

Library becomes unusual venue; Poetry slam provides forum for talent

By Shawn Froberg

With three years of student participation, the quiet reading area in the library has become a forum for spoken word and acoustic music.

"We saw poetry slams advertised...and thought it would be fun if we could do it here," said Librarian Pam Pleviak.

On November 19, 2001 the Antioch High School Poetry Slam brought students together to share their poetry and music in open mike format. The evening began with an introduction by Senior Stephen Gorski encouraging everyone to share what they had written and to eat all the food that Big Apple Bagels provided for free.

Senior Lila James was first up and sang with an experienced voice as she strummed her

guitar to a song entitled "Barefoot Heaven".

Senior Mary Kiolbasa got the crowd to join a cappella for her final song "Love Sucks," for which she won the Pleviak award (most abstract performance). As the evening went on, people were inspired to write and some improvised pieces were performed. Junior Sharon Gray said before she read her poem, "I would feel left out if I didn't read."

Senior Joshua Rohrmayer read poetry and played a song called "Josh original number two" and received the music newcomer award.

Senior Mark Hansen commented, "Tonight I am seeing the best minds of my generation create poems and songs worthy of the Gorski gave one of the most passionate performances with an original song entitled "Young man,

Old man". Gorski also helped organize the Poetry Slam which held a crowd of about 60 inspirational students.

Senior Jordan Dunn introduced a surprised Jack Lorang who played two songs bringing an end to an evening of poems and guitar riffs.

"This is the best turnout so far, but it ends when you don't want it to," said Dunn.



Photos by Craig Maniscalco

QUIET! READING AREA: (left) Nathan Sackschewsky, violinist, presents his talent to the 50+ fellow students and (right) Jordan Dunn reads his original poem "Flooded Forest in Fall" from atop the library bookcase, above the Quiet! Reading Area sign.

Selective hearing... What you haven't heard about hearing loss

By Kevin Kruthers

In today's world of digital video disks (DVD), surround-sound entertainment systems, powerful speaker technology, and the current abundance of night clubs and concert venues, there is a lot of great stuff to hear. However, our sense of hearing is often something that we take for granted.

According to conditions set by the United States Safety and Health Standards, workers should not be exposed to a sound level of over 90dB over a period of 8 hours. Keep in mind that this is a standard set up to control noise exposure in the industrial workplace.

As everyday people, and as teens in particular, we are easily exposed to that amount; sometimes exceeding that limit. The sound level in the average nightclub can reach 115dB, which could cause damage within seconds.

Hearing degeneration is hardly detectable by one's self in the early stages, but long-term damages can be devastating. ACHS Sophomore, Dan Rohrmayer attends a lot of concerts and understands the dangers of loud noise.

"I never wear earplugs, but I wear headphones when I'm jamming," said Rohrmayer.

Rohrmayer may be experiencing early signs of hearing loss. Symptoms include: a ringing in the ears, a difficulty hearing others

when there is a background noise, people sound like they are mumbling or talking too quickly, and you hear better with one ear than the other.

Aside from getting your ears checked by a professional audiologist once a year, wearing earplugs is one of your greatest protection. A common assumption made is that a wad of cotton or tissue paper will provide substantial protection. These materials do not provide efficient noise reduction, reducing levels only 7dB.

Common complaints about wearing earplugs are experiencing an inability to hear speech clearly, and experiencing discomfort. Many different kinds of earplugs are available to suit people's different tastes. The best bet for general use by occasional concert-goers and for amateur musicians are the disposable foam earplugs.

There is a company called Flents that manufactures these ear plugs, and you can find them at Walgreen's. These are easy to use, work well, and are very comfortable. If you are more serious performing musician or concert-goer, you may want to consider custom fit earplugs.

These are made from an impression of the ear taken by an audiologist, used to make a custom mold of your ear. This makes them more comfortable and they have better sound quality than the ear plugs produced by Flents.



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