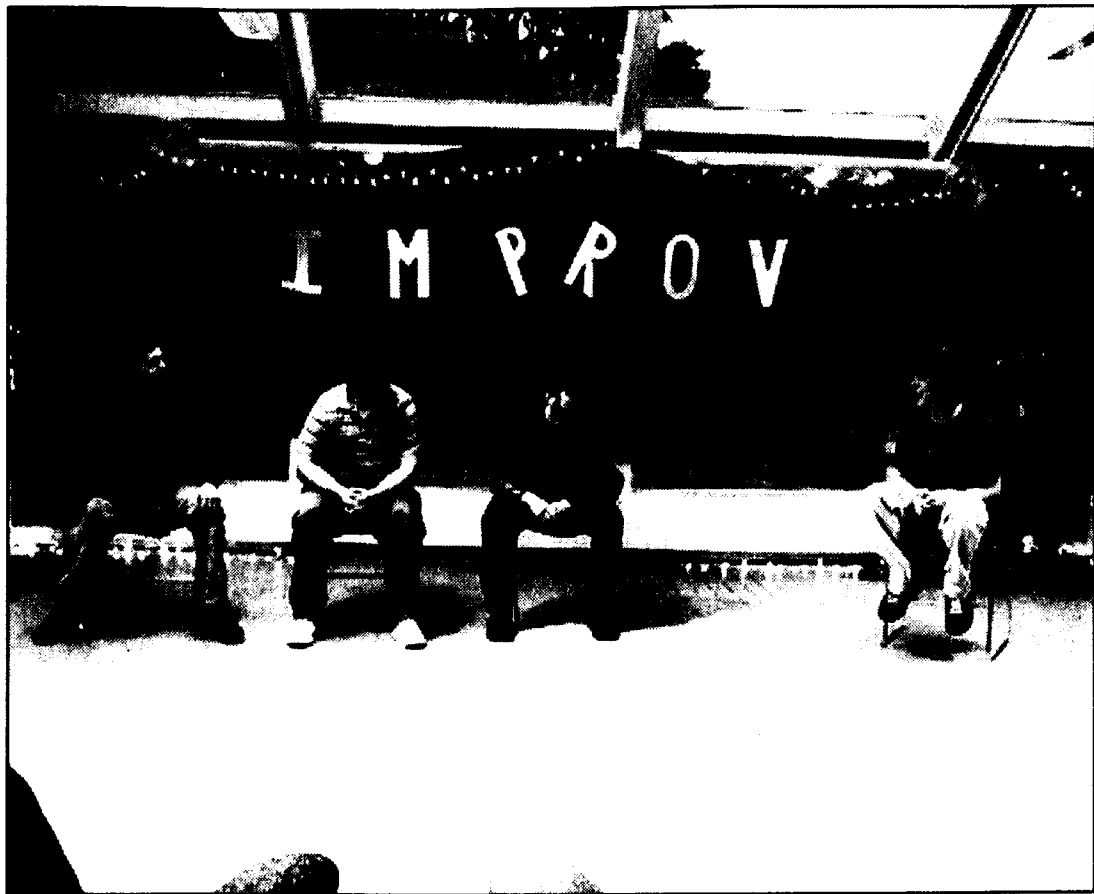


# ARTS

## All the world's a stage; improv group turns 60



Jeremy Korwek/THE BEHREND BEACON

Senior Ryan Westwood participates in the familiar "Dating Game" alongside three other members of the Matchbox Players in the Wintergreen Garden.

**By Evan Koser**  
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Yesterday was the day for club rush: if you missed your chance to get a good look at the myriad activities on campus outside of the curriculum, you probably aren't aware of the Matchbox Players.

The people who stake their public persona all around campus are not your typical "court jesters". These are people who do what they love and—to them—it's no embarrassment; it's a way of life. The Matchbox Players is Penn State Behrend's local improvisation troupe.

The Matchbox Players was one of the first clubs founded alongside with the college itself in Behrend's very first semester. Originally called The Dramatics Club back in 1948, the club will be celebrating its 60th birthday this fall. In the early days, the club performed plays that were mostly directed by the English faculty, however the club had responsibilities of their own: rigging their own lighting and setting up their performance area. Performances took place directly in front of the audience, who sat circled around the Players. These productions were held in the old gymnasium—now referred to as Erie Hall.

Doing a few plays each semester, the club also went on tour with their performances and traveled to other campuses. Through this process, they were even able to generate a profit.

After some years, members of

the Dramatics Club began calling themselves The Behrend Players. They even took up the art of improvisation. In 1971, all operations were moved to the Studio Theatre. Prior to this change, the studio was used as an art studio and supply room.

Since that year, it's been the home for all of Behrend's theatrics. In 1989, the club changed its name again, this time to The Matchbox Players. Members of the club attribute the name change to the fact that the theatre looked like a match-

Building. First timers will get a chance to join the Players' mailing list, which already consists of just under a hundred names. For the most part, these general meetings will normally determine the times of the group's common improvisation time.

The real meetings are normally headed by either Valerie Bruchwalski, president of the Matchbox Players, or Ryan Westwood, a senior Psychology and General Arts and Sciences major. For lack of a better word, members of the club spend their

time playing improvisation games and, sometimes, putting shows on in Bruno's. For anyone who's ever seen *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, these games are typically modeled off of something you'd see on the show.

While most games consist of standing up and doing or saying something silly, there are some that require quick thinking and skillful deliverance: such games require players to be witty and—as an improv group would imply—improvisational, reacting to situations and themes created on the spot.

For those not really interested in acting or improv, the players don't mind if you watch, but they do ask that you're courteous to those who do participate: booing can be detrimental to one's confidence.

Those interested in meeting times or who have questions can attend the first meeting this Thursday, September 11, at 12:30 pm in their office or email the Players via email at [matchboxplayers@gmail.com](mailto:matchboxplayers@gmail.com).

### The Matchbox Players Mission Statement:

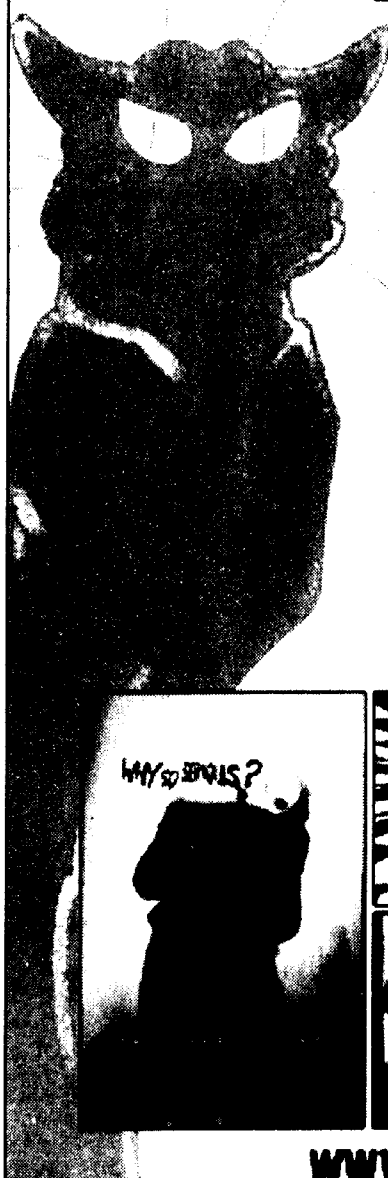
To develop a general appreciation of theatrical performances and provide experience in the various phases of theatrical production.

*Think. Dream. Act.*

box to the members that year. (For those who don't know, the building was highly flammable, since it's made of old dry wood, is dusty, and comes stocked with a room full of paint thinner and other chemicals.)




Ranging from the outrageous to the typical, the activities the club participates in encompass a wide variety. Typical club meetings are all about "business, which is to say that participants of any meeting will play first and work later. Anyone can attend a general meeting, taking place every Thursday at 12:30 pm in the Matchbox Player's office, directly across the mail room window in the Reed Union

Write for the ARTS page of  
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## A body is fit for more than prowess and extortion

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The human body is an instrument of many things: athletics, war, physical labor, and even a vessel for science and experimentation. However, what most people sometimes fail to realize is that our bodies are more than tools, they can be canvases for artistic expression.

While the obvious exposition may come to mind, there is much more to the human body than its natural contours and bare physical appearance. Though these may be prerequisites for mainstream pornographic material, nakedness can just as beautiful as it is lustfully titillating.

A modeling agency located in Pittsburgh prides itself in its definition of nudity as a form of art. Many of their models also share this mindset and thus a lucrative business relationship is created.

The job entails posing nude in a various assortment of positions and are mostly done outside or with "flairs" of nature scattered in the background of the potential photograph. Using nature as a tool is meant to accentuate the belief that, because the body is nature and nature is art, the natural body is art. Rarely, however, are certain parts of the body exposed, particularly a woman's breasts or a man's penis. For the

most part, they are typically covered in some subtle, artistic way.

Some bodies, however, aren't required to be still living to qualify as art. "Bodies...the Exposition" is such an instance of artistic expression.

The art exhibit is one of beauty and science conglomerated into one. It's described as an "extraordinary unveiling of the human body" as both a specimen of scientific foundations and as natural beauty.

To help you see what a body really looks like on the inside, this Exhibition uses real human bodies that have been preserved so they do not decay. Though the preservation process is complex, the method is simply in place to ensure the bodies do not decay over time, allowing the exhibition to present thousands of unique teaching possibilities for instructors of all levels, including medical professionals, archaeologists and other various assortments of scholars.



Michelangelo's "Adam"

## Food For Thought

"The observer, when he seems to himself to be observing a stone, is really, if physics is to be believed, observing the effects of the stone upon himself."

—Bertrand Russell

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



"May no act of ours bring shame to one hearth that loves thy name; May our lives but swell thy fame, dear old state, dear old state."

*Fred Lewis Pattee*