

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Experienced North Coast Ballet reaches out to help educate children

By Kay Smith
copy editor
kms5174@psu.edu

A plaza on the corner of French St. and 12th is home to a little ballet studio called North Coast.

North Coast is a program for all age groups—though focused on helping kids—to keep their lives healthy through movement.

"It's pretty multi-levelled," says Sam Fargiorgio, executive director of the Pennsylvania branch of North Coast Ballet. "[It is a] health program for children to have a positive body image. It is designed to avoid obesity and other eating disorders."

The program, in conjunction with two daycares, Healthy Bodies and Early Connections, focuses on working with families and the food pyramid to promote healthy lifestyles.

The evening classes of dance and yoga are "designed to create life-long healthy eaters and to instill movement within their lives," Fargiorgio says.

North Coast also has a program with St. Martin's Center, and their kids go work out once a week.

In the evening, artists go in and teach, whether it be acting or dancing, and the program does workshops in the community to

introduce children to dance.

Margo Wolfe, an English professor here at Behrend, has taught acting to children at North Coast for five years after working with Fargiorgio on a project for her high school students.

"I continue to work on projects

North Coast is also attempting to create a larger theater program and there is a performance at the end of the Harding school year that incorporates every class within North Coast.

"We want our students to have as much access to the entire cre-

collaborate and help with the choreography and script.

The students range from age three to adults and people can enroll by calling and going there to fill out a registration form. Scholarships are available, but, unlike the norm in other ballet studios, they are not talent based. The scholarships are awarded based on income and expenses. There are multiple funding sources for North Coast, including grants, contracted funding, and good old-fashioned fundraisers.

Artist Inc., the managing agent for North Coast Dance, also deals in Social Services. About 25 percent of the enrolled population at North Coast Ballet of Pennsylvania is from Social Service agencies.

During the month of July, there is a "Free Summer Performing Arts" program that provides classes in several performing arts such as ballet, hip-hop, acting, and tap. They are free to attend. Students looking for volunteer work or who are interested in finding out more about the program should contact Sam Fargiorgio at (814) 456-4470.

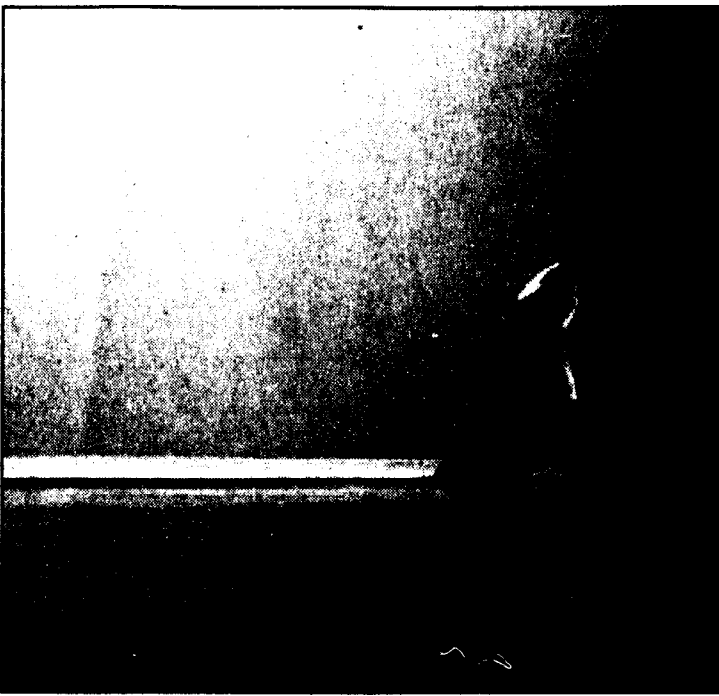


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOERIE

One man flaunts his performance in the studio.

with North Coast and Artists Incorporated because I find the educational and social focus inspiring," Wolfe says.

ative process as possible," Fargiorgio says.

The participants not only dance and act in the show, but they also

Weekly Stand-up

A view of those who take humor seriously.

Josh Sneed takes the stage in Bruno's

continued from front page

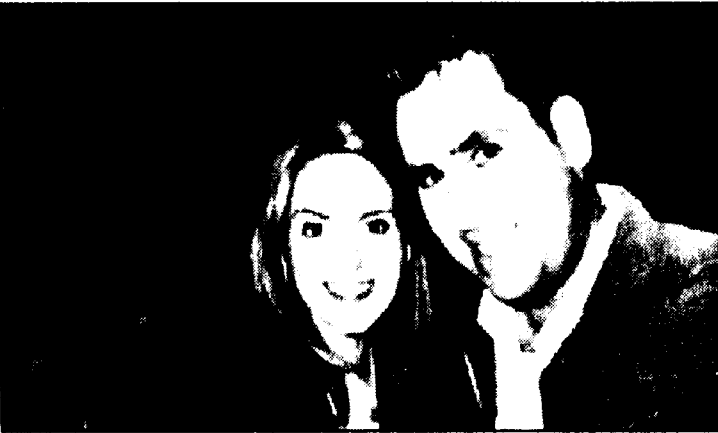
the joint was backed to the brim with howling spectators.

Though he began with a rough start, Sneed eventually picked up steam. Viewers sat complacently, wondering whether they should be laughing or offended. However, as the confidence of both performer and viewers grew, so did the laughs.

Sneed's performance was well put together. He opened with a set of jokes tailored to the region, making quips on Behrend, then expanding into the city of Erie and finally, the state of Pennsylvania itself. His show style was quick and rant-like. However, no matter how far off topic he got, Sneed still managed to wrap up all loose ends by the bit's finish.

In his arsenal were banter ranging from obese children and their Chuckie Cheese's pizza ovens to road construction signs. Probably his most popular joke was a five minutes rant of the double entendres opportunities that are involved with the Nintendo Wii and how that can get you in trouble with the older crowd.

As for Sneed's style, he followed the footsteps of comedians like Dave Chapelle and George Carlin by occasionally stepping over the usual lines of cultural taboos that usually cannot be touched on by



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Josh Sneed pauses for a photo with fellow comedian, Tina Fey. The two acted along side one another on Saturday Night Live.

the average Caucasian male. This delivery was highly unexpected; not only from shock value, but because they were also unpredictably hysterical.

Sneed's next joke, a quip about a heckler in the audience, caught a lot of attention. The moment a disgruntled viewer made a scene, Sneed immediately shot them down with his quick wit and a devastating insult. After the destruction of the heckler's self-esteem, he picked up the bit without missing a beat.

Towards the end of the show, he invited aspiring comedians from the audience on stage to try their hand at comedy. Three intrepid students took the stage with pride and dignity, disregarding the stage fright that would have paralyzed most. The winner received a free t-shirt and a healthy round of applause.

Over all, the show was a success for both Sneed and the audience. He tore up the stage and split the sides of the audience for a solid hour. A successful Friday night in any comedians book. For any more information on Josh Sneed, see his website www.joshsneed.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sneed celebrates Silly Hat Day, posting pictures on his blog.

Food For Thought

"Look, I really don't want to wax philosophic, but I will say that if you're alive, you got to flap your arms and legs, you got to jump around a lot, you got to make a lot of noise, because life is the very opposite of death. And therefore, as I see it, if you're quiet, you're not living. You've got to be noisy, or at least your thoughts should be noisy and colorful and lively."

—Mel Brooks

Editorial: Forward Hall gaining popularity

By Justin Pekular
contributing writer
jpp5085@psu.edu

Most people associate punk rock with kids that are young, pissed off, and wearing Misfits shirts. However, all of the miserable weather it made it very appropriate to have a punk show in Erie. The show was Saturday, Jan 31 at Forward Hall on Peach Street. While the cold Saturday didn't draw out a very big crowd it did draw a very enthusiastic one. There were probably 50 people there and half of them were in the bands.

At first, I wasn't sure what to really expect. I arrived late and heard some rough chords. Walking in and looking at the few people standing in front of the stage. I noticed the first band, Made Not Born, from Oil City. I guess most, if not all, of their members were in high school. One of the comments amongst my friends was, "The drummer looks really young." And along those lines, their skills were proficient at best. None of the members seemed very enthusiastic about playing and stood there emotionless while the singer hopped around a bit and sang repetitious songs with memorable lyrics such as, "Love me, beat me..."

The next band, Brain Dead Happy, from Erie, appeared more promising.

The lead guitarist/singer had an interesting looking guitar. I felt

confident that with his mohawk would come more interesting songs. I was disappointed when more than half of their songs were covered from other notable punk bands such as The Misfits and The Circle Jerks. I felt that their original songs were comparable to horror punk with some questionable and thought-provoking titles like, "I Kissed Jesus with My Fist" and other explicit titles.

Apparently for the band Erie's Aggro Hippie there were personal problems. Two of the members got on stage, and the guitarist said that they were going to play some things from their side project because the vocalist was absent. I wasn't disappointed with it though; probably because the guitarist justified themselves in stating they were very improvisational.

They ended up playing music that seemed more like progressive metal or some kind of hodgepodge of elaborating on various ideas. At one point in their set, they decided to play an Aggro Hippie song missing half of the lyrics. After that I was a bit upset that their singer wasn't around.

Detroit's "DA" then went on stage. These guys seemed pretty serious, and the lead singer was quite charismatic, talking to the crowd in between songs. Although they actually had the crowd moving, their set wasn't that memorable to me. I couldn't find their Myspace page later on

to remind me of them. However, their music was heavier and I'd go as far to say it was hardcore punk.

The next two bands were much more interesting, and a lot heavier. Six Six Sick and Iron Minds, both from Cleveland, played on the floor and had everyone crowd around them. At this moment beginning with Six Six Sick's set, punching, kicking, pushing, shov-

opinion, they were the best band that played, showing a dynamic in their lyrics between the bassist, drummer, and lead guitarist including amusing song titles along the lines of, "I got AIDS." I felt an old school punk rock and horror punk influence in their songs and apparently everyone else did, too, because the only people on the floor were two guys with mohawks.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

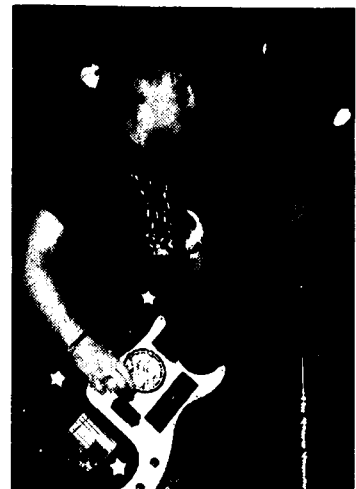
Drummer Dick Gardner of Kill People

ing, and anything else associated with mosh pits began, and that's what they wanted. The lead singer/guitarist started off the set by stating, "We are not a positive band - we are a negative band," followed with some other witty statements that would offend most senior citizens and scare children. I really enjoyed their set and was excited for the next band.

Then on to Iron Minds, with two vocalists/screamers that actually stood in the mosh pit, swung their arms at people and got their microphone cords tangled up. The "hardcore" guys took the floor and I stepped back, narrowly avoiding a chair that got thrown into the mayhem. I definitely liked their set, besides their innate philosophy of hurting people with a song cleverly titled "Kick (some guy in the audience) as much as possible."

Finally, Kill People, the headlining band from Erie, got on stage accompanied with a Halloween bubble smoke machine for aesthetic appeal. Their songs returned to a less aggressive undertone, but still equally as interesting as the other bands. In my

The crowd was good and there was even a table set up so people could talk about going vegan, and probably how to make your own Misfits print trench coat. If you went down in the mosh pit, someone would help you up, and as soon as the you were on your feet, you'd be punched in the jaw. Ultimately, everyone was there to enjoy the music.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bassist Kristen Bessetti of Kill People



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frontman Bill Frackowiak of Kill People