

features

Second City plays Behrend

by Bill Warner
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend students started the fall term with a laugh and a smile as Second City's touring group appeared on the stage of Erie Hall. The innovative antics of the Chicago based comedy troupe punctuated the first week of classes with an exclamation point (!!!). An audience approaching two hundred gathered on Saturday, August 29 to see the latest crop of improvisational talent that has sprouted from the hallowed halls of Second City (S.C.).

Most widely known for its television spin-off, S.C.T.V., Second City has been the proving ground for some of America's best comedic talents. Names such as Ed Asner, John Candy, Eugene Levy, John and Jim Belushi, Andrea Martin, and Chevy Chase, as well as many others, appear on the S.C. Alumni list. From their headquarters in the Olde Town section of Chicago, members have jumped from the theater-stage to television and screen roles, gaining world wide attention. Each year a handful of their most promising actors and actresses hit the road to con-

tinue the Second City legacy. Shawn Masterson, Judy Scott, Christina Dunn, Evan Gore, Bill Kusak, Ron West and Paul Hites (piano) make up this years ensemble. Their performance here was well received and was their only local appearance.

Topical humor was provided in the form of "Macroeconomics", a song and dance routine extolling the virtues of supply and demand and the gross national product. Also presented, with the college student in mind, was a skit depicting an obviously uninformed student trying to pry a passing grade from his history professor. Some of their material is tailored to the particular audience they are performing for, but as member Paul Masterson stated prior to the show, "We deal mostly with human behavior. You can be from Thailand, but we'll still relate to each other the same way, because we're human. The scenes were not written by us, but by Second City alumni. We do our improvisation during the game sequences. That's where we actively improvise for the audience." During these game se-

quences the troupe asks the crowd to shout out a list of emotions, then occupants or some sort of relationship that the skit will center on. S.C. takes it from there twisting and molding the audience's suggestions into strange and improbable situations. As for the would-be comedian hoping to someday join a group like S.C., Mr. Masterson had two recommendations. "First is dedication. Auditions are only half the battle, the other half is getting recognition of your development. When I arrived in Chicago, I certainly couldn't have auditioned right away and gotten in. It took me ten months to learn the rules of the game." Secondly, he said of improvisation, "Before you're ready to succeed you'd better understand failure, because they go hand in hand. Somebody once said 'If you fail fifty percent on stage, you're doing something right and if you fail any less you're writing too much at home.' If you want to do it enough, all you have to do is find a bar or a space that people can come to see you. You can learn alot. You don't have to join up with Second City, but it doesn't hurt on the resume."

Snapp, crackle, pop!

by Tanya Williams
Collegian Staff Writer

On Friday, September 11, The Snapp Band will be appearing in the Wintergreen Cafe at 10 P.M. Behrend students were entertained by one of Akron Ohio's Top 40 Bands for free.

The show was suggested by Jamie Grimm of Student Services. She realized that "many of our bands are geared toward white students and locally there aren't any black bands." She also says, "We want to make sure that everyone hears what they want to hear."

Although the group is from Akron, they have performed night club acts in Ohio, Tennessee, South Carolina, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. SNAPP has opened for Stephanie Mills, The Manhattanans, The O'Jays, Bobby Bluebland, Roger Troutman and Zapp. Edward Glenn, "Eddy", is the lead singer, keyboard player, lead

and rhythm guitarist. With over 15 years of experience in groups featuring Rock, Classical, Gospel, Rhythm and Blues songs. Glenn also has a talent for writing and arranging music. He wrote Royal Majesty, My Body's Hot, It's Hot, Little Red, and Party Jammers. These songs were released by Heat Records and performed by The Ultimate Choice Band.

Luther Johnson IV, "Lou", is the bassist and background vocalist. He started his music career at the age of six by taking piano lessons. He later taught himself to play the bass viola.

Richard Brown Jr., "J.B.", plays the alto sax, flute, tenor sax and background vocalist. He has studied both Classical and Jazz saxophone. He has over eight years of experience under his belt. Brown worked with nationally acclaimed Jazz band leader, Roland Paolucci, from The University of Akron.

Eric Johnson, "Drummo Johnson", is the drummer, lead and background vocalist. He is a self taught drummer since the age

of five. He also attended The University of Akron for four years.

Bryant Edwards, "The Pearl", plays the synthesizers, multi-keyboardist, and background vocalist. He began as The Ultimate Choice Band's road. Hw moved up from light technician to sound technician. Edwards ran the sound systems of Stephanie Mills, The Manhattanans, and others.

Larry Gibson, "Gib", is the lead and background vocalist, keyboardist, lead and thymth guitarist. While attending The University of Akron, he had Classical and Jazz guitar training. Gibson has over two years road experience and three years as a studio musician for Heat Records.

While in concert, they will play songs of various types. They perform songs by Pince, Jesse Johnson, Alexander O'Neal, and Police. The also play Jazz selections. "Our accomplishments speak for themselves, not just your ordinary hotel lobby band, but a SNAPP of entertainment," says Larry Gibson.

Orientation Week beefed up

by Rebecca Macey
Collegian Staff Writer

On Saturday, August 22, incoming freshmen at Behrend began to arrive for orientation and the upcoming school year. Penn State staff and orientation leaders worked together in an effort to help new students meet different people and become acquainted with their surroundings. This was done by offering freshmen various activities and workshops involving interaction with others. Some of the activities offered were "Playfair", Las Vegas Night, assorted intramurals, dances and tours of the campus.

Orientation week differed this year due to the fact that there were more activities scheduled by the Orientation Staff. This year, orien-

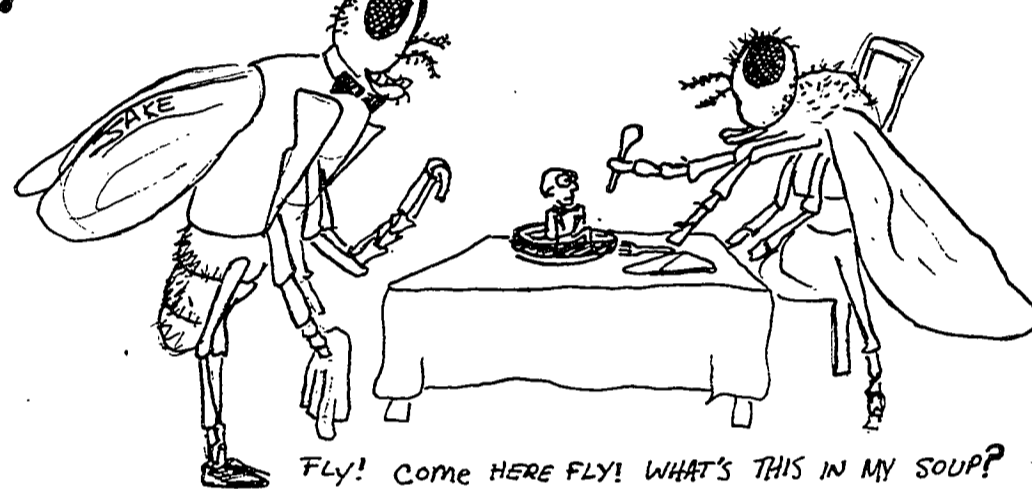
tation week was organized primarily by Chris Reber, the new Dean of Student Services, Jamie Grimm, Assistant to the Dean of Student Services, and her assistant John Downey. Angie Papaleo, an orientation leader and the Student Programming Council President, felt the activities went over with students much better this year because events were publicized more and there was greater enthusiasm among orientation leaders to help the new students and try to get them involved.

Overall, the activities planned were believed to be worthwhile by most students. Playfair appeared to be the most popular event among the students. Carolyn Bilyak, a freshman, felt that Playfair let students meet new people and looked at it as a very

welcoming activity. One particular complaint of students was that they were forced to attend too many meetings which dealt with rules and policies. "Listening to 'don't do this and 'don't do that' is bad enough, but to have to hear it seventeen times in a day is too much," claims freshman Dianna Ertmann. Several students suggested that the number of "rules and regulations sessions" be reduced to just one or two, but for the most part, both students and faculty thought Orientation Week was quite successful.

Orientation activities ended on Tuesday, August 25. Although there were some complaints about convocation meetings, the extracurricular activities made up for them in the way of social interaction and just plain fun.

Psycho Comics



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