

The Behrend Beacon

Patch Adams speaks on healing with humor at Behrend

by Erinn Hansen
calendar page editor

Hunter "Patch" Adams, clown, social activist, and medical doctor, will continue the Speaker Series at Penn State Behrend on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the McGarvey Commons. His assistant Dr. Susan Parenti, philosophy professor, composer, and performer, will join him.

"They will be speaking about the joy and quality of our lives through caring, and how we can reduce stress," said Chris Rizzo, director of Student Activities. "He will also talk about his experiences and medical practices."

Adams, who once was a mental patient, believes that America's current health care system is elitist and in slavery to money and technology. He also believes that humor, joy, compassion, and simple listening have their own healing power, and builds friendship and trust with his patients before moving on to any sort of treatment that is not involved with trauma. He is also a professional clown, for which he wears a rubber nose and funny hats.

Adams became an advocate for reform, and mental health, as well as medicine. He and his colleagues started the Gesundheit Institute in West Virginia, in 1971, which operated for 12 years. During these 12 years, the institute saw more than 15,000 patients, charged nothing, and did not have any malpractice insurance.

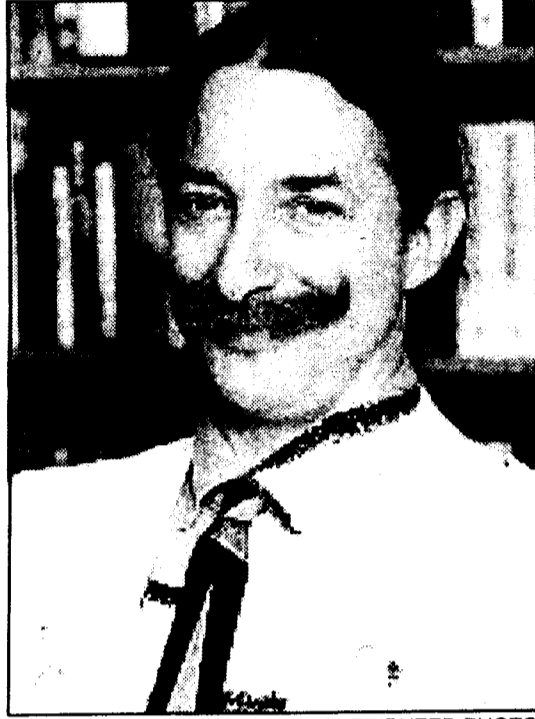
In 1983, Adams realized that a more formal facility would be necessary to continue, and shifted his focus to raising awareness and funds for the new Gesundheit Institute.

"Patch Adams," a movie with Robin Williams in the title role, tells the story of Adams' early years at medical school and some of the obstacles that he overcame.

"This is a unique experience for Behrend," said Rizzo. "This speaker series will be unlike any other ones that we have had, and I would not miss it for anything."

The series is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs and is partially funded by the John Nesbit Rees and Sarah Henne Rees Foundation, which has won the National Association for Campus Activities' Best Lecture Series Award.

For more information about the speaker series, call (814) 898-6171. The night is open to the public, it is free, and all are welcome to attend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Patch Adams, creator of the Gesundheit Institute and subject of the Robin Williams movie, speaks at Behrend Tuesday.

Telecounselors make all the difference

by Kassi Hindman
staff writer

Think back to your senior year of high school. Besides coming down with senioritis, you were probably stressed about your decision on where to go to college and what it would be like once you left the only thing you'd known for the past 12 years. For the students who received their acceptance letter, some of these questions were answered by the telecounselors from Behrend.

The counseling program here is known as STARS - student telecounseling admissions representatives. Many students at Behrend probably remember getting a call but didn't really know who called them or why. This is a program started eight years ago with volunteers. It has now evolved and the students can use the job as work study or wage payroll. They have also built a database system that makes keeping records and making calls easier.

Monday through Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., a number of students arrive at the Glennhill Farmhouse for what they jokingly call the "second shift." They have a list of high school students who have been offered acceptance to Behrend. They call these students to answer any questions they might have. They will call the student three times. The first call is to congratulate them on their acceptance and answer any questions they might have about making their decision. The second call is to talk about the academic side, such as scheduling or

choosing a major. The third call is to talk about the student activities that are available here.

The same student makes each of the three calls so the prospective student always talks to the same person.

"This is one of the things that is really nice; it helps them to become more comfortable in asking questions and with the overall college environment," said Mary-Ellen Madigan, director of admissions and financial aid.

The students will also send a personalized postcard to their incoming student. This gives them the contact information in case any other questions come up. Besides the call and postcard Behrend also has an AOL screen name that students can use. During the day they can use it to talk to an admissions counselor and at night they can talk to a student. Behrend's screen name is BehrendPSU.

The students start working in mid-October when the application season is in full swing and they continue, with a break for finals, until the end of school in May. They work even after the busy season because once students are accepted and are coming here their questions change.

"The purpose for these calls is for prospective students to hear about the campus from a student perspective," said Madigan. "I can't tell them what college life is like. Students need to know what it is like to live and go to class here, which I don't do."

Janitor Walk celebrates 25 years at Behrend

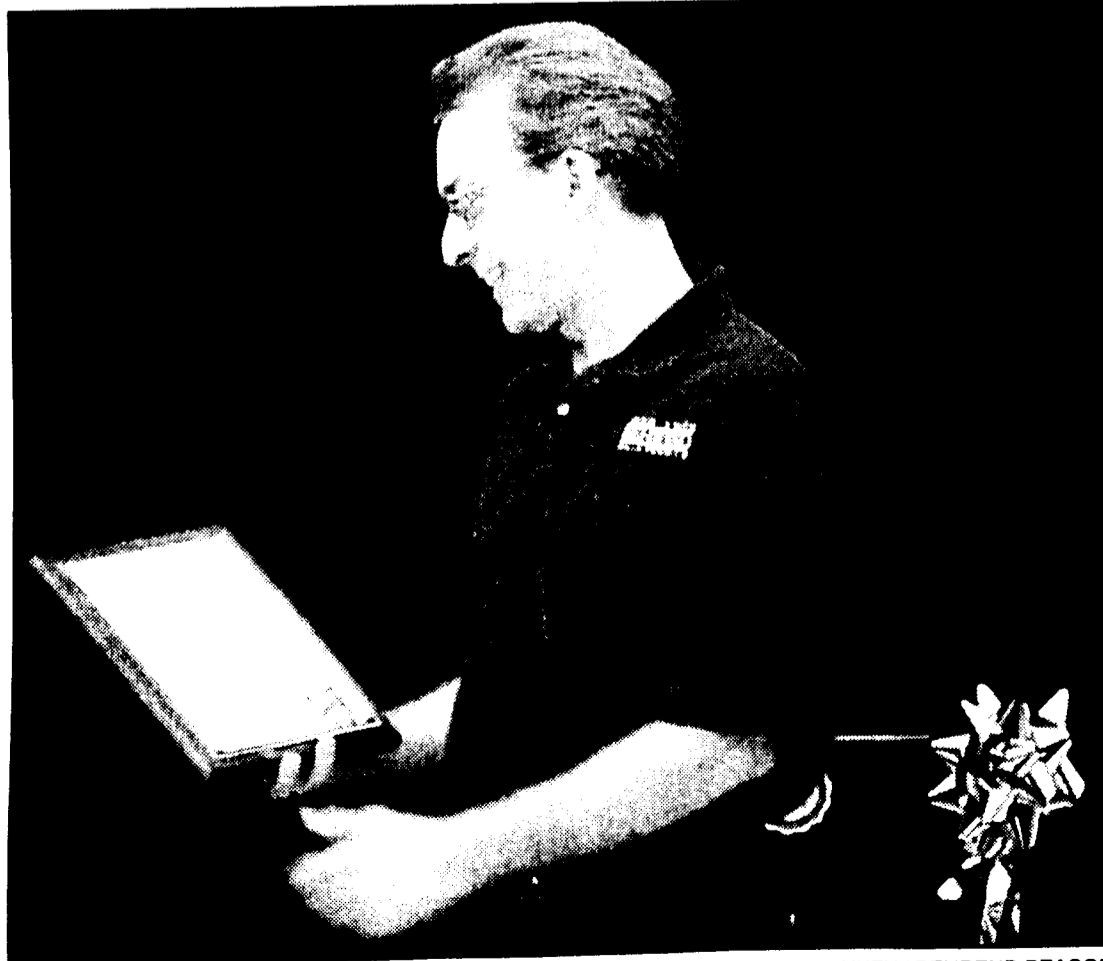


PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Janitorial foreman Gordon Walk receives a certificate commemorating his 25 years of service to Behrend during a reception held in his honor on Nov. 5.

FROM FRONT PAGE

AFGHANISTAN

two ping pong tables," Havey said. "The British are giving the soldiers a party for Thanksgiving because [the Bagram base] helped them out, but that's pretty much it for the holiday."

So what about Christmas?

"They try to avoid any strong Christian themes - I mean, Afghanistan used to be run by the Taliban," Havey said. "They're not allowed to have pork over there either - I can't send him beef jerky. [The soldiers] will get a turkey dinner for Christmas, but other than that, they still have to keep working."

And every last soldier works hard. Miller is a lightweight mechanic and does plenty of repairs on the base, from 6 a.m. to about 5 p.m. He is part of a unit that consists of four soldiers: himself and three ammunition specialists.

"He hasn't had a day off in weeks," Havey said. "He was getting a little frustrated."

But there is no doubt that Jeffrey Miller is one dedicated soldier.

"As bad as it sucks, I'm glad I'm here fighting for our country," Miller said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeffrey Miller has earned several decorations, as he is shown here in full formal military dress.

MARKETING

spectable organization and one that is growing in numbers.

"Being actively involved in an AMA Collegiate Chapter will provide you with the professional skills that will increase your value in today's competitive environment," stated Medovitch, who is president of the club.

The big project that the group is really looking forward to in the spring is the 2002-2003 Case Competition in Orlando, Fla. This year's competition involves developing a marketing plan for the Procter & Gamble brand, Pringles. The company is looking to attract more young adults by this competition. The top eight teams will compete at the annual Collegiate Conference on March 13. Judges from Procter & Gamble will decide which team has prepared the best case.

The Marketing Club is a way to build some experience for later on down the road.

"With every major when you graduate from college, people want a high GPA to get a better job. But with marketing another thing they look forward to is someone who has an expanded experience portfolio, a kind of background experience," explained Medovitch.

Marketing is a young major and getting experi-

ence now is a good way to put you ahead of the competition.

"The marketing club is a good chance to gain experience in marketing related fields and is also a good resume builder," said Maureen Archer, a sophomore member of the club.

The marketing club is divided into three committees. There is the Sports Marketing Committee, Public Relations, and the Entertainment Marketing Committee. The Sports Marketing portion is going to be involved in all types of sporting events at Behrend. As of right now it plans to talk to Rob Wittman to get something started with varsity sports, intramurals, or even club sports. The club may even try to bring in some sports professionals from the Erie Otters or from a Pittsburgh team.

The Entertainment Marketing is also well on its way to getting some venues here, but none are yet confirmed. Public Relations is into helping get the club's voice heard and also will help with such worthwhile events as THON.

With very few classes at Behrend in this field and few professors, it is hard to get into the major. This club hopes to help its members to get their foot in the door and prepare them for better careers after they graduate.

Guevara brings culture to poetry

by Alyssa Peconi
staff writer

When poet Maurice Kilwein Guevara spoke on Nov. 8, in the Smith Chapel, he left a lasting impression of the depth of his poetry in the mind of his audience.

Guevara had a variety of poetry, all his own work. He incorporated such things as accents, voice pieces, geographical places, personal relationships, hand gestures, and inflection into his readings to emphasize their importance and strengthen their meanings.

Guevara was born in 1961 in Belencito, Colombia and was raised in Pittsburgh. He is a famous poet, having received awards from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the J. William Fulbright Commission. He is currently a professor of English at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Guevara has written three books of poetry, including "Postmortem," published in 1994, "Poems of the River Spirit," published in 1996, and "Autobiography of So-and-so: Poems in Prose." He read pieces from each of the books.

The first few pieces that Guevara presented during the reading were "My Mother is a Young Woman" and "Grimm the Janitor."

In these two poems, Guevara used personal relationships to develop emotional meaning. He spoke of his mother in the first poem, and he spoke of a janitor from high school in the second poem. By relating these people to him, he conveyed a message of personal feeling.

In addition, in "Grimm the Janitor," Guevara used an accent to present the speaker, Grimm, in an accurate manner. This made it easier to imagine Grimm as a real person and brought power to his character.

In "City Prophet Talks to God," Guevara also used an accent to establish realness in the characters. Additionally, he used vivid imagery and details in this poem to create emotion in the people listening and reading his poetry. He also incorporated landmarks from his hometown, Pittsburgh.

In "The Halloween Party," which placed the speaker at a gathering that was, unbeknownst to him, a KKK meeting. Guevara described the southwestern Pennsylvania scene, establishing some typical practices and customs there. He did

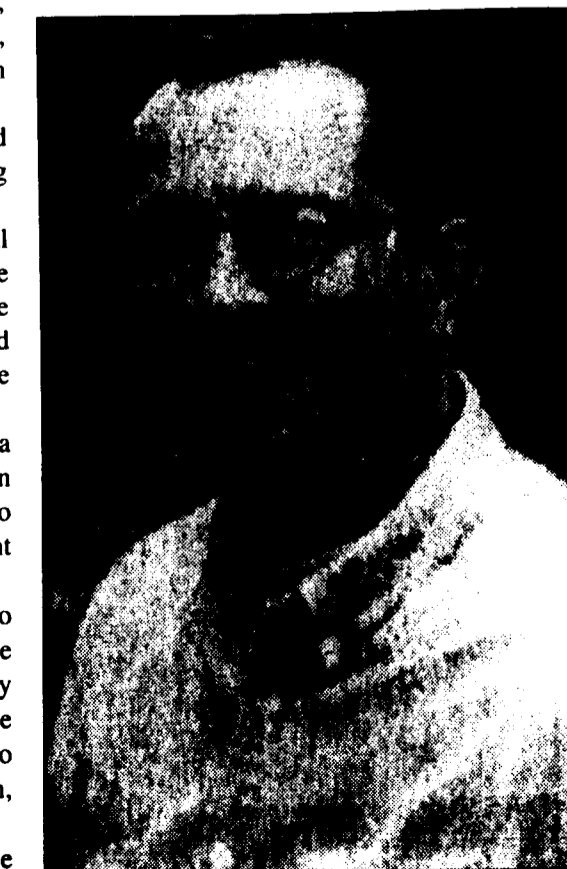
that to cause the audience to open their eyes to difference, because very different things occur in different places in the world.

Though Guevara read many more poems, these ones were especially well understood and enjoyed by the members of his audience.

He presented all his poetry in a very emotional way, continuously pausing, showing emotion in his face and gestures, changing his voice inflection, and changing languages and accents, making his language raw yet finished.

Guevara also brought a multicultural aspect to his presentation because of the way he incorporated Spanish into his poetry. Though not everyone in the audience spoke or understood the language, he made them able to understand the heart of each poem.

He made a successful attempt in reaching the audience on an emotional level. Judging by reactions to his poetry, he audience thoroughly enjoyed his work and efforts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Poet Maurice Kilwein Guevara read at Behrend Nov. 8 as part of the Creative Writing Speaker Series.