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## Wilder addresses reform

by R. Carl Campbell III  
News Editor

L. Douglas Wilder, the first African-American governor, addressed an audience in Erie Hall concerning "Political and Social Issues in the 90's." Wilder's speech was a part of Behrend's lecture series, "The American Agenda."

Wilder feels that involvement with politics and government is crucial to the future. In speaking of government, he does not mean government as an elective office, but in simply turning out to vote.

Wilder said, "It is a decision of whether or not people always want other people making decisions for them."

He compared being involved to a slice of pie. "It would be a good idea not to sit there and wait for a slice of the pie. It would be a good idea to have your hand on the knife that's gonna cut the pie."

"It's relevant to establish dialogue as it relates to the country."

"It's a good thing to talk about what the issues are. I'd like to see that kind of dialogue continued between students and faculty," he added.

One current issue that Wilder stressed was the republican take over of Congress.

"The public is restless," Wilder said. "And that restlessness was translated on November 8th. A lot of people hinted at it, but didn't believe it was going to happen. That is, the complete take over of congress."

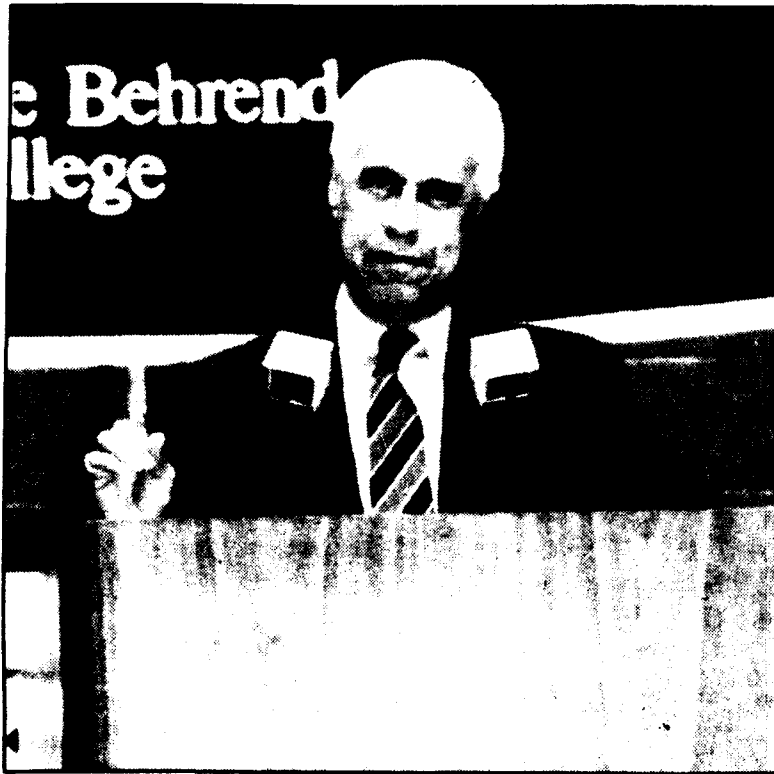
"It wasn't as much a pro-republican vote as it was an anti-incumbent vote."

Wilder continued, "Clinton said that we (government) got to do a better job of explaining what we're doing. Well, I think that the public understood what they were doing and didn't like it."

"The public is not partial to party lines any more. There is a more independent train of thought. Younger people are becoming more cynical. People want to shy away from government but we can't afford that luxury. It's a question of whether or not you want a say as to how you live, what parks you go to, the roads you travel on, the construction of your houses."

Wilder talked about health care reform as an issue that, of late, has been piling by comparison to other issues.

"The political reality is that the President has come to understand that he jumped on gargantua. Health care in this country would have been the greatest social reform in the history of this nation. Do we need to reform it?"



Jennifer Brenier/Collegian Photographer  
Governor Wilder addressed an attentive audience in Erie Hall when he spoke on "Political and Social Issues in the 90's."

Yes. All at one time? No."

Race was also an issue to be dealt with in the nineties. He said that if anyone learned anything at all from February being "Black History Month," he

would hope that we would learn that we all are Americans.

"No hyphenating," he said. "We all are Americans. And I hope that the time will come when there won't be this month set aside to learn about a segment

of our history but that history will be inclusionary and be structured and we will know more about it."

Crime was another topic Wilder spoke on.

"I spoke to a group once of 3000 kids and I asked them, 'Stand up all of those who thought they could make something of themselves.' I thought everyone stood up. I just parenthetically said, 'Those who don't think that they can make anything of themselves stand.' One little boy stood up. The other kids looked at him and laughed, snickered and I said 'What's the problem?' He couldn't talk because he was way in the back. He came up and told me. He said, 'I'm scared. All around me, all day when I'm out of school, all I see is guns and drugs and people shooting. I'm scared.' Now we sit here, in the comfort of this place and think that we can identify with that kid, and we can't."

Wilder concluded his lecture by revealing what he considered the greatest social concern, the waste of human potential.

"The dread I see in our society today, the waste of human potential of those who can make a difference and we have a responsibility to see that that doesn't take place."

## Mononucleosis is on the rampage once again

by Brad Park  
Collegian Staff

As the mid-winter chill hits Erie, many assume that Mononucleosis is more widespread than usual. This is not the case, according to Patty Pasky McMahon of Behrend's Health and Wellness center. "It

(mono) usually likes to hit in the fall and in the spring when a person's immune system is depressed."

"They're more likely to contract the virus," she continued. "So that's why we'll see it hitting at the times of high allergy seasons."

McMahon said that mono is

not as contagious as it is usually perceived to be. "Rarely do roommates, boyfriends and girlfriends, or husbands and wives contract it, even if an infected person is right there with them."

If a person is diagnosed with mono, she suggests that the individual "should refrain from anything that could possible put

the other person at risk, like sharing cups or kissing."

The Erie County Health Department said that the symptoms include chronic fatigue and dehydration. They suggested that plenty of rest and constant drinking of fluids is the best way to beat mono.

McMahon assured that the

mono cases on campus are normal. "There are no more cases of mono on campus now than usual. Right now, we are at the height of our flu and cold season."

### Inside

#### News

- Behrend Briefs page 2
- Dr. Cindy Patton page 2
- International Folk Theater page 2
- SGA Report page 3

#### Entertainment

- Jerkey Boys page 8
- 'Boys on the Side' page 8
- Cartoons page 9

#### Sports

- ATW page 10
- IM Championship page 10
- Men's Basketball page 11
- Women's Basketball page 12