

Celebration of Afro-American Culture begins

by Michele Miller
Collegian Staff Writer

Last minute hitches? "None," said ABC student director Greg Goldsmith. All is ready, set, GO for the week-long "Celebration of Afro-American Culture: Here and Now." Featuring lectures, workshops, poetry reading and a screening of the *Roots* television mini-series. The March 22-28 event promises to be an educational and thought-provoking step toward greater black awareness.

When the week ends, Goldsmith hopes "people will be more aware of the effects of black culture in America. We (the sponsoring Association of Black Collegians) want to educate people as to why blacks are the way they are. People assume too much. They don't all realize that many of our customs come from our roots, our ancestors in Africa."

The program opens with Dr. Pearl Primus, the world's foremost authority on African dance. Following a press conference, the internationally recognized scholar and anthropologist will hold a workshop at 3 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall for interested students. Participation is limited to the first 50 students who pre-register at Student Affairs before Thursday, March 19. Primus' lecture and dance presentation are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall.

The *Roots* series begins March 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall and will run through March 27. Prior to Wednesday's 8:30 p.m. showing, renowned poet and author Amir Boraica (Le Roi Jones) will present "The Forgotten Beginnings" at 7:00 p.m. a poetry reading and discussion on the *Roots* series. A packet of Boraica's poetry will be made available at the door of the Lecture Hall.

Boraica, who received the Obie Award for the best American play in 1964 for "Dutchman," will also host a 2:00 p.m. workshop on the 25th. Called "Afro-American Culture in the Theatre," his program is limited to 25 students. As with Primus' workshop those interested must sign-up by March 19. Said Goldsmith, efforts to co-ordinate the program with Tony Elliot's theatre classes haven't produced any definite results. If arrangements can be made, the program will take place in the studio theatre and will be open to Elliot's classes—in addition to the 25 who sign up. Otherwise, Reed Lecture Hall is the location.

The grand finale occurs March 28 when Alex Haley, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the autobiographical *Roots* will hold a lecture at 7:30 p.m. in Erie Hall. "We feel very fortunate to have him," Goldsmith stated. The author will discuss the search to uncover his maternal roots, a journey that began in his childhood when Aunts Cynthia and Georgia regaled him with tales of a man named "Kin-tay" who called a guitar a "ko" and a river a "Kamby Bolongo." Through hundreds of libraries and thousands of records, his search led him to The Gambia, West Africa, where he met with a local "griot" who provided Haley with the missing link. (A "griot" is a combination historian-entertainer whose soul occupation is to memorize tribal history and travel from village to village reciting it). He told Haley of a Mandika named Kunta Kinte who was captured by the "toubob" (white men) during the rain (year) the king's

men came from across the big water—1767.

Hard and soft back copies of *Roots* can be purchased at the bookstore or in the lobby of Erie Hall prior to Haley's lecture. He will be holding an autograph session afterward. For those who prefer to watch the saga

rather than read about it, \$3 week-long passes may be purchased in advance of the *Roots* screening. A \$1 admittance fee must be paid at the door for those without passes. All other events are free as well as the series with an activities card.

Following each lecture, receptions will be held to

allow the audience to meet the speakers and ask questions. Haley's will be located in the Wintergreen Cafe.

For more information about the celebration or to purchase advance admission passes, contact the office of Student Affairs at 898-6212.

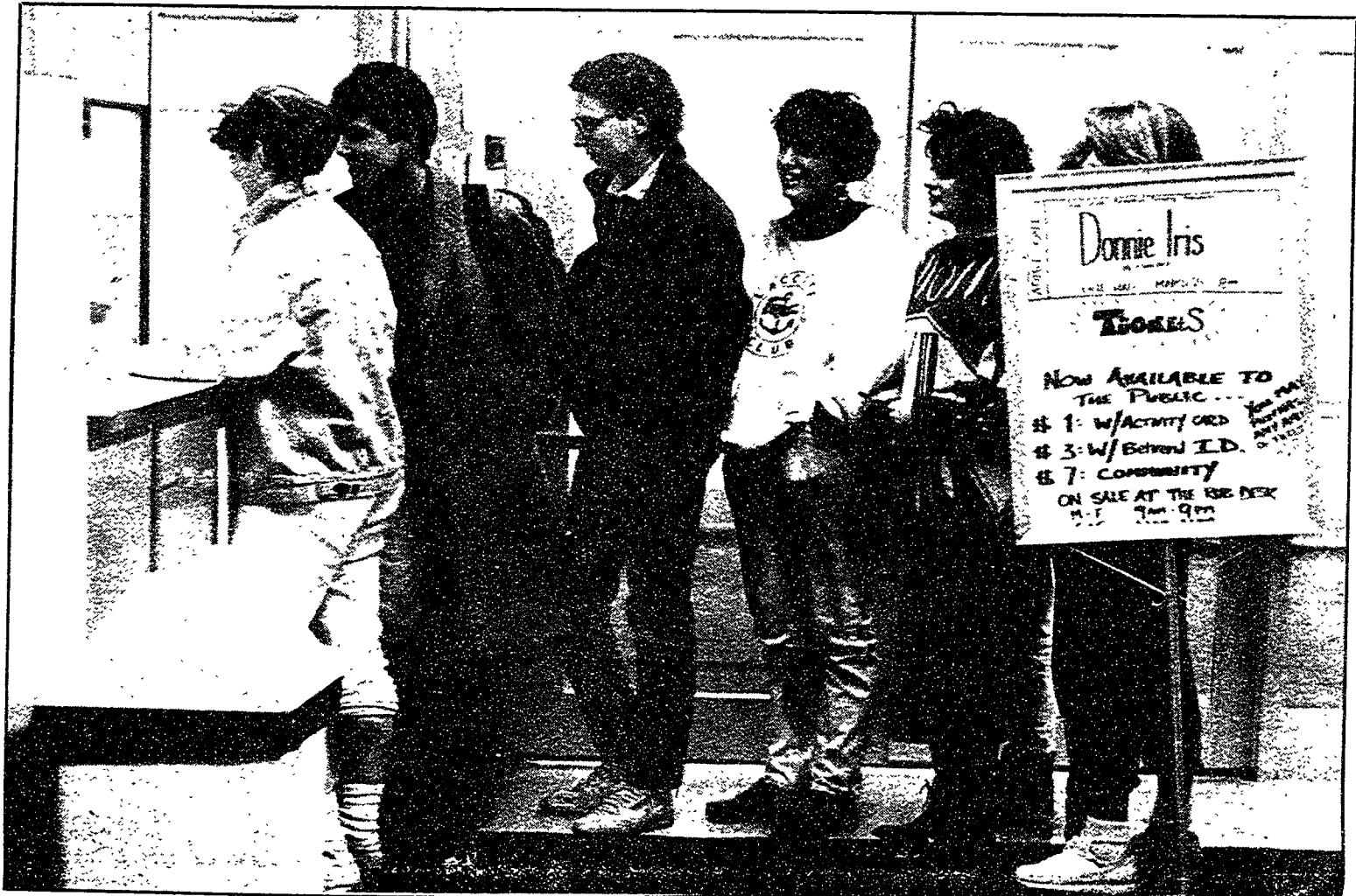


Photo by Jack Horner

Donnie Iris ticket sales continue

Students form a line to purchase tickets for Behrend's first rock concert. see contest p. 6

Celebrity gymnast keynote speaker for Wellness Fair



Cathy Rigby McCoy

by Vicki Sebring
Collegian Staff Writer

Cathy Rigby McCoy, the woman largely responsible for popularizing women's gymnastics in the United States, will be guest speaker April 1 during the Wellness Fair Week at Behrend College. Ms. McCoy will be giving her own personal account of the horrors of eating disorders

and how she overcame those obstacles to achieve her goals.

Olympic athlete, household name, best gymnast in the country: Cathy Rigby seemed to have more than what any young person could ever dream of capturing. But things were not exactly how they appeared to be. The leading women's gymnast had what hundreds of thousands of other Americans suffer from...anorexia and bulimia.

Like most dedicated athletes, Cathy had an extremely intense training program which she followed tightly for many years. Although her desire for perfection lead her to the Olympics in 1972 and to 12 metals in international competition, it also took a toll on her health and well-being. She experienced a disease that is reaching epidemic heights in America. After a constant battle between herself and the disease, she has finally come to grips with her body and is in control.

"By learning about proper nutrition and by changing my lifestyle and eating habits, today I'm much more aware and careful about how and what I eat," says Ms. McCoy.

She is now retired from competition and has taken up a much different way of life. A full-time wife and mom, Cathy is now actively pursuing an acting career. She has had leading roles in such musicals as "The Wizard of Oz," "Paint Your Wagon," and "They're Playing Our Song," and she has appeared in several network TV shows also. Soon her own show in Las Vegas will debut. But gymnastics has not completely left her life. She can be seen frequently as a commentator for ABC Sports.

The Wellness Fair, which runs from March 30 through April 3, is being sponsored by the Health Advisory Board. The board, which was just created last fall, is made-up of members from Police and Safety, Student Affairs, Housing & Food Services, Resident Life, Health & Physical Education & Recreation, Health Service, and two students—Craig Altire and Kirk Stewart. According to Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Jamie Grimm, "The board came together out of a need to coordinate programming on campus. Before, each organization didn't know what the other was doing, now we are a

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Dr. Anthony Salvia

Salvia receives Quality Control honor

by Tracy Muffett
Collegian Staff Writer

Several people from Behrend's engineering department have won recognition for outstanding performance in the area of Engineering.

Dr. Anthony A. Salvia, a member of Behrend's Engineering faculty, has been chosen as the recipient of the American Society for Quality Control's 1987 "Outstanding Member" award. Dr. Salvia's activities on behalf of the ASQC include: lecturing and offering,

through the Continuing Education program, seminars and mini-courses on the topic of quality control; acting as Director of the Quality Control Institute at Behrend; and functioning as Editor of the ASQC Newsletter's Statistics section. The ASQC is part of the Erie Engineering Societies Council; each Society in the Council present this "Outstanding Member" award to one member annually.

Dr. Salvia feels that the issue of quality control is "...a national continued on page 2

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