

'Blenders' harmonize in performance

By JENNY BEEMER

During Wesleyan College's Spring Fling Week on March 30, the musical group, the Blenders, performed at the Student Activity Center to a small crowd.

The members of the group are Paul, Darren, Tim, and Ryan. The group formed in North Dakota during high school. Darren and Paul joined in with Ryan and Tim who were originally known as the "Tights." Ryan and Tim got the "Tights" as a takeoff from the "Nylons."

When the four got together, they started turning heads. Darren says, "When the four of us got

together people said we blended in really well."

The group has been around for two and half years and started its first tour this year.

The group's first break was on May 26, 1992, when the four performed on the *Arsenio Hall Show*.

"We were all very excited; our manager sent some demos into Arsenio's manager, and he thought we could get a record deal if we were on the show. We were glad that Arsenio was willing to give us a chance," said Darren.

The Blenders had a very unique style: they used no instruments whatsoever and performed acapella the whole night. Darren's sensual deep voice and Paul's

high-pitched soprano made up for the lack of instruments, and Ryan encouraged the audience with laughs by performing cartwheels, flips, and unusual faces.

Tim led the comedy act with his upbeat personality. "You know, being in the South we've had to get used to 'y'all.' In the North we say 'yous guys.' How do y'all say that plural?"

The highlight of the evening was when the group accepted requests from the audience. Requests such as "Sweet Home Alabama" by Alabama, and "The End of the Road" were performed. Even if the group didn't know the whole song they attempted it anyway. The last request, "Under the Boardwalk," gave the whole audience a chance to participate.

How do the Blenders keep up

with new tunes? "We listen to almost anything, from classical to classic Rock to country and Rap. We have to listen to everything to see what people like," said Darren.

Because the guys in the Blenders are still young and energetic (Tim and Darren are 23 years old, and Paul and Ryan are 24 years old), they see a good future ahead of them; as Darren explained, "Even though it's a long haul, things are going so well. All of us are very close, and we have the same goals. Since we spend so much time together, we're practically married to each other."

And like most groups who travel across the country and perform every night, the Blenders also encounter some stressful times.

"We all have to stay vocally healthy. Even though one of us is sick, we are so close and spend so much time together, we do get on each others' nerves at times," said Darren.

Senior Kristie Warren had much to say about The Blenders' performance: "The Blenders were great entertainment. I think it's a shame that many of the students (commuters and residents alike) missed out on such a great event. Hopefully, in the near future, more students and faculty will take advantage of quality entertainment, such as The Blenders, especially when its free."

Lange Wiester also enjoyed the show, "It was awesome. A group of us are going to go see them perform at Elon on May 7," she said.

Performance overshadows work

By CECILIA LYNN CASEY

Allen Ginsberg showed America that poetry readings could be more than just reading words off a page; however, he was not concerned with entertaining his listeners and being a performer. He was concerned with enlightening them.

Jeffrey Beam, who came to North Carolina Wesleyan College on March 29 to perform for the few people who gathered in the Browsing Room of the Library, invoked Ginsberg, among others, as he chanted, clapped, and sang his way through a medley of works by well-known literary and cultural artists. In the process, though, he seemed to supplant his own work.

Based on some of the few poems that he did actually write, one wonders if Beam was relying on the tone of his voice to cover up a lack in his work. The poems that he did perform were short and, with the exception of "Weeping Cherry," unimpressive. Beam's two poems dedicated to his two pet cats ("Kate the Cat" and "My Cat Is Black") were cute; however, a whole hour's time should not be given to someone on the merit of his work's being cute.

Review

Beam might have given a stronger reading, or singing if you like, had he not suffered so from comparison. At one point, for example, Beam took a poem written by Emily Dickinson which was series of questions and wrote a poem answering the questions. However, his poetic responses lack the insight and artistry to accompany Dickinson's poem, and the change from Dickinson's poem to Beam's poem was all the more noticeable.

Beam went on to read a William Carlos Williams' poem ("The Widow's Lament in Springtime") and a poem written by Linda Greg. He also sang Duke Ellington's "Indigo Blue," and Billie Holliday's "Credo." All of these upstaged his own work.

After reading another poet's poem which had been inspired by *Oedipus at Colonus*, Beam said, "I would love to have some last words like that." It was more than a little ironic that someone who considers himself a poet would have to long for the powerful words of another to express himself.

Leaders in the Making Series

Sessions Remaining

Monday, April 19 — "Motivating Student Volunteers," with Nicole Cox, SAC, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27 — "Certificate Presentation and Reception, Chapel, 4 p.m.

CAB CORNER...

Busch Gardens Update

Saturday, April 24, slip away with CAB to Busch Gardens, and experience the authenticity of nine European hamlets, each with rides, entertainments, and food indicative of that particular country's culture.

Busch Gardens is owned by Anheuser Busch and is located in the heart of beautiful Williamsburg, Va. The theme park is nestled on 360 acres of rolling, wooded hills, sure to please anyone, with all the fun it offers!

Among the 30 fun rides, Drachen Fire, Loch Ness, Monster, and big Bad Wolf are a "must do" for the daring. Then to cool off after a long warm day, there is no better way than to do it as your splash your way down the Roman Rapids!

To go, it is really painless! Simply call Sue McCormack at 5227, or Pam Gourley at 5228, to reserve your spot. (To make double sure you get a spot, bring your \$12 by Sue's office in the SAC as soon as possible!). Cost is only \$12, and this includes transportation by bus and admission to the park. You will need to bring extra money for food, games, and gifts, etc.

If the travel itinerary agrees with you, do not hesitate to reserve your spot — they're going fast!

Date: Saturday, April 24

Destination: Busch Gardens

Cost: \$12

Departure Time: 7 a.m. Union parking lot

Return Time: 9-10 p.m. Union parking lot

CALL NOW OR BRING YOUR MONEY BY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

