

Eye On Campus

JOHN RUSH

The Human iPod

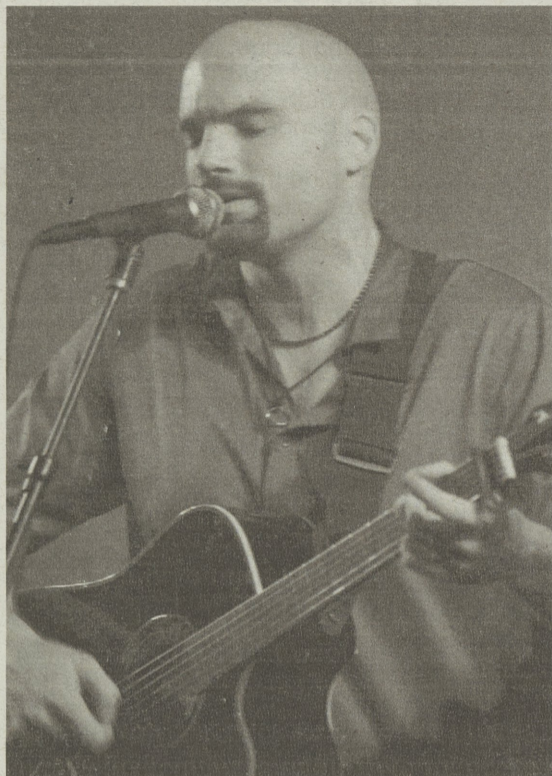


Photo from google.com

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On September 20, 2007, John Rush (The Human iPod) graced the floors of the Commons Building's Lions Den at Penn State Delaware County Campus. Only armed with a black guitar and massive amounts of sticky notes, he played for the masses willing to listen. The man varied his sound, all ranging from Creed, Nickleback, and to Dave Matthew's Band even. His skills with the guitar were decent, smooth transitions and pleasant to listen to. Playing original songs as well as covers, John Rush added his own flare into the mix. He titled a song "Fifty Dollars" about a prostitute, whom he mildly refused to give the history behind.

Rush, born in Huntsville, Alabama, began playing the guitar as the young age of twelve and continued with it throughout high school, eventually receiving a classical guitar scholarship to the University of Georgia. He became popular among the bar scene once he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, but then decided to take his show on the road to bigger and better things.

Now earning the title "Human iPod" because of his 55 hours of upon-request-music, John Rush averages more than 200 dates a year, with a set list that covers more than 600 songs and over 150 bands, and has made himself well known amongst the college campus's and clubs.

Though a guitarist, most of the songs John Rush played were aided by a synthesizer and looping tech. "People always ask me if this is prerecorded music, but it's not," as quoted from his website, <http://www.johnrush.com/home.aspx>. "I think if you go hear live music it should be live. I rely on my own ability to perform; the technical effects are only there to enhance what I do."

You Say Football - I Say Futbol Student Profile : Scott Loayza

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What if someone told you there is professional football player at Penn State Delaware County? Well, if you that believe that, guess what! You're wrong, sorry. There are no professional football players at our school. There is, however, a professional "futbol" player.

For those of you that have never taken a foreign language course before, allow me to explain what "futbol" is. Futbol is another name for the sport of soccer that was developed in 2nd and 3rd centuries B.C. in China, but later modernized in the late 19th century in England. And believe it or not, our campus is full of its players, one being Scott Loayza.

Loayza played soccer in Cusco, Peru on the team Cienciano Del Cusco for a season, however has played soccer as long as he can remember. Moving to Peru enabled him to learn a lot about the world, another culture, worldwide sports, and to become very fluent in Spanish.

But before you start packing a bag and plan to move to Peru after purchasing a soccer ball at Modell's, know that Scott had some uncommon connections with the team. "Some family members knew the team and got me a spot on it."

That doesn't mean that Scott was just given a free ride on a professional soccer team, though. He definitely earned the spot. "I've been playing [soccer] for as long as I can remember and practice all the time," and with influences like Diego Maradona and Ronaldinho, he definitely kicks for the fences.

Now, playing on a Southern American soccer team may not sound like a big deal to some, but in Peru, it practically makes you a celebrity. This was a fact Scott had no qualms admitting to. "I'd sign autographs, t-shirts, soccer balls; take pictures with fans...I was pretty well known." Modesty aside, there is no question that Scott was living the dream of aspiring athletes, and he did it well.

So why he isn't still playing in Peru? "I needed a 'plan B'," Scott explains, "in case something should happen to me." As to why he chose Penn State DelCo, Scott says, "I've heard it's a good school but I'm still unsure if I want to go to University Park."

Does that mean this humble athlete plans on playing for our campus's soccer team? "I'm taking this semester off for a change...but maybe next semester. I still practice intramural soccer at Rocketsports in King of Prussia, so we'll see." Seems that suspense is another skill Scott has.



Photo courtesy of Scott Loayza

So what does a Public Relations major at Penn State Delaware County plan on doing after college?

"I'm going to try and play in the next World Cup. I miss playing professionally and it'd be interesting to compete with all the famous players." As you can probably tell, Scott is way too modest to start signing autographs without being asked. So hurry up and get yours before you see him playing in the 2010 FIFA World Cup. I'm already looking to get a jersey.

Random individuals requested songs, like "All These Things That I've Done" by The Killers, "Wake Me up When September Ends" by Green Day, and "Sugar We're Going Down Swinging" by Fall Out Boy, along with many others. With the cover songs, the self proclaimed "human iPod", offered a challenge to the audience to find the missing lyric or what was wrong with the song he played; the prize being a free CD. No one got any of them.

However, there were songs that weren't played amongst the requests. For example, "Losing My Religion" by R.E.M. did not grace his mediocre voice.

Despite tad bits of dismay, the overall experience of John Rush was an amusing one, and a nice break from hectic things.

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COMMON HOUR 11:30AM  
IN COMMONS ROOM 202**

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