

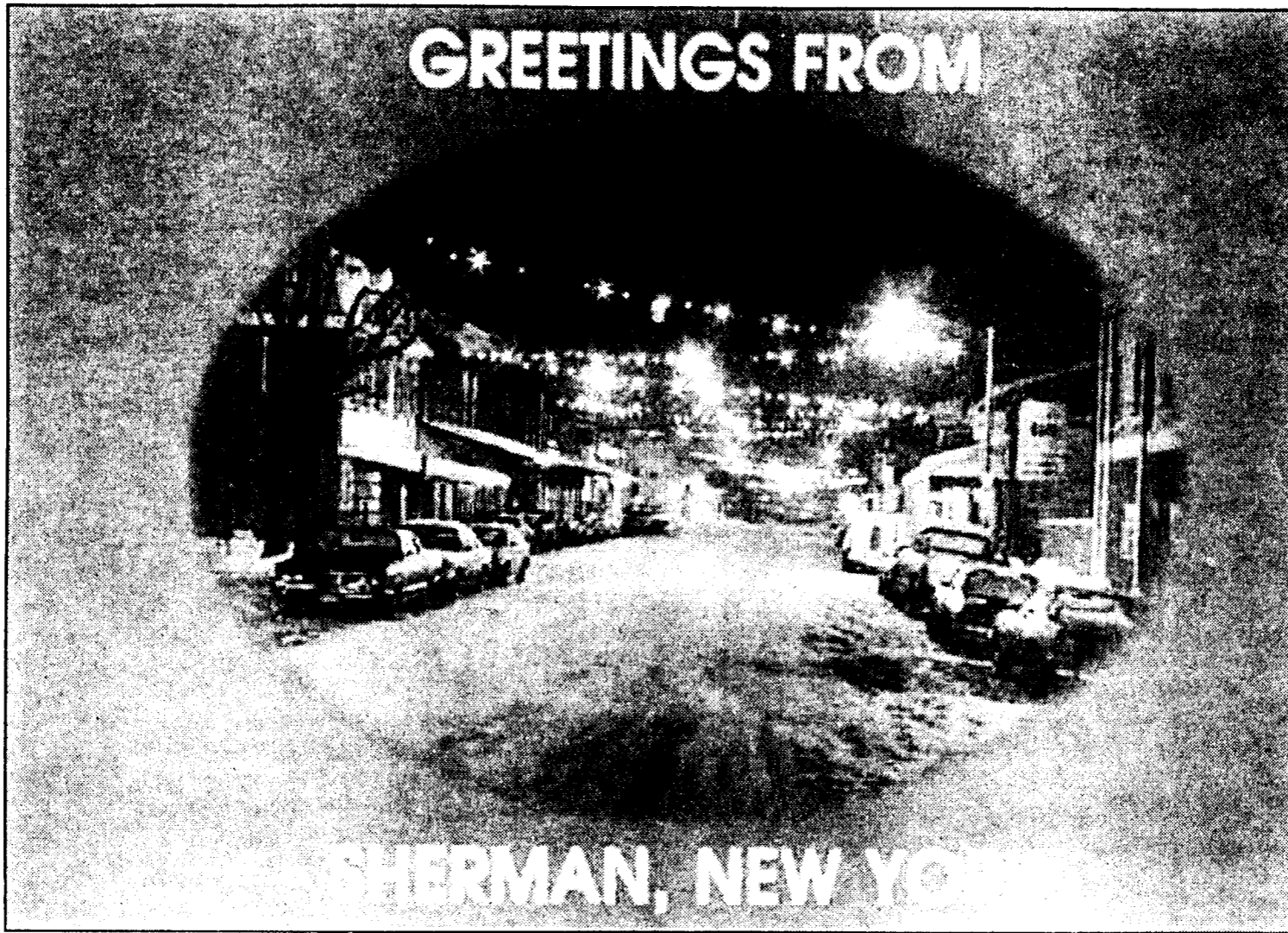
On The Road... Scare the locals in Sherman, N.Y.

by Melody Sherosky
staff writer

Strange things happen in Sherman, N.Y. With just one restaurant on its main drag and Amish crafts peeking out of every window, you'd think Sherman would be like the other towns I've visited: a sleepy country town, possibly with some historical interest. On the contrary, Sherman is the summer home of some of the strangest events on earth.

Before telling you about the truly out of this world happenings in Sherman, I suppose I should tell you something quick about the town itself. Sherman is just a 20-minute drive up Route 430 (Station Road) from Behrend. Station Road is Sherman's "Main Street" and virtually every store in Sherman is there: one antique store, Graham's Sure-Fine Markets, the Sherman Hotel and the Corral Restaurant, among others.

Graham's Sure-Fine will remind you of Roseanne's store from "Northern Exposure." It is tiny and jam-packed with general food staples and household needs. And locals! It is full of locals who will look at you curiously. The Corral Restaurant, at 100 E. Main Street, was also full of locals. It had general American-fare like roast beef, meatloaf, and pizza. While the food was nothing out-of-the-ordinary, our waiter, Jason, was more than spectacular.



Sherman, NY is a wonderfully classy town that screams festivity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

You may wonder why the locals (other than Jason) look at you curiously in Sherman. And they will look at you curiously. Well, it's because the Sherman-ites have been subjected to years of outsiders rampaging through their little town to attend the many music and "alternative" festivals that have

occurred in the town's outskirts. The Great Blue Heron Festival is an annual music festival held in the backfields of Sherman, N.Y. A few years back, I attended and had a smashing time, camping and watching non-stop bands on stage. Their under-developed website is at www.greatblueheron.com.

But I promised you strange, right? And it gets much stranger than the Blue Heron Festival. There are many alternative festivals that converge on the fields of Sherman every summer, but none compares to X-Day, put on by the Church of the SubGenius. The Church of the SubGenius, led by the Reverend Ivan Stang, is a mock

religion that has gained popularity as it makes fun of, well, everything anyone could possibly stand for. At www.subgenius.com you can find out more than you will want to know about the prophet J.R. Bob Dobbs and his religious teachings. You can find out more about X-Day at www.modemac.com/x-day/xxx-day.html (and you can ignore most of the warnings, it is not a porn site, I promise).

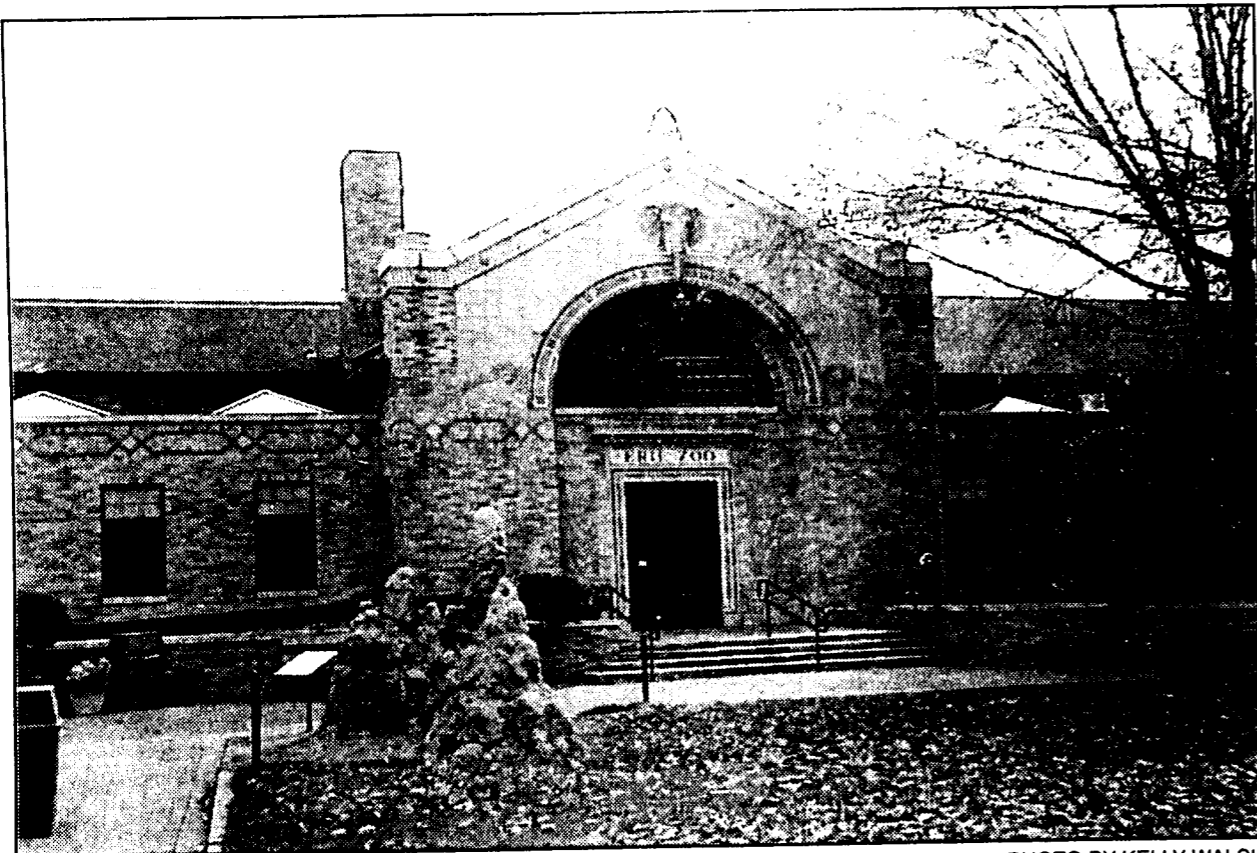
But what is X-Day? Here is a clip from the X-Day Website to give you a clue: "X-Day is coming! The Blessed Day when the Alien Sex Goddesses shall at last arrive on Earth and proceed with THE RUPTURE! All card-carrying, Truly Ordained, PAID UP SubGenius Ministers shall be SNATCHED UP into the Cosmos to spend Eternity."

July, 5, 2002 will be the fifth X-Day, as it is the fifth time J.R. Bob Dobbs has predicted the coming of the sex aliens.

As you can see, the residents of Sherman, N.Y., have every right to be suspicious of those they don't know. I also wonder what Sherman's Amish population thinks. To this you might hear the Reverend Ivan Stang recite the SubGenius motto: "F*#&'em if they can't take a joke!" So, up for some alien sex-goddess worship? Or just some fine Amish crafts? Either way, head on up to Sherman, N.Y. next summer and scare the locals. Until next time...

Hot Spots in Erie

The Erie Zoo



The Erie Zoo is located at 423 West 38th Street.

PHOTO BY KELLY WALSH

by Karl Benacci
features editor

Erie is the home of a lot of great wild animals. If a person looks hard enough, one can find deer, possum, raccoon and fox.

Not many people know, however, about the tiger, bear and monkey population in Erie.

Yes, that's right, there's a place in Erie where tigers, bears and monkeys reside.

Where? On 423 W. 38th St., which is home to the Erie Zoo.

The Erie Zoo began in 1924 and

is home to more than 300 animals, ranging from bats to rhinoceros.

The Erie Zoo has something for all ages.

There's a petting zoo for young children, where one may interact and even pet goats and other small animals.

The Erie Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. During the summer months, the zoo is open until 6 p.m. on Sundays.

There are a number of zoo attractions, including refreshment stands,

a gift shop, a carousel and a train ride.

Admission to the zoo is cheaper during the wintertime (during the off-season); an adult ticket costs \$5. Tickets are \$5.50 during the prime season.

The Erie Zoo is also home to a number of seasonal events, including Zoo Boo.

Big cats and wild monkeys are definitely a great combination, making The Erie Zoo this week's *Hot Spot in Erie*.

'Sin'sational happenings in the Studio Theatre

by Karl Benacci
features editor

The Behrend Studio Theatre will hold auditions for the play "Sin," on Nov. 28, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Nov. 29, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The play, which was written by Wendy MacLeod, is set in San Francisco on the eve of the famous earthquake in 1989. The work is a contemporary morality play featuring "Avery Bly on High," a helicopter traffic reporter who is attempting to keep herself above life's messiness.

"From the sky the world is perfect," says Avery, but on the ground she is surrounded by people who are less than perfect.

Her soon-to-be-ex-husband is a charming alcoholic, her roommate is a glutton, she's trapped daily on a helicopter with an envious co-worker, and her blind dates are disasters.

It takes her dying brother to make her see that pride is the deadliest of sins, and it takes an act of God to bring her back down to earth.

The play will take place in the Behrend Studio Theatre, with performance dates on Feb. 15-16, 19-23, at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 17 and 24 at 2:30 p.m.

There are eight characters in the play and all roles are open. Staff and community are also welcome to audition.

Scripts are available for review. For more information, contact Tony Elliot in Academic 145, by phone at 898-6279, or by e-mail at axe12@psu.edu.

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