

BEHREND BRIEFS

Management 480 students to host International Dinner

Students taking Management 480, Behrend's class on International Management currently led by Jana Goodrich, will present the class' International Dinner on Sunday, April 8. The event will take place in the Reed Commons, beginning with a reception at 6:00 p.m. and promptly followed by a dinner at 7:00 p.m. This year's dinner, which will be concentrating on Asian countries, will include music, student presentations, and a demonstration of taekwon do. Those wishing to obtain a ticket, which costs \$8, should contact Denise Cressly at dcc151@psu.edu.

Behrend beckons with *Babes in Arms*

When the Rodgers and Hart musical, *Babes in Arms*, opened on Broadway in 1937, it was about a group of kids who plan to put on a show in a barn. When it opens at Penn State Behrend on March 21, it will be about a group of kids who plan to put on a show in a gym — Penn State Behrend's newly dedicated Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC). The Behrend production is scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday, March 21-24, at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (814) 898-6242.

Athletics Director Brian Streeter was equally enthusiastic about using the ARC for the show.

"The ARC is a multi-purpose facility for student and community use," said Streeter. "Tony [Elliot] and I started planning this event last August, because we knew that presenting *Babes in Arms* would demonstrate the building's versatility, and it would bring more people on campus to see this great new facility."

Babes in Arms focuses on the fun, frustrations, and romances of a group of college-age would-be actors and actresses at a summer theatre in New England. When their tyrannical producer works them so hard that they never have a chance to showcase their talents, the group decides to produce their own show on their own time.

While the plot of *Babes in Arms* is simple, the music is not. The show contains some of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart's most memorable and time-tested songs: *Where or When, I Wish I Were in Love Again, My Funny Valentine, Johnny One Note, and The Lady is a Tramp*. Dr. Gary Viebranz, who heads the college's instrumental music programs, will oversee the orchestra for the show, and Dr. Dan Barnard, head of choral music programs, will oversee the vocalists. Behrend graduate Geoff Bach will choreograph the dance numbers.

Babes in Arms will feature a talented cast that includes students, staff, and members of the community. Thad Esek of South Park, Pennsylvania, plays Valentine White, leader of the theatre apprentices. He is pursued by Susie Ward, played by Mary Beaumont of Harborcreek. Chrissy Paone of Erie takes the part of Jennifer Owen, the former child star who turns all the boys' heads, and Erie resident Liz Kelly plays Phyllis, Jennifer's mom.

Leo Hanley of Pittsburgh and Andrea Rodriguez of Erie play apprentices Gus and Terry, who are comically in and out of love throughout the show. Stephen Merritt of Cochranton is Lee Calhoun, the southern playwright, and Michael Stephenson of York plays theatre producer Steve Edwards.

Dan Schiesser, Behrend's director of Residence Life, is featured as Seymour Fleming, the tyrannical producer, and Rebecca Wolford plays Bunny, his assistant. Other cast members who serve as summer theatre apprentices are Mike Kupniewski, Jessica Dows, Steve Johnston, Tricia Michel, Tony DiPlacido, James Washburn, Steve Finch, Nam Haeng Song, Jeanine Noce, Rob Kearns, and Nathan Saccol.

"This is the first musical we've presented at Behrend since *Pirates of Penzance* in 1998," said Elliot. "We have an abundance of student musical talent on campus, and students are always asking for more musicals and an opportunity to perform."

POLICE AND SAFETY REPORT

- 02/27/2001 11:30 A Collier Township police officer called looking for information to help with an investigation he is conducting involving a stolen car.
- 03/01/2001 11:15 A grounds supervisor reported the theft of a live animal trap.
- 03/01/2001 04:30 P&S discovered that a water supply line to the bathrooms was leaking. Maintenance personnel were advised of the problem and will repair it as soon as possible.
- 03/01/2001 12:40 An individual came to P&S and said that she slipped on the ice in the Jordan Road Lot and twisted her back. She was transported to Health and Wellness.
- 03/01/2001 18:58 A non-student contacted P&S to see if they could go to his ex-girlfriend's room and get a calculator he had lent to her and get it back for him. P&S advised him that he would have to make other arrangements to get it back.
- 03/02/2001 00:31 A report was made of a stolen item from an unlocked delivery vehicle.
- 03/03/2001 21:45 A complainant reported that his son was to return home Saturday, and never arrived. P&S advised him that the dorms were closed on Saturday. P&S checked all the parking lots for his vehicle. His vehicle was not on campus. P&S received a call back that the son had returned.
- 03/11/2001 20:25 A coordinator informed an officer that someone had poured superglue into a lock on a door in Niagara Hall.
- 03/11/2001 16:30 A complainant came to P&S to report that a car had been parked in a towaway zone for two hours. As a result, a citation was placed on the windshield — it could not be towed because other cars were parked in the lot.
- 03/13/2001 23:15 A student called asking where she should park her vehicle as it would not make it up Jordan Road. She was advised that she could park in the Jordan Road Lot and to look for the signs indicating where residents could park.

FOCAL POINT

SHAGGY — WAS IT



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

After months of work and negotiations, Behrend's concert committee got a big draw to come to campus: Shaggy, who currently has the number one album in the country. But the reaction from the crowd gathered at Bruno's wasn't quite as desired. Maybe it wasn't "me" . . .

SATURDAY



Snow
Hi 37°
Lo 30°

SUNDAY



Mostly Cloudy
Hi 39°
Lo 27°

MONDAY



Mostly Cloudy
Hi 42°
Lo 26°

Professor Looney's *Attendant Ghosts* appears in print

by Jenny Zhang
staff writer

Amid the disparity, misery, and suffering of life, there is always that slice of hope, pleasure, and joy to keep us going; it's a matter of faith. That was the theme of *Attendant Ghosts*, a book of poetry written by Mr. George Looney, assistant professor of English and creative writing, published in November 2000.

Attendant Ghosts is Looney's second book. His first book, *Animals Housed in the Pleasure of Flesh*, won the 1995 Bluestem Award. His work has also won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council, as well as awards from numerous literary journals.

"Body is a part of genuine poetry, and abstract idea has to be grounded with practical senses. Without practical application, abstract ideas would be flying off."

Mr. George Looney,
assistant professor of
English and creative writing

"I write to explore and for pleasure," said Looney. "The way I write is to not know what the poem is all about, and to discover what I am writing about."

According to Amazon's editorial review, *Attendant Ghosts* is a passionate, penetrating book. The poems were based on stories of men, women, lovers, monks, and angels in a small town bar struggling between past and reality. The book starts with a melancholy poem, "The Itinerant Circus of Life," and ends with the image of an acrobat swaying in a drunken haze ready to fall. The rest of the poetry follows the downward stream describing the dispar-

ity and pain of life. However, the book ends with "Smoke and Songs to Heal the Moon," a poem that provides evidence of hope, redemption, and faith to the speaker.

The notion of hope in Mr. Looney's poetry highlights the thrill of experience, the shared pleasure of

the body, and above all, being alive. To make sense of this abstract idea, Looney ties them to actual human experiences as derived from the five senses of the body. There are clips of the speaker's sexual experiences and sensuality in the poetry to give a sense of reality to the idea. "Body is a part of genuine poetry, and abstract idea has to be grounded with practical senses," said Looney. "Without practical application, abstract ideas would be flying off."

Mr. Looney is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. He got his Masters of Fine Art (MFA) in creative writing from Bowling Green State University in the 1980s. His original career goal was to be an artist, but he made the choice of becoming a creative writer because he believed that he could express himself better in writing. "I am a competent artist, but a more than competent writer," said Looney.

Mr. Looney's work

has also appeared in *The Southern Review, The Kenyon Review, Denver Quarterly, Southern Poetry Review, Quarterly West*, and others. For several years, he served as editor-in-chief of the *Mid-American Review*. This is his second year at Behrend after 11 years of teaching at Bowling Green.



The above photo of George Looney appears on the book jacket of his recently published book of poetry, *Attendant Ghosts*.