

# Behrend Theatre opens with "The Curious Savage"

by Josette Skobieranda

The Behrend College's Studio Theatre begins its new season with "The Curious Savage," written by John Patrick and directed by veteran Paul Iddings.

Full length previews performed exclusively for Behrend College students, faculty, and staff will be performed on October 6-8 at 8 p.m.

"The Curious Savage" opens to the public October 9-11 and October 14-18. General admission fees are \$3 for students and \$4 for adults, except on Fridays and Saturdays when adults will be charged \$4.50. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Turnbull Hall, main office. Curtain time is 8 p.m. for all shows except Sunday's matinee at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Iddings, with his vast theatre experience at Behrend and the surrounding area, chose "The Curious Savage" as the first play of the 1981-1982 school year because the cast contains eleven main characters.

Many students are interested in acting and since this play includes a substantial number of extremely demanding major roles it can satisfy many desires.

Cast members include: Heidi Miller, Brian Cancilla, Kathy DeVine, Brian Chaffee, Cyrus Erickson, Andy Bowser, Sal Clemente, Elaine Bass, Nina DeFabbo, Ann Dieterman and Gregory Allen.

Mr. Iddings is so confident his

cast will make this particular play a success that he has entered Behrend's production in the American College Theatre Festival XIV.

Three years ago, the Studio Theatre's "The Shadow Box" was entered in the same festival which included productions from Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. "The Shadow Box" was one of six productions selected for the regional competition. After competing at the regional, "The Shadow Box" was selected as the alternate for the national competition which meant Behrend's production placed ninth in the nation.

Mr. Iddings believes in the script of "The Curious Savage" and in the actors and actresses who will perform its strong characterization.

Preparation by these actresses and actors not only includes rehearsals, at-home practice, and construction of scenery, but also character and makeup study requirements. The characters in the play range from ages 22 to 80 so careful attention must be paid in this area.

The players are equally confident and full of respect for Mr. Iddings whose experience includes not only four years of Behrend productions but twenty-five years in directing itself.

The title "The Curious Savage" explains a lot about what author

John Patrick had in mind when he wrote it. The play deals with people who do harmless things yet are labelled "odd" for doing them. They cannot understand why they should not be different and what happens to them if they are.

"The Curious Savage" is set in a mental nursing home, where a new patient wishes to donate her fortune for the indulgence of fellow patients' personal desires. Her behavior follows logically from her life of devotion to her husband's wishes. Now because she wants to spend ten million dollars providing for others' happiness, her three stepchildren have shut her away. They are searching for the money which she has exchanged for negotiable bonds and hidden.

Behrend's next scheduled play after "The Curious Savage" is "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. Auditions will be held the first week of winter term.

Until preparation for "The Crucible" begins, Mr. Iddings and his students will be learning from the notable author Edward Albee. Mr. Albee, who wrote "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" will be at Mercyhurst College for two consecutive weeks beginning October 29. This will include one week of intensive workshops and lectures.

Later, in December, Mr. Iddings will also be at Mercyhurst directing the Dinner Theatre.

Until then, make definite plans to attend John Patrick's "The Curious Savage" and remember, "first come, first seated."

## Netters start strong

by Tricia Wood

The Behrend women's tennis team is swinging into the 1981 season with high hopes and a new format of play.

Last season, matches were determined by the outcome of five single matches and two doubles, with the individuals competing in one or the other.

In the Women's Keystone Conference this year, the play is set up in matches of six singles and three doubles, giving opportunity for play in both aspects of the game.

Coach Kent Peightal feels that, "the girls will enjoy more of a challenge with this season change."

The team consists of 12 players. The first six spots include Kathy Fleshmen, Cindy Lutz, Deidre

Feeley, Debbie Doerr, Michele Gonda and Leigh Dillis.

Completing the rest of the team are Karen Bittnar, Carinn Dylewski, Cheryl Fleming, Carol Minutello, Marla Silverman and Tricia Wood.

As of September 19, the team had two wins against one loss. They lost their first match against Gannon University, coming back to beat SUNY-Fredonia, 4-3 and whipping Geneva 8-1 here last Saturday.

The coach is looking forward to the upcoming season. The best season the women ever had was seven wins and seven losses. Last year, the record was 5 wins and 7 losses, and he is hopeful this year's record will surpass that record.

When asked what he thought

was important in approaching the game, the psychological or the physical aspects of tennis, Coach Peightal replied, "I think both are important. One without the other just doesn't work."

"Although for our purposes, the psychological aspect is more important. We only have a week of practice time before we begin our season. I have to work on what's there and improve on the more subtle aspects of the game, such as different personalities of other players. It's important to get psyched up for the game because 50 per cent of the matches are won or lost before they even begin," Peightal said.

What are the differences between coaching men and women? "I prefer the girls. They look better. The girls seem to be more emotional and it enters into their concentration," he said.

Is the school support satisfying? "No. We are a little at fault because there just is not enough publicity on campus. Having people at the matches to cheer us on would make a big difference in the pride of the players. I'd like to extend a personal invitation to each student and faculty member to attend a match," Peightal said.

Remaining games this season are: September 22, Mercyhurst, there; September 24, Thiel, there; September 26, Grove City, there; September 29, Westminster, here; October 2, Edinboro, here; October 6, Gannon, here; October 8, Allegheny, here; October 13, Mercyhurst, here; and October 15, Thiel here.

## Club News Outing Club

Over the Labor Day weekend, 15 members of the Outing Club backpacked on the North Country Trail in Allegheny National Forest.

After spending Friday night at the Willow Bay campsite, the hikers, headed by Dr. Edwin Masteller and club president Kurt McCall, set off along the scenic trail. Eight miles later, they set up camp at the Handsome Lake campground.

On Sunday, the group increased its pace, and after hiking 12 miles around Sugar Bay, stopped along the trail for the night. The next morning, they concluded their 22-mile trip to Chapel Bay.

Despite the rain and mud, the hikers enjoyed the trip. Tents leaked, sleeping bags and clothes got wet, and campfires were difficult to start, but the good company, gourmet meals, and beautiful surroundings kept everyone in high spirits.

There has been a great deal of enthusiasm for the Outing Club this year, according to Kathi Gallagher, club member. So far, it has attracted 49 members and anyone wishing to join is welcome, she said.

The next outing will be a canoeing trip down the Clarion River on the weekend of September 26.

## Psych Club

by Gail McGaughey

The Psychology Club, under the direction of student president Gail McGaughey and faculty advisor Mrs. Debra Stein, held its first meeting of the year today in B114 during the noon hour.

The club invites anyone interested in the varied topics within psychology to attend its meetings. The club scheduled the election of officers and a discussion of this year's activities for today's session.

## Bridge Club

Bridge at Behrend is about to become a reality.

According to Dr. Ben Scott, "Mankind, with fiendish ingenuity, has devised yet another pastime to subvert students from their legitimate studies." A college bridge team to challenge and defeat other area colleges is his goal.

Beginning September 28, training sessions led by Dr. Scott will be held Monday evenings 7-10:30

p.m. in the RUB TV room.

Dr. Scott welcomes faculty, but emphasizes that student participation is essential. "Only students in good standing can represent the college in inter-collegiate competition."

Duplicate bridge flourishes at colleges throughout the nation and the world, and Dr. Scott has high hopes for getting it off the ground here.

## Professor Masteller comments on Medfly problem

Given the circumstances, Dr. Edward Masteller agrees that spraying malathion was the only way to rid California of the medfly.

Dr. Masteller, associate professor of biology at Behrend, commented on the events leading to the current infestation of the medfly in California and other parts of the United States.

The medfly originated in West Africa and spread to Hawaii in 1907. It was reported in mainland Florida in 1929.

Since then the medfly has appeared in various other parts of the country, most notably in California.

For the past decades, the flies have been controlled by introducing sterile flies in the region, which prevented the flies from spreading.

This year, on July 8, California governor Jerry Brown acted on a federal order to begin spraying malathion over the crops. Neighboring houses were also given a dose of the pesticide. A quarantine of California produced a day earlier, prompted the decision to spray.

The problem with the malathion is that it is indiscriminate in which insects it kills. Consequently, some insects which prey upon the medfly are also killed.

The ultimate effect of the spraying of malathion, Dr. Masteller said, may not surface for some time.

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