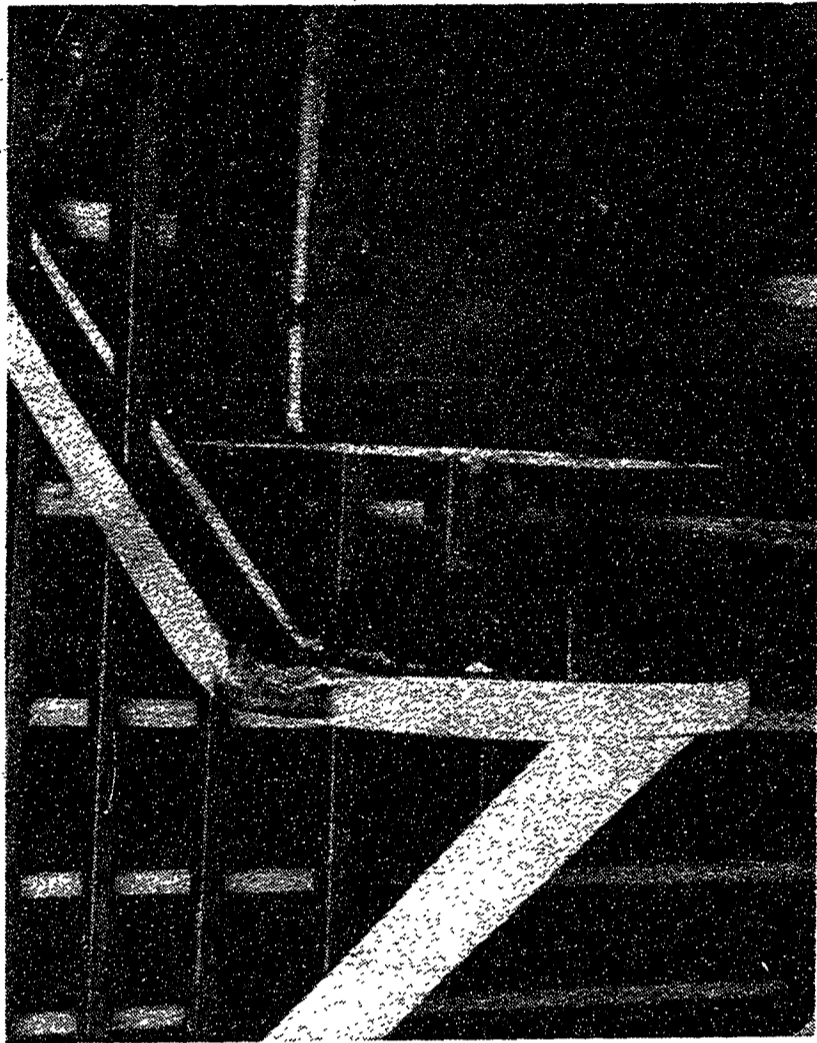


Behrend Collegian

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This was the center of all the pandemonium in Lawrence Hall last Monday morning. A smoke bomb set here forced students out into the cold.

A Smoker. . .

Dormitory 'Fire'

It was just like crying, "wolf!" After Friday night's false alarm, residents of Lawrence Hall thought that when the fire alarm sounded Monday morning, it was just another "prank." Especially at 12:23 a.m. But it wasn't. It was the real thing!

It started out as a typical Sunday evening at Behrend College. Students had returned earlier in the day, while others had just arrived. Many people were in bed; still others were sound asleep. And then it happened.

It was 12:23 a.m., and the shrill sound of the fire alarm pierced the placid night air. Many students cursed and headed for their coats and boots. Most just groaned and pulled a pillow over their heads. But those that made it to their doors found something that they never expected—a dense wall of thick blue-white smoke.

Fighting the dense smoke, students made their way to the stairs in a mild state of panic. Resident Assistants were going door to door and bodily removing students from their rooms. Some students had frozen in a state of sheer panic, while still others rushed about madly, not actually going in the direction of any one exit. Some had even grabbed fire extinguishers and headed towards the source of the smoke.

As one eyewitness put it, "I've never experienced anything like this. Seriously, I was scared. And I think everyone else was too."

After the students were evacuated to the lobby and also outside the building, Behrend

Security, along with the help of resident assistants and area-coordinator Beverly Romberger, searched the building for the causes of the fire.

In the process of deactivating the fire alarms, it was found that a smoke-bomb, about the size of three large sticks of dynamite was placed on the second-floor landing of the west-end staircase. It seems that during the hustle to get out of the building, one heroic student had found the bomb, and had carried it outside and into the snow. It was reported that he had to be taken to the gym for oxygen.

The women's side of the dorm did not suffer much, if any smoke damage. Most of the smoke damage occurred on the second-floor men's side. Third and first floor received minor damage. It will probably be a few weeks before the toxic fumes will disappear.

Behrend Security has an inside lead, and expects to apprehend the student soon, unless he comes forward first. The penalty for creating such a disturbance, especially one involving such panic, is punishable by expulsion from the University.

Spring Term Debut

By Tom Stanger

The award-winning play, "The Rimers of Eldritch" by Lanford Wilson, has been chosen for the spring presentation of the Behrend Players. As an off-Broadway success, this play won the praise of critics for its unique imagination and its introduction of Wilson, a young and highly talented contemporary American playwright.

Wilson is a native of Missouri and attended the University of Chicago, where he began his career. Other works include "So Long at the Fair", "Home Free," "This Is the Rill Speaking" and the widely acclaimed, award winner "Hot I Baltimore."

"Hot I Baltimore" will be presented this spring by the Mercyhurst Players and this, in conjunction with the Behrend Players production of "The Rimers of Eldritch" should provide an exceptional opportunity to become familiar with the works of this remarkable contemporary playwright.

For the production of "The Rimers", a relatively large cast will be necessary. Whereas the Fall production "Sticks and Bones" required a cast of seven, "The Rimers" will require a cast of seventeen. Arno Selco, in-

structor in theatre and film, emphasizes the point that positions for all roles are currently open, and he urges all persons interested in participating to try out. Readings will be held in the Studio Theatre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 17 through 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. Also there is a need for crew members to assist in the construction of sets, lighting, etc. for the production. Copies of the play are currently on reserve in the Behrend library and may be taken out overnight. Parts are open to all Behrend students and no decisions as to casting will be made until all interested parties have auditioned for roles.

The production of "The Rimers of Eldritch" is expected to be even more successful than the Fall production of "Sticks and Bones", which itself boasts some rather impressive statistics. "Bones" attracted audiences of record-breaking size for Behrend productions.

Behrend is unique in local theatre in that it draws solely upon its student body for cast members. Other local colleges draw upon the community at large as well as their student bodies to fill theatrical roles.

Virtuoso Performs

Peggy Coburn, world renowned contralto, appeared last Tuesday during Common Hour to bring a touch of professionalism and culture to Behrend. Ms. Coburn was accompanied by her husband Bill on piano and delighted Behrend students, staff and faculty. Ms. Coburn opened her

performance with "A Wonderful Day Like Today" which proved her optimism as well as humanitarianism. Strauss' "With Your Eyes on Blue" demonstrated Ms. Coburn's virtuosity in control of high pitches. Other selections included four variations, written by Bill, on Robert Frost poetry, which were originally performed when the Coburns appeared at Carnegie Hall. Italian, Scottish, and Irish folk songs were successful and pleasant contributions to her performance. Selections from operas and plays were also well done and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Included in this category of Ms. Coburn's repertoire were "Le Seiguida", from Carmen, and "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the musical Carousel. Apparently, the audience was completely captivated by Ms. Coburn's beautiful and professional voice, as she was called back for an encore. "Climb Every Mountain" was the chosen number for this spot which left Ms. Peggy Coburn's performance an unforgettable one.

BIO Club energizes

Mr. Robert Baughman, business manager of Behrend College, spoke to the BIO Club on Thursday, February 6, about the energy crisis and what we can do about it.

Since the 1930's, the U.S. has been doubling its demand for energy every 14 years. This mammoth energy intake has forced us into the present situation: too high of a demand on too scarce of a supply.

Behrend has instituted certain measures in order to cut back on our energy intake and financial expenditures. The College has removed some lighting fixtures from classrooms and hallways and has tried to maintain room temperatures at 68 per cent. These seemingly small measures mirrored a 12.4 per cent decrease in kilowatt hours since 1973 and staved off a possible 30 per cent increase in gas and electric expenditures for the years.

The solution to the energy crisis is a personal affair. Each one of us has to become more conscious of our energy intake and must try to limit it. Therefore, we ask that each one keep an eye out for empty classrooms with all the lights on and doors standing open to the outside.

Remember, the amount we save in money and fossil fuels eventually comes back to YOU in the form of academic advantages, a healthy economy, and brighter opportunities in the job market. See what you can do to help yourself.

New Club

The Behrend College Psychology Club, which has recently been formed, will hold an organizational meeting Tuesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in 107 Lawrence. Business will include the election of officers and a discussion of possible activities for the Spring term.

This organization is being established to afford an opportunity to further knowledge in the field of psychology, to provide means and direction for various projects with emphasis upon research and experimentation, and to sponsor seminars.

Interested persons are invited to attend and may gain further information by contacting Mike Woods, 899-9993, Tom Stanger, 899-8265, or Al Lotz at 868-1797.

Winter Weekend

The JRC is sponsoring a snow sculpture contest. The sculpting is to be done on the hills surrounding the residence halls. Contestants must register and pay the 50 cents registration fee in the Niagara Hall gameroom by midnight Friday. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the artists are to work on their masterpieces. The winner will be announced at 4 p.m. in the Perry Hall lobby, and awarded the prize of five dollars.

Festivities will continue in the evening with a semiformal dance sponsored by the SUB. The Ramada Inn on Rte. 8 at the I-90 intersection will be the site for dancing and listening to the great music of Red, White, and Blueberry—"Erie's Best"—to quote a recent radio advertisement. There will also be

sandwiches, punch, and other good things to enjoy.

The cost for the dance is \$5.50 drag, and \$3.00 stag; an activity card is good for a dollar discount on a couple's ticket, and fifty cents on a single ticket. Tickets will be available all week at the RUB desk, and at the door.

Sunday, the JRC has scheduled another snowy event. The ski slope is the place. The event—tray races. Sounds crazy, but fun. The winner will be presented with a case of pop for his superior skill in zipping rapidly downhill on a cafeteria tray. The trays will be provided, so there is no need to rip them off.

Later in the day, the SUB will hold a hot chocolate mixer for everyone to warm up a bit after romping in the great snowy outdoors.



Ron Borczon singing and playing his brand of music at last Friday's intimate Coffee House. (See story page 4).