

news

Lilley relaxes in Lawrence lobby

by Kevin Mills
Collegian Staff Writer

In a special edition of the Lawrence Tuesday Night Discussion Series on March 24, Dean John Lilley was the featured speaker. The atmosphere was more reminiscent of a "Coffee With the Provost" than the standard discussion. The discussion began at 7:35 in the lobby of Lawrence Hall. As might be expected, many interesting and controversial issues that affect faculty and staff as well as students in the Behrend community were discussed.

The talk began, as usual, with some comments regarding the positive things noticed by students at Behrend. One of the students mentioned the recent Schlawly-Weddington debate, saying that many students would like to see more of this type of debate. Dean Lilley commented, "It's (organizing and promoting a debate) hard to do, but it is very instructional."

The spring landscaping around the campus was brought up, with general agreement that the work being done was pleasing. The only negative, or perhaps constructive, comment was made by the Dean himself. He said, "Perry Hall needs more landscaping—the whole area, front and back (of the building)."

The Dean then touched upon the subject of the humanities program at Behrend, specifically the subject of knowledge of prospective and current Behrend students of the availability of four-year programs in those areas. He said that among the many people he had talked to about these programs, the general consensus was that they knew that Behrend had "a very strong faculty in the humanities, but almost none knew that they could stay at Behrend the full four years."

Along those same lines, the Dean posed the question to the assembled students, "How can we best tell the story of Behrend?" This was in regard to the image presented to incoming students in the future. Several points were touched upon. The first was the fact that the new references to the school would improve the overall image of the school. This new reference is "Penn State at Erie—The Behrend College." This follows more closely the formats of such school as "Penn State in Harrisburg—The Capitol College."

Other ideas included promoting the quality and availability of the faculty, publicity of the library building, and the mailing of issues of the *Collegian* to prospective students. A novel idea was the suggestion of the publication of a special issue of the *Collegian* devoted entirely to "the best of Behrend."

The subject of tenure for Behrend faculty was brought up to the Dean. His response: "We're (the administration) tough on tenure. Fewer than 40% of our

faculty have tenure. We demand that our teachers be good teachers as well as good scholars."

In addition to being an eloquent speaker, Dean Lilley was very engaging and receptive, hailing many students by name as they walked through Lawrence Lobby and asking them to join the group. A good number of them did so.

Among the other topics covered: foreign-born professors "Fifty percent of all the graduate students in this country are foreign-born," said the Dean. "There's more to learn from them than just the subject matters they teach. I encourage you (the students) to engage them in conversation sometime." On a lighter note, a student brought up the subject of a possible etiquette course at Behrend. "Why don't you teach one?" asked a student of the Dean himself. "What, on how to hold forks?" replied Dean Lilley. He then proceeded to point out the differences between "Republican" and "Democratic" ways of knotting one's necktie, to the surprise and enlightenment of many.

Then, at 8:30, the fun began. Craig Altmire carried in a large white sheet cake with the words "Happy Birthday Dean Lilley" on it in blue icing. Yes, it really was Dean Lilley's birthday (now don't you feel bad about not sending him a card? Shame, shame...), and it's off the record as to how many birthdays the Dean has celebrated. There were fourteen candles on the cake, however. Since he was presently recuperating from a sinus infection, the Dean had "a surrogate" blow out the candles for him after the customary "Happy Birthday" was sung. A brief interlude was then enjoyed as the students and the Dean enjoyed the delicious cake, which was served along with lemonade.

When the discussion resumed, matters turned to what several students perceived as "nastiness" on the part of the Housing and Registrar's Office staff members. There was an overwhelming agreement that these persons dealt with students with a lack of courtesy and/or services in response to problems students had. Dean Lilley had two things to say in regard to these problems mentioned. His first suggestion was for students to try and deal with the offenders themselves, i.e. the staff, and if the complaints were not remedied, then to go ahead and alert someone in a higher position. He said that hostility is not the answer to hostility in any case. "The students' bad behavior, if it exists in dealing with the staff, does not excuse bad behavior on the part of the staff."

The discussion began to break up at approximately 9:30, with the Dean staying until the last possible minute to address the individual concerns of students who caught him after the "official" time was up. As always, it was a fun and very educational experience for all involved.



Happy birthday, dear provost.

photo by Julie Clough

Primus captivates audience as culture series continues

by Michele Miller
Collegian Staff Writer

Silver and gold bracelets jangled in harmony while ivory earrings swayed in time with the molasses-toned music of her voice. "Will you fight for your freedom, my brothers and sisters? Certainly, certainly, Lord." This sing-song chant echoed the frenzy of an enslaved black congregation hundreds of years past. Her audience remained captivated as anthropologist Dr. Pearl Primus—scholar, choreographer, dancer, teacher, lecturer—untangled the web of mystery associated with African and African-American culture.

Primus, internationally recognized as the foremost authority of African dance, spoke at Behrend March 22 as part of a week-long "Celebration of Afro-American Culture" sponsored by the college's Association of Black Collegians. Her lecture focused on the dynamic existence of African-based elements in music, theatre, and dance from the 1600's to the 1980's.

"I welcome you to my heart," she began in greeting. And Primus did just that—welcomed her audience to the heart of her roots, her self and her people. In school, students are taught that black history began in 1619 when ships arrived in Virginia carrying the first blacks to American shores. But that is not true, she explained. They came as indentured servants, just as whites did. Not until much later did slavery begin.

Primus' journey to discover her true heritage was initiated in New York. As a curious third-grader learning about black history, she asked the teacher "Why? Why were the people torn away from their homes?" Because, replied the teacher, in Africa they did nothing but wear leaves and dance. "That," Primus stated, "was my first touch. For the first time I noticed my color...yet I never learned to be black; I always was black. I always felt a sense of pride."

"I snatched at every piece of Africa I could. A sentence here. A word there, gleaned information to find my legacy." Her language of research? Dance. She calls it her teacher, one which is "ever patiently revealing to me the dignity, beauty and strength in the cultural heritage of my people as a vital part of the great heritage of all mankind."

"One cannot say 'in Africa anything,'" Primus continued. "There are hundreds of cultures, tongues, styles of dress. It's a land of contrasts, where climates vary from the scorching desert heat to the never-ending cold of Kilimanjaro, whose peaks are capped with snow left over from the glacial period. But the lifeblood coursing

through the veins of diversity is dance. Dance struck a familiar chord among Africa's many peoples. They danced for rains, crops, children, anger, hope, mourning or sheer pleasure.

When blacks were cruelly wrested from their native land, they buried deep within their souls all things African. This was born of necessity, demanded in a white world which chose to ban such uncultured culture. And so their dance changed as the people adapted to new surroundings. "On those slave ships when the people were brought on deck to dance for exercise, they couldn't move from left to right, front to back. They couldn't twist or turn, roll or tumble to the ground. They could only jump up and down, up and down. And so our dancing changed to a movement of survival—not for prayer or anything else, but for us. It became a way of working out anger against our captors."

"We are a singing people," Primus went on to explain. Secret societies of blacks working for their freedom communicated through song. Christian themes of the enslaved children of Israel and Moses who led them to the Promised Land became code words applied to the black plight. Warnings to stay put and instructions on how to flee from bondage were sung using tunes that seemed harmless to and uninitiated listener. Harriet Tubman, perhaps the best-known black freedom fighter, led countless slaves to the Promised Land on the Underground Railroad. She heard the singing inside her soul, urging her to lead her flock to freedom.

The result of all the forced change is dance that's too aggressive. "One must go back into a fetal memory to dance the older dances before slavery," Primus said. Yet still there remains a potent undercurrent of ancient rhythms in today's music. To demonstrate, Primus' son, Omri, joined her onstage and played his "talking drum" which in Africa is used to send messages vast distances from village to village. One beat soothing, the next wildly exhilarating, the music carried the audience on a journey from past to present and back again.

"So where does all this bring us now?" someone inquired after Primus' lecture. "I look forward to the rising sun of our heritage." Recently there seems to be a resurgence of old stereotypes and hatreds, and that shouldn't be, she commented. "The mask has slipped off again, revealing much anger. One shouldn't worry about equal rights. Equal to whom? I've got to be equal to me, my potential—not anybody else's...This is the period of togetherness. We need to work together for the common good of all."

Playwright-Scholar claims "blacks feel cheated"

by Vicki Sebring
Collegian Staff Writer

Amiri Baraka, better known to American theatre audiences as LeRoi Jones, shed some of his ideas on the theme of Penn State Behrend's weeklong celebration, "A Celebration of Afro-American Culture: Here and Now," Wednesday evening during a brief press

conference.

The first thing Baraka did upon walking into the conference room was to move the table assigned to him closer to the reporters' table, a signal to this author that he was ready to talk. The well educated man, who attended Rutgers University, Howard University, Columbia University and the New

School, entertained questions concerning the past and present ideas of the Afro-American people.

Baraka's answers were very blunt and to the point. Pertaining to his views on the present condition of our government, Baraka openly stated, "I think blacks feel cheated. If Ronald Reagan blows up the world, it's a drag...a double

drag. I mean, we're just getting in to this world and he's ready to blow it up!"

He personified America's tendency to close their eyes to the important issues, like nuclear war, as "Someone who's telling jokes so they don't get scared in a dark alley."

"How can we deal with existing on this planet when we have nuclear technology and animal-level social relations?" Baraka asked earnestly.

Founder and director of the Black Art Repertory Theatre-School in Harlem, Mr. Baraka won the Obie Award in 1964 for his play "The Dutchman." Recently he has had some difficulty getting his works published, although there has been some talk of filming one of his newer plays.

An inspirational lecturer and playwright during his own era, he was asked if he felt that there was a difference with students today. Baraka replied, "The students today haven't grown up in a period of struggle like we did, so they think that they're entitled to get what others have worked for." After a slight pause, he added, "There's a new movement in society; eyes open, fist raised, fires burning."

So who holds the answers for the future of our society, to secure its existence? Mr. Baraka feels we do. "To continue to exist we have to come to grips with each other. We have to treat each other as one race."

Faculty award nominations now being accepted

Nomination forms for the annual Awards Convocation are available in the Office of Student Affairs. Three different awards will be bestowed on the faculty members of Behrend College.

The Guy W. Wilson Award for Excellence in Academic Advising shall be given to encourage and reward excellence in academic advising by faculty at Behrend College. The award was first presented in 1982 to Dr. Robert P. Hostetler followed by Dr. Dana Anderson in 1983, Dr. Zachary T. Irwin in 1984, Dr. Richard A. Mester in 1985 and Ernest E. Fryer in 1986. Normally, a recipient may receive this award only one time, and only full-time faculty are eligible. Nominations for the Guy W. Wilson award must be submitted to the Office of the Provost and Dean by April 10.

The Behrend College Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award was established in May 1969 to recognize that faculty member who, in the opinion of students and colleagues, most truly fills the role of an inspired and committed teacher. The award was first presented to Philip K. Iobst in 1970 and, most recently, to Dr. James A. Kurre in 1986. Last year's recipient is ineligible for a period of one year. Nominations for the Teaching Award must also be submitted to the Office of

Provost and Dean by April 10.

Nominations for the Guy W. Wilson Award and the Teaching Award can be made by any member of the student body, faculty or administration as well as an officially chartered student organization of the Behrend College.

Faculty members have an opportunity to nominate each other for the Faculty Research Award established by the Behrend College Council of Fellows in January, 1982 to recognize the faculty member who, in the opinion of his or her peers, truly fills the role of an inspired, dedicated researcher at Behrend. Previous recipients of the award are ineligible for a period of three years. Dr. Jeffery A. Wicken was the first recipient of the Faculty Research Award in 1982, followed by Dr. Juan Fernandez-Jimenez in 1983, Dr. Edwin C. Masteller in 1984, Dr. Diana Hume George in 1985 and Dr. James M. Davis in 1986. Any full-time faculty member of the College may nominate a colleague for the award. Each sponsor must complete and submit nomination forms available in the Division Offices to the Division Office of the nominee by April 8.

Professor's article on 16th century women published

by Tracy Muffett
Collegian Staff Writer

Adding to the list of faculty accomplishments at Behrend is an article written by Dr. Daniel A. Frankforter. Entitled "Elizabeth Bowes and John Knox—A woman and Reformation Theology," Dr. Frankforter's article will be published in *Church History* magazine in December of 1987.

Dr. Frankforter got the idea for his article after coming across a small book written by 16th century Reformation theologian John Knox—a book with a "very intriguing title": *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*. "Anything like that, I had to read," said Dr. Frankforter. The actual body of the article deals with a series of letters between John Knox and one of the women in his congregation, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowes; the letters deal with theological issues being debated at the time. What makes

Dr. Frankforter's article interesting and challenging is this: first, only the letters written by John Knox have survived; those written by Mrs. Bowes have disappeared. Second, Knox's letters were not dated and therefore are difficult to put into chronological order. Therefore, scholars must attempt first to order Knox's letters, then to reconstruct the content of Mrs. Bowes' letters by the content on Knox's replies.

Dr. Frankforter wrote this article in part because, he says, scholars "wonder what women knew about the world around them" in the 16th century, a time when women were seldom formally educated and, until recently, were thought to know very little about the issues of the times. Dr. Frankforter's paper "tries to suggest that (Bowes) knew a great deal about the religious issues of the time." Elizabeth Bowes, says Dr. Frankforter, was a common woman, "the equivalent of upper-middle class," and the

evidence that she was quite knowledgeable about the religious issues of the time may imply that many 16th century English and Scottish women knew much more about the world around them than historians previously thought.

Dr. Frankforter has had nine book reviews published previously in *Church History*; this is his first article to be published in that magazine. He has had thirteen articles published in other journals, mostly of a religious, medieval, and/or historical nature; he has also been published in the *International Journal of Women's Studies*. He has published a book, *A History of the Christian Movement: the Development of Christian Institutions*, which has been on display in the Reed Building, Second Floor. He is also working on a History text, *Civilization and Survival*. He researches Medieval Church Administration; on top of such achievements, he is a professor of History and Religious Studies. "An historian of ideas,"

as he calls himself, Dr. Frankforter has been teaching since 1970, coming into history by way of theology and, before that, philosophy. Dr. Frankforter enjoys teaching: "I like it a lot," he says. His contributions as a professor, a writer and a scholar add much to the Humanities department and to Behrend.



Dr. Daniel Frankforter

Control seminar held

University Relations—"Automated SPC," a seminar designed to help production supervisors and quality control managers understand the benefits and problems of monitoring page data on the shop floor, will be offered in Erie on April 6.

The seminar, sponsored by Penn State's Continuing Education Program and the Quality Control Institute, will feature instruction in the tools of automated process control, the planning and design of a control system, and the training of shop supervisors and operators.

William Winstandley, president of Winstandley and Associates, Inc., an organization specializing in the design and development of industrial automation systems, will head the seminar, which will be held from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Ramada Inn (Exit 8, Route 8 and I-90) in Erie.

A graduate of Purdue University, Winstandley is registered as a professional engineer in Ohio and Indiana. In addition to his work in consumer relations and program management at Winstandley and Associates, Winstandley is also a faculty member in the mechanical and industrial technology department at the University of Dayton.

Cost for the seminar is \$105 per person and includes the cost of instruction, handout materials, refreshments and lunch. Advance registration is requested. To register, contact Continuing Education today by calling 898-6103.

Student pockets \$100 for computer project

University Relations—Sam Cancilla, a sophomore at Penn State Behrend, earned a \$100 award for his presentation of the engineering use of computer graphics during an American Society of Mechanical Engineers competition held at Penn State Behrend last week.

Cancilla, a mechanical engineering technology major from McKean, Pa., will represent th Erie college when he presents his speech at the Regional Student Conference of the ASME, which will be held March 27-28 at West Virginia University.

Tom Gibbs, a senior mechanical engineering and technology major at Penn State Behrend, received a second place award of \$75 in the college competition for his presentation of the design of a centrifugal pump.

The competition was part of the first official meeting of the Penn State Behrend Mechanical Engineering Club. During the meeting, David Harrington, vice president of Region Five of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, presented the club with its official ASME charter.