

Beloved: Better book than movie

by Jon Stubbs
features editor

Co-produced by and starring Oprah Winfrey, *Beloved* is the story of an emancipated slave woman trying to free herself from the terrifying memories of her slave life. The film is set in a rural area just outside of Cincinnati in 1873, during the reconstruction years. There, in a small farmhouse left to her by her mother-in-law, lives Sethe (Winfrey), a former slave. Sethe lives with her daughter, Denver (Kimberly Elise), in this haunted little house on the prairie. Then comes Paul D, played by Danny Glover, who is an acquaintance of Sethe's departed husband. Paul D is quickly accepted by Sethe into the household, where he helps Sethe deal with her haunting memories of her past life.

Cincinnati-born author Toni Morrison wrote the novel which *Be-*

loved was drawn from. She was inspired by the story of a real slave woman named Margaret Garner who escaped from Kentucky to Cincinnati with her children. It was from Garner's real-life experiences that Sethe's character was based. The storyline for the film was powerful and captivating. It brings the pain felt by the characters right into the viewer's lap. The characters are very realistic, almost tangible. Winfrey and Glover produce very admirable work, and their contributions to this film are no exception. However, all this aside, the film was a complete bore. The film seems to drag on without any end in sight; and then just when the audience is thinking it is about to be relieved from the picture, it drags on a little more. Finally it comes to a halt at an almost unbearable 2 hours and 52 minutes. It doesn't feel right to condemn a

film with such an important theme and such a genuine and original plot. *Beloved* is adapted for the screen from the novel written by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, the film stars Academy Award nominee Oprah Winfrey, and is directed by the Oscar-winning director, Jonathan Demme. So with good writing, emotion and tons of talent, how could a movie go wrong? For the answer one must contradict one of the most influential filmmakers of all time. Stanley Kubrick once said, "If it can be written, or thought, it can be filmed." This is apparently not the case with *Beloved*. The story of Sethe can be told much better through words than pictures and sound. Only those who have read the book and loved it should see this film and compare it to Morrison's novel. Those who really want to experience Sethe's life should consider reading the book before they consider seeing

Behrend Remembered on sale in Penn State Behrend bookstore

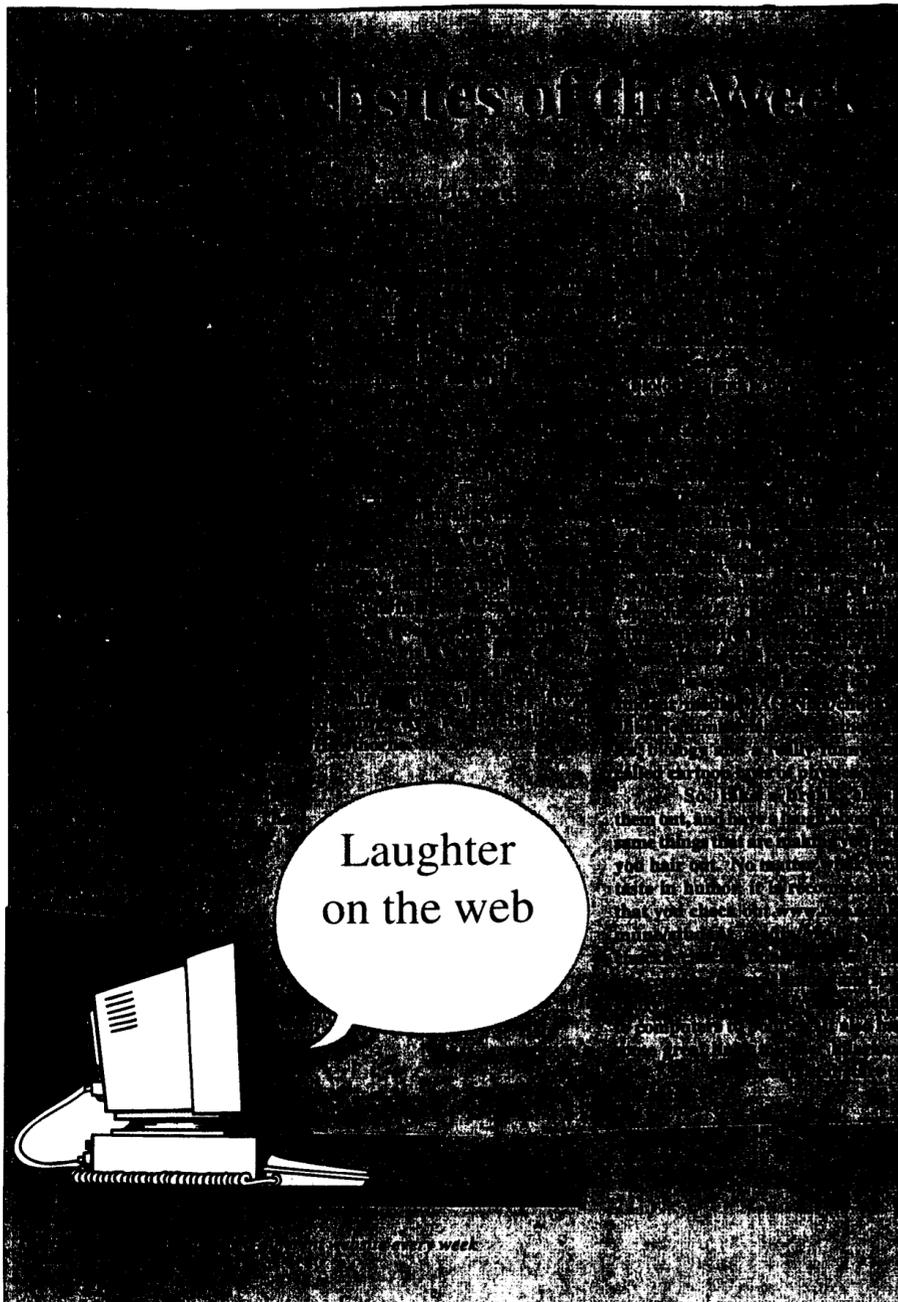
By David Young
staff writer

Behrend Remembered, an informal history that explores the 50 years of Penn State Erie, has been published as part of the College's 50th anniversary celebration.

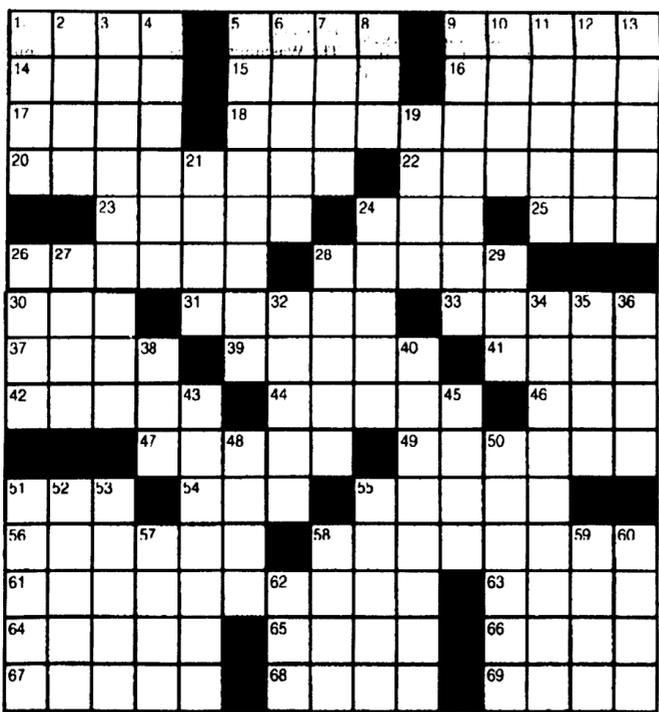
Written by Benjamin A. Lane, associate professor of English emeritus and former dean of students, the volume is filled with photographs and personal memories of those who built the institution. The book begins with the lives of Ernst and Mary Behrend, whose Glenhill Farm estate provided the setting for Penn State's presence

in Erie. Lane continues with a review of the early years of the College, when it was simply a center of Penn State, and its evolution to a four-year, degree-granting school. Some interesting photography throughout the book shows what life at Behrend has been like over the years. I suggest checking out the hot outfits on page 43 modeled by some of Behrends former students. Or take a look at former Behrend students enjoying the pool on page 100. This is an interesting picture considering that the pool was completely renovated in 1996, but is still not open to students.

Lane wrote the book as a gift to the college and has given the copyright for *Behrend Remembered* to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. "Penn State Behrend has been very good to me since I came here in 1954," replied Lane. "This is one way that I can give something back to the College." *Behrend Remembered* (Penn State Erie, \$14.95) may be purchased at the Penn State Behrend Bookstore and at the Erie County Historical Society. Several book signings will be scheduled during the 50th Anniversary year.



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- 5 Settles decisively
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- 45 Thailand, once
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- Schenkel
- 57 Subway station
- 58 Manage
- 59 Costa
- 60 Junior branch?
- 62 Excessive drinker

- DOWN**
- 1 Bar bills
 - 2 Sandwich cookie
 - 3 Kindly intended
 - 4 Country

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