Halperin, Dunn ignite NW music scene

BY LINDEN FIGGIE
STAFF WRITER

Amidst embracing new students and welcoming back former attendees, Northwestern is gearing up for a season of fresh faces and new ideas. The Back to School Tour features musicians Tim Halperin and David Dunn in Christ Chapel on Monday, September 20 at 8 p.m. The concert is free of charge and open to the public.

An Omahahnative, Tim Halperin began his musical ambitions at a young age, playing for church and school bands. He eventually established his current performance style at Texas Christian University where he transitioned from the band scene to the singer/songwriter realm.

With a strong jazz influence stemming from inspiration from Ben Folds and Elton John, Halperin’s music evokes emotion and distinctly unique piano and rhythmic infusion. Success and thriving demand success and a more retail-oriented system. Greater variety in meal exchange was another request articulated by students. "That’s when we brought in this Game Time to help come up with a menu to give students more options," said Keith.

Game Time food services came into the Hub to train workers for two weeks at the beginning of the year. "They come in every two weeks to check on us," said Keith. Game Time provides the Hub with fresher foods since food is grilled on the spot, rather than being reheated. Keith said, “Last year, the Hub had faster service, but this year fresher food is served, so it takes longer to get your food.”

Game Time has helped enhance the Hub’s look, with its eye-catching signs and high-tech menus displayed on the TVs above the cash registers. Game Time’s physical characteristics and surrounding atmosphere creates a more attractive place for Northwestern students. Last year there were three different options for the meal exchange. This year the Hub offers multiple kinds of wraps, subs, pizzas, and burgers. Grilled chicken sandwiches and chicken tenders are also on the meal exchange menu.

Requests such as bringing back Taco Salad Thursdays, offering gluten-free pizzas, or offering another side entree for meal exchanges are encouraged.

“I’d like more feedback about the Hub and Caf. We go to SGA once a semester to get feedback, but we welcome feedback from anybody,” said Keith.

Suggestions about the food or environment at the Hub may be directed toward Keith’s assistant, Katie Dykstra. Dykstra may be contacted via e-mail at kdykstra@nwciowa.edu.

The Hub will be having a grand opening for the Game Time near the end of this month.

It’s game time at the Hub

BY JULIA LANTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Offering fresher food, more of a retail atmosphere, and additional meal exchange options were priorities for the Hub this year.

According to Don Keith, general manager of Sodexo on campus, “Students surveys are taken yearly to help the Caf and Hub make changes based on what is on demand.” Students expressed repeatedly a desire for fresher choices and a more retail-oriented system.

Study habits not so ‘A-proof’

BY KATE WALLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Take one step into Ramaker Library and you know: study season is in full swing. Stacks of books, iPods attached to nearly every ear, and endless hours of procrastination… wait, uh, I mean studying. Right?

So what makes all those hours spent with book in hand worth it? What really makes for a productive study session? According to a recent article in the “The New York Times” says that students should forget what they know about good study habits.

We’ve all heard the standard advice: Find a quiet, consistent study space. Study one subject at a time. Decide whether you need to study in groups or by yourself.

And while this common knowledge holds true for some of us, in recent studies, scientists have discovered some tricks that may improve the one thing that really matters when studying: what you remember.

According to the new research, studying in different locations, alternating between subjects in a single session, and spacing in between sessions all aided in improving the overall success of the student’s effort.

A 1978 experiment studied students’ testing ability of 40 vocabulary words. Those that studied in two starkly different rooms produced drastically better results than those students who studied twice in the same room.

What do Northwestern students think? Junior Christine Roy agrees, “I like studying in different environments. Sometimes the library is too intimidating, too many people. I like the Old Factory Coffee Shop, it is a calm and quiet place to study.”

Senior Wes Garcia adds, “I can’t study in my room. Even with the door closed. There’s a familiarity that makes me want to fall asleep. I go to a neighbor’s room, there can be people there, it doesn’t matter. A change of scenery helps.”

What about procrastination? Do you do as well as you think you do right before a deadline?

“It’s a common myth that when you work under pressure, you do better. But the truth is you don’t focus as well as you think you do,” said Tom Truesdell, director of Academic Support Services. The studies verified that age-old adage that cramming, although seemingly helpful for that test tomorrow, didn’t benefit the students in the long run.

“Studying takes time. There are no shortcuts,” Truesdell adds.

“Study everyday. Talk with your professors out of class. Work with a peer tutor.” And with 60-75% of NW students working with a peer tutor, it’s clear that partnership works.

“ ‘It’s a common myth that when you work under pressure, you do better.’ ”

- Tom Truesdell

“The goal of our department is to help students take ownership of their learning, to create a community of students helping and teaching each other.” In the end, forgetting what you know may be just the ticket to remembering what you need.
Census feared to reveal nation's growing poverty levels

BY KATI HENG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With 2009 Census results expected soon, Democrats fear how this data will reflect on Obama's administration. The poverty rate of Americans is predicted to have increased from 13.2 to 15 percent, figures that are close to the 1960 levels which led to a national war on poverty, according to msnbc.com.

Surveys also anticipate increases in child poverty, from 19 to over 20 percent, as well as disproportionate levels of injury to Blacks and Hispanics due to their higher rates of unemployment. If estimates are true, then approximately 45 million people, more than one out of every seven Americans, were statistically poor last year.

During his speech last Friday, President Obama said, “The most important anti-poverty issue is growing the economy and making sure there are enough jobs out there.” He also spoke of his desire to help the nation’s poor to achieve middle-class status.

To give students an idea of the desperation many families are in, consider the cost of tuition at Northwestern. NW’s website lists the average total of tuition, room and board for the 2010-2011 school year to be $30,420.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a family of six would be below the poverty line if their yearly income was $29,530 or less. A family of six, making an average student’s tuition, would not even be considered poor according to government standards.

Some NW students, such as seniors Lanet Hane and Stacey Ahlm, are concerned with these statistics and are trying to help. Hane and Ahlm are the student leaders for Hunger and Homeless Ministries, a campus group dedicated to raising awareness about issues of poverty in the area.

The group’s mission is inspired from verses such as 1 John 3:18: “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with action and in truth.” Hane and Ahlm firmly believe that loving God and loving your neighbor are one and the same.

With Hunger and Homeless Ministry, Hane and Ahlm are organizing a free community meal at New Hope Church this upcoming Thursday, September 23. The goal of the event is to break down false stereotypes and build relationships between people who may come from different socioeconomic levels.

Hane and Ahlm are also helping community churches to organize a Crop Walk—a walk along the Puddle Jumper scheduled later this month to raise awareness about hunger. Their ministry is also planning to make and serve pancakes to raise money for Haiti during Homecoming weekend.

Hunger and Homeless Ministry is always looking for more help and more volunteers. Hane and Ahlm would love to talk to anyone interested in these activities.

Another way students can help fight the growing poverty in America is by supporting the yearly Red Letter Festival held at the start of each school year. Started by five NW students including Rebecca and Mark Alsum and Brittany Caffey, the music and arts festival features various local bands, a bake sale and an art auction whose proceeds are used to raise awareness and money for the Bridge Transitional Housing, a temporary home for women and children living in unstable environments.

The festival, which raised almost $3,000 for the Bridge this fall, is in need of new leaders. As the original student leaders and organizers have graduated, Caffey and the Alsums have been left with full responsibility of the festival. Alsum expressed a desire for new students to step up and take on some of the roles.

“The intent of the Red Letter Festival is for the community to take care of itself,” said Alsum.

Students interested in helping to fight the growing levels of poverty in America do not have to search far to find ways to help out. Hospers 2nd and 3rd floors will be hosting a bake sale and car wash this Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon to raise money for the maintenance parking lot to raise money for the Bridge ministries.
OPINION

Students take issue: Pulling out of Middle East

U.S. presence still needed in Middle East

BY KEAGAN HICKS

For years the U.S. military has toiled to bring freedom and democracy to oppressed peoples and hurting regions of the globe. In Iraq, a tyrant has been toppled, a new government has been established and violence has decreased. On the surface, it would appear that America’s goals for Iraq have been accomplished; however, much work still needs to be done.

The U.S. military has recently withdrawn, or more appropriately, reduced, the number of troops in Iraq. Normally this end to hostilities should be celebrated and withdrawal encouraged, but in light of the current political climate in Iraq, a sustained U.S. military presence is necessary — for continued security in the Middle East.

Since May, the fledgling Iraqi government has been uncertain about who exactly its new leaders are. This instability has led to an increase in insurgent violence in an effort to distract both the U.S. and Iraqi governments from reestablishing order.

The insurgents’ goal is to terrify and kill civilians to dissuade them from supporting the current regime. By reducing the number of troops now, the U.S. military is left with enough strength to defend its citizens in a war between the Iraqi people. The meager U.S. force left in Iraq will be responsible for supporting Iraqi police forces, not fighting an insurgency. This leaves little to no hope for sustaining pressure on insurgent groups who would strive to regain control of a weak and corruptible Iraqi government.

To withdraw from Iraq is to risk the outbreak of an Iraqi civil war that the U.S. military would be powerless to counteract. However, by staying in place, the U.S. can contain violence and help guide the Iraqi government until it once again secure enough to ensure its own safety and survival.

The U.S. military should be allowed to continue serving the Iraqi people by interacting with and protecting them. Building trust through our presence and our actions is the only way to change perceptions of America.

Ultimately, the value of human life outweighs potential gains from leaving Iraq behind. The war keeps Iraq in the forefront of our thoughts and should keep the American people motivated to support the liberty of others.

We are a campus concerned with social justice. Where is the social justice for a nation of people plagued by violence from within their own borders? If we left Iraq, the Iraqi people’s human rights would be threatened by hate-filled renegades seeking to spread fear and violence. If we are not willing to sacrifice for the cause of justice, we are failing to spread justice.

On August 31, 2010, President Barack Obama delivered a speech that announced the official end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. All but 50,000 troops were removed from Iraq and returned home to their families, signifying the end of a seven-and-a-half-year war — one of the longest wars in the history of the United States — and those 50,000 troops will be gone by the end of next year.

The question that is running through many Americans’ minds currently is whether or not removing the troops from Iraq was a good idea. In my opinion, this was a good and necessary (but difficult) decision.

By removing the troops from Iraq, Obama was fulfilling one of the challenges he promised to overcome when he was elected. By carrying out that promise, in my mind, he is attempting to establish a level of trust with his presidency. As we are well aware, the level of rhetoric, distrust and frustration with our political leaders is very high. This was at least a step toward trust and reliance. President Obama stated that he would withdraw the troops, and now he has done so. The American public can at least have some confidence that the President really is accomplishing what he set out to do.

Secondly, the end of the war means thousands of troops will be returned home to their families and their lives. Some families have had to watch as a loved one left for an indefinite amount of time. They were consumed with worry, afraid to ask the question on their mind — would their loved one come home safely? The end of the war puts an end to those fears for many families. For those who have returned home, their lives are returning to a sense of normalcy. Children are reunited with their parents. Husbands and wives are reunited.

The assurance of troop safety is an overwhelming emotional benefit of the end of the war.

American families are not the only ones affected by an end to combat operations. Iraqi families are no longer facing a war-torn country. Their lives are returning to normal, and the Iraqi people are looking at a more hopeful future with a reconciled government, one that will hopefully work well within their culture.

Finally, with the end of a war comes the hope of peace. Let’s be honest — war kills. It leads to death, destruction and loss. And in certain instances, these lives are innocent. As the song goes — “War. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!” For me, seeing the end of the war and a hope for peace is a breath of fresh air. (Not to mention the fact that the very premise for this war may have not been completely justified)

The big question remains, though — what will happen to Iraq now? I think that question is answered in the words of Obama: “We must earn victory through the success of our partners and the strength of our own nation... what America can do, and will do, is provide support for the Iraqi people as both a friend and a partner. Ending this war is not only in Iraq’s interest — it’s in our own.”

Therefore, I am grateful for President Obama sticking to a campaign promise to end the war and shifting our efforts to building rather than destroying.
The West Wing Speaks Up

BY TINA MCGIVERN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Last year when we discovered Heemstra was going to be torn down, we all decided to make t-shirts to voice our opinions,” stated Brett Amiotte. “It happened to be Steggy’s birthday. I left it on my shirt and what do you know? Here I am.” Amiotte is a resident of the men’s annex wing, “Westenga,” “SWesty” or “West Wing.” He continued, “The guys say it was a prophecy.”

Prophecy? Maybe. Really? Yes. Steggy has officially completed its transition from being an all-girls dorm to the first dorm in Northwestern’s history to house both men and women. The boys on this new wing had a few concerns coming into the school year. Mostly, they were excited, but they also worried about separation. Freshman Jordan Starkenburg noted, “I was concerned that there would be a separation with West, kind of like an emotional break. But so far, there hasn’t been. But I don’t really feel like we’re living in a ‘girl’s dorm.’”

Many of the guys in The West Wing (the name the residents have bestowed upon it) share the same opinion. Sophomore Bryan Duffey has a different spin on things. “It used to be that guys would only come over to girls’ dorms if they wanted to see their girlfried or something. Guys didn’t come over just to chill. I think Northwestern needed a girl/guy dorm because it’s really going to help us in our sense of community. It’s a lot different than it was last year already.”

It seems as though the guys in The West Wing are all right with the fact that they live in a dorm where they are highly outnumbered. But what do the girls think?

“It’s not that different than I thought it would be,” freshman Gretchen Sutherland disclosed. “But I honestly forget that we have boys in our dorm, and that can be embarrassing sometimes. Especially when you walk out in your towel and make a mad dash for your room…”

It seems as though many girls in Steggy have had a similar “towel” experience.

A first north freshman shares her insight on the situation: “It’s fun living here, but it’s weird not being able to go to that side of the hallway. In the first week of school, I walked down that hall and it was super weird… I wasn’t expecting to see so many half-naked guys!”

The boys in The West Wing definitely do admit to the “half-naked” part. “I try not to stand in front of my mirror and wear my underwear with my blinds open anymore,” Amiotte laughed. “There are way too many girls around. But hey, sometimes I forget, I’m a guy!”

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FEATURES

It is time to know who we are: The basics of Reformed theology explained

BY EMILY GOWING
FEATURES EDITOR

It’s 9:55 a.m. in RSC room 154. Prof. Kinsinger has been talking about tulips for the past half hour. I know this little Dutch community takes pride in their tulips each spring, you think to yourself as you doodle in your notebook, but what does this have to do with God?

Northwestern’s identity is grounded in the Reformed tradition after being founded by the Reformed Church of America (RCA) in 1882. Yet only 35% of NW students actually come from a Reformed background. There’s no need to feel singled out or left behind, though. It’s not only easy to understand the basics of the Reformed tradition, but it’s also relatively simple to dive right in.

According to Reformed theology, God’s grace is irresistible.

“TULIP is an acronym used to describe the five points of Calvinism that the Reformed tradition adheres to. The first is total depravity, which represents the understanding that all humans are completely affected by sin. We’re a fallen people and unable to choose God by our own will. As such, God enables us to believe, and predestines those who will call on His Name.”

The second point in unconditional election. God does not look at the election to—those who have been predestined by God for eternal life to—those who have been saved and bring eternal life to—those who have been predestined by God for eternal life with Him.

Following limited atonement is irresistible grace. According to this tradition, predestination not only means that God chooses the elect but also that the elect are unable to refuse it. It’s God’s goodness that leads men toward repentance when the Holy Spirit has worked in the hearts and minds of the elect. His grace is enough for us, and irresistibly so.

The fifth point of Calvinism is that of the perseverance of the Saints. Because the election is done according to the Father’s will, because the Son has redeemed, and because the Holy Spirit has worked in and through the elect, they cannot lose their salvation. Thus, they have eternal security to become saints of God.

As a Reformed body, NW believes that the three attributes of God are omnipotence (He has the power to do anything He desires), omnipresence (He is in all places at all times) and omniscience (He knows all things). Another vastly important argument NW upholds is that of justification. This is God’s act of making a sinner righteous before Him. Prof. Kinsinger helps his students remember it by saying, “Justification is just as if I had not sinned.”

Besides this and the points of TULIP, “the Reformed tradition emphasizes Christian education and the Protestant work ethic, which is a Dutch thing, too,” Senior Marji Mulder pointed out. “Work hard and you will be rewarded. It’s not that our work will bring us salvation, but rather we work as a praise offering to God.”

Redemption, works and grace are three founding covenants that structure the way NW works. Does that mean “Reformed is the only way to go?” Certainly not. NW lives and works “Solio Deo Gloria”—glory to God alone. As long as He’s getting glory, all shall be happy.

Reformed Churches in Orange City

Calvary Reformed: 709 5th Street SE @ 9:30 a.m.
First Christian Reformed: 408 Arizona Ave SW @ 9:30 a.m.
First Reformed Church: 420 Central Ave NW @ 9:15 a.m.
Immanuel Christian Reformed: 1405 Albany Ave NE @ 9:30 a.m.
Redeemer United Reformed Church: 302 St. Paul Ave SW @ 9:45 a.m.
Trinity Reformed Church: 310 Albany Ave NE @ 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Old Factory Coffee Shop, ‘a dream come true’

BY HOLLY STEWART

How To: Not rely on technology for communication

BY SHELBY VANDER MOLEN

Changing Perspectives

BY EMILY GOWING

Features Editor

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Freshmen orientation can fall anywhere from exciting to nerve-wracking. Freshmen across campus have shared with us how their perspective of Northwestern has changed since their first visit until now.

Girls talked about dorm life, guys talked about activities. Homework was hardly discussed, yet cafeteria food was mentioned by nearly everyone.

Julia Lantz of Fern was surprised by how nice the professors are. She expected them to send her straight to their assistant whenever she needed help. “But actually,” she noted, “they were so eager to answer questions they told us to contact them anytime!”

Although Micah Czirz of Coly has little free time between homework and getting in shape for track, he described his first few weeks as a time of “relaxed busyness.” He’s observed how everyone around him stays occupied but the atmosphere on his wing is relatively laid back.

Soccer player Katrina Chold of Hospers feels most at home because of the people. She said, “I was able to become a part of an amazing team right from the start and God has blessed me through those girls.”

Her teammate Carly Farrington of Fern agrees with her. “Friends are everywhere,” she said. “It’s sometimes hard to stay focused on my homework because I’m always surrounded by people I want to hang out with.”

Jordan Whitsett of Coly has had opposite experiences when it comes to friends and homework. “Just three weeks in and people are already ditching you to do homework,” he said with a smirk.

Although the caf food was described as being “repetitious,” the Hub food got high ratings across the board. “I love the options the Hub offers!” exclaimed Lantz.

Of his professors, Zach Wittenberg on the West Wing said, “I like the fact that the professors challenge you.” One way he can already tell they challenge students is by teaching them to “apply facts to the real world.”

The adjustments made and the lessons learned from May until now—or even over the past three years—can be applied to the real world in just the same way.

People are usually more willing to help than we expect them to be. Ask questions; seek answers. Time management is important in all aspects of life so don’t let yourself get stressed out; the wrinkles won’t be worth the worry. Invest in relationships—plain and simple. Take the time to get to know people and deepen your understanding of what’s around you.

NW is a “whole education for your whole life,” but who knew we could be learning about life by the way we learned about life and lived it out?
Small ‘app’ developers apply unique ideas

BY JORDAN LANGER
ASE EDITOR

It’s been only two years since iTunes introduced the App Store. In that short time, third-party developers have released over a quarter of a million applications for Apple’s touch screen devices, including an inexhaustible library of cheap games.

Besides being affordable and accessible, many of these games have realized the versatility of the hardware. For instance, certain games utilize an on-screen joystick or “controller” to offset the iPhone’s lack of buttons.

If you look in the right places, there is a vast array of ingenious ideas coming from these small developers.

“Plants vs. Zombies” ($3), for instance, fits within the crowded genre of tower defense games but stands out for its charm and accessibility.

You play the role of a homeowner, protecting yourself from flesh-eating zombies by growing seed-spitting plants around your property. Your enemies and allies, rendered in an attractively zany art style, are diverse and hilarious: you’ll see corn-cob torpedoes, a pole-vault zombie, and another undead who is based directly off of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” video.

The touch screen works surprisingly well for placing your allies; you have just as much control as you would with the PC iteration of the game. Furthermore, the iPhone version is loaded with all content found in the original PC version, losing only its $20 price tag.

In the meditative puzzler “Zen Bound” ($3), your task is to maneuver a short rope around intricate “wooden” figurines. You will need to be precise so that the whole surface area is covered. The objects become increasingly difficult to bind as they have more crannies than nooks or fewer sharp angles for the rope to grip on to.

But there’s no need to rush: unlike other games in the “puzzle” genre, “Zen Bound” is free of a time limit, and actually rewards contemplation. The ambience and soundtrack are meditative; your character moves slowly on the screen.

“Osmos” ($3) drifts at the same pace in some ways, though the premise of the game isn’t as easy to absorb: You control a circular orb—one of many, all varying in size, set against a black backdrop that looks like outer space.

These galactic-looking orbs behave in a cellular sort of way: the big orbs “suck up” the smaller ones as they come into contact. Your object, then, is to work your orb to “the top of the food chain” by preying on the lesser and evading the larger.

However, they only way to propel yourself is by releasing small portions of mass as “fuel,” which are eaten up by surrounding orbs. Movements, then, must be very methodical. This is especially true of later levels, which contain gravitational orbits and intelligent “enemies.” Even so, the basic scheme of the game comes pretty instinctually.

Another title, “Spider: The Secret of Bryce Mayor” ($3), casts you as a web-spinning arachnid. Yes, the game plays exactly how you think it would. You will catch other insects in your silk and crawl up mansion-themed objects—both of which are very satisfying. There is also an intriguing story lurking about the abandoned manor. But what is most gratifying is that somebody finally caught on to a new web of simple, fresh ideas.

Finally, “Squareball” ($1) is the perfect fusion of retro gaming’s most important: “Pong” and “Super Mario Bros.” Other iPhone games have tried to imitate the left-to-right, jump heavy gameplay of “Mario,” but have had a difficult time offering precise controls.

Departing from the unreliable d-Pad and button control scheme, this game makes the “jumping” automatic: your character bounces vertically from wall to wall, a la “Pong.” Your only motion is quick swipes to the left and right, which move you further into this Atariesque maze.

This is far from easy, as many maps have more gaps than wall space. Thus, the game retains something else from retro gaming: the demand for twitchy, muscle-memory reflexes. If you like a challenge, take this one up.

“Limbo” keeps an art in the dark

BY ADAM DONOHUE
COLUMN CONTRIBUTOR

“Limbo” is a simple game, and all the more alluring for it. You play the role of a boy looking for his lost sister in a series of dark and ominous environments—an obscure forest and a solitary sailboat, for instance. Everything is rendered in black and white, shaded in a silhouette-like style. High definition enthusiasts will not be scared off by lack of graphic detail; more frightening is the mood of the art direction.

In fact, “Limbo” resurrects the age-old question, “Can video games be considered art?” I don’t know what else you would call something this sensually affecting. Besides the few details mentioned above, the plot of the game remains purposely vague at first. The only task that will move you forward in the game is your instinct for survival and curiosity of your whereabouts. This is all you need really, as the game sets you in a 2D world (like Mario) in which you move from left to right. Thus, safety and story can be found along an appropriately linear path.

The controls are also straightforward: move, jump, and a context-sensitive “action” button that you will use to move large objects and solve puzzles. These actions, however, basic in comparison to other button-combo action games, are entirely necessary, as there are brutal traps and savage life forms out to take your life. The main character may be a little boy, but this world holds no mercy. Failure in almost any puzzle will lead to a gory death.

And you should expect to die. Whether decapitated by a bear trap or skewered by spears, your character will bravely respawn at a nearby checkpoint. This “trial and error” element of the game will help you develop a sympathetic bond.

Which leads to the one great fault of the game: replay value. At fifteen dollars, this is a fairly pricey downloadable title. You will want to re-experience everything again, but the elements of the title will not be shuffled in any way.

Northwestern students may also have difficulty acquiring the title, as it requires an Internet connection to your Xbox 360.

But neither of these concerns should keep you from purchasing Limbo. It is rare for a big production video game to have half the style that this game has.
The National moan with a weared America

BY GREG WHITE
STAFF WRITER

The National, a Brooklyn-based rock outfit, have a reputation for poetic, subdued music that is carried by the distinct and melancholic baritone of Matt Berninger. In their last two recordings, their octave rarely rises above a resonating bass. So, judging from their recent work, you wouldn’t take him to be a screamer.

But when I saw him live on August 8 at the First Avenue Theatre (Minneapolis), his eventual raspy shrieks seemed so appropriate for a band that approaches the world with a very little disillussionment.

I stood among the 30-something world-weary Minneapolis bar crowd and watched Matt on stage, twitching nervously, tapping his hands together, and squating to the floor. These timid gestures were, to that point, his most emotive actions.

Shedding the jacket of a classy brown suit, Matt took a sip of his lemonade with a little something inside. “This song is for all you bitters,” he crooned. “It’s all set in and die” there, since the world he lives in is much more nihilistic (“try to find something on this thing that means nothing”).

In “Afraid of Everyone,” they find themselves as a part of post-9/11 xenophobia, which they consider a “venom” of the press. As a result, they cannot distinguish friends from enemies, but “try not to hurt anybody [they] like.” Furthermore, there are no drugs to “sort out” this kind of anxiety.

“Bloodbuzz Ohio” brings them to their home state, which may not be a place they want to be: “I still owe money to the money to the money to the money album is “Conversation 16,” which is about marital problems (“Try to hold it together ‘til our friends are gone”). The narrator makes a zombie-like analogy of himself and his supposed inadequacy. “I was afraid, I’d eat your brains, cuz I’m evil.”

Tap your old shoes to a ‘slamming’ beat

BY REBEKAH WICKS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Old Factory Coffee shop: by day it’s a cozy little nook in Orange county frequented by tourists, locals and college students wishing for a quiet study time with some tasty coffee.

But once the clock strikes nine on Saturday night, the little coffee shop takes on a whole new atmosphere. There’s a new rhythm to the movement of the regulars. A spirit ofrowdiness falls over the group, and there is an excitement you can taste in the air. Both regulars and newcomers know that the power of words is about to be proven. It’s time for the poetry slam.

A warning to any readers who, in this moment, are thinking something like: “Poetry? Yuck! It’s just a sappy person speaking words into a microphone right? You are most certainly mistaken.

This is a new type of poetry—“blue collar poetry,” perhaps. Easily distinguished from traditional or rhyme-based poetry, slam poetry bears a beat-driven, conversational form with an urgent or revolting spirit. Interactions between the audience and the speaker are encouraged, as this art seeks to be an agent of social change.

Also unlike open-mike poetry readings, slams are competition based and are judged on both the performance and the poetry itself. The readers are not just readers; they’re the artists of the spoken word.

Poetry Slams began in 1985 after former construction worker and poet Marc Smith began a series of poetry readings at a club in Chicago: the “Get Me High Lounge.” The readings became so popular that Smith approached Dave Jemilo, owner of “Green Mill” in Chicago, and proposed once-a-week competitions in poetry. On July 25, 1986, the first “Uptown Poetry Slam” was formed.

This is the first year that poetry slams have been hosted at The Old Shoe Factory. The inclusive group, hosted by Steve Mahr, has the goal of competing in various slams around the state and other high-level competitions. The “Factory” is their “home base,” where they will host slams monthly and meet together on a regular basis.

For those unfamiliar, the Old Factory is owned by English professor Richard Sovienski and his wife. A sign in front of the coffee shop reads “Community. Conversation. Inspiration.” This is the theme that inspired Prof. Sovienski to open his doors to the group. “We’re thrilled,” he said. “This is indicative of a growing interest in the arts in Orange County- and it’s good to be a part of that growth.”

Sophomore Holly Stewart has been competing in poetry slams since her freshmen year of high school. To students who want to participate she gives this advice: “Don’t think that what you have to say is stupid or not important or sounds silly. If it’s how you feel, it matters. It’s reality. Don’t be scared to slam. It’s a freeing experience.”

The shop opens its doors this Saturday at 8:00 p.m. It is recommended that you come early if you wish to register for a spot in the competition. Remember that slams are all about emotion and difficult topics, so not all content is “G-rated.” Some may find the subjects and language offensive.

But that’s just another example of the art’s edge. It is, after all, called a “slam.”
Red Raider Sports Shorts: by Heidi Hildebrandt and Michael Simmelink

Men’s golf opens GPAC tourney with season-best

A season’s best score of 298 has the Red Raiders sitting in second place in the GPAC-qualifier after their round in Sioux Center on Monday.

Freshman Ryan Kiewiet led Northwestern with an even-par 71 and is currently tied for third place in the GPAC tournament. Freshman Kyle Stanek tied for ninth with a four-over 75. Freshman Neil Malenke tied sophomore teammate Michael Dykema for 18th after both men shot a 76. Sophomore Michael Clark rounded out the Raider scorecard after shooting an 82.

Women’s golf places second then first at GPAC meets

A team score of 346 put the Red Raiders in fourth place after the first GPAC qualifier in Mitchell, S.D.

Senior Maggie Rozenboom is in seventh place in the GPAC tournament with an 11-over 83. Junior Andria Hinze is sitting in 11th after shooting a 84. Senior Sara Horn carded an 88 to tie for 15th and freshman Taylor Kline is tied for 18th with a 91. Rozenboom had a season-best score of 298 and Hinze a 97 to tie for 21st.

Women’s soccer opens conference play with loss to Sioux Falls

The Red Raiders opened GPAC play on Wednesday night with a 0-1 loss to the University of Sioux Falls. Northwestern had seven shots in the game compared to USF’s nine.

Freshmen Alli Dunkelberger and Hannah Jensen each had two shots on goal, while freshman Kate Fonte and senior Annaliese Forkey each had one.

Senior Wendy Hofmeyer had one save in 20 minutes in the goal. while freshman Ariel Watts made four saves in 70 minutes and allowed one goal. The loss dropped NW to a 2-5 overall record.

The Raiders will travel to Crete, Neb., on Sept. 25 for the Dean White Invitational hosted by Doane College.

Raider football knocks off Hastings

Twenty-third ranked Northwestern passed a great road test by taking a win from host 13th-ranked Hastings on Saturday, Sept. 11, with a score of 24-10.

The Raiders got out of the gate quickly by scoring the first 17 points unanswered, and the NW defense came up with five turnovers to protect the lead.

Sophomore Brandon Smith started the attack with a 33-yard touchdown run, and sophomore James Rodriguez followed with a 37-yard field goal to put NW up 10-0. Senior Taylor Malm rushed for a touchdown and Hastings put an extra point through the uprisings to make it 17-3 going into the half.

The second half was stagnant until sophomore Taylor Morris blocked a Hastings punt. Sophomore Raymond Cleveland Jr. picked the ball up and scored, bringing the score to 24-3. Hastings scored on a late passing touchdown to bring the final score to 24-10.

NW will host Nebraska Wesleyan on 1:00 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 18.

Early goals by USF prove fatal to men’s soccer team

Taves had four shots on the night, followed by freshman Justin Lehman and sophomore Taylor Herbert and Taylor Biggs, who each had two shots. Senior Jeff Lanier allowed two goals and made three saves. The Raiders dropped to a 2-4-1 overall record, 0-1 in the GPAC.

NW will play at Concordia on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Illness, inexperience plague men’s cross country

The Northwestern men’s cross country team had a rough start to the season last Saturday at the NAX Heartland Invitational in Sioux Falls, S.D. Health issues beleaguered a few top runners, and six of the eight Red Raiders who crossed the finish line were running their first college eight-kilometer race. The other two runners are only in their second year on the team.

Sophomore Sean Guthmiller led NW to a sixth place finish out of eight teams with 156 points. Guthmiller ran the race in 28:47 and placed 24th out of 93 runners. Freshman Ben Bosch made his college debut finishing in 27th place with a time of 28:58.

Sophomore Jesse Baldwin finished 30th with 29:07. Other newcomers included freshman Zach Wittenberg, who placed 45th (29:54), sophomore Andrew Lichter, who finished 60th (30:39), freshmen Chris Meyers and Josh Horstman, who placed 75th (31:58) and 77th (32:48), respectively, and sophomore Araya Assfaw, who ran 33:54 to place 85th.

Iowa Western won the meet with a score of 56. Dordt was second with 58, followed by USF with 59.

Next up, the Raiders travel to Crete, Neb., on Sept. 25 for the Dean White Invitational hosted by Doane College.

First place at first meet for women’s cross country

The Red Raiders started the cross country season with a victory last Saturday, Sept. 11, in Sioux Falls.

Northwestern won the meet with a total of 36 points. Dordt came in second with 55.

Senior Charity Miles finished second overall with a time of 19:20 and senior Sara Hess placed fourth with 19:41. Senior Jenna Sorensen finished in eighth place with a time of 20:03 and junior Teresa Scholten finished right behind her with 20:13.

Freshman Dawn Gildersleeve squeaked by senior Heidi Hildebrandt as they picked up the 13th and 14th overall finishes for the Raiders. Sophomore Leslie Stover wound up 17th overall after running 20:48.

Junior Allison Weeldreyer and sophomore Corrine Muyskens also finished in under 21 minutes. Weeldreyer ran a 20:48 to place 18th, while Muyskens placed 21th with 20:37.

Women’s soccer opens conference meet beating second-place Dordt by 19 points

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