

"I was not very impressed with our play at Hilton Head. We played some tough teams, but I felt we could have come away with a couple wins."  
 - Jeff Barger,  
 Men's Tennis Head Coach,  
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"It is not a matter of if it will happen. It is a matter of when it will happen."  
 - Sue Daley, M.A.  
 Staff Psychologist at Behrend,  
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# The Behrend Beacon



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## Birth control costs to be raised on college campuses

By Janet Niedenberger  
 opinion editor

Women at Penn State Behrend may need to rethink their birth control options soon. Legislation has been put into effect which will force Behrend's Health and Wellness Center, along with colleges and universities across the country, to raise their contraceptive prices. This has the Health and Wellness Center between a rock and a hard place.

Currently, prices of contraceptives at Behrend are about \$15 per month. With the new legislation, however, the prices are likely to rise to \$40-45 per month. Behrend's Nurse Practitioner Patty Pasky McMahon is very concerned with the upcoming events. Pasky McMahon and the rest of the Health and Wellness staff are working hard to fix the situation.

College campuses have been able to purchase contraceptives at very low prices for about 20 years. As an incentive, drug companies were exempt from Medicaid pricing rules when they sold to charitable groups (such as colleges) for large discounts. Due to suspicions that the drug companies were possibly abusing this privilege, a loophole in legislation was closed in 2005. While this took care of any abuse, it also has created problems for college health centers and the students who purchase their contraceptives there.

"When the drug companies sell their drugs, there's this whole big agreement. When the colleges and universities were on the list, they didn't have to pay the 'taxes' on the drugs. Now that they're off of the list, they have to pay, and since they don't want to lose money, they can't give colleges the lowered prices," says Pasky McMahon.

One contraceptive that is going to be most affected by this new legislation is the Nuva Ring. The Health and Wellness Center currently charges just \$15 per month, but Pasky McMahon says that that price will increase three-fold, due to the recent appearance of the contraceptive on the market, and its lack of a generic counterpart. "Forty-five dollars per month is unbelievable: it's outrageous. I feel very strongly that colleges can't let this slip by. They need to band together," says Pasky McMahon. She is also concerned about all of the contraceptives, not just the Nuva Ring. Prices will go up for all of them, but the Health and Wellness Center has the smallest supply of Nuva Rings left. "Most of the women who currently are on the Nuva Ring here say that they won't be able to stay on it once prices go up," says Pasky McMahon. She went on to say that most of the women

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## Behrend responds to Virginia Tech massacre

By Ashley Bressler  
 news editor

Nearly 500 miles separate the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, VA, and Penn State Behrend in Erie, PA, yet despite the distance, Behrend students and faculty are still feeling the effects of the horrific massacre that occurred at Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16, leaving 33 students dead. Like many college students and faculty across the country, Behrend's community is wondering what would happen if there was a school shooting on this campus. On Tuesday, Director of Student Affairs Ken Miller reported in an *Erie Times-News* article that Behrend has a well established critical-incident response plan including a newly renovated electronic key card system for the residence halls, video cameras, six sworn and armed police officers, and a critical response team trained in post-traumatic stress counseling. While this is a step in the right direction, some Behrend students still feel preparing for an extreme situation like the one that unfolded at Virginia Tech is near to impossible to predict, or fully prepare for.

Staff Psychologist at Behrend Sue Daley, M.A., said she feels that a good way to help avoid a massive tragedy at Behrend is for students to take advantage of the personal counseling services available. "There are key warning signs that can be looked for in these cases. From what I have seen, there is a difference between high school shootings and college shootings. In high school, the shooter is typically teased, while in college, the shooter may be individually disturbed, a loner, a misfit, or not very well supported with emotional attachment problems. Also, drinking and taking drugs can affect college students more, so if this is combined with an unstable individual, the outcome can be very unfortunate," said Daley. As Behrend is a small, close campus, Daley said she believes it is a collective responsibility of our community to look for these warning signs, and it is our duty to help the individual(s) seek counseling or professional help when it is necessary.

While Behrend has established a post-crisis plan to help students deal with traumatic stress, some students have spoken out in concern about what they can per-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As the students of Virginia Tech mourn the loss of their classmates, Penn State Behrend faculty and students question how safe the campus' critical response team would react if an shooting would occur at Behrend.

sonally do if a life or death situation were to happen while on campus. Sophomore Communication student and Senat Hall Resident Assistant Samantha Yong said she is troubled by Behrend's response policy, and the personal duties Resident Assistants have to their residents. "If something were to happen, we are not allowed

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## Memorial service held for Virginia Tech victims

By Christopher LaFuria  
 editor in chief

A crowd of 20 students, faculty and staff gathered on Tuesday, April 17 at the Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel for a somber prayer service to commemorate the fallen students of Virginia Tech. Fr. Dan Arnold presided over a still audience who gathered to pray for the family and friends of the victims. An elaborate altar was decorated and flowers were placed as a tribute to those who lost their lives.

All students, families and friends were invited to share their prayers, thoughts and emotions as the crowd remembered the 33 people killed in the tragic shooting. Chancellor Jack Burke was in attendance for the ceremony. When asked to share their responses, everyone in the crowd sat in silence to reflect on the events.

The prayer service, which lasted just under one half hour, was a gathering of the Catholic faith. A Protestant service was also available for those interested in sharing their thoughts.

University Park also held a memorial service on Thursday, April 19 at the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center for the students to pay their respects to the victims. University spokesperson Annemarie Mountz said, "A memorial service is a common way for people to come together as a community to express their grief and sadness."



Christopher LaFuria/THE BEHREND BEACON

Behrend students gathered in the Smith Chapel to pray the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre.

## Communication students interview Virginia Tech Witness

By Nicole Rafle  
 contributing writer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aaron Oberste, a Virginia Tech student, was interviewed about his personal experiences with the school shootings by the students of COMM 260W on Tuesday.

In less than three hours, 33 people lost their lives on the campus of Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16, 2007. Gunman Cho Seung-Hui, a senior English major at the campus, unleashed first on a female student, and then shot a residence assistant who tried to save her. Two hours later, Seung-Hui showed up at Norris Hall, killing thirty more people before taking his own life. Due to the extreme media coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre, Penn State Behrend's COMM 260W class held a phone conference with Virginia Tech student, Aaron Oberste. As part of the News Writing class, students constructed a list of questions to ask Oberste. During the phone conference, students took turns interviewing Oberste as a way to relate personal experience to their own news stories about the tragedy.

Oberste, a sophomore mechanical engineering student at Virginia Tech, witnessed the experience firsthand, only a few buildings away at the time. At 9 a.m., an email was sent out that the first shooting had happened, but it was thought to be a suicide. By 9:45, another email was sent out telling the students to stay put. At that time, the buildings were on lockdown and only key cards would allow students into their own residence hall. Within minutes, state troopers and a swat team were on site.

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