



Ben Harper on stage.

Bonnaroo

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year's performing artists to get an idea of what to expect and what they are looking forward to.

The first was Colin Meloy of the band The Decemberists. As the singer of a band running on the indie rock circuit with a sort of anti-pop sound, he talked about what it's like entering a type of scene he's not typically a part of. "I've lost my snobby indie rock edge and have learned to really appreciate all performers," stated Colin. He spoke about what it's like playing in front of a crowd of greater proportions than he might ever see again and how much fun it will be to get his stories across to the audience.

Ben Harper, a Bonnaroo vet, entered the conversation next. This will be his third year playing the festival and he sounded just as excited as if it was his first. He spoke about some of his favorite festival moments and what it means to him to play for a crowd that large.

Without a moment's hesitation, he was able to tell us that one of his favorite concert experiences ever was the last time he played Bonnaroo and got to hang off the speakers during Neil Young's performance of Crazy Horse. "Whether I'm playing for ten people or ten thousand, I'm just as excited," Harper casually added.

The last interviewee was Paul Meany, the singer of the up and coming band Mute Math. His voice has been compared many times to Sting's, who happens to be a big influence. The New Orleans based band has been around for a few years, but has just started to get some serious attention. Their sound lies somewhere between the Police and Incubus, with their incorporation of electronics into their full band. Meany did not sound concerned about winning over his audience, even though they have more of a rock edge than lots of bands perform-

ing. "We'll be using the electronics, including my keitar on stage just as we do our album. I'm not worried about the sound. I'm sure we'll have a good time," stated Meany.

The festival is being held over the weekend of June 14th. Tickets are still available and the full list of artists and all of the details can be found at Bonnaroo.com.



Reflections

by Aaron Palmer
Managing Editor

My first year on the Clarion is coming to close and I'm walking away from this with a positive reflection. I have been given some fantastic opportunities this year and would like to thank the rest of my staff for slaving away at putting together some phenomenal pieces. I have interviewed some interesting people over the course of the last few months on a local and national level which has all been fun.

I've been able to gain a better understanding of the logistics of how our school is run, see what local businesses have to offer, hear about local agriculture and experience lots of new music. I'm looking forward to taking the reins next year as editor in chief and seeing how much we can add to the paper. I'd also like to give others a chance at the same experience I've had. I've got some great concepts for next year and hope to collaborate with new writers on features.

I've also learned that you can't always please everyone. It's the difficulty of reporting and editing, but you do the best you can. I hope to see plenty of new faces next year and will miss my fellow editors and good friends that are leaving to pursue their careers past college. I wish them nothing but the best and hope to leave on at least half the positive note that they have me. Thanks.

Aaron Joseph Palmer served on the Clarion staff this spring as Managing Editor. He has brought a fresh face to the arts & life section with innovative columns, obscure reviews and interviews with artists. He will take over the Clarion as Editor in Chief next semester and plans to graduate in December.