

STUDENT LIFE

Screen Visions opens minds once again

By Aaron J. Amendola
staff writer

Those crazy Screen Visions kids are at it again! Chris Hvizdak and his colleagues in the club have prepared a new film series for Behrend students that will shock the mind and challenge their thoughts.

After bringing films like "Unconstitutional," "The End of Suburbia," and "Hitting Catastrophe," Screen Visions is bringing yet another film which will appeal to the open-minded viewer. The last film of the semester will be Brenda Keasal's "Never Among Friends."

"We shoot for movies which defy the status quo," said Club President Chris Hvizdak. With material like "Never Among Friends" coming on campus, Screen Visions is showing they're not afraid to show content that Hollywood would not.

"The Polar Express," it is not. The club stirred up controversy earlier this year by screening political films during a time when many college kids were very uninformed about the issues being faced by the presidential candidates. Through the power of film, Screen Visions informed students in a big way, and now they're here to promote different aspects of human society.

"[The film shows] understanding, appreciation, and utilization of the fringe of human society," said Hvizdak who decided to show the film after taking in suggestions from many members of the club.

You can't see this type of movie at Theatletown, so why not take some time and go see a Screen Visions movie? Brenda Keasal's "Never Among Friends" will be screened on Dec. 8, at 7 PM in Reed 117.

Hvizdak is eager to bring in more and more films that will hopefully appeal to the thinker in all of us. He taunted that Behrend students should be looking out for the films which are going to be screened in the Spring. "We've got a few significant series planned," said Hvizdak.



SLATE PRODUCTIONS
"Never Among Friends" will be screened on Dec. 8 in Reed 117.

Choir sings Lord's praise

By Teresa Nicoila
staff writer

Saturday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. the Ultimate Praise Gospel Choir will perform in McGarvey Commons. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Ultimate Praise Gospel Choir is made up of 13 members. Of those, only three are men. They range in grade level stretching from First year to alumni. The club is extracurricular and is run completely by the members. They stress that tryouts are unnecessary and that anyone can join at anytime.

Saturday's concert will not be the first time the group has sung this year. Those who attended the Open House were able to hear the choir's talent. For the members of the ensemble, performing means more than just singing.

"We like to call this a ministry," said member and treasurer Delmon Lindsay.

Saturday's theme, "Because of Who You Are," is based on one of the songs the group is ministering. In deciding upon a theme, the choir recognized that it was the one idea that tied all five songs together.

Nicole Carter, spiritual advisor and longest running member of the choral group, said, "It is very uplifting and encouraging. A lot of times students don't get the opportunity to praise God and this gives them that chance."

There are four distinct positions among the members of the Gospel Choir. President Natasha Gayle, Secretary Crystal Chisholm,



TERESA NICOLA/BEHREND BEACON

The Ultimate Praise Gospel Choir performs Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer Delmon Lindsay and Spiritual Advisor Nicole Carter. Carter encourages the members to be spiritual, pray and read the bible. Any struggling member can turn to her for guidance. The choir's mission statement reads: "United lead by the spirit".

The original idea for a gospel choir on campus came from two young women who wanted to spread the good news of God. Since then, the choir has enjoyed ministering for seven

years at Penn State Behrend.

Carter said, "We are very diverse because we have some of everybody here." Shalanda Butts said, "It is not us, but the God in us."

The Ultimate Praise Gospel Choir encourages all people to "Come get your praise on." "We would appreciate your presence at our concert," said Gayle.

'Desperate' has red hot ratings

By Richard Huff
New York Daily News (KRT)

Viewers are falling hard for a group of "Desperate Housewives." An estimated 24.9 million of them tuned in Sunday night for ABC's red-hot drama, giving the new series its largest audience yet. It was also the biggest audience for any scripted show on ABC since the May 2000 farewell episode of Michael J. Fox on "Spin City."

No wonder. During the course of an hour, viewers got to see:

- Felicity Huffman's, Lynette Scavo tangle, with a fellow parent at her sons' upscale school.

- Eva Longoria's, Gabrielle Solis, ditch her mother-in-law at a casino to be with her boytoy.

- And Marcia Cross' Bree Van De Kamp drop a fur coat to reveal her wearing red lingerie.

"I honestly think 'Desperate Housewives' is one of those shows that taps into the sentiment ordinary Americans feel," said Stacey Lynn Koerner, who analyzes viewing patterns for ad-buyer Initiative Media. "It's slightly over the edge of what the normal person would do, but it's certainly plausible."

Indeed, "Desperate Housewives" has connected with viewers in a way no ABC drama has in a decade and in a way few scripted shows have since reality TV hit big.

To that end, the upward viewing trend for "Desperate Housewives" mirrors that of early "Survivor" and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." Each generated extensive watercooler chatter as folks discussed the previous night's show.

"The best television shows have always had those

water-cooler moments," said executive producer Michael Edelstein, citing "Seinfeld," "ER" and "Sex and the City."

"With reality TV, it's here, you got to know about it now," Koerner said. "With scripted TV, you usually don't fear that."

But viewers are following along in a big way.

Fan Web sites are flooded each night after the show ends with thoughts on plotlines, the characters and the future.

"You start to feel like you have a relationship and a responsibility with the audience," Edelstein said.

He's also quick to note that "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," which airs before "Desperate Housewives," had a huge audience Sunday, too, helping drive viewers to

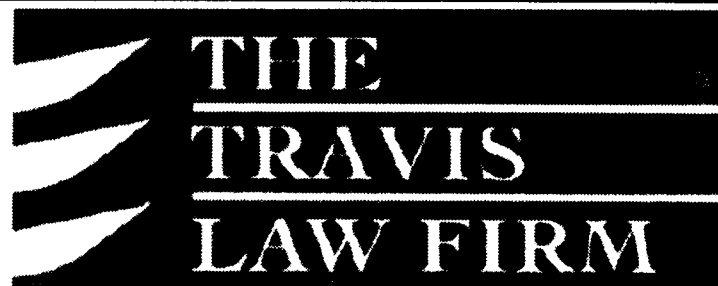
the drama.

Rival networks are also surprised with the show's performance.

Before the season started, executives at ABC's competitors believed the show would do well, grabbing much of the female audience on Sunday night, recalled an executive at another network. What they hadn't figured on was how many men were watching as well.

It should be noted, CBS' "CSI" remains the most-watched show this season and had more than 30 million viewers last week.

But "Desperate Housewives" is rapidly climbing in the rankings.



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Grant C. Travis, Esquire

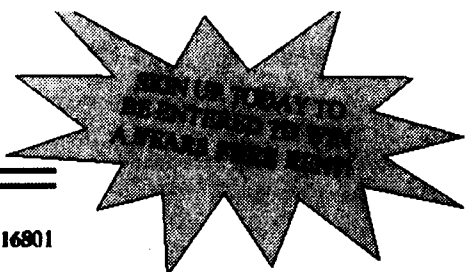
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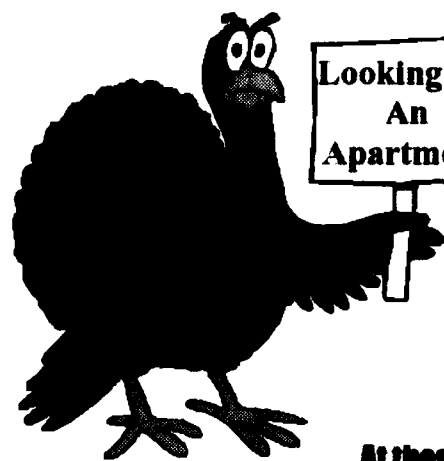
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