

# Heathen Valley: A story of simple people

by Michelle R. Gruendl  
Copy Editor

"Poor folks have poor ways" was the phrase that rang through my head repeatedly while watching the dress rehearsal of "Heathen Valley" last night. A definite must see, it portrayed poor, simple Appalachian folk

who have gone astray from religion.

In an effort to find God, a bishop (Tracy D. Lee) goes to the valley in the mountains to "save souls". He takes with him Starns (Mike Rush) and Billy Cobb (Bond Davis).

Starns, born in a town close to

Heathen Valley, is an ex-convict janitor that becomes "learned" through the teachings of Billy, an orphan schooled by the bishop's church. Starns is ordained Deacon and acts as a guide for the journey into the mountains.

When they arrive, they meet Cora (Diane Hardner), Juba (Rebecca Wolford) and Harlan (Robert Connick). Harlan, who is plagued with witches and ghostly visions, has just shot his cousin Daniel in retaliation for Daniel shooting his wife/sister Margaret and his children. Cora is trying to persuade Harlan to give her their child Jean while Juba, the midwife, is preparing Daniel for burial.

The bishop is bold, confident of his religion and duty in life, something that the people in the valley can't understand. Starns acts as mediator, who tries to bridge the gap between the bishop and the people.

Left in charge of the missionary in Heathen Valley, Starns deals with "converting" the people by his own simple ways of understanding christian religion. He "civilizes" each character using their own personalities and ways of life, and as a result, the community prospers economically and spiritually the best way they know how for three years.

Unfortunately, the bishop is not satisfied with the changes he sees. He doesn't view life as Starns and the people of Heathen Valley do, and as a consequence,



A night at the Theatre: Heathen Valley opens tonight. It is a free preview for Behrend students. It runs November 3, 4, 9, 12 and 11 at 8 p.m. and November 5 and 12 at 2:30 p.m.

PEANUTS



by Charles M. Schulz



# Powder: Humanity surpasses technology

by Ryan Bogart  
Collegian Staff

The film "Powder" may not get a great review from the big names in Hollywood, but I've formed my own opinion. Sean Patrick Flannery plays Jeremy Reed (Powder), the teenager

whom all his life has been hidden by his grandparents on a farm. He is different than normal boys his age. He is an albino with no hair and great energetic powers. At birth, his mother was struck by lightning and died,

thus causing Powder to be born forcibly.

When he is born, his father is ashamed and leaves the hospital crying, "he's not my son." This comes back to haunt Powder. When his grandfather dies, Powder's whole life

changes. Jessica Caldwell, a psychologist from a mentally handicapped boys' school, takes him from the only place he knows is home.

The movie is set in a typical, small town in Texas, where everyone knows each other, which becomes the biggest problem for Powder. His first day in public school was a mental crushing experience. Students blatantly stopped in the hallways to look at him. This created a path lined with curious teens. He gets picked on, as any other "weird" kid in high school might, but the viewers tend to feel sorry for him.

Science class becomes a disaster when the science teacher, played by Jeff Goldblum, turns on an atomic generator. The electricity streams toward Powder, lifting him several feet off of his chair. Goldblum saves him by smashing the generator causing Powder to crash to the floor. This only adds to the humiliation which he goes through.

Powder has an amazing effect on people when he touches them. Goldblum says he feels like he's eighteen again, after he touches Powder to see if he's alright. This touch changes people forever.

He is all energy and this mystery is slowly unraveled throughout the movie. Goldblum

feel at that moment."

A powerful, touching and thought provoking play, the cast portrays their characters with passion and feeling. Robert Connick expressed his feelings of portraying Harlan. "It's just fun to be able to go up and act crazy in front of everybody and not have worry about anything."

The fall production begins tonight at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students.

MILK MEN BY BOB MARTIN

