

features

Dwight Collins celebrates Black America writers

by Tracy Muffett
Collegian Staff Writer

Approximately 30 people attended the Friday, Feb. 13 *Dark Symphony* in the Reed Lecture Hall at 8 p.m. Nearly an hour and a half later, approximately 30 people walked out of the lecture hall much richer for an experience that no one should have missed.

Actor Dwight Collins, an imposing figure who has appeared in *The Color Purple*, stood alone on a stage adorned with only a podium and a stool -- and even these he rarely used, in what he called "My own personal interpretation of some legendary works by some legendary authors."

Like a musical symphony, *Dark Symphony* has movements, each with a central and unifying theme. The "Middle Passage" from Africa to the Caribbean, life as slaves and later as "free" men, and women are but a few of these themes. Simple and eloquent, the symphony includes poetry and prose, song, and dance, and it lasts several hours. Collins, due to time restrictions, performed only some excerpts from the symphony; however, the fact that the perfor-

mance was abridged made it no less powerful.

The actual works that Collins used in his performance -- excerpts from novels, poems, and plays by Black American writers, primarily from the Harlem Renaissance period of the 1920's -- are dramatic in and of themselves; yet Collins, with expressive voice and face and fluid gestures, brought to them a life of his own. There was joy and celebration, as in James Johnson's "The Creation"; in a piece by Countee Cullen, there was sadness and deep bitterness toward a Fate that would "make a poet black, then bid him sing." There was laughter and grief and hatred; but, mostly, there was deep pride in being Black. "My soul has grown deep, like the rivers," quoted Collins from a Langston Hughes piece...black and white alike, the rapt audience believed it.

On a more serious note, Collins expressed to the audience his deep love for and feeling of unity with all Blacks. "If you see a junkie shootin' dope in the alley, or a wino layin' in the alley, you're lookin' at me; if you see a doctor, or a lawyer, or a minister, you're lookin' at me," he said at the end



Dwight Collins

Photo by Wendell Bates

of the show. Perhaps an excerpt from Collin's closing piece, a monologue from Charles Gordon's play *No Place to Be Somebody*, best sums up Collins' message to people of all races: "They's mo' to bein' black than meets the eye! It's all the stuff that nobody wants but can't live without! It's the body that keeps us standin'! The soul that keeps us goin'! An' the spirit that'll take us thoo! Yes! They's mo' to bein' black that meets the eye!"

Drill team shows off in March

by Michelle Grasmick
Collegian Staff Writer

The beginning of the Spring '87 semester saw the birth of a new club on campus: the ROTC Drill Team. Many people are already familiar with the drill team after watching the Color Guard perform at basketball games. The Color Guard has participated in other such events such as high school football games and Erie Blade games.

The club's purpose is to give cadets the chance to learn moves with the M-16 rifle and teach precise marching techniques. A

new policy has been established of awarding blue berets to those cadets who perform two color guard exercises and meet other particular criteria.

Behrend's drill team will compete with other Penn State College drill teams at Fort Indiantown-Gap in March. Most of the meetings are spent in preparation for this event. Behrend ROTC has the obligation of upholding the tradition of cleaning up on awards.

Other events in which the Drill Team will participate include the ROTC Awards Ceremony, Behrend Commencement Exercises, and the Reserve Officer's Association Military Ball.

If you have a story for the Collegian, call 898-6221

"The Dregs" take first place in Valentine's Day Air Band contest

by Jill Fourville
Collegian Staff Writer

Valentine's Day was an occasion for much entertainment on campus, sponsored by the Student Programming Council. The evening began with the Air Band contest. Many students filled the Wintergreen Cafe to cheer on and laugh at the contestants. The judges, all students of Behrend, Doug Gaimor, Greg Goldsmith, Renette Green and Andrea Sullivan, awarded "The Dregs" the first prize of \$50. "The Dregs" consisted of nine guys from Sigma Kappa Nu: Pat Espin, Dave Starsnic, Chris Jordan, Kirk Rexford, Dave Wirth, Rob Boyle, Greg Garrison, Todd Raible, and Brian Helfrich. They performed the song "You Can Call Me AI" by Paul Simon. "The Dregs" were well coordinated, all dressed in crisp white shirts and black ties, and had quite a stage presence which lifted the spirits of the audience. When asked why they called themselves "The Dregs", Chris Jordan responded emphatically, "SKN was referred to as 'the dregs of society' by Collegian staff writer Michelle Grasmick...we just wanted to show people that that is not true." Also from SKN, impersonating The Beastie Boys, was Lou Fontana, Chuck Hess, and Ed Maeser. With their convincing performance they took the second prize of \$25 with the song "You Gotta Fight For Your Right (To Party)." Then because two of the bands cancelled at the last minute, the master chairman, Ralph Letson, also a student at Behrend, and

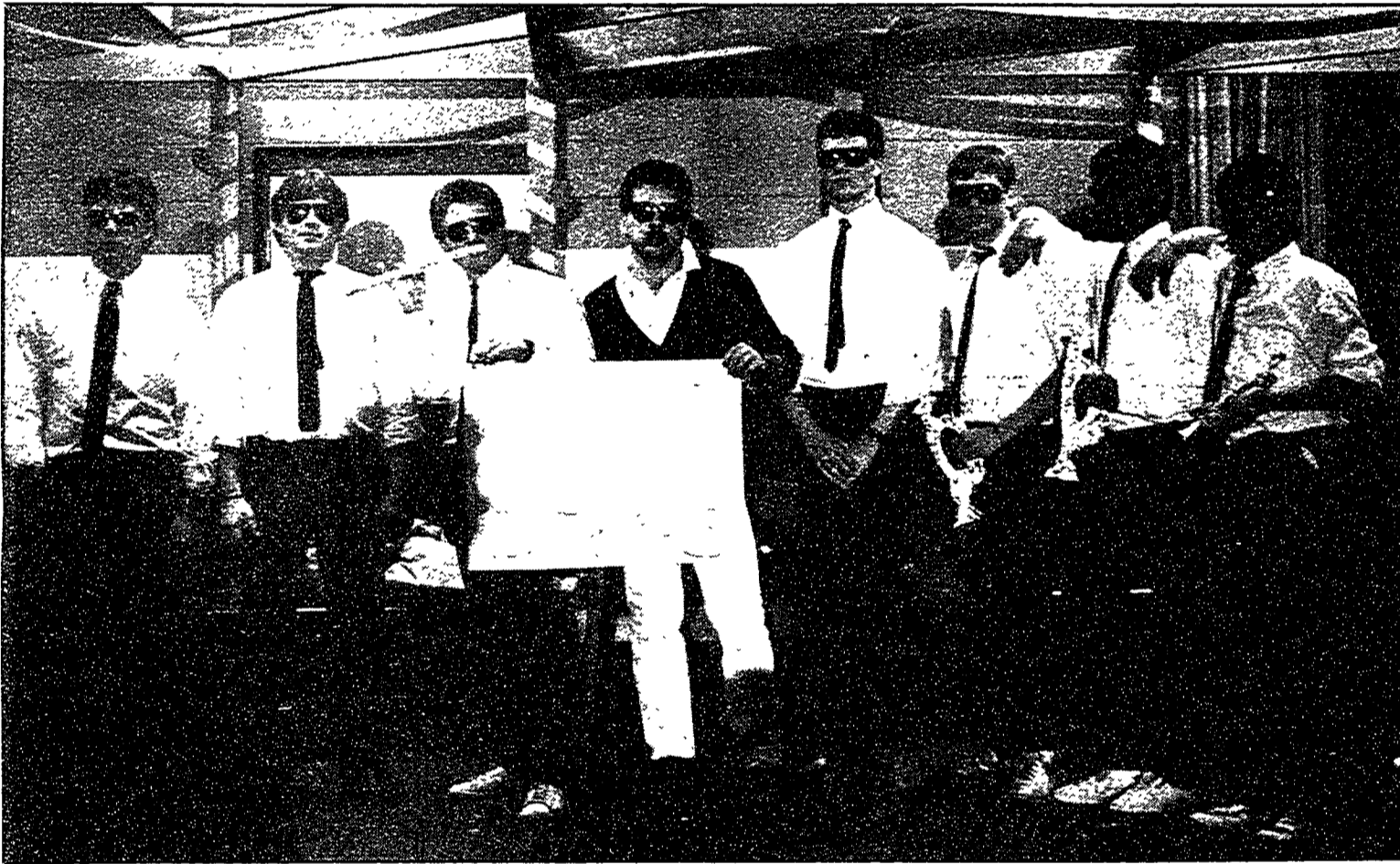


Photo by Holly Lew

"The Dregs" from l. to r. Dave Starsnic, Pat Espin, Kirk Rexford, Chris Jordan, Dave Wirth, Robert Boyle, Todd Raible, Greg Garrison.

the judges decided to open up the stage to anyone courageous enough to do an impromptu for the third prize of \$10. Only two acts volunteered. First, the sisters from Sigma Theta Chi lip-synched to, according to Susie Jalosky: "one of their favorite songs, 'The Suitcase Blues' by Triumph." Finally, with much persuasion from the audience, Bill Packwood agreed to take the stage. He impersonated Prince by dancing to the song "Kiss." This entertaining performance won third prize. Despite all the fun of the Air Band Contest, Chris Jordan said, "It was sad that the only two bands participating were fraternities...more people should get involved." The fun continued later with a dance held in the Wintergreen Cafe.

The dance started off a bit slow, but by midnight the Cafe, decorated with red and white streamers and hearts, was full with more than eighty students. To complete the warm and friendly atmosphere of the dance, heart-shaped cookies were served, compliments of SPC. The music for the dance was provided by Ralph Letson and included a wide variety of musical tastes from "Twist and Shout" to "Purple Rain." Several sessions of slow songs were included, perhaps to provide an opportunity for students to ask someone to be his or her Valentine. The dance seemed to be an excellent time for students to relax by dancing, socializing or just sitting back and watching the action on the dance floor.

ROTC cadets learn winter survival skills

by Michelle Grasmick
and Lori Peals
Collegian Staff Writers

On Saturday, Jan. 31, all ROTC cadets participated in the first lead lab of the semester, entitled "Winter Survival -16 Rifle Firing." Due to the freezing temperatures, most cadets reported to the first formation with extra sets of long underwear lining their Battle Dress Uniforms, while still rubbing the sleep from their eyes.

The day began at the Wilson Picnic Grove, where MS-III Cadets Greg Durkac and Calvin Fryling launched the day's activities with a briefing on cold weather injuries and prevention. This proved to be timely, as many of the cadets were beginning to jump around in order to keep Old Man Winter from nipping at their toes. Durkac and Fryling taught cadets how to prevent hypothermia and frostbite by layering clothing, drinking warm fluids, conducting buddy checks, and maintaining constant bodily movement. The cadets were also taught to recognize frostbite and hypothermia. Cadets snickered when they learned that one of the treatments for hypothermia involved getting into a sleeping bag naked with a nude but warm buddy.

Cadets were then led to a station conducted by MS-IV Cadet Tom Milley. Milley instructed a class on finding your direction and orienting yourself when you're lost and without a compass. This involved using the hands of a watch in comparison to the location of the sun.

By this time, quite a few cadets were beginning to get twinges of

hunger in their bellies, so MS-III Cadet John Moscato demonstrated how to kill and prepare a chicken while living in the field. This class proved to be more painful for some cadets to watch than for the actual chickens being killed. Moscato demonstrated two different ways to kill a chicken: 1) by pulling and biting its neck off, and 2) by hanging it upside down from a tree branch and breaking its neck with an entrenching tool and letting it bleed to death. After both chickens were dead and the necks were severed, Moscato demonstrated how to skin and gut the chickens properly. They also demonstrated the correct method of preparing a chicken over an open fire.

After this very explicit and detailed demonstration, cadets found their appetites either nonexistent or ravenous, and were entrusted to the care of MS-IV Cadet

Ken Leshar for chow around a raging fire, where toes soon began to thaw out. Just as cadets settled down to a scrumptious lunch of hot dogs, potato chips, hot chocolate, and soup, as well as the infamous chicken stew, MS-III Cadet Craig Paske discovered the head of one of the chickens in the bottom of the pot in which the hot dogs were boiling. Simultaneously, everyone's mouths stopped chewing and dropped open, while shrieks of shock and dread were sounded. However, as soon as Paske broke down in fits of hysterical laughter and admitted it was a practical joke, cadets relaxed and went on munching in order to prepare themselves for the next quest of the day, which allowed cadets to learn about the M-16A1 Rifle.

Each platoon was transported to the Lawrence Park indoor rifle range, where they were given a

class on the assembly and disassembly of the M-16. After a safety briefing, 5 people at a time were put on the firing line, each with an instructor from Behrend's Rifle Club. Each person was given 15 (.22 caliber) rounds to fire at silhouette targets. They were instructed on loading, sitting, and clearing the rifle, and on different firing techniques. Many people enjoyed this, and did very well hitting inside the inner circle of the target.

The cadets went home with a more complete knowledge of M-16 rifle marksmanship and winter survival techniques.



TROUBLED? NEED TO TALK? WE CAN HELP...WE CARE ABOUT YOU!
PENN STATE-BEHREND CAMPUS MINISTRY
Student Affairs Reed Building
898-6245
OFF CAMPUS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
BUS TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FOR 11:00 a.m. SERVICES
BUS LEAVES REED 10:15 a.m. SUNDAYS
ON CAMPUS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS with The Rev. Ron Toven* (Fr. Ron)
SATURDAYS, 5:30 p.m. in THE REED LECTURE HALL
PENN STATE-BEHREND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Barbato's
ITALIAN RESTAURANT
3512 Buffalo Road
Wesleyville
Phone: 899-3423
We Deliver Pizza to Behrend Dorms and Apartments
Buy one Pizza Sub, get one FREE!
*pick-up only w/coupon Expires 3/19/87

The Slippery Rock Sports Store
presents
A Store Catering to the Needs of Fraternities & Sororities
HEAVYWEIGHT SWEATS, JACKETS, CUSTOM SEWING, SILK SCREENING, EMBROIDERY, LAVELIERS & GREEK GIFTS.
★ We can copy any design.
★ One piece orders welcome.
★ "24 hr. service" for most delivery items.
★ Most items in stock.

348 S. Main Street
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
(412) 794-2121
In PA 800-642-8319
Outside PA 800-346-4441

Champion, Bourton, Levi's, The Far Side, DeLONG SPORTSWEAR, SPORJEN SPORTSWEAR