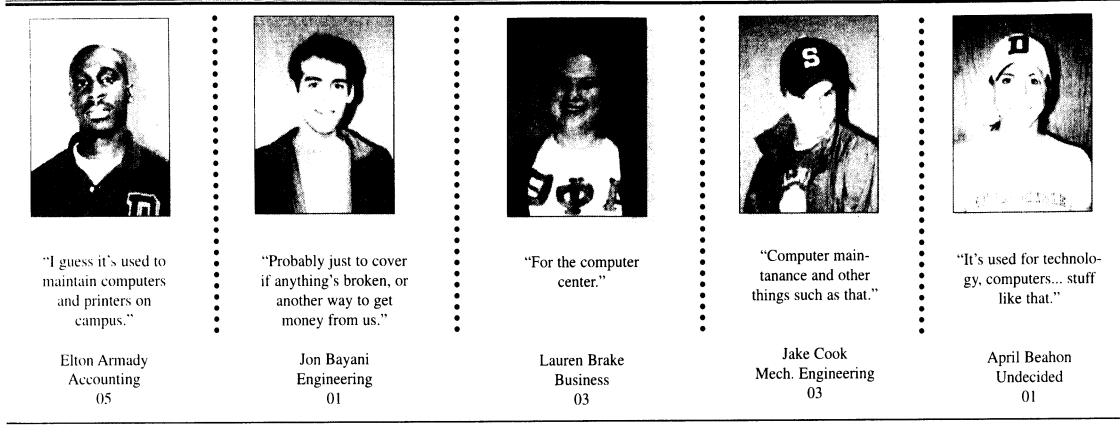
Friday, November 17, 2006

STUDEN CLEE

What do you think the technology fee is used for?



Death Cab for Cutie introduces its Plans in Belle Vernon, PA

By Janet Niedenberger copy editor

On Saturday, November 11, hundreds of music lovers gathered together on a giant sheet of ice. Their goal? To see Death Cab for Cutie.

The concert was held at the Rostraver Ice Gardens in Belle Vernon, PA. After arriving there, it was surprising to enter the arena to discover that the "floor" was the actual ice rink, covered with a thin carpet. Needless to say, my feet were frozen by the time the first band hit the stage.

The opening act was Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, a band from Washington, D.C. and other areas of the northeast United States. Their set was a little over 30 minutes long, and the punk-inspired indie band put on an energetic show.

While waiting for DCFC to take the stage, the crowd tried to anticipate what kind of show they would put on. When the lights finally dimmed, the last few minutes of their song "Line of Best Fit" began to play over the loudspeaker. DCFC then came in from a side door. The band consists of four members: Ben Gibbard (vocals, guitar, percussion), Chris Walla (guitar, organ), Nick Harmer (bass), and Jason McGerr (drums). They hail from Seattle, Washington.

The excitement could almost be seen in the air as the band picked up their instruments, and started to play their song "405," which was released on their second full-length album, We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes. The audience was a mix of long-devoted fans as well as newer fans, who were primarily younger and female. Most of the new fans were drawn in by DCFC's fifth studio release, Plans.

The set included a healthy mixture of songs from all of their studio albums, along with a cover of The



Sonics' song "I'm Going Home." DCFC also played a song from one of their EPs, The Forbidden Love, entitled "Photobooth."

Several songs into the set, Gibbard cracked a joke about the venue, saying, "Look at all that wasted space behind you guys. I think they should take up the carpet in the back, and then people can choose to either stand or skate while they watch us."

During the song "We Looked Like Giants," which is from their fourth album, Transatlanticism, there is

a small solo. In the show, however, that solo became a 15-minute long jam session, in which Gibbard rocked out on a second, mini-drum set, along with the other band members. It was amazing.

The entire set for DCFC lasted about two hours. After they played their "last" song, they left the stage, but the audience wasn't fooled. After several minutes of anticipation, Gibbard alone walked back out onto the stage. He had only an acoustic guitar,



THE BEHREND BEACON/Ianet Niedenberger

and played "I Will Follow You Death Cab for Cutie played a two hour set at Rostraver Ice Gardens.