

CAMPUS NEWS

Behrend dance team goes co-ed

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For the first time ever at Penn State Behrend, the all-girls dance team is attempting a new kind of routine: joining with a few of the most willing male students on campus.

The dance team claimed that selecting male partners was not an easy job, but fortunately there were a few outgoing boys who agreed to help out. The team, made up of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and one senior, partnered up with guys from each of the grades, forming a very diverse dance crew. Whether being forced into it by a girlfriend or just lending a hand, these bold boys will practice a routine with the dance team for three days, readying themselves for a comical and entertaining performance at the Saturday, Feb 7 men's and women's basketball games.

Melanie Keefer, a junior on the dance team, came up with the idea. "It was something I did in high school to raise money," she said. "I thought people would go for it here because it is fun and entertaining."

Following her lead, Behrend's dance team has decided to use this performance as a means to raise money for cancer.

When Jess Grimes, the dance team's coach, was asked what she



DANIEL SMITH/The Behrend Beacon
The Behrend dance team held a special performance at an Erie Bayhawks game.

thought about the unique idea, she said, "It's a great new twist to the dance team's usual list of activities during the school year. A boy-girl dance routine has never been done before, but I think all the girls and guys will have a fun time and it is for a good cause."

These next couple days should be exciting for the dance team as they practice an unusual dance with their newly added team members. A ton of laughs are guaranteed during the three days of practice, assuming many of the guys have never learned a step-by-

step dance routine.

The dance team and their male partners will be dancing to four different songs: "Jump on it" by Sir Mix-A-Lot, "Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer, "Ice Ice Baby" by Vanilla Ice, and "The Can-Can" from the *Moulin Rouge* soundtrack. For most of the routine, the guys and girls will dance together, but for a few seconds the newly formed male dancers will stand in the spotlight alone, showing off their dancing skills to the song "Ice Ice Baby." Saturday promises to be an even more exciting day: one when the

dancers put what they have learned to the test by performing in front of a huge crowd at both the men's and women's basketball games. For the performance, the dance team has decided that each pair of dancers will wear a matching outfit. Guys will wear a bright colored t-shirt and dark gym shorts, while the girls will wear the same colored top and black bottoms.

Both basketball games will be taking place on Saturday, Feb 7. The women's team plays at 1:00 p.m., and the men's game begins at 3:00 p.m.

Writers gather at Smith Chapel

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The Smith Chapel attracted a crowd of students the night of Thursday, Feb 5 where "Behrend Reads" took place.

"Behrend Reads" is an event that showcases the works of Behrend's own professors. Thursday, the writers included Greg Morris, Kim Todd, Drew Lackovic, Eugene Cross, Elizabeth Fogle, Tom Noyes, Ruth Pflueger, and George Looney.

Kim Todd's creative non-fiction piece about her relationship with her children had the room filled with laughter. "You try to be good, kind, and helpful," she begins, "only to face the fact that the Wizard of Oz character you resemble most is the Wicked Witch of the West."

Tom Noyes read a partially written story. "It's not done yet," he explains, "but when it is it will be awesome." The way he said this sentence made many people in the audience laugh. He was able to jump from funny to serious, such as one spot in which he explains what gall life has "to rob us of who we think we are."

Eugene Cross is a creative writing professor here at Behrend. Like Noyes, he also read the start of a story about a

character that is facing the surprise of his long lost ex-girlfriend showing up at his door. She is pregnant; it's not his, she informs him, "as if she were telling [him his] shirt was untucked." She is keeping a secret from him. However, Cross stops short before he can begin to elaborate on her story.

A large portion of students that attended were creative writing students. Sierra Baril is one of them. She said that Todd's and Cross's were the funnier ones, but admitted that she liked all of them except for the ones she couldn't hear. "I couldn't judge it because I couldn't hear it," she says.

Jon McConnell is also a creative writing student that attended the reading. He picked his favorite piece to be Todd's well. "It was funny, concrete, and sincere," he states.

McConnell and Baril were only two of the creative writing students that attended. They are also only two of the students that will have their own turn to read their work at the upcoming "Sweet Sorrow Reading Series" on February 19. The event will provide graduating seniors the opportunity to read from their theses. The starting time is 6pm and will be held in the Smith Chapel.

World and National News In Brief

By: Matthew Schwabenbauer, mjs5387@psu.edu

Bill Gates frees swarm of mosquitoes at conference

LONG BEACH - Microsoft founder Bill Gates released mosquitoes during a presentation at the Technology, Entertainment, Design conference to raise malaria awareness.

Before releasing the mosquitoes on the crowd, Gates said, "malaria is spread by mosquitoes. I brought some. Here I'll let them roam around. There is no reason only poor people should be infected."

Moments later, Gates informed the audience that the insects were disease-free.

Since retiring from Microsoft, Gates has been working with his philanthropic organization, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, part of the reason he is spreading awareness of malaria.

"There is more money put into baldness drugs than into malaria," Gates said, which elicited laughter from the audience. Gates pointed out that since baldness affects rich men, its research attracts the most money.

Source: *Yahoo News*

Associated Press sues Obama artist for copyright infringement

NEW YORK - Shepard Fairey, A Los-Angeles based artist and creator of the popular Obama "Hope" image, is being sued by the Associated Press for using a copyrighted image in his artwork.

From shirts to buttons and everything inbetween, the picture has been featured on thousands of pieces of Obama memorabilia.

The photo, which the Associated Press claims was used illegally, was taken by Mannie Garcia in 2006 on assignment for the news organization. The AP states they own the copyright to the image and want compensation for its use.

Fairey's attorney, Anthony Falzone, executive director of the Fair Use Project at Stanford University and lecturer at the Stanford Law School, claims fair use protects Fairley.

"The Associated Press has determined that the photograph used in the poster is an AP photo and that its use required permission," said Paul Colfort, the director of media relations for the Associated Press. "AP safeguards its assets and looks at

these events on a case-by-case basis. We have reached out to Mr. Fairey's attorney and are in discussions. We hope for an amicable solution."

Source: *Huffington Post*

Woman donates kidney through her vagina

MARYLAND - For the first time ever, a kidney has been donated and removed through a woman's vagina. By removing the organ through a natural orifice, no incisions had to be made during the procedure and scarring is prevented completely.

Procedures of this type have previously been performed to remove cancerous or damaged kidneys, but a healthy kidney has never been removed in this way.

"The kidney was successfully removed and transplanted into the donor's niece," said Dr. Robert Montgomery, chief of transplant surgery at Johns Hopkins. "Both patients are doing fine."

Montgomery hopes the procedure will help hasten the donor's recovery, and possibly stimulate an increase in kidney donations.

Source: *BBC News*

Catholic church miscommunication apparatus over Bishop excommunications

ROME - Pope Benedict XVI has called on a Bishop to retract statements he made denying the Holocaust.

Last month, the Pope rescinded the excommunications of four Bishops who are members of ultraconservative Society of St. Pius X. Bishop Richard Williamson, one of the members of the society that was excommunicated, had publicly made comments denying the existence of the Holocaust.

On Wednesday, the Pope released a statement ordering the Bishop to distance himself from the statements or he would be removed from the church. Later in the statement, church officials claim the Pope was not aware of the Bishop's statements when he ordered the reinstatement.

Source: *BBC News*

Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps suspended from competitive swimming

On Thursday, it was announced that Michael Phelps, star of the 2008

Olympics in Beijing, would be banned from competitive swimming for three months due to the release of a picture of the athlete smoking marijuana.

USA Swimming, the organization in charge of competitive swimming in the United States said they would be freezing funding of the gold medalist and was blocking him from competition.

In further backlash of the photograph, one of Phelps's sponsors announced they would no longer be representing the athlete. Kellogg Co. announced Thursday that they would not be renewing their contract with the swimmer.

"Michael's most recent behavior is not consistent with the image of Kellogg," stated company spokeswoman Susanne Norwitz. "His contract expires at the end of February, and we have made a decision not to extend his contract."

The photograph, which was reportedly taken at the University of South Carolina, shows the Olympic medalist smoking from a bong.

The Richland County police department had also recently announced they were investigating Phelps.

Source: *CNN*

After announcing a record-breaking year in the number of U.S. army suicides, officials warn next year's amount will be even greater

WASHINGTON - Last week, the United States army announced the suicide rate among soldiers had reached an all-time high. On Thursday, the organization warned that number was likely to increase this year.

According to the army, 24 soldiers had killed themselves this January, six times more than the amount that committed suicide in January of 2008. When compared to the 16 servicemen that were killed in action during January, more U.S. soldiers are killing themselves than are dying in combat.

Army officials commented that the statistics were "terrifying" and were "not sure what is going."

Col. Kathy Platoni, chief clinical psychologist for the U.S. Army, claims the cold winter months are contributing to the spike in suicides.

Platoni also claims multiple deployments are contributing to the increase.

Source: *CNN*

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Magic: the Gathering Conflux Sealed Deck
in Reed 112
at 6:00 p.m.

LEB - Comedian: Eric O'Shea
in Bruno's
at 9:00 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie - Role Models
in Reed 117
at 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

LEB Weekly Movie - Role Models
in Reed 117
at 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday Night Recreation
in Junker Center
at 9:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 5:00 p.m.

Rhythms of Life Series:

Scott Ainslie
in Bruno's
at 12:00 p.m.

MCAT/LCAT Course
in Nick 165N
at 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 6:00 p.m.

Improv
in Reed Wintergarden
at 7:00 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie - Quantum of Solace
in Reed 117
at 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 5:00 p.m.

Career Development Spring 2009 Seminar
in Reed Conference 3
at 4:00 p.m.

Student Aerobics
in Junker Center
at 5:00 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie - Quantum of Solace
in Reed 117
at 9:00 p.m.

Grad School Info Meeting
in Reed 112
at 4:00 p.m.