

CAMPUS NEWS

Dan Chaon comes to Smith Chapel

By Rachel Reeves
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Smith Chapel filled to standing room only on Thursday night for a reading by novelist Dan Chaon.

Chaon is known for a best-selling premier novel, *You Remind Me of Me*, and an award-winning collection of short stories entitled *Among the Missing*. Chaon's short story collection ranked in *New York Times*' and the American Literary Association's list of top ten books for 2001.

For the first time ever, Chaon read aloud from his novel in progress, with a working title of *Ill Will*. Chaon began reading nervously, but the quick, fast-moving chapters began to pick up momentum immediately. A murder mystery, the story has its fair share of twists, turns and trauma even in its beginning stages. The plot follows what could be the latest killing in a string of suspicious drowning deaths.

Chaon was having difficulty refraining from making correc-

tions even as he read, and the audience got an inside look at the revision stage of writing a novel. "Rows of houses rose out of...?" said Chaon. "That's one of those things you don't catch just in writing." When asked about the general direction the plot was heading in, Chaon replied that he didn't yet know. "I have no idea what is going to happen, or what the connections are. Having no idea is what keeps me writing."

Chaon is looking into recovered memory syndrome as an important part of the story. He plans to work from the idea that memories can actually be planted at a young age, even to the extent of brainwashing. The crux of the novel will rest on the confusion that results from mixed up histories and lost facts. "This book is about things that cannot be resolved," said Chaon.

During a question and answer session, one audience member asked how drastic Chaon's plot revisions can become in later drafts. Chaon explained that sometimes one of his revisions would com-

pletely change the direction and outcome of the story. "Revision, for me, is partly a process of discovering the plot."

Another question was whether Chaon preferred writing plot or writing description. Chaon had started writing as a poet, and still keeps a journal in which he jots down a line or two about any given subject. "Plot is harder for me," he said. "Description is more fun, but I have to try and not overdo it."

One particular point of interest was the brevity of the chapters in the new novel. "Each chapter is under three pages," said Chaon. "I don't know how long it's sustainable, though." The general consensus, after some discussion, was that the snappy chap-



JEREMY KORWEK / The Behrend Beacon
Dan Chaon at the Smith Chapel

ters kept the book moving like a film. The unique momentum and tendency to move in and out of present time, were some of the things that made *Ill Will* such a compelling draft.

Delta Chi raises money for local charity

By Lauren DiBacco
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Fraternities often get a bad rap for being nothing more than party organizations, bent on having a good time. With recent controversies regarding some fraternities in the area, it is no wonder that they get a bad reputation. However, despite the negative connotations, at their core, fraternities are all about bettering the community.

Recently, the Delta Chi Fraternity has been involved in the community in many ways. Paul Nick explains that Delta Chi has been helping to raise money for the Erie County Warming Center Nights program. The organization helps provide shelter for those in need during the cold winter months. Nick explains that this charity was chosen due to "a

news report which said they had run out of funding and were in need of help in order to continue to provide service to the community."

Wanting to come to the aid of a community organization in need, Delta Chi came up with two innovative ways to help meet the community's needs. Earlier in the semester, they hosted a "bowl-a-thon." The thon consisted of all the fraternities on campus and, through their bowling skills, Delta Chi, as well as all the other participants, were able to raise roughly \$700.

The second event was a benefit dinner which took place last Friday. The event was open to the public and by the end of the evening they raised over \$2,000. Nick explains that while hosting the benefit dinner, some costs were raised, so when it was all said and done the brothers were able to

donate roughly \$1,000 for the Warming Center Nights initiative.

Nick explains that, "community service and philanthropic work has always been a focus of The Delta Chi Fraternity. We are a values-based organization and as such, we strive to serve the community in which we live and operate." It is because of this strong set of values that the brothers of Delta Chi are already looking to the future when it comes to reaching out to the community.

Come the fall semester, Nick explains that the members of Delta Chi will be participating in an assortment of events. One such event is the "Walk to Cure Diabetes," which is held at Rainbow Gardens. They also dedicate their time at the Martin Luther King Center, which hosts a Thanksgiving Dinner for community members in need. Delta Chi has

been helping out with this organization for five years now and has every intention of continuing the tradition in the coming year.

On top of helping out the members of the community, they also strive to keep the environment in tip top condition. At least once every semester, the brothers participate in the "Highway Clean-Up Program," which is vital to keeping the environment free from litter.

On a final note, Nick explains that the members of Delta Chi "continue to look for new ways to contribute to the betterment of our community and this will remain a core value of The Delta Chi Fraternity at Penn State Behrend." Congratulations on your accomplishments, you've made both the community and Behrend proud.

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What's Inside

Intramurals and recreation largest student activity on campus

Ever feel like you are overloaded with writing papers, studying for exams, or homework assignments? Getting involved with intramurals is one way to take a break from the daily academic work.

According to the coordinator of intramural and recreational programs, Rob Wittman, intramurals at Behrend are the largest student activity on campus and have the most students involved by far compared with any other activity.

"I just want to get as many people as I can involved, because it gives them a break," said Wittman. "Students can have fun for an hour and a half and can get their mind off of studying. I want to have students enjoy themselves. I am trying to make sure everybody can get involved in something."

The main reason why intramurals are so popular on campus is due to the fact that the program is run extremely well.

"Students know when something is scheduled, that it will happen," said Wittman. "When I say something happens, it happens."

According to Wittman, the statistics show that he is true to his word. Last year out of all the contests scheduled, 86.5 percent of them were played.

Wittman's intern from Edinboro University, Ryan Morgan, was amazed at how many students actually participate in intramurals at Behrend.

"[Wittman] runs the program really well," said Morgan. "The students respect him and the participants get what they want from the intramural program."

The statistics from this year

prove that intramurals are important to the majority of the student body.

According to Wittman, in the fall of this year for the flag football tournament, 546 different students participated, which is about 15 percent of the total student population. In the fall for the two week dodge ball tournament, almost 350 students played. On March 1, there were 100 students in the Junker Center for a 4v4 coed volleyball tournament.

Currently in the 6v6 volleyball intramurals, there are 43 teams which average about 10 players per roster.

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Silverstein debuts third album: Arrivals and Departures

Throughout the years, the emo/hardcore music scene has changed and evolved, along with the bands that once glorified this genre. With bands going mainstream, playing music to see their faces on MTV, and creating music to appeal to the mass public, you'll be hard-pressed to find a band that has stayed true to its core. One band that hasn't fallen into this cycle is Silverstein, a band made up of five friends from Burlington, Ontario. Formed in 2000, this band burst into the post-hardcore scene, gathering a hefty fan base fairly quickly.

Silverstein released two EPs before being signed to Victory Records in 2002. One year later, they released their first

full length album, *When Broken Is Easily Fixed*. Full of emotion, heartache, pain, and suffering, *When Broken Is Easily Fixed* is an explosion of shrill screams and growls, with clean vocals that would impress any listener. Shane Told transitions between the two beautifully, and while his scream can take a little time to get used to, his melodic singing style complements it perfectly. Overall, the songs are based upon the trials of love, when relationships become one-sided, and dealing with the pain of that person not giving this love back to you. "Smashed Into Pieces," the first song on the album, opens with, "Never again. I'll slit my throat with the knife I pulled

out of my spine. Maybe when you find out that I'm dead, you'll realize what did to me." Backed by solid guitar riffs and catchy rhythms, this song is enough to catch the ear of any screamo fan.

Discovering the Waterfront was released in 2005, containing three singles, "Smile in Your Sleep," "My Heroine," and "Discovering the Waterfront." Told's voice is noticeably matured, especially in the screams, which have taken on a new sound in the album, becoming less high-pitched and somehow even more intense.

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