

CAMPUS NEWS

Angela Shelton comes to Behrend to talk about domestic and sexual violence

By Heather McGovern
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Sexual violence. Well, that is a shocking combination of words for a speaker to introduce her topic with. Is it just a women's issue? No, it is not quite so limited to females.

Sexual violence applies to all genders and sadly all ages. It is an issue that reflects the corruption in our society and impacts children, women, and men for the rest of their lives.

Angela Shelton, a well-known speaker, actress, author, comedian, and film maker, addressed numerous heavy issues, particularly sexual violence, on Friday, March 22 in the Smith Chapel. Her presentation involved discussion of this often silenced issue of sexual violence. Speaking from a personal perspective, Shelton shared the negative mindset an abused individual has and how this negative mindset can impede his/her progress towards achieving a fulfilling, happy life. A negative mindset or perspective can and does eventually lead to health issues. Shelton has claimed she hated herself in the past and usually found relationships in which the man reflected this self-hatred.



Angela Shelton comes to Behrend bringing awareness of domestic and sexual violence in relationships

Her independent film, *Searching for Angela Shelton*, documents the struggles of various Angela Sheltons across the United States. Out of the forty Angela Sheltons interviewed in her film, 24 of those Angela Sheltons were "raped,

beaten, or molested" as indicated on the back of the film's case. While passing by a particular town, Shelton discovers that the current location of her father is in that town. It is only by coincidence that the day is Father's Day when she confronts the father who molested her as a child. Angela Shelton is thrust into an epic journey to uncover her past and overcome the struggles that carried into the present. "The Angela Sheltons complete the journey by teaching the filmmaker about forgiveness, faith, and the power of the human spirit, no matter what your name is."

Shelton continued discussing the details of her long and difficult recovery from being a victim of child molestation and abusive relationships. It affected her in every aspect of life: love, career, social, and personal. Shelton described the set-back symbolically as a sword piercing through one's stomach. The sword causes pain when entering through the stomach and instills continual pain upon remaining in the stomach. The most difficult task is removing the sword from one's stomach. Removing the sword causes more pain than its original entry into the stomach. The same concept applies to overcoming a life-altering hardship. Once this symbolic sword is removed from one's stomach, the sword can be used as an example, for educational purposes.

Many of the girls who

attended and one guy, Jeffrey Barber, enjoyed Angela Shelton's presentation on domestic and sexual violence.

Shay Conto attended this speaker event and remarked that it was, "amazing and inspiring. I can't even put into words the experience. It's a major issue in society and it was very beneficial, as well as inspiring. Everyone should hear about it."

Angela Shelton spoke at numerous places including Congress, college campuses, military bases, high schools, elementary schools, community centers, conferences and seminars. Angela Shelton was brought to Behrend thanks to the organization Women Today here on campus.



contributed photo

Searching for Angela Shelton: Stories about sexual violence

Interested in writing news for *The Behrend Beacon*?
E-mail Matthew Schwabenbauer at mjs5387@psu.edu for more information.

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Mr. and Ms. Penn State Behrend Pageant

THURSDAY
APRIL 9 2009

8 P.M.

In Bruno's Cafe

All proceeds benefit alpha sigma tau's national philanthropy Pine Mountain Settlement school.

Monday



High: 39°F
Low: 32°F

Cloudy with a chance of rain/snow.

Tuesday



High: 35°F
Low: 29°F

Cloudy with a chance of snow.

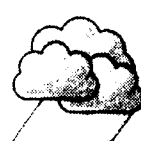
Wednesday



High: 40°F
Low: 28°F

Mostly cloudy skies.

Thursday



High: 49°F
Low: 36°F

Partly cloudy with a chance of rain.



Interesting weather fact:

A lightning strike is hotter than the surface of the sun. Lightning is about 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit while the sun is about 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto.