



THE BEHREND BEACON

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Poetry duo to perform

By Erin Ahlgren
Staff Writer

Yellow Rage members Michelle Meyers and Catzie Vilayphonh will shake things up Feb. 12. The dynamic duo from Philadelphia will be in Reed 117 at 8 p.m. with something to say and students should be ready to listen.

They shout, they swear and they certainly are not afraid to say what's on their mind. More importantly, what they have to say needs to be heard.

Some may find the choice of words offensive. Others, however, believe the truth behind their spoken word justifies the slam-poetry style language they use. The duo met at a writing class at the Asian Arts Initiative in 2000. Since then they have gone on to perform at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Colorado, which aired on MTV.

They have performed at colleges and conferences from Seattle to Maine and, in February, the two will make their third trip to perform at Behrend.

Johnny Tseng, president of the Asian Student Organization is looking forward to the return of Yellow Rage.

"These ladies are the best example of what they mean by speaking with your soul and with truth. They have nothing to hide and they are not afraid about what they say, it's the truth no matter if you like it or not," said Tseng.

The pair touches upon such issues as stereotyping Asians, discrimination of Asian-American women, cultural appropriation and ethnic pride. Their goals are "to provide awareness that is not often heard" and to challenge misconceptions of Asian Americans.

They have spoken about sweatshop labor, anti-Asian violence, and sexual slavery

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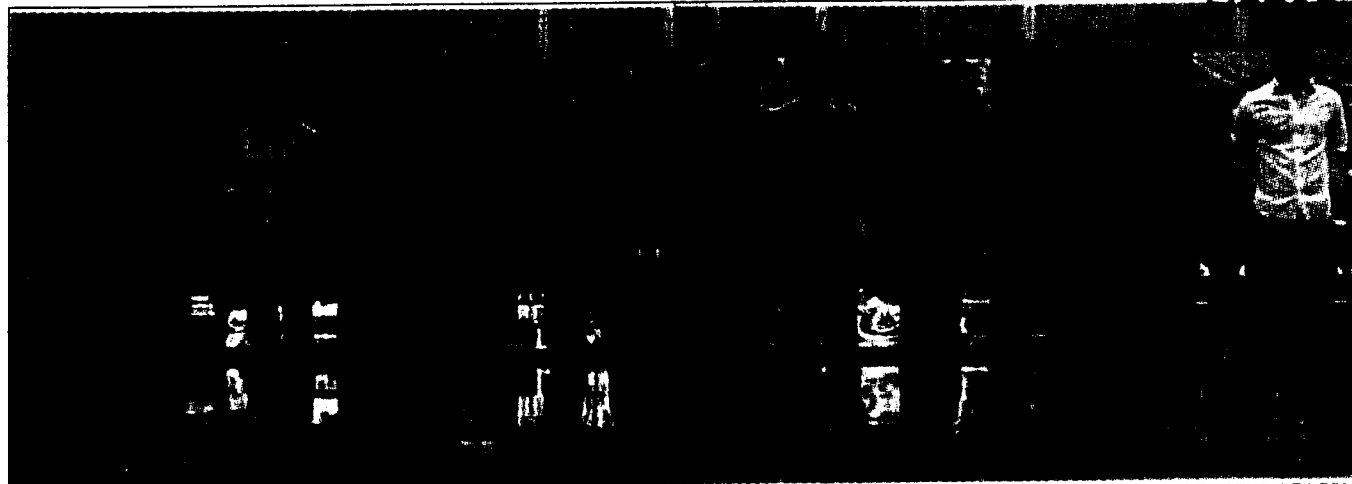
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ROB FRANK/BEHREND BEACON

Standing in the Junker Center are 12 nominees from the 16 person 2004 homecoming court. The court members are nominated by their respective student clubs and organizations.

Homecoming returns Students look forward to bigger, better event

By Crystal Chisholm
staff writer

"More people come the second time" is the phrase that will be printed on the back of T-shirts sold for this year's Homecoming celebration. Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Junker Center, the women's basketball game will be the official kick off of the Homecoming celebration.

During the women's game as well as throughout the men's game immediately following, there will be two caricature artists on hand giving free portraits to everyone. The men's basketball game will be held later Saturday evening at 6 p.m. and the crowning of the king and queen will take place at half time.

All participants running for the title of Homecoming king or queen must be nominated through one of the many clubs and organizations on campus. Students shouldn't forget to check their web mail for the link to vote for their favorite nominees for king and queen.

The second part of Homecoming will take place at Sabella's of Union Station Feb. 11 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Transportation is provided. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 at the Rub Desk and will also be sold at a table outside of Bruno's from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday from now until Feb. 11.

The biggest question on student's minds: "Why should I participate in Homecoming?" There is a simple answer to this question; in some student's minds there is no better event students could have fun attending for only \$10 on any given weekend in Erie. It costs more for a couple to order a meal at Quaker Steak and Lube on Peach Street than it does to go to Homecoming.

For \$10 students will have guaranteed transportation to and from the event. The package also includes a buffet dinner (which Dobbins has nothing to do with), a DJ to create party hype, a substantial amount of prizes and the opportunity to play casino games. Also, for those students who are 21 and older Sabella's will be offering a cash bar.

"We just want students to be able to come together and have fun," said Jenna Boazzo, BUSMN 06, of the Homecoming committee. Funds for homecoming are provided by the Student Activity Fee.

In some students' opinions, there are really no better options; choices are very limited. It is a good opportunity for student's to expand their social spectrum. Students can get semi-dressed up, meet some new people, dance a little, eat some good food, have a little drink (for the 21 and over crowd only) and play some Black Jack, Craps, Texas Hold Em, or a variety of other casino games.

Faculty to share literary creations

By Lacy Buzard
copy editor

Behrend's faculty and staff have joined together once again to bring us "Behrend Reads," a literary event where colleagues can evaluate each other's work and students can see their professors from a different perspective.

Those reading for this year's event include: Mr. George Looney, assistant professor of English and creative writing; Dr. Holly Welker, assistant professor of creative writing; Dr. Tom Noyes, assistant professor of creative writing; Dr. Gregory Fowler, assistant professor of American studies and literature; and Ruth Pflueger, director of the Learning Resource Center.

Looney will be reading poetry from his new book, "The Precarious Rhetoric of Angels." His book won the White Pine Press Poetry Prize this year and will be released next fall.

He expects, however, that there will be a variety of prose and poetic pieces. These are all pieces that the participants have been working on recently.

"No reading should last more than an hour," said Looney.

There is no set theme for this reading. "People can expect a veritable schmorgasboard of fascinating language play," Looney said.

The new edition of "Lake Effect" will be unveiled to students for the first time at "Behrend Reads." The literary journal, edited by Behrend students, will have a special reduced price for other students, according to Looney.

Students who worked on this edition will have the opportunity to show their work off to an international audience when the group travels to host a table at the annual associate writing program's conference.

Campus celebrates black history

By Tiffany Mak
staff writer

Throughout February, the Association of Black Collegians will celebrate Black History Month to acknowledge the life and culture of blacks. Activities will be held to promote awareness of the African American community with Human Relations Programming Council and National Society of Black Engineers.

Traditionally, February is a month in which blacks take the time to celebrate their heritage and culture.

"Without the African-American, without the minority, the United States would not be up and running so smoothly," said Pam Sumah, INBUS 06, president of the Association of Black Collegians.

Without a formal heritage day for blacks, Sumah thought that it was imperative to set up a period to recognize "the sacrifices made by individuals."

A lot of African-Americans who directly impacted history receive little recognition. Too often, big names like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X are the only ones known. Sumah would like students to know that there are more people than that.

"Before, a lot of things African-Americans did were overlooked and many people who have done things are not even in the history books," said Sumah with disappointment. "There is not enough awareness of African-Americans."

Co-organized with NSBE, ABC is scheduled to present the "Family Feud: How Much Do U Know about Black History?" on Feb 9 in the Multi-cultural Council site. It is to promote self-awareness and self-pride.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, African Resurrection, Baltimore's African Heritage dance ensemble, will perform at noon in the Reed Union Building Wintergarden.

The finale of Black History Month comes with the play "Sounds of Blackness." This program, created with "Black Expressions," is a celebration of African culture. The play will be comprised of slam poetry, dance, music, spoken word and talk about the indigenous people of Africa. They will cover some of the famous literature that was written in the past about Africans and literature written by African authors. It will be held on Feb. 20 in Bruno's.

"This month allows me to learn about my culture and educates others who are ignorant and not black about my culture," said Sumah.

While Black History Month means a lot to Sumah, it symbolizes a lot to

others as well.

The president of the Organization of African Students, Hayolom Tadesse, FNC 07, felt that Black History Month was also very crucial, although, he did not take part in organizing any event.

"The black movement is so important to the U.S. because (African Americans) changed it," said Tadesse. "Like Martin Luther King, they changed America for the better; they unified the country, but mostly they were not recognized."

He also hopes a lot of students show up to the events held in this month, especially non-African Americans on campus. He believes Black History Month can allow them

to see a different side of the life of African Americans. This is also what OAS is basically doing.

"We tried to clarify the stereotype and misconceptions, and to let them see that most of them are not true," claimed Tadesse.

Wan Hyok (Joe) Yoon, MANGT 07, believes this is going to be a valuable event.

"It not only helps people be aware of black people, in a broader sense, but also the minorities," said Yoon.

"It's important to Americans since the cultural homogeneity says we are the same but we often view others as different," said John Fry, MIS 07.