

FEATURES

Friday, October 3, 2003

The Behrend Beacon

Kerwin lands lead role in 'Father of the Bride'

by Megan Loncaric
staff writer

Communications and Media Studies instructor John Kerwin has a lead role in the play version of "Father of the Bride," which is being presented at the Erie Playhouse this month.

"Father of the Bride", which had preview performances Sept. 26-27, is a play made famous by two movies, one released in 1950 starring Elizabeth Taylor, and one released in 1991 starring Steve Martin.

In the stage version being presented at Erie Playhouse, Kerwin plays the part of the father, Stan Banks, as he and his wife, Elie, follow their daughter through the adventures of planning and putting on her wedding.

Kerwin auditioned in May for this play. The Erie Playhouse is very popular with aspiring actors around the Erie area, so they have one audition a year for all of the plays being put on the following year. There were two comedies for the 2003-2004 season: "Our Town" and "Father of the Bride."

"I just looked for comedies or anything that's non musical," said Kerwin.

Kerwin caught the acting bug while in high school. He was in a couple of plays there, and that is when he realized acting "brought out something that was really exciting, and I really felt an adrenaline rush, and that's neat especially when it's induced by acting."

Kerwin never really took acting lessons.

"I'm a great believer in the Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino method, such as a class or two helps, but you learn by doing and watching, really by watching the pros perform their craft. Then you have to put it into the context of what you can do. You can't copycat them, because that is their style, but you can incorporate who you are and put your trademark on it and hope it works."

"The greatest comment I ever heard was written by (Anthony) Hopkins - 'Acting is like being on a tightrope across the stage, and you just hope you make it across the stage. When you do it it's an exhilarating adrenaline rush.'"

Other plays Kerwin has been in included last year's Inherit the Wind, which was about teaching the theory of evolution in schools.

On the Behrend campus he's done "Ten Little Indians."

He also worked in television, and has done a little bit of film out in Hollywood. He had a small role in the movie "Nine and a Half Weeks" which starred Mickey Rourke.

Some television work that he has done includes "The Doctors," "Santa Barbara," and "The Young and the Restless."

He was also the Nissan spokesman when he was in Los Angeles.



PHOTO BY ERIE PLAY HOUSE

(l-r) Kerry Long (Kay Banks), John Kerwin (Stanley Banks), Sue Lechner (Ellie Banks).

"They give you a script and money so you pitch it," he said.

He also did commercial work for computers and irrigation systems.

"You just work to act," Kerwin said.

Kerwin also had his own production company, Kerwin Communications Incorporated. With this company, he produced, directed and did shows and whatever he could find.

He was also with NBC for 12 years when he was in New York, and then he went to Los Angeles where as he says "the creative community really is."

"My main goal is to write, create and direct my own movie. We in the performing arts always have another goal, another plateau to reach," he said.

With all of these credentials, why did he decide to come to Erie and teach at Behrend?

"I come from the East," he said.

Kerwin, who is from the New York area, wanted to come back and stay in one spot, at least for a while.

"People look at me when I run around here and say, 'Aren't you exhausted after you do it?' But if you talk to any actor, they'll say that's what makes you go. It's a myth that actors hang out, do their bits and then just go to sleep and party again. That's Hollywood myth. You work hard. And I've gotten so used to it, it's just the way I live."

"You're up there naked. And you're saying, 'Here I am, I hope you enjoy what I'm doing.' You have to work at it, and if you don't, everybody can tell."

Father of the Bride is being performed Oct. 2-5 and 8-12 at the Erie Playhouse. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for full-time students. Visit www.erieplayhouse.org or call the Box Office at 454-2852, ext. 0, for more ticket information.

Through the looking glass

by Mike Pingree, KRT Campus

IT WAS MORE OF A TRIBUTE, ACTUALLY

Angry because his girlfriend dumped him, a Wisconsin man had T-shirts made featuring a naked picture of her, taken during happier times. Then, he passed them out at a county fair, for sale. The former girlfriend found out

NOT TONIGHT, I HAVE AN ARSON FIRE

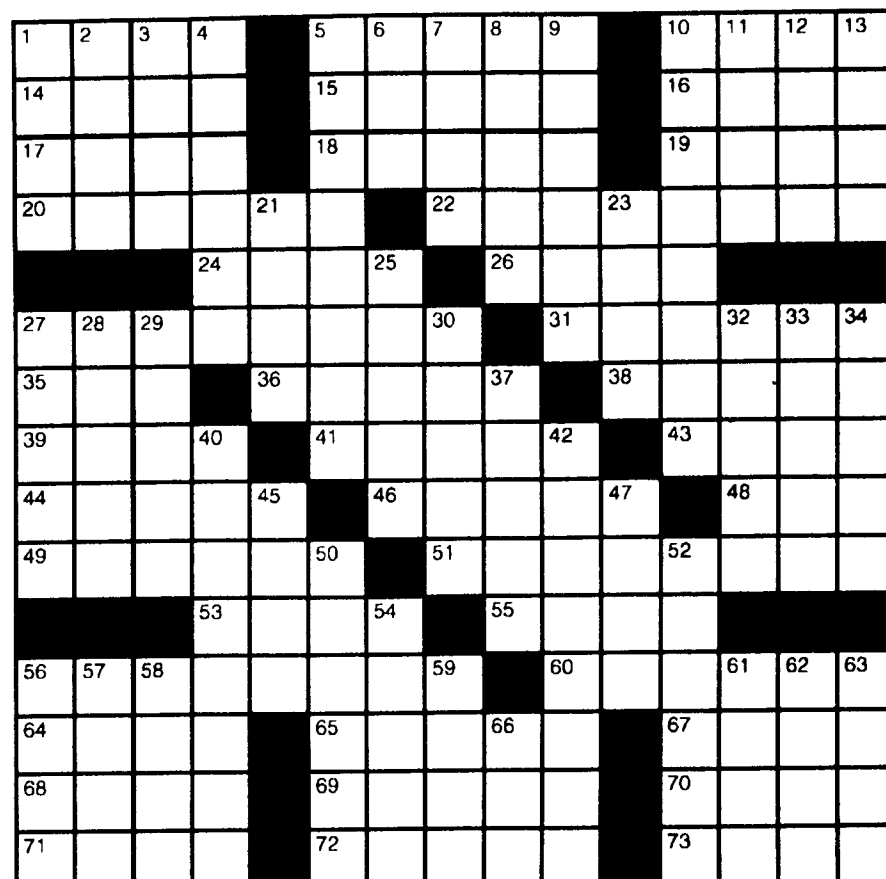
A man in Seget, Croatia, set a fire in the woods behind his home in order to avoid having sex with his wife. Alas, the fire spread to his house. He has been jailed for arson.

I KNOW HOW THIS MUST LOOK, DEAR

A commercial airline pilot lived a double life with two women in British Columbia, marrying them both and setting up households with each of them about seven miles apart. He got away with it for many years, having two children with each of them. But it all fell apart when his wife of 39 years filed for divorce, and the papers were delivered to the doorstep of his wife of 20 years. During the subsequent court sessions, members of both families were seen screaming at each other in the corridors.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Hurry-up letters
 - Walrus teeth
 - Grasps
 - Diner dining
 - Coliseum, e.g.
 - Aspirin target
 - Window unit
 - Low joint
 - Compare prices
 - Well-grounded
 - Travel document
 - Programming repetition
 - Proofreader's cut
 - Like the perfect crime
 - Control-tower devices
 - Feather scarf
 - Admit
 - Gentleman's gentleman
 - "Yours, Mine and ..."



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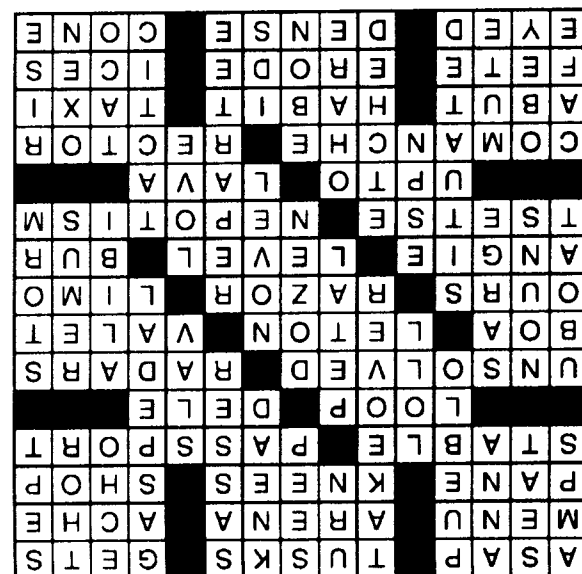
- Barber's tool
- Elite wheels
- Ms. Dickerson
- Carpenter's tool
- Prickly husk
- Favorit fly
- Devotion for family
- Engaged in
- Fuji flow
- Oklahoma Native American
- Episcopal cleric
- Burden against
- Nun's attire
- DeVito sitcom
- Outdoor gala
- Wear down
- Cold treats
- Checked out
- Crowded
- Traffic diverter

DOWN

- Stereo adjuncts
- Resting spot
- Kournikova of tennis
- Hopi home

- Buy-out
- Samovar
- Ooze
- Work dough
- One prone to backtalk
- Accelerator
- Thunder god
- Chanyon rerun
- Alternative to 9
- Lounge about
- Serb or Croat
- Part of a blossom
- WWII submarine
- Sentence subjects
- Inductee's boss
- Score minus eight
- Suspect story
- Twin of Romulus
- Tempest
- New
- Located
- Banter
- Sunday night NFL outlet

Solutions



- Valentine word
- Engraved
- Artful maneuver
- Chicago hub
- Small restaurant
- Comply
- Mum
- Black, poetically
- Tex-Mex snack
- Yoked pair
- Stand
- Dog tags, briefly

Getting involved doesn't have to be hard

by Syreeta Anderson
staff writer

Do you live in Niagara, Almy or any residence hall on campus? If you answered no, then you are indeed a "commuter student." The image that most people think of when they hear the term "commuter" is someone who must drive a long distance in bad traffic on the highway to school everyday.

Commuting to Penn State Behrend may involve catching the bus or riding a bike, walking, rollerblading or driving a car to campus. If you live off campus, you are considered to be a commuter.

Whether or not you adapt to the term commuter, you can investigate the useful resources in the Commuter Council. The commuter council is committed to enhancing your college experience and helping you succeed in both your academic and out-of-class endeavors at Behrend.

Commuter students are the majority at Behrend. There are about 6000 students here, of which approximately 2,000 live on campus. That leaves about 4,000 students who are commuters.

Commuter students in many ways: age, racial/ethnic identity, family status, working status, how you get to campus, distance you commute, living arrangements and more. In spite of all the differences, commuter students do have common concerns. Time management, balancing multiple roles, getting to campus and getting involved are all reoccurring issues. Commuter council is there to help you face

those issues head-on!

Getting involved on campus can be hard, but it doesn't have to be. You can attend classes and leave, or you can participate in a variety of cultural, social, recreational and academic activities. You can meet people, learn about a variety of cultures or get almost any type of help/assistance you need. It is up to you.

Matthew Miller, member of the Commuter Council said, "You don't get the full college atmosphere living off campus. You meet people in your classes, but you don't get the personal side that you would if you lived with them."

Even though he doesn't participate in many clubs on campus, he would if it didn't conflict with his ride home.

"Not because I'm not interested, it's normally because most organization and

clubs their meetings late and that interferes with my transportation home," Miller said.

Synde Valentine a 3rd semester commuter said, "I hate being a commuter. At my old school I lived on campus, and I miss it. I have to depend on people to bring me back and fourth to school or catch a bus that takes 45 minutes, when my place is only a 7-minute car ride. I like the fact that I don't have to deal with a Resident Assistant and I have the choice to choose what type of meal plan I have. I would still like to live on campus."

Julie Lafferty, president of the Commuter Council, said the easiest way to get involved on campus is to "join a club or organization, work on campus, participate in intramurals, and attend workshops or other campus offerings."

A great way to get involved without joining a club is to eat lunch in Bruno's and talk to other people at the table.

Lafferty invites all commuters trying to get involved on campus or if you need a place to sit and study in between classes to stop in the Commuter Council's office where "the door is always open."

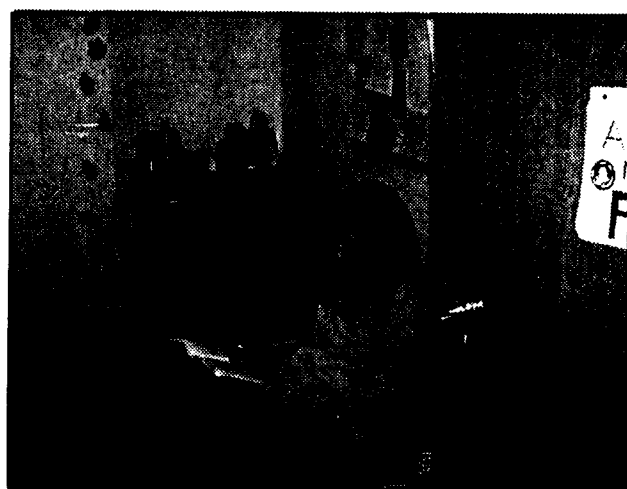


PHOTO BY ERIKA JARVIS/BEHREND BEACON

The Commuter Council office makes for an inviting place to hang out during classes.