

STUDENT LIFE

'Perspectives' added to life's situations

By Annie Sevin
staff writer

Behrend will present six one-act plays at Behrend's Studio Theater at 8 p.m. tonight. General admission is \$5 and students may attend for \$3. Tickets can be purchased at the Rub Desk in Reed, or reservations can be arranged by calling 898-6242.

Collectively, the plays are titled "Perspectives," and include events revolving around the paranormal, troubled relationships and life and death situations. The plays that have been selected are winners of the prestigious annual "Actors Theatre of Louisville's National Ten-Minute Play Contest." They include: Michael Dixon and Val Smith's "Breaking the Chain," Richard Strand's "The Guest of Honor," William Mastro Simone's "Precipice," Jeffrey Sweet's "Cover," John Sheehy's "Gave Her the Eye" and Jerome Hairston's "40-Minute Finish."

All of the actors performing in "Perspectives" are Behrend students under the direction of Dr. Christine Mangone. The fifteen cast members are Aaron Amandola, Tanaz Balaporia, Prema Bangera, Wendy Boyce, Brad Fitch, Amanda Golia, Jeremy Korwek, Julie Kosin, Christine Lajzo, Zach Mentz, Steve O'Donnell, Marvin Sanderson, John Stranahan, Xenia Tomlinson and Megan Whitesel.

The company has very good vibes about the program. Julie Kosin 01 MATH, who plays Beth in "Breaking the Chain" said, "I'm really impressed with how well everyone's doing and I think the show's going to be really good... people are going to really enjoy it."

Mangone says she had an interesting motive for choosing one-act plays rather than a full-length production, "The reason I wanted to do a series of one-

act was to give as many Behrend students as possible a chance to be a part of it. By doing one-acts, it enables students that don't have a lot of time to commit to a full-length play to be able to rehearse a ten-minute play...."

Mangone also thought that this type of performance would have a wide range of appeal.

"Some of the plays are very funny, some are completely absurd, and some are very curious, so it should be a well rounded evening for audiences."

Jeremy Korwek 01 BUS concurred with Dr. Mangone, saying, "I think a lot of people will enjoy it...it's going to appeal to any audience out there if you like comedies, dramas, or whatever."

Korwek, who plays Marty in "Cover," also commented on the experience of rehearsing one-act plays, "There [are] some benefits and some downsides [of one-act plays]. The benefit is you don't have to memorize four acts; the downside is you don't get to memorize four acts."

Steve O'Donnell 07 HIST, another cast member and President of the Drama Organization was pleased with this fall's program and company saying, "I've been in a lot of shows at Behrend, [and] this is one of the most diverse and talented casts I've ever worked with."

Amanda Golia 03 FINAN plays Diane in the comedy-drama play "Cover." She too says, "It's really fun working with [Dr. Mangone] and the cast. The people who are in it really make it so much fun."

Mangone said Behrend usually presents two performances a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The fall program is normally drama or comedy and the in the spring comes a musical. Additional performances of "Perspectives" will be held from Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 3-7; Sunday Matinees begin at 2 p.m.

Help support troops overseas

By Meghan Bool
staff writer

Penn State Behrend's Residence Life Team is pulling together a Support the Troops care package project so that our soldiers will have food and necessities for the holiday season.

Jaime Russell, coordinator for Residence Life, ROTC, Lambda Sigma and anyone else willing to help involved. The team is looking for faculty, staff and students to submit the names and addresses of those serving our country overseas. They are going to try their best to send packages to all of those soldiers. Russell is looking for all types of donations that include the following items: baked goods (anything homemade), AT&T phone cards, candy (no chocolate - it will melt), gum, magazines, white socks, coffee, playing cards, beef jerky, and miscellaneous toiletries (please be creative with the donations). They are also asking for letters and homemade cards because they will be a great addition to every package sent.

"I became inspired to organize this project because my brother and first cousin are both being deployed to Iraq before Thanksgiving," said Russell. "I wanted to show my support on a larger scale, and I thought this would be the perfect way to do it."

"This is the first time the Residence Life Team put together this type of project. It has been done before by other organizations on campus. This is an excellent project for our campus to get involved in," states Deepti Soni, Resident Assistant. "This is a great way to show gratitude toward our troops especially around the holiday season!"

It is encouraged that department offices, residence hall floors, student organizations, etc. to take up collections and become involved. "Our goal for this project," states Russell, "is to get the entire campus involved - students, faculty and staff!"

Ted Reider, member of 336 Military Policy Battalion out of Pittsburgh, PA, as well as a member of US Army Reserves for three years, has been deployed to Iraq, outside of Baghdad, since Feb. 04. His position with the rear group is what's called a Family Readiness Group Liaison (FRG). This group does many projects, like the Behrend program but they also organize activities for the family and friends of the soldiers over seas.

"Everyone wants to be with their loved ones, but parting for overseas assignments is one facet of being a soldier in today's military," states Reider.

"All soldiers have an obligation to perform and deployment is part of the job. When receiving these packages, it not only boosts their moral but lets them know that they are thought and cared about by their family, friends and community members."

Russell and team members are having a "Packing Party" Nov. 4, 5-7 p.m. in Reed 115 to get the packages ready for shipment. They would like to send them as soon as possible, directly after the 4, to ensure that they arrive in time for the holidays. It will depend on how much money they have to fund the shipping, as to how quickly the packages will be shipped.

If anyone is interested in taking part in the project, please contact Jaime Russell in Student Affairs in Reed 115. She can be reached at X6111 or jlr31@psu.edu.

In politics, it's all fair America compared to redheaded woman

By Eric Edwards
The Orlando Sentinel
(KRT)

Some people have difficulty understanding politics. Generally, politics are easy to hide from, except for the presidential elections every four years. Then the airwaves are filled with almost as many political ads as beer ads.

You can see why this phenomenon spooks people. The public can stand only about one political ad for every 50 beer ads.

Fortunately for the electorate, I have a deep understanding of politics that goes back to my days as manager for my junior prom date's class-treasurer campaign. I got her elected, and she went with me to the prom. Simple.

It was then I realized politics is like dating. Allow me to explain.

Think of America as a gorgeous redhead whom every guy wants to date. She's not terribly proactive about seeking out the right man, she's more traditional; she waits for him to find her. And when he does find her and is able to convince her of his undying love and devotion, she may consent to date him, usually for a minimum of four years.

I know what you're thinking: Four years is a long time to date without getting married, but since my metaphorical woman is a huge land mass, I think you'll let me slide if I don't explain why she can never get married.

So she dates her man (she hasn't yet seriously considered dating women or minorities, but the more rich white guys she goes out with, the better the alternatives look), and things usually start out pretty well. They share the standard six-month honeymoon period, during which she overlooks all of his flaws because she's still intoxicated by his original seduction.

But even the best seductions wear off, and she is left wondering if she picked the right guy. Fortunately for the guy, she's very traditional and has a hard time dumping anyone until his four years is up.

When that time comes, however, she can expect some serious courtship. Crowds of men gather at her door and wrestle each other for the right to battle

her current boyfriend for her affections. It's a trying time for everyone, especially her. After four years, she is bound to have some problems with her man. He has made mistakes. Men always do.

So here's this new guy. He has a nice smile and promises her the world, just like every guy before him. She knows in her heart that courtship involves some hyperbole, so it's up to her to figure out if the new man holds more promise than the old man.

She's lucky, though. When the old guy sees that he has made mistakes and that she has her doubts, he has time to step up and act like the man he promised he would be four years ago.

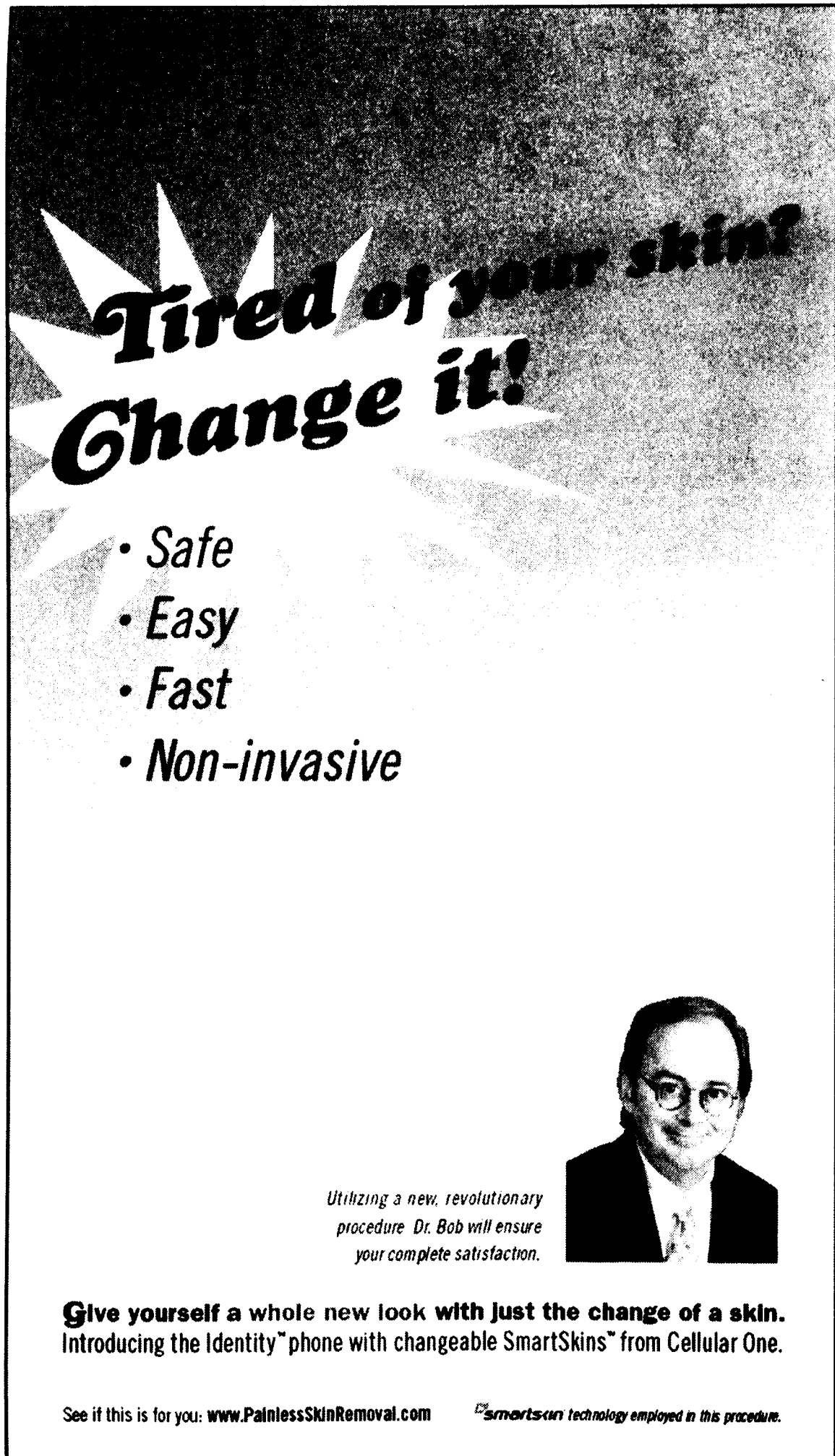
I bet every woman wishes she had a constant suitor to keep her current man in check. If we were all worried about our girlfriends dumping us for some other jerk, we'd be on our best behavior all the time.

This is a lesson for candidates and boyfriends everywhere. We will all make mistakes; we will all do things later on that we wish we could take back. And when the shining new knight comes forward to steal the hand of our fair lady, it's important for us to know how to react.

Our instinct may be to close our eyes and pretend that nothing is wrong, that she is being irrational and faint of heart. But that's a mistake. I know because I've made it.

What I learned is that we men need to own up to and acknowledge our sins. We need to tell our women that in the last four years (or 14 months as the case may be), we have learned a lot about each other. We have made mistakes that, if we had known better, we would not have made. But after all the time and love we have shared, we have learned her wants and needs and are deeply committed to giving her those things because she is the most important woman in our world.

That's what any woman who has ever loved a man and then fallen to doubt needs to hear. She needs to know that we are finally paying attention. She needs to know that we are finally going to put her interests before our own. Finally, she can stop worrying about learning someone else's bad habits because all she really wants to do is give her love to us. At least for the next four years.



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Have a story idea?
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