

Newlyweds face in-laws

BEHREND-Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is presenting the opening performance of *Barefoot in the Park* on Friday, March 22 at 8 pm in the College's Studio Theater.

Directed by Tony Elliot, Penn State-Behrend theater director, the play is a Neil Simon comedy featuring optimistic newlywed Corie Bratter and her straight-laced husband Paul as they cope with their in-laws, wacky neighbors, and a tiny 6th floor walk-up in Manhattan.

Elliot states that "Simon is one of the most prolific and successful writers of comedic play in American theatre". His work over the past 40 years has often played on Broadway including the *Odd Couple* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. According to Elliot, the play was chosen because "Many students are not familiar with Simon and this will begin their education about this successful playwright."

The following is the cast of *Barefoot in the Park*: Conchita Dixon, a junior of Philadelphia,

Pa. as Corie Bratter; senior Brian Schaeffer of Kittaning, Pa. as the delivery person; senior Matt Milroth as Paul Bratter; Sue Hansen as Mrs. Banks; and freshman Greg Welsch as Victor Velasco.

Barefoot in the Park will be presented on Friday, March 22, Thursday, March 28, Friday, March 29, and Saturday, March 30 at 8 pm. Afternoon performances will be held on

Barefoot in the Park

presented on
Friday, March 22
Thursday, March 28
Friday, March 29
Saturday, March 30
 at 8:00 pm

Call 898-6016 for tickets/reservations!

Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 31 at 2:30 pm.

Tickets/reservations are available by calling 898-6016. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students.



Photo Courtesy of John Fontecchio

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK: From left to right, Sue Hansen as Mrs. Banks, Greg Welsch as Victor Velasco, Conchita Dixon as Corie Bratter and Matt Milroth as Paul Bratter are the lead characters in Neil Simon's comedy of an optimistic newlywed couple facing their in-laws.

Rainmaker best one yet!

by Jennifer V. Colvin
 Editor in Chief

I've read 'em all, and this is the best one yet! More than just compelling, John Grisham's number one bestseller *The Rainmaker* is definitely the best novel he's written yet.

The best part of this book is that it actually has humor in it. Grisham has added humor to his writing with witty main character Rudy Baylor; I found myself laughing more than once at him. But the story itself isn't funny.

In fact it's a nightmare - a nightmare of legal tactics, lying

insurance salesmen and bankruptcy.

Baylor, a law student, was to graduate and begin work at a prestigious Memphis law firm - that is until it burned down.

So instead, he finds himself graduating law school without a job, bankrupt and lost. His only hope is an insurance dispute....if only Baylor had a license to file it.

Studying to pass the bar exam, Baylor knocks on doors and hands out resumes. But the bar is the least of his worries.

He passes with flying colors and finally goes into business for

himself.

He suddenly finds himself in court for the first time with only a *paralawyer* (I didn't know what it was either) at his right.

To his left is the defense, a

to his story, Grisham concocts the perfect recipe for an excellent novel that will leave you (just like me) waiting for more.

The difference between this novel and Grisham's others is its

The Rainmaker is the best novel John Grisham has written yet!

corporate defense team with more than 54 years of experience combined - and Baylor with none. Adding a little bit of romance

pace; usually, readers find themselves caught in a race against time when reading novels like *The Firm* and *The Chamber*.

But in *The Rainmaker*, Grisham slows his pace.

The slower pace makes the book much more enjoyable and easier to read.

In addition, Grisham has left his tact for suspense novels behind and writes a story that truly captures the essence of graduating lawyer.

If you're looking for a book to fill some spare time, then check out the best novel Grisham has written yet: *The Rainmaker*.

Also out this month is Grisham's newest novel *The Runaway Jury*. Pick up a copy and let me know how it is.



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3rd Rock from the Sun

by Adria Kovaly
 Collegian Staff

Imagine a band of explorers transported to a world not of their own. Their mission: blend in, study the planet's inhabitants, and report their findings. No, not a rerun of "Star Trek," it's the new NBC comedy "3rd Rock from the Sun."

This latest offering from Carsey-Werner is about four aliens that have taken human forms in order to study the people of Earth. While the aliens themselves are an elite team, their human bodies and appearances cause them problems.

The high-commander is Dr. Dick Solomon (John Lithgow), who poses as a college Physics professor. Second in command is Sally (Kristen Johnston), Dick's "sister." She is your average twenty-something with only one set-back: she's really a man. Keeping an eye on our younger

generation is Tommy (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a 14-year old who is actually older than the others. Last is Harry (French Stewart), who is here on Earth just because "they had an extra seat."

Each show tends to center on a new aspect of our lives that the aliens pick up on, anywhere from wearing make-up to death, often everyday things we don't think about. While each situation bring about new experiences, complications, and blunders, there are constants in each show that add to the hilarity. Dick pines for his colleague, Dr. Albright (Jane Curtain) and deals with his students, neither of which know what to make of him half the time; Sally has to handle certain situations because she's "the woman;" Harry sort of blunders through his experiences; and as if his alien-human transfer wasn't bad enough, Tommy is

also going through puberty.

The humor in this show is hilarious, border-line criminal. When I watch, I often find myself saying, "Oh, is that bad!" after I stop laughing. For example, Sally declares herself to be Tommy's mother, to which a teacher replies, "I thought you were his sister." She storms out crying, "Mother, sister, what's the difference?" Harry trails, stating (almost proudly), "In our family, it's hard to tell."

The shock factor, caused by the alien's honesty and naivety, is what really makes you laugh - you can't believe anyone would do or say something as the aliens do, so you find it funny.

"3rd Rock" is great after a long day. Even though the aliens bring up valid ideas, the show only makes you think a little, which is great after a full day of research and test. It airs Tuesdays at 8:30 on NBC.