

International Scholar makes home at Behrend

by Rob Wynne
associate editor

Dr. Pavel Zemcik, Behrend's first international scholar to live on campus, has finally moved in. Zemcik, a faculty member in the Department of Science and Engineering at the Technical University in Brno, Czech Republic, plans to participate in research with faculty and students during the spring semester.

In addition to reasearch, Zemcik will also be teaching CMPSC 201 (computer programming) an area he is very well versed in, and EE BD 473 (digital signal processing). Both are areas that people are becoming rapidly interested in. In the liberal arts

area, Zemcik may lecture on Eastern European Politics as well.

Zemcik, who is only 35, brings with him a long list of credentials. He has taught at schools like the University of Bristol and the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom and at Lappeenranta University of Technology in Finland. His areas of research are in human-machine communication, and real-time imaging. He explained that Behrend and Czech students are pretty much on the same level technologically, but it is the students' social life after classes that is "a bit more interesting" than in the Czech Republic, he told a staff writer from the Erie Daily Times.

Hopefully, with all of this teaching

and research going on, Zemcik will have time to spend with his family, who will be moving in with him in February. He has a wife and two sons, ages 6 and 2. He will also be meeting up with an old colleage, Otto Fucik, who is a full-time faculty member here at Behrend. Fucik was the one who explained the program to his friend.

Zemcik is the first of many planned international scholars to live on campus. The schools of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Science will all have opportunities to work with an international scholar at some time or another in order to benefit all of the students at Behrend.

Behrend looks into Long-Distance Dads program

by Shannon Weber
news editor

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) recently gave the Center for Organizational Research and Evaluation (CORE) at Behrend a \$145,200 grant. This funding will allow CORE to conduct an 18-month evaluation of the Long-Distance Dads program at the State Correctional Institute at Albion. This evaluation began January 1, 2000, and will end June 30, 2001.

The Long-Distance Dads program is a 12-week educational curriculum intended to help men in prison develop skills to become better fathers. Dr. Randall Turner, who heads the Father's workshop of the Erie School District's Family Center, developed the program's concept.

"Long-Distance Dads is currently in use by seven other prisons in Pennsylvania," said Dr. Kimberly Skarupski, associate director of CORE, assistant professor of psychology at Behrend, and lead investigator in the evaluation project, "and is being considered for use across the country. The results of CORE's evaluations will be important as other areas consider adopting the program."

Any prisoner is eligible to participate in the program except prisoners that have committed offenses against children.

The format of the program has participants meet weekly in small groups that are facilitated by peer leaders, who are other prisoners that have been trained to facilitate discussions. In each group session, participants use worksheets to

encourage fathers to consider questions of moral character and to develop skills that help them become more involved and supportive fathers.

The fathers graduate and receive a certificate of attendance after the 12-week period. The evaluation will have four phases which will include: interviews with prison staff, interviews with program participants, observation of the small groups, and a review of written records to make sure that the program and its participants are meeting expectations.

The PCCD has asked CORE to also conduct a telephone survey of all Pennsylvania prisons to compile a list of other fathering programs. This evaluation is intended to observe how the phases are implemented, how the process is working as well as where the barriers and problems in process are.

SAFER SEX CABARET

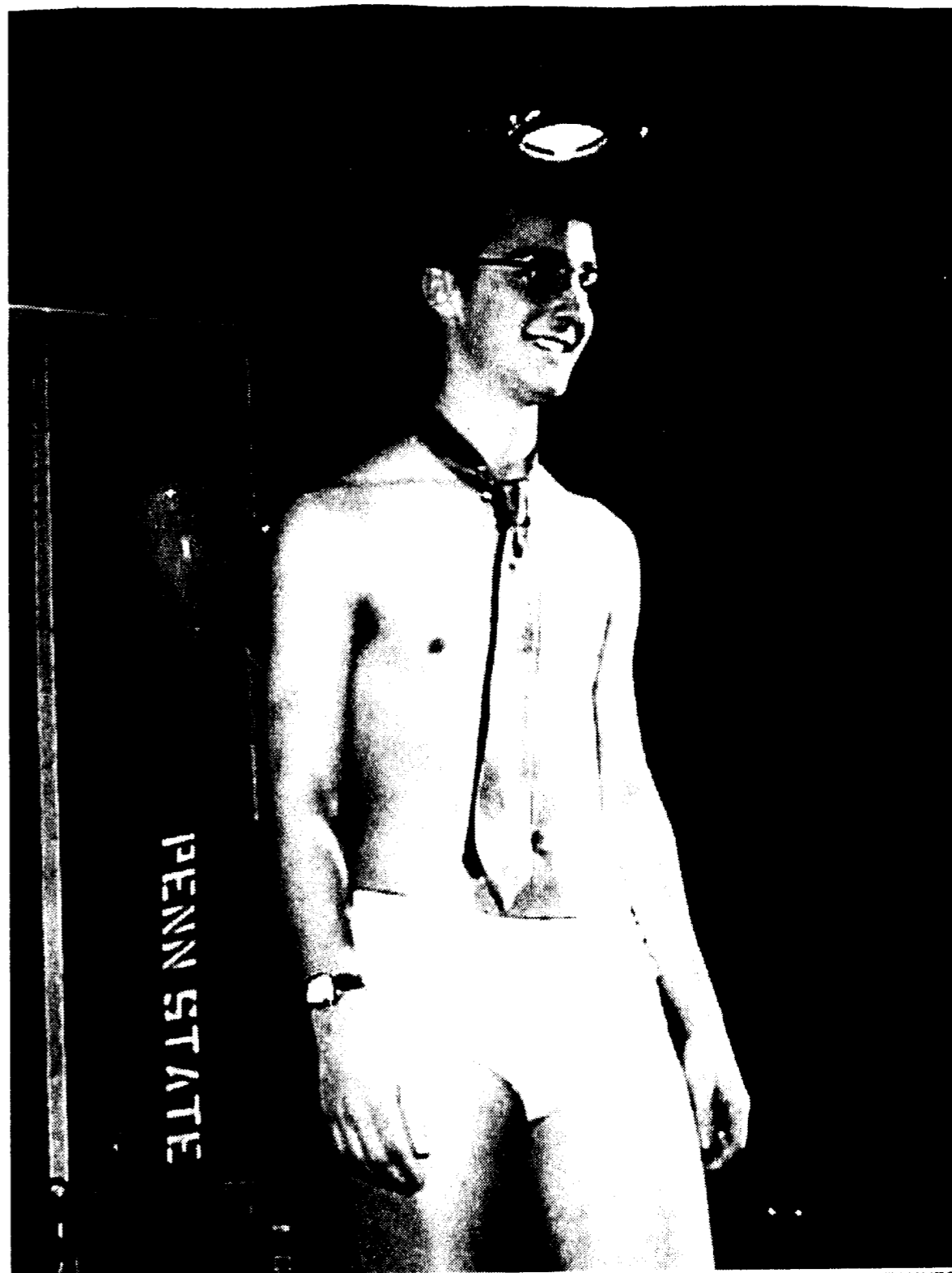


PHOTO BY LIZ HAYES

Trigon presented "The Eroticizing Safer Sex Cabaret: Third Time Is a Charm, An Evening Devoted to HIV Prevention" on Thursday, January 27th. During the "Forbidden Passion" segment of the cabaret, Christian Darling poses in his underwear. A full article on the Cabaret will be in next week's *Beacon*.

**VOTE FOR MATT
WIERTEL ON FEB.
2ND OR 3RD**

Paid for by the committee to elect Matt Wiertel

A Spirit Station is coming...

This Wednesday, look for a Spirit Station sponsored by MCC and Reality Check. The Spirit Station will be located in the Reed Union Building from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DO YOU WANT TO WIN \$500?

Sign up before halftime at the basketball games for your chance to win the \$500 half-court shot!

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**Behrend students receive
awards for art at First Night
Erie 2000**

1st Prize

Michael Pennington, DUS
Glowing Paper

2nd Prize

Amanda McFarland, PSHBA
A Father's Hand

3rd Prize

David Frye, EETBD
Shady Ghetto

Honorable Mention

Joanne Maionne - DUS
Thom Cuneo - EETBD
Richard Hunter - GAS

"I am delighted that my students did so well at First Night Erie. Behrend students just do exceptional work!"

- Karol Tomczak