

CAMPUS NEWS

ASTRO

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wasn't around then."

Until 1995, there was no scientific backing to the existence of life on other planets. On Oct 6, 1995, the Swedish astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz discovered 51 Pegasi, the first sun-like star found with a planet orbiting it. Within months of the discovery of 51 Pegasi, more and more discoveries of extrasolar planets were made.

Discoveries regarding extrasolar planets are being made so frequently since the discovery of 51 Pegasi that Williams had to update the number of extrasolar planets in his powerpoint during the presentation.

The planets that will be observed by the Kepler mission are millions of miles away from Earth. To demonstrate this, Williams threw ping pong balls out to members of the audience which were meant to represent extrasolar planets. The area of study that the Kepler mission encompasses is 3,000 light years long. Comparatively, the edge of the galaxy from Earth is 25,000 light years away.

"The goal with extrasolar planet research is to get to that Star Wars image," Williams said. "Our goal is to find another Earth-like planet."

One of the problems that astronomers encounter when studying extrasolar planets is an occurrence called diffrac-

tion, which is when the light of a star blurs out the image of its planetary bodies. With current technology, planets must be a substantial distance away from their star to be visible. As technology improves and astronomers find new ways to decrease the problems caused by diffraction, astronomers will be able to find planets that are closer to their suns.

Some of the members of the audience were Behrend students studying Astronomy.

"I found it informative," said James Svolos, a sophomore psychology major. "The topic was very interesting. I feel like it will supplement what we are learning in Astronomy class with Dr. Williams quite well."

"The open house was pretty cool," said Zack Smith, a sophomore also majoring in Psychology. "The prospect of extraterrestrial life is very interesting. Technology is always improving, and Dr. Williams was well versed on the latest findings of astronomers."

During the presentation, Williams detailed upcoming astronomy events. The next astronomy open house is scheduled for April 20, and is titled "Great telescope: Galileo's legacy."

May 2 is International Astronomy Day, with exhibits and solar observing at the Erie Planetarium, with telescope observing taking place at Behrend.

Monday



High: 45°F
Low: 31°F

Partly cloudy with a slight chance of snow.

Tuesday



High: 53°F
Low: 36°F

Few showers.

Wednesday



High: 57°F
Low: 44°F

Showers.

Thursday



High: 51°F
Low: 35°F

Showers.



Interesting weather fact:
Funnel clouds usually last less than 10 minutes before dissipating with many only lasting several seconds. On rare occasions, cyclones can last for over an hour as many were reported to have done in the early 1900's.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto.

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Seniors vs. faculty and staff basketball game to benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation

By Matthew Schwabenbauer
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On Thursday, April 9, students, faculty and staff will compete in a charity basketball game to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

During the game, prizes will be raffled off, including a grand prize Nintendo Wii.

Entry to the event is free, and each person in attendance gets one free raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets may be acquired through donations during the game, which will increase your chance of winning prizes.

The event is being organized by the Senior Year Experience Committee and will offer free food for attendees. Additionally, the concession stand will be selling refreshments.

According to the Senior Year Experience Committee, "The reason this event is being held is to help not only

raise money for Make-A-Wish but to start a tradition at Behrend. Here at PSB we do not have a physical activity that puts the students in competition with the teachers."

Throughout the game, raffles will be ongoing. During stoppages and time outs, prizes such as gift cards and shirts will be dispensed to attendees.

"The reason this event is being held is to help not only raise money for Make-A-Wish but to start a tradition at Behrend."

-Senior Year Experience Committee

In addition to the initial free ticket given to spectators, seniors attending the event will get an extra ticket for free.

At the end of the basketball game, the Nintendo Wii will be raffled off.

As the Senior Year Experience Committee hopes to make this competition an annual event, they hope for a substantial turnout for this year's game.

"Attendance is vital," said the Senior Year Experience Committee. "The more people we can get, the better."



KEEGAN MCGREGOR / The Behrend Beacon
Audience members were given ping pong balls to represent planets.

Accessibility

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student, is increasingly more difficult in a wheelchair. He vividly describes falling out of his chair twice in an attempt to make it to his classes. Dorsch blames himself for falling out on one occasion because he was not able to control the speed of his wheels, but thankfully, "some kind soul pulled their car over" and helped him on his way.

After the incident involving his trek to the REDC, he now relies upon the kindness of strangers to help him make his way. When asked what the campus could do to alleviate some of the difficulties he faces while on his way to the

REDC, he felt there was nothing they could do. His only suggestion would be "altering the entire landscape," which he feels is completely unrealistic.

For Dorsch, the snow isn't the only obstacle that he faces due to his disability, which he has had to deal with since birth. He explains that he was born pre-mature, and it was due to complications that he wound up in a wheelchair in the first place. On top of the winter conditions, he must also adapt to living in a residence hall. He resides in Senat but explains that he does not have a roommate, because it would just be too difficult. Another area that he finds par-

ticularly troubling is Dobbins dining hall. He does not eat at Dobbins, because the food is positioned higher than he is physically able to reach. Besides the placement of the food, it is a hassle to get there, and he prefers to just avoid the aggravation and instead dines at Bruno's.

Despite all of the obstacles that face Dorsch, he doesn't let them hold him back. He is just an average college student, and he couldn't be happier with his decision to attend Behrend. On a final note, Dorsch exclaims, "I've come to one of the best places I could ask to be!"

Nadeau

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women decided to go ahead with the project.

Six months later the first advertisement was released on a billboard in Times Square. The models and marketers were expecting roughly 30 people to show up to the unveiling, but over 350 people filled three city blocks to see the advertisement and congratulate the women on the work they had done. It was the beginning of the massive response to Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty.

Nadeau and the other models were invited to appear on live television, including Oprah, and were interviewed for newspaper and magazine articles. For months they not only saw themselves on billboards and at bus stops, but also received feedback from the public and read about the project in their local papers. Most of the responses were

positive and supportive, but Nadeau received her share of cruel comments. One newspaper reporter wrote a particularly scathing article about the photos in the campaign, specifically singling Nadeau out in his conclusion. Two days later, the newspaper ran a public apology after their offices were bombarded with letters, emails, and phone calls for over 3,000 women defending Nadeau and the project. Shortly after, Nadeau decided to make the Dove campaign her full-time job. "That day I decided that I would never not want to do this for a living."

Today Nadeau tours the country and speaks at colleges about the campaign. She also writes for the projects website, campaignforrealbeauty.com. In her speeches, she encourages girls to be accepting of themselves and supportive to their friends. She also encourages college students to get involved in a mentorship pro-

gram with junior and high school-aged girls. "Being a mentor to a younger girl in your life and in your community is one of the most rewarding things you can do," says Nadeau.

Lauren Brake, President of Behrend Panhellenic, started arranging for Nadeau to come to Behrend over a month ago. "I thought it was really successful," said Brake. "It's something everyone can relate to, and everyone that I talked to enjoyed it."

Kelly Lloyd, a junior majoring in History, said that the event was a worthwhile experience. "I enjoyed it. One thing that really stood out was learning how to react to women who have issues with their body, and what to say and how to say it," said Lloyd. "I know someone who is a size two and thinks she's fat. I honestly believe she is the most beautiful woman I know."

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