

Wilson's lecture amusing, historical for Behrend and community



Dr. Archie Loss and Lord Harold Wilson

by Michele Miller
Collegian Staff Writer

While lounging on a settee in Windsor Castle, one man said to another, "Harold, I will never forget this evening. Here am I, started life in my father's store in Minneapolis. And you started in humble surroundings in Yorkshire. And here we are, two old friends drinking the Queen of England's whiskey."

"Harold" is Sir Harold Wilson, former Prime Minister of Great Britain. The man who spoke of their fate with such incredulity was Hubert Humphrey, former vice-president of the United States. Humphrey's quip was one of many sprinkled through Lord Wilson's address to a full house April 7 in the Reed Lecture Hall. His talk spanned a colorful 50-year career that began with a position as an economics lecturer at Oxford's New College and includes such personalities as Charles deGaulle, John Kennedy, Mao Tse-Tung, Leonid Brezhnev, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Golda Meir and Lyndon Johnson. Said Wilson, "LBJ was instrumental in persuading the Texas Legislature to make me an honorary citizen of Texas. I should add that I'm also a 'citizen' of Dallas. My word, that means something in Britain. In the evening my wife watches the television and there's nothing but Dallas."

Born in 1916, Wilson was graduated from Jesus College in Oxford. Before his election to Parliament in 1945, he served as a top advisor to Winston Churchill and worked in various governmental ministries. He served four terms as Britain's Prime Minister, longer than any of the country's other peacetime leaders. Elected in 1964 at the age of 48, he was the youngest in Britain's history ever to receive this position. In 1977, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, and in May 1983, he retired from the political scene after having served in the House of Commons.

Wilson began his lecture by discussing events during World

War II. "When the war broke out I was called to Whitehall as the economist advising the Anglo-French Coordinating Committee. But when Hitler blasted Paris and the French sued for peace, I was moved to the War Cabinet Office—Economics Department proper—under Winston Churchill, who by this time had replaced Neville Chamberlain (as Prime Minister)." Churchill sent Sir Wilson to Washington "with some arrangement relating to the forthcoming attack across the channel which we were expecting. That was the attack on France. Now, war in Washington, if you'll permit me to say so, has to be seen to be believed. For every major war council and most minor ones, there were, I later calculated—very carefully—at least five separate departments, the heads of which had never heard of the existence of the other." After meeting with a seemingly endless barrage of these government officials, Wilson said he "dictated a memorandum on how Britain did deal with the problem, and as each successive chieftain came to call, I had to give him a copy of my script. This same distribution of power, of course, made my negotiations on my assigned task all the more difficult after I'd sat in litigation with one after another who claimed to be in unique charge, yet another came to the door. Well I had work to do. For one, I wanted to get home. Mary (his wife) and I were expecting our first child."

Wilson continued with reminiscences of his associations with the Soviet Union. He has met every Soviet leader since WWII except Stalin, who once invited Wilson to lunch. "I knew why," he claimed. "I was in Russia to get a trade agreement. We were buying grain—starving though they were, but willing to supply at a relatively low price. While I was there, I received a telegram from some clown in the British Foreign Office to say that they'd get all we needed from Australia." Stalin's luncheon

invitation was an attempt to persuade Wilson to stay in the country for a while longer, hoping Great Britain would purchase the Russian grain. "I refused, saying I was under orders from my Prime Minister, who had organized a dinner party to be attended by the younger cabinet members in order to meet the newly enthroned happy pair—the then princess, now Queen Elizabeth and her husband-to-be. So you see, I told them, I have to return to London."

As for today's Soviet leader, "I find Gorbachev very interesting, sensible, and well informed. I feel that if he is allowed to do so, he will bring his country forward many years. However, I don't want to be too vehement in my praise for fear that if this were to appear in your local paper, they might can him."

Wilson had a word of praise for U.S. foreign relations, most specifically with the Soviet Union. "The United States has been playing its cards with great skill and subtlety... Still, it would be a shame if a project such as Star Wars were to drag down any agreements." Wilson feels that sticking to the dictates of peace is a necessity—one that requires a joint effort—and would like to see the world powers return to the type of negotiating seen during the Helinski talks.

Other topics of concern Wilson touched upon were problems caused by a British economy characterized by rising interest rates and the unemployment of 3.3 million people. He also stressed the importance of improved relations with China and third world countries. To achieve this end, Wilson established the War on Want Movement in Great Britain. The organization is still active in helping backward and starving countries by providing food and industrial equipment.

A question and answer period followed Wilson's lecture, after which the audience had an opportunity to meet him during a brief reception.

What's in a name?

by Barb Byers
Collegian Staff Writer

The Behrend College will now officially be known as The Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend College. The name change was recently approved by Penn State University's Board of Trustees, and it "reflects our (Behrend's) mission as a growing graduate and research institution,"

name change is actually not a change," Cornwell continued, "but reflects the position we are in—we are Penn State," and now people will recognize that easily. "We think of ourselves first and foremost as Penn State. The 'Penn State at Erie' name helps us further our graduate and research mission and identifies us with northeastern Pennsylvania," Dr. John Lilley, provost and dean said. "The

institution," Cornwell said.

On a broader scale, Penn State now has a new logo, or "mark" that will allow people to identify the institution at a glance. The new mark includes a rendition of the words "Penn State," and also contains a blue shield depicting the traditional lion sculpture with the date 1855 under it, the year Penn State was founded. The mark which graphically represents Penn State, will be seen on publications, letterheads, business cards, signs, and "printed materials that go out externally," Cornwell said.

"Essentially, the graphic identity system is intended to get everyone singing from the same songbook," University President Dr. Bryce Jordan said.

The old university seal resembles too many other things, and was not easily recognizable as being related to Penn State, Cornwell said. The new graphic mark will eliminate such a problem in the future.



according to Linda Cornwell, Associate Director of Development and University Relations.

This name change is significant in that it will help to "recognize Penn State as one institution," and where one can find "the same quality, caliber of education, and student," Cornwell said. "This

Behrend College, as the second part of our name, continues to honor the Behrend family, who donated their estate to the university," Lilley continued.

Along with this change, Behrend's sports teams will be called the Lions instead of the Cubs, effective June 1, to "further reflect the unity of the entire (Penn State)

Dr. George receives summer stipend

by Mary Stewart
Collegian Staff Writer

"I am very aware that I am participating in a process that will largely determine how Anne Sexton is read for the next twenty years," said Dr. Diana Hume George in a recent interview. "I take that responsibility seriously because she is a fine mid-century poet who is still speaking very vitally and about very important things to the contemporary reader."

The National Endowment for the Humanities, the major funding source for humanistic scholarship and research, has granted Dr. George a summer stipend. The stipend is a small grant which allows the writer or researcher to focus their efforts on completing a project over a several month period. "It is so you don't have to paint houses or fix cars," Dr. George joked.

Dr. George, a professor of English at Behrend, and Diane Wood Middlebrook, a professor at Sanford University, have combined efforts to co-edit a volume of selected poems by Anne Sexton. The completed manuscript will be submitted to Houghton Mifflin in September and will be published in 1988.

This book is part of a group of works Dr. George is doing on Anne Sexton. She is editing a collection of critical essays, *Essays on Anne Sexton*, for The University of Illinois Press. She is also writing a book on Anne Sexton and Maxine Kumin, both Pulitzer Prize winning poets. The book is a study of their influence on each other's work.

Dr. George has had previous experience editing Anne Sexton's work for the anthology *Reconstructing American Literature* for D. C. Heath and Company. This anthology will be published in 1988. This is "a massive project that is trying to offer a major alternative source for anthologies of American literature," she said, "that will represent minorities and women very differently."

Dr. George has been doing the background and preparation for this new project for 10 years and has worked many hours each week on it since December. The stipend will allow her to finish the manuscript for publication. During the stipend period she will go to The University of Austin, Texas to work in the Humanities Research Center. The center "is a first-rate collection of modern and contemporary poets' archival material," she explained. Such material would include items pertaining to a particular poet's career that are not available elsewhere: personal letters, rough drafts, unpublished works, etc.

The process of working as co-editors is a different but rewarding experience, Dr. George explained. As with any edited collection of poems the personal biases of the editor will be reflected in the selections. With co-editors there is the advantage of having each other as checks on each's biases.

For example, as Sexton's biographer, Diane Wood Middlebrook "tends to want to include or exclude a poem because she knows the story behind it. She knows how it connects with the poet's life: how it represents an attractive or unattractive aspect of the poet's life," Dr. George explained. "That might prejudice her from reading it in a purely literary sense." "I function as a check on her tendency to be editing from a biographical bias," she continued.

"She in turn acts as a check on my tendency to edit from a critical bias," said Dr. George. "That is, I tend to select poems, not because they are biographically in-

teresting, but because they are interesting in some theoretical or literary critical kind of way."

Dr. George stated it is important that "editors and critics always be aware that all they can offer is informed subjectivity." They should be honest about what kind of standards they apply to the subject matter.

Dr. George was trained in the school of what she called the old "new criticism" of the 1950's. This school put forth a model of judgement which values subtlety, irony, language play, verbal complexity, symbolic richness, wit, and in some ways values darkness.

Anne Sexton broke out of the traditional forms; she wrote from "the open, mystical, wild, prophetic sense," said Dr. George. Sexton wrote about Genesis, the life of Christ, and her religious visions. "I have to be careful because I tend to look at those poems as sloppy writing, bad writing," Dr. George explained. "I've had to open myself to the possibility that my biases are too narrow." Our standards are not value free; they come from our historical context. Years from now the standards may be different, she said.

Dr. George said she and Middlebrook have a huge area of agreement but in the areas they disagree the work is more productive. Because when one disagrees, that position must be defended. Each must verbally define what makes a poem "good."

Another issue Dr. George has had to deal with in the editing process is feminism. Although Sexton wrote poems that were claimed to be feminist by feminists, she did not identify herself as a feminist. For example, "toward the end of her life she became an intense religious person; she had visions, and the God she moved toward was a very traditional Father-God," Dr. George said. "She moved toward what feminists regard as patriarchal values or sexist values in reference to religious orientation."

"Feminist scholars have tended to look at those poems and say these aren't good poems; she is just capitulating to a masculine, sexist idea of God," said Dr. George. "I share that value judgement of those poems. Then I have to back up and say since when do my poetical convictions get to dictate what I think about the quality of the poetry of a woman who saw God very differently."

Dr. George feels there is no such thing as value free discourse. "We are political animals as well as linguistic animals," she said. "It is a little too convenient to find a poem either good or bad, wanting or wonderful because it agrees or doesn't agree with your own politics," she continued. "I don't regard that as an adequate standard of judgement."

"What I am trying to do is keep myself as honest as possible about the editing process. I am learning," she said.

George's and Middlebrook's book will contain 144 poems and a critical introduction. The introduction will contain a biographical sketch of Sexton's life, and explanation of the story line of the poems, the editors' criteria for selection, Anne Sexton's achievements that characterize her as the fine poet she was, and a chronology.

What's next? Dr. George is preparing to work on a book about Anne Sexton and Marilyn Monroe. The purpose of the book will be to focus on the "parallel uses to which our culture has put these two beautiful women and special artists." Dr. George continued, "What prostrated ourselves in front of? What did we do to the people when we were busy turning them into cultural symbols that reflect our needs and desires?"

Cathy Rigby highlights the Health and Wellness Fair

by Vicky Sebring
Collegian Staff Writer

The Health and Wellness Fair's keynote speaker, Cathy Rigby McCoy, shared her own personal accounts of two eating disorders, anorexia and bulimia, during an entertaining and inspirational presentation on Wednesday, April 1st.

Involved in gymnastics since the age of ten, Cathy is aware of the pressures put upon young athletes. Although she doesn't limit the disease to just athletes, she feels that an athlete's life is "fertile ground for setting up such factors."

The intense training, the constant dieting, and the drive to obtain and maintain perfection pushed her into a damaging condition from which she suffered for 12 years. Ironically enough, in what Ms. McCoy described as "the worst times of her life," she was the dominant figure in women's gymnastics to the American public.

"The target area is women, between the ages of 13-25," says Rigby, "20-25% are coed college students." Recognizing these diseases as "reaching epidemic heights" in our society, she is

speaking at colleges across the country in an effort to vocalize the devastating effects they have on the body and mind.

She offered help to the loved ones of the anorexia and bulimia victims. "Accusing statements like; 'You're losing weight', 'You've been making yourself throw-up', or 'You're not eating' just pushes them away. They close the doors of communication," says McCoy. Instead she says that a bond must be developed. "Developing a trust, where you can open up your innermost hurts and fears, is the way to help." Cathy gives most of the credit for her recovery to her husband who patiently stood by her and developed such a trust with her.

"Sometimes he says he's created a monster," she joked, "because now when something bothers me, I let it out instead of keeping it inside, all bottled up."

McCoy considers herself on a "continual recovery basis." Like the alcoholic and the chain smoker, there is always the chance of slipping back into old habits. But Cathy maintains that she can control herself and the disease now.

Her life has stricken up a much different path since those times of struggle. Although Cathy is a full-time wife and mother of four, she

is actively pursuing an acting and singing career.

In what seemed to be a string of never ending battles for her, Cathy Rigby McCoy has won the war.



photo by Holly Lew
Cathy Rigby McCoy

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