

Ronin: Nothing new Filmmaker Michael Moore speaks at Edinboro

By Jon Stubbs
features editor

In the recent MGM release, Robert DeNiro stars as a "masterless samurai," or as the Japanese would say, a Ronin. DeNiro stars as Sam, a former American intelligence agent that has been hired by an unknown organization to retrieve a very mysterious and very expensive suitcase. Along with Sam, the group has hired four other private contractors to retrieve the case.

Sam is befriended by another member of the team, Vincent, played by Jean Reno. Reno also played the traitor Franz Krieger in 1996's *Mission: Impossible*. Vincent is Sam's only true friend throughout the film; he is the one and only man who won't betray him.

Shooting for *Ronin* began on November 3, 1997, in an abandoned warehouse in Aubervilles, a suburb of Paris. The entire film was shot on location at various cities and towns

in France. The first of many car chases (they seem to constitute about 25% of the film) was shot in Old Nice.

Director John Frankenheimer, whose other credits of filmmaking in France include *Grand Prix*, *The Impossible Object*, and *French Connection*, remarks on his approach to filming *Ronin*. "This is a movie that had to have one style, and I have a very definite visual style. I wanted it to look a certain way, and I knew that the only way I could get exactly what I wanted was to do it myself." Sound mixer Bernard Bats, who has worked with Frankenheimer on several other films, comments on the director's obsession with perfection: "He's a man who is very precise and rapid, a very organized man who demands the same vigilance and reflexes from his collaborators."

Producer Frank Mancuso, Jr., boasts that "there is a gritty reality and sense of purpose behind the film." A "sense of purpose" is a little difficult to find, but "gritty reality" is forced upon the

audience. One example of this incredible reality is the hundreds of innocent bystanders that are slain by the team as well as their opposition. Is this realistic? Yes, it most likely is. If one were to use a rocket launcher in a crowded street or take part in a wrong-way car chase down a one-way street, people are going to die. But the director seems to have a fascination with it. Long sequences of nothing but extras being run over by trucks or motorists taking a 9 mm hollow point to the head are all examples of gritty reality, but are unnecessary to the film and are a turn-off to most audiences. Even Katarina Witt gets blown away.

Ronin has some really good action and even a plot that may be somewhat entertaining to follow. However, the script is unoriginal and there are a lot of loose ends that remain untied at the end of the movie. Save your \$5.75 and wait until *Ronin* comes out on video.

By Michael Coursey
staff writer

On September 23rd, writer/filmmaker Michael Moore gave a lecture at Edinboro University. Moore was a guest speaker for the start of Edinboro's Artist Speaker series. Moore is most famous for *Roger and Me* and *TV Nation*.

Roger and Me was his documentary about his hometown of Flint, Michigan, and its relationship with General Motors. He was inspired for the project when Roger Smith, chairman of General Motors, laid off 30,000 GM workers in Flint. This was a landmark documentary putting Michael Moore and Flint on the map.

He started the evening talking about the Monica Lewinsky affair and how ridiculous it was, and commented that it was just a Re-

publican conspiracy. He then went on to cite some paragraphs from his book, *The Big One*, and to discuss his secret passion for Hillary Clinton.

He showed clips of *TV Nation* before and during the lecture. Moore also showed clips of Newt Gingrich and remarked on how his district has received four billion dollars in federal aid for projects and defense-related industry including Martin-Marrietta. He also showed clips of Nazis, skinheads, and KKK rallies.

He talked about all of the politics that go into the censoring of shows like his from the networks, being that he was canceled from the NBC and Fox Networks.

One of his most interesting clips was when Jeanne Garafalo, of SNL fame took a busload of inner-city, working class New Yorkers, to an

upper-crust beach in Greenwich, Connecticut. Even though it was a public beach, the beach was for the use of residents only, and they were turned away. Undaunted, they took a boat one mile off-shore and then took rowboats towards the shore. About 500 yards from shore the Coast Guard and local shore police intervened and demanded they stop. Garafalo and others jumped in the water and swam to shore, where they were accosted by the "clammy" residents.

He later commented on his disgust of Rush Limbaugh and other Republicans. He ended the night by saying he only had a year of college at The University of Michigan-Flint, and was a self-taught filmmaker. He advised to aspiring filmmakers that "nobody will buy your script" and to "follow your heart and passion."

Band and BBQ bash a success

By Mark Greenback
associate editor

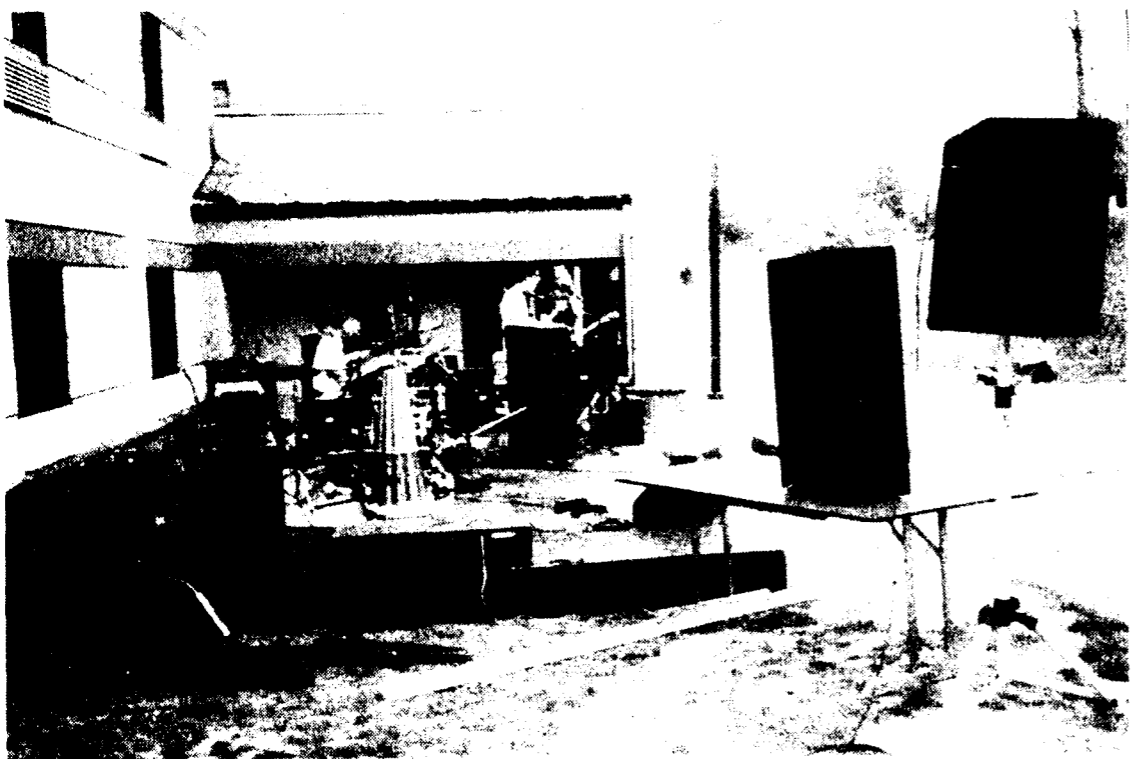
Do you feel there is never anything to do on the weekends here at Behrend? Then perhaps you missed the Band and BBQ Bash outside the suites this past Saturday. From 3:30-7:30 p.m. students were treated to food, live music from two different bands, and a chance to forget about classes for a while.

The students who attended were awarded a rare dining experience of free food, and while the food was provided by Housing and Food Services, it was still good. Providing the entertainment for the day were two live bands playing outside of Porcu-

pine Hall. The first band was a trio of Behrend students who go by the name Busdriver. With their alternative rock sound, Busdriver put on an entertaining two and a half hour show, often making fun of themselves and getting a good laugh from the audience. The Moonshine Band from Edinboro was the second act to go on that day. Their classic rock sound and playing style brought The Moonshine Band a decent-sized crowd, and they played until forced to stop due to a lack of daylight.

So who helped this whole program come together? Through the efforts of several Residence Life staff members, Pery Hall and the Suites Hall Councils, and a few other key in-

dividuals, this little party was brought to life. A great deal of appreciation was sent out to Jason Ruhlman and Celene Yanosko for the use of their vehicles in assisting with the transportation of equipment and supplies. Also special thanks went to Scott Poole who provided his own audio equipment, and a vast amount of time and expertise toward the program. Those who planned this event were pleased with the turnout of about 150 people. While some criticisms were that the food ran out too early, and that the food line seemingly never moved, all who attended enjoyed the event overall and welcomed the chance to do something a bit different that day.



A band plays during last Saturday's Band and BBQ Bash outside of Tiffany Hall.

photo by Andrea Zaffino



Filmmaker/Author Michael Moore signs copies of his book at Edinboro after his presentation.

photo by Michael Coursey

Show your spirit for Behrend

By Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Behrend athletics office will be holding their second Spirit Day of the fall sports season this Saturday, October 3. The women's volleyball team will host Frostburg in Erie Hall at 1:00. Attendance is strongly encouraged as promotions will take place and prizes can be won.

The first 25 students to sign in will

receive a free "We've Got The Spirit" t-shirt. Students can only sign in for the shirt 15-30 minutes before the match. Bruno's will sponsor the Bruno's Pizza Serve Contest in which students in attendance will have the chance to win a free pizza. Any student that can serve the volleyball onto a pizza box will receive a free pizza from Bruno's.

Behrend's first Spirit Day of the year took place on September 19

where the first 75 students in attendance were given t-shirts. There was free food and many promotions such as a corner kick, throw in, and a goal kick contest. The cross-country, soccer, and tennis teams all played which made the day even more enjoyable.

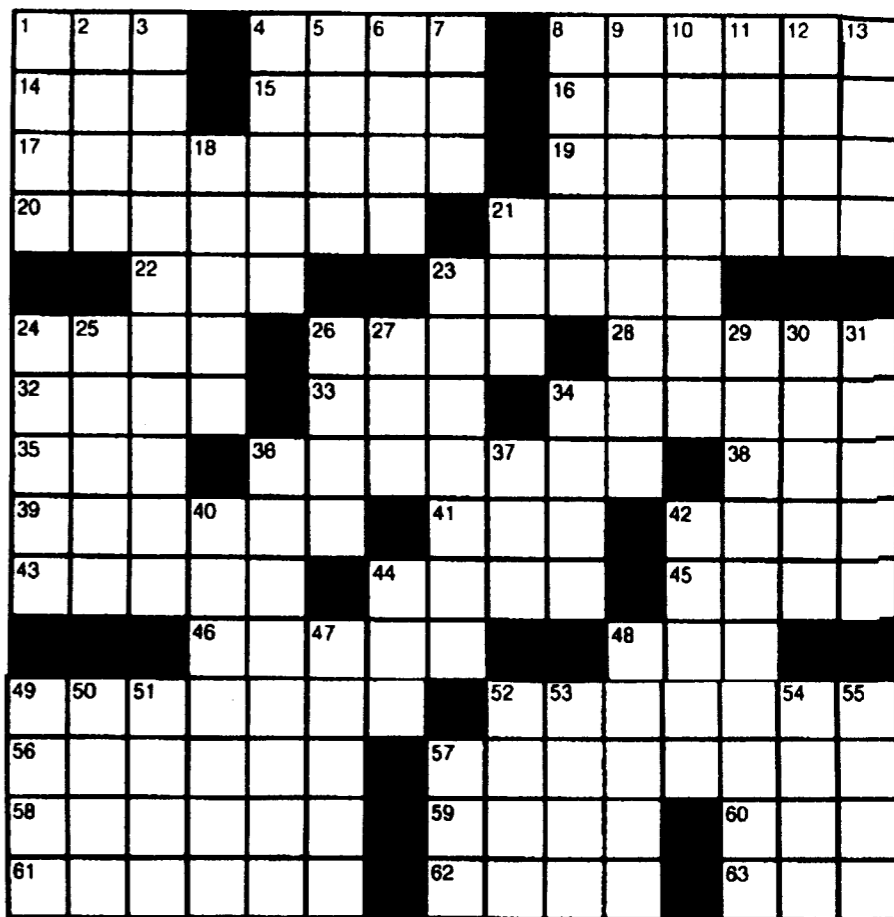
Keep an eye out for upcoming Spirit Days and come and join the fun. Home games are free with your student ID.

ACROSS

- 1 Corn holder
- 4 Spanish ___
- 8 Extreme panic
- 14 Paddle
- 15 Dueling sword
- 16 Lake near Utica
- 17 Wingtip adjunct
- 19 Skiing challenge
- 20 Mine passages
- 21 Frighteners
- 22 Final letter
- 23 Puppeteer Lewis
- 24 Stalk
- 26 Top of the head
- 28 No-see-ums
- 32 Relaxed
- 33 Pub offering
- 34 Greek sea
- 35 Kernel
- 36 Edgeless swords
- 38 ___ Grande
- 39 "Wall Street" co-star
- 41 ___ "King" Cole
- 42 Grain depository
- 43 Ghostly
- 44 Tennis units
- 45 Disguise
- 46 Computer insert
- 48 Wiggly catch
- 49 Painted the town red
- 52 Jean Arp or Man Ray
- 56 WWII subs
- 57 Perform at Cypress Gardens
- 58 Group of seven
- 59 School on the Thames
- 60 Malleable metal
- 61 Knights' chargers
- 62 Hoover and Aswan
- 63 Farm enclosure

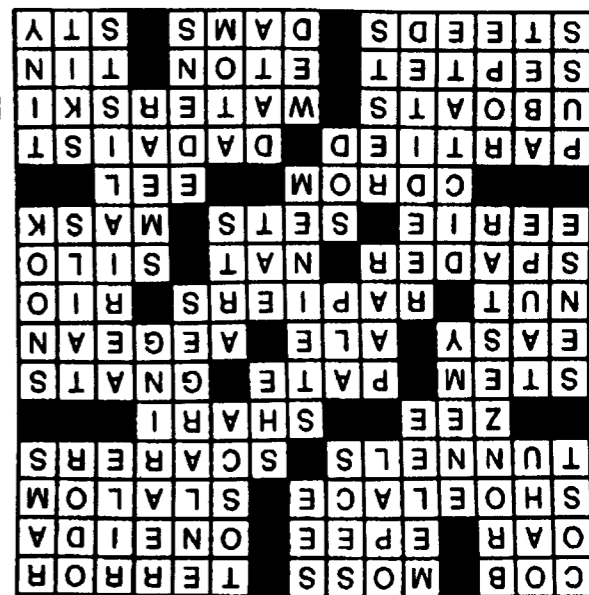
DOWN

- 1 Price
- 2 Honolulu's island
- 3 Decoration for valor
- 4 Donnybrook
- 5 Australian gemstone
- 6 Brief times
- 7 Observe
- 8 Puccini opera
- 9 Gets bigger
- 10 Standing on hind legs
- 11 Stir up
- 12 Aroma
- 13 Collides on purpose
- 18 Foe
- 21 That woman
- 23 Feminist Gloria
- 24 Self-perception
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- 27 High mount
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- 30 Coin-toss call
- 31 Sergeant fish
- 34 Well-practiced skills
- 36 Made additional cuts
- 37 Snack
- 40 Command



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- 42 Engage in mudslinging
- 44 Grassy ground
- 47 Break times
- 48 Idyllic gardens
- 49 Cat in boots
- 50 Aid in
- wrongdoing
- 51 Lasso
- 52 Facts
- 53 Small particle
- 54 Sketch
- 55 Diminutive
- 57 Make one

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