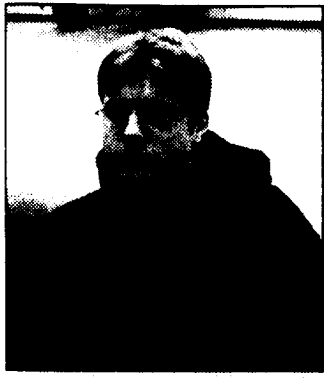


Question of the Week

by Jen Henderson, associate editor

"What is your favorite part of the Super Bowl?"



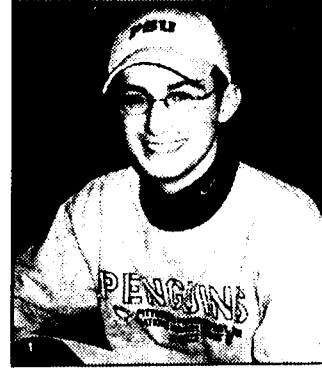
"I hate football."
Grant Yochim
Communications, 02



"Sitting."
Christopher Gandrad
Political Science, 02



"Super Bowl parties."
Ashley Kelly
Film/Video, 02



"Watching all the new commercials that premiere."
Eric Laska, 02



"Commercials and watching the game with friends."
Alicia Raffensberger Comm, 04
Jolienne Luchkiw Plastics, 04

Dougherty kicks off semester's Creative Writing series

by Erin McCarty
news editor

The Creative Writer Speaker's Series brings acclaimed writers from all over the country to read their works for students, but the first reader for this semester didn't have far to travel. Sean Thomas Dougherty, renowned poet and author of six books, teaches creative writing at Behrend, and students and professors turned out in droves Thursday to see this dynamic member of the Behrend community ignite Bruno's with

his energetic performance.

Dr. Diana Hume-George, who taught creative writing for many years at Behrend before taking her leave after last semester, returned to introduce Dougherty. She recalled that before she had even met him, she heard that he was teaching freshman composition as ethnography and was raising money for the Neighborhood Art House with a free poetry reading. His immersion in the culture of Erie includes editing "Along the Lake: Contemporary Creative Writing from Erie, PA," reading at the

jazz festival, and writing several poems inspired by Sixth Street, where he resides.

Dougherty has been the recipient of a number of prizes and awards, and his work has earned him an impressive seven nominations for the Pushcart Prize. Hume-George praised his work both for the unique voice he presents and, conversely, the choral feel of his works. She described him as observant, passionate, and curious, and noted that his poems are often laced with laughter and sadness and always convey a deep

sense of compassion.

"Dougherty gathers up all the broken pieces and makes them whole again," she concluded, quoting a review on the back of one of his books.

Dougherty had the opportunity to live up to those descriptions with his reading, which consisted of a dozen poems whose subjects ranged from religion to romance and from food to factory work. He quickly established a rapport with the members of the crowd, many of whom already knew him.

"I wanna read some poems with food in them because we're reading in a cafeteria," he said, after opening with a poem combining basketball, alcohol, and the sacrament of communion. The first of the poems featured generous usage of the word "booty," which he described as one of his favorite words.

"I'm gonna get fired," he quipped, the first of many times he would say this throughout the reading. The second set a scene reminiscent of an Edward Hopper painting, with customers straggling into a diner in the early morning hours for free coffee and doughnuts.

One of his lengthiest poems was a monologue in which the speaker comes to grips with the dreariness of his

factory work and the harshness of his father. Another was inspired by an early-morning phone conversation he had with a despondent student.

Passion was the subject of many of his poems, including a short poem delving into the metaphysical aspects of passion and a poem written in a form with a mirrored rhyming pattern. Another common subject was his own neighborhood. Three of his poems contained detailed descriptions of the places and faces near his home. He closed with one of these, which had been written to complement the poem of one of his thesis students.

His performance-driven reading and comfort level with the audience contributed to a very successful event, as evidenced by the enthusiastic applause he received.

"He kept saying he was going to get fired, but I think his students are going to make sure that he stays forever," said Hume-George, inspiring a fresh round of applause from the audience.

Students will have another opportunity to witness the talents of Behrend faculty at the next event in the series. Behrend Reads, a yearly event during which various faculty read their works, will take place in Bruno's on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.



REBECCA WEINDORF/BEHREND BEACON

A hearty crowd greets poet and Behrend professor Sean Dougherty in Bruno's on Thursday.

Greek Fair Highlights

Despite the freezing weather outside, the Greeks put on a hot show in the McGarvey Commons Thursday night. There was sumo-wrestling, wall climbing, music, and plenty of food.



Above: Theta Phi Alpha was one of the many groups showing off their Greek spirit. Left: Helping a brother learn to climb.

PHOTOS BY ROB WYNNIE / BEHREND BEACON



Above: Adrienne Schermer helped coordinate the Greek Fair this year. Left: KDR's Alex Kazmierczak and Wesley Weinheimer demonstrate sumo wrestling.

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