

Poets impress crowd and judges

By: **Stephanie Mills**
LO'T News Editor

The Auditorium was rockin' last Thursday when the annual Band Jam Poetry Slam took place. With creative Maroons spilling their feelings into poetry and energetic musicians taking the stage, this year's Slam was sure to be a hit.

The first act to take the stage was the jazz combo known as "Shepard's Check". They entertained the crowd with old jazz favorites made new such as "Over the Rainbow" and "Solar Flare". After these students left the stage, Vibe took the stage. These talented students showed their talent in writing songs as well as performing. Everyday encounters are incorporated into their music lyrics. One of their crowd pleasers was called "TV Guide" and elaborated on the greatness of Channel 4.

After the first two bands played, it was time for the poets. Several finalists were introduced by the vibrant MC's, Jeff

DeLeon and Stephanie Burrough. They were Moline grads currently living and working in Moline and actively participating in the local theater scene. Several crowd favorites competed, including third place winner Theresa Scott, second place winner Tom Teslik, and first place winner Brandon Carleton.

Many of the outstanding poets had unique twists to separate themselves from the rest. Tom Teslik turned his poem into a song, and Brandon Carleton rapped his way for the win. Theresa Scott used expressions to make her poem, "Fireworks", come alive and painted a picture of her scene.

Other favorites included KiKi Lawton and her poem about media images, and Patty Bloom and her poem about academic pressures.

Two bands performed after the awards were presented, including "On the Backs of the Broken" and "Witness to a Murder."



John Tadie entertains the crowd with his original poem. Several budding poets performed their works in the auditorium last Thursday, wowing the audience and the four judges with their creativity and enthusiasm (photo courtesy of the "M").



Tim Smith, lead singer of the band "Vibe" sings to the crowd. Four bands showed their talent at the Band Jam Poetry Slam. "Vibe" performed shortly before the poets took the stage. (photo courtesy of the "M").

D-Wing Wonder ready to zoom in on retirement

By: **Heather Hall**
LO'T News Reporter

Many of the students at Moline High School have walked by D-wing, and like many of their counterparts have wondered what kind of classes could be held in that part of the building. Well, resolution to the wandering minds of students throughout the building is technical and vocational classes. Classes such as woodshop, car care, and photography, are what can be found in D-wing.

Not only is D-wing known for hands on courses, but it is also known for the teachers that can be found there. One of the teachers that have been a part of D-wing for many years is Mr. Fred DePooter.

This year is going to be a sad year in D-wing, because the beloved Mr. DePooter is retiring after only 31 years in the Moline School district. Mr. DePooter, during his teaching years at MHS, has taught various classes such as Electricity, Drafting, Welding, Woodshop, Graphic Arts, Photography classes of many kinds, and Car Care.

He has helped not only to educate kids on the basic techniques of some trades, but has helped to provide kids with skills that will be helpful later in their lifetimes. Along with teaching classes at MHS, Mr.

DePooter has helped with various activities that have occurred at the high school.

Mr. DePooter has taken on many extra tasks besides that of teaching at MHS. Mr. DePooter served as Tech Director of five different musicals, which include Fame, Wizard of Oz, Leader of the Pack, Footlight Favorites, and Peter Pan.

Being Tech Director is no easy task though, it involves many hours of time other than what is spent teaching at the school. Tech Director has many responsibilities such as setting up lighting, special effects, and even pyrotechnics when needed.

Not to mention aiding in scenes setup

and the running of sound equipment. Mr. DePooter has not only helped with musical productions, but also was involved in Photo Club and helped with Natural Helpers. As if teaching at the school all day was not enough, he like many other teachers, spent a lot of his free time at the school pitching in wherever help was needed.

Before coming to MHS, Mr. DePooter taught a couple of other schools. His very first year of teaching, which was in 1974, was spent at none other than J.D. Darnell High School in Geneseo. After that one year DePooter transferred and began to work at Coolidge Jr. High and MHS. He

continued to work at both until Coolidge closed in 1977.

Soon after the closing of Coolidge, DePooter transferred to Lincoln Irving Elementary school where he taught the basic subjects such as, Math, English, Art, P.E., Science, and Music.

There was just no settling down for Mr. DePooter, and yet again he transferred schools and ended up at MHS, where he has been ever since.

As said earlier Mr. DePooter is retiring at the end of this year, and has many plans already in mind for what to do with his time.

Mr. DePooter has the goal of becoming a professional wedding photographer, and running a professional DJ service. Keeping himself busy is one thing that Mr. DePooter does best.

Reflecting on some of the fond memories that he has experienced during his teaching career, Mr. DePooter said, "The plays, specifically Peter Pan and Wizard of Oz, and teaching in general have been the highlights of my career."

He also stated that he will miss the kids that he has taught over the years. He will also miss "the laughing and smiling of the kids, along with the new experiences that have taught me so much."

Mr. DePooter is a valuable asset to the technology department of the school and will be greatly missed for years to come.



Operating some graphics machinery, Mr. DePooter assists his students in a project during class time. (Photo by White)