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Stand to rock Behrend



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the band Stand perform their music. Stand will give a concert at Behrend on March 21.

by Roger Gorny
staff writer

Be prepared to STAND. Be prepared to give them a STANDing ovation. Be prepared to STAND, jump, and revel for up to 90 glorious minutes of music.

Meet Stand. This four-piece band consists of Neil Eurelle (vocals/bass), Carl Dowling (drums), David Walsh (guitar/keyboards), and Alan Doyle (guitar/vocals). They hail from Ireland, and began making a splash on the scene in the United States in 1998.

In a phone interview with the Beacon, Eurelle said they got started as school friends and they just thought that it would be cool to be in a rock and roll band. He was terrible at football, so this was a natural direction for him to head in.

They started out on the Dublin scene as very young lads who played illegally in bars. He said they made some decent demos; but just getting to play provided the most excitement.

The first big concert that they played

in America was at the CMI Festival in Portland, Ore. in 1998. They now realized they had accomplished as much as they could in Ireland, so they set up shop here.

"We loved it so much we settled camp here," said Eurelle.

He said they are most definitely a live band versus being a studio band. They play four to five times a week, and always will.

"Playing live is a lot more fun. It's something we love to do," he said.

Six months after Stand arrived in the US, they hooked up with an agent named Sophie K., who thought they would be perfect to tour colleges in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states. They then joined a college touring agency, after she heard the demos and was impressed by what she heard and by their accomplishments back in Ireland.

They have had some unique tour experiences, such as going to the wrong venue. Last year, they were at a concert on a Penn State campus, and there were

"60 to 70 pensioners" in the crowd, said Eurelle. The pensioners did not realize this was a rock and roll band; they thought it would be a traditional Irish band. Even though some people stayed and had fun, the band was still shaken up by this incident.

Their favorite venue is Vicar Street in Dublin.

"It's our home crowd, it's kind of nostalgic..." he said.

Eurelle said that the most significant accomplishment the band has made up to this point is just being able to be creative and create the music it wants to create.

"To be able to express yourself through something you love doing is a great achievement in itself," he said.

He also stressed that it is very important for Stand to be able to chat with people before a show, and to hear how one of their songs has had a profound emotional impact on a fan.

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Behrend cuts it loose with Dr. Seuss

by Christine Kleck
ad manager

The Behrend community got a chance to "Cut it Loose with Dr. Seuss" this past weekend. The second annual Association for Women in Communication's Dr. Seuss celebration

visitors could read a book, complete an activity or craft project, eat snacks and win prizes.

One station inspired by the "The Foot Book" included time to read the book. Participants were asked to trace and decorate silhouettes of their own feet. Another station was called "The Cat in the Hat" and "The Cat in the Hat Comes

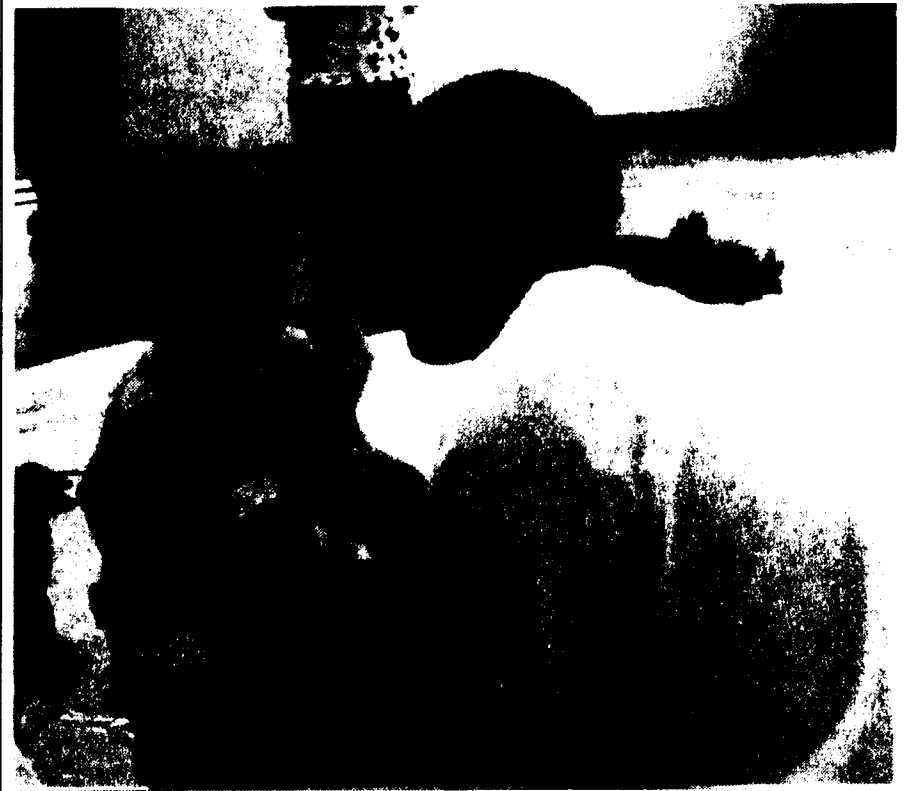


PHOTO BY CHRISTINE KLECK / BEHREND BEACON

A young visitor to Sunday's "Cut it Loose with Dr. Seuss" gets her face painted.

took place on Sunday in the Junker Center aerobics room. With about 30 children and their parents or guardians in attendance, AWC considered the event a success.

After some careful planning and some Seuss-inspired research, the group decided to double the amount of books read, thus doubling the number of craft projects, snacks and activities that corresponded with each book.

Behrend Alumni, Day care center patrons, faculty, administration, students, staff members and their families were all invited and encouraged to attend the event which celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday, the importance of reading, and the significance of quality family time.

Participants were greeted with a "Cat in the Hat" striped hat nametag and then were invited to roam freely from station to station. Each station had a theme.

Back" station, where children read the books and were able to make an authentic "Cat in the Hat" striped party hat.

The station based on the book, "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" included time to make real "Oobleck" from materials such as cornstarch, water and food coloring. Children could fish for prizes, have their faces painted, enjoy refreshments, color silhouettes of their own faces and even take time to read books using puppets and plush animal toys at the various reading stations.

Plans for next year's event are already being thought of, with many new and exciting Seuss-inspired activities, refreshments and crafts tentatively on the agenda.

For more information on the Behrend chapter of the Association for Women in Communications or on the Seuss event, contact AWC president Christine Kleck at cak216@psu.edu.

Students celebrate at El Carnival



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE KLECK / BEHREND BEACON

Members of the Behrend community celebrate Mardi Gras, Spanish style. The first annual El Carnaval took place on Friday in Bruno's. Behrend's La Pena Club de Espanol sponsored the event, which featured a Masquerade Ball, Spanish dance lessons and the Orquesta La Crema from Buffalo. The evening also included paella, flan, punch and prizes.

To prepare for the event, all were invited to decorate their own masks throughout the week at a table outside of Bruno's. Mardi Gras beads were also sold as a way to encourage attendance at the celebration and to get people ready for last Friday's festivities.

The event, which was free and open to the public, encourages a celebration of all cultures prior to the Lenten season. For more information on Behrend's La Pena Club de Espanol, contact Vice President Katie Ranalli at kmr247@psu.edu or President Amber Weckoski at amw279@psu.edu.

Hometown writer Moore returns

by Erin McCarty
news editor

On Thursday, writer and Erie native Dinty Moore returned to his hometown for a reading in the Smith Chapel.

Moore is the author of the nonfiction books "The Emperor's Virtual Clothes" and "The Accidental Buddhist" and the story collection "Toothpick Men." He has won many awards, edits two journals, and teaches writing at Penn State Altoona. He was introduced by his long-time friend, Dr. Diana Hume-George.

George recounted her experience with Moore as someone who precedes trends by telling how he wrote a story for an anthology about Catholic girlhood that met with great acclaim. When it came to the editors' attention that he was a man and his story was fiction, their outrage and his response started the national debate on the line between fiction and nonfiction that goes on today.

The bulk of the reading was from "The Accidental Buddhist" and Moore's upcoming book, tentatively titled "Lately, Dad, I Find You Annoying."

Moore read two chapters from "The Accidental Buddhist." In the first, the "Prelude," he describes his Catholic upbringing in Erie, culminating in an experience at a retreat during which a monk identifies him as "a rock," a person of great faith. Moore later comes to

realize that the rock the monk described is not faith at all, but anger born of a conglomeration of struggles and disappointments leading him to abandon the Catholic Church. His disillusionment sets the stage for the Buddhist awakening that would come 25 years later in his life.

"My journey, it turned out, was not quite finished," he wrote.

Moore concluded his reading with "Smackdown," a chapter from his new book. This book explores the changing relationship between fathers and daughters when the daughter hits puberty. In this chapter, he illustrates the communication gap that emerged between himself and his own daughter when she reached this age. He describes their prior closeness, noting how she all at once seemed to regard him as a stranger. By the end of the chapter, he seems to have broken through her story interior, but only slightly, as she shuns his attempt to show his affection for her. "Geez Dad," she protests as he tries to pat her on the head. "I'm not a dog."

Moore's work is written in a very direct, understandable style. The most predominant aspect of his writing is his keen sense of humor, which came out especially well in his reading.

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Contact Us

NEWSROOM: 898-6488
FAX: 898-6019

E-MAIL:
behrcoll5@aol.com

Offices are located
downstairs in the
Reed Union Building