

features

Why is Eddy "Strange"?

by Tanya Williams
 Collegian Staff Writer

"Who is Eddy Strange? More importantly, why is Eddy strange?! Don't let the name scare you! Oh, he's different, but it's a difference that makes him...unique," says E. Talbert Talent Consultants. "Eddy Strange," the opening act, is hard to beat. Every inch of the man is funny," states Dallas Morning News. On Thursday, October 29th, he will be appearing at Behrend. This comedian has performed at The Comedy Store and The Improvisation, both located in Los Angeles. He has entertained audiences in New York, Tennessee, New Jersey, and Denver. He has performed with Robin Williams, The Bus Boys, and Frankie Vallée and the Four Seasons.

Eddy Strange has made several television and film appearances. He has appeared on "Entertain-

ment Tonight", "Live at The Comedy Store", "Comedy Tonight" (Metromedia Television), and "Laff Off" (Showtime Cable). He has been in two commercials: (1) Orchard Hardware in San Jose, Ca., and (2) Pizza Movers in Baltimore, Md., "Keep on Cruisin'" (Dick Clark Cbs) and "USA Cable Nightflight" are only two of the four films he was in.

Strange studied entertainment at Florida Atlantic University (Theatre), and Estelle Harmon Actors Workshop. At the National Association Campus Activities at Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, Strange received First Runner Up 1986 San Francisco Comedy Competition. Strange also has developed some skills and talents ranging from comedy writing and golf to small arms expert.

The performance will be at 8pm in Reed 117 for those to experience the strangeness of Eddy Strange.

Weekend Reunion

by Rebecca Macey
 Collegian Staff Writer

On the weekend of September 25, 26, and 27, Behrend College sponsored its fourth annual parents' weekend. These three special days gave students' parents a chance to come visit the campus and to see their children. For many students, going to college was their first experience in being separated from their parents for any period of time longer than two weeks. Thanks to parents' weekend, families were able to spend some quality time together after being apart.

A wide variety of activities were scheduled to take place during the course of the weekend. Families had the options of attending sporting events, buffet dinners, campus tours, and a "student amateur night", to name just a few activities. Parents were greeted Friday evening at a welcoming reception in the Reed Building. Afterwards, they had a buffet dinner, student amateur night, a pep rally and bonfire, and the movie "Han-

nah and Her Sisters" to choose from to attend.

On Saturday, campus tours and mini-classes were given free of charge to parents and students. Mini-class topics included "History of Behrend", "The Battle of Lake Erie", and "Communicating with Your College Student". The rest of the days activities included a picnic lunch in the Wilson picnic grove, a soccer and a tennis match, and alumni receptions.

Most parents thought the weekend was a great opportunity to spend time with their children, although there were a few who felt some changes could be made in the curriculum. Nick Nickolas of Pittsburgh claimed "Actually, I am a bit disappointed in all the emphasis put on the soccer game... I think more family oriented activities should have been included in this weekend's lineup." Despite some minor complaints about the activities, the general consensus among both parents and students was that they were happy to be able to be with their families after being apart for a few weeks.

Strangeways Here We Come

by Justin F. Baxter
 Collegian Staff Writer

Everyone has their problems. And some people choose to sing about them.

With the release of their new album, "Strangeways Here We Come", the Smiths' singer and lyricist, Morrissey, is once again singing of all his life's problems, quirks, insecurities, and his seemingly terrible track record in the game of love.

Morrissey can't "bear to hear the word love", he has a "girlfriend in a coma" and doesn't even want to see her, and once he "dreamt that somebody loved him". He even wishes somebody an "Unhappy Birthday". Not very pleasant topics but they're all topics that most people our age can relate to. This is reflected in their popularity.

The album echoes with the fine guitar playing of Johnny Marr. His playing has improved greatly since the days of "Meat is Murder" and "The Queen is Dead". It seems that Marr just couldn't handle the underconfident rumbings of Morrissey. As soon as this album was completed, he packed up his guitar and said "see ya...". What this will do to the Smiths' music of the future remains to be seen, seeing as Marr wrote all the music that Morrissey wrote lyrics for.

It should also be mentioned that it seems like Morrissey has really learned to sing. It's taken him a while but, practice makes perfect. Well, in this case, a hell of a big improvement. On earlier Smiths' works it seemed as if Morrissey was droning on and on. Now he puts some emotions behind the emotional lyrics.

It also appears that Morrissey drank heavily while writing these songs. Catch these lyrics: "So I drank one or was it four and when I fell on the floor I drank more" or "...so drink, drink, drink and be ill tonight".

But more important than his alcoholic rambling is his bad luck in romance. In "Unhappy Birthday", Morrissey sings "Loved and lost...and then I shot myself." In "Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me" he sings "Last night I felt real arms around me, no hope-no harm, just another

false alarm." In "Stop Me..." he says "I still love you, only slightly less than I used to." I wouldn't doubt it if Johnny Marr left the group because he was just plain sick and tired of Morrissey's moaning.

This album, I think, reinforces all the rumours of Morrissey's homosexuality. On their last album, "Louder than Bombs" he sang "I'm a girl and you're a boy," and wanted to "book a room at the YWCA." On the first song of this album, "A Rush and a Push and the Land is Ours" he sings "but you're a young man, so phone me...ooh, I think I'm in love" and on "Death at ones elbow" he tells Glenn that he can't come home tonight and then sings "Goodbye my love, Goodbye my loves," and apparently takes his life with a hatchet. Hey, if you think I'm making this up buy the album and read the lyrics.

But note that I did say buy the album. Even though the song subjects are morbid, add them to the catchy music of Johnny Marr, and you've got music that's great to listen to.

The Smiths music is original, fresh and pleasant to the hear. A far cry from the barrage of heavy metal groups that are thrown at us when we turn on the radio.

"Strangeways Here We Come" is an excellent compliment to the catalog of exceptional Smiths' album, but not quite as good as "Louder than Bombs". If only Morrissey could deal with his problems a little better, maybe he and Marr could patch things up and go on. But if Morrissey had no problems, what would he sing about?

MUSIC REVIEW

"Do you come here often?"

by Robert Farnham
 Collegian Staff Writer

The television ads for Molly Ringwald's new film *The Pickup Artist*, make it seem an appealing comic confection. They show the title character, an irrepressible would-be Casanova named Jack Jericho (Robert Downey), hitting on attractive women with lines like, "Has anyone ever told you who you have the face of a Botticelli and the body of a Degas?" He's as happy as a clam until he meets the girl of his dreams, Randy Jensen (Ringwald), and is stunned by her indifference to him. He, of course, then feels even more compelled to pursue her. It looks as if it could prove to be a decent variant on the ancient boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-gets-girl-back-just-in-time-for-the-closing-credits plot. That's the advertisement.

As for the movie, well, so much for truth in advertising. The makers of *The Pickup Artist* seem to have reached their limits in coming up with enough good material for one TV spot and left themselves little else to work with in the other 90 minutes of the film.

Nineteen-year-old Molly Ringwald, who became a star playing high-school students in John

Hughes-directed comedies such as *Sixteen Candles* and *Pretty in Pink*, is this film's primary box-office draw and ostensibly one of its major characters, but apparently director James Toback and his screenwriters were uncertain as to how to handle her first "adult" role. She has been given too little memorable dialogue and insufficient character development to make Randy Jensen convincing, and in too many scenes her "acting" is reduced to closeup shots of Randy with her mouth slightly open, looking vaguely worried.

As the male lead, Robert Downey also falls short of what the ads would have you expect. His Jack Jericho, supposedly the her, comes across as thoroughly shallow and self-centered, a guy who will tell a girl anything to get, and hold, her attention. This would be fine as a starting point (after all, he is supposed to be a womanizer), except that his character seems to have no other facets to support his conversion to good-guy status upon falling for Randy. Downey, while giving a certain goofy charm to Jericho's pickup attempts (the best of which is a girl who tells him that she's studying for the priesthood), is unconvincing in the scenes intended to humanize his character and give him depth. Especially con-

trived is the sappy, heavy-handed sequence showing Jack taking care of his poor, diabetic, invalid grandmother (Awww...how touching).

The supporting cast has some bright moments, especially among the feminine objects of Jack's attention. *Saturday Night Live's* Victoria Jackson has a good bit as the thoroughly ditsy blonde girlfriend of a cranky mobster, and former Miss America Vanessa Williams appears walking a Doberman named Caligula that takes exception to Jack's style. Dennis Hopper, an actor critically acclaimed for his intense performances in "Blue Velvet" and "River's Edge," plays "Flash" Jensen, Randy's alcoholic, gambling father, with a surprising hammy flair, stumbling about and forgetting people's names. In a relatively minor part, he can't do much to save the film, but at least he seems to be enjoying himself.

That's more than can necessarily be said for the audience. Apparently believing that using one coherent plot for an entire movie is too pedestrian, Toback has chosen to use bits and pieces of several, with little effort made to link them together. There was a great deal of potential in the scenario of the jaded pickup artist pursuing the possibility of true love, but the

issue has been badly muddled by the addition of mobsters, casinos, gambling debts, death threats, back rent, and so on. It's not that the resultant plot is all that hard to follow; it just doesn't seem worth following.

The Pickup Artist, the movie, just can't measure up to *The Pickup Artist*, the commercial. It's insubstantial, unfocused, and not very much fun. Even her worshipful fans will probably find this to be Ringwald's worst movie and Downey might well be having second thoughts about his cinematic career. Go see *The Pickup Artist* if you must, but don't say you weren't warned.

MOVIE REVIEW

Dinner is served

by Kristen Delouchy
 Collegian Staff Writer

UMMM...Just smell the heavenly aroma of the perfectly seasoned chicken, roasting in the oven. Ooooh, and imagine a heaping mound of freshly whipped mashed potatoes, complete with melted butter meandering down the sides of the creamy mound. Fresh green

beans and homemade baked bread finishes off this delectable setting.

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to tease with thoughts of such exquisite culinary delights. I, too, know how long it's been since we've had a homecooked meal. Luckily, The Student Government Association and The Office of Student Services have rendered the problem of T.V. dinners and pizza.

They've announced their 3rd annual "Dinner For Six Strangers".

Staff members have opened their homes (and cupboards) in hopes of creating the faculty-student relationship Behrend is known for. The sorting of guests according to their majors and interests should provide an evening of enthusiastic conversation among friends. A freshly prepared homecooked meal should

also be a welcomed change from burgers and fries.

The dinners are set to be held on Sunday, October 18, at 5:00. This is your chance to meet a bunch of new people as well as get to know faculty here at Behrend College.

So bring yourself, and your appetite as you prepare to eat a dinner with six strangers, and leave with a variety of new friends.

Penn State-Behrend Inter Club Council and Student Services

"Leadership Workshop Series" Fall 1987

Publicity and Promotion Mr. Paul E. Bailey Senior Instructional Communications Specialist	Thursday	October 1	5:00 p.m.	Reed 116
Intergroup Relations Dr. Terrell Jones Asst. Director of Campus Life (University Park) Dr. Art Constantino Director of Student Organizations (University Park)	Monday	October 5	7:00 p.m.	Wintergreen Cafe
Assertiveness Training Ms. Patricia Brown Asst. Dean of Student Services	Tuesday	October 27	12:00 p.m. Noon	Reed 116
Fundraising Ms. Linda Cornwell Assoc. Director of Development and University Relations	Thursday	October 29	5:00 p.m.	Reed 116
Creative Programming Ms. Jamie Grimm Asst. Dean of Student Services	Thursday	November 19	5:00 p.m.	Reed 116
Group Communications Major Gary McDavid Asst. Professor of Military Science	Tuesday	December 1	12:00 p.m. Noon	Reed 116

A leadership Development Certificate will be awarded for three or more attendances.

For more information call the Inter Club Council at 6452