

NEWS

Sahlmann goes to Kenya

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The house itself was also very different. "They have a squat toilet. It's pretty much just a hole in the ground," she said.

To make the most out of her time with the children, Sahlmann brought a variety of items like bubbles, finger paints, coloring books, Play-Doh, and more with her.

"We played Red Rover with them, they really liked that game," she recalls.

'I learned that I'm a lot stronger and a lot more mature than I thought I was'

Sahlmann started every day of her two-week trip by walking to the Saint Mary's All-Boys Orphanage and worked with the children by playing games and making crafts. "We did activities like painting, coloring, Twister, and Bingo."

After her volunteer work was done for the day at St. Mary's, Sahlmann went to the New Life AIDS Orphanage for Babies to help with feedings and putting them to bed.

"I learned that I'm a lot stronger and a lot more mature than I thought I was," Sahlmann said. "I felt good that I was able to go into a situation and talk to myself and figure out the best way to get out (of a situation)."

Two days before her trip ended, that strength and maturity was put to a test when she found herself in the middle of a riot.

"I didn't think that I would have that much of an impact," she said. "But to just hold their hands and telling them I loved them, they've never heard those words before." "I've learned so much about the world," Sahlmann shared. "In America, we take so much for granted."

The one-time fee associated with joining the Global Volunteer Network will give Sahlmann a five-year membership that will allow her to continue her humanitarian work in the future. "As soon as this semester ends, I want to go back," she said.

Sahlmann plans on returning to Nyeri again. "I figured if I keep going back to this one place I could make the most impact," she said. "This is definitely not a one time thing."

After medical school, Sahlmann already has thoughts on moving to a Third World country and possibly opening up a clinic.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the boys Sahlmann worked with throughout the week holds a jar of paint he used in a figure painting project, one of their favorites.

Rev. Al Sharpton scheduled to speak at Behrend

By Matt Schwabenbauer

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Reverend Al Sharpton Jr. will be appearing in Erie Hall on Thursday, Jan. 24. Sharpton's appearance is just one in a string of events organized in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 21.

Sharpton is famous in the political world for his work as a Civil Rights activist, and was a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2004 presidential election. Sharpton hosts a radio show called "Keepin' It Real" and makes frequent appearances on various talk radio and television shows.

Sharpton was born in Brooklyn, New York and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sharpton is a leading Civil Right activist.

the Bethany Baptist Church and became a Baptist minister. Sharpton was a tour manager for James Brown in 1971 and toured with gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

Sharpton's work as an activist began in 1969 when he was appointed a youth director of Operation Breadbasket (a group which promotes better jobs for African-Americans). Since then, Sharpton has been involved in numerous issues involving discrimination, police brutality, and protests. Sharpton was instrumental in the case of Amadou Diallo, an immigrant from Guinea, which died as result of gunfire from New York police officers. Sharpton led a protest in order to raise awareness about Diallo, which resulted in Diallo's family being awarded \$3 million in a suit filed against New York City.

Sharpton is a supporter of gay rights, including same-sex marriages. Sharpton has publicly expressed his frustration with being asked his issue on same-sex marriage. "It's like asking do I support black marriage or white marriage," said Sharpton. "The inference of the question is that gays are not like other human beings." Sharpton has also publicly supported animal rights and has appeared in videos created by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Sharpton has received acclaim as an author. He has written two books, *Go and Tell Pharaoh*, and *Al on America*.

Sharpton has not endorsed a candidate in the 2008 presidential election.

Local college students face felony charges

By Matt Schwabenbauer

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Gannon student arrested for child pornography

Scott W. Rittenhouse, a 19-year-old Gannon student was charged with 20 counts of possessing child pornography and one count of possessing an instrument of crime on Jan. 15, said police. According to authorities, Rittenhouse was found with 71 images and 42 videos on his computer, several DVD's and a disk drive. Erie 4th Ward District Judge Tom Robie arraigned Rittenhouse, and released him on \$50,000 unsecured bond with conditions that he does not use a computer with Internet access and he make no contact with minors younger than 15. Investigators claimed to have found children as young as seven in some of the videos and images, and found search terms which indicated Rittenhouse was seeking child pornography.

Two Gannon students living in Finnegan Hall found the porn while they were searching for music on their file-sharing network. Students in Finnegan Hall can see media shared on other students' computers because they share a network. The students saw a file labeled "11 year old," but initially figured it was someone joking around, changing the names of files. Upon opening it, the students discovered a video of a naked 11-year-old girl being sexually abused. The students brought the video to the attention of Gannon police who then turned it over to detectives with the Erie County District Attorney's Office. A month of investigation ended when Rittenhouse turned himself in.

Gannon spokeswoman Jennifer Mailey expressed gratitude towards the students that turned Rittenhouse in. "This could have kept going otherwise," said Mailey. "We commend them for taking the steps that they did." Mailey also said that the university expelled Rittenhouse and he is not allowed on campus.

Mercyhurst student waves right to preliminary hearing

A former Mercyhurst College student charged with the killing of her newborn daughter waived her right to a preliminary hearing on Jan. 16. Teri Rhodes, 19, was scheduled to appear before Erie 5th Ward District Judge Joseph Lefaiver.

Rhodes and her lawyer, Philip Friedman signed the waiver paperwork on Jan. 15, which means she may be working with the prosecution on a plea agreement.

Usually, a waiver means the defendant isn't going to fight the charges and is willing to plead guilty to the charges. According to District Attorney Brad Foulk, no plea agreement has been reached.

Rhodes was charged on Sept. 19 with homicide, reckless endangerment, endangering the welfare of a child, concealing the death of a child and abuse of a corpse. Lyell Cook, an Erie County Coroner ruled that the child's cause of death was suffocated. The baby was born in the bathroom of Rhodes' apartment on Aug 12. The baby only lived for 10 minutes, according to officials.

Rhodes was a sophomore on the college's volleyball team that accumulated a 3.67 GPA last year.

Two days prior to the birth, Rhodes returned to Mercyhurst from the summer vacation. The next day, Rhodes received a pre-sports physical where she was asked by the doctor if she was pregnant, which Rhodes denied.

Rhodes was told by the doctor that she was fine to play volleyball.

ANGEL service interrupted during finals

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majors use ANGEL frequently, and as a result experience problems with the system quite often.

"A lot of my engineering coursework is on ANGEL," says Plastics Engineering Major Matt Kirkpatrick. "The system is offline a lot more than it should be."

Other engineering students are also upset

about Angel's inconsistencies. "It's really inconvenient when you have to do homework or take tests on ANGEL and it ends up not working," said Plastics major Gary Cooper.

As more and more teachers begin transitioning their work from the classroom to ANGEL more and more students are in need of the system. As the number of ANGEL users increases, students hope its reliability does as well.

Attention Students:

E-mail messages claiming to be from "PSU Team" and titled *FW: VERIFY YOUR PSU EMAIL ACCOUNT NOW* began appearing in e-mail boxes over the weekend. These e-mails did not come from Penn State, and appear to be part of a phishing scam. Anyone who receives these e-mails should delete them, and should not respond to them.

The Behrend Beacon is looking for enthusiastic writers for the spring semester.

If you are interested in joining our staff, e-mail news editor, Lenny Smith at lrs5046@psu.edu

Quotes on Civility

"In a time of social fragmentation, vulgarity becomes a way of life. To be shocking becomes more important — and often more profitable — than to be civil or creative or truly original."

— Al Gore, politician and U.S. vice president (b. 1948)

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility



Recognition earned by Behrend

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However, Spoto also commented on the lack of space in the labs due to the growing number of both business and engineering students. He thinks that both schools should have their own buildings.

"A lot of students want to mix business studies with different disciplines," Sophomore Harmilee Cousin III, an economics and finance major at Behrend, said. "The REDC offers the potential to bring newer, more innovative majors to Behrend, especially because students have the opportunity to pair business with engineering."

Additionally, as the cover story in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* entitled "Beyond Facts and Figures," the recently initiated Scale-Up program has been credited

for successful and innovative ways of teaching natural sciences. Scale-Up, or Student Centered Activities for Large Enrollment Undergraduate Programs, was created to encourage more student responsibility and combat dropout rates in physics classes at Behrend.

"The idea of Scale-Up is good, but the execution of the program could be better," Sophomore Chemistry major Tom Weir says. "Students are expected to know information before it is taught, so applying it in the lab becomes difficult. Still, the idea is definitely beneficial and the applications help immensely in understanding the material."

Also receiving credit is Senat Hall, which opened in 2004 to freshmen participating in Freshman Interest Groups. Senat Hall was

honored in the August 2007 Educational Interiors Showcase in *American School & University* magazine. Students living in Senat Hall are required to take classes with their suitemates or people in their hall in order to create a support system.

"[Living in Senat] helped with getting to know people on a different level than just meeting them in classes," said 2006-07 Senat Hall resident Robert Westhelle. He also said that living in Senat was different than living in traditional dorms like Perry, Lawrence or Niagara because each student had three suitemates instead of one roommate.

Through the claims of three national magazines and several students, Penn State Behrend has proven that it can outshine anything that Old Man Winter can bring.