

Undies, and lubes, and condoms, oh my!

by Katie Galley and Liz Hayes
editorial page editor and news co-editor

Sex, masturbation, and edible body paints were some of the topics covered last Thursday night, January 27, at the "Eroticizing Safer Sex Cabaret: Third Time is a Charm: An Evening devoted to HIV Prevention." This is the third year in a row that Trigon has presented the Cabaret to Behrend students, and this year marked the largest turnout thus far. Over 100 people crammed into the Studio Theatre to learn more about safer sex from students, faculty, and community members.

A wide variety of presentations were performed, ranging from the serious to the entertaining. The evening began with a guitar-accompanied solo performed by a leather-clad Dr. John Champagne, assistant professor of English, which immediately got the audience's

attention and peeked its interest.

After the introduction, an informative presentation on aphrodisiacs followed. The demonstration was fairly in-depth and included samples of chocolate, fortune cookies, and guacamole for the audience.

One of the evening's highlights followed the aphrodisiac presentation: the Forbidden Fashion show. About eight students participated, displaying a variety of undergarments and sleeping apparel for the audience. The show even included appropriate music and announcers.

Other events included Romance in the Bath Tub, a presentation on some of the body products available for bathing enjoyment and relaxation; Dirty Dancing, a swing dance lesson presented by Dr. Champagne; Body Art, an informative exhibition on types of body piercing and body painting (which included some graphic photos of pierced genitalia

and elicited quite a response from the audience); and Masturbation, a speech on the viewpoints many have on the taboo topic.

One of the more informative-yet-enjoyable presentations given was Condoms and Dental Dams, presented in part by a representative from the Erie Family Health Council. This presentation included a humorous skit by two Behrend students. Following the skit, the health council representative demonstrated how to use a condom on Woody, the wooden penis she had brought with her for the occasion. She also told the audience how to use a dental dam. This presentation included more handouts for those in attendance.

Afterward, Dr. Champagne spoke to the crowd on the uses and brands of lubrication. He even pulled up a few members from the audience to test the effectiveness of various brands of lube, on their hands, of course. He also attempted to make

his own lubrication on stage, though he wasn't exactly successful.

The evening was certainly informative, but it was also entertaining and enjoyable for all who participated. "I thought it would be educational and boring, but it was like a play," said student Mary Kerch. Another Behrend student, Melissa Proba, stated, "They were definitely able to keep the audience's attention, especially when they included us in the demonstrations."

If the topic of sex wasn't enough to entice people to attend, the free gifts and drawings for prizes were. "I especially liked the free gifts," said student Megan Zuschlag. Almost everyone in attendance received a gift basket at the end of the night that included samples of lubricants, condoms, and dental dams. During the show there were drawings for gift baskets and boxes of chocolates.

Mad Cow Disease highlighted for students at monthly science lecture

by Kristen Sedlak
staff writer

Mad Cow Disease, its origin and its possible threat to humans, was the topic of the School of Science's monthly lecture, held on Thursday, January 27, 2000. Dr. James Warren, an assistant professor of biology at Behrend, was the featured speaker for the event.

Scientifically known as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, "Mad Cow Disease" can affect the bovine brain and spinal chord, causing holes to develop. It is suspected that the disease can be transmitted to humans, although there are known hereditary diseases which are similar and can be mistaken for Mad Cow Disease. Symptoms include gradual loss of coordination and poor eyesight, and they may eventually lead to death.

Mad Cow Disease is said to have been the cause of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in humans, which killed several British people during an epidemic between 1995 and 1996 and led to the destruction of millions of animals — the United Kingdom's entire stock of beef cattle. This was also the cause of a ban on the export of British beef to any other country a few years ago, as well as current restrictions.

It was suspected that the development of this disease was due to the process of rendering — the feeding of ground up animal parts to farm animals. Rendering went on for many years, but was finally banned by the United States in 1997, after it was determined that the infected cows had acquired their illness from eating rendered sheep carrying

scrapie, a similar disease.

Although rendering has been banned and there are no known cases of Mad Cow Disease in the United States at this time, Dr. Warren suggests that industry and consumers alike should still be concerned.

"I think the possibility is very real that what happened in the United Kingdom could happen here. We need to be very careful and learn from their mistakes," cautions Warren. Dr. Warren also spoke about a disease known as Kuru, or "the laughing death," which is an ailment found among cannibals in New Guinea. Following the death of one of their warriors, it was discovered that the spread of Kuru was due to the cannibalistic rituals.

The extensive study of Kuru, which began in the 1950s, gave scientists powerful ammunition and a good background when Mad Cow Disease was discovered, Dr. Warren explained.

However, because the incubation period of Mad Cow Disease and other related diseases is long, research has been difficult. There is no known cure, and the research process is slow-going. And though there are numerous scientists working on the problem, answers are so far away in the future that Dr. Warren's warning becomes very real.

The large audience received the lecture well, and was very eager to participate. At the end of his presentation Dr. Warren added that there is an official Mad Cow Disease Web site for those interested in learning more about the disease, located at www.mad-cow.org.



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Erie Hall cont. from front page

Raising the money was a relatively quick process, however the construction of the building took four years to complete. The dedication of Erie Hall took place in May 1952 by Milton S. Eisenhower, Penn State's president. The building was named Erie Hall because funding for the facility was made by the citizens of Erie.

Although the basketball court was completed, the bleachers, lockers, showers and offices lagged behind. By the end of the year, dressing room facilities were completed due to the volunteer efforts of the faculty.

The building was used as an open space that students could use for dances. The gymnasium was often times decorated heavily for the events, and once featured a working carousel at a Christmas Dance.

The popularity of Erie Hall as a place to hold dances grew in years

to come. Local high schools would often times hold their school proms in the gymnasium.

Behrend dances continued to grow in popularity for years to come, until the 1960s when dance styles changed, and school dances became less of an enjoyable event. Still today, Erie Hall holds classes for different types of dance including aerobic dance, ballroom dancing, and modern dance, and is the practice facility for the Behrend dance team.

Erie Hall has since been the home of the Behrend Lions basketball teams. Intramural events still take place in the facility, as well as the location for speeches made by public figures. Most recent was political satirist Al Franken.

When activities that are currently held in Erie Hall are moved to the new Athletic Recreational Center (ARC) next fall, the role of Erie Hall

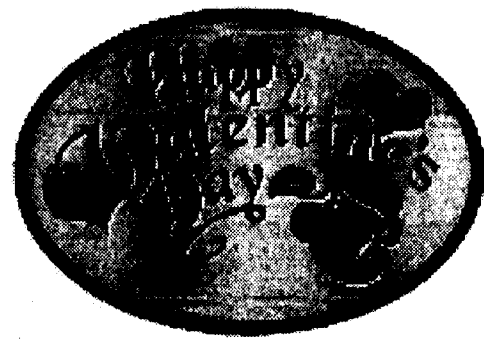
will change.

"The future of Erie Hall is still up in the air," said Acting Dean of Student Affairs Ken Miller. Miller hopes that it will serve the function of an auxiliary gym that students can use for pick-up basketball games.

The downstairs will open up with the coaches' offices also being moved to the ARC. Those offices could turn into offices for the faculty currently in trailers.

The final competitive event in Erie Hall could be on February 16, as the Behrend basketball teams host Pitt-Greensburg. If the Lions win the regular season Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference title, they will host the AMCC Tournament later this month.

The nets could get cut down in Erie Hall for the last time if the Lions win the conference tournament.



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