

Ten Little Indians premieres at the Penn State Erie Studio Theatre

by Jermaine Hardy
features co-editor

What would you do if you were trapped on an island with nine strangers who mysteriously began to die, one by one? It really makes you think, huh? The question may perplex you even more when you consider that there is a poem that prophesizes the ways in which each person will die. How would you cope as the group of strangers on this island becomes smaller and smaller, leaving you trapped in a state of paranoia and confusion? Every one becomes a homicidal suspect, even you. What would you do? "Ten Little Indians" is a play that might raise some of these questions and help you better consider an answer.

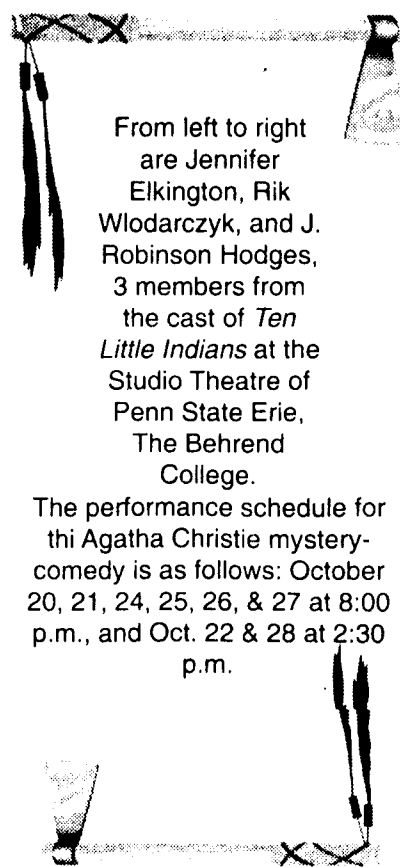
"Ten Little Indians" is a production presented by The Penn State Erie Studio Theatre & Matchbox Players, based on a



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mystery-comedy by Agatha Christie. Performed by students and faculty of the Behrend College, the play puts 10 strangers on an island for a retreat at the Owens home. While the guests

have never met one another, none of them have ever met their host either. The tale becomes even more twisted as we find that neither have the household servants ever met the Owens. In the midst of trying to find



From left to right are Jennifer Elkington, Rik Wlodarczyk, and J. Robinson Hodges, 3 members from the cast of *Ten Little Indians* at the Studio Theatre of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

The performance schedule for the Agatha Christie mystery-comedy is as follows: October 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, & 27 at 8:00 p.m., and Oct. 22 & 28 at 2:30 p.m.

out why their host never shows up, the strangers find themselves persecuted about despicable acts, which they have committed in the past. The accusations all come from a voice on an audio-tape, which the absent Mr. Owens directed his servants to play. As the guests become baffled about the accusations they hear, the madness ensues. The "first little Indian," as the "Ten Little Indian" poem on the wall prophesizes, takes a drink and chokes to death. This event shakes up the entire group, as each "little Indian" is picked off one by one. With no boat or telephone available to take them home, they are left with two choices; that is to sit and wait on their fate or to find who the killer is.

Directed by Tony Elliot, the production is suspenseful and shock-filled. The mystery tugs at

the curiosity of the audience to the point at which audience members approach the stage during the intermission to read the "Ten Little Indians" poem, in order to get a clue as to who will die next and perhaps who the killer is. The setting's atmosphere is considerably creepy, from its dim lighting scheme to its gory soundtrack. This setting, meshed with the murderous imagery portrayed by the cast, makes for a compelling theater experience.

Each cast member does a swell job of maintaining 10 characters with completely different personalities. These different personalities, which range from the cool surfer type to the classy court judge, make the play more interesting as well as comedic. I recommend that all students and faculty make it their business to see this play.

Art Garfunkel makes it funky at the Warner Theater

by Erin McCarty
staff writer

On Thursday, October 5, I was one of 1800 people blessed to spend the evening at the Warner Theater enveloped in the warm glow of the music of Art Garfunkel. The 58-year-old crooner opened the 17-song set with "El Condor Pasa," a Simon and Garfunkel hit. He supplemented that by singing "All I Know," his first chart-topping solo song. This made for an evening of Simon and Garfunkel standards that have become an integral part of the American psyche. However, Garfunkel also performed solo material that demonstrated his artistic sensitivity and gave insight into the life he has led since he broke up with Paul Simon thirty years ago.

Looking out over the cozy audience

populating the Warner Theater, "the old pop warrior" chatted comfortably about such subjects as his movie career, the breakup of Simon and Garfunkel, the upcoming election, *That Thing You Do*, and his uncooperative microphone. He listed his five favorite songwriters, disclosed the autobiographical nature of "Skywriter," and spoke fondly of his "lovely nine-and-a-half year-old son." There was no intermission, but he got a break when drummer Tommy Igoe launched into a rollicking ten-minute drum solo during "Cecilia," and again when guitarist Eric Weissberg and pianist Warren Bernhardt faced off for a dizzying rendition of "Dueling Banjos."

Garfunkel's first remark to the

audience was, "Well, I arrived with a lot less hair than you expected." Yes, the trademark frizzy fringe of golden hair has slipped towards the back of his head, but the golden voice is every bit as ethereal as it was when he first wowed the world with "Bridge Over Troubled Water." He saved his signature song for his grand finale. The power behind those final words was so intense that a five-minute standing ovation seemed inadequate. Other highlights of the show included the tender, "The Things We've Handed Down," from the Grammy-nominated *Songs from a Parent to a Child*, the eerily calming "Bright Eyes," from the animated film *Watership Down*, and Paul Simon's despairing "American Tune," performed with the melody of a well-known hymn. Garfunkel returned for two encores, first nostalgically

revisiting "Kathy's Song" and "The Sound of Silence," then closing the concert with "Goodnight, My Love," a song from his childhood.

As one of the couple dozen people who had an opportunity to meet this amazing man after the show, I was able to see firsthand that the kindness and graciousness he radiates on stage are every bit as present in face-to-face conversation. The concert itself was a manifestation of his generous spirit, as part of the proceeds went to Catholic Charities. While we, in the audience, will treasure the time we were transported into another realm for an all too brief hour and a half, the people who will benefit financially from his magnanimity will feel the lingering echoes of Garfunkel's presence in Erie far into the future.



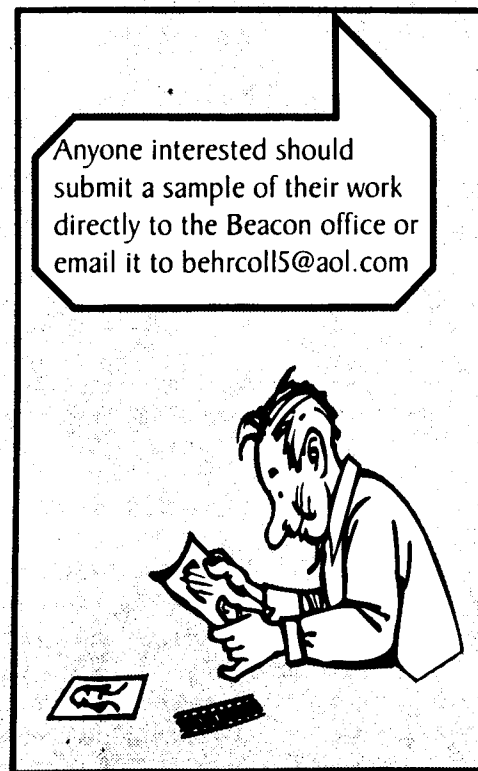
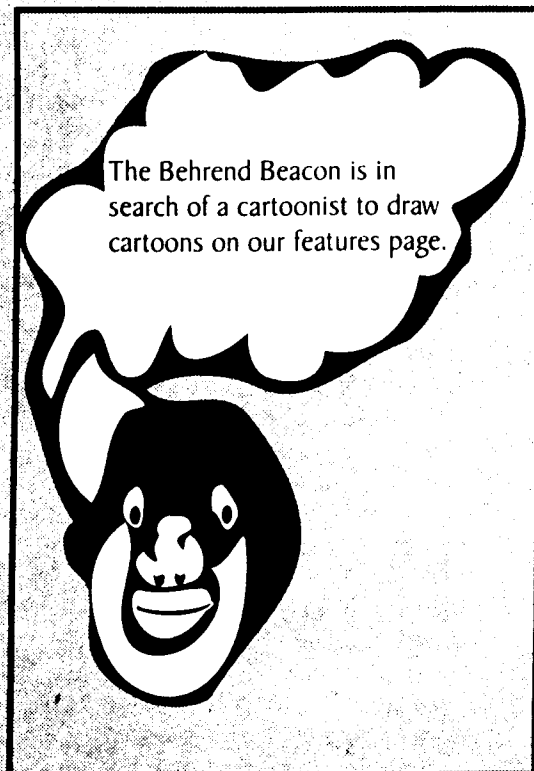
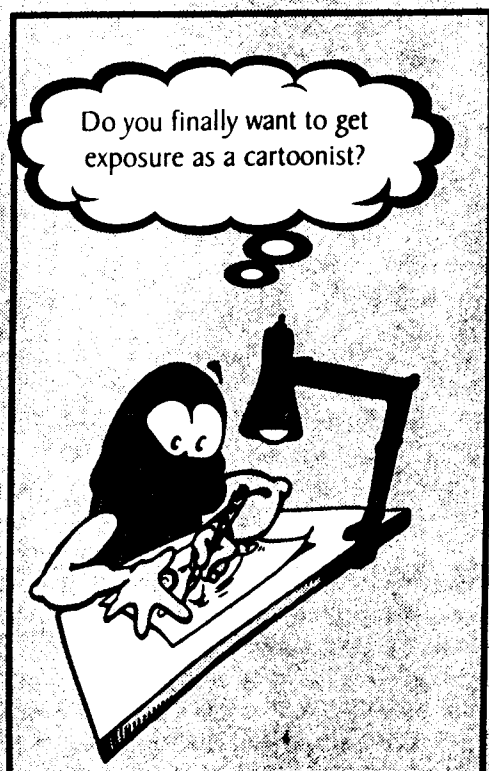
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Contest Rules

Any Behrend student can submit a 300-500 word story about a road trip they have taken since the end of the spring 2000 semester. The trip must be more than 150 miles from the original location. A photo must accompany entry with sufficient proof that the trip was made. Insufficient proof will lessen chances to win contest. If more than one student took part in the road trip, only the student submitting the story is eligible, unless all members send name in with entry. If more than one student name appears on entry, prize will be divided amongst the students who entered. Send in entries as soon as possible to ensure publication in the Beacon. Only entries appearing in the Beacon will be voted on. Beacon members are ineligible and will vote on the winner.

Attention all cartoonists:



Happenings in Erie

October 21

Charles Mingus Big Band Blues and Politics Tour, Mercyhurst College Mary D' Angelo Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m.

One World Tribe CD Release Party, at the Dockside, 10:00 p.m.

October 25

Logan Wintergarden Series, Cypress String Quartet, Penn State Behrend Reed Union Building, 12:00 p.m.

October 26

Creative Writers Speaker Series, Poetry and nonfiction reading by Margaret Gibson and David McKain, Penn State Behrend Reed Lecture Hall, 7:00 p.m.

