

THE BEHREND Beacon

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Fall 2002

WEATHER

Friday's forecast:

Sunny
High: 75°
Low: 58°

Check page 2 for the weekend weather outlook.

INSIDE

NEWS

The Sample Center for Manners and Civility will have its grand opening on Oct. 1, coinciding with the first lecture in the Behrend Speaker Series. Read more about the Center on page 2.

Paula Barrett has taken over for Tony Elliot as the Theatre Director. She is also teaching two classes. Read more about her on page 2.

Professor Jadwiga Pieper has joined Behrend's History Department. Born in Germany, she has also resided in Chile and New York City. Read more about Pieper's background and experiences on page 3.

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Behrend remembers Sept. 11

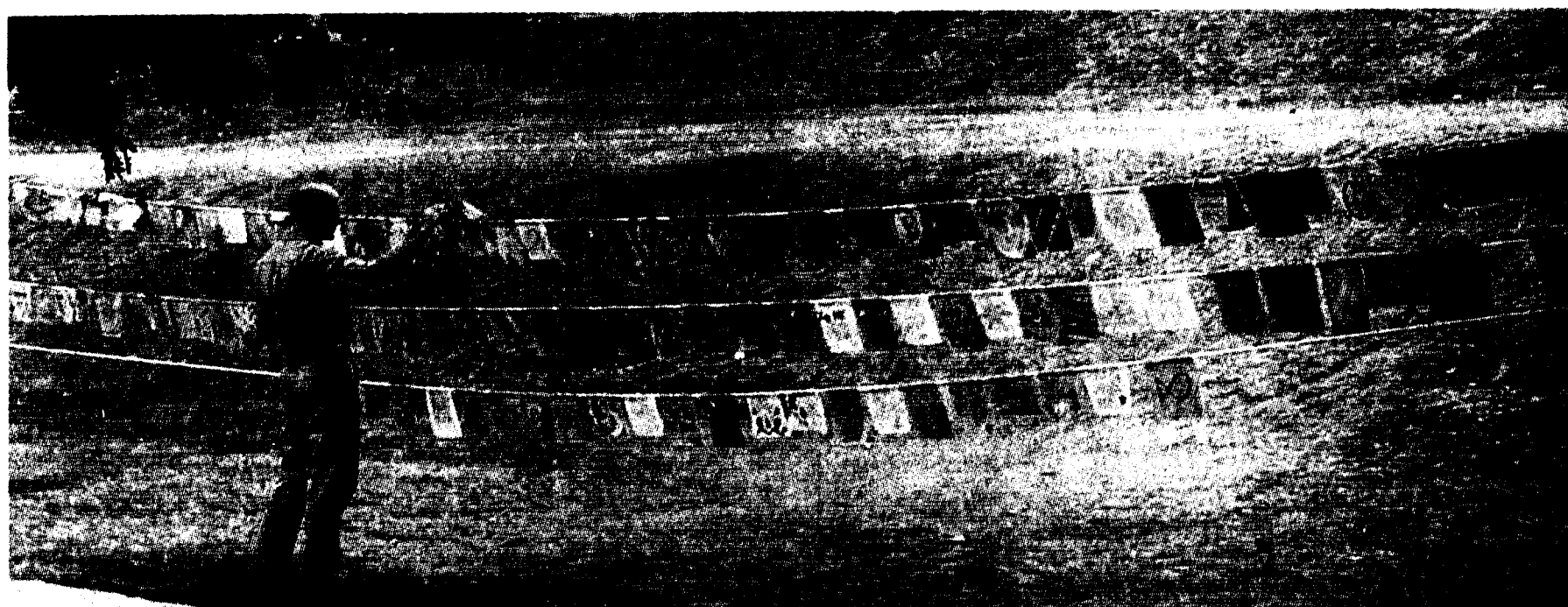


PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE / BEHREND BEACON

Director of Student Activities Chris Rizzo contemplates the messages of hope and remembrance on prayer flags on Wednesday. The flags, designed by members of the Behrend community, have a unique concept. The messages they contain are shared with the world each time the wind touches them, and when the images fade they become a permanent part of the universe.



PHOTOS BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Zachary Irwin (above) speaks and Director of Student Services Ken Miller (left) reflects during an interfaith memorial service at the Smith Chapel Wednesday afternoon. A candlelight vigil was also held Wednesday evening.

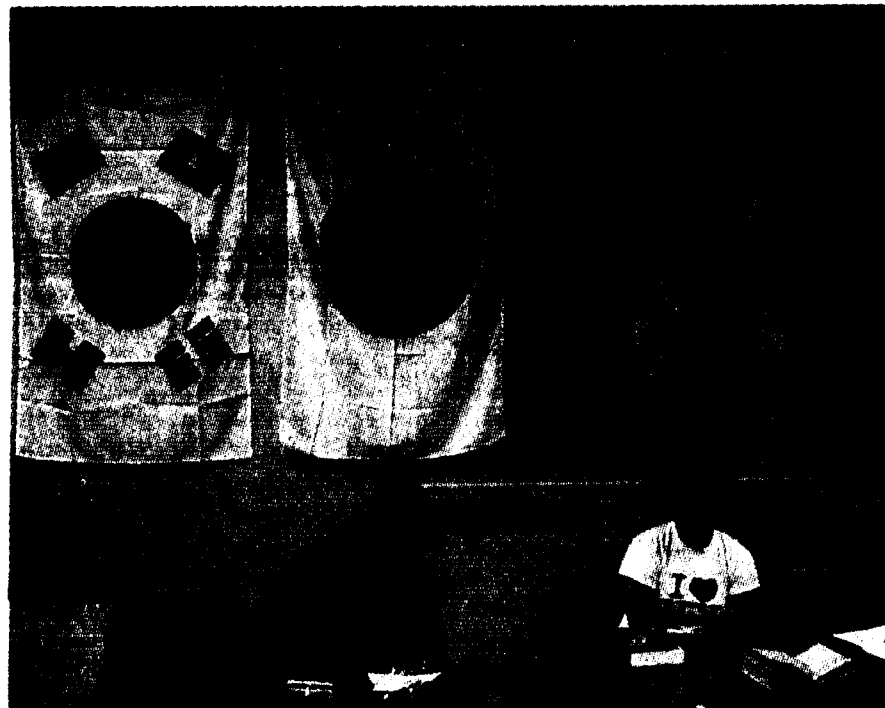


PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Students make cards against the backdrop of several nations' flags on Wednesday. The Student Government Association sponsored "Celebrate the Spirit of Community," an event encouraging members of the Behrend community to honor the post-9/11 spirit of service.

Students at fundraising tables collected money for charitable causes, while visitors were awarded the opportunity to display their patriotism with a red, white, and blue ribbon.

Acclaimed poet Perillo speaks at Behrend

by Erin McCarty
news editor

The Creative Writing Speaker Series got off to a promising start on Thursday with Lucia Perillo, an accomplished poet who was recently awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

A former naturalist, Perillo now teaches creative writing at Southern Illinois University. She also is the author of three collections of poetry. The most recent, "The Oldest Map with the Name America," includes works from her previous books.

Perillo was introduced by creative writing professor George Looney, who recalled his first encounter with her work while he read "The Best American Poetry 2001," edited by Robert Haas.

"The most ambitious and best poem I read was 'The Ghost Shirt,' by Lucia Perillo," said Looney. "The poem was remarkable and memorable. It rewarded each re-reading." Looney went on to praise Perillo's "deceptively plain-spoken style" and her vision, concluding by saying that he was indebted to the poetry of Lucia Perillo.

Perillo went on to read a series of eight poems that reflected her wit, her ability to intertwine allusions to popular and

literary culture, and her skill for making complex, subtle writing appear simple. Her conversational manner put the audience at ease, and she held its attention throughout.

Her first selection was "A Readymade," a poem in which she pretends to have been born the day Buddy Holly died. In it she alludes to the Big Bopper, who died with Holly, and to Marcel Duchamp, who proclaimed ordinary objects art.

"The Crows Start Demanding Royalties" was a fairly humorous poem, written with the understanding that crows are popular subjects for poets. "Destruction of the MIR" was inspired by the news that the MIR Space Station had been destroyed and her contemplation of where the debris had landed.

"Foley" was a lengthy poem discussing the gap between reality and what appears to be reality. The poem makes numerous allusions to film and the devices used to make moviegoers hear what they think they should be hearing, often presented in a humorous manner.

PERILLO
continued on page 3

Trigon members show their pride

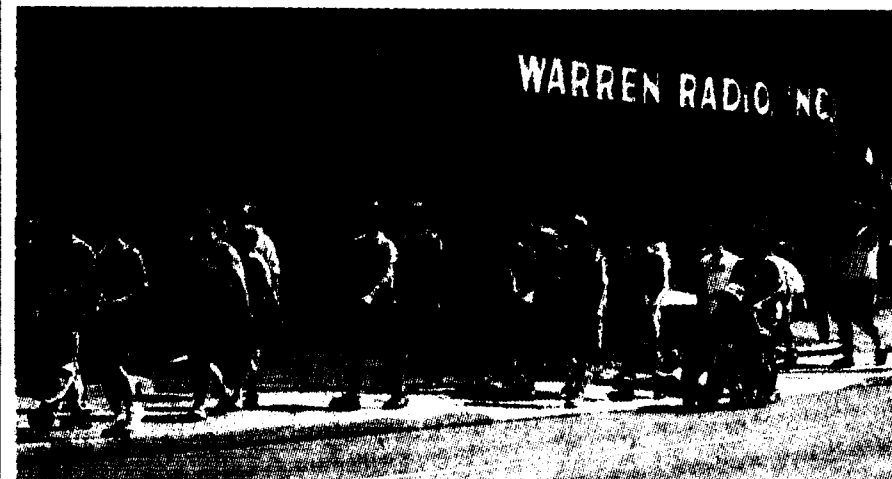


PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL A. MILLER / ERIE GAY NEWS

Members and supporters of Erie's gay community turned out last weekend for Pride Festival Weekend, a celebration of gay rights. The event kicked off at the Village with a party Friday, and nearly 100 marchers turned out for Saturday's March for Equality.

The march was the first of its kind in Erie. Abbey Atkinson, president of Trigon, Behrend's gay support organization, was pleased with the turnout. She and other organizers had worked all summer to plan the event, which was privately funded, and they plan to do it again next year.

Close to 300 people filled Perry Square during the Pride Rally, which incorporated information tables, speakers, performers, vendors, and a dunking booth. That evening, the events continued with the well-attended Rainbow Pride Underwear Party at the Zone. The weekend concluded Sunday with a softball game and a jazz brunch.

Atkinson hoped that the march, which was the main event of the weekend, would show the city that Erie has a thriving gay community and eventually help pave the way for acceptance.