

BC hosts iron pour outside Simms Art Building

by Lange Eve
Staff Writer

On March 18, Brevard College hosted an iron pour for three other schools just outside of the sculpture department at Sims Art Building. Both the weather and the show of people were generous; and besides some inconvenience with heating issues, the event was quite successful.

This was the third iron pour that Professor Kyle Lusk's sculpture classes have attended. While the demonstration began at 12:00 p.m. that day, the reality was, like most public events, preparation began several weeks in advance.

Students had been designing and casting sand molds for iron pouring since the semester started. Sculpture and 3-D Design students made a chore out of breaking old radiators and

other metal scraps for hours at a time as well. The latter task was neither painless nor quiet, but by Saturday, enough iron was broken for a pour.

While many of Brevard's students did not have molds ready for this particular pour, everyone helped in the event making a smooth and organized operation.

Students and teachers from Blue Ridge Community College, East Carolina University, and Appalachian State University arrived early that morning with their own sand molds and plenty of skill in the art and process of pouring.

Kyle Lusk was in charge of heating the iron, and Brian Glaze, head of the Art Department at Blue Ridge, directed traffic concerning the molds.

Although a good crowd showed, this was a relatively

small pour. We only had about fifteen molds to fill, while a typical pour would fill about 100. Such was the case at the latest event at ECU, which also involved many more students and teachers working together.

The only downer, which was not too terribly mentionable if you had nothing else to do all day, was that the iron was not heating to the necessary temperature to become molten. Everything was seemingly done correctly: the crew charged the cupola (their hand-built furnace) with 8 lbs of 'coke' (refined charcoal) and 40 lbs of broken down iron.

Then, once the iron appeared hot enough to test, someone would break the ceramic cork which was blocking the spout, and the iron would pour out onto sand on the ground. Each person with a designated

job, the 'botter' would then close the spout, and the 'shovelers' covered up the iron with sand to prevent people from getting burned. But the iron was not completely molten, so the molds would have to wait to be filled.

This process of testing and trying to get the iron hot enough went on for hours. It was not until 4:37 p.m. that the iron was finally hot enough. By 7:30 p.m., the molds were filled and the iron pour was finished at last.

Only two students from Brevard made iron sculptures that day. Many have already made some at the previous iron pours at other schools

That 1 Guy plays his funky magic pipe

by Zack Harding
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Hailing from California is one of the most distinctive and exceptional musicians that I have had the pleasure of seeing live in a long time, the name? That 1 guy.

That 1 guy is a one man band that is completely incomparable to anyone or anything else in the music business. Mike Silverman was trained as classical bassist and started his musical career in traditional ways, studying classical upright bass in San Francisco.

At one point, he was asked to perform a gig by himself, which began a journey of musical invention and genius that marks him as a unique figure in modern music.

For his solo performances Silverman constructed a an instrument he dubbed "the magic pipe," which consists of nearly ten feet of galvanized steel pipe sporting two different sections fitted with one upright bass

string a piece. He slaps, taps, strums, pops, fingers, and occasionally bows the strings in traditional classical style. The pipe is covered in triggers and buttons which are hooked through various effect loops and layering devices. Attached to the bottom of the pipe are three different bass drum pedals hooked to different drum pads.

Silverman also made use of a small snare drum, an amplified saw, and a cowboy boot with an electric guitar pickup in it. Using all of these various gadgets, he would lay down thunderous, funky, genre defying sounds and songs. He would also make use of looping his vocals and singing creative and odd lyrics over the thump-



photo by Zack Harding

ing pipe.

That 1 guy creates songs that are bubbly and bouncy, popping his hands over the strings while keeping a steady pulsating rhythm on the bass pedals.

Of particular highlight was the song "Weasel Potpie," which featured a squeaky dog toy type sound in place of a snare drum, and the catchy, brilliant wordplay in "One."

At one point, Silverman pulled out a credit card and started strumming a heavy lead guitar type rhythm on one of the strings, even dipping into teases of "Iron Man" and "Smoke on the Water."

That 1 guy is a great visual experience as well as a sonic one. Silverman constantly moves and writhes about, which is necessary in the playing of the pipe. He is very funny in the way he uses the instrument and jokes with the crowd. He is an absolute blast to watch and is never tiring or boring.

He mostly played songs off of his debut album *Songs in the Key of Beotch*, but also played some new material that he had recently written. That 1 guy's show is like nothing else, but it comes recommended.