

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## YPC and Behrend host Northwest Songfest



MANDEE MORROW / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Jason Bishop prepares approximately 200 students minutes before they process into a packed McGarvey Commons.

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Bishop said that there were at least 500 people in the audience for the performance at the end of the day. "It was standing room only," he said. "There were about 50 people standing in the lobby outside of McGarvey Commons, because there was no more

room."

After the event he received e-mails from parents who said that their kids could not stop talking about it. Bishop was also contacted by many students who wanted to audition for YPC after experiencing it firsthand. For Bishop, the night of the event itself was full of positive feed-



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Students of all ages came to the Northwest Songfest last Saturday, November 1.

back. Many of the people who were present were "overwhelmed with what they saw," said Bishop.

The Northwest Songfest served to celebrate the founding of the Young People's Chorus of Erie. Bishop intended for it to be a taste of what the program would be like for students who

were interested in it. Some of the students present had auditioned and received an acceptance into the program, and some had not yet auditioned. According to Bishop, the Songfest piqued a lot of interest in the program.

The Young People's Chorus of Erie has held over 1,000 auditions, and has accepted roughly

two-thirds all of students that auditioned. "The number one reason we will not accept a student is if they do not seem interested," said Bishop. The program is targeted toward children who show an interest in the choir, and are willing to make a commitment.

Elementary and middle school students will be practicing one

time every week once rehearsals begin in mid January, and high school students will practice two times each week, each in separate choirs. The goal of the choirs is to have the children performing as much as possible, and to travel at every opportunity. The program already has an invitation to perform with the Young People's Chorus of New York City in March.

The YPC has opened up an office in Erie Hall, and has two assistant conductors for the younger students along with Dr. Bishop, who will conduct the high school choir. Also aiding the program are work study student and choir officers. "It takes an army," says Bishop.

Bishop sees this program as a way for Behrend to offer something to the Erie community. Although it does cost money for a student to enroll in the program, Bishop says that they have made a promise every student who is accepted will be able to participate, whether they can afford it or not. This means that the YPC has to raise a lot of money, says Bishop, but the program will not turn students away. The work is long and demanding, but Bishop hopes "to make [Behrend] a place where choral art is respected for the impact it has on people's lives."

## This week in art history

By David Stull  
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**NOVEMBER 7, 1943:** Joni Mitchell, a singer and song-writer is born in Fort McLeod, Canada. Her father was an officer in the Canadian Air Force, and her mother a school teacher. As a teenager she taught herself to play guitar. After graduating high school attended the Alberta College of Art and design. She started her music career as a folk singer, singing in coffeehouses and folk clubs. By 1970 Mitchell had won her first Grammy for her folk song "Clouds." Since she has written and sung many songs, and is still known for her unique guitar style ranking 72nd greatest guitar player of all time.

**NOVEMBER 8, 1965:** The NBC daytime drama *Days of our Lives* airs. Created by Ted and Betty Corday *Days of our Lives* takes place in the fictional Midwestern town of Salem. When the series began the storylines were centered around the Horton family. The show has since expanded its cast. In the 1980s the Brady and DiMera families were introduced and still play a prominent role in the series. Known for it's out of this world storylines, such as Marlena's possession by the devil, *Days of our Lives*, along with other daytime dramas has seen a steady decline in ratings. However, the series is holding strong and can be seen weekdays on NBC.

**NOVEMBER 9, 1939:** *Ninotchka*, starring Greta Garbo, is released. *Ninotchka* takes place in Paris where three Russian citizens are attempting to sell jewelry from the Russian royal family during the Russian Revolution. Its star Greta Garbo is regarded as one of films' greatest actresses. Born in Sweden, she began her career in silent films and worked her way into the "talkie" era with great success. Nominated for four Academy Awards she received an honorary award in 1954 for her contributions to film. She passed away in New York City in 1990 leaving a lasting mark on the film industry.

**NOVEMBER 10, 1931:** Lionel Barrymore wins one Academy Award for *Free Soul*. Lionel Barrymore was born into the prestigious Barrymore acting family. He is the brother of John and Ethel Barrymore, uncle of John Drew Barrymore, and great-uncle of Drew Barrymore. He began his career as a stage actor and progressed into films, acting alongside some of the biggest names in Hollywood at the time, including his brother John and sister Ethel. He passed away in 1954 in California, but can be seen every year around Christmas time as Mr. Potter in the film *It's a Wonderful Life*.

**NOVEMBER 11, 1942:** *Road to Morocco* a comedy starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby premieres. *Road to Morocco* is the third film in the *Road to* series which starred Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. In *Road to Morocco* Hope and Crosby's characters find themselves washed up on a deserted shore and sold into slavery. The *Road to* series is often referenced in movies and television shows, most notably in *Family Guy* which has created its own *Road to* series with the episodes "Road to Rhode Island," "Road to Rupert," "Road to Europe" and "Road to Germany."

**NOVEMBER 12 1929:** American film actress and Princess of Monaco Grace Kelly is born. Born to a former model and wealthy industrialist in Philadelphia, Pa. Kelly began acting at a young age. She began her career on stage and moved to films in 1952 after securing a role in *Mogambo* as well as a contract with MGM. She quickly became a one of Hollywood's leading ladies, earning an Academy Award in 1954 for her performance in *The Country Girl*. Soon after Kelly met Prince Rainier of Monaco whom she married in a lavish ceremony in 1956. Famous for her acting and marriage, Kelly is also known for her tragic death. On September 13, 1982 while driving with her daughter Stephanie, she suffered a stroke causing her to drive the car off a cliff and down a mountainside. Her daughter survived the crash but Kelly did not. A remarkable actress, Kelly will forever be remembered as Princess Grace, the American girl who grew up to become a princess.

**NOVEMBER 13, 1940:** The animated film *Fantasia* premieres. Produced by Walt Disney, *Fantasia* had no plot, featured no dialogue, and featured an array of classical music mostly performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra. The film is made up of eight musical pieces by composers such as Beethoven, Schubert, Bach and Stravinsky. On January 1, 2000, *Fantasia 2000* premiered in IMAX theaters as a sequel to *Fantasia*. The film was made up of entirely new material with the exception of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" scene with Mickey Mouse.



MANDEE MORROW / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

College choir students played a pivotal role in helping to make the day a successful and eventful one.



MANDEE MORROW / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than 50 students from middle schools all across Erie County came to participate.

Surprise star takes on lead in *The Dispute*

By Emily Reichert  
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Kylie Swanson became the lead in *The Dispute* when the original lead took ill during Halloween week, thus taking on the task of memorizing an entire script in less than three weeks.

This happened when Shay Conto, a sophomore who was originally cast with the lead role, came down with a sudden case of mono. The director, Chrystyna Dail, explains that she had missed one practice with an explanation, but on the second Conto called with the news that she was sick and would not be able to attend practice for a week and a half.

"A week and a half in theatre is deadly," Dail says. This was when she realized that someone else would have to replace Conto. Policy states that if you miss two or more play rehearsals then you will be replaced. Dail continues, "It's unfortunate for her because she put in five and a half weeks of work."

Swanson was hesitant about accepting the role at first. "Shay is my best friend so it was really hard for me to take this part," she says. The friendship remains solid, according to Swanson, despite the setback. "[Shay] has been very supportive. She is always offering to help me practice," Swanson says.

Dail was originally worried about having enough time to get Swanson ready for the show by the scheduled date, so she postponed the performance. The next practice, however, "she came in with three fourths of the piece memorized," Dail says. After that, Dail was convinced that Swanson could make the original deadline.

"It was pretty easy to learn the lines because I had been listening to them for so long," Swanson says. She says that at first she had a hard time transitioning the character to fit her own personality. "They told me, 'stop being Shay, be Kylie,'" she says, adding that they ended up having to modify the script to better fit

her into it. She also states, "The cast adjusted really well to me stepping in." One example she mentions is the kissing scene between her character and another character. "I was afraid it was going to be awkward but everything worked out fine because we were acting," she says.

This is Swanson's first college play, she's also had minor high school roles. She states, "This was my first show that I've been a part of so it was very surprising that I got a lead role. I only expected to get a small part."

In the words of Swanson, *The Dispute* is about a doctor that is doing an experiment raising four people in captivity, and the only people they have ever met are their guardians. "We get to know the walls," Swanson says. The performance showcases what happens when the four people are released to interact with each other. The objective of the experiment is to see if it is a male or a female that is unfaithful to his or her mate first.

"It's definitely not a show for

kids," Swanson says. She continues that even though the four main characters are raised in captivity, "there are a lot of outside references." She lists a white bunny scene with reference to the Little Albert Experiment, which was a psychological experiment that proved that humans could be classically conditioned. "It's very fast paced," says Dail.

Conto has since recovered from her illness. "I'm starting to feel better finally," she states. "I'd give anything to still be a part of [*The Dispute*], but I'm very excited to see how it turns out." She says that despite what happened, she is just glad that she had the time to get to know everyone. "I'll be there front and center opening night. I wish everyone the best of luck and can't wait to audition for next semester's show!"

*The Dispute* will be showing in the Studio Theatre at 8p.m. from Nov. 13 through the 20. Regular tickets are \$7 and student tickets are \$5.

## THE DISPUTE

Nov. 13-15, 18-20 AT  
8PM  
AND  
Nov. 16 AT 2PM

CALL THE RUB DESK AT  
898-6242 FOR TICKETS

STUDENTS \$5  
GENERAL PUBLIC \$7

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



"Forgiveness does not change  
the past, but it does enlarge the  
future."

Paul Boese