

A question of fairness

Knight and Rubenstein debate gay rights in front of Erie Hall crowd

by Laura Borawski
News Editor

Robert Knight, director of cultural studies within the Family Research Council, and William B. Rubenstein, director of gay and lesbian rights and AIDS projects for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), debated gay rights last evening in Erie Hall.

Knight focused on the Boy Scouts of America throughout

the debate as a reference to private groups under attack of the gay rights movement. He believes that "the movement" is a detriment to society.

Rubenstein, responsible for nationwide coordination of the ACLU's efforts to put an end to discrimination against lesbians and gays, firmly believes that people should be judged according to content of character and not to their sexuality.

Using himself as a primary

source of information, Rubenstein said, "I hope this will be a continuing dialogue (here on campus)."

"There's an enormous amount of discrimination of gays in the U.S.," he said. Others treat people "according to labels."

The central argument of his presentation was the "simple point that people should be judged by their abilities."

In response to Rubenstein's convictions, Knight believes that the gay rights movement is a "cutting edge issue" in society today.

He is worried that if action is not taken against the gay movement, then moral standards will deteriorate and an "iron fist" will fall down on society.

He refuted that the gay movement is an "imposition of other people's values onto people who don't agree with them."

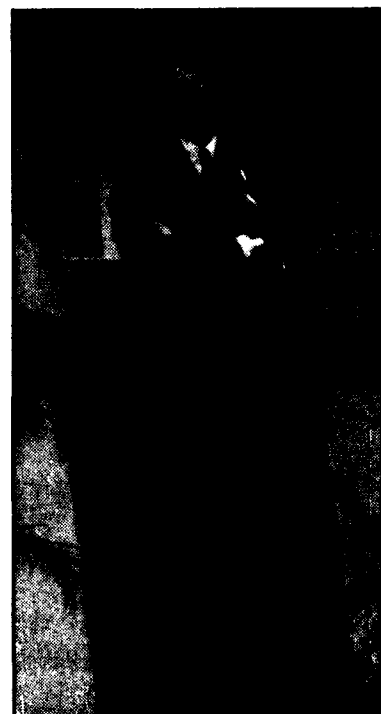


Photo by Stephanie Payne

William Rubenstein

Regarding the issues of parenting and gay rights Knight said, "Homosexuality is very destructive behavior. I don't want my son taught that it's normal."

Rubenstein refuted Knight's point by stating that a person's sexuality is not a relevant quality when regarding parenting.

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Photo by Stephanie Payne

Robert Knight

'What it was'

Poet Greg Kuzma reads at Behrend

by R. Carl Campbell III
Collegian Staff

Greg Kuzma, poet and professor of creative writing at the University of Nebraska, read selections of his poetry in the Studio Theater last Thursday, Oct. 28.

He was the first speaker in a series sponsored by the creative writing program and the Clarence A. Smith and Eugenie Baumann Smith Endowment Fund.

Kuzma said of his readings, "I don't go into a reading knowing what I'm going to talk about. One time I got too involved in reading a grieving poem about my brother and most of the audience left. There was no happy moments. I tend to get

obsessive sometimes."

Kuzma continued, "For this reading (at Behrend) I tried to mix some humorous things in with things that people didn't want to hear about."

Kuzma then talked about life in the nineties. He spoke of how children go out into the world and then come back again. This led into an anecdote about a student who left the University of Nebraska only to return later, and assisted in establishing what Kuzma defines as the "what it was" school of poetry.

"What it was" poetry, as Kuzma said, "eliminates all the extraneous material from an object in order to set it free. It places a poem at the mercy of the language."

The next poem he read began to describe the concepts of "what it was" poetry then told a story of going to see "Woodstock" with his grandmother.

The final two poems he read were another "what it was" poem titled "Spider on the Windowsill," and a poem about his grandmother.

None of the poems Kuzma read are published. He attributes this to their "unorthodox style."

At a reception in the Memorial Room of the Glenhill Farmhouse, Kuzma signed books and talked with students and faculty. He said that he loves Behrend and would like to work here with the creative writing program.

Native poetry

by Loretta Olson
Collegian Staff

Native American poet Joy Harjo will be presenting a poetry reading in the Reed Lecture Hall tonight at 7:30 as a part of the Penn State-Behrend Speaker Series.

Harjo is a professor in the creative writing program at the University of New Mexico and has published four books of poetry including "She Had Some Horses," and "In Mad Love and War."

Coordinator of the Speaker Series, Dr. Diana Hume George, professor of English and women's studies said, "We're delighted to

have Joy Harjo coming to Behrend as a guest speaker."

George said, "I heard her in Arizona last April... and she mesmerized an audience of hundreds of people with the beauty and power of her words."

Harjo was born in Tulsa, Okla. and is a member of the Muscogee Creek tribe. She attended the Anthropology Film Center in Santa Fe and graduated from the University of Iowa.

A reception which will include a book signing and sale will be held immediately following Harjo's reading.

The reading and reception is free and open to the public.