

Question of the Week

by Heather Peterson, staff writer



"Some."

Tracie Kendziora
ENGL, 01



"I would say yes, more so than I thought they would be."

Kirk Hodges
BIO, 03



"Yes."

Chrissy Oliver
PSYCH, 01



"Yes, yes they are."

Thiago Araujo
CMPSC, 07



"A majority of them."

Melanie Serencsa
COMBA, 09

Martone lends humor to Smith Writing Series

by B.J. Shields
staff writer

Last Thursday, writer Michael Martone visited the Behrend campus as the second speaker in the Smith Writing Series. His arrival was celebrated with a quiet reception at 4 p.m. at the Smith Chapel where an informal introduction was made by Mr. George Looney, assis-

tant professor of English and creative writing.

The informal atmosphere continued to dominate the reception as guests conversed over cheese and fruit and the author visited with students.

"After all of the professors left the reception, (Martone) approached our table as naturally as if he had been sitting with us all along," said Amanda Gruver, BIO 04.

Martone, who has published numerous works of fiction and non-fiction, is touted for his challenging of the boundaries between the two genres. His books include *The Flaneness and Other Landscapes*, *The Blue Guide to Indiana*, *Penses: The Thoughts of Dan Quayle*, *Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List*, and *Alive and Dead in Indiana*. In addition to these publications, his writings have been included in many literary journals and periodicals and have earned him numerous awards including two fellowships in the National Endowment for the Arts. He currently is employed as a creative writing instructor at the University of Alabama.

After reminiscing over his travels abroad and enlightening guests about the aging process, he was accompanied by students to the Reed

Union Building, where he was scheduled to speak at 7 p.m.

More than fifty students, faculty, and visitors poured into the auditorium to listen to Martone as he presented readings from several of his works.

Professor Sean Dougherty opened the series with a poetic introduction of Martone in which he commented on his style.

"The reader is eventually lead to recognize that what they're reading is something whose boundaries are never preset and defined," said Dougherty. "(Martone) instead advocates an exploration into both what is and what isn't, what can be and never could, or perhaps what should be, but is never simply, what if?"

Martone began with a short fiction piece titled "Contributor's Note"

"Contributor's Note appears in the back of magazines and journals and serves as a brief biography for contributing authors," Martone said.

The audience received this reading with laughter as Martone described a character coincidentally named Michael Martone. The character's biography speaks of his award-winning compositions, and the fact that they have all been written by his mother.

Martone went on to share humorous

anecdotes regarding a visit he made to Indiana, Pa. He then read a piece he submitted on request to the Web site www.literarysmut.com, an Internet site dedicated to what he described as "literary smut." The reading, he announced, was actually of a first draft of his eroticization of an ordinary Honeywell thermostat.

The third excerpt he read was from his *Blue Guide to Indiana*, in which he wrote fictional descriptions of non-existent museums and places of interest in his home state.

"We made the book to look exactly like an actual Blue Guide," said Martone. "We got a letter from them (the publishers of the popular travel guides) to cease and desist. Writers should aspire to get a cease and desist order."

The readings from this book included his imagined Orville Redenbacher Museum, the Federal Research and Testing Center for Operating Casket Standards, and the Musée de Bob Ross.

His final reading came from his book *Penses: the Thoughts of Dan Quayle*.

"So I figured upon Dan Quayle and there are twelve thoughts in the book," said Martone, continuing to entertain the audience with his humor. He recited his fictionalized account of the former vice president's experience with snipe hunting.

Martone closed the series by thanking the audience for their attention.

"Thanks for coming out and being patient," he said. "I know you could be across the hall trying to get that pizza at the (United Way) auction."

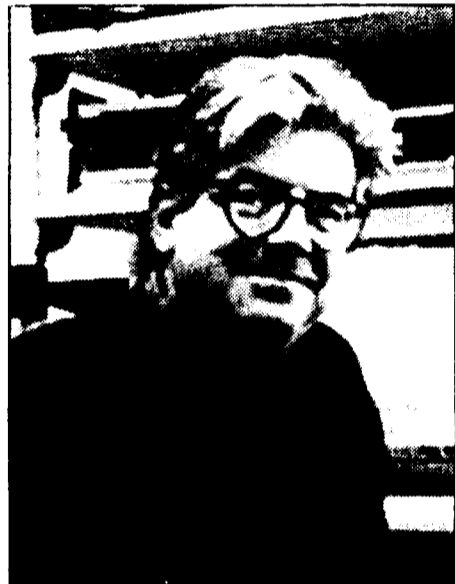
As an encore, he read an essay titled "The Sex Lives of the Fantastic Four," a humorous depiction of the libidos of a team of comic book superheroes. The audience roared with laughter as he vividly described Elastic Man's Johnson.

Overall, it seemed all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the visit and reading by Martone.

The next installation in the Smith Reading Series will be poet Mark Doty, graduate professor from the University of Houston. He has been a National Book Award finalist, the only American poet to claim Britain's TS Eliot Prize, and two-time recipient of National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. Doty will visit Behrend on Dec. 11.

Further information on the Smith Reading Series is available by visiting the Penn State Behrend Web site.

Further information on Michael Martone is available by visiting www.usna.edu/english/faculty/faculty/martone_m.htm.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Author Michael Martone provided humor and insight at the last installment of the Smith Writer's series.

SGA budget allocation process under way

by Syreeta Anderson
staff writer

It is that time again for clubs and organization to submit budget request forms to the Student Government Association. Any club or organization that is currently registered as active and has completed budget training is applicable for the spring 2004 allocation process.

There were six opportunities for clubs and organizations to get information on the spring budget. The meetings were held in Reed 113 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the week of October 20 and Monday and Tuesday of the following week. The president and treasurer of any club or organization requesting money are required to come to one of these meeting. If the president and treasurer are not present at one of the meetings, then their club or organization will not be considered for funding for the spring of 2004.

Twelve copies of the budget request form are due to the RUB information desk before 5 p.m. on Nov. 7. The following week the budget committee, consisting of SGA vice president Jennifer Sutter, SGA treasurer Erica Sitter and six student delegates, will make allocation recommendations and call necessary budget hearings. On Dec. 3, the budget committee will present recommendations to the SGA. Clubs will receive their budget allocations the following day. The next part of the process occurs Dec. 9, when appeal forms are due to the RUB information desk by 5 p.m. Finally, on Dec. 10, SGA will hear appeals and

vote on the budget.

Before putting together a budget request, clubs must look at the list of items that the SGA won't give funding for. According to the University policy, there are certain activities that won't receive funding. Political activities, discriminatory activities and activities that provide non contractual gain of any student are a few examples. Along with the University, the SGA has its own restrictions concerning cash prizes, routine refreshments, postage and more.

When submitting a request, the committee will consider the number of students being served, benefits of the program and the diversity and enrichment the program will bring to students. The committee will also look for creativity and originality of the funding request.

Jennifer Sutter, MKTG 07, said, "This year there are two major changes to the allocations process. The first is the way clubs are allowed to spend recruitment money and the second is the fact that we are requiring DJ quotes." This year clubs will be allowed to spend recruitment money on program enhancements such as pens, balloons, etc. The mandate for DJ quotes is to ensure that the distribution of funds are as accurate as possible.

Every club or organization that is funded by the SGA for any activity, trip or program must include the SGA emblem in their publicity. SGA is implementing this rule in an attempt to raise awareness of what it is that SGA provides to students and student organization.

Outdoors club takes on Pennsylvania Canyon

by Brian Mitchell
staff writer

On Friday, the Behrend Outdoors Club drove four hours to the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and hiked 22 miles on the West Rim Trail. They finished late Sunday afternoon.

"It was a successful trip, both challenging and rewarding," said Floyd Mattie, BIOBD 05, president of the Outdoors Club.

The members arrived at the canyon Friday at 9 p.m. and hiked 2 miles to a nearby campsite.

The trail was confusing on the way to the first campsite. Another trail intersected the West Rim Trail, which had orange blazers, or trail markers, and directed to the right. Due to the darkness, the hikers missed the sign and hiked on a different trail for a while. They realized they were lost when Issac Hagenbuc saw a blue blazer. They back-tracked and saw the West Rim Trail was off to the right.

"Though it was dark and easy to miss, the workers need to put an arrow on a tree to let people know the trail is off to the right," said Hagenbuc, BIOBD 09.

They finally made it to their designated campsite around midnight. When they arrived, they set up their tents and went straight to bed. According to club members, it was an extremely cold night.

When the adventurers woke up Saturday morning, they had breakfast, took down their tents, and started a 12 mile hike. Everyone hiked at his own pace.

Floyd Mattie was the fastest hiker on the trip and usually stayed in the front. "Being the fastest hiker on the trip felt like having more responsibility to make sure everyone else was doing alright while on the trail," said Mattie.

Saturday's hike started out at an easy pace, but the up-hills were pretty difficult to some people. Some people's legs were getting tired just walking up the mountains.

They arrived at their designated campsite on Saturday around 5 p.m. After arriving, the members filled their canteens at the nearby stream, set up tents, and Hagenbuc started the campfire. While the fire was going, everyone cooked and ate dinner. After dinner, everyone gathered around the fire, roasted marshmallows and talked throughout the night. Saturday night was a nice night unlike the first night.

The next morning, everyone went through the same routine as Saturday morning and started their final 8 mile hike around 9:30 a.m. They reached their final destination around 4 p.m. The hikers gained a lot from their journey.

"I felt a sense of accomplishment after hiking 13 miles in one day along with 22 miles in about two days," said Luke Borowy.

The adventurers observed interesting sites at various

overlooks on the trip, including different angles on the canyon full of beautiful fall colors, a beautiful stream from down below and a nice view of the town of Blackwell.

The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon is approximately 160,000 acres of the Tioga State Forest beginning south of Ansonia and continuing about 1,450 feet at Waterville. There are various rock formations at the canyon that are over 350 million years old and a gorge that was formed during Pleistocene time.



The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.

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