within two minutes of getting the call. Upon arrival, Geer found that several students from the second floor had extinguished the fire with water. According to an e-mail residents received from Residence Life Coordinator Keith Cerroni, the fire alarm rang at 3:17 a.m. Residents slowly exited the building which concerned Cerroni. He said that some students took up to ten minutes to evacuate the building. "The absolute worst result of someone not leaving quickly could be more damaging than we care to think about," Cerroni said.

Matt Waronker explained the situation, "Matt Edwards, Mike Pearse, and I put out the fire before they evacuated the building." "I feel strongly that if these students had not chosen to (put out the fire), the fire would have spread quickly throughout the hall," Cerroni said. "Matt Waronker used water bottles and Mike Pearse and I used garbage cans that we filled in the shower and sink. I wondered if I should grab my computer, then I wondered if I should go in the direction of the fire to see if anyone needed help or was trapped in a room," Edwards said.

As students from other floors exited the building thinking that it was another false alarm, residents on the second floor quickly realized that this was no drill. "When I saw the fire, I was kind of in disbelief. We just stared at it for a second and then I guess I real-



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Areas damaged by the fire will need to be replaced. Students living in Niagara Hall were evacuated when a fire was started on the second floor of the building.

ly didn't think about it, it was more impulsive, I just ran and got some water from the refrigerator," Waronker said.

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Task force works towards a greener Behrend

By Jessica Samol
copy editor

Penn State Behrend's campus is ecologically committed to protecting and conserving the environment. In 2001, The Greener Behrend Task Force formed to address sustainability issues on campus. The purpose of the Greener Behrend Task Force is to promote a campus community at Behrend that is educated and involved in maintaining a responsible relationship with the natural resources of the earth.

Members of the Greener Behrend Task Force are committed to building respect for the environment and are developing and implementing strategies for campus practice and policies. In addition, the task force is addressing seven main issues

at Behrend, which include reducing energy use and promoting cleaner fuels, using water in a conservative and respectable manner, minimizing solid and liquid waste, increasing the healthfulness of food and reducing its waste, protecting natural areas, incorporating "green" practices into the construction and renovation of facilities, and promoting ecological stewardship within the college community.

The Greener Behrend Task Force is making great effort toward creating a more environmentally friendly and sustainable environment. In 2003, the creation of the Arboretum at Behrend brought a much greener scene to the campus. More than 200 species of trees are represented in the Arboretum, making it a haven by

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Lisa Ling brings international journalism perspective

By Ashley Bressler
news editor

It is a rare occasion to meet an individual who radiates such passion for her career that from the moment she speaks, a wave of chills runs through the audience, compelling admiration, respect and compassion. Lisa Ling, host of National Geographic Explorer and investigative reporter and special correspondent for the Oprah Winfrey Show, was able to do just that Monday night as she spoke to students, faculty and the public as part of the annual Speaker Series.

At Monday night's speaker series event held in McGarvey Commons, Ling went through her life by explaining each step of her career, the experiences she has had as an international correspondent, and offered advice to students with big dreams. Ling was first introduced to journalism through Scratch, a Sacramento, CA, based teen show. She attributes the roots of her passion to Channel One, where she began working as an international correspondent at age 18. Over the seven years of working for Channel One, an international news show which is played in high schools and middle schools across the country, Ling said she was able to travel to more than two dozen countries, report on the social aspects and devastations each of the countries, and gain a love for bringing the suffering she saw to life.

Ling spoke of the story she said impacted her most,

the Civil War in Afghanistan in 1994. "I was 21-years-old and went with the Red Cross, so I felt a little more safe, but what bothered me the most was when I came back and told people about what I saw in Afghanistan. They were astounded. No one had any idea this war was happening and to make it even worse, they didn't seem to care," said Ling. It was

descriptions from her time working with Channel One because most of the students remembered her from their high school and middle school years.

Ling said after seven years at Channel One, she was ready for a new challenge, so when a friend advised her to join the ABC daytime talk show, The View, she welcomed the change. "I never intended to be a daytime talk show host, but after covering the stories that I did on Channel One, I just wasn't ready to go to a network, so I went to The View," said Ling. For the next three years, Ling served as the young perspective on The View, where she said she tried to invoke questions and get the audience and home viewer to think. "I don't like how so many news reporters tell you what to think and scream at you. And even though it was hard to get a word in sometimes, each episode I tried to say something that got people thinking," said Ling.

After three years on The View, Ling was once again ready for a change and turned to National Geographic. Through the National Geographic Explorer series, Ling said she was able to cover the stories she had hoped to, like investigating the deadly drug war in Colombia, uncovering the controversial issues of China's one-child policy, exploring the story behind the female suicide bombers in Chechnya and Israel's occupied territories, and revealing the secret and highly dangerous culture of America's prisons. "They empowered me and were very open,

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Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Lisa Ling talks to the audience in McGarvey Commons about her life experiences and offers advice.

this reaction from the American public that made her want to continue covering international events as a way to bring light to happenings outside the United States. The audience responded well to Ling's

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