



Bluesman K.J. James Returns to PSH

Back by popular demand, one of the college circuit's most celebrated performers, K.J. James, will be appearing Wed., Jan. 28 at noon in the Gallery Lounge at Penn State Harrisburg. The concert is free and will be sure to leave everyone with an appreciation of unadulterated blues music.

James gives his audience a blues performance true to the roots of this often over-produced art form. A one-man show, James taps his foot, picks his guitar and croons the tunes in tribute to Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson and John Lee Hooker to name a few. James also performs a number of originals, the most well known being "Guitar Boogie" and "My Thing."

"I think of the Blues as a way of life, expressed as only the Blues can be through the musical performance," says James. "The Blues

will survive as long as there are artists willing to preserve the pure essence of this authentic art form."

James has a long history in this musical genre, having grown up in a rural community in South Carolina where the blues was king. His strongest influence was his uncle who picked the blues and sang for family and friends. James describes his career as an attempt "to rediscover the songs of the deep south, songs that touched my childhood soul."

Heading north, James fronted several nationally known bands including the Dr. Blue Band before joining the college circuit. A gifted blues singer, James has received rave reviews and continues to delight audiences at college campuses throughout the country. His PSH show is being sponsored by the subcommittee on diversity and educational equity.

Tarnhelm wants you!

Tarnhelm, the literary and arts journal published by Penn State Harrisburg, is seeking submissions for this year's publication. We are seeking the work of writers, artists, poets and photographers. You need not be a professional, just have a desire to express your creativity!

Submissions will be anonymously judged and prizes for best poetry, fiction and visual arts will be presented during an awards ceremony and reception at the end of the spring semester. The finished publication of Tarnhelm will be distributed at this time.

Tarnhelm accepts poetry, essays,

articles, short stories and one-act plays for consideration in the writing categories. Visual art submissions may include black-and-white photography or black-and-white (i.e., pen and ink) drawings (sorry, no color photographs!).

If you have any questions regarding Tarnhelm, see Cindy in the humanities suite, W-356 and she will certainly be able to answer your questions.

The editors strongly encourage writers and artists who submitted unpublished material last year to resubmit their works for consideration once again.

The Gallery review: "Impressions of Lightness, Weight and Being"

by Dani Church

An exhibit of photographs by Kevin Facer will be on display in the Gallery Lounge through Feb. 13. The collection is entitled "Impressions of Lightness, Weight and Being," and is billed as "A Photographic Response to a Novel by Milan Kundera."

Before even attempting to view this collection, it is only fair to the artist to understand that these images are, according to the artist, "photographs that respond to the concept of Kundera's ideas." Facer also writes that the emphasis is on the "creative spirit and internalization of ideas involved in creating the photographs."

This lover of the arts decided to try and get a true sense of what the artist is alluding to in these photographs by reading the novel that inspired this series. Unfortunately, our college library's one copy of "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" by Milan Kundera was checked out. The reality that a copy of the novel would not be readily available to the average gallery-goer left me with only one avenue—to view the photographs as works of art unto themselves.

Although the concept of photographing personalized interpretations of concepts from a writing is a commendable creative attempt, un-

less these images relay some kind of message to another human or are able to stand alone as a provocative work of art, there simply is nothing there. Nothing has been achieved beyond the artist's own externalization of his or her internal feelings or visions.

Granted, this externalization is the

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core of art itself, for what is art but this laying open of the artist's soul? However, if this display of personalized concepts is not done in a way that conveys something to others, it has not completely accomplished the end of establishing some sort of responsive pathway between artist and viewer.

Having said that, this viewer found Facer's exhibit dull. There are many shots of common objects in average lighting with no outstanding values. Blurred images are incorporated into several photographs, no doubt in an attempt to express Facer's interpre-

tation of a particular concept. However, since there are no titles or explanations accompanying the individual photos, one is left with nothing but blurred images captured in an uninteresting setting.

There are several photographs that are able to stand on their own as artistically framed pieces. One such exceptional photograph is of a nude woman lying on a hardwood floor, beautifully lit, with the sensual curves of her body playing against the contrast of the square blocks of sunlight pouring in from a window. But this particular photograph is only one of a handful of artfully constructed pieces in the entire exhibit. Viewing Facer's exhibit leaves one with the feeling of looking through someone else's pack of vacation photos, politely but painfully waiting for the good shots.

Students are encouraged to visit the gallery to decide for themselves; perhaps Kundera fans will find the exhibit inspiring. It is worth a visit, if only to ferret out the truly artful pieces on display. "Impressions of Lightness, Weight and Being" will be on display through mid-February, with an artist's reception and gallery talk scheduled for Mon., Feb. 2, 6-8:30 p.m. The Gallery hours are Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Gallery is closed on both Saturday and Sunday.

"CONDOMonium" Show promotes HIV awareness

A performance by the University Park Theater Ensemble promoting HIV prevention and healthy thoughts about AIDS is coming to Penn State Harrisburg on Feb. 4, in the Gallery Lounge. Performances are scheduled for 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Each 30-minute performance will be followed by a short question and answer period with a health professional from the AIDS Community Alliance. There will also be a reception to meet the actors in the Black Cultural Arts Center at 3 p.m.

The program includes a combination of comic sketches and serious monologues. The comic sketches attempt to educate the audience about safe condom use and sexually transmitted diseases. Most of the serious material, written by the actors, is about their life experiences and HIV/AIDS.

"CONDOMonium" is a must-see for all; nobody is above this serious health issue.

February Calendar of Women's Interests/Studies Programs

"Women in the Military"
Lt. Colonel Patricia Prevosto
US Army War College

Mon., Feb. 9, 10 a.m., Gallery Lounge

Annette Berman, French Holocaust survivor
and FFI resistance fighter

Tues., Feb. 17, 6 p.m., Gallery Lounge

"Lynching & American Theater:
Raising Issues of Race & Gender"

Dr. Judith Stephens, Penn State Schuylkill
Wed., Feb. 18, 1 p.m., Black Cultural Arts Center

"Women in Russia: The Transition from Communism"
Dr. Carol Nechemias, PSH

Thurs., Feb. 26, noon
Conference Center, Schuylkill Campus

"Family Violence"

Bernadette Muscat, doctoral student, PSH
Fri., Feb. 27, 10 a.m., Gallery Lounge