

## Claudia Schmidt entices Behrend audience

by Tracy Simmons  
Collegian Staff Writer

A large and receptive crowd greeted Claudia Schmidt's performance in the Reed Lecture Hall on Saturday, Oct. 26.

For nearly two and a half hours, she delighted the audience with her music. She was accompanied on the piano by Dan Dance, and in addition she herself played the guitar, mountain dulcimer (a stringed instrument which sounds similar to a guitar but has more bell-like tone), and deluxe pianolin, a very different instrument with fifty-two strings and a unique sound. Schmidt says of the pianolin, "When I heard it, I just bought it purely because of the sound of it, and then I just had to go home and teach myself how to play it."

She sang a variety of songs, in-



Claudia Schmidt

cluding the wistful "Skylark", the beautiful "Broken Glass" and "Stairs", and the lighter "I'm a Little Cookie" and "Ashleyville". The audience quickly caught her spirit, and even sang along with

her for some of the numbers. She also recited poetry, some of which was her own. She hopes to have some of her poems published. "In the next year, that's one of my projects, which has sort of been

on the shelf for a little while, to get some stuff written down in a little book," Schmidt said.

Schmidt has a great deal of experience as a performer. She has made numerous public and radio appearances, and St. Paul's KTCA television station did a special documentary with her called, "I Sing Because I Can't Fly." She also had a lead role in a Milwaukee play titled *Bag Lady Tendencies*. Schmidt has three record albums, all on the Flying Fish label: "Claudia Schmidt", "Midwestern Heart", and "New Goodbyes, Old Hellos". A fourth album, "Out of the Dark", is scheduled to be released soon.

Schmidt goes on tour for about seven to nine months out of the year, and she said this performance was "the last stop on a month-long tour for me which

took me down into the Southeast first, and then up into New England, and Philadelphia, and then over this way."

When asked how she got started in the business, she replied, "I've been singing my whole life, and I've been writing poetry my whole life, so I just sort of stumbled into it. It's hard to explain it any other way—it was really kind of a fortuitous stumbling."

Her advice to prospective singers/songwriters? "I think that if people want to be singing and songwriting, that's absolutely wonderful," Schmidt said. "As to whether or not you want to do it for a living, with that kind of pressure on it, is a big decision, and I'd advise anybody to think twice about it...I guess the main thing is just to know your own mind and heart, as far as that goes," she added.

## ROTC Rangers take to the field

by Thomas Milley  
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend's ROTC program has taken to the field again since our last issue. The Behrend's Ranger Detachment practiced counter-terrorist measures using actions of the United Freedom Front (UFF) as the main scenario for a reconnaissance operation.

The mission took place on the night of Oct. 18-19, and despite the pouring rain, and less than

warm temperatures, the cadets got an excellent opportunity to practice operating in the field.

Field operations require a lot of planning, coordination and practice, and our Rangers gained some valuable experience in making a reconnaissance operation work.

The Rangers goal was to search an area of land, a farm owned by first Sergeant Pfadt the Pennsylvania National Guard, for any signs of members of a terrorist

organization called the United Freedom Front. The part of the UFF was enacted by members of the 11th Special Forces Group centered in Youngstown, Ohio.

Our Rangers were successful in finding the aggressors, though one squad was discovered and the other got there at 5:00 a.m. just as the aggressors were leaving.

The next weekend, on Saturday, Oct. 26, our Cadets were off  
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## Shakespeare readers last 24 hours

by Roni Sue Kowal  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Shakespeare Read-a-thon had been in session for 21 hours and the question "to read or not to read" was debatable.

Some participants were delirious, some had one eye barely open and a lot of readers still exploded with enthusiasm.

At the 3:30 p.m. break (Saturday, Nov. 2), the participants were not sure if their lines were making much sense. Julie Clough, who read for a total of twelve hours said, "It's been a lot of fun, but right now we're all on the last string."

The turnout of the read-a-thon went well according to Studio Theatre Director Tony Elliot, but he claimed that around 3 or 4 a.m. things got bad. "People started to act weird, but it was a very interesting group."

The read-a-thon was successful. All readers showed up and there were a lot of sponsors. The whole crew felt good about the turnout stating that it was probably the most successful fundraiser. Funds donated by sponsors will go to the Behrend Players and to the theatre.

The Behrend Players organized the read-a-thon, forming commit-

tees to help with preparations. Audience participation was good. People were in and out the whole time. The audience was given scripts to read along with the participants. "The audience reactions were good, considering how hard it is to understand a language so old," Elliot said.

There were several guest speakers who made an appearance at the marathon including Provost and Dean Dr. John Lilley, who read parts from "Othello". Dave Stuntz also read from "Othello" and an employee from WSEG took part in the action. The guest speakers took the major roles. Ten others stayed for the entire 24 hours and read.

The coverage of this event was extensive. WSEG was well informed from the beginning and Channel 35 even covered this theatrical event. The media were very helpful and seemed to make the readers feel appreciated.

The amount of money that was made from the Shakespeare Read-a-thon is undetermined at this time. But if the success of the event is any way to measure the income of the event, then the Studio Theatre should be eating off fine china in "The Dining Room".



Tony Elliot, Studio Theatre Director and readers.

### Crossword Companion

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#### ACROSS

1. Fair
  5. Ballet step
  8. Fears
  12. Beers
  13. Era
  14. Tardy
  15. Horse
  17. Small hawk
  18. Over (Poetic)
  19. Said
  21. Probe
  24. Rotatable disc
  25. Anger
  26. Openly
  30. \_\_\_\_\_ Baba
  31. Husk
  32. Fish eggs
  33. Vent for release of gas
  35. \_\_\_\_\_ Turner
  36. Attila was their king
  37. Out of the park
  38. Chasm
  41. Heat source
  42. Eire
  43. Wire
  48. Fira
  49. Frost
  50. Tides
  51. Former Russian Emperor
  52. Food chewed a second time
  53. Edges
- (answers, page 2)

#### DOWN

1. Fuel
2. Altitude (abbr.)
3. Meadow
4. On an incline
5. Two
6. Past
7. Sane
8. Caustic substance
9. Stay
10. Female (suf.)
11. Sow
16. Shelter
20. Lofty
21. Snatch
22. Small stream
23. Stew
24. Disputes
26. Speech sound
27. Crowd
28. Sole
29. Leap \_\_\_\_\_
31. Avoid
34. Waller
35. Extended time
37. Color
38. Lease
39. God of War
40. Long Live (It.)
41. Winter vehicle
44. Old coin
45. Runs hitters knock in (abbr.)
46. Type of weapon (abbr.)
47. Manuscript (abbr., pl.)