

UD Spoken Word Festival

((Anchor Lead in))

SPOKEN WORD IS A SOURCE OF EXPRESSION THROUGH POETRY THAT HAS BECOME MORE PROMINENT IN TODAY'S POP CULTURE. YOUNG POETS WERE INVITED TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS AND OPINIONS AT UD'S FIRST SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL. LAUREN CRUDELE FOR WVUD NEWS REPORTS.

((UD SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL TT: 3:38))

((SOUND UP FULL BAND PLAYING MUSIC))

LC: THESE ARE THE SMOOTH SOUNDS THAT TRANSFORMED THE BRIGHTLY LIT DORM LOUNGE OF REDDING HALL INTO A COZY URBAN JAZZ LOUNGE FIT FOR A POETRY READING.

((SOUNDBITE OF BANNOWSKY READING POEM))

LC: THAT'S PHILLIP BANNOWSKY, THE ENGLISH PROFESSOR BEHIND THE EVENT. A POET HIMSELF BANNOWSKY GAVE ME SOME INSIGHT ON HIS MOTIVATION FOR THE FESTIVAL.

((BANNOWSKY SOUND BITE))

I was inspired by the meeting on the green that occurred where folks wanted to gather and express their concerns about threats to diversity and cultural belief and i thought perhaps we need some type of poetry festival to allow people to express their feelings about these sorts of things

LC: NOW WITH THE MIC SETUP THERES ONLY ONE RULE
ALL VOICES, BELIEFS, AND OPINIONS ARE WELCOME.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND POETS BEGAN SPEAKING THEIR VIEWS.
JUST LIKE UD ENGLISH PROFESSOR DEVON MILLER DUGGAN

((MILLER-DUGGAN SOUNDBITE))

I don't much write political poetry but i have been, but you know life is the way it is these days and how can you not pay attention...

((SOUNDBITE OF MILLER-DUGGAN READING POLITICAL POEM))

LC: AND THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, POETS FELT MORE ACCEPTED AND OPINIONS GOT LOUDER AND LOUDER

((SOUNDBITE OF ENOC READING TRUMP POEM))

LC: THAT'S THE FEATURE READER ENOC, A FORMER STUDENT AT UD ENOC SAID THAT HIS POETRY WAS NEVER JUST ABOUT MAKING ART BUT WAS ABOUT INSPIRING MOVEMENT AND EDUCATION. AND THAT'S JUST WHAT PROFESSOR BANNOWSKY WAS HOPING THIS EVENT WOULD DO.

((BANNOWSKY SOUNDBITE))

I'm extremely dedicated to making sure it really is empowering to the community, so how far this extends to give the community a sense of solidarity a sense of safety a sense of inclusion i don't know but i know it's an important set in that direction

LC: UD WILL BE OFFERING A CLASS ON THIS VERY SUBJECT IN THE FALL. IT WILL BE TAUGHT BY PROFESSOR BANNOWSKY AND WILL FOCUS ON EXPRESSION THROUGH SPOKEN WORD. FOR WVUD I'M LAUREN CRUDELE.