

Behrend professor a Playhouse star

by Daniel J. Stasiewski
a&e editor

When John Kerwin first arrived in Erie two years ago, one of the first things he did was search for local theatre companies.

Next Thursday, the assistant professor of communication will star alongside James Gandalofo in the Erie Playhouse production of "Inherit the Wind."

Kerwin has been active in acting since college, but after spending much of his time as a writer, director, and producer in Los Angeles, he left the stage. In the past 12 years, he got the itch to hit the boards, again.

"You have something inside of you that says, 'I'd like to get out there and perform,'" said Kerwin.

So, when he auditioned for "Inherit the Wind" last spring, Kerwin was able to grab the leading role of Henry Drummond.

In "Inherit the Wind," Drummond is a lawyer in the 1920s who comes to the defense of a young teacher after the teacher violates a law by teaching evolution. Kerwin said it was the idealism represented by Drummond that drew him to the role.

In fact, the role has such a strong lure that acting greats such

as Spencer Tracy and Jack Lemmon have played Drummond in the past. Both actors, however, were in their 60s and 70s respectively when they played the role, but Kerwin is not 60.

"I'm playing him with more

him a chance to live with Drummond.

"It is going to be me on stage, so I had to take it home," said Kerwin. "You have to envelope the character and let the character envelope you."

After reading the script and doing plenty of research, Kerwin is eager to get on the stage. Drummond,

however, will not be Kerwin's last job at the Erie Playhouse.

"As long as [the Playhouse] does plays that I think I can fit into, I'll do them," said Kerwin.

As he begins work on "Inherit the Wind," Kerwin is awaiting the announcement of the Erie Playhouse 2003-2004 season, and auditions later this spring. Regardless of the season's lineup, Kerwin won't pass up a chance to get on stage.

"To say [acting] is rewarding is so trite," said Kerwin. "It is really an adrenaline rush that you seldom get in everyday life."

"Inherit the Wind," starring John Kerwin and James Gandolfo, will be performed Apr. 10-13, 24-27, and May 1-3 at the Erie Playhouse. For tickets and show times call 454-2852.

"You have to envelope the character and let the character envelope you."

fire," said Kerwin. And the fact that legends like Tracy and Lemmon have taken on the role does not scare him at all.

"Do I think that I can do it differently and as well? Yeah, otherwise I shouldn't be up on stage," said Kerwin. "Do I compare myself with them? No."

Kerwin has confidence that he can make the role his own. With a co-star like Gandolfo, he thinks it will be that much more entertaining, even if they are an unlikely pair.

"He auditioned. I auditioned. And [the director] saw the potential for chemistry," said Kerwin. "Sparks gotta fly."

Sparks do have to fly, especially with the tense dramatic moments and the tongue-in-cheek humor. Even though he sees the role as a real challenge, Kerwin's year-long preparation for the role has given

Through the looking glass

by Mike Pingree, KRT Campus

PROSTITUTION? NO PROBLEM AT ALL

A woman graduated from law school and, on her application to be admitted to the Kentucky bar, mentioned that she had once been arrested for prostitution. Her run-in with the law happened in 1997, when she worked for an "escort service."

But the Character and Fitness Committee ruled that this in no way should prevent her from becoming an attorney.

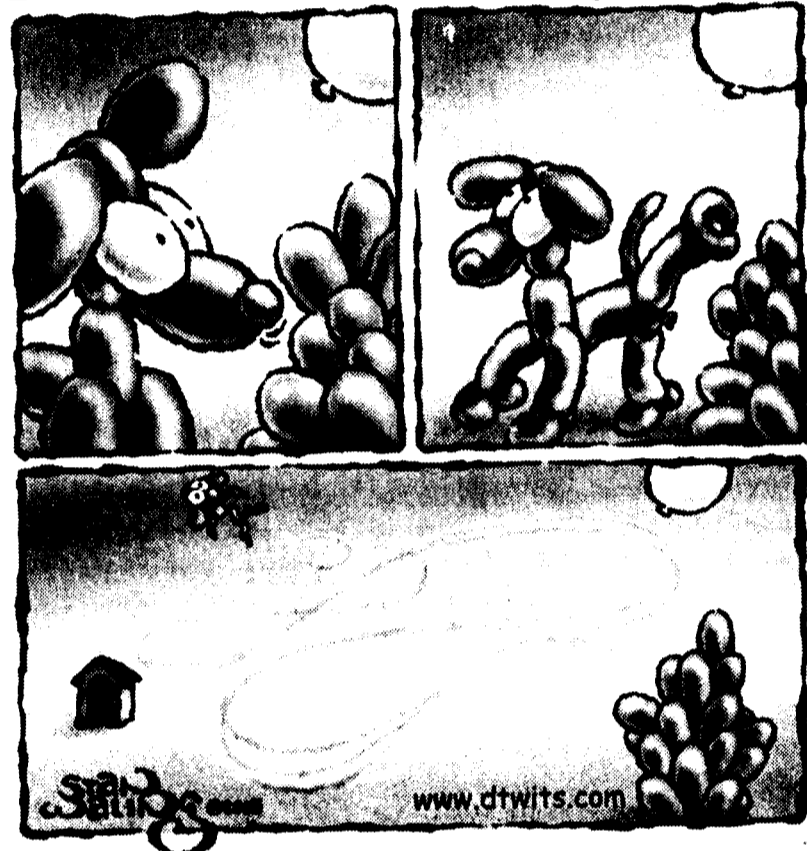
THE SHORELINE SEEMS TO BE MOVING

A woman got drunk while celebrating International Women's Day in St. Petersburg, Russia, and tried to walk across the frozen Neva River. Alas, the ice on which she was walking broke off and started floating, stranding her. So she took a nap until rescuers came and got her.

THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS HERE

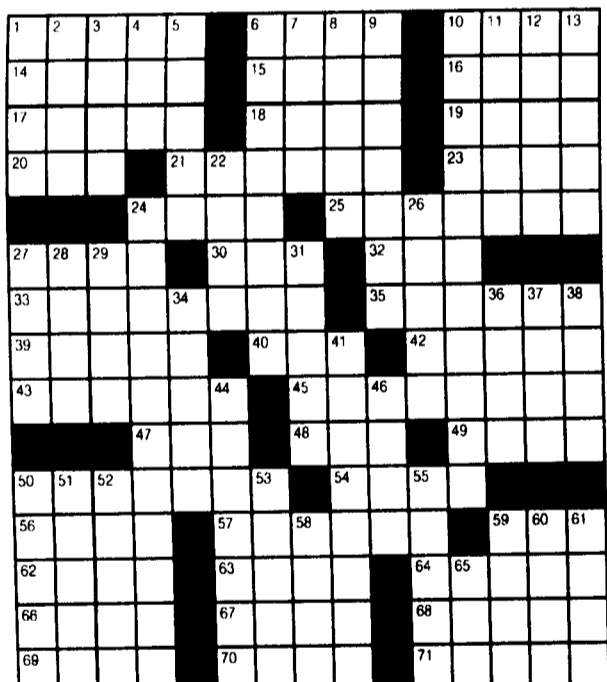
An unemployed man robbed a Pennsylvania bank of \$81,000 and got away clean. But he was ultimately caught because he and his wife went on a major spending spree, paying cash for a Lincoln Continental and two other cars as well as furniture and appliances.

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Wild fear
 - 6 du jour
 - 10 Easy run
 - 14 Flooded
 - 15 Hashanah
 - 16 Glowing review
 - 17 Greek letter
 - 18 Italian noble family
 - 19 Smell
 - 20 Check out
 - 21 Luminous trail in the sky
 - 23 Sign up
 - 24 Church part
 - 25 Orders back
 - 27 After-bath powder
 - 30 Emmet
 - 32 Japanese honorific
 - 33 Place to get a brew
 - 35 Shocked
 - 39 Brew holder
 - 40 Unit of work
 - 42 Nick of film/dom
 - 43 Hurting the most
 - 45 Gave recompense to
 - 47 Victory sign
 - 48 Helm dir.
 - 49 Wanamaker and Waterston
 - 50 Mouseketeer Funicello
 - 54 Family chart
 - 56 Destine to tragedy
 - 57 Dragged forcibly
 - 59 Health resort
 - 62 Up to the task
 - 63 Feudal serf
 - 64 Theater worker
 - 66 Blueprint
 - 67 Beatty film
 - 68 Raccoonlike carnivore
 - 69 Camp shelter
 - 70 Coin receptacle
 - 71 Concluded



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Solutions

- 5 Schroder film (with "The")
- 6 Facade
- 7 Be vanquished
- 8 "The Maltese Falcon" co-star
- 9 St. of Avila
- 10 Fatal gift
- 11 Gaseous element
- 12 Egg-shaped
- 13 Gulls' relatives
- 22 Jacob's sibling
- 24 Success
- 26 cum laude
- 27 Pravda's news agcy.
- 28 Choir member
- 29 Suggestive stare
- 31 Haute, IN
- 34 Beginning
- 36 "Mephisto Waltz" star
- 37 Pipe part
- 38 Kennedy and Koppel
- 41 Most famblike
- 44 Animal restraints
- 46 Existed
- 50 Adjust
- 51 Lordly
- 52 Pitcher Ryan
- 53 Atelier stand
- 55 Elicit
- 58 PC command
- 59 Roe source
- 60 Seeger or Sampras
- 61 Desiccated
- 65 Chip off the old block

Unfortunately, Crazy Newspaper Face is back

by Crazy Newspaper Face
a not-serious contributing writer

receiving that kind of treatment on our campus, and stated that she and her fellow SGA members were drafting a resolution that would foster a better environment for people of my heritage. She

we could better the environment on this campus for people of my creed. We talked about increasing enrollment of newspaper faces, establishing clubs and organizations to represent my nationality, and we talked of ways

I'd like to write again to let you all know about the overwhelming response to my last article. After the article about my plight as Crazy Newspaper Face was published in the Beacon, many people here in our community contacted me to let me know that they were here to support me, and my kind.

The Multi-Cultural Council was perhaps the first to contact me. They let me know that they were starting up a new committee to confront and combat discrimination against all newspaper faces. The name of this new committee is SAD BITCHES (Students Against Discriminating Bigots - Intolerance Taskforce Changing Hierarchical Esteem Systems).

The second to call was the alumni association. They called to inform me that they were setting up a new scholarship program that would benefit future students of my race.

They said the scholarship would be awarded on a point system basis. I guess you get points for being a newspaper face, and other academic achievements.

Brandi Hovis, the president of SGA, told me that SGA was outraged that people like me were



Crazy Newspaper Face poses for a rare photo.

PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF/THE BEHREND BEACON

also said that she understood being discriminated against because, of course, she is in the Irish American Society. She said she would be willing to help me in my cause as long as I attended 12 training meetings regarding the resolution drafting process.

And finally, Jack Burke met with me personally to discuss how

in which my kind could fully experience the college experience without the discrimination and hate that I experienced before my article was published. When I asked him how he felt about newspaper faces, he replied, "Some of my best friends are newspaper faces."

*We want to hear from you!
Write a letter to
behrcoll2@aol.com*