

# STUDENT LIFE

## McDaniel shares personal poetry

By Jenna Gregory  
staff writer

Poet Jeffrey McDaniel's performance evoked great emotion and response from audience members Thursday night. His poetry reading that was held in the Smith Chapel on Behrend's campus was welcomed by students and staff alike. Following a scintillating introduction from Professor Sean Dougherty, McDaniel's creative language and explosive performance style filled the chapel's worship space.

McDaniel's writing hits on many topics familiar to the human race. Religion, love, lust, and racism are a few of the topics that McDaniel's hard hitting poetic style touched upon during the reading. He writes from a personal stand point and, though deep in meaning and emotion, his poems often startle and surprise as well. Dramatic twists and turns kept the audience intently focused on his energetic deliveries.

For many students this was their first experience at a poetry reading. Aaron Sanner said that it was a "really good experience. I've never been to anything like it before. I enjoyed the performance part of poetry instead of reading for yourself." Many others contributed their words of praise and respect for

McDaniel's talent. Close colleague to McDaniel, Sean Dougherty said that he "blew the roof off of the chapel" with his spirit and enthusiasm.

McDaniel did touch on subjects that some also considered taboo. His contemporary views and outspokenness ruffled some feathers as well. Miranda Krause, a communications major here at Penn State Behrend, said, "His work overall offends me... It's inappropriate." She was one of very few who disliked the works McDaniel shared.

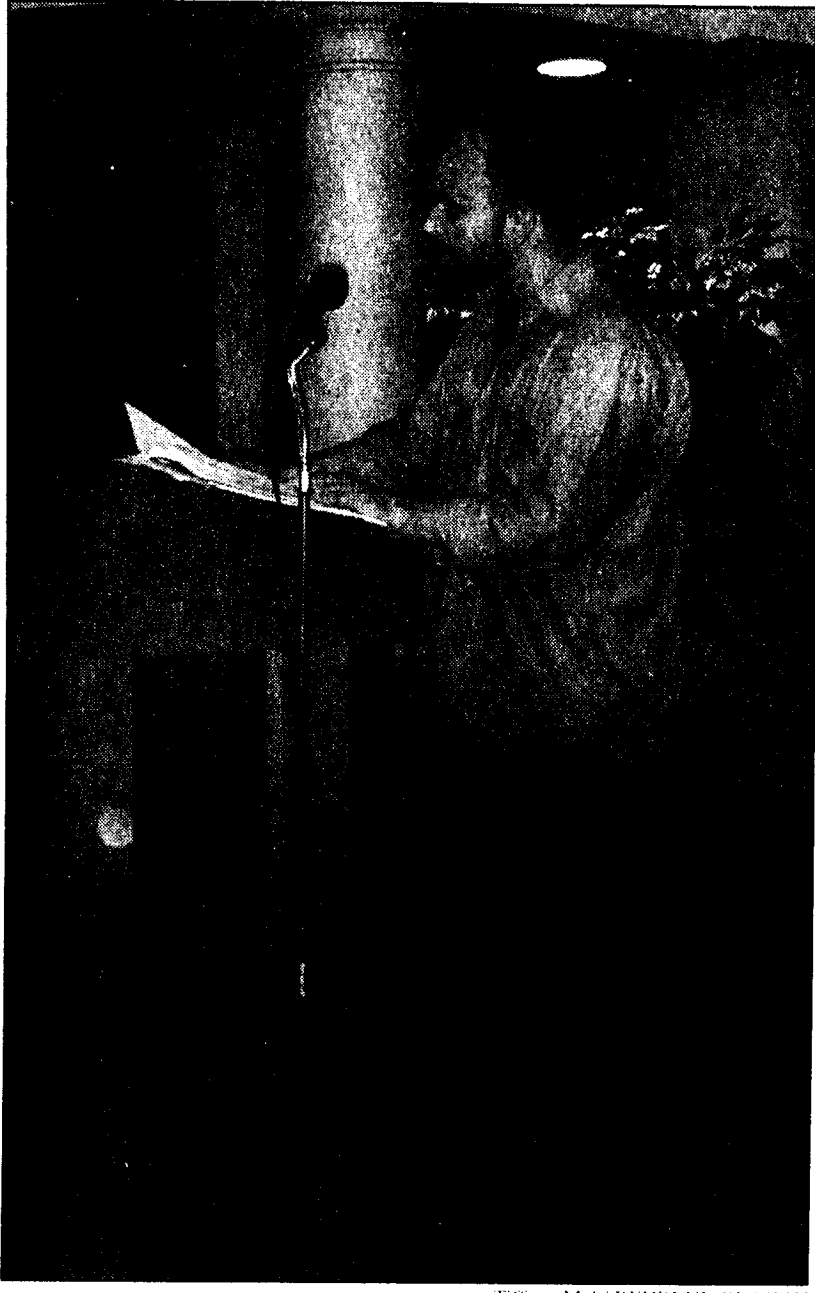
McDaniel spoke briefly about where his inspiration and drive to write originates from. He claimed to have experienced a past with drugs and alcohol and now that that part of his life is over he feels that if you can "step out of something, then you can write about it." Most of his issues deal with life and all the things that can plague the mind and the moment. "I don't think that going through life is easy all the time," McDaniel said as he justified his profound poetry.

McDaniel performed the poetry as if it was springing from his toes. It was obvious that he felt every word he spoke. When asked about what he gets from performing his work he said that the "worse thing to do is read a poem and not connect at all." He states, "You

can't expect every person to feel the connection, but what I'm doing is art." His raw emotion was visible through his poetic portrayals. "Emotional pain isn't bad, it's being alive," was McDaniel's response to whether or not reading his poems rip open the old scars he's written about. When he reads, McDaniel wants to feel "in the moment and connected: like the poetry is alive in a three-dimensional sense."

Jeffrey McDaniel is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has three published works under his belt including "Splinter Factory," "Alibi School" and "Forgiveness Paradise"; and he is currently working on a novel. His poetry has been showcased in many journals and anthologies over the years as well as translated into Portuguese, Swedish, German and Spanish. He has done a tour through Europe and was also part of Lollapalooza in 1994. McDaniel teaches creative writing at Sara Lawrence University in the Bronx, New York.

The next Creative Writer Series event will be held at the Smith Chapel on October 6, 2005. If you have any questions about upcoming events, please contact the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at 814-898-6108.



Tiffany Mak/BEHREND BEACON

## Comedian Dov Davidoff heads to Behrend to liven up Bruno's

By Stephen Oyler  
contributing writer

On September 30th at 9 p.m. in Bruno's, Behrend will host a fabulous comedian. The famously amusing performer is Dov Davidoff. Dov Davidoff, a well known national comedian and actor, will be performing during Parent's and Family Weekend in Bruno's. He has performed on the hilarious "Chappelle Show" and has been a

guest on Comedy Central's "Tough Crowd" debates. He has also appeared on FOX television and has been a commentator on MTV, VH1 and has been on CBS, as well as a number of comedy competitions sponsored by various companies such as Bud Light, Comedy Central, and also H.B.O. and comedy festivals.

I am sure that some of you will recognize him as an actor, comedian or even both. In a commercial for "The

Chappelle Show," Davidoff is the police officer that pulls Mr. Chappelle over in his car on the way to the show. A short dialogue follows and it is rather comical. Dov Davidoff also has recently been working on a movie that is expected to come out sometime this spring.

The Lion Entertainment Board (LEB) is sponsoring the show for Behrend students, staff, faculty and in conjunction with the Parent's and

Family Weekend to provide entertainment for the audience. The LEB also is showing the humorous, side-splitting animated film "Madagascar" the same weekend and has a different movie for every week this semester. On Saturday night, October 1st, Team Rootberry will be performing in Bruno's. This team of two will perform crazy juggling acts and even sword swallowing stunts as well. They hold national and international records for speed and

crazy juggling and are a riot on stage.

Come one, come all to events of every magnitude, energy level and age level to enjoy the entertainment from the LEB, for you, your family, parents and friends. Dov Davidoff and Team Rootberry are free to the public, and entrance to the movie is only \$1 for any and all ages.

## Zoo Boo Volunteers Needed

Melissa Whitten  
staff writer

The Erie Zoo's annual "ZooBoo" will be held nightly October 14 thru October 30 from 6-9 p.m. The event is described as a "spooky but not too spooky" way for kids under 11 enjoy Halloween in a way other than the same-old door-to-door candy hunt. Children will be able to enjoy an evening of Halloween displays, characters in festive costume and, of course, trick-or-treating. On the list of returning activities and characters are the Talking Pumpkin, Corn Maze, the Monkey Maze Funhouse and a notorious troll occupying the Children's Bridge. Face painting and crafts will be dispersed throughout the park and new this year is a gold digging staff near the chicken coupe that kids can search for fortune in. Admission for the event is \$4.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 3-11. Kids under two will be admitted at no cost. This is the park's only fundraiser and is expected to be a great turnout based on the past years.

This years "ZooBoo" is sponsored by PNC Bank, Wegmans, Classy 100, Country 98, Z102.3, WJET-TV24 and Fox 66.

The zoo is asking for volunteers to help at this "Eerie" program and extends the invitation to Behrend students. Attendance for at least one of the nine training sessions is required, but the Center for Service Leadership is providing transportation for interested students on Wednesday, September 28 from 5:30 - 9 p.m., Sunday, October 2 from 1 - 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, October 4 from 5:30 - 9 p.m. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity as October 22 is Penn State Community Day and is the perfect time to volunteer (plus it beats handing out cups of punch.) Detailed descriptions of the positions available and a complete schedule for the training sessions can be found at <http://pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/student/activities/SAIL/ZooBoo2005.pdf> and students should contact Kelly Shrout at [kaw148@psu.edu](mailto:kaw148@psu.edu) or 898-6609 for any questions.



Contributed Photo

During their annual ZooBoo, the Erie Zoo decorates its facility into a vivid Halloween landscape of fun

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