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Speel on WPSX

By Teresa Nicolai
staff writer

Behrend's own Dr. Robert Speel is expected to speak this Tuesday in a special edition of Pennsylvania Inside Out on the topic of the upcoming presidential election. The show will air at 7 p.m. on WPSX-TV and last for one hour.

Penn State University has generated a list of experts in the Penn State system on the topic of politics and elections on which Speel's name is located. He has offered his expertise in many situations and it has earned him the opportunity to be a guest on WPSX.

"I've been quoted in newspapers as far away as California," said Speel "... it's fun."

Though Speel has spoken on local television previously, this will be his first time on WPSX. He is not anxious since the show will be taped by remote TV in the WQLN studios, taking away the pressures from an audience. He is prepared to discuss all political issues important to Pennsylvania, our role in the election and other topics involving the Bush/Kerry race.

"Pennsylvania is a competitive state in this year's presidential election... the newspapers and press are interested in hearing from us. The presidential election might depend on how Pennsylvanians vote," said Speel.

Pennsylvania Inside Out is a new public affairs show put on by Penn State Public Broadcasting. The program airs regularly Monday through Friday on WPSX-TV (channel three) at 7 p.m. Tuesdays are reserved to be live, call-in programs in which people, such as Speel, are featured to answer questions from the public on a particular topic.

While on the air, Speel is also likely to discuss how the two largest regions of the state of Pennsylvania are trending in opposite directions. For example, the majority of the Pittsburgh suburbs are leaning republican where as the majority of the Philadelphia suburbs are leaning democratic.

"Pennsylvania, historically, has been around the national average in elections. Our population seems to represent fairly well the split between Democrats and Republicans," he said.

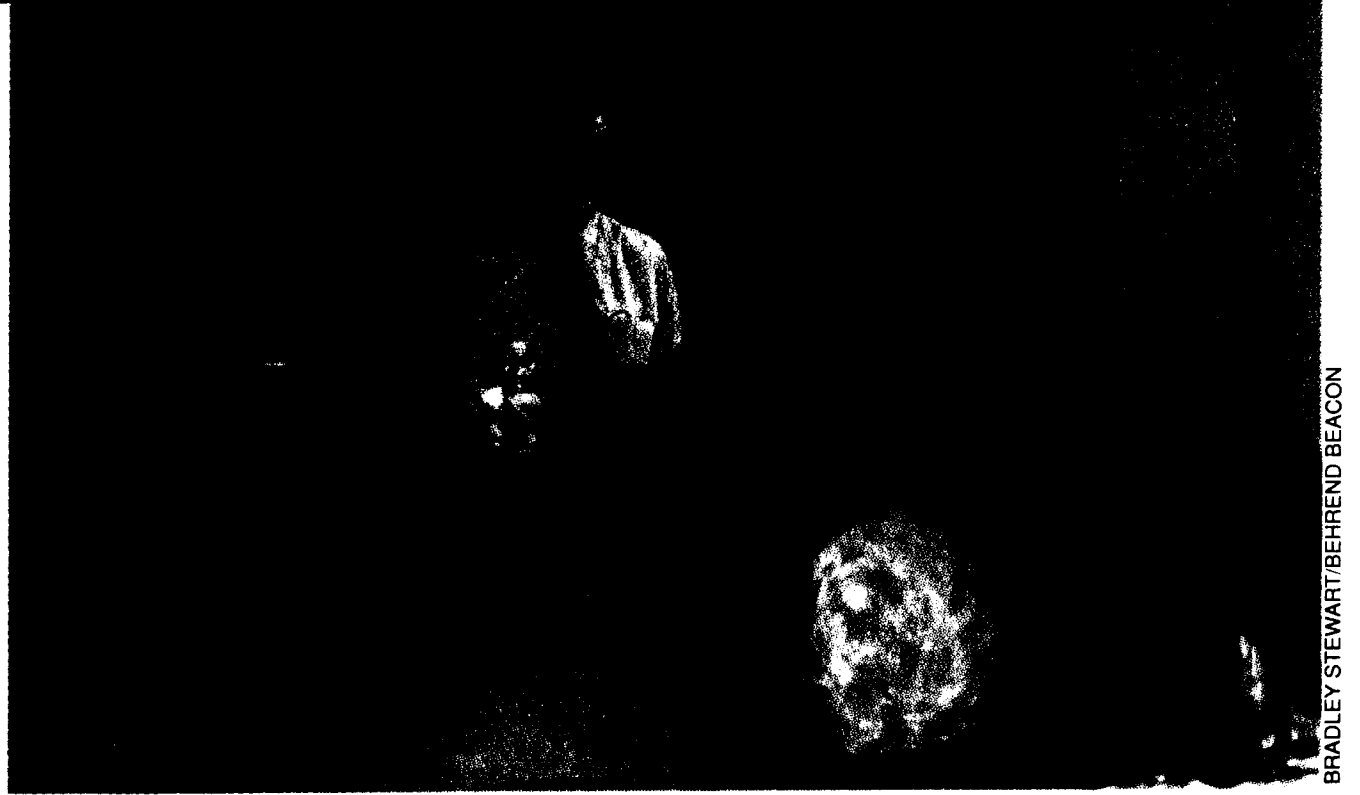
Speel was born into a family heavily involved with politics, so it is no wonder that he has become a specialist in the area. In the 1960's, his parents participated in protests against the Vietnam War and were active in the Civil Rights movement. Living with his grandparents, Speel was exposed to a household full of constant talking and arguing about political issues.

He eventually attended college in Philadelphia and began working on many campaigns. It was during this time that he realized that particular line of political work was not what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

"Instead of doing politics, I teach it," Speel said.

From there he went on to study at The University of Pennsylvania where he received his B.A. Later, at Cornell University, he earned his Ph.D.

Speel is the author of "Changing Patterns of Voting in the Northern United States: Electoral Realignment 1952-1996." He is currently associate professor of political science at Penn State Behrend. This semester he teaches the introduction to American national government and American campaigns and elections courses.



Professor of medieval history Dr. Daniel Frankforter spoke to a captive Smith Chapel audience on Tuesday evening. His presentation covered the dynamics of Christian fundamentalism.

American Dream series concludes with Christianity Behrend history professor final speaker in series

By Tiffany Mak
staff writer

On Tuesday night, Dr. Daniel Frankforter, professor of medieval history at Behrend, presented last in the series for the American Dream in the Smith Chapel. His speech on christian fundamentalism summed up the religious movement of the nation.

Frankforter spent part of the night challenging the assumption that Islamic radicalism equals fundamentalism. In the Americans' minds of post Sept. 11, the term, fundamentalist, is almost always preceded by the Islamic.

Describing religious fundamentalism is as American as the proverbial apple pie, Frankforter concluded that American protestants persuaded christians that faith was incompatible with western civilizations.

Frankforter identified contemporary christian fundamentalism in the megachurches that are popping up around the nation.

"Christian fundamentalism is becoming a massive movement, it has developed an extreme right-wing political agenda," claimed Frankforter. "It is superbly organized, and it is lavishly funded."

Frankforter explained that christian fundamentalist views run contrary to the American government's stance on separation of church and state. Fundamen-

talists take a literal interpretation of segments of the Bible and believe that their views on christianity must be practiced by all.

Frankforter further explained that christian fundamentalism is a tremendous impact on world politics and relations among nations.

"Thoughts of Americans today are filled with the material about the influence of sometimes angry Islam, but it is christianity that will leave the deepest mark on the twenty-first century," said Frankforter.

Indeed, the world began to change in the 1960s when fundamentalist leaders started to organize their followers for political action. By aligning themselves with political and social conservatives, they have become a major force in American politics.

However, the support they now provide for conservative politicians raises questions about the future of the long-standing American belief that church and state ought to operate in separate spheres."

Instead of working against and outside the social and governmental system, christian fundamentalists work within the system. Frankforter warned the chapel audience that these radical christians are working to secure political offices, starting low, building support, and moving higher. He also warned of their covert nature; the fundamentalists

won't reveal their political agendas until they've achieved power.

An attendee at both Islamic and Christian Fundamentalism talks, Dr. Dean Baldwin, assistant director of humanities and social sciences, felt both talks were different and interesting. "They were lucid, well-researched, elegantly delivered and thoughtful," said Baldwin. He also agreed that religion and fundamentalisms are dangerous; they are blowing themselves up and creating violence.

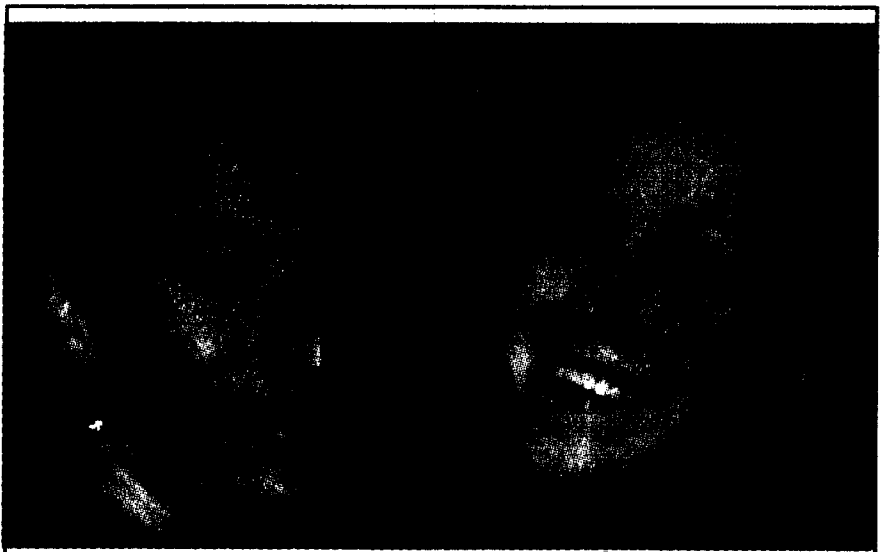
The founder of the speech of the Institute of American Dream, Rev. Charles Brock, was satisfied with the series and brilliant speakers.

"We are trying to analyze and reason issues, not to promote the fundamentalisms," said Rev. Brock. We are not saying what is right or what is wrong."

Brock reinforces what Frankforter said about the impact of all fundamentalisms and the world.

"If any of them (Jewish, Islamic and Christian Fundamentalism) takes control, it will be very dangerous. It will mark the end of the world. They are going to destroy us because they want the world," said Brock.

Since the audience was very enthusiastic and Brock got a lot of really good comments; he expects some similar talks next year, maybe, for instance, something on Pennsylvania Dream vs American Dream.



K.J. MARGRAFF/BEHREND BEACON

Two face-painted Greeks smiled for the camera as Greek Week came to an end. Last Friday, Greeks wrapped up week long festivities with

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ID Cards set for release

By Jenna O'Block
staff writer

Penn State is distributing new ID+ cards on Nov. 1-5. All students and faculty will need to pick up their new ID cards from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Reed 116 outside of the ID office. When you pick up your ID card you will need some form of official photo identification, such as your driver's license or a passport.

You will also need to know your social security number; however, it will be only used under strict circumstances. The whole reason for Penn State issuing new ID cards to everyone is because now students' social security will be kept much safer.

"I feel very safe knowing that my social security number is protected every time I use my ID card" said Breanne Bogdanski, DUS 01.

Even though the cards are being issued very soon, the cards will not be used until Jan. 1. In the last two weeks of December, Penn State is asking you to carry both the old and the new ID+. On Dec. 19, your social security numbers in online systems all through the university will be removed and be converted to your new PSU ID. To restrict the use of your social security number it will only be contained in one Central ID Repository (CIDR) file at PSU.

"We are setting up a system so less people

have access to it," said Mr. Randall Geering, director of housing and food services at Behrend. "It's a big project."

"I think it is probably safer to just have a student ID number instead of using your social security number," said Amy Drauch DUS 01.

"It's a nice change and it will protect our privacy more such as privacy theft" said Eric Reinstadler, BUS 01 "Using our number for all internal processes will be a lot better than using our social security number."

There is a lot of advertising for the new Penn State ID+ card around campus. There are many posters hung up and e-mails have been sent out to everyone.

"We've been trying to get word out for people to pick up the IDs" said Geering. Throughout all Penn State's campuses there are 80 thousand plus cards to be handed out, and this is why the new cards are being issued so early to students.

"Then at least 95 percent of the students will have them," said Geering. When students and staff first pick up their new ID+ card, the card will be swiped to see if it is working properly. "That way if it's not, then we have time to get it fixed," said Geering. The new ID will not look the same as the old ones either. You can check out the posters around campus to see they are now vertical and have a blue Penn State background.



United Way hosted a silent auction Thursday as part of the Helping Hands initiative to raise funds for the less fortunate.