

News

EVOKA a good start for fall '07

By Christopher Shaver
Pilot staff writer

The Back To School Bash Aug. 22 gave students a chance to catch up after a summer away, and ease into the semester.

Students gathered in the quad near the patio of O. Max Gardner Hall after dinner for the event.

Elic Verge, the opening band, got the crowd ready for EVOKA, which is fronted by GWU graduate Taylor Redding.

EVOKA, based out of Lewisville, stepped onto the patio and started off with a bang, playing what sounded like a combination of a softer version of Incubus and U2 with the band's own twist. The band played songs from its album "Cries From The Castlegate Empire."

This included memorable songs such as "Silent Actors" and "Daphne." The closing song, "Dying to Save," left the audience wanting more. But, after the last notes echoed throughout the quad, the band packed up and let the semester start.

A few words with Taylor Redding of EVOKA

By Christopher Shaver
Pilot staff writer

CS: Where did the name EVOKA come from?

TR: I was just trying to think of something different. I was trying to think of something creative, and it kind of just happened. I was away one summer doing an internship, and I was sitting down with a pen and paper trying to think of new band names that I could start a project with. It just started out with The EVOKA Project, and we started to get categorized with a lot of emo bands because the band had the word "project" in it. So we decided to shorten it to EVOKA.

CS: What are some of your influences?

TR: We listen to a lot of British music like U2. We're also big fans of a band called Ours, a band called Elbow from overseas, Embrace and Coldplay. We're influenced by a variety of bands.

CS: What is the message you want to send to listeners?

TR: To appreciate life. I think that's the theme behind all of our music. I mean there are mistakes we've made and lessons to be learned but when it comes down to it, there's

more to life than what we get caught up in. So we just want people to enjoy life. There's beauty all around us.

CS: Are you all a "Christian band?"

TR: C.S. Lewis had a quote, "The world doesn't need more Christian artists, but more artists that are Christian." We try to take it that direction. People may not like it, but we try to be real so that we can connect with everyone and not just the Christian audience.

CS: Is touring as glamorous as people like to think it is?

TR: Luckily we have a big white van. It's not so glamorous, but it's what we love to do. It's a sacrifice at times being away from home and your family, but it's something we love to do and what we're passionate about. We're all good friends. We don't push each other's buttons too often.

CS: What's the best part about touring?

TR: Meeting new fans. I think one of the coolest things is when people connect with your music, and appreciate what you do. And that quite often makes up for the lack of pay that comes along with it.

CS: How is the pay?

TR: It fluctuates. College

shows are great. We had one show in Pennsylvania where one guy promised us an X amount of dollars, and when we finished playing he decided he wasn't going to pay us that because not as many people showed up as he thought. So we kind of sucked it up and kept driving down to Chicago. The guy said, "I don't know what you're talking about with a paid guarantee." I never promise any of my bands any money. Those were a few bad days, but it all worked itself out.

CS: Where do you hope the band will be in the next 10 years?

TR: We hope to make a career out of it. As long as we're not on "Entertainment Tonight" rehab specials or anything like that. It seems so popular these days.

CS: If you could say anything to anyone who wants to pursue a career in music, what would you say?

TR: I would say it's one of those things you have to be passionate about, because like I said, it takes a lot of time and a lot of sacrifice financially and family wise. If you feel that call to make music, it's one of those things that can't be stopped. I come from the mentality of going all in. So when I

got out of school I decided that's what I was going to do. And I don't regret it one bit. It's been rewarding, just not financially right now. But make music because it makes you happy. That's the main thing.

CS: Have you talked with anyone about record deals?

TR: They've been hit or miss. I say no right now, but then tomorrow we might get a phone call. At the moment, no.

CS: How did you all get from being a smaller band to opening for The Fray?

TR: It's a stepping process. It starts with a song, and the next step is playing live. Then you start to get a buzz going, and you end up making new contacts and new friends. People will start opening doors for you. It's a very relational business. You never know what new person you meet one night may have a family member on down the line that manages band members or something like that. We've been pretty fortunate in that sense.

CS: What's your normal job?

TR: Construction. Yeah, I actually graduated from Gardner-Webb about five or six years ago with a communications degree.

I'm doing absolutely nothing with it. [laughs] It was a good experience though, but yeah, I work with my dad's company doing construction during the day. It pays the bills when the band doesn't.

CS: How long have you all been together as a band?

TR: I think it's starting to approach seven years. It actually started the summer of my junior year, and during my senior year we decided to record an album.

CS: How did you meet the other band members?

TR: Actually our drummer played for Clayton King, but I followed their band around and did the roadie thing for a while and did everything to be around some rock and roll. When they broke up, I came to him and said, "Hey I have some songs I've been writing. Would you be interested in picking up with me when you get a chance?" And Pete was actually in a band that was called Dirt Poor Authority, and they played at Gardner-Webb quite a bit. He played guitar for them, and we recruited him for bass. Actually, Price went the route I went. He was traveling around with us, selling merch and all. We were friends before, and when a position opened up, he was our first choice.

Georgio's offers hungry folks a tasty choice of Mediterranean fare

By Ashley Chatham
Special to The Pilot

Restaurants in Boiling Springs will have a run for their money now that Georgio's has opened at the corner of Main Street and College Avenue.

This modestly sized, satisfying new restaurant is run and owned by brothers Ilias "Louie" and Ioannis "John" Tsambounieris who have turned the former Uptown Café into a restaurant that serves Mediterranean-Greek-Italian cuisine. They also own and run the Snack Shop.

Louie, who is also the chef, has indulged his particular tastes to an almost extreme degree. The extensive menu has multiple choices from seafood, steaks, veal, chicken entrees, pizza, calzones, subs, calamari, caviar salad and much more.

The first feature of the restaurant that captures attention from the street are the intricate wood doors with "Georgio's" carved into them. When entering, the first noticeable things are the smell of Italian food and the romantic glow coming from the pendant lights.

The restaurant is divided into two dining rooms: the front for smaller parties and the back room for larger groups.

There is a familiar Greek atmosphere with overhanging arbors decorated with grape vines, which creates the entire scene for the main room. There are also decorative spices lined on all the windowsills and the dividing wainscoted wall with elaborate railing.

There are also two televisions hung for the customer's entertainment, but with the sound low, they are not too distracting. Soft music fills the room

The waitresses and waiters are very informative, polite and patient. Employees are always smiling and help other staff members with their customers, as well.

The busboys also work very hard clearing and cleaning the tables. They also refill drinks and check on food orders.

There are always two hostesses working at all times and they sometimes walk around the dining areas asking customers if they need anything.

One thing that captured my attention was not only did the waitress keep my glass full, but if she noticed that my drink became watered down she replaced it with a new drink without my asking.

The menu has so many choices that it almost takes longer to order than it does to get your food. The menu thoroughly explains what each dish is and has a sec-

tion with a full description of the restaurant's homemade sauces.

We started our meal with an appetizer of fried mozzarella sticks and a dinner salad. The mozzarella sticks came to our table directly from the fryer and were served with marinara sauce. The balsamic vinaigrette on the dinner salad was the best I have ever eaten.

The first dish was the Santini Veal Marsala (\$13.95) with five tender medallions of veal sautéed with mushrooms in a delicious santini marsala sauce, all over linguini. The entrée was very large and could have been split between two people.

The next entrée was the Tour of Italy (\$15.95). This generous combination of chicken parmesan, fettuccini alfredo and lasagna was my favorite entrée. The freshly made marinara sauce was excellent.

The last meal to come out was the 10-inch, two-topping pizza (\$8.00) with beef and pepperoni. There were generous portions of cheese and meat on this pizza, which tasted like perfection.

After the plates were quickly cleared, out came dessert. The waitress brought out a large slab of baklava (\$3.50), which is a flaky pastry with cinnamon, honey and walnuts. It was definitely a collaboration of flaky goodness.

Georgio's is a very clean restaurant with exceptionally clean restrooms. It is well decorated and the customers seemed pleased with the quality and generous portions of food.

Each customer seemed to exit with a box of leftovers from the evening. When you go to eat there, make sure you arrive with an empty stomach.

Opinions

A good year is all about balance Wisdom on Wheels

Rebecca Clark
Pilot Editor

To me, the beginning of every semester reminds me of a blank sheet of paper, or the first snowfall of winter, or a good book just cracked open to the first page.

It is fresh and unmarred, with all kinds of possibilities that I might track across its surface or discover between the lines. The pencils are sharpened, the notebook empty and the zipper still works on my book bag. At the beginning of the semester, everything still lies ahead.

This fall, as I join the flock of students arriving on campus, like the geese overhead winging their way to warmer climates, I find myself facing the task of learning how to balance.

Like most students here on the Gardner-Webb University campus, I know that the life of a college student is more than just lectures and labs and midterm exams, it is also about mastering the art of balancing. We must balance study time with social

time; work time with free time; sleep time with eat time; and so on and so forth.

As a senior, I have learned the basics. However, this year I find myself attempting to juggle a few more balls in the air. Not only am I a part-time student, I am also a GWU employee (secretary of the Graduate School), editor of *The Pilot*, and most importantly, the mother of Natalie, the most charming 6-month-old ever.

With all these roles, time management has become a vital skill to learn and micro-managing the hours in a day a necessary act.

As a commuter student, I am not able to be closely involved in campus life, so I am thankful to be a part of *The Pilot* staff. It gives me the chance to enjoy time with other GWU students as well as keep in tune with the happenings on campus.

And so, as I forge through all the assignments and responsibilities, and I begin to create a fresh page in this semester, I wish all GWU students a great year and I hope you find your balance!

By Jacob Conley
Pilot editorialist

I am probably far from the first to do so, but I want to take a minute to welcome you back to Gardner-Webb University. If you are a freshman, congratulations: You are now a member of the best student body in the country.

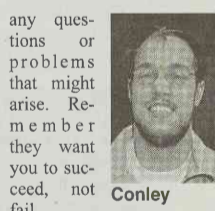
To quote the knight from "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "You chose wisely."

Now that you're here in the great metropolitan area of Boiling Springs, the next logical question is "What now?"

Because I am entering my sixth year at GWU (that's right, I was a freshman way back in the prehistoric, murky past known as 2002), I would like to offer some tips for a successful and fulfilling career at GWU.

1. **Take care of business in the classroom.** That means putting your schedule on your Time Tracker and sticking to it. Also, whenever possible, do not wait until the last minute to complete your assignment.

Most importantly, you need to get to know your professors. They are more than willing to help with



Conley

any questions or problems that might arise. Remember they want you to succeed, not fail.

2. **Get involved.** As important as academics are, normally a student only spends an average of 15 hours a week in the classroom. That leaves plenty of hours during the week to do other things. So get involved with clubs and organizations around campus like the Dawg Pound, Student Government Association or Campus Ministries, just to name a few.

Getting involved is a great way to meet people and make our university a better place

3. **Don't run away from the geese.** Doing so will just cause them to come after you with increased ferocity. Simply be the bigger goose. Face them, hiss and flap your arms. This strategy may cause people to stare, but it is effective. I know from experience.

4. **Eat in the caf.** That nasty smell is coming from behind, not inside, the caf, so give it a try. The food is

excellent 95 percent of the time, and the staff are some of the nicest and most dedicated people on campus. So take some time to get to know them. It will be just as satisfying as anything you will find on the grill.

5. **Show your Bulldog pride at athletic events.** Let the student athletes at GWU know that you appreciate their efforts and dedication. GWU will be facing some of the biggest names in college sports this year, so the teams need as much fan support as possible. We may not all be blessed enough to represent GWU on the field or court, but we all can do so from the stands

6. **Enjoy the ride.** Before you know it, this rollercoaster ride called college will be over. Whether it be in four or six years, one day graduation will come and you will leave GWU having learned lessons both inside and outside of the classroom.

Sure, there will be times that make you yell and scream with excitement, and times you can't wait to get out. So strap yourself in and hold on tight because, most of all, life as a college student at GWU will be a ride you will never forget.

The Pilot

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